

“Consumer Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence in Retail Banking: Empirical Evidence from Gujarat”

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Abstract:

This essay examines the impact of artificial intelligence on banking services. It looks the long term impact, benefits and current challenges. As banking services continue to evolve, AI technology cannot be ignored, so it is important to understand customers' attitudes towards AI used in financial transactions. This research observed key factors such as consumer awareness, trust and the benefits (security, efficiency and personalized services) and challenges (lack of human empathy, bias, data security). In this study, data of 249 respondents from Gujarat were analyzed. In which mixed method was used. Also, various statistical techniques such as chi-square, t-test and Anova were used. The study finally examined its findings, which showed that AI adoption was higher among younger people and AI fraud detection capabilities were higher among respondents with higher levels of education, with women being less likely than men to adopt AI-based transactions. Concerns about privacy and data security were higher among professionals and academically active people, while they were lower among retired respondents. The study offers strategic insights for the banking sector, which can help in winning customer trust, enhancing AI services, and better meeting customer expectations, ultimately speeding up banking services.

Introduction:

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) has fundamentally reshaped contemporary financial systems. By embedding tools like conversational interfaces, real-time fraud monitoring and automated wealth advisory services, financial institutions have substantially upgraded both operational output and client satisfaction metrics (Duan, Edwards, & Dwivedi, 2019). Today, global banking entities increasingly rely on machine learning architectures to fortify security protocols, streamline backend workflows and deliver highly tailored, data-driven consumer services. Consequently, this digital shift not only drives down structural overhead but also accelerates transaction speeds and democratizes access to financial services (Geetha, 2021). Leveraging automated consumer touchpoints, real-time risk mitigation, algorithmic credit evaluation, and custom wealth management, machine learning models introduce distinct structural advantages to the banking sector (Prentice, Lopes, & Wang, 2020). Implementing conversational AI, for example, allows institutions to sustain round-the-clock client support, rapidly clearing high-volume inquiries without manual intervention (Ameen et al., 2021). Parallel to this, automated surveillance systems evaluate live transactional telemetry to flag anomalies and preemptively disrupt fraudulent activity (Aguiar-Costa et al., 2022). While these innovations collectively tighten security and cut down friction, consumer reception remains highly fragmented. A significant segment of the market exhibits deep hesitation

regarding the elimination of human oversight in complex financial choices, even as others welcome the resulting velocity and convenience (Jain, 2023).

Empirical evidence indicates that demographic variables specifically age, gender and educational attainment heavily dictate consumer willingness to engage with automated financial technologies. Generally, younger demographics possessing robust technical literacy display far lower resistance to these platforms (Yadav, 2022). Deconstructing these distinct user attitudes is imperative if financial institutions hope to achieve seamless system integration. Ultimately, the long-term viability of algorithmic banking hinges on an institution's capacity to mitigate consumer anxieties, enforce operational transparency and cultivate systemic trust (Alqasa, 2023). To explore these dynamics, the current study evaluates consumer awareness, institutional trust and recognized utility alongside the primary impediments to adoption. Utilizing a mixed-method design, this research examines empirical data gathered from 249 participants across Gujarat to map how demographic divergence shapes user sentiment toward machine-learning frameworks. By connecting engineering milestones with actual user readiness, these findings offer empirical guidance for financial strategist, regulatory bodies and software developers alike. This work adds to the broader academic discourse surrounding modern banking infrastructure by offering strategic frameworks to optimize automated services while directly confronting underlying ethical, security and interface vulnerabilities.

Objectives of this study

1. To determine the baseline of customer awareness and subsequent adoption rates of machine learning solutions within the banking sector
2. To critically analyze how algorithmic financial products influence institutional trust and overall user satisfaction metrics.
3. To evaluate the primary strategic opportunities and performance benefits introduced by banking automation.
4. To identify and investigate the core structural obstacles and consumer anxieties hindering AI integration.

