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Petricia Oktavia, Ferdiansah

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Sekar Ayu Wijaya Kusumaningrum, Oleh Soleh, Muhamad Yusup

Interpretable Ensemble-Based Intrusion Detection Using Feature Selection on the ToN_IoT Dataset

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1D-CNN-Based Childhood Stunting Prediction through Socio-Economic Data Integration and Community Participation

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Application of the DeLone and McLean Success Model to the SEMAIK Website: A Case Study in Central Lombok

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Table of Content

Design and Construction of an System for Diagnosis of Online Game Addiction Using The Forward Chaining and Certainty Factor Methods Based on a Website (Case Study: RSU South Tangerang) <i>Petricia Oktavia, Ferdiansah</i>	112-121
Improved Lung Disease Classification Using Bagging and Averaged Ensemble Models <i>Hana Ali Tayib, Azar Abid Salih</i>	122-133
Innovation in Post-Stroke Rehabilitation: Developing an Educational Application for Family Caregivers <i>Taqiyyah Nurul 'Azzah, Arif Pristianto</i>	134-139
Comparative Analysis of Machine Learning Methods in Predicting Diabetes Risk Based on Genetic Data <i>Sekar Ayu Wijaya Kusumaningrum, Oleh Soleh, Muhamad Yusup</i>	140-146
Interpretable Ensemble-Based Intrusion Detection Using Feature Selection on the ToN_IoT Dataset <i>Vaman Shakir Sulaiman, Firas Mahmood Mustafa</i>	147-161
1D-CNN-Based Childhood Stunting Prediction through Socio-Economic Data Integration and Community Participation <i>Agus Bahtiar, Mulyawan, Ahmad Faqih, Lidina, Ananda Rizki Fitria</i>	162-169
Deep Learning-Based Consumer Preference Analysis for Batik Packaging Design Using Convolutional Neural Networks <i>Edi Wahyudin, Agus Bahtiar, Irfan Ali, Liana, M Nurhidayat</i>	170-183
Office Application with Google Calendar and AI Chatbot Integration for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan Based on Flutter <i>Aninda Aura Hayuningtyas, Afwan Angara</i>	184-192
Design of a Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women Based on Flutter Web Mobile <i>Chaterine Laura, Afwan Anggara</i>	193-202
Golden Goal Futsal Court Rental Mobile Application Using the First Come First Serve (FCFS) Algorithm and Payment Gateway Integration <i>Sirajudin, Fadil Indra Sanjaya, Anita Fira Waluyo</i>	203-211
Implementation Of Forward Chaining In Intelligent Systems For Automatic Car Engine Fault Detection <i>Juarni Siregar, Hartana, Diah Wijayanti, Herryansyah</i>	212-219

JISA	Vol : 8	Ed.2	Page : 112-252	Jakarta, Dec 2025	e-ISSN: 2614-8404	p-ISSN: 2776-3234
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Application of the DeLone and McLean Success Model to the SEMAIK Website: A Case Study in Central Lombok	220-227
<i>Fatrul Rozi, Sofiansyah Fadli, Mohammad Taufan Asri Zaen</i>	
Application of the Simple Additive Weighting Method in the Decision Support System for Determining the Best Village Officials	228-236
<i>Baiq Ainurrahmi Imanda Qubro, Saikin, Hairul Fahmi</i>	
Development of a Risk Analysis Application for Higher Education Institutions Using the Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, and Risk Control (HIRARC) Methodology	237-245
<i>Rizaldi Putra, Memet Sanjaya, Kinanti Dwi Adelia, Neng Siti Fathimah</i>	
Development of the 3D Game “Lavender's Warmth” Using the Collision Detection Method	246-252
<i>Nayaka Apta Nayottama, Febriana Santi Wahyuni, Hani Zulfia Zahro'</i>	

Design and Construction of an System for Diagnosis of Online Game Addiction Using The Forward Chaining and Certainty Factor Methods Based on a Website (Case Study: RSU South Tangerang)

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Abstract – Online games are a type of game that provides a unique pleasure for players, as they can be played not only alone (singleplayer) but also with two or more people (multiplayer) from various locations and countries. Online games are a kind of game that gives players something special because they can be played either singleplayer or with two or more people from different places and countries [1]. According to the APJII 2025 poll, 34.91% of participants spend one to two hours a day playing online games. This suggests that playing online games has ingrained itself into people's daily lives [2]. Because of this, many people can become addicted to online games without realizing it. It might result in adverse bodily effects like exhaustion, weakened immunity, visual issues, anxiety, restlessness when not playing, diminished focus, and emotional shifts (irritability or sensitivity). Therefore, an expert system is needed to diagnose online game addiction as a means of determining the level of addiction. This website aims to determine the level of online game addiction, using the data and the forward chaining method, which aims to generate a conclusion from existing facts. With this method, a conclusion will be obtained, which is then further processed to determine the certainty value. And this expert system requires the certainty factor method to find this certainty value. Given the problems and needs at RSU Tangerang Selatan, this research has produced an expert system for diagnosing online game addiction, which provides ease of use because it is published on a website. This expert system generates output that includes conclusions based on existing facts, the level of online game addiction determined by the certainty factor method, a certainty value ranging from 0% to 100%, and solutions provided by experts.

Keywords – *Game Online, Addiction, Expert System, Forward Chaining, Certainty Factor*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the present period, science and technology are advancing at a very quick pace. One area of this rapid development is the entertainment industry, which includes gaming. Traditional games are often abandoned in today's society in favor of more contemporary possibilities, such as playing online. Only a computer or smartphone with an internet connection can be used to play online games. Positive effects of playing online games include, for instance, enhancing motor abilities through increased focus. Online games have both positive and bad effects; specifically, they can significantly affect their users. Players of online games often develop an addiction to their preferred games. Additionally, it can be lethal for fans to experience a period of overwhelming addiction or enjoyment of the games they play. Games have become everyone's favorite. Both children and adults enjoy playing games. Someone can play games continuously until they lose track of time and even forget about their surroundings. Frequent gaming can impact a person's level of addiction to games [3]. Online games are a type of entertainment that may be played on computers (PCs), laptops, smartphones, and other devices that are linked to the internet. Indonesian society has been greatly impacted by online gaming, especially among teenagers. With 64.5% of the population playing online games, Indonesia is among the nations with the highest percentage of gamers worldwide. [4]

Therefore, a system designed to assess a person's level of online gaming addiction is needed. This expert system is expected to provide information on symptoms and solutions related to online gaming addiction. RSU Tangerang Selatan plays a crucial role in providing comprehensive and affordable healthcare to the public. In this context, there is a need to design an expert system for diagnosing online gaming addiction that can assist patients or the public in diagnosing online gaming addiction based on references and needs. The technology that can be implemented is a website-based expert system using the forward chaining and certainty factor methods. Forward chaining is a method that begins with gathering information related to existing facts, then combining rules to draw conclusions. The Certainty Factor method is used to define a measure of certainty regarding a fact or rule and to describe the expert's level of confidence in addressing a problem.

Playing games is enjoyable. The majority of kids and teenagers used to play games with physical activities, but these days they play games with their devices. Addiction can result from excessive gaming. Addiction to video games can lead to mental and even physical health problems. [5]

Online game addiction is a pleasure in playing because it can provide a sense of satisfaction, so that there is a feeling of wanting to repeat the fun activity when playing online games, an unhealthy and self-destructive habit or behavior where the individual has difficulty

stopping, feels dependent, and wants to repeat the same thing. [6]

Addiction to online games is when someone is so addicted to them that they want to play them all the time, which in the end has a bad effect on their physical and mental health. [7]

According to the background, playing online games can be enjoyable because it can make one feel satisfied. As a result, people who are addicted to these games may find themselves wanting to repeat the enjoyable activity, which is a harmful and self-destructive habit or behavior in which they find it difficult to stop, feel dependent, and want to do it again.

Multiplayer games that can be played online are known as online games. [8]

Addiction is characterized by intense feelings of desire, which leads the addict to search for the item they truly want. [9]

Compulsive behaviors that a person engages in frequently in order to obtain gratification from particular activities are the hallmarks of online game addiction, an illness that is constantly recurrent. [10]

A computerized tool designed to aid in decision-making is called a decision support system. [11]

By offering information or recommendations for specific decisions, a decision support system can and does communicate about semi-structured problems and offer solutions or problem-solving capabilities. [12]

An expert system is a computer program that incorporates human intelligence or knowledge to handle problems similarly to how people do. [13]

An inference technique called "forward chaining" works by reasoning from a problem to its solution. Starting with a set of facts, the procedure looks for rules that support preexisting beliefs or hypotheses before coming to a conclusion. [14]

Expert systems employ forward chaining as a methodology or method to solve problems or make judgments based on information that is already known. It operates by beginning with known facts or data and then drawing conclusions or making decisions based on established rules or knowledge. This approach enables the system to proactively consider multiple options and make choices based on previously applied logic and information. [15]

Trust and mistrust can be combined into a single number using the certainty factor. [16]

Based on data or professional opinion, the certainty factor conveys confidence in an event, whether it be a fact or a hypothesis. It assumes an expert's level of confidence in a piece of data by using a value. [17]

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Location

The research and implementation of this application took place at the South Tangerang City General Hospital (RSU), a healthcare facility owned by the South Tangerang City government. RSU South Tangerang City plays a crucial role in providing comprehensive and affordable healthcare services to the community. In this context, there is a need

to design an expert system for diagnosing online game addiction that can assist patients or the public in diagnosing online game addiction based on references and needs.

2.2 Research Methods

In this research, the methods used are as follows:

A. Forward Chaining

Forward chaining is a technique in expert systems and artificial intelligence used to draw conclusions based on initial facts. The process begins with known data or premises, and then the system gathers new information through rules (if-then rules) to reach a conclusion.

Forward chaining is an approach method that starts with data or is often called data-driven, namely the process of solving a problem by collecting information and then drawing conclusions. [18]

Table 1. Forward Chaining Rules

No	Rules
1	IF G001 AND G002 THEN KGA01 SCORE = 1 IF G003 AND G004 THEN KGA02 SCORE = 1 IF G005 THEN KGA03 SCORE = 1 IF G006 THEN KGA04 SCORE = 1 IF G007 AND G008 THEN KGA05 SCORE = 1 IF G009 AND G010 THEN KGA06 SCORE = 1 IF G011 THEN KGA07 SCORE = 1 IF G012 THEN KGA08 SCORE = 1 IF G013 THEN KGA09 SCORE = 1 IF G014 THEN KGA10 SCORE = 1
2	IF SCORE <= 4 THEN P-001 IF SCORE >= 5 AND SCORE <= 6 THEN P-002 IF SCORE >= 7 AND SCORE <= 8 THEN P-003 IF SCORE >= 9 AND SCORE <= 10 THEN P-004

B. Certainty Factor

Certainty Factor (CF) points for each symptom are assigned by experts in this field. The following are the MB (confidence measure), MB (distrust measure), and expert CF values for online gaming addiction symptoms.

Table 2. Certainty Factor Value

No	CODE	CV Value
1	G001	1
2	G002	1
3	G003	1
4	G004	1
5	G005	1
6	G006	1
7	G007	1
8	G008	1
9	G009	1
10	G010	1

11	G011	1
12	G012	1
13	G013	1
14	G014	1

There are 14 symptoms described in the symptom code, and along with the Cf value, there is also the weight of the MD and MD values.

Table 3 MB and MD Value

Description	MB Value	MD Value
YA	1	0
TIDAK	0	1

There are new rules with scores and CF values that have been converted from scores to CF values.

Table 4. New Rules

Score	CF Value
0 - 4	0
5 - 6	0.3
7 - 8	0.7
9 - 10	1

The manual calculation of the Certainty Factor value from the user selects 11 symptoms from 14 symptoms.

$$\begin{aligned}
 CV_{Average} &= (\text{Total Users} / \text{Total Symptoms per User}) * 1 \\
 CF_{Combined} &= (\text{Old CF} + \text{New CF}) * 2 \\
 CF_{Final} &= \text{Final CF} * 100 \\
 CV_{Average} &= 11 / 14 * 1 \\
 CV_{Average} &= 0.7 \\
 CF_{Combined} &= (0.7 + 0.7) / 2 \\
 CF_{Combined} &= 0.7 \\
 CF_{Final} &= 0.7 * 100 \\
 CF_{Final} &= 70\%
 \end{aligned}$$

Table 5. Presentation Results

Level Addiction	Presentase
NOT ADDICTION	0%
MILD ADDICTION	10%
	20%
	30%
MODERATE ADDICTION	40%
	50%
	60%
	70%
	80%
SEVERE ADDICTION	90%
	100%

2.3 System Development

The waterfall model for software engineering was employed in this study. Because it provides a methodical and sequential development process that works well for research with clearly defined requirements right from the start, this model was selected.

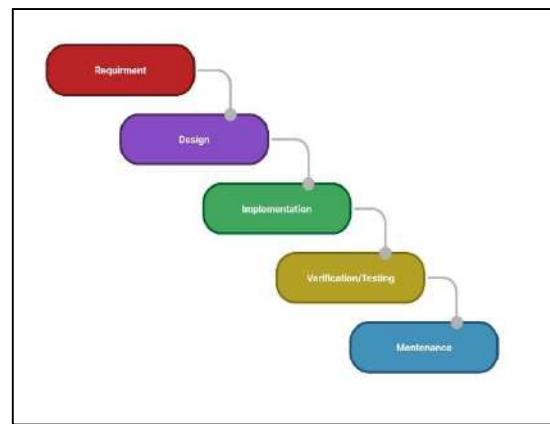


Figure 1. Waterfall Models

The stages in the waterfall model are as follows:

- 1. Requirements**
The initial stage in system development, which aims to gather comprehensive requirements for analysis and identify program needs. Information can be obtained through interviews, discussions, and surveys.
- 2. Design**
System design is based on the requirements identified in the previous stage. Software design is carried out before coding is created. The design stage is crucial in system development because the results of this stage will form the basis for the implementation stage.
- 3. Implementation**
This stage implements the results of the previous stages and converts them into program code.
- 4. Verification/Testing**
After the system is completed, the next stage is testing. This testing aims to ensure that the system runs properly and meets the predetermined specifications.
- 5. Maintenance**
After the system has been successfully implemented and tested, the next stage is maintenance. This maintenance is carried out to ensure the system continues to run properly and can address any issues that arise. The maintenance stage consists of several activities, including fixing bugs or errors in the system and upgrading the system by adding new features or improving existing ones.

2.4 System Design

The Unified Modeling Language (UML) approach, a standard visual modeling language used to describe the structure and behavior of software systems in a systematic and structured manner, was used to design an expert system for diagnosing online game addiction. The following is the UML diagram used in this research:

A. Use Case Diagram

In the Unified Modeling Language (UML), a use case diagram is a particular kind of diagram that is used to explain how actors—such as users or external systems—interact with the system under development.

A use case is a type of UML diagram that describes the relationship between a system and an actor. A use case diagram describes the model of the relationship between a

user and the system. [19]

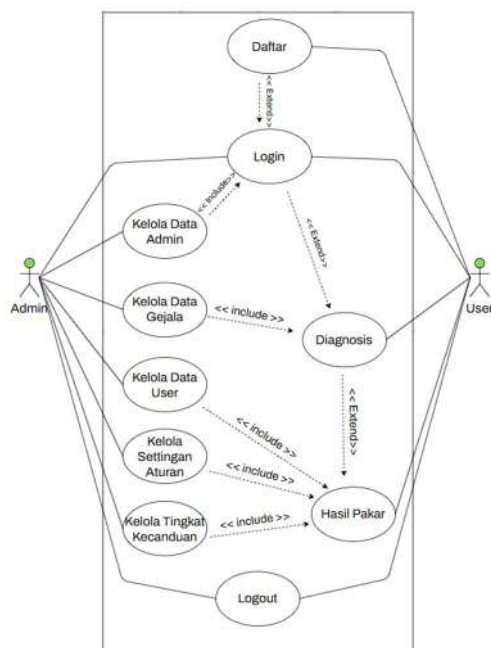


Figure 2. Use Case Diagram

Logging in to access the system is the first of the admin actor's many main use cases. After logging in, the administrator can view, reset, and delete user responses; manage admin data (add/remove access); and manage symptom data (add/edit/remove symptoms). Additionally, the administrator has the ability to manage rule settings to establish inference rules and manage addiction level data to establish mild, moderate, and severe addiction categories.

To access the system, the user must first register and then log in. Once logged in, the user undergoes a diagnosis process by answering questions about their symptoms. The system presents Expert Results, an analysis of their degree of addiction, based on these responses.

B. Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD)

Entity Relationship Diagram models existing data; the main purpose of depicting ERD is to show data objects (entities) and relationships to existing entities so that files can be created.

An Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) is a data modeling technique that graphically depicts information system entities and the relationships between those entities. [20]

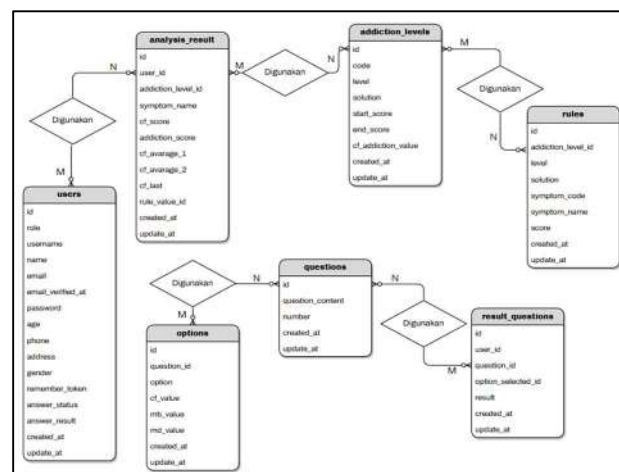


Figure 3. Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD)

The cardinality of this relationship is that many entities from one side are related to many entities from the other side (M:N).

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The questions entity in this relationship has a cardinality of many entities from one side, related to many entities from the other side (M:N).

The result_questions entity in this relationship has a cardinality of many entities from one side, related to many entities from the other side (M:N).

C. Database

The database design aims to manage symptom data, inference rules, users, and diagnostic results in a structured and efficient manner.

A database is a collection of structured data stored in an integrated manner in a system that can be accessed and managed by users or applications. [21]

Table 6. Structure of Database User

No	Field Name	Data Type	Size	Description
1	id	int	11	Primary Key
2	role	int	11	"1", "2"
3	username	varchar	100	
4	name	varchar	100	
5	email	varchar	150	
6	email_verified_at	timestamp		
7	password	varchar	100	
8	age	smallint	2	
9	phone	varchar	13	
10	address	text		
11	gender	varchar	20	"Male", "Female"
12	remember_token	varchar	100	
13	answer_status	int	11	

14	answer_result	text		"Not Addicted," "Mild Addiction," "Moderate Addiction," "Severe Addiction"
15	created_at	timestamp		
16	update_at	timestamp		

An arrangement of data created to methodically store and manage user information is known as the user database structure. The system can manage access privileges, keep data secure and consistent, and individually identify each user thanks to this framework. An effective user database architecture can facilitate account administration, authorization, and authentication procedures.

Table 7. Analysis Results

No	Field Name	Data Type	Size	Description
1	id	int	11	Primary Key
2	user_id	int	11	
3	addiction_level_id	int	11	
4	symptom_name	text		
5	cf_score	int	11	
6	addiction_score	int	11	
7	cf_average_1	decimal	3.1	
8	cf_average_2	decimal	3.1	
9	cf_last	decimal	3.1	
10	rule_value_id	text		
11	created_at	timestamp		
12	update_at	timestamp		

Processed data is presented in an easy-to-understand manner in the Analysis Results Table. Key indicators, computed values, and the conclusions drawn from the analytical process are often summarized in this table.

Table 8. Addiction Level

No	Nama Field	Tipe Data	Size	Keterangan
1	id	int	11	Primary Key
2	code	varchar	5	"P-001", "P-002", "P-003", "P-004"
3	level	varchar	20	"Not Addicted," "Mild Addiction," "Moderate Addiction," "Severe Addiction"
4	solution	text		"You have a healthy relationship with the game and are able to control your playtime," "Limit your game time, create a balanced schedule between playing games and other activities (sports, reading, or participating in other activities)," "Talk to your closest people/family about your feelings and ask for their support. Limit access to games, find new hobbies, and increase

				social interaction, participate in social activities or join community groups," "Consult with a mental health professional, psychiatrist, or psychologist who can provide the necessary support and therapy."
5	start_score	int	11	"0", "5", "7", "9"
6	end_score	int	11	"4", "6", "8", "10"
7	cf_addiction_value	decimal	2.1	"0.0", "0.3", "0.7", "1.0"
8	created_at	timestamp		
9	update_at	timestamp		

Presenting the degree of addiction of the responders according to the measurement's findings. The information in this table divides respondents into a number of groups, including low, medium, and high, according to the study instrument's results.

Table 9. Rules

No	Field Name	Data Type	Size	Description
1	id	int	11	Primary Key
2	addiction_level_id	int	11	
3	level	varchar	20	
4	solution	text		
5	symptom_code	text		"["1","2"]", "["3","4"]", "["5"]", "["6"]", "["7","8"]", "["9","10"]", "["11"]", "["12"]", "["13"]", "["14"]"
6	symptom_name	varchar	200	"Preoccupation", "Tolerance", "Loss of control", "withdrawal", "Escaping adverse moods", "Playing for long periods of time", "Deception", "Covering-up", "Losing relationships or opportunities", "Persistence despite problems", "Giving up other activities"
7	score	int	11	"1"
8	created_at	timestamp		
9	update_at	timestamp		

These guidelines outline certain connections or trends among the variables under investigation. This table's presentation seeks to facilitate readers' comprehension of the data's interconnection while also providing a foundation for inferences and suggestions pertinent to the study issue.

Table 10. Options

No	Field Name	Data Type	Size	Description
1	id	int	11	Primary Key
2	question_id	int	11	
3	option	varchar	20	"yes", "no"

4	cf_value	decimal	2.1	"1.0","0"
5	mb_value	decimal	2.1	"1.0","0"
6	md_value	decimal	2.1	"0","1.0"
7	created_at	timestamp		
8	update_at	timestamp		

Presenting a range of inquiry options to respondents with straightforward Yes/No response options. The purpose of this option structure is to reduce uncertainty and facilitate respondents' provision of responses. Researchers can gauge respondents' propensity toward a statement using the results in this table.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Software and Hardware Requirements

In developing the expert system design for diagnosing online game addiction, the hardware and software used are as follows.

A. Software Requirements

- Microsoft Windows 10 pro
- Microsoft Office 2019
- Vscod
- XAMPP

B. Hardware Requirements

- Processor : Intel Core i7 – 2600K, 3,4Ghz
- Monitor : 27 inci
- Memory : 8 GB
- Hardisk: 500 GB

3.2 Implementation User Interface

The system's user interface (UI) design and implementation are essential to ensuring that users can diagnose online game addiction quickly, accurately, and easily.

Figure 4. Login User

This user login is a page where users must log in first to be able to enter the diagnosis page.

Figure 5. Registration User

This user registration is a page where users must register first to be able to log in.

Figure 6. User Online Game Addiction Survey Page

This online game addiction survey page is where users have to choose the symptoms they are experiencing until the final slide.

Figure 7. Diagnosis Description Page Not Addicted

The user doesn't fall into the category of online gaming addiction. However, the user can identify symptoms based on their diagnosis. Any current experiences can be seen in the diagnosis provided by an expert.



Figure 8. Expert Results Detail Page Not Addicted

In the image above, users can see the details of the expert's results in more depth and know what to do now with the results of the user not being addicted to green.



Figure 9. Mild Addiction User Diagnosis Description Page

In the image above, the user is in the mild addiction category. With symptoms consistent with the user's diagnosis, the user can view the diagnostic information provided by an expert.



Figure 10. Mild Addiction Expert Results Detail Page

In the image above, users can see more detailed expert results and identify solutions for mild addiction. If users need further information, they can consult a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist, and a PDF of the results can be printed on the symptoms.

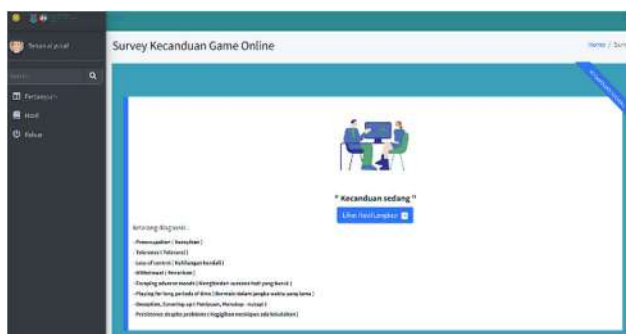


Figure 11. Moderate Addiction User Diagnosis Description Page

In the image above, the user is in the moderate addiction category. With symptoms consistent with the user's diagnosis, the user can view the diagnostic results provided by an expert.



Figure 12. Moderate Addiction Expert Results Detail Page

In the image above, users can see more detailed expert results and identify solutions for moderate addiction. If users need further information, they can consult a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist. A PDF of the results can be printed out, highlighting the symptoms currently experienced, with moderate addiction results highlighted in yellow.



Figure 13. Severe Addiction User Diagnosis Description Page

In the image above, the user is in the severe addiction category. With symptoms consistent with the user's diagnosis, the user can view the diagnostic results provided by an expert.

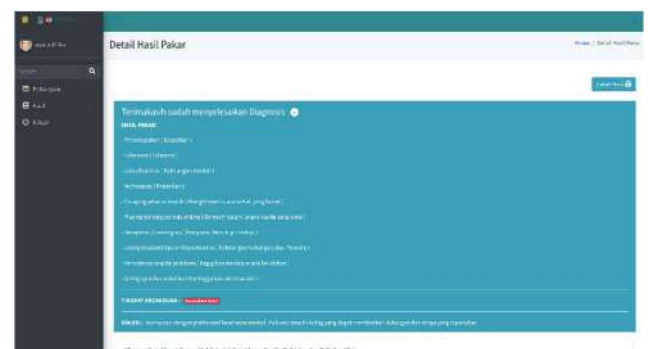


Figure 14. Severe Addiction Expert Results Detail Page

In the image above, users can see more detailed expert results and identify solutions for severe addiction. If users need further information, they can consult a psychiatrist or

clinical psychologist. A PDF of the results, with severe addiction levels highlighted in red, can be printed.

Figure 15. User Results

The user's results indicate a mild addiction to online gaming with a 40% accuracy rate. Here's an example of a manual user calculation.

Example of Manual Calculation Results

$$CF_{average} = 8 / 14 * 1$$

$$CF_{average} = 0.5$$

$$CF_{combine} = (0.5 + 0.3) / 2$$

$$CF_{combine} = 0.4$$

$$CF_{Result} = 0.4 * 100$$

$$CF_{Result} = 40\%$$

3.3 Blackbox Testing

System testing is carried out using the Black Box Testing method, which is a software testing technique that aims to ensure that each system feature works according to specifications and user needs.

Table 11. Login User

Cases and Test Results (Correct Data)				
Process	Input	Expectation	Observation Result	Conclusion
Click diagnosis now		The system goes to the user login page	The system goes to the user login page	Success
Click test		The system goes to the user login page	The system goes to the user login page	Success

Click login	Email, password	The system enters the diagnosis page.	The system enters the diagnosis page.	Success
Click login	Form not filled in	Displays the message "wrong email or password"	Displays the message "wrong email or password"	Success

Table 12. Testing Registration Account

Cases and Test Results (Correct Data)				
Process	Input	Expectation	Observation Result	Conclusion
Click registration new account		The system enters the user account list page.	The system enters the user account list page.	Success
Click registration	Full name, age, telephone number, address, select gender, email, password	The system adds user accounts	The system adds user accounts	Success
Already have an account? Click enter	The system goes to the user login page	The system goes to the user login page	The system goes to the user login page	Success
Click register	Do not include @	Displays a message when the list is missing the @ symbol "please include an '@' in the email address. ' ' is missing an '@' " (Please include an '@' sign in the email address. ' ' is missing an '@' sign)	Displays a message when the list is missing the @ symbol "please include an '@' in the email address. ' ' is missing an '@' " (Please include an '@' sign in the email address. ' ' is missing an '@' sign)	Success
Click register	Did not fill out the form	Displays the message "please fill out this field"	Displays the message "please fill out this field"	Success

Table 13. User Diagnosis Testing

Cases and Test Results (Correct Data)				
Process	Process	Process	Process	Process
Click next	Choose "Yes" / "No"	Go to the next question	Go to the next question	Success

Click previous		Back to previous question	Back to previous question	Succes
Click save answer		Enter the online game addiction survey page	Enter the online game addiction survey page	Succes
Click see the result		Go to the expert results details page	Go to the expert results details page	Succes
Click print result		Download the PDF results and when it has downloaded, go to the PDF page.	Download the PDF results and when it has downloaded, go to the PDF page.	Succes
Click next	Do not select "Yes" / "No"	Can't click next and can't go to the next question	Can't click next and can't go to the next question	Succes

Total Data Result:

$$= (\text{Correct Data}) / (\text{Number of Data}) \times 100\%$$

$$= 47 / 47 \times 100\%$$

$$= 100 \times 100\%$$

$$= 100\%$$

3.4 Questionnaire Test Results

Questionnaire testing is an objective test conducted directly in the field. This involves creating a questionnaire regarding the usability of the system being developed and determining whether it meets user expectations.

The testing involved administering a questionnaire to 20 users. The questionnaire consisted of 10 questions, each with a response scale of 1 to 5.

Table 14. Questionnaire Test Results

No	Questions	Score				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Are you satisfied with the appearance of the online game addiction diagnosis expert system website (South Tangerang Hospital)?	12	6	2		
2	Can this expert system website help you determine your level of online gaming addiction?	15	3	1	1	
3	How accurate is this expert system website in diagnosing online gaming addiction?	12	6	1	1	
4	Can using this expert system website make it easier for you to diagnose online game addiction?	14	5	1		
5	Does this expert system website help you to find a solution to your online gaming addiction?	13	6	1		

6	Is it easy to understand when diagnosing an expert system website?	14	4	2		
7	Can this expert system website help to know about the impact of online game addiction?	12	8			
8	How satisfied are you with diagnosing your online gaming addiction?	11	6	3		
9	Do you really agree that this expert system website can help you diagnose your level of online gaming addiction?	11	8	1		
10	How satisfied are you with the overall website of the online game addiction diagnosis expert system (South Tangerang Hospital)?	16	4			
Total		130	56	12	2	

Test Result Score:

Number of Respondents x Weighted Score (per Category)

Percentage:

(Test Result Score / Highest Score) x 100%. The following is the calculation of scores per 5 assessment criteria for 20 respondents:

Test Result Score:

$$= (130 \times 5) + (56 \times 4) + (12 \times 3) + (2 \times 2) + (0 \times 1)$$

$$= 650 + 224 + 36 + 4$$

$$= 914$$

Highest Score:

$$= 10 (\text{Number of Questions}) \times 5 \times 20 (\text{Respondents})$$

$$= 1000$$

Percentage:

$$= (\text{Test Result Score}) / (\text{Highest Score}) \times 100\%$$

$$= 914 / 1000 \times 100\%$$

$$= 0.914 \times 100\%$$

$$= 91.4\%$$

The system is assessed as extremely good and has fulfilled user expectations, according to the computations, which yielded a test outcomes percentage of 91.4%. This high proportion indicates that the majority of respondents thought the system was user-friendly, appropriate for their requirements, and really helpful in assisting with the anticipated activities. As a result, the outcomes of this questionnaire testing can be used to determine whether the system is ready for deployment and further enhancement.



IV. CONCLUSION

According to the research development of an expert system for diagnosing online game addiction has successfully facilitated users, especially online game enthusiasts, in determining the level of addiction they are experiencing and encouraged them to seek further consultation at South Tangerang General Hospital. By implementing the forward chaining method, the system is able to trace facts such as symptoms and rules that have been determined by experts, while the certainty factor method is used to calculate the level of diagnosis accuracy, with categories ranging from no addiction to severe addiction based on the CF value. The results of the questionnaire testing on users showed a very high level of satisfaction, namely 91.4%, which indicates that this system has been effective, accurate, and well-accepted as an early diagnosis tool for online game addiction.

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Improved Lung Disease Classification Using Bagging and Averaged Ensemble Models

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Abstract – One of the essential medical imaging tasks for early diagnosis and treatment planning is categorizing lung diseases from chest X-ray (CXR) images. This work constructs a strong ensemble learning platform on a variety of deep models for boosting diagnosis performance to detect and identify lung disease. Three pretrained CNN models InceptionV3, ResNet50, and EfficientNetV2M were trained on a CXR dataset, motivated by the complementary architectural features and the success demonstrated in medical imaging problems, such as chest X-rays. These three networks belong to different families of the CNNs and therefore make different contributions for diversity and stability in the ensemble. The models were then ensembled in two methods: averaging (soft voting) and bagging with hard voting (maximum bootstrap aggregation) in the first method. Various sets of pre-trained models were experimented with for the averaged ensemble. According to experimental results, the soft voting (averaged) ensemble between EfficientNetV2M and InceptionV3 performed better than the other models' combinations and achieved the highest accuracy of 93.00% in classification. This was followed by the combination of EfficientNetV2M and ResNet50 with an accuracy of 92.09%, then InceptionV3 and ResNet50 with a value of 91.75%, and the complete ensemble of the three models with an accuracy of 92.14%. The bagging hard voting strategy was somewhat with lower accuracy, but the InceptionV3 based bagging ensemble attained 90.56%, EfficientNetV2M attained 91.00%, and ResNet50 attained 88.00%. It is evident from the results that soft voting strategy, InceptionV3 and EfficientNetV2M ensemble provides the best optimal and stable classification performance among all the configurations that were attempted. The study proves that ensemble learning improves the accuracy of lung disease classification models, and choosing the right architectures is essential, with EfficientNetV2M and InceptionV3 showing improved performance, resulting in early diagnosis and improved patient outcomes.

Keywords – Lung Diseases, CNN, Ensemble Learning, X-ray, InceptionV3 Model, ResNet50 Model, EfficientNetV2M, Soft Voting.

