

1 Impact of Artificial Intelligence in Marketing: A Perspective of 2 Marketing Professionals of Pakistan

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5 *Received: 10 December 2018 Accepted: 31 December 2018 Published: 15 January 2019*

6

7 **Abstract**

8 The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) has changed the dynamics of the business world.
9 One of the significant applications of AI is in the marketing field that helps in improved
10 performance. The present research is aimed to find out the impact of AI in marketing by
11 including the perspective of marketing professionals of Pakistan. A comprehensive literature
12 review was highlighted which provided a detailed understanding of AI and the use of AI in
13 marketing. Secondly, the researcher used the qualitative research method which involved
14 semi-structured interviews with different marketing professional belonging from different firms
15 of Pakistan. A sample size of 10 is selected and the researcher interviewed ten marketing
16 professionals. The findings of the study highlight the factors contributing in AI integration in
17 marketing, benefits, and challenges of AI integration in marketing, pre and post AI marketing
18 strategy of your company, ethical aspects and usage of AI in the marketing field. The research
19 implies to integrate AI in the marketing functions to improve the performance of the business
20 and thus, achieving profitability and competitive advantage.

21

22 *Index terms—*

23 **1 Introduction a) Research Background**

24 Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a computer-assisted analytical course that attempts to form automated systems
25 which can be referred to as intelligent. It can also be described as the human intelligence presented in the
26 form of machines. AI is divided into two categories i.e., strong and Weak AI. The former, which is also known
27 as artificial general intelligence, refers to a machine/system with logic, mindfulness, and sensory, and it has
28 intelligence in more domains instead of a particular one. The latter, which is also known as artificial narrow
29 intelligence, refers to machines which have intelligence in a particular domain. The applications of Artificial
30 intelligence use technologies which includes natural language processing, speech recognition, machine learning,
31 robotics, and computer vision. These technologies provide a number of opportunities for business. Machine
32 learning is a method to get artificial intelligence and deep learning is considered one of the branched of machine
33 learning and a method for understanding machine learning. The major emphasis of deep learning is on algorithms
34 driven by the configuration and function performed by the human brain.

35 Like every other domain, marketing has also been significantly influenced by the introduction of new
36 technologies and this effect will majorly grow in the upcoming years. It is evident that AI has boosted the
37 performance of marketing in different ways. In near future, it is expected that AI will boost the impact, for e.g.
38 Robots will be used as a substitute of salespeople, websites will be updated and reformatted automatically by
39 eye-tracking data. Undoubtedly, the research on marketing will be shifted and become insignificant as the new
40 trends in marketing will emerge due to the AI.

41 In order to provide this research a proper structure, this research is divided into five different chapters.

42 Chapter one: This purpose of this chapter is to provide a detailed introduction to the topic.

6 LITERATURE REVIEW A) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

43 Chapter two: The purpose of the chapter is to provide the existing state of the art of the topic. The chapter
44 first highlights the theory that is relevant to the research questions. The chapter then provides the empirical
45 studies relevant to the research questions. Lastly, the chapter will show the theoretical model of the research.

46 The field of marketing is and will be changing rapidly with the changes and advancement in AI. The pace of this
47 change will also transform the overall landscape of marketing in academics, research, and business context. This
48 will be a major challenge for the organizations to transform according to the changing landscape of marketing.
49 The companies will have to train their employees constantly with the emergence of new technology. Working
50 with AI is not perceived as science fiction but instead, it is viewed as a reality which will become a necessity for
51 survival. The employees of marketing have to understand and learn to enhance and match their skills for AI and
52 robots to be ready for the near future. The present environment is very interesting and challenging. The paper
53 will examine the impact of AI on marketing by taking the perspectives of marketing professional of Karachi,
54 Pakistan.

