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A Comprehensive Review: Automation and Robotics in Pharmaceutical Industry

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Abstract: The growing significance of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) in the pharmaceutical sector is the main subject of this analysis. Artificial intelligence (AI) and cutting-edge robotic technology in the pharmacy and medical fields have a bright future. Their primary objectives are to save costs, enhance patient outcomes, and increase operational effectiveness while tackling significant issues including the requirement for more effective drugs and individualised healthcare. Robotics, industrial automation, and using computers, control systems, and information technology to operate machinery and industrial processes instead of human labour boost performance, productivity, quality, and speed. Automation and robotics have become revolutionary instruments in the changing field of pharmacy practice. By improving productivity, accuracy, and regulatory compliance across critical processes like medication development, production, distribution, and quality control, the combination of automation and robots is revolutionizing the pharmaceutical sector. This technology uses an innovative approach that increases production in order to identify and ensure the quality of final products. Additionally, it finds and resolves any problems, which has a big effect on the pharmacy system. Implementing robotic systems is mostly done to save human time, lower labour costs, and ensure worker safety from potential hazards.

Keywords: Pharmaceutical sector, technology, robotics, quality, automation, pharmacy, process, pharmaceutical industry

I. INTRODUCTION

Since the 19th century, the future of the pharmaceutical and smart factory industries has changed dramatically. The computers have been used in the pharmaceutical industry since the 1980s, when artificial intelligence (AI) first emerged. Furthermore, automation and robots are employed in the pharmaceutical sector to increase the productivity of drug discovery and manufacturing.¹ Implementing robotics and pharmacy automation are crucial components of healthcare facilities. It greatly lowers pharmaceutical mistakes and expedites the medicine administration procedure. Nevertheless, there are difficulties in putting automation and robotics into pharmacies. We intend to identify and mitigate potential risks in the pharmaceutical workflow by using the Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) technique, which should increase output and profitability.²

The revolutionary role of automation and robots in pharmacy practice is examined in this thorough examination, with a focus on how these technologies affect patient care, safety, efficiency, and healthcare delivery. It discusses the ways in which different kinds of robots are being used to improve pharmaceutical safety and lower errors, including automated compounding systems and robotic prescription dispensers. Significant developments in pharmaceutical automation are highlighted in the assessment, such as automated drug management and streamlined workflows that improve patient satisfaction and operational effectiveness. The integration of digital health, AI, and machine learning technology is examined as a potential future trend that might improve patient outcomes even more and decision-making. Overall, this research highlights how robotics and automation in pharmacy are constantly evolving and points to a future path that will improve patient-centred care.³

This method facilitates the pharmaceutical industry's testing and trials and speeds up the research and development department's job. The pharmacy industry expands by utilizing these technologies for a range of uses, such as medication, distribution, service, and in Additionally, it oversees the infrastructure, efficiencies, and needs that support the pharmacy system's development. mercy system's development. This approach facilitates the pharmaceutical industry's testing and trials and speeds up the research and development department's job. The pharmacy industry expands by utilizing these technologies for a range of uses, such as medication, distribution, service, and industrial applications. Additionally, it oversees the infrastructure, standards, and efficiencies that support the pharmacy system's development.⁴ Robotics has recently attracted global attention, especially in the pharmaceutical sector. Since production occurs on a greater scale in industries, robots are often made for industrial usage.

These robotic gadgets, commonly referred to as "robots," are typically made for industrial applications and serve a crucial role in everything from pharmaceutical packing to R&D labs and hygiene maintenance. This area of technology is expanding quickly because to the improvements in robot design and operation.⁵

II. AUTOMATION

Automation of robotic processes is an automated technique that uses software to replicate human workers' back-office duties, such as data extraction, filling out forms, and moving files, etc. Furthermore, AI assists with administrative duties in the healthcare system, patient involvement and adherence, and diagnosis and treatment applications.⁶ By simplifying insurance, reimbursement, and claims processing processes, pharmaceutical claim management automation can lower human error and ensure regulatory compliance. It manages paperwork, confirms patient eligibility, keeps track of claims from submission to settlement, and guarantees prompt payments.