Literature Review

Scholarly exploration reveals a tense dynamic between digital efficiency and human interaction. Prentice, Lopes and Wang (2020) establish that while machine-learning frameworks optimize user convenience, automated efficiency cannot completely replace human intervention. Their analysis highlights empathy as a critical driver of client retention, showing that long-term loyalty requires balancing technological utility with genuine interpersonal engagement. Concurrently, Mhlanga (2020) emphasizes the broader socio-economic utility of automation in driving digital financial inclusion. This research demonstrates that algorithmic integration successfully resolves information asymmetry, refines

credit risk modeling, streamlines automated customer support and fortifies banking security through real-time fraud mitigation protocols.

According to a study by Addanki Akhil and Ch. Siva Priya from 2021, chatbots would be the most useful AI applications in retail banking in the future. The report examines the most pertinent uses of artificial intelligence in retail banking, encompassing both front-office and back-office functions. Dhamija and Srivastava (2021) observe that the integration of artificial intelligence has successfully automated modern banking frameworks, granting consumers access to a premium, round the clock engagement experience; however, they emphasize that AI capabilities cannot entirely replace human personnel.

Expanding on the operational nature of these digital interactions, Ameen (2021) identifies two core categories of AI-enabled customer experiences: hedonic and recognition. Ameen establishes a favorable relationship between customer commitment and these AI-driven touchpoints, while simultaneously proving that the positive outcomes of personalization, perceived convenience and service quality do not act in isolation instead, they are directly mediated by customer trust and perceived sacrifice.

Empirical research by Aguiar-Costa et al. (2022) demonstrates a substantial positive correlation between the deployment of artificial intelligence and customer satisfaction with financial services. The authors argue that assessing user satisfaction within AI-supported environments allows organizations to fully comprehend the complexity and richness of the technology. By focusing resources and strategic attention on these digital touch-points, institutions are empowered to make bolder strategic decisions. Furthermore, this established correlation provides firms with a robust empirical framework to justify and defend their technological investments based on the key structural constructs identified in the study.

Artificial intelligence continues to transform the banking sector, primarily through widely deployed chatbot applications that show a strong positive correlation with service delivery (Bhattacharya & Sinha, 2022). Furthermore, Jain (2023) demonstrates that these AI integrations significantly refine decision making, mitigate operational expenses, and drive profitability. Nonetheless, Jain emphasizes that securing these long term advantages depends on addressing critical bottlenecks like algorithmic bias, data privacy and ethical concerns.

AI-driven financial platforms substantially optimize customer relationship management by providing secure, user-friendly, and stable service environments (Kumar & Gupta, 2023). Within these contexts, the caliber of the user experience is determined by specific chatbot service attributes namely reliability, responsiveness, interactivity and usability which

subsequently foster higher levels of customer satisfaction (Abdel Wahab, 2023). Nevertheless, to achieve systemic success, the banking industry must look toward long-term governance.

As Lazo and Ebarido (2023) establish, driving broader AI adoption requires expanding empirical research into regulatory perspectives to promote responsible deployment, scaling the technical talent pool, leveraging service provider capabilities and fostering stakeholder synergy. Modi et al. (2023) concluded that Customers prioritize interaction quality, followed by quality of the environment and outcome quality. The interactive quality bank uses AI and other cutting-edge technology to provide FAQs, assistance for customers, chat rooms, and online complaint processing. Furthermore, all of the criteria have a beneficial impact on user happiness.

Theoretical and empirical evidence presented by Tulcanaza-Prieto et al. (2023) demonstrates that a distinct suite of variables specifically convenience of use, trust, personalization and customer retention exerts a strong positive and statistically significant impact on the consumer journey. Crucially, their framework highlights that these foundational factors directly elevate both AI - enabled hedonic customer experiences and the overall recognition of service quality within modern banking environments.

The research by Hussain & Sudha (2024) investigates the role that AI-enabled banking technologies can play in increasing customer loyalty. Consumer satisfaction and retention depend on blending service quality traits reliability, assurance, personalization and empathy, responsiveness with Technology Acceptance Model variables like utility, simplicity, risk, trust and advantage.

Evaluating these dynamics, Al-Araj et al. (2024) observe that while automation elevates baseline user approval, its capacity to cultivate deep loyalty remains constrained. Their empirical data suggests that although the Jordanian banking sector aggressively leverages relationship-building to anchor clientele, standalone digital integration fails to maximize user experiences. Furthermore, despite visible upgrades in operational transparency and data disclosure, a distinct friction point persists in transforming these technical advancements into complete consumer contentment.

