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INDUSTRY 4.0 AND ITS CHALLENGES

Rosliza Md Zani

rosliza568@uitm.edu.my

Faculty of Business and Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kedah

Ramli Saad

ramli107@uitm.edu.my

Faculty of Business and Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kedah

Mohd Radzi Mohd Khir

mohdradzi@uitm.edu.my

Faculty of Business and Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kedah

INTRODUCTION

There is no denying that technology plays a significantly important role in our daily lives; however, the increasingly linked culture we live in also has an impact on the business world. This is the point at which Industry 4.0 begins to take shape.

Industrial Revolutions evolved with the first one in 1765. During Industrial Revolution 1, mechanization took place where there was a key discovery of the steam engine, which created a new source of energy which then helped accelerate the construction of railroad, thus developing the economy. In 1870, Industrial Revolution 2 arrived with an evolution of a new source of energy—gas, oil and electricity. The internal combustion engine was invented, as was the growth of steel demand, chemical synthesis, and communication systems such as the telegraph and telephone. The vehicle and the plane were also invented during the Industrial Revolution 2. In 1969, Industrial Revolution 3 began with the advancement of electronics, telecommunications, and computers. With new technologies, Industrial Revolution 3 paved the way for research, biotechnology and space exploration. Two key technologies were introduced; Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) and Robots, to facilitate the industrial sector (Institute of Entrepreneurship Development Team, 2019).

Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0) which started in 2016, is a rising mixture of traditional manufacturing and industrial platforms and methods, and also the most innovative smart technologies (Kumar & Kumar, 2020). Petrillo et al. (2018) stated that IR 4.0 is constructed on the concept of a smart factory, in which machines and people are linked by cyber-physical systems (CPS). The benefits of implementing IR 4.0 technologies are predicted to be massive in terms of efficiency, flexibility, quality, mass customization, improved product range, automation, and boost customers' satisfaction (Kumar & Kumar, 2020).

Despite its benefits of IR 4.0, many organizations are still having difficulties in adopting digital manufacturing solutions on a broad scale; for example, two out of every three enterprises conducting digital manufacturing solutions fail when they move to a wide-scale rollout (Stefanini, 2021).

CHALLENGES OF IR 4.0

Even though each business faces unique and various obstacles due to their complex nature, there are some common challenges. According to Khan and Turowski (2016), businesses confront five universal obstacles of IR 4.0.

1. Data Challenge – Within a large company, every division already has their own way of data management in the form of printouts, emails, Excel sheets, proprietary applications, and

various database solutions. This leads to a lack of consistency in data management among various departments.

2. Data Exchange – IR 4.0 requires businesses to exchange data within their facility or departments and ensure that data is available for the use of other functions in a timely manner. Traditionally, data between the factory floor and various departments were not shared. Data transfer across departments is a time-consuming process.
3. Process Flexibility – IR 4.0 enables the production of individualized and customized items. Individualization and customization demand cost-effective production flexibility. The production environment should be adaptive at the process level in order to give such flexibility. However, the technology currently in use on the factory floor is insufficient and does not facilitate process flexibility.
4. Training and Skill Development - The majority of the workforce is made up of the older generation who are unwilling to learn new technology or change their work patterns. It is a challenge to introduce new techniques, devices, or adjust their ways because they are reluctant to change.
5. Security - The industry wants to keep its workers, products, and manufacturing facilities safe from security threats. The use of smart devices in manufacturing is becoming more popular. It is true that the connectivity of these devices delivers significant benefits in terms of making our lives easier. On the other hand, from a security standpoint, it presents a higher threat.

CONCLUSION

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is a new industrial revolution in the 21st century that allows businesses to produce smarter, more efficient, effective, individualized, and customized products at a lower cost. Because IR 4.0 is still in its early stages, many additional challenges may emerge in the future. The adoption of IR 4.0 may alter not only the entire company and value chain system, but it can also provide a competitive advantage over the competitors, which is critical in today's global market.

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