Automation reduces administrative costs and customer satisfaction, enhancing operational efficiency. AI applications in pharmaceutical manufacturing include machine vision, predictive equipment maintenance, and automated quality control.⁷ Clinical failures can have detrimental effects, including research program discontinuation, employment loss, business closure, and a decline in public trust. Failure in drug development affects more than just a particular medication, business, indication, or patient group. Through trial design, patient categorisation, adherence and retention, data collection, management, and analysis, AI is significantly changing clinical drug development. Between 2016 and 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration received 300 applications utilising AI or ML, most of which have to do with clinical development. However, the application of AI and ML in the creation of pharmaceuticals has not developed as rapidly.

Formulation and delivery are not mentioned in the FDA's discussion paper on AI and ML in medication development, despite current uses of computational science to drug delivery. Leveraging AI and automation in formulation development could have significantly improved progress.⁸ The pharmaceutical industry is bolstered by automated quality control and real-time data management, utilizing software-based and robot-powered factory automation. Robots standardize inspection procedures, ensuring consistent quality. Robust software handles intricate data sets, ensuring precision in data entry, analysis, and compliance. These solutions enhance regulatory compliance and product integrity by speeding up decision-making, identifying irregularities, and maintaining thorough records.⁹ Although robots were not intended to be intelligent, they are capable of performing challenging repetitive jobs and moving or carrying objects on their own with the help of surface sensors and a specially created program known as automation.¹⁰

Creating Customised Medicines A "one-size-fits-all" strategy is used to treat people, despite every individual possessing many genetic variations. Because of how well they work to treat illnesses, personalized drugs have become more well-known in the medical community. Automation is required to make this a reality. To find the ideal medicine combination, many research are carried out using a range of modern computer techniques. The realization of tailored medicine can be substantially aided by developments in automation. Automated machinery effectively controls process variables to produce medications at the necessary concentration.¹¹ A new technological platform and solution are required to provide effective cybersecurity for both in-person and remote personnel. Strategies for data security and breaches also need specific attention. In order to combat political fraud, technology is also necessary; numerous instances of this have been documented globally in recent years, particularly during the pandemic. Therefore, preventing healthcare fraud requires taking the appropriate steps and consistently encouraging internal discussions about fraudulent actions that may help restrict them. AI might have problems with algorithm bias while processing data for predictions and assessing hypotheses. Moreover, docking simulations are often used to identify inactive compounds. A rigorous evaluation of these features still requires human participation for effective decision-making and cross-verification in order to rule out system bias problems. However, there is a lot of potential for AI's future applications, so more work could be able to reduce its disadvantages and make it reliable and effective.¹²

A. Types of Automation in Pharmaceutical Industry

- 1) **Process Automation:-** Automated Production Lines: Conveyors and robots for packaging, filling capsules, and pressing tablets. Batch processing automation is used for aseptic filling, vial cleaning, and sealing are examples of sterile manufacturing automation.¹³
- 2) **Quality Control Automation:-** Vision systems for identifying flaws in labels, tablets, and packaging are known as automated inspection systems. Automated spectroscopy, chromatography, and dissolution testing are examples of analytical automation. Real-time quality monitoring and electronic batch records are examples of data integrity automation.¹⁴

- 3) Laboratory Automation:- Pipetting, sample preparation, and transfer are all automated in robotic sample handling. High-throughput Screening: Drug research and discovery using automated tests. Automated Data Collection and Analysis: Combining data management software with laboratory equipment.¹⁵
- 4) Supply Chain and Inventory Automation:- Automated guided vehicles (AGVs) and robotic palletizers are examples of warehouse automation. Systems for managing inventories: automated monitoring of both raw materials and final products. Cold Chain Monitoring: Automated systems for transportation and storage with temperature control.¹⁶
- 5) Regulatory and Documentation Automation:- records and SOPs are automatically controlled and archived by electronic document management systems (EDMS). Systems to guarantee compliance with FDA, EMA, and GMP regulations are known as compliance automation.¹⁷
- 6) Packaging Automation:- Automated Labelling: Barcode, RFID tag, and serialization application systems. Robotics for product packaging and palletization: cartoning and case packing. (23)
- 7) Clinical trial Automation Electronic Data Capture (EDC): - Clinical trial data is automatically gathered and managed by electronic data capture, or EDC. Automated techniques for managing drug supply and patient randomization are used in trials.¹⁸

