

Artificial Intelligence Comic Strip (AICS) Generators: A Review of Subscription Models, Pricing, and User Satisfaction

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Abstract— This study investigates the evolution of Artificial Intelligence Comic Strip (AICS) platforms by analyzing their pricing strategies, subscription models, and user satisfaction. Fifteen leading platforms were systematically selected based on popularity, unique features, and diverse user groups, including beginners, educators, and professionals. They employed user feedback and platform analysis to evaluate pricing models and their impact on accessibility and retention. Key findings revealed five dominant pricing strategies: freemium models, tiered subscriptions, credit-based systems, pay-per-use options, and customizable services. While freemium models effectively introduce users to the platforms, high subscription fees and complicated credit systems often hinder user retention. User feedback indicated dissatisfaction with unclear pricing structures and limited affordability, particularly in regions with financial constraints. Adaptive pricing models incorporating user engagement metrics and regional economic factors were identified as potential solutions to enhance accessibility. Platforms combining affordability with robust features achieved better satisfaction rates and broader user adoption. Additionally, the study highlighted the importance of transparent communication and simplified interfaces to address barriers for non-expert users. This study underscores the need for AICS platforms to adopt inclusive pricing and user-centric designs. By doing so, they can attract a diverse audience, encourage creative participation, and strengthen their market position. These findings contribute to understanding how AICS platforms can balance user satisfaction and revenue generation while fostering creative expression and democratizing storytelling tools.

Keywords— Artificial Intelligence, Comic Strip, Subscription Model, Pricing Strategy, User Preference.

I. INTRODUCTION

Many of us remember comic books and strips from childhood or still do. Comic book reading is a passion and a social norm for many. Comics reflect various sociocultural aspects, showcasing trends and innovations across different regions, thus serving as a medium for cultural expression[1]. Making hand-crafted comics is difficult for many. Since it needs passion, skill, imagination, and creativity. Many comic book readers want to write. Unfortunately, lacking creativity, especially sketching or drawing skills, prevented many from pursuing their dreams. Today, AI makes things easier, so no one needs to give up on their aspirations. Anyone with AI skills can make comics. The process still involves passion, expertise, and originality, but conceptualizing, composing, and illustrating each component takes less time. AI-generated comic strips (AICS) have gained popularity on various online platforms, both free and paid. These platforms include revolutionary comic books and strip-creation tools. AI models can support human creativity in comic generation, integrating narrative

theories to enhance storytelling elements like panel composition and transitions [2].

Although AICS has increased creativity, the designs are still crucial. The design of user interfaces plays a vital role in the accessibility of AI tools. Research highlights the need for intuitive and accessible interfaces to overcome articulation barriers, where users struggle to communicate prompts effectively to AI systems [3]. This is essential for ensuring that non-expert users can easily engage with these technologies.

Figure 1 shows the impact of AI in comic creation across five key criteria: creativity and novelty, bias in content, emotional impact, skill development, and metaphorical representation. At the same time, AI demonstrates significant positive contributions, particularly in enhanced depth. Besides its design, pricing, and user satisfaction are also subjects. Balanced pricing approaches and affordability with high-quality content and methods to retain users through improved experiences and reduced information overload.

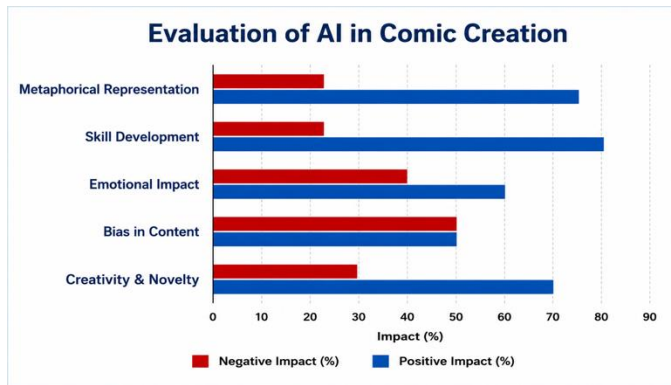


Fig 1: Evaluation of AI in Comic Creation.

