


Chapter 11


Leveraging AI– Powered Predictive Analytics for Proactive Risk Management and Business Resilience in SMEs: Harnessing Predictive Insights to Strengthen Decision–Making in SMEs

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ABSTRACT

The AI predictive analytics-based tool has broken the silence by prompting them to adopt proactive ex-ante risk management strategies as opposed to the previous schemes. predictive analytics permits the SME to anticipate imminent disturbances, form the trend, and detect anomalies in real-time through its application of machine learning algorithms and advanced data analytics techniques. Such methods can

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consequently be expected to cease or avert impacts created by the following: anticipated supply chain disruptions, possible financial vulnerabilities, and operational inefficiencies. Indeed, challenges abound in adopting AI solutions. Notwithstanding these challenges, SMEs have proved vibrant in adopting AI tools to enhance their risk mitigation frameworks and resilience against crisis events such as recession or global pandemics, as borne out by case studies. This review paper critically examines the different theoretical aspects and future prospects of AI-powered predictive analytics in the context of SME adoption.

1. INTRODUCTION

SMEs are crucial in the global economy and hence important in making the next innovation for employment generating and sustainable growth. Nevertheless, they remain one of the most exposed establishments to various forms of risk owing to their size and limited resources, thereby enhancing the need for them to implement effective risk management for survival and growth. Thus they form the core buttress of most economies in the world and make meaningful contributions to employment levels and economic activity. Most small and medium enterprises have very special challenges, such as inadequate finances to sustain their operations, operationalizing inefficiencies, and fragility when subjected to market fluctuations. A challenge compounded by the speed with which the business environment evolves due to technological changes, economic uncertainties, and regulatory queries. Effective risk management becomes an important building block in making sustainable and growth-oriented SMEs. This reactive, manual style of risk management is no longer a remedy for the complexity and dynamism of the modern business environments; therefore, the demand for a strategy that would allow SMEs still further insight into upcoming uncertainties steadily grows. Now that AI and predictive analytics form the new grandeur of risk management, using AI by leveraging the predictive analytics should open new horizons towards automating risk assessments in all sectors. With AI-enabled predictive analytics, SMEs would have opportunities to harness the competitive advantage usually enjoyed by large enterprises via affordable, scalable solutions for risk management. In this context, the paper will cover aspects of the use of AI-powered predictive analytics in furthering the process of risk mitigation and business resilience of SMEs.

SMEs occupy a central place in the global economy in terms of playing their role in innovation, employment and sustainable growth. But small and medium scale enterprises are one of the most exposed establishments to various forms of risk because of their size and limited resources; therefore, effective risk management becomes most essential for survival and growth. These enterprises form the core

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