B. Role of Automation in pharmaceutical Industry

Based on the information systems, the prototype handles customized tasks on its own. Additionally, it was made possible by the automatic collection of data using identification technologies to record task lead times and the acquisition of extra data from digitisation activities related to process workflow.¹⁹ The pharmaceutical industry is undergoing a major upheaval due to AI, automation, and robotics technology. With their quick expansion, pharmaceutical companies are an essential part of the global healthcare ecosystem. But growing healthcare expenses, productivity goals, and the search for customized medications are putting more and more strain on it. With their high labour, costs, traditional medication development, production, and distribution techniques are frequently time-consuming and costly. Automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence (AI) come together to provide a completely new approach to solving these age-old issues. AI expedites drug development with machine learning, forecast models, and the most cutting-edge data processing and analytic tools. It improves clinical trial designs and establishes new benchmarks for therapeutic performance. Automation in pharmaceutical production has reduced repetitive labour.²⁰

The high visibility of the lab robot is one of the difficulties. Cost may be a concern, but even though many other lab equipment, such as nuclear magnetic resonance and mass spectrometers, are significantly more expensive than even a fully functional Pyrobotics system, it is extremely unlikely that the upper management that authorized the purchase will ever doubt its value or capacity to save time.²¹

⇒ Machine learning: -The implementation and development of entire systems that can recognize and adjust to data patterns without the need for direct guidance.

⇒ Natural language processing is a branch of artificial intelligence that deals with the analysis and modification of spoken or written content created by humans.

⇒ Robotic process automation: An automated method that replicates back office tasks performed by human workers using software, such as data extraction, form completion, file movement, etc. AI also aids the healthcare system with administrative duties, patient participation and adherence, and applications for diagnosis and treatment.²²



Figure 1: Automation in pharmaceutical industry

III. ROBOTICS

Robotics is a technological field that focuses on the design and development of robots. Given the increasing number of robotics applications every day, this is a quickly growing and evolving sector of technology. The development of robots for use in factories, pharmacies, hospitals, and the pharmaceutical business is accelerated by it.²³ Robotics implementation is a crucial component of the pharmacy industry's growth. This produces notable, superior results by replacing the pharmaceutical (or industrial) procedure with new technologies. This technology uses a revolutionary methodology that increases productivity in order to identify and ensure the quality of final products. Additionally, it identifies and resolves any problems, which significantly affects the pharmacy system. Implementing robotic systems is mostly done to save human time, lower labour costs, and ensure worker safety from potential hazards. Robotic systems reduce process mistakes and operate constantly without interruption.²⁴ Artificial intelligence (AI) and cutting-edge robotic technology in the pharmacy and medical fields have a bright future. These developments have the potential to significantly alter a number of healthcare-related aspects. Their main goals are to increase operational effectiveness, improve patient outcomes, and reduce costs while addressing important challenges such as customized medical care and the need for more effective medicines. Industrial automation and robotics improve productivity, quality, speed, and performance by replacing manual labour with computers, control systems, and information technology. In the rapidly evolving field of pharmacy practice, automation and robotics have emerged as revolutionary tools. This essay explores the dynamic relationship between technology and pharmacy, focusing on the incorporation of robotics and automation.²⁵

In robotic process automation, one or more processes are carried out by bots—software applications that may communicate with users or systems and operate autonomously based on specified configuration—built inside a particular platform. The bots can operate independently or in tandem with the user, and they can perform all of the jobs that a human would perform in their daily lives.¹ Hence, RPA is a potent instrument that can facilitate the shift from operations focused on "things and people" to strategies that rely largely on "technology and networks."²⁶ This study examines how robotics is becoming more and more significant in the pharmaceutical sector. Robotics processes and analyses massive amounts of data using complex algorithms, allowing systems to react rapidly to changing patterns. Numerous facets of the healthcare system, including diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and management, could be impacted by this technology. Robotics has been increasingly prevalent in healthcare in recent years, especially in fields like quality assurance, clinical trials, and medication research. Both urban and rural areas can benefit from the proper deployment of these technologies, which provide advantages like improved clinical trial patient care, safer workplaces with lower infection risks, and more effective operational management. With the promise of intelligent machines that can think and behave like humans, the healthcare industry, one of the biggest and most dynamic in the world, keeps innovating and modernizing.²⁷