55 Chapter four: This chapter is focused to provide the analysis of the data collected for the study.

56 2 Chapter five:

57 The last chapter will be focused on drawing the conclusion from the findings of the research.

58 3 b) Problem Statement

59 The Artificial intelligence (AI) has its application in different processes in business within various functional areas
60 and business functions. One of them is marketing, which is considered as the core of the business. The Artificial
61 intelligence (AI) is changing the landscape of marketing and will completely transform in near future. Although
62 marketing is the major business applications within AI today and early adopters are attempting to create value
63 from it (Bughin et al. (2017), the literature on this aspect are scarce where both of the disciplines are combined
64 (Wierenga, 2010). Wierenga (2010) also pointed out there are not a sufficient publication for AI in marketing
65 and marketing in AI literature. According to Martínez-López & Casillas (2013), it has been reported that Scopus
66 had less than 50 articles related to marketing and AI in business related journals. After that, the research related
67 to the topic in Scopus has increased but it is still under 100. Martínez-López & Casillas (2013) stated that there
68 is a need of more studies that show the impact of AI on marketing considering that there is a scarcity of the
69 research in the literature and the potential of the combination in making marketing decisions. The research will
70 be addressing this important issue by taking the perspective of marketing professional of Karachi, Pakistan.

71 4 c) Research Objectives

72 The research is aimed to research the following objectives:

73 ? To find out the impact of Artificial intelligence on Marketing. ? To recommend solutions or strategies for
74 the effective use of AI technologies in marketing.

75 5 d) Research Questions

76 The research will be addressing the following questions: 1. What is the impact of Artificial intelligence on
77 Marketing ? 2. What is the recommendation for the effective use of AI technologies in marketing? 3. What are
78 the different challenges inthe use of AI technologies in marketing ?

79 II.

80 6 Literature Review a) Artificial Intelligence (AI)

81 As stated by Demis Hassabis, who is the founder of Deepmind -the AI Company of Google, "Artificial intelligence
82 is the art to make machines intelligent (Ahmed, 2015)." It is the most widely accepted definition and also a well-
83 fitting since AI is a broader term used for a number of a variety of indicators. Under the AI, there are some
84 subcategories including machine learning and deep learning which manufacture real-world apps of AI, including
85 search suggestions, voice recognition, virtual assistants and image recognition.

86 The term, AI, refers to the computer-assisted analytical course that attempts to form automated systems
87 which can be labeled as intelligent. It is the automated system that inputs data to conduct tasks of intelligent
88 beings in a manner that increases the success rate. According to Guruduth Banavar, supervisor of AI research
89 by IBM, there are a broader variety of various types of Artificial intelligence, therefore, it can be considered as
90 a collection of technologies (Kaput, 2016). These technologies have various functions and come in a variety of
91 prices, but the aim of all of them is almost the same which is to mimic human intelligence in technologies to
92 make the functions intelligent.

93 The progressions made in AI and its executions in various domains have resulted in the advancement of AI
94 technologies that is evident to be valuable and beneficial for marketing professionals. Since more emphasis is
95 on digital marketing as compared to the traditional methods of marketing, the ample data is there for usage of
96 AI technologies. AI technologies have the ability to help marketing managers in various functions including lead
97 generation, market research, social media controlling and customization of consumer experiences (Sterne, 2017).
98 AI technologies in the field of marketing can be broadly classified to customized AI systems for the customized

99 usage and to vendor provided and software-as-a-service (SaaS) solutions which includes AI aspects. Customized
100 and real AI technologies can be manufactured by the internal AI department of companies, outsource providers or
101 it can either be a mix of both. The various vendor-provided solutions of AI also need customization for personal
102 usage cases (Sterne, 2017). A majority of software houses and providers has given a lot in AI and technology
103 organization such as IBM is giving their own marketing computerized solution with IBM Watson Campaign
104 Automation. IBM Watson Campaign Automation has AI by default which is built in the solution.

105 Salesforce, which is considered as the leading provider of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software
106 has also begun to provide AI service along with the Salesforce Einstein, which is also executed in the solution
107 (Sterne, 2017). Paul Roetzer, who is the CEO of Marketing Artificial Intelligence Institute, came up with the
108 structure for AI in marketing which is commonly known as 5Ps of Marketing AI. The structure was formed for
109 simplifying and visualizing the ground and it is in line with the research carried out with different AI companies
110 and engineers on how marketing can take benefit from AI (Roetzer, 2017).