Need of the Study

While there is an increasing number of research on AI in banking, most of it focuses on technological and operational factors. There is limited study on customer perceptions of AI in banking with special reference to Gujarat region. This study targets an unresolved area of research by closely analyzing user feedback and behavioral perceptions regarding AI service deployment. In doing so, it translates consumer insights into actionable blueprints for the

banking sector while contributing fresh empirical evidence to the academic community. To summarize, this study is required to close the knowledge gap between technology improvements in AI and customer perception. It will provide banks with actionable insights into improving client experiences, addressing complaints and strategically planning for the future of AI in banking.

Methodology

This study used an empirical, quantitative approach to gauge public opinion on AI-driven banking. A trustworthy foundation for assessing consumer approval throughout the retail banking industry is ensured by using this statistical method. Primary data was gathered from Gujarati respondents using a standardised survey questionnaire. Understanding customer awareness, trust and satisfaction with AI-driven banking services such as chatbots, fraud detection automated loan approvals and tailored financial recommendations is the main goal of the study.

Sampling and Data Collection:

A convenience sampling technique was used to choose 249 respondents from various Gujarat demographic categories. The structured questionnaire was created to evaluate a number of aspects of AI interaction, such as user awareness, interaction frequency, perceived effectiveness, security concerns and general confidence in AI-powered banking services. To guarantee a varied respondent base, the poll was administered both offline and online.

Variables and Hypotheses:

In order to assess their impact on AI adoption and perception, the study looks at important behavioural and demographic factors, such as age, gender, work status, and education level. The following theories were investigated.

- **H1:** There is a significant association between age and AI awareness & usage.
- **H2:** Education level has a significant influence on AI rating.
- **H3:** Education level significantly affects perceptions of AI speed and fraud detection.
- **H4:** There is a significant gender difference in perceptions of faster transactions.
- **H5:** There is a significant association between education level and privacy & data security.

Data Analysis Framework

The dataset was subjected to thorough statistical processing after data collection in order to identify underlying patterns and assess the relationships between key variables.

- Chi-square tests were employed to evaluate how age connects to AI familiarity and usage, as well as to determine the relationship between education levels and data privacy concerns.

- The ANOVA model was used to assess whether distinct educational groups hold significantly different perspectives regarding AI performance ratings and data fraud prevention.
- T-tests were conducted to evaluate gender-based differences in the perception of AI-driven transaction speed.

Descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation) were computed to summarize demographic trends and AI adoption rates.

Ethical Considerations:

The study adhered to ethical research guidelines, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity of respondent data. Participants provided informed consent before responding to the survey and data was used solely for research purposes.

Result & Discussion

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age	249	1.00	5.00	2.3133	1.22732
Education	249	1.00	5.00	1.9679	1.14958
Employment	249	1.00	5.00	2.8835	1.29768
banking frequency	249	1.00	4.00	2.8594	1.05510
Valid N (listwise)	249				

The dataset consists of 249 observations across various demographic and banking-related variables. The mean age category is approximately 2.31 (on a scale of 1 to 5), indicating a younger demographic. Education levels average around 1.97, suggesting that most participants have a high school education. Employment status and banking frequency have moderate variations, its mean values of 2.88 and 2.85 respectively. These statistics indicate that diverse sample with variations in education and banking habits.

Table 2: Age, AI Awareness and Usage (Cross-tabulation and Chi - Square Test)

age * AI awareness and usage Cross tabulation					
			AI awareness & usage		Total
			No	Yes	
Age	18-25	Count	7	72	79
		% Within age	8.9%	91.1%	100.0%
		% Of Total	2.8%	28.9%	31.7%
	26-35	Count	13	63	76

		% within age	17.1%	82.9%	100.0%
		% of Total	5.2%	25.3%	30.5%
	36-45	Count	12	37	49
		% within age	24.5%	75.5%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.8%	14.9%	19.7%
	46-55	Count	13	14	27
		% within age	48.1%	51.9%	100.0%
		% of Total	5.2%	5.6%	10.8%
	56+	Count	14	4	18
		% within age	77.8%	22.2%	100.0%
		% of Total	5.6%	1.6%	7.2%
	Total	Count	59	190	249
		% within age	23.7%	76.3%	100.0%
		% of Total	23.7%	76.3%	100.0%

Chi - Square Test			
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance(2 - Sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	49.506 ^a	04	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	44.820	04	0.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	43.829	01	0.000
N of Valid Cases	249		
a. 1 cells (10.0%) have expected count < 5. The minimum expected count is 4.27.			

