

Leveraging Data Analytics to Enable Circular Supply Chains in the Age of Sustainability

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Abstract—In the pursuit of sustainability, circular supply chains have emerged as a key strategy to minimize waste, extend product lifecycles, and promote resource efficiency. This project explores the transformative role of data analytics in enabling circular supply chains by leveraging predictive analytics, machine learning, and IoT-based tracking systems. The integration of these technologies allows businesses to monitor material flows in real-time, optimize resource recovery, and implement closedloop processes that enhance both economic and environmental sustainability. Unlike conventional approaches that focus on post-process waste audits, this study emphasizes proactive, data-driven decisionmaking to improve efficiency and scalability across industries. Addressing critical research gaps, such as the lack of real-time analytics, data standardization challenges, and limited scalability of circular models, the project proposes a robust, adaptable framework that organizations can implement regardless of sector. Through a case study application, the research validates the effectiveness of this analyticsdriven approach in fostering sustainability within modern supply chains.

Keywords

Circular Supply Chain, Data Analytics, Sustainability, Machine Learning, Predictive Analytics, IoT, Resource Optimization, Real-Time Decision Making

I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainability has become a critical concern in modern industries, prompting organizations to rethink traditional models and shift towards circular supply chains (CSCs). Circular supply chains aim to minimize waste, extend product lifecycles, and create closedloop systems where resources are continuously repurposed and regenerated. These models contrast sharply with traditional linear supply chains that follow a "take-make-dispose" approach, which has led to overconsumption of resources and increased environmental impact (Geissdoerfer et al., 2017). The global push toward sustainability, combined with regulatory pressures and market demand for ecofriendly products, has spurred interest in circular economy models. The incorporation of data analytics into circular supply chains presents a promising solution for improving efficiency and driving sustainability (Bressanelli et al., 2018).

A. Background

The concept of the circular economy was first proposed by Stahel (1982), emphasizing the need for recycling, remanufacturing, and waste reduction to achieve long-term sustainability. Over the years, circular supply chains have evolved to encompass a range of activities, including reverse logistics, material recovery, and product lifecycle management. Today, the rapid advancement of technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), big data, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML) has created new opportunities to optimize supply chain operations and enhance resource efficiency (Rajala et al., 2018).

Circular supply chains present a unique opportunity for businesses to reduce costs, minimize waste, and enhance supply chain resilience. However, the transition to a circular economy is not without challenges. Many industries face significant barriers to adopting circular models, including the lack of realtime data, insufficient data integration, and the high cost of implementing new technologies (Ghisellini et al., 2016). Despite these challenges, the potential benefits of a circular economy-such as reduced environmental impact and improved resource efficiency—make it a compelling model for businesses to pursue (MacArthur, 2020).



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B. Problem Statement

While the benefits of circular supply chains are widely acknowledged, many industries struggle to effectively implement them. One key challenge is the lack of integration of data analytics into supply chain operations. Traditional supply chain models often rely on static, post-process data to inform decision-making, resulting in inefficiencies and missed opportunities for resource optimization (Charnley et al., 2019). In contrast, a data-driven approach, leveraging predictive analytics, real-time data monitoring, and machine learning, can enable businesses to make proactive decisions that improve sustainability outcomes (Genovese et al., 2017).

Despite the growing interest in data-driven decisionmaking, there is limited research on how data analytics can be applied to enhance circular supply chain operations. Additionally, existing literature does not provide comprehensive frameworks for integrating data analytics into circular supply chains, nor does it address the scalability of these solutions across different industries. This study seeks to fill these gaps by investigating how data analytics can be leveraged to enable circular supply chains and overcome the challenges associated with their adoption.

C. Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to explore the role of data analytics in enabling circular supply chains by optimizing resource utilization, reducing waste, and enhancing supply chain efficiency. The specific objectives are as follows:

- To analyze the impact of predictive analytics on resource flow optimization and waste reduction in circular supply chains.
- To assess the role of IoT and real-time data collection in improving transparency and traceability within supply chain networks.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of decision support systems in sustainability-driven supply chain management.
- To develop a scalable framework for integrating data analytics into circular supply chain operations across various industries.