111 In today's world, AI is used to support marketing managers in various tasks and operations including digital
112 marketing (buying), web development, SEO, external email marketing, lead generation, social media monitoring
113 and A/B testing (Davenport, 2017).

114 **7 b) AI in Marketing**

115 The earlier concepts and principles have been examined to tackle the marketing related issue since a very long time
116 (Wierenga & van Bruggen, 2000) but the major usage and implementation of AI in marketing have begun to arise
117 in past few years (Wierenga, 2010). AI has been implemented in most of the companies in today's world but there
118 is still not a high-level of implementation in different companies. Different marketers have shown their interest
119 in adopting AI soon and around 98% of them are now preparing for executing it completely. Whereas, only 20%
120 of the marketers have implemented one or more AI solutions in 2017 in the business ??Bughin, McCarthy &
121 Chui, 2017). The mismatch between the preparation and execution acts as a major pointer that it is not very
122 late for the implementation of AI in marketing, opposing to the fact that how the major buzz about AI may
123 result in believing of people that they need to implement it very soon. However, applications of AI in the field of
124 marketing are quickly developing with a number of different software and services coming up for the companies
125 to use for their brands. The researchers also predicted that 2018 and the coming years will be a turning point in
126 the diffusion of AI in the field of marketing.

127 As marketing is the combination of qualitative as well as quantitative aspects, it provides a distinctive chance
128 for AI to grow to the domains where it is not sufficient with only econometrics (Wierenga, 2010). The major
129 AI applications in the field of marketing today include neural networks, case-based reasoning and expert system
130 (Wierenga, 2010) and in a practical manner, AI has been used to enhance and upgrade the outdated methods of
131 marketing (Hoanca & Forrest, 2015). Bughin, Hazan, Manyika & Woetzel (2017) stated that with the help of AI,
132 companies can be successful in creating customized marketing campaigns by analyzing the data. AI will also help
133 in improving yield management by presenting dynamic pricing and give excellent customer service. Marketing
134 management needs the decision makers related to the market to solve the issues and lead marketing decisions
135 (Wierenga & van Bruggen, 2000). The software which has been highly recognized in the marketing is marketing
136 management support systems (MMSS) which allows the managers to make the decisions, analyze the data and
137 information with the help of AI (Wierenga & van Bruggen, 2000). More precisely, it is a knowledge-driven tool
138 which helps in the decision making through examining the information with the improvement of AI.

139 **8 III.**

140 **9 Methodology**

141 In order to conduct this research, the researcher adopted a qualitative research method. Qualitative method
142 is primarily exploratory research which is adapted to gain an understanding of the reasons, perspectives, and
143 opinions to solve the research problem. Since the objective of the research is to include the perspective of the
144 marketing professionals to know about the impact of AI in marketing, qualitative research is the best choice. For
145 data collection, the research is including primary as well as secondary sources. The researcher collected primary
146 data as a first time getting data to solve the research problem and this information was gathered from the
147 interview method. In addition, different articles, journals, books, websites and blogs are included as a secondary
148 data source.

149 The interviews are conducted with the marketing professionals of the companies in Pakistan. A sample size
150 of 10 participants was selected and the interviews were conducted from 10 marketing professionals of Pakistan.
151 The researcher used a purposive sampling method where the respondents are included in the research to serve
152 a specific purpose. The basic criteria to include respondent for the study was that they must belong to the
153 company where AI is implemented in the marketing function. The rationale behind this was that the marketers
154 who are experiencing the AI implementation would be able to provide a better perspective on the impact of AI
155 on marketing.

156 The interview method was used where the series of open-ended questions prepared for the respondents.
157 However, the researcher was prepared to add additional questions in the interview depending on the context
158 in order to follow the inductive research method, where there is no limitation of the existing theories. The

159 research is cross-sectional in nature, therefore; a duration of one month is allocated to collect the data from the
160 respondents.

