Banking beyond Boundaries: Harnessing the Potential of Artificial Intelligence

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Abstract: Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a disruptive force in the banking sector, revolutionising how financial institutions operate and serve their customers. This abstract examines the pivotal role of A.I. in the banking industry, investigating its impact on enhancing operational efficiency, personalising customer experiences, managing risk, and combating fraud. Integrating A.I. technologies, such as machine learning, natural language processing, and predictive analytics, has empowered banks to optimise their operations and streamline processes. By automating routine tasks, A.I. frees up human resources, allowing financial institutions to redirect their efforts towards more strategic initiatives and innovative solutions. A.I.-driven personalisation is redefining customer experiences in the banking sector. Banks can now analyse vast volumes of customer data to offer tailored services and products, improving customer satisfaction and loyalty. Virtual assistants and chatbots powered by A.I. have also become crucial for improving customer support, offering real-time assistance and 24/7 accessibility. Moreover, A.I. plays a vital role in risk management, enabling banks to identify potential risks and vulnerabilities in real-time. Through sophisticated algorithms and data analysis, A.I. models can detect patterns that human analysts may overlook, resulting in more robust risk assessment and mitigation strategies. One of the most significant contributions of A.I. in the banking sector is its capacity to combat fraud effectively. A.I.-powered fraud detection systems can swiftly detect suspicious activities and transactions, enabling banks to safeguard customer assets and data while reducing financial losses. However, implementing A.I. in the banking industry has challenges, including data privacy concerns, ethical considerations, and regulatory compliance. This abstract also explores these obstacles and highlights the need for transparency and responsible A.I. practices in the financial sector. As A.I. technology advances, its role in the banking sector will undoubtedly expand. Financial institutions must embrace A.I. solutions while navigating the associated challenges to fully unlock the potential of this transformative technology in revolutionising the future of banking services.

Keywords: Data analysis, Artificial Intelligence (A.I.), Banking sector, Financial institutions, Operational efficiency, Personalization, Customer experiences, Natural language processing, Predictive analytics, Automation, Virtual assistants, Chatbots

1. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is often defined as a machine’s ability to perform cognitive tasks associated with human minds, such as perception, reasoning, learning, problem-solving, and creativity. In the banking sector, AI is applied through various algorithms with significant success in customer management, Credit Information Services, Frequently Asked Questions (F.A. Q.) services, Financial Assistance Services, and more. Nowadays, AI’s potential is harnessed in diverse banking fields, including cybersecurity, risk management, fraud control, sales, Internal Audit, Financial Assistance, Asset Management, Loan Management, and Customer Management.

This research paper focuses on implementing an AI framework applicable to all aspects of the banking sector mentioned above. These models will be pre-tested using historical data and survey forms. By deploying AI through robotic processing, Chatbots, and AI agents, the banking industry aims to automate business processes and enhance customer service. Customers can access services without visiting a physical branch by interacting with pre-defined Chatbots that gather required information and guide them accordingly.

The advantages of Chatbots lie in their ability to rapidly collect data from the information warehouse, leading to higher efficiency. Data warehouses play a crucial role in this context, providing a single source of information for AI to process, obviating the need to manually match data from various sources. Additionally, AI systems monitor transactions and traffic to prevent fraud, intelligently learning from experience without interrupting operations.

Improving operational performance is achieved by integrating the AI system with the end user, wherein users input minimal information, and intelligent algorithms populate the remaining fields, enabling quick insights and decision-making. Furthermore, AI facilitates real-time and efficient tracing of documents, enhancing security and productivity. AI has become a powerful enabler for the banking sector, transforming various aspects of financial services. Integrating AI technologies in banking systems has significantly improved performance, customer experiences, risk management, and fraud prevention, marking a significant step towards the future of smart and efficient banking operations.

Commercial banks are increasingly embracing technology and process automation. Unicredit Bank, for instance, has introduced its Emerging Opportunities Engine (EOE), an AI-powered tool that anticipates investment recommendations, primarily focusing on the capital market. The EOE also guides customers on buying shares and making investments, benefiting trading brokers. The initial outcomes of this software have been promising, leading to its implementation in other financial institutions.

Adopting artificial intelligence in the banking and finance industry enables constant and faster customer engagement by promptly addressing their concerns. AI-based software utilises Machine Learning Algorithms, enabling the system to comprehend issues and solve them based on predefined
instructions. It is the ideal solution for quickly transforming data into valuable insights and meeting customer demands efficiently.