A. Robotics types used in the pharmaceutical industry:

The pharmaceutical sector, robotics is essential for increasing productivity, precision, and safety in the production, development, and distribution of drugs. These are a few typical robotics kinds utilized in this industry. They are:

- 1) Robots for Laboratory Automation: Liquid handling robots automate liquid handling in drug discovery and testing, while sample preparation robots prepare biological or chemical samples for analysis, and high-throughput screening robots perform rapid drug compound testing.²⁸
- 2) Robots for manufacturing: Robots are employed in pharmaceuticals, medical device assembly, filling, and packaging, as well as in cleanroom production to guarantee contamination-free results.²⁹
- 3) Inspection and Quality Control Robots: Vision Inspection Robots utilize cameras and AI to inspect packaging, labelling, and product integrity, while Non-destructive Testing Robots ensure quality compliance without damaging products.³⁰
- 4) Robots for handling of material: Material handling robots, such as automated guided vehicles (AGVs) and robotic arms, are utilized in facilities to transport raw materials, intermediates, and finished goods.³¹
- 5) Robots for Research and Development: Robotic cell culture systems and automated synthesis robots are developments in chemical synthesis and cell culture systems that allow biologics to be grown and handled autonomously.³²
- 6) Robots for Distribution and Warehousing: Pharmaceutical products are sorted and arranged for shipping by sorting robots, and inventory robots keep track of and manage warehouse stock levels.³³

B. Role of Robots in Pharmaceutical industry:

Several steps of the production process can be automated with robotics. Robots add unmatched precision to pharmaceutical processes, from early laboratory automation to bin picking of bulk material and medical device assembly. Mobile robots, industrial robots, and collaborative robots (cobots) all help create a flexible and effective manufacturing environment.

Robotic technologies ensure that pharmaceutical manufacturing satisfies strict standards by improving quality and optimizing production speed. In cleanroom, pharmaceutical robots also carry out repetitive operations, allaying worries about contamination hazards.³⁴

⇒Tablet and Capsule Production: From tablet pressing to capsule filling, automated robots facilitate the production of tablets and capsules, guaranteeing consistency and effectiveness throughout all units.

⇒Pick-and-Place Automation: Robots that do pick-and-place tasks manage the movement and arrangement of objects. They can be used in pharmaceutical applications to sort medicine bottles, transfer packaging parts off conveyor belts, or get goods ready for additional processing.

⇒AI-Powered Robotics for Drug Discovery: Drug development is advancing because robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) are being combined. Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered robotic systems carry out automated tests, high-throughput screening, and data analysis, greatly cutting down on the time needed to find possible medication candidates.

⇒Formulation and Mixing: Formulation and Mixing Robots enhance quality control by ensuring precise ingredient blending and mixing, maintaining precise proportions for each drug batch, and reducing human error.

⇒Batch Processing: During drug production, automated systems continuously monitor and control critical parameters like temperature, pressure, and timing to maintain the optimal conditions for chemical reaction

⇒Personalized Medicine and 3D Printing with Robotics: In order to advance personalized medicine by Robotics developments allow for the 3D printing of patient-specific pharmaceutical regimens based on each patient's unique genetic profile and prescription.

⇒Human-Robot Collaboration: Cobots can function securely without isolation barriers since they are more compact and versatile than traditional industrial robots. They complement human workers and boost overall efficiency by playing important roles in packing, labelling, and sorting tasks.

⇒Collaborative Robots (Cobots): Cobots are intended to operate safely in shared workspaces with people. In pharmaceutical settings, they help employees by doing out dangerous or repetitive activities so that human operators may concentrate on more intricate or crucial jobs.

⇒ Robotic Process Automation (RPA) in Pharma Operations: Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is changing operational and administrative workflows in addition to physical robots. By automating repetitive tasks like supply chain management, data entry, and regulatory compliance reporting, RPA lowers costs and boosts back-end operations efficiency.³⁵



Figure 2: Robotics in pharmaceutical industry

IV. CURRENT TRENDS AND ADVANCEMENTS

These current trends and advancements for mainly benefits in pharmaceutical industry for:

⇒Efficiency & Time-to-Market: Automation and robotics speed up R&D, manufacturing, and packaging processes, reducing lead times for manufacturing and development cycles.