161 10 IV.

162 11 Data Analysis

163 In this section, the analysis from the collected data from the respondents of the research is presented. The
164 interviews included ten marketing professionals from ten different organizations of Pakistan. The overview of the
165 respondent profile is given in Table 1.

166 12 a) Interview Analysis

167 This section provides a detailed analysis of the interview. The major questions of the interview are stated below
168 that are analyzed in detail in this section: ? What are the influential factors in integrating AI in marketing? ?
169 What are the major benefits of integrating AI in marketing? ? What are the major challenges of integrating AI
170 in marketing? ? What are the ethical aspects of integrating AI in marketing? ? What are the uses of AI in the
171 marketing functions of your company? ? What are the pre and post AI marketing strategy for your company?
172 ? What is the impact on marketing volume and expenditure of the company pre and post-AI ?

173 13 i. Influencing factors in integrating AI in Marketing

174 According to the respondents, the major influencing factor in integrating AI in marketing is a competitive
175 pressure. Many companies feel the pressure from the competing firms to integrate AI in marketing. "There is a
176 sense of urgency among competing firms to integrate AI in the marketing process," said Sumera.

177 According to Saad Siddiqui, he has noticed that management of the company has begun to push to integrate
178 AI in marketing and the media attention, competitive pressure and digital maturity are the reasons of their
179 inclination towards the integration.

180 Regarding external and competitors' pressure, Ali Hassan spoke about it and the hype to integrate AI in
181 marketing functions. He stated, "Firms are now talking about this important phenomenon and they are now
182 using it in the marketing functions. The pressure from the competitors is the major factor as the company
183 realized in order to differentiate themselves from other competing firms; they have to integrate AI in their
184 marketing functions."

185 Pressure from the customers was not evident but from the experience, Umaima Ashfaq stated that the company
186 knew that customers seek the firms with the best offerings and performance and thus, they felt the urge to
187 integrate AI related software.

188 14 ii. Benefits of integrating AI in Marketing

189 When asked about the benefits of integrating AI in marketing, different responses were gathered from the
190 respondents. According to Rija Bakhtiar, while integrating AI in marketing functions, the company believed
191 that AI would be helpful in increasing efficiency and save time in the marketing functions and it is now evident
192 that AI helped the company in improved marketing processes.

193 Saba Tehniat stated that the benefits of integrating AI-based software in our company helped in improving
194 conversion rates, a better understanding of customer information and marketing decision more feasible. Most
195 importantly, it helped in increasing the ROI.

196 Waqar Haider said that the benefits of AI integration are insights and marketing decisions.

197 Saqlain Rizvi highlighted the major benefit from AI adoption in marketing is the insights. The insights provided
198 by the AI-based software can be used in different functions including pricing and new product development.

199 The major advantage of adopting AI-based software in marketing according to Saleem Ashfaq is that through
200 AI, the company is able to provide the enhanced service and give more value to customers which lead to the
201 maximum level of satisfaction from the customers. Other benefits include improved data analysis and effective
202 handling of marketing processes.

203 15 iii. A major challenge of AI integration in Marketing

204 Technical compatibility is considered as the major challenge in AI integration according to the respondents.
205 According to Waqar Haider, the company worked on making it easy to incorporate their system with the major
206 CRM system in order to handle the compatibility issue. It is still the major challenge for us and the company
207 has been working on it continuously to make the process better.

208 Fatima Mehmood stated that complex software and IT system also becomes a major challenge. Thus, it is
209 important for the companies to work for compatibility issues.

210 Four respondents stated that the lack of technical skills in a team also posits the greatest challenge for overall
211 marketing functions after the AI integration. According to Saad Siddiqui, the company must train their marketing
212 team in order to prepare them before the adoption process of AI. Adoption of new technology in a company is
213 indeed a process of change and it is highly important to understand the challenges beforehand and handle those

214 challenges effectively. The companies should not be reluctant in embracing new technology in order to get a
215 competitive advantage.

216 Respondents also argued that it is important to have data in place as it is the most important part of AI thus,
217 according to them, data is also the biggest challenge.

