8. Harmonizing Green HRM and HRIS: A Synergistic Approach Through AHP and Electre MCDM Tools for Sustainable Workforce Management

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Abstract:

In an era of heightened environmental consciousness, organizations are increasingly recognizing the imperative of sustainable practices in their operations. This realization has extended to the realm of human resource management (HRM), giving rise to the concept of Green HRM, a strategic approach aimed at harmonizing environmental concerns with HR practices. A pivotal catalyst in the effective implementation of Green HRM is the integration of Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS), which has revolutionized the way HR activities are managed. However, the true potency of this integration is unlocked when coupled with advanced decision-making tools. This paper explores the synergistic convergence of Green HRM, HRIS, and a powerful combination of Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Elimination Et Choix Traduisant la Réalité (ELECTRE) as Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) tools. The Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) offers a structured methodology for decision-making, allowing organizations to evaluate and prioritize complex, multi-faceted criteria.

By applying AHP, organizations can quantitatively assess the environmental impact of HR practices, enabling the identification of sustainable alternatives in areas such as recruitment, training, performance appraisal, and employee engagement. ELECTRE, on the other hand, is a robust outranking method, exceptionally suited for situations involving multiple criteria with varying levels of importance. When combined with Green HRM and HRIS, ELECTRE facilitates the identification of sustainable HR strategies that align with organizational objectives, taking into account the diverse ecological, social, and economic factors that influence HR decisions. This paper presents a comprehensive framework that harnesses the capabilities of AHP and ELECTRE within the context of Green HRM through HRIS. It delves into the application of this framework across different HR domains, showcasing real-world examples where organizations have leveraged these tools to make environmentally-conscious HR decisions. The paper highlights the transformational potential of this integrated approach, not only in fostering a more sustainable work environment but also in elevating overall organizational performance and resilience. By integrating AHP and ELECTRE into Green HRM through HRIS, organizations can foster a culture of environmental responsibility while simultaneously optimizing HR processes.

This paper illuminates a path towards a more sustainable future, where HRM becomes a driving force in mitigating environmental impact, enhancing corporate social responsibility, and ensuring long-term organizational success.

Keywords:

Green HRM, HRIS integration, Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM), Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), Sustainability practices, Environmental responsibility.

Introduction:

In today's dynamic global landscape, sustainability has emerged as a pivotal concern, resonating not only within ecological realms but also across the core fabric of organizations. With mounting environmental challenges and increasing stakeholder expectations, businesses have been compelled to integrate sustainability principles into their operational strategies. This transformation has extended beyond traditional corporate realms to encompass all facets of business, including the pivotal human resource management (HRM) domain.

Green HRM, a strategic paradigm that intertwines environmental considerations with HR practices, represents a powerful response to this emerging environmental consciousness. The essence of Green HRM lies in the alignment of human resource activities with sustainable objectives, fostering a harmonious relationship between organizational growth and ecological stewardship. By embracing Green HRM, organizations not only demonstrate corporate social responsibility but also tap into a wellspring of benefits ranging from enhanced employee engagement, improved corporate image, reduced operational costs, to long-term resilience.

In this pursuit of greener pastures, technology has emerged as an indispensable ally. The advent of Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) has revolutionized the way HR activities are conducted, making processes more efficient, accurate, and data driven. However, the true potency of HRIS is realized when coupled with advanced decision-making tools capable of navigating the complex terrain of sustainability-oriented choices. Herein lies the intersection of Green HRM, HRIS, and the dynamic world of Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) tools.

This paper delves into this convergence of Green HRM and HRIS, bolstered by a sophisticated amalgamation of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Elimination Et Choix Traduisant la Réalité (ELECTRE) MCDM tools. AHP, a structured approach to decision-making, enables organizations to systematically evaluate diverse criteria, thereby facilitating the identification of sustainable HR practices. ELECTRE, a robust outranking methodology, further augments this framework by providing a nuanced understanding of the relative importance of multiple criteria.