I. INTRODUCTION

Lung diseases remain a serious global health threat due to their high morbidity and mortality rates. An accurate and timely diagnosis is essential for diseases such as COVID-19, TB, pneumonia, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). This is necessary in order to better manage treatment and avoid complications. Chest X-ray (CXR) technology is the most prevalent diagnostic imaging modality among all other modalities currently in use [1]. This is mainly because of its clinical utility in lung abnormality detection, low cost, and ease of use. CT scanning using deep learning has significantly improved detection and disease classification of infections like COVID-19, pneumonia, and lung cancer. Convolutional neural networks can segment infected regions, detect disease types, and classify severity with extremely high accuracy. But then there remain problems like false positives, data set variability, interpretability, and large datasets and annotation [2].

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) offers more advantages over CT in detecting and classifying lung diseases. It avoids ionizing radiation, making it valuable for vulnerable populations. MRI provides structural and functional imaging, allowing for differentiation of benign versus malignant lesions, inflammatory foci, or disease states. In some scenarios, MRI demonstrates comparable accuracy to CT, especially for larger pulmonary nodules.

Combining MRI with deep learning can improve image quality, contrast, and precise quantification of disease severity, improving classification and diagnosis [3].

Deep Learning (DL) and, more notably, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have seen significantly better performance in medical image processing over the last few years. Self-discovery of complex features from raw pixel data sets directly is the strategy that is employed in order to achieve the above goal [4]. Although when applied in variable or imbalanced data, DL models can be prone to architectural bias, overfitting, and bad generalizability [5], which is especially so when the sets of data are applied in unbalanced datasets.

Ensemble learning approaches have gained popularity as a way of mitigating the effects of these issues [6]. These approaches entail the combination of many models to better maintain prediction stability, accuracy, and robustness compared to single models [7].

through the use of ensemble approaches, the use of computed tomography (CXR) images to identify lung conditions has been significantly boosted [8],[9] These are capable of detecting more types of discriminative features and decision patterns because they use different CNN architectures and then fuse their outputs by applying a range of techniques such as soft voting, hard voting, or stacking [10]. This allows them to learn a wider range of discriminative features and decision patterns. Ensembles learned on balanced datasets tend to reduce class bias, which will allow for more balanced performance across a



range of sickness classes [11]. Further, ensembles learned on balanced datasets are more accurate [12].

The article here introduces a robust ensemble DL model that has been designed with focus towards automatic identification and classification of various lung conditions. Through the use of the strength of various pre-trained CNN models combined with ensemble methods, the new model attempts to offer better diagnostic performance and reliability and act as a robust tool in clinical decision support for pulmonary disease screening. The main contributions of this study can be summarized as follows:

- Using a new dataset, we achieved superior results compared to existing methods
- This study proposes two ensemble approaches bagging and averaging to enhance lung disease classification and compare their effectiveness. It introduces a deep bagging ensemble framework using three advanced CNN models: EfficientNetV2M, InceptionV3, and ResNet50, aiming to improve classification accuracy and robustness.
- The models were restored to the weights corresponding to the highest validation accuracy achieved during training, ensuring optimal performance.

This paper is structured as follows: section 2 provides an overview of related works conducted about previous studies. Section 3 describes the proposed method, which consists of data description, image enhancement, image classification using ResNet, EfficientNetV2M, and Inception v3 architectures, in addition to explaining the assembly methods and evaluation. Section 4 describes the research results and discussions. Section 5 present comparison with previous studies Section 6 concludes this paper with future works.

II. METHODOLOGY

This article proposes a model based on deep learning for five-class multi-class chest X-ray image classification. The whole process involves pre-processing of image data, the development of three independent convolutional neural networks (CNNs), the separate training of each, and finally their ensemble with an ensemble method to improve the accuracy of classification as shown in Figure1.

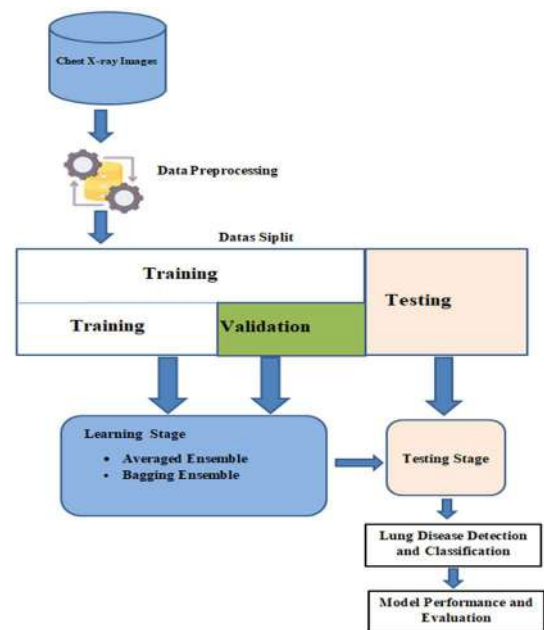


Figure1. The main stages of the proposed methodology

a. Dataset and Label Preparation

The data used within this study is a labeled dataset of chest X-ray. The dataset was obtained from Kaggle <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/omkarmanohardalvi/lungs-disease-dataset-4-types>, an open-source platform that provides publicly available medical imaging datasets for research purposes, contain 10095 images,(6054) for training, (2016) for validation and (2025) for testing. Images to five clinically significant categories: Bacterial Pneumonia, Coronavirus Disease, Tuberculosis, Viral Pneumonia and Normal X-ray as shown in Figure2. Data are divided into train, validation, and test sets, and labels are derived from directory structure. Automatic label assignment was performed through uniform mapping schema to map class names to numeric identifiers. To prevent order-bias in training, the samples were randomly shuffled prior to consumption by the models [21].

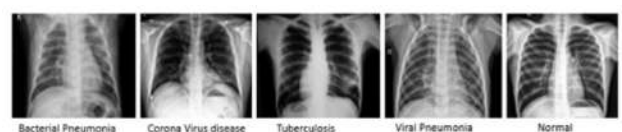


Figure2. Lung Diseases Chest X-Ray Images [21]

b. Data split

Quality, quantity, and how data are processed are the key elements in effective deep learning models, particularly in health-related processing like medical imaging [22]. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) use bulk data for their classification by them. Splitting data into training, validation, and testing is the manner in which effective learning takes place, overfitting is avoided, and very good generalization of the model occurs, particularly in health-related tasks like medical imaging, as given in Table1.

Table 1. The Dataset Split

Class	Training	Validation	Testing
Viral Pneumonia	1204	401	403
Tuberculosis	1220	406	408
COVID-19	1218	406	407
Bacterial Pneumonia	1205	401	403
Normal	1207	402	404

c. Data Preprocessing

To gain consistency among all the neural network models, all the images were re-sized to a uniform resolution of 224×224 pixels. An image processing pipeline of high performance was established to perform decoding, resizing, batching, and prefetching operations. The training dataset was randomized with a sufficient buffer for better randomization, but the validation and test datasets were given a fixed order for the sake of evaluation consistency. These preprocessing steps resulted in optimal memory and training performance and also avoided architecture-specific preprocessing for normalizing inputs to all models [23].

d. Model Architecture Design

The model leverages three pre-trained convolution neural network models namely InceptionV3, EfficientNetV2-M, and ResNet50, all of which were transferred via transfer learning from large natural images. For each of the models, the initial classification layers were removed and replaced with a global pooling layer and a fully connected classification head for five-class classification. This adaptation allowed for reuse of generalized feature extraction capability and conversion of the model into classification-specific to a domain. The models execute independently and produce a condensed distribution over the five target categories.

1. InceptionV3

InceptionV3, which is a deep convolutional neural network model, is effective in image classification tasks like the diagnosis of lung diseases. It utilizes parallel convolutional layers to learn local and global features of chest X-ray images. Techniques like factorized convolutions, auxiliary classifiers, and batch normalization are used to improve training performance and model generalization. Here, it was fine-tuned for multiple lung diseases[24],[25].

2. EfficientNetV2M

EfficientNetV2M is a convolution neural network architecture that equilibrates for the given amount of accuracy, training time, and computational cost. It utilizes a compound scaling technique to learn high-quality feature representations from chest X-ray images at a low computational cost. The model was fine-tuned on a balanced chest X-ray database for the development of the model to enhance the accuracy of classification and to extract deep features [26],[27].

3. ResNet50

ResNet50 is one of the deep convolutional neural network architectures that has become popular due to its strong performance in image classification, including lung disease detection. It uses residual learning to mitigate the vanishing gradient problem and contains 50 layers. ResNet50 is particularly useful in chest X-ray classification when it comes to detecting subtle hierarchical features, increasing diagnostic capacity in various classes of lung disease [28],[29].

e. Ensemble Bootstrap Sampling “Bagging”

The process of training in this work is built on a bagging ensemble learning method aimed at enhancing the generalization and robustness of lung disease classification from chest X-ray images. Training proceeds by first generating five independent training subsets using bootstrap sampling, each made up of 3,000 random samples (with replacement) of the original training set. For each subset, a deep learning model based on the EfficientNetV2M architecture is constructed and trained separately for 30 epochs. This results in the creation of five diverse models, each of which is trained on a separate distribution of the data. In inference, all five trained models predict for the input image, The predictions of all the models are combined, and the predicted class is determined based on the highest agreement (in hard voting). This ensemble decision is the most confident classification of the models. Following the decision of training and ensemble strategy, the system proceeds to evaluate performance on standalone test dataset employing metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score to assess the performance of the merged model As shown in Figure 3.

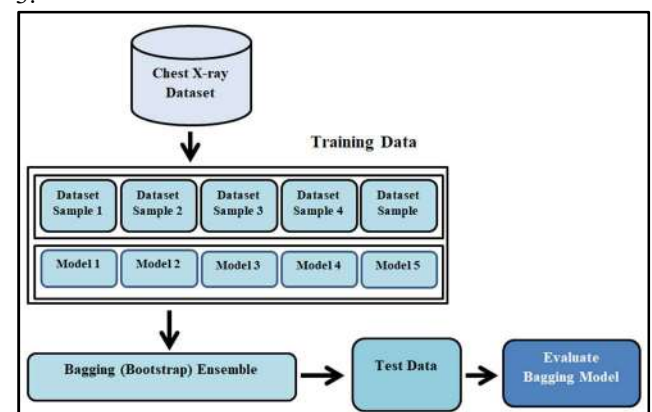


Figure 3. Bagging Ensemble (EfficientNetV2M, InceptionV3, and ResNet50)

f. Averaged Ensemble

Soft voting ensemble inference was applied. Individual class probability distributions for test samples were produced by each of the three separately trained models. All model predictions were averaged by taking probabilities per class. Each sample's final prediction was

obtained by selecting the class with the maximum mean probability.

This models ensemble was chosen due to its efficacy in breaking the bounds of a single model and to aggregate the strength of each of multiple disparate architectures. Use of heterogeneous models improves generalizability and significantly enhances robustness in classification, particularly in challenging diagnosis issues such as discrimination of pneumonia subtypes. Figure 4. displays models ensemble with soft voting.

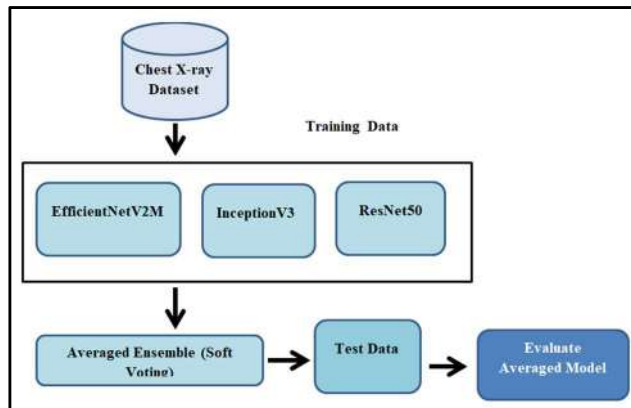


Figure 4. Averaged Ensemble Models (EfficientNetV2M, InceptionV3, and ResNet50)

g. Training Strategy

Averaged Ensemble Model Architecture All models employed in the ensemble training method begin with an input layer to receive resized chest X-ray images of equal 224×224 pixels size with three color channels. The input is fed through an existing pre-trained convolutional neural network, i.e., EfficientNetV2M, InceptionV3, or ResNet50, as the base models. These models are used without their topmost initial layers (include_top=False) to allow for lung disease classification transfer learning. A Global Average Pooling layer is used following the convolutional layers to decrease the spatial dimension of feature maps and the generation of a fixed-length feature vector for classification. Finally, a Dense output layer with softmax activation is added to predict the probability distribution over the target classes (i.e., two or three disease classes, depending on which dataset is utilized). During training, each model is compiled with the Nadam optimizer under a Triangular Cyclical Learning Rate (TCLR) schedule for the sake of better convergence. The models are separately trained with the same data under Sparse Categorical Crossentropy loss function and tested with a test set. The trained models are utilized for ensemble in prediction by selecting the class with highest average of predicted probabilities as the final prediction. This method employs architectural diversity and aggregation to enhance the stability and accuracy of classification, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The architecture of Averaged Ensemble Model Layers and parameters Settings

Layer type	Output shape	parameters
input_1 (InputLayer)	[(None, 224, 224, 3)]	0
lambda (Lambda)	(None, 224, 224, 3)	0
inception_v3 (Functional)	(None, 2048)	21802784
dense (Dense)	(None, 5)	10245

Total params: 21813029 (83.21 MB)

Trainable params: 21778597 (83.08 MB)

Non-trainable params: 34432 (134.50 KB)

Table 3: indicates the hyperparameters used Averaged Ensemble Model during training. The hyperparameters have a critical role to play in the tuning of models' performance in diagnosing lung disease using chest X-ray images. The parameters were carefully tuned with the aid of easy tuning, which was suitable and efficient for the task.

Table3. The hyperparameters employed in Averaged Ensemble Model during training.

Hyperparameter	Value
Loss function	Sparse_Categorical_Crossentropy
Classification function	SoftMax
Batch size	32
epoch	30
Learning rate	1e-6 to 1e-3
range (cyclical)	
Optimizer	Nadam

The training approach of all three ensemble models EfficientNetV2M, InceptionV3, and ResNet50 is a standard architectural pattern with an input layer which is capable of accepting chest X-ray images of dimensions 224×224×3. All models employ a pre-trained convolutional base (EfficientNetV2M, InceptionV3, or ResNet50) with initialization of weights as ImageNet where the top classification layers are removed (include_top=False) for enabling custom fine-tuning. According to the base model, there is Global Average Pooling layer usage to reduce high-dimensional feature maps into high-density feature vectors for generalization and dimensionality reduction. Next, a Dense output layer with softmax activation is added for five-class lung disease classification. The models are trained on Nadam optimizer and Sparse Categorical Crossentropy loss function. In addition to that, an adaptive training learning rate is achieved by using a Triangular Cyclical Learning Rate (TCLR) scheduler. For promoting diversity and robustness, each model type is trained five times with different bootstrap samples of the training data (3,000 images per subset) to produce a bagging ensemble. After being trained, ensemble models are merged using hard voting, where the prediction is the mode of the five models that were each trained independently on the data. The technique improves generalization and classification performance via model diversification as well as data variability. As evident from table 4.

Table 4. The architecture of Bagging Ensemble Model layers and parameters settings

Layer type	Output shape	parameters
input_1 (InputLayer)	[(None, 224, 224, 3)]	0
lambda (Lambda)	(None, 224, 224, 3)	0
efficientnetv2-m (Functional)	(None, 1280)	53150388
dense (Dense)	(None, 5)	6405
Total params: 53156793 (202.78 MB)		
Trainable params: 52864761 (201.66 MB)		
Non-trainable params: 292032 (1.11 MB)		

Table 5: presents the hyperparameters used in Bagging Ensemble Model during training. These hyperparameters are crucial for optimizing the models' performance in lung disease detection from chest X-ray images. The parameters were carefully optimized through convenient tuning, which proved to be suitable and effective for the task.

Table 5: Gives the hyperparameters used in Bagging Ensemble Model for training. The hyperparameters were used to improve the performance of the models in classifying lung diseases in chest X-ray images. The parameters were easy to optimize, which was effective and suitable for the task.

Table5: The hyperparameters employed in Bagging Ensemble Model during training.

Hyperparameter	Value
Loss Function	Sparse_Categorical_Crossentropy
Classification function	SoftMax
Batch size	32
epoch	30
Learning rate range (cyclical)	1e-6 to 1e-3
Optimizer	Nadam

h. Performance Evaluation

The system's performance was evaluated using the following simple measures:

- Accuracy: Ratio of the correctly predicted samples to all samples.
- Precision (Weighted): Weighted average of positive predictive values for classes.
- Recall (Weighted): Weighted average of true positive rates for classes.
- F1-Score (Weighted): Harmonic mean of recall and weighted precision.