The age groups of 18-25, 26-35 have higher AI awareness and usage (91.1% and 82.9%, respectively). In contrast, only 22.2% of individuals use AI-based banking. The χ^2 test ($\chi^2 = 49.506$, $p = 0.000$) confirms a significant relationship, indicating that younger individuals are more likely adopt AI in banking.

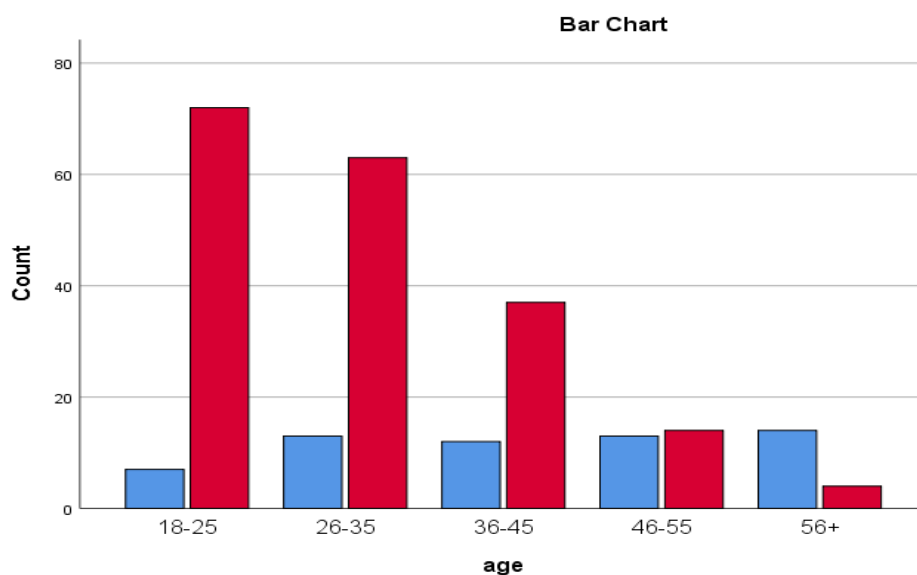


Figure: 1. Age vs AI Awareness and Usage

Table: 3 AI Rating by Education Level (ANOVA and Tukey HSD Test)

ANOVA					
AI rating	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	42.563	4	10.641	6.880	0.000
Within Groups	377.373	244	1.547		
Total	419.936	248			

The ANOVA test ($F = 6.880$, $p = 0.000$) shows significant differences in AI ratings across education levels. The post-hoc Tukey test suggests that high educated person provide higher AI ratings compared to those with only a high school education. Although group size varies, the harmonic mean ensures comparability, reinforcing the positive relationship between education and AI perception.

Table: 4 AI Speed & Fraud Detection by Education Level (ANOVA & Homogeneity of Variances Test)

Test of Homogeneity of Variances		Levene Statistic	df1	df2	Sig.
AI speed and fraud detection	Based on Mean	6.673	4	244	0.000
	Based on Median	4.527	4	244	0.002
	Based on Median and with adjusted df	4.527	4	225.556	0.002

	Based on trimmed mean	6.239	4	244	0.000
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ANOVA					
AI speed and fraud detection	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	30.491	4	7.623	7.312	0.000
Within Groups	254.385	244	1.043		
Total	284.876	248			

AI speed and fraud detection			
Tukey HSD ^{a,b}			
Education	N	Subset for alpha = 0.05	
		1	2
High school	114	3.5702	
Post-graduation	31	3.9032	3.9032
5.00	11	4.0909	4.0909
Bachelors	72	4.2083	4.2083
Other	21		4.6190
Sig.		0.166	0.089
Means for groups in homogeneous subsets are displayed.			
a. Uses Harmonic Mean Sample Size = 25.847.			
b. The group sizes are unequal. The harmonic mean of the group sizes is used. Type I error levels are not guaranteed.			