Research indicates that customers are increasingly open to adopting new technologies, even if they have initial reservations. This trend was further highlighted during the Covid-19 crisis in 2020. Consequently, financial institutions must ensure a sustainable digital transformation, incorporating robotics and providing round-the-clock availability through Virtual Assistants and Chatbots. These strategic investments will yield long-term profitability.

Statement of problem:
The prevailing and outdated banking system faces significant challenges in decision-making, primarily relying on extensive data, which proves costly in terms of time and expenses. Moreover, approximately twenty to thirty per cent of decisions are incorrect due to incomplete and irrelevant information within the organisation. To address these issues, an AI - powered state - of - the - art system is proposed, designed to intelligently handle data from various stakeholders and process reports efficiently. This AI system will utilise real-time information to guide customers and facilitate quick decision-making while adhering to rules and policies. Additionally, it will enhance the organisation’s profitability by efficiently managing credit and investments in the banking sector.

Objective of the Study
1) This study aims to comprehend the significance and underlying purposes of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
2) This research aims to analyse the integration and application of Artificial Intelligence in the Banking Industries.
3) The study seeks to assess both Artificial Intelligence’s positive and negative impacts on the Banking Industry.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Banking
AI in the banking sector encompasses machine learning and natural language processing. These technologies facilitate automated analytical model building, enabling computers to adapt algorithms based on new data without human intervention. Natural language processing allows technology to understand and process human communication, whether spoken or written. Additionally, natural language generation empowers technology to generate human-like prose by sifting through vast amounts of data to produce coherent and human-sounding responses, including speech or financial result summaries.

Different AI Application in Banking and Financial Services

Risk Management:
By examining market trends, consumer behaviour, and macroeconomic factors, AI supports holistic risk management and helps banks make better-informed decisions and reduce potential risks.

Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Compliance:
By automatically detecting and flagging suspicious transactions and activity, artificial intelligence (AI) aids banks in adhering to AML laws.

Loan Underwriting:
By analysing customer information and financial history, AI speeds up loan approvals and minimises manual labour in the loan underwriting process.

Payments facilitated by chatbots:
AI-powered chatbots make it simpler for customers to execute transactions using conversational interfaces by facilitating seamless and secure payment processing.

Customer Support and Marketing Chatbots:
AI-smart chatbots are self-learning programs designed for intelligent conversations with humans through chat or audio interfaces. They are accessible 24x7, providing round-the-clock support and engagement with customers. These Chatbots are user-friendly and easy to interact with. However, they require considerable time for training to improve their performance and effectiveness in understanding and responding to user queries.

Robo-Advisors for Financial Products:
Robo-advisors monitor customer goals, recommending stocks or bonds for purchase or sale based on individual preferences. These platforms offer personalised attention to customers, catering to their unique risk appetites and financial objectives.

Smart Wallets:
Enhanced intelligence integrated into mobile wallets enables smart services such as chat functionality, booking of bus tickets, cabs, events, movies, and utility bill payments.

Emotion AI:
A subfield of artificial intelligence that uses cutting-edge voice and facial recognition technology to allow machines to recognise human emotions.

Hedge Fund Trading & Management:
Artificial intelligence (AI)-based mobile apps provide solutions for the execution of hedge fund trading and management on the market.

In the banking industry, AI-related equipment can retrieve real-time data from global financial markets. AI models can analyse various financial markets, allowing them to help consumers make decisions quickly.

Offering High Security:
AI-based mobile applications can speed up transactions and increase security. Banks and other financial institutions can recognise a person's behaviour and provide a customised
experience through an app. Banks can manage customer-focused operations with ease while avoiding the expense of hiring additional staff.

**Shifting obligations from Humans**
The Bank has computer programmes that carry out repetitive tasks, ranging from automatic programmes to responding to information requests from external auditors. Artificial intelligence can shift tasks from people to AI, lowering costs, speeding up reaction time, keeping humans informed of the most recent regulatory changes, and saving time by preparing reports.

**Effectiveness & Customer Experience:**
Artificial intelligence enhances employee productivity and customer experience through targeted emails and other offerings.

It boosts sales and boosts sales representatives' efficiency. AI provides greater precision & accuracy. AI can improve your clients' levels of pride by assisting them with tasks like money transfers, bill pricing, card control, and other assistance. These tasks may be easily managed using desktop computers, smartphones, and other mobile devices.

**Fraud Detection:**
The finance sector is using machine learning to cut costs and increase profitability. This topic includes both front - and back - office operations across multiple institutions. Machine learning algorithms can analyse hundreds of data points in real - time and flag suspicious or fraudulent transactions, preventing many fraudulent claims.