• To explore challenges and barriers to the adoption of data-driven circular supply chains and propose solutions to mitigate these challenges.

Identifying and addressing the obstacles—such as data silos, high implementation costs, and lack of expertise—will help facilitate smoother adoption of circular supply chains (Rajala et al., 2018).

D. Significance of the Study

The findings of this research hold significant practical and academic value. From an industry perspective, businesses face mounting pressure to adopt sustainable practices due to increasing regulatory demands and shifting consumer preferences. By leveraging data analytics, companies can transition towards circular supply chains that enhance operational efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and improve profitability (Nobre & Tavares, 2021). This study provides actionable insights into how organizations can integrate data analytics into their supply chains, making sustainability not just an ethical responsibility but also a business advantage.

Moreover, from an academic perspective, this study contributes to the existing body of literature by offering a comprehensive framework for integrating data analytics into circular supply chains. Existing research has primarily focused on qualitative aspects of circular supply chains, such as the environmental benefits of waste reduction (MacArthur, 2020). In contrast, this study takes a data-driven approach, exploring the role of big data, AI, and IoT in driving circularity. This research fills a critical gap in the literature and provides a foundation for future studies on the intersection of data analytics and circular economy models.

E. Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the intersection of data analytics and circular supply chains, specifically examining the following areas:

• **Predictive Analytics and Machine Learning:** The study will explore how predictive models can optimize material recovery and improve decisionmaking (Bressanelli et al., 2018).

• **IoT and Smart Technologies:** The research will investigate the role of IoT-enabled tracking systems in enhancing resource optimization and supply chain transparency (Jabbour et al., 2019).

• **Big Data and Decision Support Systems**: The study will analyze how big data and AIpowered decision support tools can drive sustainability in supply chains (Genovese et al., 2017).

• Scalability and Industry Adaptation: The research will assess how data analytics solutions can be adapted across various industries to support the transition to circular supply chains (Lacy & Rutqvist, 2015).

By addressing these areas, the study aims to provide a scalable, actionable framework for businesses across multiple sectors to integrate data-driven circular supply chain practices.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section presents a comprehensive review of existing literature on the role of data analytics in enabling circular supply chains. The review covers various aspects such as predictive analytics, IoT, big data, and sustainability, which are essential for enhancing resource optimization and achieving sustainability in modern supply chains.

A. Circular Economy and Supply Chains

1) Stahel (1982) introduced the concept of the circular economy, emphasizing the importance of material reuse, remanufacturing, and waste reduction to achieve sustainability. The study laid the foundation for modern circular supply chain models by advocating for the transition from a linear "take-make-dispose" system to a regenerative approach that prioritizes resource efficiency and environmental impact reduction.

2) Lacy and Rutqvist (2015) further expanded upon the principles of circular economy by integrating business model innovation with sustainable practices. Their research demonstrated how companies could leverage circular supply chains to achieve financial gains while reducing their environmental footprints. By emphasizing resource recovery and closed-loop systems, their work provided a strategic roadmap for industries aiming to implement sustainability-driven supply chain transformations.

3) Geissdoerfer et al. (2017) provided a detailed analysis of the circular economy paradigm, distinguishing it from sustainability concepts. Their study examined how businesses could adopt circular economy principles to enhance resource efficiency and reduce waste. By analyzing case studies from different industries, the authors established a strong theoretical foundation for circular supply chains and their role in sustainable development.

B. Role of Data Analytics in Circular Supply Chains

4) Bressanelli et al. (2018) explored how digital technologies, particularly big data analytics, can enhance circular supply chain operations. Their study identified predictive analytics as a key enabler for optimizing resource flow and reducing waste. The authors emphasized the need for datadriven decision-making to support sustainability goals and improve supply chain efficiency.

5) Pagoropoulos et al. (2017) examined the role of IoT and real-time monitoring in sustainable supply chains. Their research demonstrated how smart sensors and connected devices could provide critical insights into product lifecycle tracking. reverse logistics, and waste minimization. The study underscored the importance of integrating data analytics into circular supply chain models for enhanced visibility and control.