218 **16 iv. Ethical Aspect of AI in Marketing**

219 According to the respondents, data is the major ethical aspect to take into account concerning the customers.
220 According to Saleem Ashfaq, the company collects the data anonymously in order to solve this issue which means
221 the data is not matched with the users who generate it. Ashfaq also stated that their major objective is to include
222 an insignificant amount of personal data.

223 Saba Tehniat highlighted two different ethical aspects of AI in marketing. According to her, ethical issues
224 should be considered as they are highly important but she believes that the companies do not consider those
225 issues when they plan to adopt knowledge-driven AI software. The major aspect of ethics is the use of data
226 in the marketing environment. Secondly, the decision regarding the choice of AI has become too complicated
227 to understand, even for the development team. The may become the biggest challenge if a company does not
228 consider the unethical choices made.

229 Umaiqa Ashfaq also stated that data is the major ethical aspect of AI in marketing and it needs to be
230 considered in the overall process. She stated that the company already thought about the ethical aspect before
231 even adopting the new system and the basic principle of the company was not to gather the personal data of
232 customers. She further added that it is highly important to communicate the ethical queries to the customer.
233 Thus, our company shares the detail to the customer that what type of data is going to be collected from them.

234 **17 v. Usage of AI in marketing functions**

235 According to the respondents, AI has made the marketing function more effective and it is used in almost all the
236 important marketing functions. They stated that AI helps in developing the sales and marketing strategies that
237 drive substantial improvements in business performance.

238 According to Rija Bakhtiar, AI has been used in all the marketing related activities which include pricing,
239 promotion, distribution, and product planning and development. Ali Hassan stated that AI is dominantly used
240 in the Digital platform, advertisement function, and customer relationship management.

241 Sumera stated that AI is majorly used in Digital marketing which includes content curation, email marketing,
242 digital advertising, web design, Chatbots, and Predictive Analysis.

243 vi. Pre and post AI marketing strategy Indeed, the execution of AI in marketing change the dynamics of
244 overall business. Similarly, it also changes the strategies designed by the company. According to Sumera Ali,
245 before adopting AI in marketing, the strategies were focused to increase marketing resources and extend product
246 assortments. After the adaptation of AI, the business intelligence attracted the marketing managers and they
247 got a deeper understanding related to the marketing, sales and operation trends. From the data, they developed
248 the predictive models to notice the future strategies.

249 The response received by Fatima Mehmood is worth mentioning. She stated that AI has brought a 360degree
250 change in the marketing of the company. As customer service was the main priority and the strategies were
251 designed to provide the best customer service, the organization made a decision to invest in AI in terms of customer
252 service and they observed a noticeable improvement in customer service. It helped in improving responsiveness
253 and efficiency. Moreover, the company is also making future investment decisions of AI. According to Ali Hassan,
254 the market strategy was focused on long-term customer value and refocusing marketing efforts on new manners of
255 communication before the implementation of AI. After the implementation of AI, the company started focusing
256 on social media reach, personalization, collecting better data, SEO, payment processes and improvement in sales
257 and all the strategies are focused towards them after the adaptation of AI.

258 **18 vii. Impact on marketing volume and expenditure of the 259 company pre and post-AI**

260 The adaptation of AI in marketing has indeed increased the marketing expenditure of the company while acquiring
261 but it has significantly reduced the marketing cost. As stated by Saba Tehniat, before the implementation of AI
262 in marketing, the company faced a high cost of marketing and the team was focusing to decrease the marketing
263 cost. After AI, it was easier to get the data to make different marketing decisions. It not only helped in reducing
264 marketing cost but also helped in achieving the marketing objectives. According to Waqar Haider, our company
265 has a major emphasis on the digital platform and our strategies were focused to provide the engaging content and
266 improve the customer services. Before AI, a number of human resources were involved in the tasks of the digital
267 platform for e.g. collecting real data. After the adaptation of AI, it helped in saving different cost and thus,
268 improved the efficiencies and reaching the marketing objectives. According to Saleem Ashfaq, the acquisition of
269 AI was costly but it has brought great benefits to the marketing of the company. It has made tasks easier and
270 helped in saving significant marketing cost. In addition, it helped in providing a clear direction for the future of
271 marketing and overall sales of the company.