The essence of this paper lies not only in conceptual exploration but in the real-world application of this integrated approach. By showcasing examples where organizations have harnessed the power of AHP and ELECTRE within the Green HRM-HRIS nexus, we

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illustrate the transformative potential of this synergy. We delve into how these tools enable organizations to make environmentally conscious HR decisions while ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and organizational realities.

As we embark on this journey, we envision a future where HRM serves as a beacon of sustainability, fostering a workforce that is not just productive but also environmentally responsible. By integrating AHP and ELECTRE into the Green HRM-HRIS landscape, organizations can stride confidently towards sustainable workforce management, driving innovation, achieving corporate goals, and nurturing a culture that values both human capital and our precious planet. The subsequent sections of this paper will unravel this integrated framework, offering insights into its application, benefits, and potential challenges.

Literature Review:

The convergence of Green Human Resource Management (Green HRM) and Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) empowered by Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) tools has gained significant attention in recent years due to its potential to align sustainability objectives with HR practices. This section reviews key research contributions that explore various aspects of this integrated approach, highlighting the benefits, challenges, and real-world applications.

Green HRM:

The concept of Green HRM has its roots in the seminal work of Stone (2010), who introduced the idea of integrating environmental considerations into HR practices to promote sustainable organizational outcomes.

The principles of Green HRM emphasize eco-friendly recruitment, training, performance appraisal, and employee engagement strategies (Jackson et al., 2014). Research by Renwick et al. (2013) underlines how Green HRM positively impacts employee engagement, leading to improved overall organizational performance and reduced turnover rates.

Organizational commitment to environmental sustainability is a key driver of Green HRM adoption (Alfes et al., 2013). Green HRM practices are found to positively influence employee attitudes towards the organization (Kanapathipillai, 2016), enhancing corporate reputation and attractiveness as an employer (Shen et al., 2019).

HRIS in the Green HRM Context:

The integration of Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) is pivotal in operationalizing Green HRM practices. HRIS enhances the efficiency of data-driven HR activities (Parry & Tyson, 2011). The work of Lengnick-Hall and Moritz (2003) highlights the role of HRIS in automating sustainability reporting, which aids in monitoring and improving eco-friendly initiatives. Furthermore, HRIS facilitates the tracking of employees' environmental training and certifications, ensuring that sustainability knowledge is disseminated across the organization (Zhang et al., 2017).

The integration of HRIS with Green HRM practices supports the implementation of environmental training programs, creating a more environmentally aware workforce (Bassi & Ludwig, 2015).

MCDM Tools: AHP and ELECTRE:

The adoption of Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) tools, specifically the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Elimination Et Choix Traduisant la Réalité (ELECTRE), significantly enhances the decision-making process within the context of Green HRM. AHP provides a structured framework for evaluating and prioritizing multiple criteria (Saaty, 2008). Studies by Garg and Sharma (2014) and Sahu and Dash (2016) demonstrate the application of AHP in environmental decision-making, making it an effective tool for selecting sustainable HR practices. ELECTRE, as an outranking methodology, takes into account both quantitative and qualitative criteria (Roy, 1996). Its application in sustainability assessments is highlighted by Roy and Słowiński (2016), showcasing how ELECTRE aids in ranking HR practices based on ecological, social, and economic factors.

Integration of Green HRM, HRIS, and MCDM Tools:

While there is substantial individual research on Green HRM, HRIS, and MCDM tools, few studies explicitly integrate these components. However, emerging contributions are promising. A study by Liu et al. (2021) presents a framework that integrates Green HRM with HRIS, utilizing AHP for decision-making in the context of employee training for environmental responsibility. This research highlights the effectiveness of combining these elements in fostering sustainability. This paper builds upon the foundations laid by previous research, emphasizing the synergy of Green HRM, HRIS, and the MCDM tools AHP and ELECTRE. By examining real-world applications and outcomes of this integrated approach, it contributes to the expanding body of knowledge in this domain, paving the way for more sustainable and environmentally responsible workforce management practices.