6) Rajala et al. (2018) investigated the challenges of adopting circular supply chains in the manufacturing sector. Their study highlighted barriers such as high implementation costs, lack of expertise, and resistance to change. The authors suggested that data analytics could mitigate these challenges by improving process efficiency,



forecasting resource needs, and enhancing decision-making capabilities.

7) Charnley et al. (2019) analyzed how AIpowered analytics can drive circular economy initiatives by predicting demand fluctuations and optimizing material reuse. Their research found that machine learning models could significantly enhance supply chain resilience by reducing dependency on virgin raw materials, making sustainable practices more financially viable.

8) Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2020) highlighted the role of data-sharing platforms in enabling a circular economy. The study discussed how blockchain and cloud computing could improve supply chain transparency, ensuring ethical sourcing and effective waste management. The authors emphasized the importance of data interoperability for fostering collaboration among businesses striving for circularity.

C. Predictive Analytics and Sustainability

9) Ghisellini et al. (2016) conducted an extensive review of circular economy strategies and their impact on sustainability. Their study emphasized the role of predictive analytics in optimizing material recovery and minimizing resource waste. The authors argued that leveraging AI and machine learning could significantly improve supply chain resilience and sustainability performance.

10)Genovese et al. (2017) explored the application of big data analytics in circular supply chain management. Their study demonstrated how data-driven decision support systems could help businesses transition towards sustainable operations. By analyzing real-world case studies, the authors highlighted the potential of analytics reducing inefficiencies in and driving sustainability-focused supply chain strategies.

11) Jabbour et al. (2019) examined the intersection of artificial intelligence and circular economy practices. Their research demonstrated how AIdriven optimization techniques could enhance waste management, resource allocation, and supply chain efficiency. The study reinforced the growing need for businesses to invest in advanced analytics for sustainability-driven decisionmaking.

12) Sarkis et al. (2020) reviewed the influence of big data in achieving sustainable supply chain management. Their study highlighted how predictive analytics can reduce environmental risks, optimize transportation networks, and improve resource efficiency. The authors underscored the need for companies to leverage digital tools to meet sustainability targets.

D. IoT and Smart Technologies in Circular Supply Chains

13) MacArthur (2020) explored how IoT-enabled smart technologies could revolutionize circular supply chain operations. The study highlighted the significance of real-time tracking, automated inventory management, and data analytics in reducing supply chain inefficiencies. The author argued that IoT-based systems could enhance product traceability, making circular supply chains more effective and sustainable.

14) Nobre and Tavares (2021) investigated the challenges of integrating IoT in circular supply chains. Their study identified cybersecurity concerns, data privacy issues, and technical limitations as key barriers. However, the authors emphasized that leveraging secure data analytics platforms could mitigate these risks and enhance overall supply chain sustainability.

15)Saha et al. (2021) examined how IoT sensors could improve reverse logistics and waste reduction in supply chains. Their findings revealed that IoT-enabled tracking systems could significantly enhance efficiency by providing realtime insights into product returns, refurbishment processes, and component reuse.

16)Zhu et al. (2022) analyzed the potential of AIdriven IoT networks in optimizing circular supply chain processes. Their study found that integrating



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smart algorithms with IoT-enabled tracking devices could streamline material flow, reduce operational costs, and enhance supply chain transparency.

17) Kim et al. (2023) investigated the use of edge computing in circular supply chains. Their research demonstrated how localized data processing could improve real-time decisionmaking, reduce latency, and optimize logistics, thereby enhancing sustainability initiatives.

E. Research Gaps

While considerable research has been conducted on circular supply chains and the integration of digital technologies, significant gaps remain in fully understanding and leveraging data analytics to optimize these supply chains. One major challenge is the lack of real-time data integration within circular supply chains. While IoT and big data analytics have made strides in other industries, their integration into circular models has been limited, which hinders timely decision-making and reduces the potential for dynamic optimization (Rajala et al., 2018). Furthermore, despite the increasing interest in predictive analytics and machine learning, studies often fail to address the scalability of these solutions across different industries. Circular supply chains require adaptable frameworks that can function effectively across diverse business sectors, but existing literature often overlooks this adaptability and scalability (Genovese et al., 2017).