Existing pricing strategies often fail to consider the economic diversity of users, particularly in low-income regions. This can limit accessibility and deter potential users from engaging with AI comic strip platforms. There is a need for pricing models that balance fair pricing with comprehensive feature accessibility to ensure inclusivity [4]. Platforms must focus on delivering high-quality content and user experience to enhance user retention. This includes addressing issues of information overload and ensuring that AI-generated content meets user expectations in terms of quality and relevance [5]. Despite their popularity, pricing models and user reviews often overshadowed their pricing strategy. This review investigates how these factors affect user preference and market positioning.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Creative sectors like the comic strip generation have significantly grown their audiences through Artificial Intelligence (AI) transformation by allowing creators to visualize their narratives and stories with less effort. With their intelligent algorithms, complicated and time-consuming comic strip creation processes are way more straightforward. Without worrying about creative and innovative artworks, creators can now think deeply about high-quality stories and narratives. However, high costs and complex interfaces are still a matter of worry. Still, many users take risks to be innovative and creative through these popular platforms.

The role of artificial intelligence in comic strip generation has brought about a revolution in creativity and processes. Studies indicate that comic strips improve readers' literacy and empathy, making them more receptive to social issues [6], [7]. Multiple AI-driven platforms have arisen, allowing individuals to generate comics via their advanced algorithms and appealing interfaces. Platforms such as ComicMakersAI, Dashtoon, and AI Comic Factory enable users to create comics via text descriptions, which are then transformed into comic strips containing narratives and illustrations. AI comics encourage critical thinking and artistic expression,

allowing students to engage in narrative construction and digital publishing [8].

Using LlamaGen.AI to show the functionalities of AICS, A social project to provide farmers unaware of modern technologies in the agricultural industry might involve the authorities for an example. The instructors can input text prompts like, "A group of farmers facing issues of pests in their rice fields, the trainers will show them how to control this issue without using harmful chemicals and saving the environment from various pollutions." The AI platform will generate a comic strip with simple, easily understandable narratives and catchy visualizations. This will not only show the creative thinking of instructors but also engage farmers by learning with fun. By publishing them, the authorities can also monitor how much improvement they can bring to communities.

A sample comic strip generated by LlamaGen.AI shows the process of inputting text prompts to create a narrative, as shown in Figures 1-4.

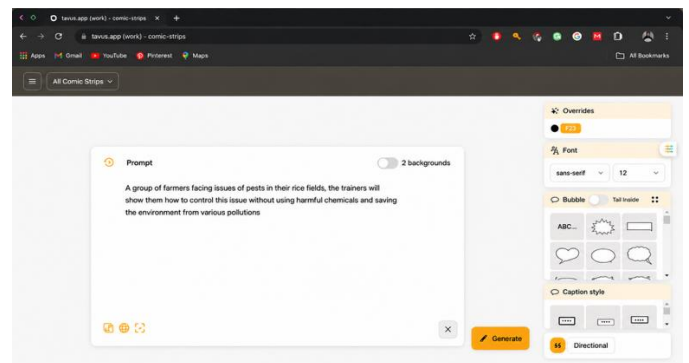


Fig 2: Inputting sample text prompt.

In Figure 2, a sample text prompt was entered into LlamaGen.AI to generate a sample comic strip.

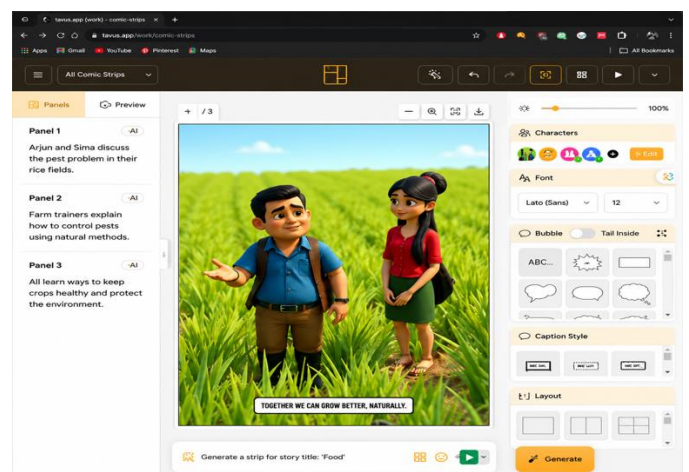


Fig 3: Generated Comic Panel 1.

The comic's first panel, Figure 3, shows farmers discussing their issues and looking worried about their problems.