The ANOVA results ($F = 7.312$, $p = 0.000$) indicate significant differences in perceptions of AI speed and fraud detection based on education level. Levene's test confirms variance differences ($p < 0.05$), suggesting that higher-educated individuals perceive AI's fraud detection efficiency better than those with lower education levels. The Tukey test further confirms this trend, with bachelor's and postgraduate degree holders rating AI more favourably.

Table: 5 Gender Differences in Perceived Transaction Speed (t-Test)

Independent Samples Test										
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Faster transaction	Equal Variances Assumed	38.161	0.000	3.262	247	0.001	0.16867	0.05172	0.06681	0.27054
	Equal Variances not Assumed			2.953	127.877	0.004	0.16867	0.05713	0.05564	0.28171

Independent t-test results indicate a significant difference in the way males and females view AI-enabled transactions. The male group perceives AI transactions as faster compared to females, whose average score is 0.6988. This is because the means for males and females differ (males' mean = 0.8675). Levene's test result ($p = 0.000$) indicates that variances are unequal.

Table: 6 Privacy & Data Security and Employment Status (Cross tabulation & Chi-Square Test)

Cross tabulation					
			Privacy and data security		Total
			no	Yes	
Employment	Student	Count	11	39	50
		% within employment	22.0%	78.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.4%	15.7%	20.1%
	Employed	Count	7	43	50
		% within employment	14.0%	86.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	2.8%	17.3%	20.1%
	self employed	Count	12	41	53
		% within employment	22.6%	77.4%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.8%	16.5%	21.3%
	Unemployed	Count	18	53	71
		% within employment	25.4%	74.6%	100.0%
		% of Total	7.2%	21.3%	28.5%

	Retired	Count	11	14	25
		% within employment	44.0%	56.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.4%	5.6%	10.0%
Total		Count	59	190	249
		% within employment	23.7%	76.3%	100.0%
		% of Total	23.70%	76.30%	100.00%

The cross-tabulation shows that privacy and data security concerns vary by employment status. Employed individuals (86.0%) and students (78.0%) are more concerned about privacy, whereas retired individuals (56.0%) are less concerned. Unemployed individuals (74.6%) and self-employed individuals (77.4%) also show a high level of concern. This suggests that people who are more active in professional or academic environments are more aware of data security risks, while retired individuals might be less engaged with digital privacy concerns.

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	8.520 ^a	04	0.074
Likelihood Ratio	8.093	04	0.088
Linear by Linear Association	4.213	01	0.040
N of Valid Cases	249		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 5.92.

A Pearson's chi-square test confirms no significant link between employment status and privacy concerns at the 5% level ($\chi^2 = 8.520$, $p = 0.074$). Even so, the linear-by-linear association ($p = 0.040$) and likelihood ratio ($p = 0.088$) indicate a weak but notable trend.