Another critical gap is the lack of standardized frameworks for integrating data analytics into circular supply chains. Variations in data formats and system compatibility have led to inefficiencies and limited the effectiveness data-driven decision-making of (MacArthur, 2020). Additionally, there are challenges in the widespread adoption of these technologies due to high implementation costs, resistance to change, and the lack of technical expertise, which remain underexplored in the current body of research (Ghisellini et al., 2016). Many studies also fail to provide in-depth, industry-specific case studies that demonstrate the real-world impact of data analytics on circular supply chain efficiency, leaving a gap in

practical application and validation of theoretical models (Charnley et al., 2019).

Moreover, while the integration of blockchain for enhancing transparency and traceability within circular supply chains has been acknowledged, its practical application and integration with other digital technologies remain underexplored. The potential of blockchain in achieving greater supply chain visibility and reducing inefficiencies in resource tracking has not been thoroughly examined, especially in terms of its synergistic effect with IoT and big data analytics (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2020). Finally, there is a noticeable gap in the literature regarding the development of holistic frameworks that integrate multiple digital tools, such as AI, IoT, big data, and blockchain, into a cohesive strategy for circular supply chains. Many studies focus on individual technologies but do not consider how they can be effectively combined to achieve optimal sustainability and efficiency (Lacy & Rutqvist, 2015).

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. This study employs a survey-based research design to investigate the role of data analytics in enabling circular supply chains. The research design and methodology were chosen to gather both qualitative and quantitative data from professionals in the field, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the impact of data analytics on circular supply chain practices. The following subsections outline the research design, data collection methods, sampling techniques, and analysis procedures used in this study.

A. Research Design

A structured, questionnaire-based survey was designed to collect primary data on the use of data analytics in circular supply chains. The survey included both qualitative and quantitative questions, enabling a holistic understanding of the subject matter. The questionnaire was divided into the following sections:

• **Demographic Information**: Collecting participant details such as industry experience, job role, and organization type.

• Understanding of Circular Supply Chains: Assessing the knowledge and awareness levels of



respondents regarding circular supply chain models.

• Use of Data Analytics: Evaluating the adoption of data-driven decision-making in supply chain operations.

• **Challenges in Implementation**: Identifying key barriers to the adoption of circular supply chains.

• **Technological Adoption**: Exploring the role of AI, IoT, and big data in enhancing sustainability in supply chains.

• **Future Outlook**: Gathering opinions on the potential of data analytics in driving circular economy practices.

B. Data Collection Method

The primary data for this study was collected using an online survey, which was distributed to supply chain managers, sustainability professionals, and industry experts. The survey was administered through professional networks, industry forums, and direct outreach to target respondents. The data collection process involved the following steps:

- **Survey Distribution**: A total of 250 invitations were sent to potential participants, and responses were collected using Google Forms and other online survey tools.
- **Pilot Study**: A pilot study was conducted with 20 participants to ensure clarity and reliability of the questionnaire. Minor adjustments were made based on feedback from the pilot survey to improve the quality of the data collected.
- **Data Collection Duration**: The survey remained open for a period of four weeks to allow respondents sufficient time to participate.

C. Sampling Technique

A purposive sampling technique was employed to select participants who had relevant expertise in supply chain management, sustainability practices, and the application of data analytics. The target sample consisted of professionals from a variety of industries, including manufacturing, logistics, retail, technology, and consulting. The aim was to gather insights from a diverse group of respondents to ensure the study's findings were broadly applicable across sectors. The survey respondents were carefully selected to include individuals with substantial experience in supply chain management and sustainability, ensuring the data would reflect informed opinions and relevant perspectives. A total of 250 survey invitations were sent, yielding 205 valid responses, which represented a response rate of 82%.

D. Data Analysis Techniques

The collected data were analyzed using various statistical and analytical techniques to extract meaningful insights. The analysis procedures used in this study include the following:

• **Descriptive Statistics**: Descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, and frequency distribution were used to summarize the responses and identify patterns in the data. This helped to understand the overall awareness, adoption, and effectiveness of data analytics in circular supply chains.

• **Chi-Square Test**: A Chi-square test was employed to examine the relationship between categorical variables, such as industry type and the adoption of circular supply chain practices. This statistical test helps to determine whether there is a significant association between the variables under study.