Confusion matrix plot was also done to see how the predicted and actual labels are distributed such that discriminative capacity of the model between disease classes can be realized.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The figures in the table show the power of the Ensemble Bootstrap Sampling technique, or "Bagging," when separately used on three contemporary deep neural network models EfficientNetV2M, InceptionV3, and ResNet50 each of which was trained as an ensemble of five models for 30 iterations. Among the models, EfficientNetV2M ensemble bagging scored highest with 91% accuracy, 91.01% precision, 91.16% recall, and 91.05% F1 score. It is extremely sensitive and specific balance-wise and thus extremely robust in multi-class lung disease classification. For a comparison, InceptionV3 ensemble yielded lower values of 90.56% accuracy and 90.50% F1 score, which means similar predictability but lack of robustness. The worst was ResNet50 ensemble with 88% accuracy and 87.63% F1 score, which means relatively poor generalization ability with this ensemble configuration. These outcomes validate that ensemble bagging greatly improves the classifiability and that model architecture exerts an excellent impact on the performance of the overall ensemble. EfficientNetV2M, owing to its scalability and parameterization, is most appropriate to use in ensemble bagging for medical image classification tasks like lung disease detection, as evident from Table 3.

Table 3. Results of bagging ensambling learning model results

Models	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
EfficientNet V2M	91	91.01	91.16	91.05
InceptionV3	90.56	90.50	90.56	90.50
ResNet50	88	87.60	87.80	87.63

Figure 5. Displays EfficientNetV2M model, after bagging via the bagging ensemble technique, shows high classification accuracy and generalizability in multi-class Corona Virus Disease, Normal, Tuberculosis, and Viral Pneumonia detection from chest X-ray images. The model shows excellent accuracy in Corona Virus Disease, Normal, Tuberculosis, and Viral Pneumonia classification with 332 correct classifications. However, there were 65 wrongly classified samples that were identified as Viral Pneumonia, an indication of the challenge of identifying pneumonia subtypes due to radiographic overlap.

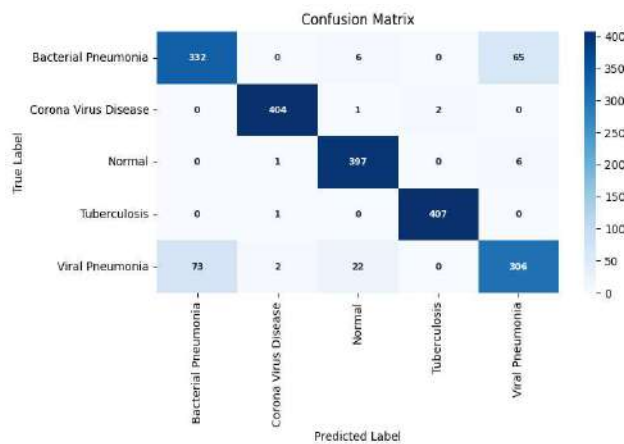


Figure5. Confusion matrix of Ensemble Bootstrap Sampling "Bagging" for EfficientNetV2M model

Figure 6. Shows the InceptionV3 model, Ensemble Bootstrap Sampling "Bagging," accurately identifies five classes of lung diseases from chest X-ray images: Bacterial Pneumonia, Corona Virus Disease, Normal, Tuberculosis, and Viral Pneumonia. There are few misclassifications performed in the class of Viral Pneumonia, suggesting that the model is struggling to separate healthy from bacterial lung images. Despite that, the good performance of the model supports ensemble-based systems for detecting lung diseases.

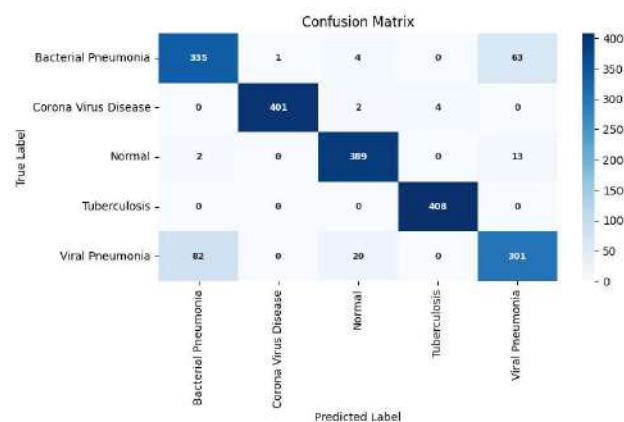


Figure6. Confusion matrix of Ensemble Bootstrap Sampling "Bagging" for InceptionV3 model

Figure7. Depicts The ResNet50 model, employing the Ensemble Bootstrap Sampling "Bagging" method, accurately distinguishes between cases of lung disease into the five categories: Bacterial Pneumonia, Corona Virus Disease, Normal, Tuberculosis, and Viral Pneumonia. It doesn't distinguish, however, between Viral Pneumonia and Bacterial Pneumonia since these have similar radiographic appearances. Such a restriction aside, the bagging method enhances model robustness and maximizes performance across several disease classes.

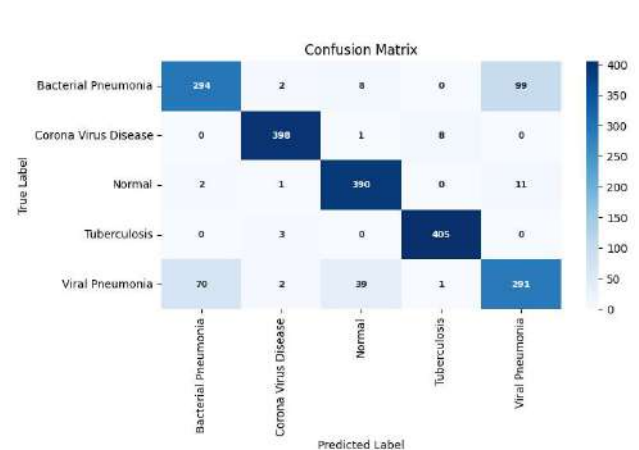


Figure7. Confusion matrix of Ensemble Bootstrap Sampling "Bagging" for ResNet50 model

Averaged ensemble voting approach, or averaged ensemble, is an approach that takes averages of prediction probabilities from different models to make the final prediction. Comparison of performance between different combinations of ensemble of deep learning models for classification of lung disease is reported in tabular form. The best performing combination was EfficientNetV2-M and InceptionV3 with 93% accuracy, 92.5% precision, 93% recall, and 92.5% F1-score. The ensemble of three models i.e., InceptionV3, EfficientNetV2-M, and ResNet50 gave respectable best with 92.14% accuracy and almost similar results for precision and recall. The ensemble of EfficientNetV2-M and ResNet50 gave the accuracy of 92.09% with a slight decline in precision and F1-score. InceptionV3-ResNet50 had the poorest metrics among the ensembles that were run with 91.75% accuracy, precision, and recall. EfficientNetV2-M removal caused a sharp decline in efficiency of classification. as evident from table 4.

Table 4. Averaged Ensemble Model results

Models	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
EfficientNetV2-M + InceptionV3	93	92.5	93	92.5
InceptionV3+ EfficientNetV2-M+ ResNet50	92.14	92.09	92.14	92.09
EfficientNetV2-M+ ResNet50	92.09	92.05	92.09	92.04
InceptionV3+ ResNet50	91.75	91.75	91.75	91.71

Figure8. Presents an ensemble model involving two pre-trained convolutional neural networks, EfficientNetV2-M and InceptionV3, for lung disease classification from chest X-ray images indicates the highest classifying accuracy for all the five classes of diseases. Corona Virus Disease, Normal, and Tuberculosis are distinctly classified with highest feature representation and decision fusion.

Bacterial Pneumonia class, however, indicated good accuracy with 339 correct classifications due to overlapping radiographic features leading to misclassifications.

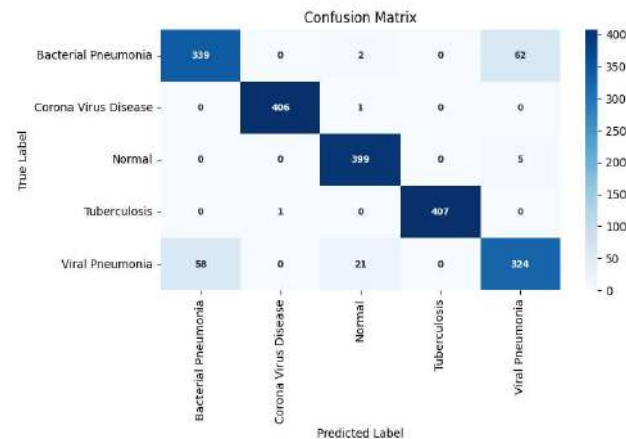


Figure8. Confusion matrix ensemble two pre-trained convolutional neural network models: InceptionV3, EfficientNetV2-M

Figure9. Represents a collection of three pre-trained convolutional neural networks (EfficientNetV2-M, InceptionV3, and ResNet50) for detection of lung diseases from chest X-rays to have enhanced overall performance in the accurate detection of Corona Virus Disease, Normal, and Tuberculosis. 73 cases of Bacterial Pneumonia are, however, labeled as Viral Pneumonia, causing ambiguity in both pneumonia conditions. Although all these problems, the ensemble approach reasonably integrates the strengths of individual models and verifies the performance of ensemble learning in improving the diagnosis accuracy of challenging medical image tasks.

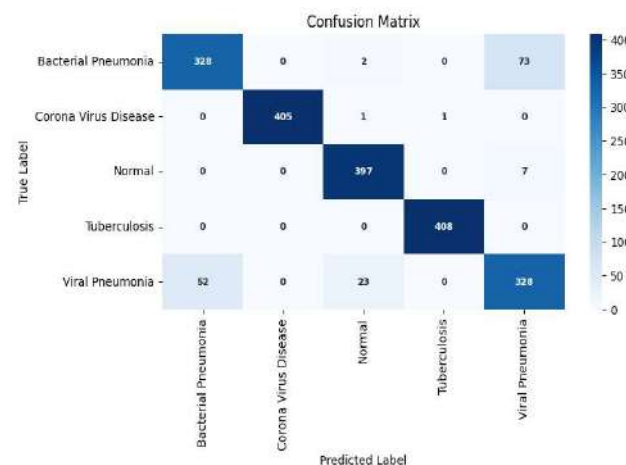


Figure9. Confusion matrix ensemble three pre-trained convolutional neural network models: InceptionV3, EfficientNetV2-M, and ResNet50

Figure10. Illustrates An ensemble model of EfficientNetV2-M and ResNet50 for lung disease classification from chest X-ray images illustrates better accuracy in Tuberculosis, Normal cases, and Corona Virus

Disease diagnosis. Bacterial pneumonia was, however, misclassified in 325 cases, which suggests radiological feature overlap. The model utilizes both models' strength judiciously to enhance generalization and stable diagnosis, and would be a valuable addition to automated systems for lung disease diagnosis. This reflects the challenge of differentiating viral from bacterial infections and normal findings in medical imaging.

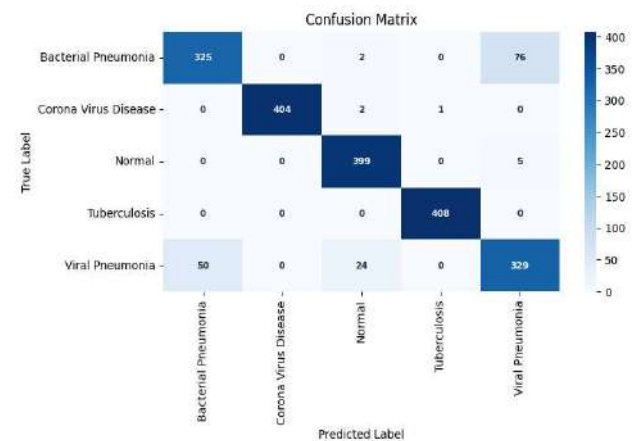


Figure10. Confusion matrix ensemble two pre-trained convolutional neural network models: EfficientNetV2-M, ResNet50

Figure11. Illustrates An ensemble model with InceptionV3 and ResNet50 for lung disease category classification from chest X-ray images showed high diagnostic performance with ideal Tuberculosis classification and close-to-ideal Corona Virus Disease and Normal classification. Bacterial Pneumonia was accurately classified in 322 cases but 79 were misclassified as Viral Pneumonia. Despite such misclassifications, the ensemble method effectively leverages InceptionV3's multi-scale feature extraction capacity and ResNet50's residual deep learning capacity, confirming its proficiency in improving computer-aided lung disease detection systems in clinical practice.

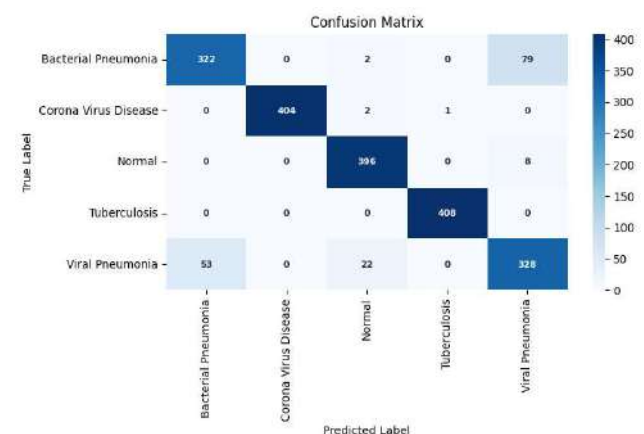


Figure11. Confusion matrix ensemble two pre-trained convolutional neural network models: InceptionV3, ResNet50

Figure12. Demonstrates the converging training curves of accuracy for the three deep learning models: InceptionV3, EfficientNetV2-M, and ResNet50 high capacity to learn, all converging towards 1.0 values. The validation accuracy is very distinct, especially in ResNet50. The performance of both InceptionV3 and EfficientNetV2-M is stable, with EfficientNetV2-M even more stable. The oscillations are caused by overfitting, data imbalance, or batch selection sensitivity of the model. The plot points state that further regularization or fine-tuning can be performed whereby validation accuracy will be more stable and generalization to new data will be better.

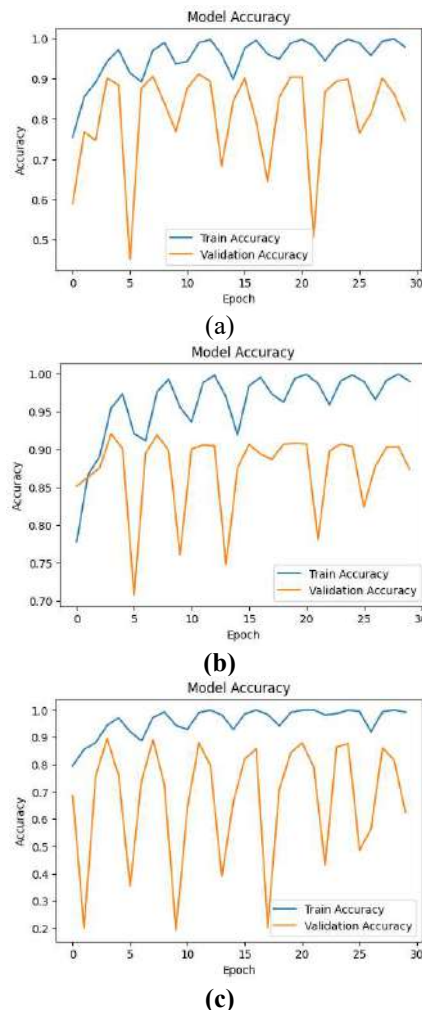


Figure12. Training Model Accuracy (a) InceptionV3 Model, (b) EfficientNetV2-M Model and (c) ResNet50 Model

Figure13. Shows the study contrasted training loss and validation loss patterns of three deep models, namely InceptionV3, EfficientNetV2-M, and ResNet50. The networks all experienced low training loss, indicating good learning. Validation loss became unstable with sudden spikes to symbolize instability. InceptionV3 experienced spikes above 4.0, and EfficientNetV2-M had comparatively more regulated fluctuations. ResNet50 experienced the most instability, with spikes more than 30 for certain epochs. The spikes are indicative of possible overfitting, and this can result from bootstrap sampling sensitivity as

well as validation set noise. EfficientNetV2-M experienced the most constant loss pattern.