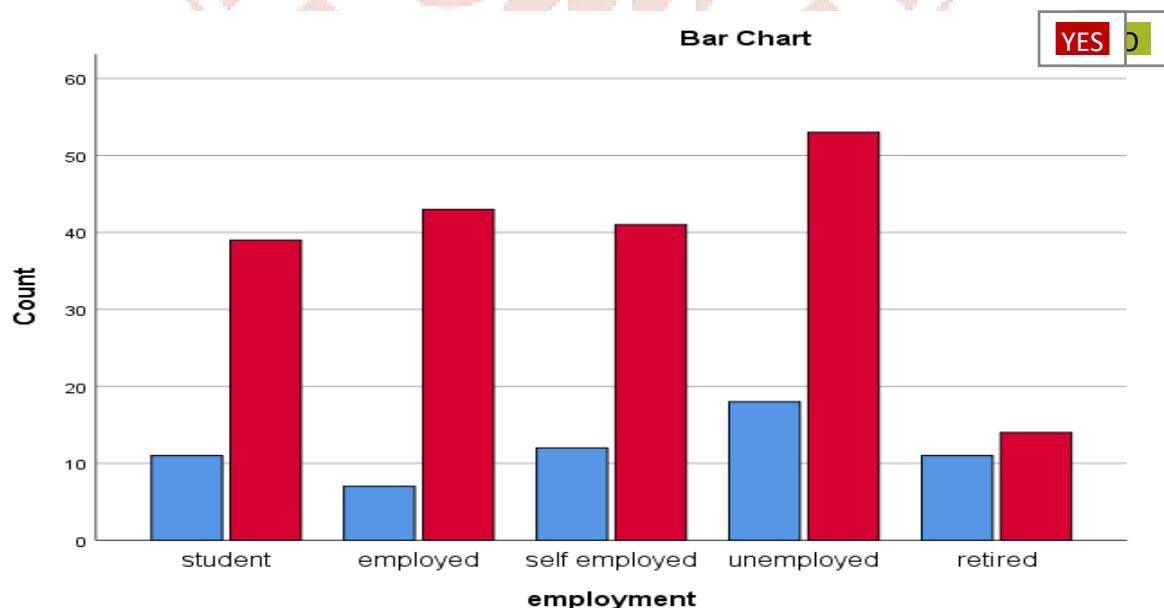


Figure: 2 bar chart of Privacy & Data Security vs Employment Status

Finding

1. Age and AI Awareness & Usage (Chi-Square Test): The chi-square test ($\chi^2 = 49.506$, $p = 0.000$) shows a significant association between age and AI awareness & usage. Younger age groups (18-25, 26-35) have higher awareness and usage, whereas older groups (46-55, 56+) show lower adoption rates.

2. AI Rating by Education Level (ANOVA & Tukey HSD): The ANOVA result ($F = 6.880$, $p = 0.000$) confirms significant differences in AI ratings across education levels. Postgraduate and bachelor's degree holders rate AI higher compared to high school and diploma holders.

3. AI Speed and Fraud Detection by Education Level (ANOVA & Homogeneity Tests): The ANOVA result ($F = 7.312$, $p = 0.000$) shows that perceptions of AI speed and fraud detection vary significantly across education groups. Tukey HSD indicates that those with higher education (Bachelor's and Postgraduates) rate AI's efficiency higher than others.

4. Gender-Based Differences in the Perception of Faster Transactions: The independent samples t - test reveals a significant difference in transaction - speed perceptions between males and females ($t = 3.262$, $p = 0.001$). Males (mean = 0.8675) perceive AI - based transactions as faster compared to females (mean = 0.6988).

5. Privacy and data security concerns vary by employment status (cross tabulation & Chi-Square Tests). Employed individuals (86.0%) and students (78.0%) are more concerned about privacy, whereas retired individuals (56.0%) are less concerned. Unemployed individuals (74.6%) and self-employed individuals (77.4%) also show a high level of concern. Pearson Chi Square ($\chi^2 = 8.520$, $P \text{ value} = 0.074$) shows that there is a statistically insignificant relationship between employment status and privacy issues at 5% level of significance.

The study highlights significant demographic variations in AI awareness, usage, and perception in banking sector in Gujarat. Younger individuals (18-35) exhibit higher AI adoption, while older age groups (56+) show lower engagement. Education plays a crucial role, with higher educated individuals more favourably rating AI efficiency and fraud detection. Men and women see things a bit differently, men usually think AI banking is faster, while women don't really notice the speed difference. The χ^2 test confirms a strong association between age and AI awareness, while ANOVA results show education-based differences in AI ratings and fraud detection perceptions. The data shows a clear gap in how genders view transaction speeds. Plus, both students and working professionals flagged data privacy as a major obstacle for AI banking. To address this, banks need to focus on targeted education for specific security concerns.

Conclusion

Finally conclude that the perception of AI efficiency in fraud detection varies significantly among respondents with different education backgrounds, requiring further investigation into the underlying factors. The future of AI in banking lies both in its excitement and revolution. With the development of AI technology, there will be increased efficiency, security, personalization, and inclusivity in the banking industry. Successful implementation of AI would mean sorting out some problems, including those related to transparency and ethics. By concentrating on ethical AI development and incorporating user feedback, the banking sector can leverage AI's full potential to create innovative solutions and improve client experiences in the coming years.

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