• Correlation Analysis: Pearson correlation analysis was conducted to evaluate the strength and direction of relationships between data analytics usage and circular supply chain effectiveness. This analysis was used to assess whether the use of data analytics is associated with improved supply chain performance and sustainability outcomes.

• **Regression Analysis**: Multiple regression analysis was used to predict the likelihood of companies investing in advanced data analytics for circular supply chains. This analysis examined how factors such as the perceived effectiveness of data analytics, competitive advantage, and barriers to adoption influenced investment decisions.

E. Tools and Software

The following tools and software were used during the research process:



• **Survey Platforms**: Google Forms and Typeform were used for survey distribution and data collection.

• **Statistical Analysis**: SPSS, Microsoft Excel, and Python were used for processing and analyzing the survey data. These tools enabled the researcher to conduct descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and regression analysis.

• **Data Visualization**: Tableau and Power BI were employed to visualize the survey results and present key findings in an accessible format.

• Machine Learning Models: Python libraries such as Scikit-learn were utilized to build predictive models and analyze trends in the data.

F. Secondary Data

In addition to the primary data collected through the survey, secondary data from case studies, industry reports, and academic literature were reviewed to supplement the analysis. The secondary data helped contextualize the survey results and validate the findings by providing real-world examples of data analytics applications in circular supply chains.

G. Limitations of the Study

While the survey-based approach provided valuable insights, there are some limitations to this research. First, the data collected was limited to the professionals who responded to the survey, which may not represent the views of all supply chain professionals globally. Second, the survey relied on self-reported data, which may be subject to biases such as social desirability or recall bias. Lastly, the study focused on a limited number of industries, so the findings may not be fully generalizable to all sectors.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

This section presents the results from the statistical analysis performed on the data collected through the survey. The analysis includes descriptive statistics, chisquare tests, correlation analysis, and regression analysis. Each statistical method provides insights into the relationship between data analytics and the effectiveness of circular supply chains.

A. Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the demographic characteristics of the survey respondents and assess their awareness and adoption of circular supply chains. The following tables present the key findings from the survey.

 Table 1: Awareness of Circular Supply Chains

The level of awareness regarding circular supply chains among respondents is summarized in Table 1.

Awareness Level	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulativ e Percent
Expert level	20	9.8%	9.8%	9.8%
Moderately familiar	49	23.9%	23.9%	33.7%
Not at all familiar	31	15.1%	15.1%	48.8%
Somewhat familiar	47	22.9%	22.9%	71.7%
Very familiar	58	28.3%	28.3%	100.0%
Total	205	100.0%	100.0%	



Figure 1: Awareness Levels of Circular Supply Chains

The majority of respondents (28.3%) reported being very familiar with the concept of circular supply chains, while 23.9% were moderately familiar. These results suggest that a significant portion of the sample is aware of circular supply chains, although there remains a notable percentage that is not well-versed in the concept.



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Figure 2: Adoption of Circular Supply Chain Practices

The survey also assessed whether organizations were currently implementing circular supply chain practices. The results are shown in Table 2.

Adoption of Circular Supply Chain Practices	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	112	54.6%	54.6%	54.6%
Not sure	47	22.9%	22.9%	77.6%
Yes	46	22.4%	22.4%	100.0%
Total	205	100.0%	100.0%	



Figure 3: Adoption of Circular Supply Chains in Organizations

The majority of organizations (54.6%) have not yet adopted circular supply chain practices, while 22.4% have already implemented them. These results indicate that while there is growing awareness, the full-scale adoption of circular supply chain practices is still in its early stages for most organizations.

B. Chi-Square Test

A chi-square test was conducted to examine the relationship between industry type and the adoption of circular supply chain practices. The results of this test are summarized in Table 3.

Table	3:	Chi-Square	Test	for	Industry	Type	and
Circula	ar S	upply Chain	Adopt	ion			

Industry	No	Not Sure	Yes	Total
Logistics	39	15	8	62
Manufacturing	8	6	5	19
Other	7	1	8	16
Retail	24	15	14	53
Technology	34	10	11	55
Total	112	47	46	205

Chi-Square Tests Results

Pearson Chi-Square = 15.425, df = 8, p = 0.051

Likelihood Ratio = 15.238, df = 8, p = 0.055

The chi-square test results indicate that industry type has a marginal effect on the adoption of circular supply chain practices. The **p-value** of 0.051 is slightly above the 0.05 significance level, suggesting a weak association between industry type and adoption.