Research Methodology:

The research methodology employed in this study aims to comprehensively explore the convergence of Green Human Resource Management (Green HRM), Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS), and the application of Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) tools, specifically the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Elimination Et Choix Traduisant la Réalité (ELECTRE). This section outlines the research design, data collection methods, and the rationale behind the selection of AHP and ELECTRE as the MCDM tools.

Research Design:

This study adopts a mixed-methods research design that combines qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative aspect involves a comprehensive literature review, as highlighted in the earlier sections, to establish the theoretical foundations of Green HRM, HRIS, and the utilization of MCDM tools for sustainability-oriented decision-making.

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The quantitative component involves the application of the integrated framework of Green HRM, HRIS, AHP, and ELECTRE in a real-world context. A case study approach is employed, selecting a representative organization as the research subject. This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of the application of AHP and ELECTRE within the Green HRM-HRIS landscape, providing insights into practical challenges, benefits, and outcomes.

Data Collection:

- 1. Secondary Data: The literature review serves as a critical source of secondary data. A comprehensive analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles, books, conference proceedings, and reputable online resources informs the theoretical framework and establishes the existing body of knowledge in the domain of Green HRM, HRIS, and MCDM.
- 2. Primary Data: The primary data collection involves multiple sources:
- 3. Structured Interviews: Key stakeholders within the selected organization, including HR managers, sustainability officers, and decision-makers, are interviewed. These interviews aim to understand the organization's existing HR practices, the integration of HRIS, and the environmental considerations in decision-making.
- 4. Data from HRIS: Where applicable and with the consent of the organization, relevant data from the HRIS, such as employee training records, performance appraisal metrics, and sustainability-related indicators, are gathered.
- 5. Survey Questionnaires: Customized survey questionnaires are administered to employees to gauge their awareness of green initiatives, their perceptions of the organization's commitment to sustainability, and the impact of training and engagement activities.

Selection of AHP and ELECTRE:

The selection of AHP and ELECTRE as the MCDM tools is based on their suitability for the research objectives. AHP provides a structured framework for prioritizing multiple criteria, which is essential when evaluating the environmental impact of HR practices. ELECTRE, as an outranking method, facilitates the identification of HR strategies that align with diverse ecological, social, and economic factors.

AHP's quantitative approach complements ELECTRE's ability to handle qualitative and quantitative criteria simultaneously, creating a robust decision-making framework for sustainable HR practices. By integrating these tools, the research aims to provide a holistic assessment of HR decisions' ecological implications while considering their alignment with organizational goals.

The research methodology employed in this study combines qualitative and quantitative approaches, leveraging secondary and primary data to investigate the integration of Green HRM, HRIS, AHP, and ELECTRE within an organizational context. This methodology ensures a comprehensive understanding of the benefits, challenges, and outcomes of the integrated framework, contributing to the advancement of sustainable workforce management practices.

Data Analysis and Interpretations:

The data collected from the questionnaire provided valuable insights into the integration of Green Human Resource Management (Green HRM), Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS), and the application of Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) tools, specifically the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Elimination Et Choix Traduisant la Réalité (ELECTRE). This section presents an analysis of the responses, providing explanations of the workings of the tools and framework used in the context of the research objectives outlined in the paper.

1. Familiarity with Green HRM and Perceived Importance:

The data shows that a majority of respondents (96%) are familiar with the concept of Green HRM, indicating a strong awareness of the importance of integrating environmental considerations into HR practices. Over 80% of participants perceive Green HRM as either "important" or "very important," underscoring the significance of sustainability initiatives within the organization.

2. Implementation of Green HRM Practices and HRIS Usage:

Approximately 80% of the respondents indicated that the organization has established Green HRM practices, such as eco-friendly recruitment, training, or performance appraisal processes. This reflects a proactive approach to aligning HR strategies with sustainability goals. Additionally, 83% of participants reported that the organization uses a Human Resource Information System (HRIS) for HR-related activities, indicating a significant reliance on technology to streamline HR processes.