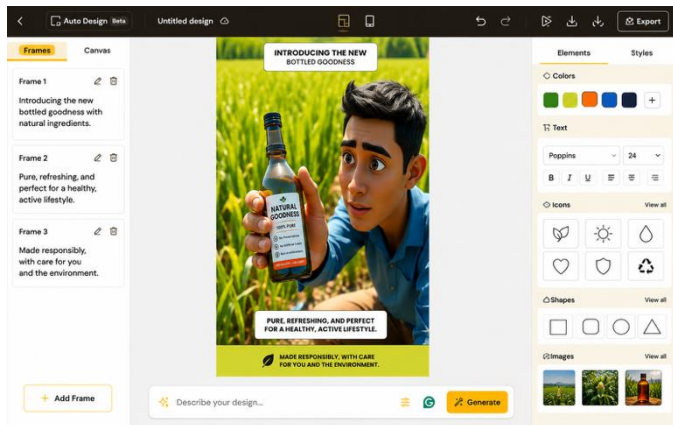


Fig 4: Panel 2.

Figure 4 illustrates that the instructor has found the harmful chemicals farmers use to kill pests but unknowingly pollute the environment.

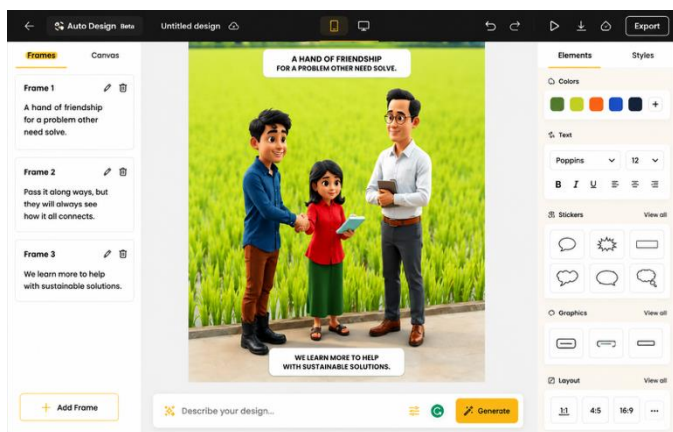


Fig 5: Panel 3.

Figure 5 shows that the instructors are giving the right tips to farmers about the issues they are facing. Tools like LlamaGen.AI automate comic creation, allowing users to input text descriptions that the system transforms into visual narratives, thus broadening participation in comic storytelling [7]. This platform generates comic strips based on user-entered text descriptions, employing components like character and environment detection and text bubble generation [6], [7].

Users often express disappointment with the pricing and subscription costs of artificial intelligence comic strip generators, even though these tools have unlimited potential for creativity. Many platforms provide free services, yet after a particular period, they tend to ask for an upgrade to become premium products. This is acceptable.

On the other hand, users tend to discontinue exploring the platform and even lose interest in revisiting it simply due to the high prices they charge and the billing approach, which might cause a bit of uncertainty. Subscription fees can be adjusted based on user engagement metrics, allowing flexible pricing to attract a broader audience [9].

While AI comic strip generators present exciting opportunities for creativity and storytelling, concerns about pricing algorithms and their implications for market competition are also relevant. As AI increasingly influences pricing strategies, it prompts thoughtful discussions about fairness and accessibility in creative industries [10], [11]. These platforms' everyday users find high prices or subscription fees a barrier. Surveys indicate that 78% of users encounter AI-generated content, with many finding it relevant and high-quality [12]. This review focused on the 15 most popular Artificial Intelligence Comic Strip (AICS) generating platforms, pricing strategies, and users' thoughts about this issue.

III. METHODOLOGY

Based on a systematic approach, 15 of the best AICS online platforms have been selected for this study. This selection was made to ensure the platforms are relevant to the topic. The methods are as follows:

- 1) Research of Extensive Nature: The platforms were selected after extensive research on popular platforms discussed in online forums, technology review platforms, and academic journals [13].
- 2) Popularity: The websites were chosen based on their popularity among users [14].
- 3) Unique Characteristics: Platforms with distinctive characteristics were prioritized to provide a thorough market view [14].
- 4) Diverse Pricing Models: Several different pricing techniques were investigated to guarantee a diverse representation of pricing options available in the market [15].