⇒ Quality & Compliance: Robots provide consistency and traceability in a sector subject to stringent regulations (FDA/EMA, GMP).

⇒ Flexibility: Manufacturing and supply chains need to change as therapies become more individualized; robots aid in agility.

⇒ Cost Pressure: Automation helps lower operating costs and human error. Pharma is facing increasing costs and margin pressure.

⇒ Human Resource & Safety: Robotics helps with ergonomic risks, the need to minimize exposure to hazardous materials, and the shortage of skilled labour.

⇒ Data & Digitalization: Deeper insights, predictive maintenance, and continuous improvement are made possible by the massive volumes of data generated by robotics combined with AI, IoT, and digital platforms.^{36,37,38}

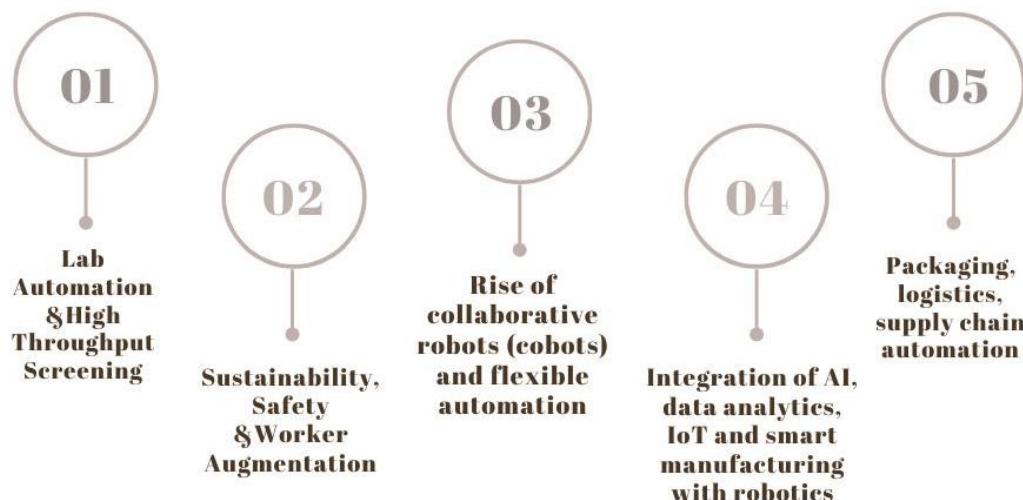


Figure 3: Types of current trends and advancement in pharmaceutical industry

V. PHARMACEUTICAL APPLICATIONS OF AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS

The combination of automation and robotics has led to notable breakthroughs in the pharmaceutical sector. From medication discovery to packaging, these technologies improve safety, accuracy, and efficiency across a range of pharmaceutical activities. Robotics and automation increase manufacturing capacity, guarantee regulatory compliance, and lower human error.³⁹

- 1) **ROBOT MARKET ANALYSIS:** The global robot market has grown significantly as a result of the need for automation and robotics in a number of sectors, including the pharmaceutical industry. Market research reports include information on the size, trends, and development aspects of the robot market in addition to forecasts for future growth. This research provides a thorough overview of the robot market, covering its size, main players, growth prospects, and segmentation by type and application. For those involved in the pharmaceutical sector wishing to make investments in automation and robotics, it offers insightful information.⁴⁰
- 2) **Investigation and Drug Development:** Robotic High-Throughput Screening (HTS): This technique uses robots to automatically screen thousands of chemical compounds against biological targets, speeding up the process of identifying potential medication candidates.
- 3) **Automated Sample Preparation:** Robots perform sensitive operations with extreme precision, including pipetting, mixing, and sample handling, which lowers human error in tests. **Laboratory Automation Systems:** Integrated robotic systems facilitate data collecting and parallel processing by managing processes in drug research labs.⁴¹
- 4) **Testing and Quality Assurance:-** **Automated Inspection Systems:** Robots led by vision quickly and accurately check tablets, capsules, and packaging for flaws, contamination, or anomalies.
- 5) **Analytical Automation:** To guarantee adherence to quality standards, robotic systems carry out repetitive tests like spectroscopy and chromatography. **Data Management and Reporting:** Automation helps with regulatory compliance by integrating with data systems to manage quality parameters and produce reports.⁴²
- 6) **Research and Development (R&D):** These days, the development of the newest drugs also depends on robots. In high throughput screening (H.T.S.), for example, several compounds are assessed to see which might become new drugs.