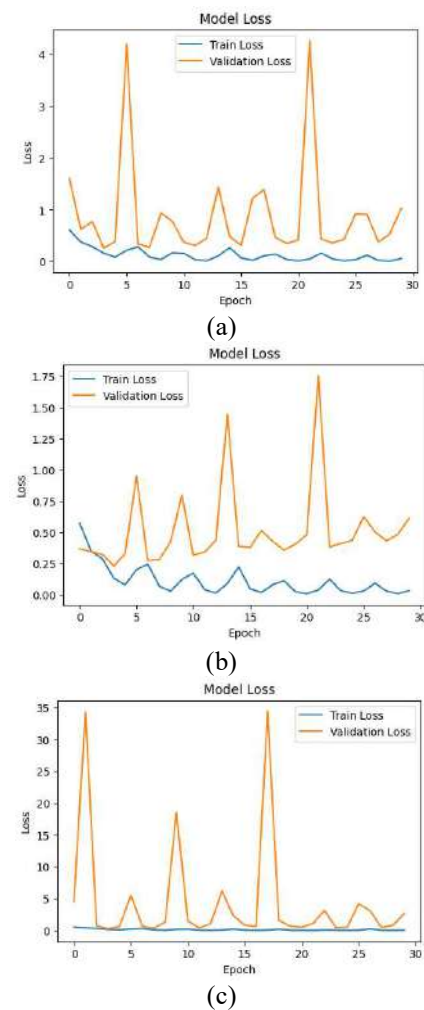


Figure13. Training Model Loss (a) InceptionV3 Model, (b) EfficientNetV2-M Model and (c) ResNet50 Model

IV. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Table 5. offers a comparative The comparison outlined by the table reflects the accuracy of the suggested ensemble methods against state-of-the-art models used for lung disease classification from images of chest X-ray. Previous work offered varying degrees of accuracy depending on the ensemble method, number of classes, and pre-trained models utilized. For example, CNN-LSTM ensemble with VGG16, MobileNet, DenseNet, and InceptionV3 had 89.31% accuracy on six disease classes (Nair & Singh, 2025), while entropy-based ensembles and stacking models of two-class classifications have 81.16% to 92% accuracy (Abad et al., 2024). Hybrid and weighted averages with different architectures such as DenseNet, ResNet, and Inception provided better results with the highest of 91.62% accuracy (Abad et al., 2024). On the contrary, the approach used in this research averaged EfficientNetV2-M and InceptionV3 average ensemble and bagging ensemble of EfficientNetV2-M to be better, particularly in the more difficult five-class case. The accuracy at its best with

averaged ensemble was 93%, while for bagging ensemble it was a 91%, and this is better than most two- and three-class models reported in the literature. These results exhibit the strength of the proposed ensemble approaches for learning dense feature representation and generalization, especially for multi-class lung disease detection from chest X-ray images.

V. CONCLUSION

The study compared two ensemble learning models to classify lung disease from chest X-rays. While the Averaged Ensemble Model employed the soft voting mean of three pre-trained models, the Bagging Ensemble Learning Model employed multiple replicates of the identical model trained over different data sets. The Averaged Ensemble approach was found to outperform due to its architecturally intricate architecture that allowed the models to learn complementary elements and identify different patterns in medical images. An ensemble learning model for accuracy and robustness improvement for lung disease identification was built holistically. The approach made use of the strength of three of the latest pre-trained CNN models EfficientNetV2M, InceptionV3, and ResNet50 coupled with Averaged Multi-Model ensemble (Soft Voting) and bagging ensembling strategies. Soft combination of EfficientNetV2M and InceptionV3 produced the best accuracy of 93.00%, supporting the need of the complementarity of models to ensure diagnostic reliability. The precision of future lung disease detection ensemble learning and clinical utility can be enhanced through the use of attention mechanisms, domain-specific augmentation techniques, synthetic data augmentation techniques, hybrid ensembling techniques, and explainable AI techniques.



Table 5. Comparison results with previous models

Ref.	Ensemble Method	Pretrained Model	Classes	Accuracy	Data Type
[13]	(CNN-LSTM)	CNN-LSTM, VGG16, MobileNet, DenseNet, and InceptionV3	6	89.31%	X-Ray
[14]	Entropy	ResNet50, DenseNet121, Inception, ResNet-v2	2	81.16	X-Ray
[15]	Stacking CNN Models	InceptionResNetV2	2	90.87	X-Ray
[16]	(Hybrid deep learning model)-NN	VGG16, VGG19, ResNet, EfficientNetB0	2	92%	X-Ray
[17]	CheXNet model weighted Averaging	DenseNet, InceptionV3, Xception, Resnet50	2	91.50	X-Ray
[18]	Weighted average ensembling	ResNet-18 and DenseNet-121	2	RSNA 86.85	X-Ray
[19]	weighted average ensembling	DenseNet201, Resnet50V2, Inceptionv3	2	91.62%	X-Ray
[20]	Stacking approach	Custom WRN (Wide Residual Network) VGG-16, InceptionV3, Xception, DenseNet-121, MobileNet-V2	3	90.97	X-Ray
Proposed Method	Averaged ensemble	EfficientNetV2-M+ InceptionV3	5	93	X-Ray
Proposed Method	Bagging	Efficient	5	91	X-Ray

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Innovation in Post-Stroke Rehabilitation: Developing an Educational Application for Family Caregivers

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Abstract – Stroke is a major cause of mortality and disability worldwide, with a rapidly increasing prevalence in Indonesia. Post-stroke patients often experience motor impairment, functional decline, and high dependency on family caregivers. Limited caregiver knowledge and skills often due to insufficient training, lack of access to reliable rehabilitation information, and minimal involvement in patient education during hospital discharge frequently hinder effective rehabilitation, reducing the quality of home care. This study aims to design and develop an audiovisual-based educational application to improve caregiver's competence in assisting post-stroke rehabilitation. The application integrates structured video tutorials covering range of motion exercises, muscle strengthening, balance and coordination training, and daily transfer and ambulation guidance. The Research and Development (R&D) method was employed, as it enables systematic product development through iterative design, expert validation, and user testing to ensure the educational application is both affective and feasible for practical use. This approach is considered the most appropriate for developing and evaluating innovative educational media compared to purely observational or experimental methods. Expert judgment using the Content Validity Index (CVI) indicated high validity with an S-CVI/Ave score of 0.90, confirming the application's feasibility as an educational medium. With a user-friendly interface and comprehensive multimedia content, the application provides practical knowledge accessible anytime and anywhere. The findings suggest that this innovation effectively supports caregiver education, enhances patient independence, and promotes better rehabilitation outcomes. Overall, the development of this application highlights the potential of digital health solutions in bridging gaps in post-stroke care and improving survivor's quality of life.

Keywords – Caregiver; Educational Application; Rehabilitation; Stroke

I. INTRODUCTION

Stroke is a major global health burden and remains one of the leading causes of mortality and disability worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), stroke ranks among the top three causes of death and long-term disability, with a prevalence that continues to rise across different regions, including Asia [1]. In Indonesia, the 2018 Basic Health Research (Riskesdas) reported that stroke prevalence increased significantly from 7 per 1,000 population in 2013 to 10.9 per 1,000 population in 2018, indicating a growing number of individuals living with post-stroke complications [2]. The increasing incidence of stroke underscores the urgent need for effective rehabilitation and family-centered care strategies to improve patient's quality of life.

Post-stroke individuals often experience various complications, such as motor impairment, communication disorders, dysphagia, visual disturbances, and psychological issues, including depression, which can hinder rehabilitation outcomes [3][4][5]. Functional limitations make it difficult for patients to perform daily activities independently, leading to long-term dependency on family members or caregivers [6]. Caregivers thus play a crucial role not only in supporting basic needs but also in providing motivation, emotional support, and assistance with rehabilitation exercises [7][8]. Stroke not only impacts the patient but also creates challenges for families, especially caregivers, who play an essential role in

supporting rehabilitation and daily activities [9]. However, many caregivers face challenges due to limited knowledge and preparedness, particularly when patients are discharged from hospitals [10]. This knowledge gap can negatively affect the rehabilitation process and patient's overall recovery [11].

In response to these challenges, technological advancements have significantly transformed healthcare delivery. The rise of digital health, telemedicine, and mobile health applications has enabled the integration of education, monitoring, and rehabilitation services into accessible platforms. Digital transformation allows caregivers and patients to overcome barriers of distance, cost, and limited access to healthcare facilities, while also providing continuous support and evidence-based guidance [12]. The advancement of digital health technology provides opportunities to develop innovative learning media in the form of mobile applications. Mobile health (mHealth) applications have been shown to support health promotion, patient monitoring, and caregiver education effectively [13][14]. Several studies confirm that mobile-based education can improve health literacy, treatment adherence, and self-management among both patients and caregivers [15]. Recent studies have shown that telerehabilitation and audiovisual-based interventions can effectively enhance knowledge, promote exercise adherence, and support functional recovery in post-stroke patients [16][17]. The emergence of health applications illustrates how innovation in information technology can directly improve patient outcomes and caregiver competence [18].



Despite these promising developments, existing studies mainly focus on general stroke management or secondary prevention, with limited attention to caregiver-focused educational applications targeting functional rehabilitation, such as range of motion (ROM), balance, coordination, and transfer activities [19][20]. Therefore, there is a clear research gap in developing tailored digital interventions for stroke caregivers.

To address this gap, the present study aims to design and develop an educational application specifically for caregivers of post-stroke individuals. The application developed for Android devices using Figma for interface design and Android Studio for implementation. It features a structured menu containing audiovisual instructional materials on range of motion (ROM), muscle strengthening, balance and coordination, and transfer or ambulation guidance. Each module includes step by step video demonstrations, text explanations, and interactive reminders to assist caregivers in practicing rehabilitation activities at home. The application also includes a progress tracking feature that allows caregivers to record completed sessions, helping them monitor patient improvement. With its simple and intuitive interface, the app is designed to be easily accessible for users with limited digital experience, promoting better understanding and adherence to rehabilitation routines. The application integrates audiovisual instructional materials on rehabilitation exercises and daily mobility assistance, with the goal of enhancing caregiver's knowledge and skills. By strengthening caregiver education, this innovation is expected to improve the quality of home-based care, promote patient independence, and ultimately optimize post-stroke rehabilitation outcomes.

Therefore, this study adopts the Research and Development (R&D) approach as its methodological framework. The R&D method is designed to develop and validate educational products through a systematic process involving needs analysis, design, expert validation, revision, and testing [21][22]. This approach is appropriate for creating and evaluating innovative educational media such as digital health applications, ensuring that the final product is both effective and feasible for practical use.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs the *Research and Development* (R&D) method. R&D is a systematic approach used to design new products, develop specific innovations, or refine and improve the quality of existing products [21][22]. The primary aim of this method is to generate innovations that provide meaningful benefits to society. The R&D process involves several stages, including problem or opportunity identification, design planning, product development, and implementation through evaluation or production [22]. This method emphasizes a structured and well-defined procedure, utilizes creativity and innovation to find solutions, and incorporates feasibility testing to ensure the practicality

and effectiveness of the developed product or innovation [23].

The application developed in this study is a mobile health application (m-Health app) designed for Android smartphones. It is categorized as a health education and monitoring tool that provides information and guidance for stroke survivors and their family caregivers in order to prevent recurrent stroke. Participants can access the application through their Android devices after installing the APK file. The file was shared by the research team through a secure link (Google Drive) [24].

The development phase began with designing the application interface using Figma, followed by coding and system integration through Visual Studio Code and Android Studio, while MySQL was used for database management. The educational content consisted of audiovisual materials, including instructional videos on Range of Motion (ROM), balance, coordination, strength training, and daily transfer techniques.

Expert validation was conducted by physiotherapy professionals and media specialists to ensure the feasibility and appropriateness of the application. Revisions were made based on expert feedback, and the product was further tested in a small-scale trial involving caregivers to evaluate usability and user satisfaction. Data from expert reviews and trials were analyzed descriptively to determine the feasibility of the application as an educational tool.

The development of this educational application for post-stroke caregivers was undertaken by researchers in collaboration with Informatics Engineering students at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, who contributed to the coding and system design process. The application development followed several systematic stages, including interface design, programming, and integration of educational video content into the system. The implementation period was planned for six months, from September 2024 to February 2025. This application serves as a digital platform that provides structured instructions and audiovisual materials to enhance caregiver's knowledge and skills in post-stroke management. The educational content includes range of motion exercises, muscle strengthening, balance and coordination training, as well as daily transfer and ambulation techniques aimed at supporting optimal recovery and functional independence of stroke survivors.

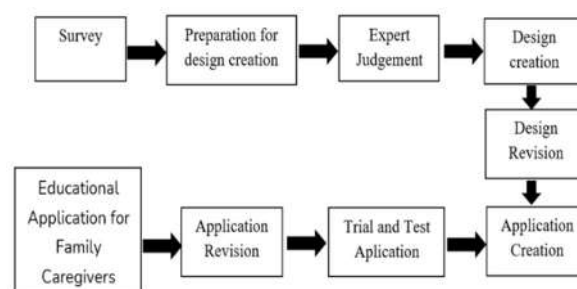


Figure 1. Flow of Application Creation Stages

The development process of the educational application followed several systematic stages, as illustrated in Figure 1. The process began with a survey stage, which aimed to identify the needs of post-stroke caregivers through literature review and preliminary observation. This stage helped determine the caregiver's knowledge gaps, difficulties in rehabilitation assistance, and preferred learning media. The next stage was preparation for design creation, where the conceptual framework and storyboard of the application were developed based on the survey results. Educational materials were selected from validated physiotherapy resources and organized into an audiovisual format suitable for mobile learning.

The expert judgement stage involved validation by physiotherapy and educational technology experts to assess the accuracy, clarity, and suitability of the content and interface design. Afterward, the design creation stage was carried out using Figma to produce a user-friendly interface, followed by the design revision stage, in which improvements were made according to expert feedback regarding layout, navigation, and instructional flow. The subsequent application creation stage involved coding and system integration using Android Studio, Visual Studio Code, and MySQL to combine visual design, database, and video content into a functional application. Once the prototype was built, the application revision stage focused on debugging and fine tuning to enhance usability and remove technical errors. Finally, the trial and testing stage was conducted with a small group of caregivers to evaluate the app's accessibility, ease of use, and satisfaction level, providing feedback that confirmed its feasibility as an educational tool for post-stroke rehabilitation.

The design stage was carried out to create the application's interface so that users could easily navigate and engage with the educational application features provided. The next stage was coding, which was performed by programming experts, in this stage, the researcher was assisted by Informatics Engineering students to process data using programming languages interpretable by computers. The final stage was data input, in which educational videos were integrated into the system to ensure that they could be accessed and displayed properly when the application is used. Here are some of functions in the application:

Table 1. Feature and Function

Feature	Function
Educational Videos	Provide step-by-step audiovisual guidance for caregivers on post-stroke care.
Transfer and Ambulation Training	Teach caregivers safe techniques to assist patients in daily mobility activities.
Range of Motion (ROM) Exercises	Demonstrate passive and active ROM exercises to prevent stiffness and maintain joint mobility.
Muscle Strengthening Exercises	Provide structured training to improve muscle strength in stroke survivors.
Balance and Coordination Exercises	Offer guided exercises to improve postural control and coordination.

User-Friendly Interface	Ensure that the application is easy to navigate for caregivers with minimal technical skills.
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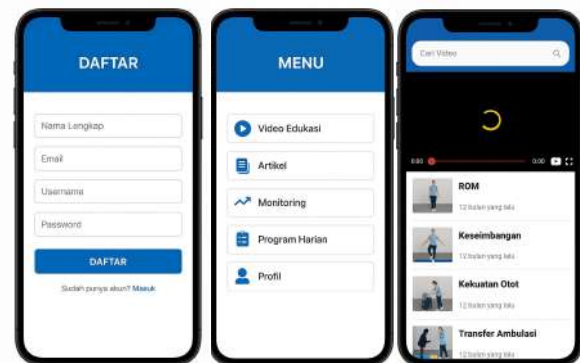


Figure 2. Display of Features Application

Figure 2 shows the display of several main features of the post-stroke caregiver educational application. The first page illustrates the registration form, where users are required to enter personal information such as full name, username, email, and password to create an account. After registration, users are directed to the main menu page, which provides access to several important features. The third display highlights the educational video feature, where caregivers can access audiovisual materials related to physiotherapy for post-stroke individuals. These videos contain practical demonstrations, such as range of motion (ROM) exercises, strengthening, and transfer techniques. The fourth display shows the educational article menu, which provides written materials and structured information about stroke, early detection (FAST screening), rehabilitation programs, and exercise guidelines.

Caregivers begin by registering an account through the registration page. Once logged in, they can navigate the main menu to select the desired feature. For daily learning, caregivers can watch educational videos by selecting the Exercise or Rehabilitation menu. In addition, they can read educational articles for a deeper understanding of stroke management. The *Monitoring* and *Home Program* features allow caregivers to apply the knowledge in daily care routines and keep track of patient progress. Through this structured flow, the application supports caregivers in both theoretical understanding and practical implementation of post-stroke care.

The educational application for post-stroke caregivers was validated through expert judgment using the Content Validity Index (CVI). A total of three validators participated, consisting of 1 media experts (Informatics) and 2 material experts (Physiotherapy). The Content Validity Index (CVI) is widely used to evaluate the relevance, clarity, and appropriateness of items in health-related instruments or applications [23]. By applying CVI, researchers can guarantee that the developed application meets scientific and clinical standards.

Table 2. Result of CVI

Item	Expert 1	Expert 2	Expert 3	Expert in Agreement	I-CVI	UA
P1	1	1	1	3	1	1
P2	1	1	1	3	1	1
P3	1	1	1	3	1	1
P4	1	1	1	3	1	1
P5	1	1	0	2	0.67	0
P6	1	0	1	2	0.67	0
P7	1	1	1	3	1	1
P8	1	1	1	3	1	1
P9	1	0	1	2	0.67	0
P10	1	1	1	3	1	1
S-CVI/Ave					0.90	
S-CVI/UA						0.70

The expert validation of the post-stroke caregiver educational application was analyzed using the Content Validity Index (CVI) method. Based on the assessment of three validators, the results showed an S-CVI/Ave of 0.90, indicating that, on average, the items in the application demonstrated a very high level of content validity. Meanwhile, the S-CVI/UA value was 0.70, which means that 70% of the items were fully agreed upon by all experts, while a few items required minor revisions. These findings confirm that the application's content, both in terms of physiotherapy materials and media display, is aligned with the required standards. Therefore, the application is considered valid and feasible to be used as an educational tool to improve caregiver's knowledge and skills in providing post-stroke care.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The development process of the mobile health application involved several tools and platforms. Android Studio was used as the primary Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for building the Android prototype, while Visual Studio Code supported additional coding and interface adjustments. For data management, MySQL was implemented to handle user information and application content stored in the backend database. Figures 3-5 illustrate the working environment of the development tools used in this study.