The selection process also considered user groups, including novices, professionals, educators, and companies. This review gathered information from AICS platforms based on their,

- 1) Subscription Tiers and Pricing Models.
Freemium Model.
Subscription Based.
Credit-based System.
Pay-Per-Use Model
- 2) Feature accessibility between free and premium plans.
- 3) User feedback regarding usability, affordability, and satisfaction[16].

Platforms that were reviewed in this study based on their popularity among users are listed in the table below:

TABLE I
 POPULAR AICS PLATFORMS ON THE INTERNET.

Platforms & Available Sites	Subscription Tiers	Pricing Strategies
ComicsMaker.AI https://www.comicsmaker.ai/	Freemium/Credit-based	Free, Hobby, Pro
Mage.Space https://www.mage.space/	Freemium/Subscription Based	Basic, Pro, Pro-Plus
AI Comic Factory https://aicomicfactory.com/	Freemium/Credit-based	Free, Starter, Premium, Advance
LlamaGen.AI https://llamagen.ai/	Freemium/Credit-based	Free, Standard, Pro, Unlimited
Dashtoon https://dashtoon.com/	Pay-Per-Use/Credit-based	Top-up, Explorer, Creator
ImagineArt.AI https://www.imagine.art/	Subscription Based /Credit-based	Basic, Standard, Professional, Unlimited
Tooni https://tooni.com/	Credit-based	500 Credit, 2000 Credit, 6000 Credit.
OpenArt.AI https://openart.ai/	Freemium/Subscription Based	Free, Basic, Advanced, Infinite
GoEnhance https://www.goenhance.ai/	Subscription Based	Basic, Standard, Pro, Mega
Neural Canvas https://neuralcanvas.io/	Tiered Subscription	5 Characters, Unlimited Characters
NightCafe Creator https://creator.nightcafe.studio/	Subscription-Based/Credit-Based	Beginner, Hobbyist, Enthusiast, Artist
Flixier https://flixier.com/ai/	Freemium/Tiered Subscription	Free, Pro, Business
Cohesive https://cohesive.so/	Freemium/Tiered Subscription	Free, Creator, Agency
Crayon https://www.crayon.com/	Subscription-Based/Customized Services	Supporter, Professional, Enterprise
Pixton https://www.pixton.com/	Subscription Based	Monthly Plan

To get user preferences and market positioning, user feedback from these platforms' websites and related articles available on the internet were reviewed.

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSIONS

The innovation of AICS platforms has transformed how individuals and organizations can create comic strips efficiently and creatively with less time. These platforms leverage how AI-driven platforms simplify the process, allowing various features to attract users' needs by understanding. Pricing strategies and user feedback are essential for the platforms to navigate users' demands. From the review of 15 AICS-generating tools, several key insights have come up regarding their pricing strategies, feature accessibility, and user preferences, and five standard pricing models across these tools have been identified.

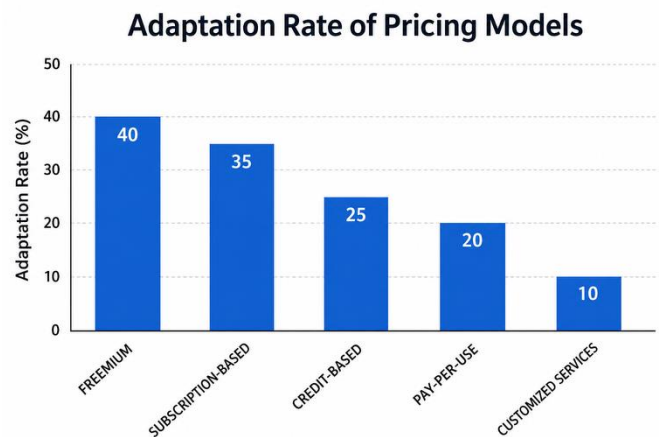


Fig 6: Adaptation rate of pricing models.

Figure 6 shows the adaptation rate of pricing models by users. Selected 15 AICS-generating platforms reviewed in this article were guided systematically to ensure relevance. After extensive research by analyzing popular platforms discussed in online forums, technology review platforms, and academic publications. Platforms have been chosen based on their popularity, unique features, and relevance to various user groups, including beginners, professionals, educators, and businesses. In addition, platforms with different pricing strategies were prioritized to provide a point of view on the range of options available in the market now.