It is intended to use robotics to examine these ubiquitous compounds. This process can be further accelerated by using robotics, even as it speeds up the other process in which a robot does any repetitive task in place of a human.⁴³

- 7) Drug Repurposing:-Algorithms using artificial intelligence can search through drug databases to find new uses for already-approved pharmaceuticals. This can hasten the discovery of new treatments and get them to market, especially when a disease is just starting to emerge.⁴⁴
- 8) Robotics Compounding: Pharmacies can use robotics to automate the creation and delivery of customised medications. This process increases manufacturing efficiency and produces better, more dependable, and error-free results. Automated robotic systems can be used in the pharmaceutical industry. operations to assist with inventory management, medicine packaging, and dispensing, lowering human error and improving pharmacy workflow.⁴⁵
- 9) Supply chain and inventory: Increased automation is very beneficial to the pharmaceutical industry. By optimising the necessary inventories based on predictive models, automation techniques can reduce waste-related losses. Additionally, because automation simplifies the storage and retrieval processes, it is crucial for more efficient warehouse management. By determining the best path to market and ensuring that the appropriate drugs are delivered to the appropriate provider on schedule, pharmaceutical companies may reduce distribution delays.⁴⁶
- 10) Production and Manufacturing:-Automated systems in manufacturing streamline procedures like granulation, mixing, pressing tablets, and filling capsules. This minimizes waste and guarantees uniformity. Production robotics: robots do high-precision jobs like liquid handling, weighing, and dispensing. Collaborative robots assist with inspection and packaging, and automated guided vehicles (AGVs) move products about the building.⁴⁷
- 11) Sterile Environment: Robots work in aseptic environments, especially when producing vaccines and injectable medications. This reduces the possibility of contamination and guarantees the safety of the product.⁴⁸
- 12) Environment, safety, and health:-In terms of operator safety, the robot can lessen the effects of dangerous or non-ergonomic tasks. Ergonomically, there are several advantages to minimizing physical effort when the operator is prevented from doing repetitive tasks, such as lifting heavy steel trays that contain items to be lyophilized that need to be aseptically transferred to reduce particle release. In a similar vein, the safety of producing a cytotoxic drug in an isolator or C-RABS is improved because, in addition to keeping the operator completely isolated from the toxic product, interface gloves with the isolator's environment can also lower the possibility of human error during handling.⁴⁹
- 13) AI-enhanced molecular dynamics and docking: In traditional techniques like Auto Dock Vina, it can increase accuracy and decrease false positives. GNINA prioritises substances with ideal pharmacokinetic characteristics using convolutional neural networks and machine learning methods. DeepMD reduces computational costs and enables high-throughput virtual screening for complicated targets by accelerating MD simulations using deep potential networks.⁵⁰
- 14) QA management:- Only authorized workers should have access to data, and industry staff shouldn't be allowed to alter it. Systems that comply with CFR 21 part 11 can document data changes, but QA management is ultimately responsible for maintaining data integrity. In order to eliminate data integrity problems in fully automated plants, QA staff must receive training in CFR 21 part 11.⁵¹
- 15) Nanomedicine:- Nanomedicine treats human ailments with nanotechnology, such as drug delivery systems, pacemakers, insulin pumps, and chemotherapy. Modern nanorobots are capable of precisely repairing intracellular structures and fixing genetic flaws. Since 2015, the nanomedicine market has expanded dramatically, with revenues of \$16 billion. Future uses include the use of artificial blood cells and antibodies, the monitoring of the neurological system, the advanced use of pacemakers and in-heart defibrillators, and the monitoring of internal chemistry.⁵²
- 16) Packaging and Labelling: - Robotics in Packaging: Robots do jobs like bottle packing, blister packaging.
- 17) AI in labelling: AI ensures that labels contain accurate dosing instructions and regulatory information.⁵³
- 18) Formulation and Blending:-Robots are able to consistently mix and blend chemicals, guaranteeing the exact amounts required for every batch of medications.
- 19) Production of Tablets and Capsules: From pressing tablets to filling capsules, robots assist in automating the production of tablets and capsules, guaranteeing consistency in the finished goods. Batch Processing: To maintain ideal conditions for the chemical reactions involved in medication synthesis, automated systems keep an eye on and regulate variables like temperature, pressure, and time. Select-and-place: Simply said, pick-and-place refers to the process of gathering and relocating specifics. Products that must be picked from a conveyor belt and placed in a work area or items that need to be sorted for additional processing may fall under this category. One way to demonstrate pharmaceutical assiduity would be to sort medicine bottles or arrangement.⁵⁴