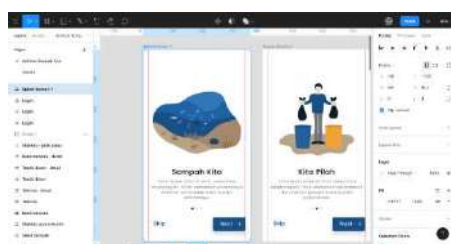


Figure 3. Figma

Figure 3 shows the interface design process using Figma, which was utilized to create user interface layouts and visualize the navigation structure of the mobile application.

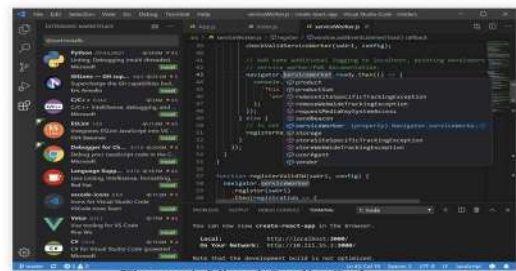


Figure 4. Visual Studio Code

Figure 4 presents the coding and interface adjustment process using Visual Studio Code, which supported the integration of multimedia content and improved system functionality.

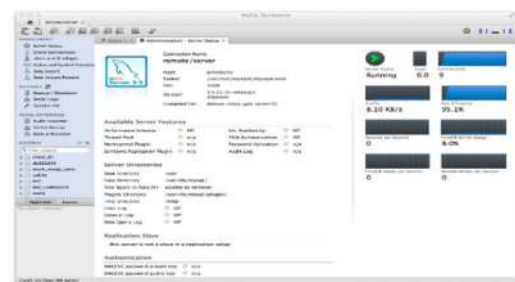


Figure 5. MySQL

Figure 5 illustrates the data management process using MySQL, which was applied to store user information and application content in the backend database.

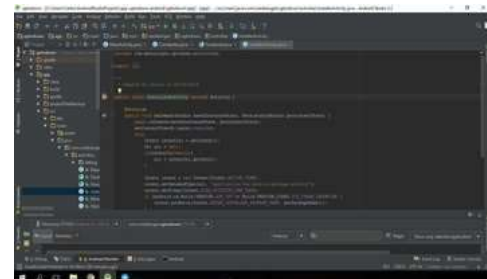


Figure 6. Android Studio

Figure 6 shows the Android Studio environment used as the primary Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for building and testing the mobile application prototype. This platform facilitated interface design, coding, and debugging processes to ensure optimal functionality of the educational application.

The development of an audiovisual-based educational application for post stroke caregivers resulted in a product with structured content on range of motion (ROM), strengthening, balance, coordination, and transfer training. The expert validation using the Content Validity Index (CVI) demonstrated a high level of feasibility, with an S-CVI/Ave of 0.90 and an S-CVI/UA of 0.70. These findings indicate that the application content is relevant, clear, and appropriate for use as an

educational medium to support caregiver competence in post-stroke care.

To further illustrate the validation outcomes, the detailed results of the expert assessment are presented in Table 1. The table shows the item-wise analysis of material and media aspects evaluated by experts. Most items obtained I-CVI values above 0.80, indicating a strong level of agreement regarding the accuracy of physiotherapy materials and the usability of the interface. These findings confirm that the application is both valid and feasible as an educational medium for family caregivers.

Table 3 Expert Validation Result of the Educational Application

Aspect	Num ber of Items	I-CVI Range	Mean I-CVI	S-CVI /Ave	S-CVI UA	Cate gory
Material (Physio therapy Content)	5	0.80- 1.00	0.92	0.90	0.70	Very Valid
Media (Inter face) & Design)	5	0.75- 1.00	0.88	0.89	0.68	Valid
Total Average	10	-	0.90	0.90	0.70	Highly Valid & Fea- sible

The results in Table 1 align with the quantitative findings of the CVI analysis, reinforcing that the developed audiovisual based educational application meets the required standards of accuracy, clarity, and usability for post-stroke caregiver education.

The high CVI scores suggest that both media and material aspects of the application meet professional standards, ensuring that caregivers can easily access reliable rehabilitation information. This aligns with previous studies reporting that mobile health interventions enhance health literacy and self-efficacy in caregivers [15][20]. Similarly, audiovisual-based education has been shown to improve adherence to rehabilitation exercises and knowledge retention among family caregivers [17].

Compared with earlier mobile health innovations that primarily focused on stroke prevention [19], the present application is specifically tailored to functional rehabilitation at home, filling an important gap in caregiver education. This distinction highlights its novelty and potential impact in empowering families to deliver effective rehabilitation support. The integration of video-based demonstrations is particularly valuable, as visual learning facilitates better comprehension of exercise techniques than text-based resources alone [13].

Moreover, the inclusion of daily transfer and ambulation guidance addresses practical challenges caregivers often face, which are rarely emphasized in existing applications.

From a boarder perspective, the findings of this study support the role of digital health in bridging accessibility barriers for stroke rehabilitation, especially in low-resource settings. By enabling continuous caregiver education, the application may contribute to improved patient independence and reduced caregiver burden. This aligns with the global trend of digital transformation in health services [18].

The results confirm that the developed application is a valid, feasible, and innovative educational tool. Its focus on functional rehabilitation, combined with audiovisual delivery, distinguishes it from previous studies and demonstrates significant potential to enhance post-stroke care at home. Future large-scale trials are warranted to evaluate its effectiveness in improving clinical outcomes and caregiver preparedness.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study developed an educational application for post-stroke caregivers using the Research and Development (R&D) method, consisting of interface design, coding, and integration of educational videos on ROM, strengthening, balance, coordination, and transfer training. The expert judgment results using the Content Validity Index (CVI) showed an S-CVI/Ave of 0.90 and an S-CVI/UA of 0.70, indicating that the application is valid and feasible as an educational medium. With its user-friendly interface and comprehensive multimedia features, the application provides caregivers with accessible knowledge and practical guidance to support patient rehabilitation at home. Therefore, this application is considered an innovative tool to enhance caregiver skills, promote patient independence, and improve the quality of life of stroke survivors. For future research, further development could involve expanding the application's content to include more comprehensive rehabilitation modules, integrating real-time feedback features, and testing its effectiveness through larger clinical trials. Additionally, collaboration with healthcare institutions may help to enhance usability and ensure broader accessibility for stroke caregivers.

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Comparative Analysis of Machine Learning Methods in Predicting Diabetes Risk Based on Genetic Data

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Abstract – Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) is a global chronic disease caused by the interaction of genetic and environmental factors. The use of genetic data offers great potential for early detection and personalized intervention. However, the complex analysis of genetic data requires sophisticated approaches like machine learning. This study aims to compare the performance of three machine learning algorithms Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) in predicting T2DM risk based on genetic data. By using a Systematic Literature Review of studies published between 2019 and 2024, the accuracy data from each algorithm was compared. The analysis results show that Random Forest has the best performance with an accuracy of 99.3%. This algorithm excels due to its ability to handle high-dimensional datasets and reduce overfitting. In comparison, KNN achieved an accuracy of 87% and Logistic Regression 82%. These findings support the integration of machine learning into early detection systems and more precise and efficient clinical decision-making for T2DM management.

Keywords – Type 2 Diabetes; Machine Learning; Random Forest; Logistic Regression; K-Nearest Neighbors; Genetic Data

I. INTRODUCTION

Type 2 Diabetes is a chronic disease that is currently one of the major global health problems. This metabolic disease, known as type 2 diabetes mellitus, has various etiologies and is characterized by high blood sugar levels. This condition also leads to abnormalities in carbohydrate, fat, and protein metabolism due to inadequate insulin function. Insulin plays a vital role in maintaining stable blood sugar levels and helping body cells absorb glucose [1]. According to data from the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) in 2021, 537 million adults aged 20–79 worldwide suffer from diabetes. This number is projected to increase to 643 million by 2030 and 783 million by 2045. Risk factors contributing to this disease include age, gender, obesity, hypertension, genetics, diet, and lifestyle [2]. Indonesia ranks fifth as the country with the most diabetes sufferers in the world, with 19.5 million cases in 2021 and an estimated 28.6 million cases by 2045.

The pathophysiology of type 2 diabetes primarily involves two mechanisms: insulin resistance and progressive pancreatic beta-cell dysfunction [3]. Insulin resistance is a condition in which the body's cells, especially in vital organs such as the liver, muscles, and fat tissue, do not respond effectively to insulin. This disorder leads to an increase in blood glucose levels or hyperglycemia, which prompts the pancreas to produce more insulin (hyperinsulinemia) as a compensatory response. Insulin resistance is often triggered by the accumulation of visceral fat, a sedentary lifestyle, and unhealthy eating habits [4].

In the field of artificial intelligence, Machine Learning (ML) is a branch that allows a system to learn from data and then make predictions or decisions without being explicitly programmed [5]. In the health sector, ML plays a

crucial role in diagnosing diseases, predicting risks, and personalizing treatment therapies [6]. ML is ideal for analyzing genetic data due to its ability to identify complex patterns and non-linear relationships among diverse genetic features [7]. Specifically in predicting diseases like diabetes, ML algorithms can be used to identify high-risk individuals by analyzing genetic data and other factors, enabling earlier prevention and management efforts.

Type 2 diabetes is a complex condition resulting from the interaction between genetic and environmental factors. In recent years, several genetic variants have been identified that can increase the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Mutations in certain genes, which are often found in individuals with a family history of type 2 diabetes mellitus, play an important role in glucose metabolism and insulin regulation. These changes can cause dysfunction in insulin secretion and cell resistance to it [8]-[3]. Some genes that have been identified to be linked to type 2 diabetes include:

- Gen TCF7L2: plays a role in the process of insulin secretion.
- Gen ABCC8: helps regulate insulin.
- Gen GLUT2: supports glucose uptake in the pancreas.
- Gen GCGR: involved in glucose regulation along with the hormone glucagon.

In addition, the CAPN10 gene has been linked to the incidence of type 2 diabetes mellitus, especially in populations in America, Mexico, and the Javanese ethnic group in Indonesia [9]. Changes in these genes can affect various biological processes, including glucose metabolism, sensitivity, and insulin secretion by pancreatic beta cells [10]. Therefore, using genetic data to predict diabetes risk opens up great opportunities for the



development of early detection strategies and personalized interventions.

Genetic data has high complexity due to its characteristics, such as large size and non-linear interactions between genes or significant variation among individuals. Therefore, the analysis of genetic data requires a careful and sophisticated approach, such as the use of Machine Learning (ML) techniques.

ML, as a branch of Artificial Intelligence, is a field of science that focuses on the application and development of algorithms that enable computers to adapt and learn from empirical data [11]. Its ability to process complex data makes ML an ideal method for analyzing genetic data.

This research has high relevance in the era of global health technology, where data-based risk prediction is a key focus in the development of health systems that adopt a precision medicine approach. Early detection in high-risk individuals can facilitate the implementation of more efficient and effective preventive measures [12]. This approach not only has the potential to alleviate the economic burden associated with treatment but also to improve the overall quality of life of the community [13].

Based on this background, this study aims to conduct a comparative analysis of the performance of three machine learning algorithms, namely Logistic Regression, Random Forest, and K-Nearest Neighbors, in predicting the risk of type 2 diabetes using genetic data.

Logistic Regression is one of the machine learning algorithms used for classification tasks. This algorithm is a special form of regression analysis that uses a binary response variable and predictors that can be continuous, categorical, or a mixture of both [14]. The advantage of this analysis is that it does not require assumptions of normal multivariate distribution or equality of the covariance matrix, and can be applied to various data scales [15].

Random Forest is a machine learning technique that combines several decision trees to make predictions [16]. Each tree in this model is built separately, using a randomly selected subset of the training data. The predictions generated by each tree are then combined to produce a final prediction [17].

K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) is a non-parametric classification algorithm that classifies a sample based on its proximity to other samples in the feature space. This algorithm is generally used to classify objects based on training data that has the closest distance to its "neighbors". This proximity can be calculated using Euclidean distance [18].

This research project was carried out systematically by reviewing literature published between 2019–2024. The purpose of this review is to gain a deep understanding of the effectiveness of each algorithm under various conditions and datasets. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the development of accurate and flexible genetic data-based prediction systems that are adaptable to population trends. In addition, this analysis also supports the integration of machine learning technology into a precise clinical decision-making system,

thus helping in the early detection and prevention of diseases more optimally.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method used is a Systematic Literature Review (SLR), which is a structured approach to collecting, identifying, and evaluating articles or research relevant to a specific topic [19]. This method was chosen because it has several important advantages over traditional literature reviews.

The SLR (Systematic Literature Review) method allows research to reduce bias because the process follows strict and transparent protocols at every stage, from searching to data analysis. This differs from narrative literature reviews, which are often subjective and do not have standard selection criteria [20]. By applying clear inclusion and exclusion criteria, SLR can increase the validity and reliability of the findings. The results also become more reliable and can be replicated by other researchers.

The choice of the SLR (Systematic Literature Review) method is very effective for providing a comprehensive synthesis of existing research, answering research questions in depth, and helping to identify research gaps that can be the basis for future studies [21].

The overall research flow can be illustrated through the flowchart in Figure 1. Figure 1 presents a comprehensive overview of all stages of this research methodology, which uses the SLR approach. Each step is designed to ensure the research process runs systematically and objectively, in order to obtain accurate and accountable results.



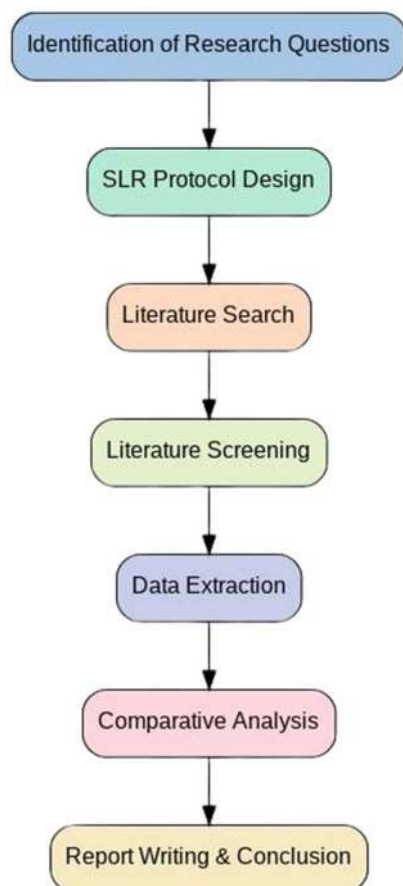


Figure. 1 Research flow diagram

The detailed explanation for each stage in the research flowchart is as follows:

1. **Identification of Research Questions:** This first stage forms the foundation of the entire research. Here, the research questions are formulated specifically and clearly. These questions serve as the main guide for the literature search and analysis process that will be conducted.
2. **SLR Protocol Design:** At this stage, the researcher establishes a strict and transparent process to ensure the article screening process runs systematically. This protocol includes inclusion criteria (articles to be included) and exclusion criteria (articles to be excluded) that will be used to filter articles, thereby increasing the validity and reliability of the findings. Below is a summary of the criteria used:

Table 1. Table Inclusion and Exclusion

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Timeframe	Scientific journals published between 2019-2024.	Journals published outside the 2019-2024 range.
Topic	Studies applying	Studies that do

	Logistic Regression, Random Forest, or K-Nearest Neighbors algorithms for type 2 diabetes risk prediction.	not discuss these three algorithms or do not focus on diabetes risk prediction.
Data Source	Journals from leading academic databases such as Google Scholar and ResearchGate.	Publications not from these specified academic databases.

3. **Literature Search:** Based on the designed protocol, a literature search is conducted in several leading academic databases, such as Google Scholar and ResearchGate. These databases were chosen because they provide access to a wide range of scientific journals relevant to computer science and data science topics, ensuring a comprehensive and systematic literature review. The search is performed using a combination of specific keywords to effectively filter the results [22].
4. **Literature Screening:** In this stage, the articles found are filtered according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria set in the previous stage.
5. **Data Extraction:** The data analyzed in this study did not come from direct experiments, but rather from reviews of scientific journals published over the past five years (2019-2024). Each reviewed journal contains the results of applying the three algorithms to genetic datasets for diabetes risk prediction.

The datasets commonly used in the analyzed journals include clinical and genetic attributes, such as:

- Number of pregnancies
- Glucose levels
- Blood pressure
- Skin thickness
- Insulin levels
- Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Diabetes pedigree function
- Age
- Diabetes status (outcome)

These attributes are used as input variables in the machine learning model training process [23]. The accuracy data from each method is then compared to determine the algorithm with the best performance in predicting diabetes risk based on genetic data.