**Increase in Efficiency, Accuracy:**
Artificial intelligence improves the speed, accuracy, and performance of mathematical calculations; it can handle large amounts of data; and banks can determine the best combination of initial margin - reducing trades at a given time based on the amount of initial margin reduction under particular combinations of those trades in the past.

**Better Customer Support:**
According to several pieces of research, customers voluntarily choose self - carrier options that let them communicate with a digital assistant as if it were a human consumer counsellor. Most major banks have already included digital assistants in their voice response systems, chatbots, and mobile applications. Because artificial intelligence views every interaction as a teaching opportunity, chatbots (also known as digital assistants) keep improving as technology users, too.

**The role of the banking industry**
Since they provide financial services, banks are often recognised as the "lifeblood" of the modern economy.

Influence credit scores, money, and other aspects of the economy. Banks encourage and help customers save money and earn interest for a more comfortable future. Banks are increasing the amount of money they give to emerging nations. Banks must meticulously record every financial transaction they conduct. Banks typically use computers to implement this capability.

The channels that banks use for business include ATMs, emails, mobile banking, internet banking, and smartphone banking.

Only because banks use AI is the ideal concept of banking over computers and networks practical.

**Foreign companies in the Banking sector which are using AI:**

**HooYu**
Biometrics have long since moved beyond science fiction and into actual security procedures. With smartphone fingerprint sensors, there's a good chance that one form is in your palm right now. At the same time, AI, which uses vast amounts of data to optimise authentication, interacts with biometrics like facial and voice recognition to make them smarter.

The security benefits are obvious, but these advancements have improved bank customer service. NatWest is a noteworthy recent example, as it was the first major U. K. bank to enable consumers to open accounts remotely using selfies. An applicant's selfie is compared in real - time to a passport, government - issued I. D. card, or other legitimate photo identity document using AI - powered biometrics developed with software partner HooYu.

**Ally Financial:**
Despite having over a century of experience in the banking sector, Ally has embraced AI in its mobile banking application. The bank's mobile platform uses a chatbot powered by machine learning to help customers with inquiries, transfers, and payments and provide payment summaries. Users may simply speak or text with the chatbot to take care of their banking needs because text and speech are enabled.

**Capital One**
Another bank that is embracing the use of AI to better serve its customers is Capital One. Eno, a virtual assistant that users may connect with using a mobile app, text message, email, and on a PC, was released by the bank in 2017. Eno handles operations, including paying credit cards, maintaining account balances, examining available credit, and verifying transactions. It also enables users to text questions and receive fraud alerts. The AI helper can utilise emoticons and conversing just like regular users.

**Kasisto**
Major investors have been drawn to digital - first banks in some regions of the world, particularly the U. K., where they have recently made headlines. One of the businesses that introduced digital - first banking to the US is Kasisto.

Banks may create their own chatbots and virtual assistants using the conversational AI platform from Kasisto, called KAI. It is grounded in AI logic and can interpret and produce natural language, so it can deal with complex queries about financial management. Banks like the UAE - based digital bank Liv, DBS Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, and TD have all used Kasisto's technology. These financial institutions employ KAI - based bots to help
consumers make foreign transfers, stop credit card charges, and transfer you to human assistance when the bot runs into trouble.

**Affectiva**

Pepper, one of the most well-known robots in the world, is a cheerful humanoid with a tablet strapped to its breast. Pepper debuted in 2014 but didn't incorporate AI until Affectiva, an MIT spinoff, gave it the sophisticated ability to discern emotion and cognitive states four years later. Following the improvement, HSBC made it available on bank floors, including its Fifth Avenue headquarters in New York. Since then, Pepper has also been available in Miami and Beverly Hills.

For HSBC, Pepper is mostly in charge of hosting tasks like greeting clients, explaining how to open accounts, telling jokes, conveying credit card information, and more.

**Indian Banks which are using AI**

**State Bank of India**

The main provider of banking services in the public sector in India is State Bank of India (SBI). The bank uses artificial intelligence to give efficient financial services. SBI Intelligent Assistant (SIA), a smart chat assistant powered by AI, immediately responds to customer inquiries and assists them with routine banking transactions, much like a human would. This intelligent chat assistant, created by AI banking platform Payjo, is capable of handling around 10,000 inquiries per second or 864 million in a day, or roughly 25% of the requests that Google processes daily.