A. Subscription Tiers & Pricing Models

The five most common models are based on subscription tiers and pricing models.

1) *Subscription-Based:* The most common pricing model among all these tools is subscription-based. Depending on their features, users must pay monthly or annual subscription fees. Users can subscribe to their preferred packages and enjoy platforms like Mage. Space and ImagineArt provide tiered subscription models, while Pixton provides subscription-based services on their platform.

2) *Freemium Models*: Freemium models offer free services for a specific period and limited features, attracting users, particularly beginners, and students, to explore their platforms. Once users reach their usage limits, this model allows them to purchase their preferred plans and dive deeper into creating their comics. ComicMakers.AI and OpenArt.AI are examples of this model.

3) *Credit-based System*: This model resembles the subscription-based model, but instead of granting users access to their features for an entire month or year, it permits users to utilize their premium packages as long as credit remains available. Platforms like LlamaGen.AI and Tooni use this model. While it is undoubtedly enjoyable to utilize all the features with flexibility, it also creates uncertainty for users regarding the total costs of credits.

4) *Pay-per-use Model*: Dashtoon allows users to access the system conveniently. Which is beneficial for infrequent users. Curious explorers and even students or educators who require the creation of a comic strip for a single use can benefit from this model. This model can be cost-effective for users unwilling to commit to a monthly or annual payment plan.

5) *Customized Services*: Craiyon offers customized services to its targeted users and its subscription-based model. Professional comic strip publishers are the primary users of these services, as they can tailor their features to meet their specific needs. Although they must pay a custom subscription fee, these publishers, who use this feature as their primary source of income, can use it without worrying about the prices.

B. Feature Accessibility

1) *Freemium Accessibility*: Freemium Accessibility indicates a free version of a product or service. This allows users to access the services without any payment. Users can access the service without any cost for a certain period and use basic versions with limitations; later, they must buy a paid version of the product to upgrade their work. This model attracts a significant number of users at the beginning, and it helps them to grow the business or popularity among users. Once users get the experience of the product or service for free, they might pay for one time or subscribe to that platform for further usage. ComicMakers.AI here could be seen as an example in AICS. Where users can enter their comic's name, choose the page size and fonts, and start creating the comic strips. AI will generate the characters and narratives after inputting the text descriptions. Still, users must buy subscriptions from USD 5 to USD 10 to customize the characters, backgrounds, and scenes. This payment allows users to get credits, and generating each page or character costs them the credits

they brought. ComicsMaker.ai utilizes AI tools like ChatGPT for storyline development and Stable Diffusion for artwork, significantly reducing production time and costs [17]. The platform can generate comics that cater to specific audience interests, enhancing user engagement and satisfaction [18].

2) *Subscription Tiers*: These tiers provide users with better platform accessibility based on their needs and budgets. Monthly or annual subscription fees or buying credits offer users a smoother platform experience than freemium. Taking NightCafe Creator as an example, in this platform, users can join their creator's community and start creating images by chatting with friends and adding text prompts. Before creating comic strip images or videos, users need to pay for credits to use them for generating. This platform allows users to pay monthly, quarterly, and annually for subscriptions.

3) *User Feedback and Affordability*: User feedback is essential for identifying limitations in AI tools, such as inadequate image descriptions and navigation challenges[19]. Although users appreciated the freemium models at the beginning of using these platforms, they later expressed dissatisfaction when the platforms asked for an upgrade for full functionality. Personalized pricing strategies can improve conversion rates by up to 25%, as users feel that prices reflect their willingness to pay [20]. Despite having pricing issues with many users, some users are also adapting AICS platforms as their regular working tools. The use of AI in comic strip creation not only enhances accessibility but also empowers creators with disabilities, fostering a more inclusive creative environment [21]. However, challenges such as data privacy and algorithmic bias must be addressed to maximize the benefits of these technologies [21].

C. Market Trends

Competitive platforms such as ComicMakers.AI are attracting and retaining users for their pricing and flexible subscription plans, while high-cost platforms like ImagineArt.AI mainly attract users who require advanced features. In contrast, casual users gravitate toward affordable or free options. Regarding pricing, the study shows that personalized pricing strategies can improve conversion rates by up to 25%, as users feel that prices reflect their willingness to pay [20]. Another study says AI can predict user churn and adjust the pricing or offers accordingly, increasing retention rates by an average of 18% [9], [20].