6. **Comparative Analysis:** In this stage, the data extracted from the selected articles will be

analyzed and compared to evaluate the performance of the three machine learning algorithms: Random Forest, K-Nearest Neighbors, and Logistic Regression. This analysis will focus on key performance metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. The results of this comparison will form the basis for determining which algorithm demonstrates the most optimal performance in predicting type 2 diabetes risk.

7. **Report Writing & Conclusion:** The final stage of this research flow is the preparation of the report and the formulation of a conclusion. All findings obtained from the Comparative Analysis stage will be synthesized and presented systematically to answer the research questions established at the beginning. This report will include an in-depth discussion of the algorithm performance comparison results, interpretation of each finding, and the formulation of concise and solid conclusions. Additionally, this section will also contain suggestions for future research as a contribution to the advancement of knowledge.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on a comprehensive literature study and analysis of the performance of each machine learning method in predicting diabetes risk based on genetic data, the comparative results presented in Table 1 were obtained.

Table 2. Comparison of Machine Learning Algorithm Performance

Model	Accuracy	Recall	Pesisi	F1-Score
Random Forest [24].	99,3%	99,5%	99,1%	99%
KNN [25].	87%	77%	95%	85%
Logistic Regression [26]	82%	79%	81%	80%

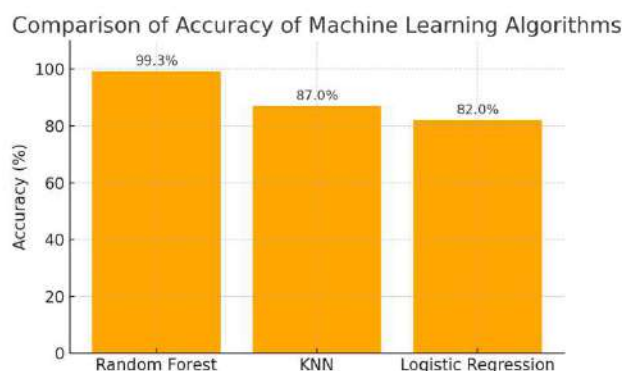


Figure. 2 Algorithm Performance Comparison Bar Chart.

As depicted in Table 2 and Figure 2, from the results displayed, it is clear that the Random Forest (RF) shows the most superior performance in predicting diabetes risk. With an accuracy of 99.3%, RF significantly outperforms K-

Nearest Neighbors (KNN) at 87% and Logistic Regression (LR) at 82%. This superior performance is also reflected in its other metrics, such as recall (99.5%), precision (99.1%), and F1-score (99%).

The main advantage of Random Forest (RF) is its ability to handle complex, high-dimensional datasets, such as genetic data, while minimizing the problem of overfitting. This occurs because the algorithm combines the results from many decision trees to produce a more stable and accurate prediction. The high recall and precision values indicate that the RF model is highly effective. It is not only proven accurate in identifying individuals at risk of diabetes (positive cases) but also capable of accurately distinguishing them from healthy individuals.

In contrast, K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), although achieving high precision at 95%, shows a lower recall value of 77%. This indicates that while KNN is quite effective at identifying positive cases, it has limitations in its sensitivity to minority data or underrepresented cases in the dataset. This limitation can be a drawback in clinical scenarios, where high sensitivity is crucial to avoid potentially harmful false negatives.

Meanwhile, Logistic Regression (LR) shows the lowest performance among the three algorithms, with an accuracy of 82%. Nevertheless, LR has an important advantage: its ease of interpretation. In a medical context, understanding the predictor factors is crucial. A well-interpretable model, like LR, allows doctors to understand each variable's contribution to predicting diabetes risk.

It is important to note, however, that the variation in performance of Logistic Regression and K-Nearest Neighbors in this study could be due to differences in dataset characteristics, such as sample size, data attributes used, or patient population. Overall, the results of this discussion reaffirm the main findings of literature studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of machine learning algorithms in genetic data analysis for clinical purposes. Random Forest proves to be the most optimal choice for type 2 diabetes risk prediction, and this finding directly addresses the research objectives set.

IV. CONCLUSION

Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus is a complex global health challenge where early detection through genetic data analysis is crucial. This study, using a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach, aimed to evaluate and compare the performance of machine learning algorithms as a predictive solution. The analysis confirms the main finding that the Random Forest algorithm achieves the highest accuracy at 99.3%. Additionally, Random Forest also shows very high recall, precision, and F1-scores, all above 99%. This superiority is due to its excellent ability to classify data accurately and consistently, especially when handling high-dimensional datasets and minimizing overfitting.

For comparison, K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) shows good performance in terms of precision (95%) but has limitations with a lower recall (77%). This indicates that

while effective at identifying positive cases, its sensitivity to minority data is limited. Meanwhile, although Logistic Regression (LR) has lower accuracy (82%), this algorithm remains relevant due to its advantage in model interpretation. This capability is very important in prediction cases that require a high understanding of the factors contributing to the outcome.

Overall, this research demonstrates that the integration of Machine Learning, particularly Random Forest, into genetic data analysis has great potential for developing more precise and efficient early detection systems and clinical decision-making in managing type 2 diabetes. For future research, there are several suggestions that can be explored further to strengthen the validity and contribution of these findings. It is recommended to validate the existing models with more diverse genetic datasets, from different populations or larger and more detailed clinical data centers to ensure the models generalizability and robustness.

Second, subsequent studies should focus on methodological refinement. This includes exploring more advanced Machine Learning algorithms, such as Deep Learning (e.g., Convolutional Neural Networks or Recurrent Neural Networks), which may better capture complex interactions within genetic features, as well as incorporating sophisticated feature selection methods to further enhance predictive performance and model interpretability.

Finally, a long-term goal would be the development of a user-friendly clinical decision support system prototype based on the validated model. Such a system could enable clinicians to directly utilize this genetic risk prediction tool in real-time healthcare settings, facilitating personalized and preventative management of type 2 diabetes.

Furthermore, the exploration of more advanced feature selection methods can identify the genes or attributes most contributing to diabetes risk, making the models not only more efficient but also more interpretable. Finally, a comparison of Random Forest's performance with increasingly popular Deep Learning algorithms, such as Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) or Recurrent Neural Network (RNN), can be conducted to explore the potential for higher performance, especially in handling complex gene interactions that traditional models might not capture.

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Interpretable Ensemble-Based Intrusion Detection Using Feature Selection on the ToN_IoT Dataset

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Abstract – With the rapid growth of IoT, securing interconnected devices against cyber threats has become critical. IoT datasets such as ToN-IoT are often high-dimensional, which poses challenges for efficient and accurate intrusion detection. Moreover, interpretable models are essential to help security analysts understand and trust automated decisions. Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) powered by machine learning offer promising solutions, especially when trained on realistic datasets such as ToN_IoT. However, achieving a balance between high accuracy, computational efficiency, and model interpretability remains a challenge. This study proposes an efficient and interpretable IDS framework for binary classification using the ToN_IoT dataset, aiming to identify the optimal feature selection method and ensemble learning model while leveraging explainable artificial intelligence to interpret model decisions. A quantitative experimental approach was adopted, applying and comparing Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) for feature selection, and evaluating the performance of LightGBM, XGBoost, and Random Forest classifiers using Accuracy, F1-score, Precision, Recall, and training time. RFE outperformed PCA, identifying 11 key features, and LightGBM emerged as the top-performing model with an accuracy of 99.72%, demonstrating both speed and strong generalization. SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) was used to generate summary plots for global feature importance, enhancing the transparency and interpretability of IDS decisions. Overall, the combination of RFE and LightGBM resulted in a high-performing and explainable IDS framework, underscoring the importance of strategic feature selection and model choice. Compared to existing IDS approaches on the ToN-IoT dataset, our proposed framework not only achieves higher accuracy but also provides a rapid and lightweight solution. Additionally, by incorporating SHAP for feature importance analysis, our approach ensures clear model interpretability, allowing security analysts to understand and trust the system's decisions. This combination of high performance, efficiency, and explainability highlights the practical advantages of our method over previous work. Future research will extend this framework to support multiclass classification and online learning for real-time threat detection.

Keywords – *LightGBM, Intrusion Detection System, XAI, SHAP, Ensemble Learning, RFE*

I. INTRODUCTION

The proliferation of the Internet of Things (IoT) has revolutionized modern computing environments by enabling seamless interconnectivity between smart devices. However, this digital transformation has introduced severe cybersecurity vulnerabilities, particularly in critical infrastructure systems where reliability and security are paramount. Recent reports indicate that IoT-malware attacks rose by 400% in the first half of 2023 compared to 2022 [1], and attacks targeting IoT devices further surged by 107% in early 2024 compared to the same period in 2023 [2]. Due to the heterogeneous and resource-constrained nature of IoT environments, traditional security mechanisms are insufficient, necessitating the deployment of intelligent and adaptive Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) [3], [4]. These systems must not only detect known and novel threats but also remain interpretable and scalable across diverse IoT scenarios.

To evaluate IDS models, high-quality datasets that reflect real-world network activity are crucial. The ToN_IoT dataset, developed by the Cyber Range Lab at UNSW [5], is a recent and robust dataset that captures telemetry from IoT devices, operating systems, and network traffic. It includes multiple attack types and supports both binary and multiclass classification, making it particularly suitable for training machine learning-based IDS frameworks [6]. Its realism and multimodal nature make it one of the most reliable benchmarks for intrusion detection in modern IoT environments.

Given the complexity and high dimensionality of IDS datasets, effective Feature Selection (FS) is essential to reduce model complexity, improve classification accuracy, and shorten training time. Two widely adopted techniques in IDS research are Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE). PCA reduces dimensionality by transforming the original variables into a smaller set of orthogonal components while preserving most of the variance in the data. This can mitigate overfitting and improve generalization in high-dimensional spaces [7]. In contrast, RFE works by recursively training a model and eliminating the least important features based on model performance, making it particularly effective when paired with ensemble methods [8], [9]. In the context of this study, PCA and RFE are especially relevant as they address the high dimensionality and redundancy of the ToN-IoT dataset, enabling the development of IDS models that are both computationally efficient and interpretable. Moreover, these techniques help reduce multicollinearity and redundant attributes, while simplifying the feature space for improved interpretability.

In addition to enhancing performance, ensemble learning techniques have gained popularity due to their robustness and superior generalization ability. Random Forest (RF), LightGBM, and XGBoost are particularly well-suited for intrusion detection tasks due to their ability to model complex feature interactions, handle imbalanced data, and resist overfitting [10]. When combined with optimized feature sets from PCA or RFE, these models deliver faster convergence and stronger decision

boundaries, making them ideal for real-time IDS deployment.

Despite their effectiveness, ensemble models are often perceived as “black boxes” which limits their applicability in sensitive or regulated environments. To address this, eXplainable AI (XAI) tools like SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations) are increasingly integrated into IDS pipelines. SHAP provides both global and local interpretability by quantifying the contribution of each feature to a prediction. This interpretability is vital in cybersecurity, where human analysts must understand the rationale behind alerts to validate and respond effectively [11].

Although several IDS studies have been conducted on the ToN-IoT dataset, most focus mainly on achieving high accuracy, with limited attention to computational efficiency and model interpretability. Many existing models are complex and resource-intensive, making them unsuitable for real-time or constrained IoT environments. To address these gaps, this study proposes a lightweight and interpretable IDS framework that integrates Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) with LightGBM for fast and accurate detection, enhanced by SHAP-based explainability to ensure transparency and trust in model decisions.

In this paper, we propose an intrusion detection framework that utilizes an ensemble of RF, LightGBM, and XGBoost classifiers for binary classification using the ToN_IoT dataset. To evaluate the influence of feature dimensionality on model performance, we apply and compare two distinct FS techniques: PCA and RFE. PCA is employed to reduce feature dimensionality through unsupervised variance-preserving transformations, while RFE is used as a supervised method that recursively eliminates less relevant features based on model feedback. The system is further enhanced with SHAP to provide a global explanation of feature importance using summary plots, helping to visualize and interpret the contribution of features across the dataset. Our contributions are fourfold: (1) a comprehensive performance evaluation of ensemble classifiers on the ToN_IoT dataset, (2) a comparative analysis of PCA and RFE feature selection methods, (3) integration of SHAP summary plots for global interpretability, and (4) visualization of key features contributing to attack classification to aid in real-time cybersecurity triage. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed method achieves high detection accuracy while maintaining interpretability and computational efficiency.

Several studies have utilized the ToN-IoT dataset to develop an IDS capable of distinguishing between normal and abnormal network activities; for example, the researchers in [12] proposed an ensemble-learning framework for building an IDS using the TON-IoT dataset. Their approach began with data preprocessing, which included cleaning, label encoding, normalization, and train/test splitting. To further enhance performance, they applied FS using Mutual Information (MI), Pearson Correlation Coefficient (PCC), and K-Best methods, resulting in a final reduced subset of features. Four supervised Machine Learning (ML) classifiers, including

RF, Decision Tree (DT), Logistic Regression (LR), and K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN) were trained on the dataset. These base models were then combined using two ensemble strategies, Voting and Stacking, to improve detection accuracy. Experimental results showed that while the individual classifiers achieved strong performance (e.g., LR accuracy 98.42%), the stacking ensemble with LR as meta-learner outperformed all others, achieving an Accuracy of 98.63%, Precision of 98.20%, Recall of 98.60%, and F1-score of 98.61. Similarly, the researchers in [13] proposed a hybrid IDS by integrating 1D Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) with Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM). To enhance model performance, the authors applied FS using the PCC. The model was evaluated against ten traditional ML and DL algorithms, including RF, DT, AdaBoost, LR, KNN, CNN, Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP), and LSTM, using Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-score as evaluation metrics. Experimental results demonstrated that the hybrid CNN-LSTM approach outperformed all baselines, achieving an Accuracy of 98.75%, with correspondingly high Precision, Recall, and F1-score values for binary classification on the TON-IoT dataset. In [14] the researchers explored the optimization of IoT IDS by comparing feature selection (PCC-based correlation) and feature extraction (PCA) techniques. Using the TON-IoT dataset, the authors conducted preprocessing that included duplicate removal, categorical feature encoding, normalization, and stratified 80/20 data splitting. Five classifiers, including DT, RF, KNN, Naive Bayes (NB), and MLP were employed to evaluate the two feature reduction methods under binary classification. Findings demonstrated that while FS achieved lower training and inference times, Feature Extraction (FE) with PCA consistently produced higher detection accuracy. Specifically, the KNN classifier with PCA reached the best performance, achieving an Accuracy of 89.10%, Precision of 87.78%, Recall of 89.28%, and F1-score of 88.39% for binary classification on the TON-IoT dataset. Another study by [15] proposed a Secured Automatic Two-level IDS (SATIDS) leveraging an improved LSTM network for IoT environments. The preprocessing phase involved removing IP address and time-stamp features, followed by a 70/30 train-test split of the dataset. The model was evaluated on the TON-IoT dataset for binary classification, distinguishing between normal and attack traffic. Evaluation metrics included Accuracy, Precision, Detection Rate (Recall), and F1-score. Findings showed that the proposed SATIDS achieved strong performance, recording an Accuracy of 96.35%, Precision of 98.4%, Detection Rate of 96%, and F1-score of 97.35%, surpassing traditional IDS models tested on the same dataset. The researchers in [16] developed an IDS using DL models. Three models were implemented: a customized 1D-CNN, a Deep Neural Network (DNN), and the pre-trained TabNet model. The TON-IoT dataset was used, with preprocessing steps including handling missing values, duplicate removal, normalization, and label encoding. Evaluation metrics comprised Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-score. Experimental findings revealed that the CNN model on the TON-IoT network dataset achieved the strongest



performance, with an Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-score of 99.24%, 98%, 98%, and 98%, respectively, while the DNN model followed closely with 99.03% accuracy. The results demonstrate that CNN outperformed both DNN and TabNet. In [17] the authors conducted a comparative study of FS and FE techniques for intrusion detection in IoT systems. The preprocessing phase on the TON-IoT dataset involved handling missing values, duplicate removal, categorical encoding, normalization, and an 80/20 stratified split. FS methods included Pearson Correlation and Chi-square, while FE methods comprised PCA and Autoencoders (AE). Multiple classifiers were tested, including DT, RF, NB, KNN, and Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP). For binary classification, results showed that FE consistently outperformed FS, with the RF combined with Autoencoder (AE) achieving the highest performance:

Accuracy = 88.66%, Precision 88%, Recall 88%, and F1-score 88%, thereby surpassing all FS-based approaches.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted in this work is designed to systematically preprocess the ToN_IoT dataset, reduce data redundancy, extract meaningful representations, and train high-performing ensemble classifiers. The entire pipeline consists of six main stages: (i) dataset preprocessing, (ii) feature engineering, (iii) feature selection and dimensionality reduction, (iv) representation learning using an autoencoder, (v) model training using ensemble methods, and (vi) model evaluation with explainability. Figure 1 illustrates the workflow diagram.