- 20) Human-Robot Collaboration:-Because cobots are usually more pliable and smaller than conventional industrial robots, they can operate alongside people without the need for safety precautions. Cobots may help in packaging, labelling, or sorting in pharmaceutical settings without interfering with work flow.
- 21) Sample preparation:- Robots can do operations including mixing, dilution, and liquid transfers, which lowers human error and increases consistency.
- 22) Cell culture manipulation:- For cell-based tests, precise robotic arms are essential for delicate activities including cell seeding, passaging, and harvesting.
- 23) Data collection and analysis:-Robots can automatically collect and evaluate experimental data thanks to integration with data analysis systems, which speeds up results and enhances decision-making.⁵⁵

VI. CHALLENGES AND RISKS

There are several obstacles to overcome when integrating robotics in pharmaceutical enterprises, including space allocation, recognizing the benefits of robotics, and guaranteeing safety and ethical issues. Engaging specialists, evaluating cost savings, and implementing automated workflows are all necessary for businesses. Successful implementation requires a well-rounded strategy that strikes a balance between safety and moral considerations in order to shield people and society from unforeseen effects.⁵⁷ The implementation of ADS in hospital pharmacy automation and robotics was assessed by the pharmacy and expert panel using a conventional RPN FMEA. Potential failure mechanisms were found and ranked by the analysis, guaranteeing successful implementation and enhancing patient safety. The report suggests that staff training, systems theory, and process awareness be implemented.⁵⁶ Robotics adoption in the pharmaceutical sector is fraught with difficulties, such as high upfront costs, workforce inexperience, the need to rearrange manufacturing processes, and possible installation downtime. Financial resources are strained by these issues, particularly for smaller businesses. Furthermore, the integration process can necessitate revamping routines, and specialist expertise might not be easily accessible. Although there are many advantages to pharmaceutical automation, there are drawbacks as well. These consist of a large initial outlay, skill development and workforce adaption, cybersecurity issues, and job displacement. To guarantee a seamless transition and safeguard private information in automated facilities, businesses must fund reskilling programs. Rearranging equipment and having a small manufacturing floor are two obstacles to robotics adoption in the pharmaceutical industry. A slight increase in throughput is possible, but additional room is required for palletizing, packing, and storage. Furthermore, the operational usefulness of robotics could not be appreciated. When evaluating robotics technologies, consulting with prosperous businesses can offer objective viewpoints and online investment estimates.⁵⁷

VII. CONCLUSION

The pharmaceutical industry's adoption of automation and robotics signifies a fundamental change in the way medications are developed, produced, distributed, and studied. These technologies lower operating costs and human error while increasing productivity, accuracy, and regulatory compliance. From AI-powered robots speeding up drug discovery and personalized medicine to robotic process automation (RPA) simplifying administrative duties, the pharmaceutical industry is quickly changing into a more intelligent, effective, and patient-centred sector.

Robots and automated systems are now crucial for handling laboratory operations, managing complex supply chains, upholding stringent quality control, and operating in sterile environments across the pharmaceutical value chain. Their accuracy and consistency in carrying out high-risk, repetitive tasks improves worker and patient safety. Additionally, advancements like AI-augmented drug repurposing, 3D printing customized medications, and nanomedicine are raising the bar for medical care and treatment.

Adoption of these technologies is not without its difficulties, though. Significant obstacles include, safer production settings, quicker drug development, and a time when personalized medicine is the rule rather than the exception. A balanced strategy—utilizing technology while managing its risks—will be essential to attaining long-term progress in global healthcare as the sector innovates.

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