**HDFC**

Another Indian financial services and banking company that uses AI is HDFC, headquartered in Mumbai. Eva, a sophisticated chatbot created by the bank, uses Google Assistant on millions of Android devices to respond to consumer questions and improve services. The Bengaluru-based Sense forth AI Research developed Eva and has purportedly claimed to have answered more than five million user questions with an accuracy rate of more than 85%.

Additionally, HDFC offers OnChat, an AI-enabled chatbot that debuted on Facebook Messenger in 2016.

**ICICI**

Over 200 business operations across numerous industries have been automated using software robots at ICICI Bank, a significant private sector bank in India.

Features of the business. By doing this, the bank became the first in the nation to extensively implement an AI system in various procedures. The study claims that ICICI Bank has extended its RPA project to over 750 software robotics processing roughly 2 million daily transactions, or 20% of the transaction volumes.

**Axis**

Axis Bank's customers may communicate their banking concerns through an AI-powered bot whenever and wherever they choose. In July 2020, India's third-largest private sector bank released AXAA, a conversational, interactive voice response (IVR) system. AXAA, a next-generation multilingual voice bot, helps customers navigate the IVR and responds to their questions and requests, typically without requiring human assistance. The private lender also operates an innovation centre dubbed "Though Factory" with the goal of accelerating the creation of cutting-edge AI technology solutions for the banking industry.

**Bank of Baroda**

Another public sector lender, Bank of Baroda, applies AI to enhance customer service while advancing banking services and lowering account management costs. The bank uses cutting-edge technology, including the Baroda Brainy robot and the Digital Lab with free Wi-Fi. A chatbot named ADI (Assisted Digital Interaction) is also included. In order to power a cutting-edge IT Centre of Excellence (ITCoE) and Analytics Centre of Excellence (ACoE), Bank of Baroda teamed up with IBM and Accenture in 2018.

**Andhra Bank**

In April 2020, the medium-sized Indian public sector bank Andhra Bank merged with Union Bank of India. The bank has embraced cutting-edge technology since it has a network of branches and numerous satellite offices nationwide. The bank uses an interactive AI assistant called "ABHi" to quickly and effectively respond to consumer inquiries. The AI chatbot, created by Floatbot, is integrated with Andhra Bank's Core Banking Servers (CBS) and will automate customer service for the bank's five crore account holders.

**Kotak Mahindra Bank**

Millions of Kotak clients are supported by a clever AI-enabled chatbot that is available 24/7 to respond to their banking questions. The bilingual speech chatbot Keya will supplement the current interactive voice response (IVR) system and is connected with Kotak's phone banking helpdesk.2019 the bank released Keya 2.0, a voicebot with increased capabilities. India has a superior and well-regulated financial system. According to the data, public sector banks had assets worth US$1.52 trillion in the 2020 fiscal year. Additionally, during FY16 to FY20, bank loans increased at a CAGR of 3.57%. The entire amount of credit extended as of FY2020 was $1, 698.97 billion.

2. Conclusions

Large economic resources are now being used to boost production and cut business operating expenses.

Artificial intelligence is preferable because it is faster, more dependable, and mistake-prone than a human. Because of all the accessible technology, physical robots, chatbots, holograms, and virtual assistants will develop over time and saturate the market. Man as a notion will become irrelevant, and he will no longer be able to process the vast amount of essential everyday data that is required. Each person will require a personal assistant to take care of various tasks for them, from setting up meetings to serving as a mentor or educator for a particular field of interest. For the benefit of people, manual, arduous work will be replaced. People who, ten years ago or so, processed statistics for the FinTech
sector and had to carefully migrate that information from databases could now work in various new roles. Nowadays, having a bank office in a small town is far from necessary. These days, the only requirements are that the small network have access to the Internet and free time to use any way they see fit. The days of waiting at commercial banks for someone to shout "Next" from behind the counter have long passed.

AI is steadily spreading throughout the banking sector to improve financial services. People are likelier to choose the digital route to manage their bank accounts and conduct transactions during social isolation and quarantine. With such advantages, it is almost a given that most bank employees and other economic establishment personnel would use AI to maintain their competitiveness and provide superior customer service. However, a device learning algorithm also has a lot of drawbacks. The decision - making abilities may eventually cause issues as it continues to develop and analyse. Additionally, because the number of manual workers is declining, AI's role is crucial to ensuring that banks can successfully serve their customers. We hope our piece clarifies the unavoidable necessity for AI to lessen reliance on people inside the financial sector.

References