The findings highlight how pricing strategies influence user engagement and platform viability in the AICS market.

A. *Balancing Accessibility and Revenue Generation:* Users widely adopted the Freemium Model in AICS platforms because of their services. But sometimes, conversion into the paid version backfires, especially when users find less-needed features inside the paid versions, which costs them extra; platforms can offer flexible subscription fees or usage-based prices to eliminate this issue. [2] Chen suggests that AI-based systems can implement adaptive pricing models that align with user engagement metrics, which encourages upgrades by offering personalized incentives that feel neutral and unobtrusive.

B. *User Expectations vs. Pricing Structures:* Although many users appreciate the potentiality of creative AICS platforms, their high subscription fees and the credit-based system often dissatisfy them. Nagubandi [9] argues that clear communication regarding pricing and usage is critical to enhancing user trust. Platforms like Tooni can solve this by introducing tools such as usage calculators, allowing users to estimate costs based on their activity or detailed breakdowns of credit requirements for specific features. Pricing strategies can also reduce the mental load by simplifying complex credit-based systems into straightforward monthly plans. For instance, Pixton offers significant relief in this regard.

C. *Target Audience Segmentation:* The study identifies three primary user groups:

1) *Casual Creators:* Beginners and curious learners of hobbyists who look for affordable prices and easy-to-use tools. Platforms like Dashtoon, with their pay-per-use models, are well-suited for this group. This is how they can explore this fun side of AI without worrying about paying tons of money for their irregular usage.

2) *Educators:* Those interested in applying comics to teaching and learning activities. Platforms such as ComicsMaker.AI and Pixton, which offer educational discounts or packages, can attract these users easily.

3) *Professional Illustrators:* Users who demand high-quality features, use comics for professional purposes, and want to make it a source of income can use ImagineArt.AI or Craiyon. Craiyon offers users a customized package whereby professionals can customize the platform to their needs and pay for their customized services.

D. *Ethical and Competitive Considerations:* AI-driven pricing strategies raise ethical issues regarding accessibility and scope. Improperly designed pricing algorithms can unintentionally discourage lower-income groups or regions with limited financial resources. The rise of AI-generated comics may threaten traditional roles in the creative sector,

prompting discussions on the future of employment in this field [22].

E. *The Future of AICS Platforms:* Enhancing user interaction through AI-to-human communication can improve user perception and engagement, making platforms more competitive [23]. The more AI technology advances, the more platforms will come up, and they will adapt and manipulate pricing strategies to attract users. Platforms may use AI algorithms to dynamically adjust their subscription fees based on user behavior, location, and fields of interest. And, of course, in a competitive pricing battle with their rivals. The design of these platforms plays a crucial role in fostering competition and consumer surplus, as well as enhancing platform profits through well-structured marketplace rules [24]. Modern advertising increasingly incorporates comic elements to evoke emotions and capture the audience's attention, utilizing humor and playful language to convey messages effectively [25].

F. *User Dissatisfaction:* While users appreciate the quality of AI-generated content, the pricing models often lead to dissatisfaction, particularly when freemium models transition to paid services. This dissatisfaction is exacerbated by a lack of inclusive pricing models considering economic diversity, especially in low-income regions. The transition from freemium to paid subscriptions remains low due to high costs. Personalized pricing strategies can enhance conversion rates by aligning prices with user expectations and financial capabilities[26].

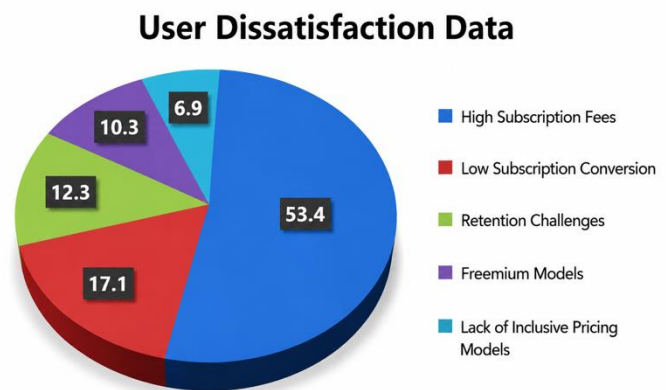


Fig 7: User Dissatisfaction Data.