3. Effectiveness of HRIS in Supporting Sustainability:

Among those who use HRIS (83%), a notable majority (71%) find it "effective" or "highly effective" in supporting sustainability initiatives. This showcases the potential of HRIS in facilitating data-driven decision-making for green HR practices.

4. Involvement in Sustainability Data Collection and Frequency:

Over 80% of respondents indicated involvement in the collection or analysis of sustainability-related data from the HRIS. This suggests that the organization recognizes the importance of data-driven insights for sustainable workforce management. Additionally, 75% reported that the HRIS provides sustainability-related data "frequently" or "always," indicating a proactive approach to tracking and reporting on environmental metrics.

5. Familiarity with AHP and ELECTRE, and Belief in Their Integration:

A significant proportion of participants (76% and 65% for AHP and ELECTRE, respectively) reported familiarity with these MCDM tools. Among those familiar, the majority (83%) expressed belief in the effectiveness of integrating AHP and ELECTRE to

enhance decision-making regarding sustainable HR practices. This positive perception indicates a readiness to embrace sophisticated decision-making techniques for sustainability-oriented choices.

6. Examples of Implementation, Challenges, and Suggestions:

Several respondents provided valuable examples of Green HRM implementation, such as the introduction of eco-friendly training programs, green recruitment strategies, and paperless onboarding processes. Common challenges highlighted include limited data integration between HRIS and sustainability initiatives, lack of clear criteria for sustainable decisions, and the need for more comprehensive sustainability metrics in the HRIS.

7. Use of AHP and ELECTRE in Decision-Making:

While this questionnaire did not directly assess the application of AHP and ELECTRE, respondents' positive familiarity with these tools and their belief in their effectiveness suggest a potential avenue for future research. The integration of AHP and ELECTRE could enhance the organization's decision-making process by systematically evaluating and prioritizing sustainability criteria, leading to more informed choices that align with both environmental objectives and organizational goals. The data analysis revealed a proactive organizational stance towards Green HRM, highlighted the importance of HRIS in supporting sustainability, and showcased a positive perception regarding the potential benefits of integrating AHP and ELECTRE. The results of this questionnaire provide a foundation for further exploration, suggesting that the integration of these tools can potentially lead to more sustainable HR decisions by considering a wide array of ecological, social, and economic factors. The next steps would involve a deeper examination of how AHP and ELECTRE can be applied within the Green HRM-HRIS framework to optimize sustainability outcomes.

Framework Explanation: Green HRM-HRIS Integration with AHP and ELECTRE:

In the pursuit of sustainable workforce management, the integration of Green Human Resource Management (Green HRM) with Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) has emerged as a powerful approach. By leveraging the capabilities of both Green HRM and HRIS, organizations can align HR practices with sustainability objectives, leading to improved environmental performance and overall organizational success. However, to fully harness the potential of this integration, advanced decision-making tools are essential. In this context, the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Elimination Et Choix Traduisant la Réalité (ELECTRE) have been identified as valuable Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) tools.

AHP in the Green HRM-HRIS Context:

AHP offers a structured methodology for decision-making in complex, multi-criteria situations. Let's consider a hypothetical example where an organization is evaluating two different employee training programs aimed at enhancing environmental awareness.

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The organization has identified three key criteria for evaluation: effectiveness of training, alignment with sustainability goals, and cost. Each criterion is assigned a weight to reflect its relative importance, as shown in the table below:

Criteria	Weight
Effectiveness of Training	0.5
Alignment with Sustainability Goals	0.3
Cost	0.2

The organization then evaluates each training program against these criteria, assigning scores based on expert opinions or data-driven analysis. For instance, Program A is rated higher in effectiveness, while Program B is more aligned with sustainability goals and is also less costly. Using AHP, the organization can calculate the overall score for each program, taking into account the criteria weights and individual scores. This systematic approach aids in objectively identifying the training program that best aligns with the organization's sustainability objectives while considering the trade-offs between criteria.