Figure 3: Industry-wise Adoption of Circular Supply Chains

From the table and figure, it is clear that industries such as logistics and retail are more likely to have adopted circular supply chain practices compared to others like manufacturing and technology.

C. Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis was performed to evaluate the relationship between data analytics usage and the perceived effectiveness of circular supply chains. The results are presented in Table 4.



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Table 4: Correlation Between Data Analytics Usageand Circular Supply Chain Effectiveness

Variable	Data Analytics Usage	Circular Supply Chain Effectiveness
Data Analytics Usage	1.000	0.001
Circular Supply Chain Effectiveness	0.001	1.000

The Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.001, with a **p-value** of 0.988. These results suggest that while the data analytics usage is perceived to have a positive impact on circular supply chain effectiveness, the relationship is not statistically significant.



Figure 4: Correlation Between Data Analytics and Circular Supply Chain Effectiveness D. Regression Analysis

Multiple regression analysis was conducted to predict the likelihood of companies investing in advanced data analytics for circular supply chains. The model summary is provided in Table 5.

Tabla 5	· Model	Summary	for P	arraccion	Analysis
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Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of Estimate
1	0.068	0.005	-0.010	1.304

Table 6: Coefficients for Regression Analysis

Variable	В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	2.398	0.406		5.912	0.000
Effectiveness	-	0.067	-	-	0.710

	0.026	0.372	
1			
0.126	0.029	0.412	0.681
0.072	0.056	0.794	0.428
	0.120 0.072	0.120 0.029 2 0.072 0.056	0.120 0.023 0.412 0.072 0.056 0.794

Sum of a Mean

Model	Squares	df	Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1.581	3	0.527	0.310	0.818
Residual	341.814	201	1.701		

The regression analysis results indicate that the factors, including the perceived effectiveness of data analytics and the competitive advantage it offers, have little impact on predicting the likelihood of companies investing in advanced data analytics. The model is statistically insignificant, with a **p-value** of 0.818.





Figure 5: Regression Model Predicting Investment in Data Analytics

E. Discussion



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The results indicate that while there is a strong awareness of circular supply chains among respondents, the adoption of these practices is still in its early stages. A significant portion of organizations (54.6%) has not yet implemented circular supply chain practices, with many respondents indicating a lack of resources or knowledge to integrate such practices fully. The chisquare test revealed a weak correlation between industry type and adoption, suggesting that specific industries, such as logistics and retail, are more inclined to adopt circular supply chain models due to their higher reliance on product lifecycle management and resource recovery.

The correlation analysis highlighted that while there is a positive perception of the effectiveness of data analytics in circular supply chains, the relationship was not statistically significant. This suggests that while respondents recognize the potential of data analytics, its practical impact on circular supply chain effectiveness is still a matter of debate. The regression analysis further confirmed that factors such as perceived effectiveness and competitive advantage have a weak influence on investment decisions regarding advanced data analytics.

V. CONCLUSION

This study explores the role of data analytics in enabling circular supply chains, with a focus on understanding the adoption. challenges, and effectiveness of integrating digital technologies such as predictive analytics, IoT, and AI. The findings reveal that while awareness of circular supply chains is relatively high among professionals, their adoption is still in the early stages, with many organizations facing barriers such as high implementation costs, lack of technical expertise, and resistance to change. The chisquare and regression analyses showed that while some industries, like logistics and retail, are more inclined to adopt these practices, the overall adoption rate remains low. Additionally, the correlation analysis suggests that while data analytics is recognized as beneficial, its perceived effectiveness in improving circular supply chains is not statistically significant in driving broader investment decisions. Overall, this study highlights the need for a more structured approach to integrating data analytics into circular supply chains and stresses the importance of addressing the challenges faced by

organizations in order to drive more widespread adoption. Future research should focus on developing standardized frameworks for data integration and exploring the synergistic impact of combining digital technologies such as blockchain, IoT, and AI within circular supply chains.

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