Figure 7 highlights the user dissatisfaction factors in AI comic strip platforms. The segments represent high subscription fees, freemium model disinterest, lack of inclusive pricing, low subscription conversion, and retention challenges. The data presented in the figures were gathered through user feedback surveys and platform analysis across

15 popular AI comic strip generation platforms [4], [9], [12], [20].

Personalized pricing strategies and AI-driven retention tactics can address these challenges by aligning pricing with user willingness to pay and predicting user churn to adjust offers accordingly.

- 1) High subscription fees and complex credit system.
- 2) Lack of inclusive pricing models.
- 3) Subscription conversion and retention challenges.
- 4) AI's role in enhancing subscription models.

G. Future Opportunities:

1) Implementing reward systems for loyal users, such as discounted rates for extended usage or incentives for participating in beta testing.

2) Regional pricing adjustments to enhance global accessibility and address affordability concerns in lower-income regions.

to professionals, these platforms offer creative, innovative, and time-saving solutions, allowing users to focus on the quality of their stories and narratives rather than the artwork. However, challenges related to their pricing strategies and user preferences persist. Developers of AICS platforms should adopt adaptive pricing models by leveraging AI to design methods based on user engagement metrics and economic diversity, including region-specific discounts and flexible subscriptions to improve accessibility [9], [20]. Introducing usage calculators can enhance transparency, allowing users to estimate costs before purchasing [9]. Extending freemium models with functional tools encourages user retention and gradual upgrades [26]. Educational packages tailored for institutions can support learning applications [8]. Additionally, intuitive user interfaces are crucial for reducing barriers for non-expert users [3]. Regular feedback mechanisms should guide iterative improvements [21], and ethical policies must prevent misuse, ensuring inclusivity and preserving creative integrity [22].

AICS platforms are adopting strategic pricing models. Every model has strengths and weaknesses. While freemium models attract many users, the transition to paid or premium subscribers is still low due to their high costs. A simple price structure, transparency in providing services, and flexible options such as pay-per-use and exceptionally discounted student prices can gain users' trust. User segmentation based on groups like casual creators, educators, and professionals shows opportunities for platforms to re-calculate their offerings and prices for specific needs. Offering premium content that includes accessibility features can appeal to both individual consumers and institutions, providing a sustainable revenue model [29].

Ethical considerations such as accessibility for lower-income users and students and fair pricing algorithms are essential to ensure that anybody can access these platforms without worrying about high costs and critical interfaces. At the same time, it should be monitored to stop misuse of these platforms so that human-made creativity remains alive.

In conclusion, AICS platforms must integrate user feedback and leverage advanced AI tools to refine pricing and feature strategies. By adopting comprehensive, user-centric approaches, these platforms can strengthen their market position and foster long-term user engagement in the creative, AI-driven comics creation process, saving time and enabling a focus on storytelling and narrative quality.

Expected Retention Improvement from Recommendation.

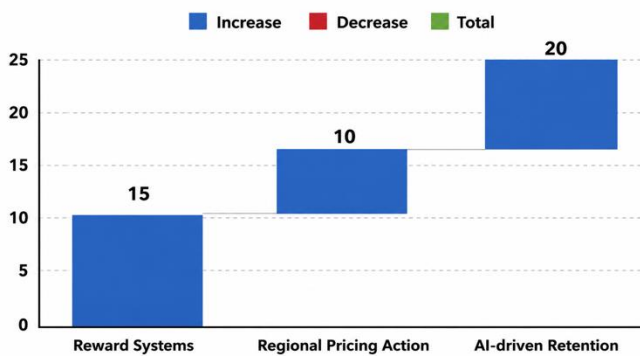


Fig 8: Expected Retention Improvement from Recommendation.

Figure 8 highlights that effective reward systems are crucial for maintaining user engagement on AICS platforms. These systems must be designed to align with user motivations and expectations, which can be challenging due to the diverse user base and rapidly changing user preferences [27]. Pricing adjustments must also account for socioeconomic factors, such as users' financial capacity and regional disparities in economic development. This is particularly relevant in sectors like irrigation, where pricing strategies must be tailored to local conditions and resource availability [28].

V. CONCLUSION

The growth in Artificial Intelligence Comic Strip (AICS) platforms is revolutionizing comic creation, making it easier and more accessible for diverse user groups. From hobbyists

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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