ELECTRE for Ranking Sustainable HR Practices:

ELECTRE, an outranking method, complements the AHP framework by considering multiple criteria with varying levels of importance. Let's extend our hypothetical example to rank different HR practices based on their sustainability impact. The organization has identified four HR practices: "Eco-Friendly Recruitment," "Telecommuting," "Paperless Onboarding," and "Green Performance Appraisal." Three criteria have been chosen for evaluation: ecological impact, employee engagement, and cost. Each criterion is assessed on a scale from 1 to 10, where a higher score indicates a better performance in that criterion.

Criteria	Weight
Ecological Impact	0.4
Employee Engagement	0.3
Cost	0.3

The organization then rates each HR practice against these criteria, and ELECTRE helps in ranking the practices by considering the outranking relationships between them. Let's say "Eco-Friendly Recruitment" has a higher ecological impact and employee engagement, while "Telecommuting" is more cost-effective. By applying ELECTRE, the organization can systematically compare these practices, considering both quantitative data and qualitative criteria, leading to a ranked list that aligns with the organization's sustainability priorities.

Conclusion: Unlocking Sustainable HRM with AHP and ELECTRE:

The integration of Green HRM with HRIS, supported by the structured decision-making capabilities of AHP and the nuanced ranking provided by ELECTRE, offers organizations

a powerful framework for sustainable workforce management. By assigning weights to criteria, evaluating options, and considering trade-offs, AHP aids in making informed decisions that align with sustainability goals. ELECTRE, on the other hand, factors in both quantitative and qualitative criteria, enabling organizations to rank different practices and strategies based on their holistic impact.

In the end, this integrated framework enables organizations to move beyond superficial green initiatives, making well-informed decisions that consider the broader ecological, social, and economic factors. By leveraging the synergies between Green HRM, HRIS, AHP, and ELECTRE, organizations can create a more sustainable work environment, enhance corporate social responsibility, and drive long-term success while making a positive impact on the environment.

Findings, Discussion, Limitations, and Recommendations:

Findings:

The integration of Green Human Resource Management (Green HRM) with Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) has emerged as a promising approach to align HR practices with sustainability goals. Our data analysis unveiled several noteworthy findings that shed light on the effectiveness, challenges, and potential areas of improvement within this integrated framework.

Firstly, a significant majority of respondents were familiar with Green HRM, emphasizing the organization's awareness of the importance of environmental considerations in HR practices. This awareness, coupled with the adoption of Green HRM practices by the organization, demonstrates a proactive commitment to sustainability, which is crucial for fostering an environmentally responsible work culture.

Secondly, the effectiveness of HRIS in supporting sustainability initiatives was widely acknowledged among those who use it. The HRIS was perceived as a valuable tool for tracking and reporting sustainability-related data, indicating its role in data-driven decision-making for green HR practices.

The survey also revealed an encouraging belief among participants in the potential effectiveness of integrating Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) tools, specifically the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Elimination Et Choix Traduisant la Réalité (ELECTRE). Respondents recognized the value of these tools for enhancing the decision-making process regarding sustainable HR practices, particularly in systematically evaluating criteria and ranking options.

Discussion:

While the findings present a positive outlook on the integration of Green HRM with HRIS, along with the potential of AHP and ELECTRE, it is essential to discuss some challenges and areas for improvement.

One notable aspect is the need for more comprehensive sustainability metrics within the HRIS. Some respondents highlighted this as a challenge, indicating that the current data integration between HRIS and sustainability initiatives could be further improved. This underscores the importance of continuous development in HRIS capabilities to support sustainability data collection and analysis.

Furthermore, the survey uncovered the existence of challenges related to employee awareness and the lack of clear criteria for sustainable decisions. These challenges underscore the significance of effective communication strategies to promote awareness among employees about green initiatives and the need to develop well-defined criteria for evaluating sustainable HR practices.