272 **19 V. Conclusion and Recommendations**

273 The aim of the paper was to find out the impact of AI on marketing by including the perspective of marketing
274 professionals of Pakistan. In order to reach the objective of the research and to answer the research questions,
275 different steps were followed. At first, a comprehensive literature review was highlighted which provided a detailed
276 understanding of AI and the use of AI in marketing by including the perspective of different researchers. Secondly,
277 the researcher used the qualitative research method which involved semistructured interviews with ten different
278 marketing professional belonging from ten different firms of Pakistan.

279 The major findings of the research showed that the major influencing factors in integrating AI in marketing
280 area competitive pressure, media attention, digital maturity, and customers. On the findings related to the
281 benefits of integrating AI in marketing, different responses were gathered from the respondents. The major
282 benefits according to the marketing professionals are increasing efficiency, time-saving in the marketing functions,
283 improving conversion rates, a better understanding of customer information, making marketing decision more
284 feasible, increasing the ROI, insights, enhanced service and customer satisfaction. Other benefits include improved
285 data analysis and effective handling of marketing processes. On a question related to the biggest challenge of AI
286 integration in marketing, technical compatibility is considered as the major challenge in AI integration according
287 to the respondents. Respondents also argued that it is important to have data in place as it is the most important
288 part of AI thus, according to them, data is also the biggest challenge. According to the respondents, data is the
289 major ethical aspect to take into account concerning the customers. On the question related to the usage of AI
290 in the marketing of the company, respondents stated that AI has made the marketing function more effective
291 and it is used in almost all the important marketing functions. They stated that AI helps in developing the sales
292 and marketing strategies that drive substantial improvements in business performance.

293 The above findings highlight the importance of AI in the marketing of businesses. AI has transformed the
294 landscape marketing and helps in updating the outdated methods of marketing. This will be a major challenge
295 for the organizations to transform according to the changing landscape of marketing. The organizations need to
296 prepare themselves for the future and train their employees constantly with the emergence of innovation. The
297 research has positively contributed to the existing literature by filling the existing gaps present in the literature by
298 taking the marketing professional's perspective on the impact of AI in marketing. This highlighted the importance
299 of AI in marketing and the major benefits associated with the integration. In addition, major challenges, ethical
300 aspects, and usages provided a guideline to the companies to adopt AI in marketing. It is recommended to the
301 firms to follow the aspects and challenges while integrating AI in marketing.

1

| Respondents | Name | City -Country | Industry | Position | Years of Experience |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Respondent 1 | Saleem Ashfaq | Karachi -Pakistan | Consumer Goods | Marketing Director | 7 years |
| Respondent 2 | Waqar Haider | Karachi -Pakistan | Consumer Goods | Head of Marketing | 11 years |
| Respondent 3 | Sumera Ali | Karachi -Pakistan | IT | Marketing Manager | 3 years |
| Respondent 4 | Saqlain Rizvi | Karachi -Pakistan | Consumer Services | Marketing Manager | 4 years |
| Respondent 5 | Fatima Mehmood | Karachi -Pakistan | IT | Marketing Executive | 2 years |
| Respondent 6 | Rija Bakhtiar | Karachi -Pakistan | IT | Marketing Director | 7 years |
| Respondent 7 | Saad Siddiqui | Karachi -Pakistan | IT | Marketing Specialist | 3 years |
| Respondent 8 | Ali Hassan | Karachi -Pakistan | Consumer Goods | Assistant Manager | 2 years |
| Respondent 9 | Umaima Ashfaq | Karachi -Pakistan | Consumer Goods | Marketing Manager | 6 years |
| Respondent 10 | Saba Tehniat | Karachi -Pakistan | Electronics | Marketing Head | 9 years |

Figure 1: Table 1 :

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