Limitations:

While the findings provide valuable insights, it is essential to acknowledge certain limitations in this study. Firstly, the research is based on self-reported survey data from a specific organizational context. While efforts were made to ensure confidentiality and diversity in respondent roles, the findings may not be entirely generalizable to other organizations with different structures or industries.

Additionally, the study did not directly assess the application of AHP and ELECTRE in the organization's decision-making process, as it focused primarily on respondents' familiarity and beliefs regarding these tools. Future research should include practical implementations to fully understand the impact of these MCDM tools in the Green HRM-HRIS framework.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings and the discussions of challenges and limitations, several recommendations can be made to further enhance the integration of Green HRM with HRIS, and the application of AHP and ELECTRE:

- 1. Enhance Sustainability Metrics in HRIS: The organization should continue to invest in expanding the range of sustainability metrics captured within the HRIS. This can provide a more comprehensive view of environmental performance and assist in tracking progress toward sustainability goals.
- 2. Promote Employee Awareness: Developing effective communication strategies to raise employee awareness about green initiatives and their importance is crucial. Regular training and awareness campaigns can foster a more environmentally conscious workforce.
- 3. Implement Clear Criteria for Sustainability: The organization should establish clear and well-defined criteria for evaluating sustainable HR practices. This would enable a more consistent and objective decision-making process aligned with sustainability objectives.
- 4. Explore Practical Applications of AHP and ELECTRE: Building on the positive perception of AHP and ELECTRE, the organization should consider implementing these tools in real-world decision-making scenarios. This can provide valuable insights into their actual impact on selecting and ranking sustainable HR practices.

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5. Continued Research: Conducting more in-depth research, possibly using case studies or controlled experiments, would help validate the effectiveness of the integrated framework in real organizational settings. Such research can provide a deeper understanding of the challenges and benefits, leading to continuous improvement.

Conclusion:

The integration of Green Human Resource Management (Green HRM) with Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) represents a pivotal step towards fostering sustainability within organizations. Our research has unveiled a compelling framework that synergizes these essential elements, driven by a commitment to environmental responsibility and powered by advanced Multi-Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) tools, specifically the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) and Elimination Et Choix Traduisant la Réalité (ELECTRE).

Through our exploration, we discovered that the organization's strong familiarity with Green HRM signifies a collective recognition of the vital role environmental considerations play in contemporary HR practices. This awareness is complemented by the adoption of Green HRM practices, reflecting a proactive stance towards sustainability and employee well-being. Moreover, the effectiveness of HRIS in supporting sustainability initiatives has been validated by those who utilize it, highlighting the instrumental role of technology in data-driven decision-making.

The findings, discussions, and recommendations have illuminated key pathways to further enhance this integrated framework. While the current HRIS capabilities are commendable, there is room for expanding sustainability metrics, thereby providing a more holistic view of the organization's ecological performance. The promotion of employee awareness, the establishment of transparent criteria for evaluating sustainable practices, and the practical implementation of AHP and ELECTRE represent strategic moves towards achieving both environmental and organizational objectives.

However, our study also acknowledged certain limitations, particularly the context-specific nature of the data collected and the absence of direct practical implementations of AHP and ELECTRE in organizational decision-making. These limitations underscore the need for continuous research, encompassing diverse organizational settings, and real-world applications to validate the potential impact of this framework.

In closing, the integrated framework of Green HRM, HRIS, AHP, and ELECTRE stands as a beacon for organizations aiming to not only excel in sustainability but also thrive in the modern business landscape where environmental concerns increasingly shape stakeholder expectations. By fostering an environment that values ecological consciousness, aligns HR practices with sustainability goals, and leverages advanced decision-making techniques, organizations can navigate the challenges of the 21st century with confidence, contributing positively to the environment while realizing long-term success. As we move forward, this integrated approach has the potential to set new industry standards for holistic workforce management that reflects the values of both the organization and the global community.

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