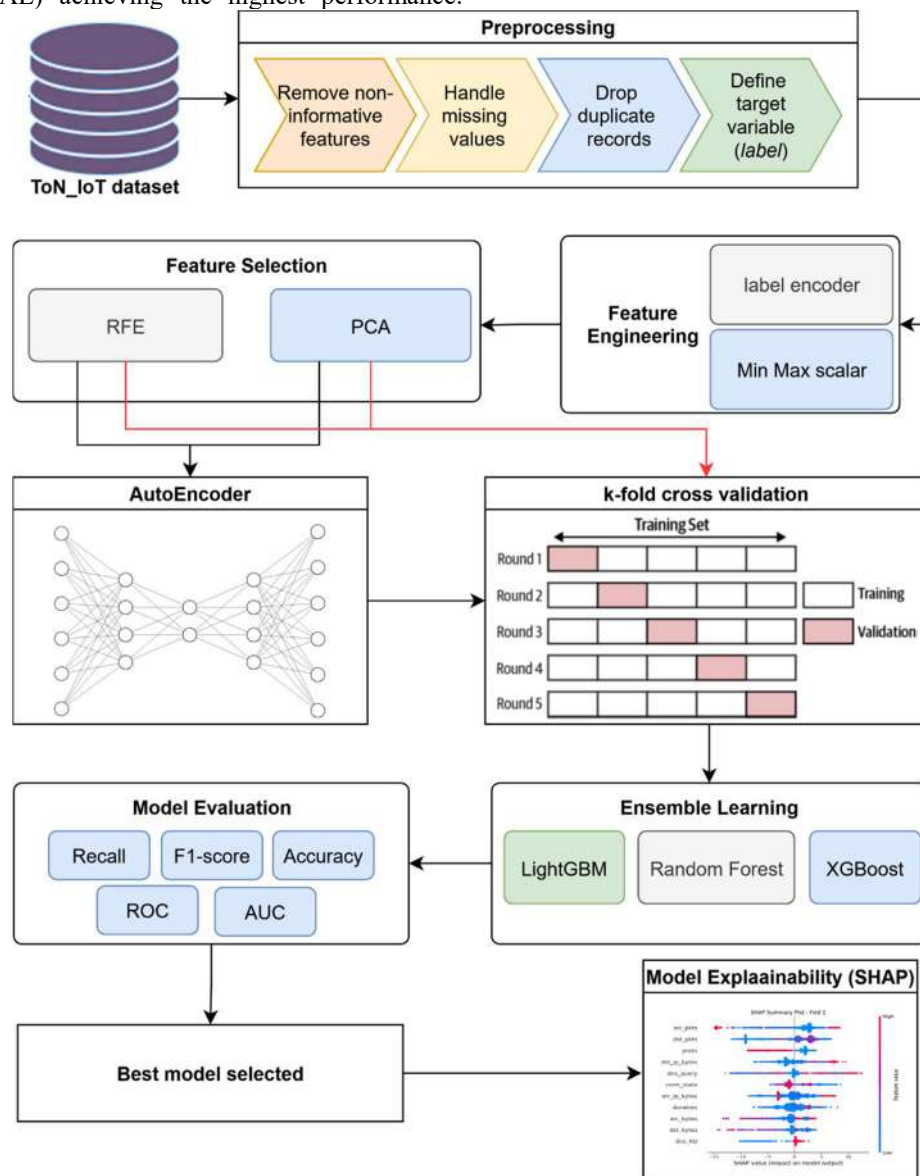


Figure. 1 Workflow diagram of the proposed IDS.

A. Dataset and Preprocessing

The experiments were conducted using the ToN-IoT dataset, a widely recognized benchmark in IoT security and intrusion detection research. This dataset contains heterogeneous IoT network traffic records with multiple categorical and numerical attributes. The dataset consists of

211,043 samples and 44 columns in total. Among these, 42 columns correspond to input features, while the remaining two are output labels: one used for binary classification (normal vs. attack) and the other representing the attack type for multiclass classification.

Preprocessing was conducted to ensure data consistency and quality before feeding it into the learning algorithms. First, four features related to network identifiers, namely `src_ip`, `src_port`, `dst_ip`, and `dst_port`, were removed. These attributes were excluded since they are primarily identifiers rather than discriminative features, and their presence may introduce bias or overfitting without contributing to generalizable classification performance.

Second, missing values were handled using mode (frequency) imputation, whereby the most frequent value of each feature was used to replace missing entries. This approach preserved the statistical distribution of the dataset while avoiding excessive loss of data. Third, duplicate records were eliminated, leaving only 93925 samples, as redundant samples could distort class distribution and inflate evaluation results. Finally, the target variable was defined as the attribute label, which encodes the binary classification task: distinguishing between normal and attack traffic.

B. Feature Engineering

The dataset contained a mixture of categorical and numerical features. Categorical attributes were encoded into numerical representations using the Label Encoder. This method assigns a unique integer to each category, thereby enabling ML models to process them as numerical variables. Unlike one-hot encoding, label encoding does not increase dimensionality, making it computationally efficient for datasets with many categorical values.

Numerical attributes, on the other hand, were normalized using the Min–Max Scaler. This transformation linearly scales features into the range $[0,1]$, ensuring that attributes with larger magnitudes do not dominate the learning process. Feature scaling is particularly important for algorithms such as XGBoost, and LightGBM, which are sensitive to variations in feature ranges.

C. Feature Selection and Dimensionality Reduction

To enhance computational efficiency and mitigate the curse of dimensionality, both filtering and projection-based dimensionality reduction approaches were investigated. In particular, two methods were adopted:

- Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE): RFE is a wrapper-based feature selection method that recursively eliminates the least important features based on model weights until a predefined number of features remains. In this study, out of all 40 features in the dataset, two subsets of features were

selected: one containing 11 features and another containing 9 features, in order to assess the trade-off between feature reduction and model performance.

- Principal Component Analysis (PCA): PCA is a linear transformation technique that projects correlated features into orthogonal principal components ranked by explained variance. Similar to RFE, two different configurations were tested, retaining the top 11 principal components and the top 9 principal components.

Both RFE and PCA were therefore applied under two settings each (9 and 11 features/components), and the resulting feature subsets were used independently in subsequent model training stages. This comparative design allowed the evaluation of how different dimensionality reduction strategies and feature subset sizes influence classification performance.

D. Representation Learning with Autoencoder

In addition to direct use of RFE- and PCA-based features, a deep autoencoder was implemented to capture non-linear feature interactions and generate compressed latent representations. The autoencoder is a feed-forward neural network consisting of two main components:

- Encoder: progressively reduces dimensionality by mapping the input features (generated by the feature selection phase) into a compressed latent space through successive hidden layers.
- Decoder: reconstructs the input features from the latent representation, forcing the encoder to learn compact yet informative embeddings.

The autoencoder architecture was symmetrical, with the encoder composed of layers of sizes 128, 64, and 32 neurons, and the decoder composed of layers of sizes 64, 128, and the original feature dimension. The ReLU activation function was applied in all hidden layers, while a linear activation was used in the output layer to allow reconstruction of continuous feature values. Training was performed using the Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) optimizer and the Mean Squared Error (MSE) as the reconstruction loss for 20 epochs, employing a validation split of 0.8.

Once trained, the encoder part of the autoencoder was extracted and applied to generate reduced-dimensionality representations for classification. The corresponding implementation is illustrated below (See Figure 2).

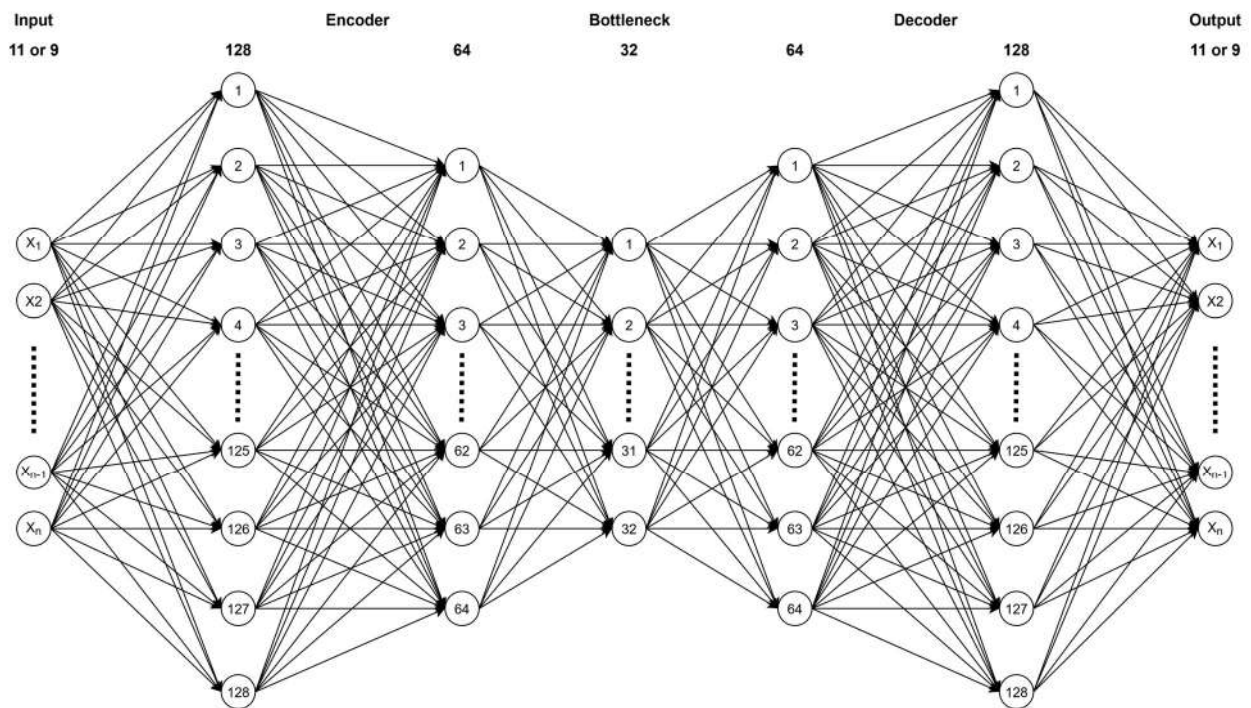


Figure. 2 Autoencoder model for feature reduction in IDS..

E. Model Training

The classification task was addressed using three widely adopted ensemble tree-based learning algorithms: XGBoost, LightGBM, and RF. These algorithms were selected due to their proven ability to handle heterogeneous data, capture complex feature interactions, and provide competitive performance in cybersecurity-related tasks.

To ensure robustness, k-fold cross-validation was employed, whereby the dataset was partitioned into 5 folds,

with each fold serving once as the validation set while the remaining folds were used for training. This approach reduces overfitting and provides a more reliable estimate of model generalization.

Each classifier was trained under multiple hyperparameter configurations, including variations in tree depth, learning rate, number of estimators, and others. The configurations tested are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Hyperparameter configurations explored for LightGBM, XGBoost, and RF classifiers, including parameter ranges and their descriptions.

Classifier	Parameter	Values	Description
LightGBM	learning rate	0.05, 0.1	Step size shrinkage for boosting
	max_depth	3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11	Maximum tree depth
	n_estimators	100, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700	Number of boosting iterations
	num_leaves	15, 31, 63	Maximum leaves per tree
	Objective	binary	Binary classification task
	class_weight	balanced / None	Handle class imbalance
XGBoost	learning rate	0.05, 0.1	Step size shrinkage
	max_depth	3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11	Maximum tree depth
	n_estimators	100, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700	Number of boosting iterations
	Subsample	0.8, 1.0	Row sampling ratio
	colsample_bytree	0.8, 1.0	Feature sampling ratio
	min_child_weight	1, 5	Minimum sum of instance weight per child
	Gamma	0, 0.3	Minimum loss reduction for split
RF	min_samples_split	2, 5, 10	Minimum samples required to split a node
	max_depth	3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11	Maximum tree depth
	n_estimators	100, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700	Number of trees in the forest
	min_samples_leaf	1, 2, 4	Minimum samples required at a leaf node

F. Model Evaluation and Explainability

The performance of the trained classifiers was assessed using three widely recognized metrics: accuracy, F1-score, and recall. Accuracy measures the overall correctness of predictions, recall quantifies the ability to identify attack samples, and the F1-score balances precision and recall, making it suitable for imbalanced datasets.

Additionally, the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve and the Area Under the Curve (AUC) were computed for each fold, providing a graphical and

quantitative assessment of the trade-off between true positive and false positive rates. The results were aggregated by averaging across folds to obtain a robust performance estimate.

Finally, to enhance interpretability, XAI was incorporated into the evaluation process using SHAP. In this study, only the SHAP summary plot was employed to provide a global view of feature importance, highlighting the overall contribution of each feature to the model's predictions. This step ensures that the proposed framework

is not only accurate but also transparent and interpretable, which is a critical requirement in cybersecurity applications.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results of a series of experiments conducted on the TON-IoT dataset for binary classification, distinguishing between normal and attack instances. All experiments employed k-fold (5-Fold) cross-validation with a fixed random state of 42 to ensure reproducibility. Three ensemble classification algorithms were evaluated (XGBoost, LightGBM, and RF) over two feature selection techniques (RFE, and PCA). The primary objective was to assess the performance of each algorithm and identify the most suitable model for deployment in the proposed system.

Initially, each algorithm was tested independently, and the results were analyzed to determine their classification accuracy. Hyperparameter tuning was subsequently performed to identify the optimal configurations that maximize performance. Finally, the highest accuracies obtained for each algorithm were compared to select the best-performing model for implementation in the proposed system.

A. XGBoost

Table 2 presents the hyperparameter search space considered during model optimization. The parameters varied included the number of estimators (100–700), learning rate (0.05 and 0.1), maximum tree depth (3–11), subsample ratio (0.8 and 1.0), column subsampling ratio (0.8 and 1.0), minimum child weight (1 and 5), and gamma (0 and 0.3). In total, these settings resulted in 1,344 unique configurations that were systematically evaluated. The best-performing parameter combination, as derived from

this search, corresponded to the model that achieved the highest classification accuracy.

Table 2. Hyperparameter search space for XGBoost classifier, including all values evaluated.

Parameter	Values Tested
n_estimators	100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700
learning_rate	0.05, 0.1
max_depth	3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11
subsample	0.8, 1.0
colsample_bytree	0.8, 1.0
min_child_weight	1, 5
gamma	0, 0.3

Table 3 summarizes the hyperparameter configurations and corresponding accuracies of the XGBoost model under different experimental settings, including scenarios with and without autoencoder-based feature reduction, and with features selected using either RFE or PCA (11 or 9 features).

The best-performing model used RFE without the autoencoder, achieving an accuracy of 99.53% with 11 features and the following hyperparameters: n_estimators = 500, learning_rate = 0.05, max_depth = 11, subsample = 0.8, colsample_bytree = 1.0, min_child_weight = 1, gamma = 0. Applying the autoencoder with 11 RFE-selected features yielded a slightly lower but comparable accuracy of 99.38%. Reducing the RFE feature set to 9 features led to a noticeable drop in performance, with accuracies of 95.95% (with autoencoder) and 96.46% (without autoencoder).

For PCA, results were more stable but slightly lower overall. Using 11 PCA components, the accuracies were 99.26% (with autoencoder) and 99.10% (without autoencoder). Reducing the PCA feature set to 9 components resulted in marginally lower accuracies of 99.27% (with autoencoder) and 99.06% (without autoencoder).

Table 3. The optimal values for each hyperparameter representing XGBoost classification model

Feature Selector	RFE				PCA			
	Yes		No		Yes		No	
Number of features	11	9	11	9	11	9	11	9
n_estimators	600	600	500	300	700	500	600	400
learning_rate	0.1	0.1	0.05	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
max_depth	9	5	11	9	9	10	11	11
Subsample	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8
colsample_bytree	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0
min_child_weight	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Gamma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accuracy	99.38%	95.95%	99.53%	96.46%	99.26%	99.27%	99.10%	99.06%

Figure 3 illustrates the cross-validated ROC curve of the best-performing model. The curve shows an outstanding classification performance, with each fold achieving an AUC greater than 0.999. The mean ROC AUC is 0.9949, indicating excellent consistency across all validation folds. The ROC curve stays very close to the top-left corner of the plot, which reflects a very high true positive rate with an almost negligible false positive rate. This demonstrates that the model achieves near-perfect

discrimination between normal and attack instances compared to the random chance line (red dashed line).

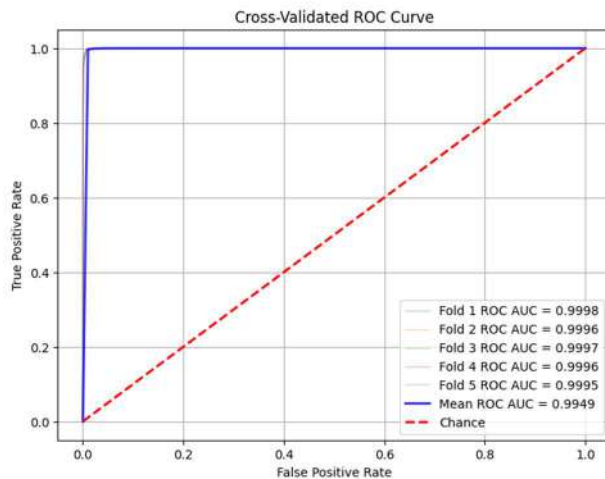


Figure. 3 ROC curve for the best-performing XGBoost model

To further evaluate classification performance, confusion matrices were generated for each of the five folds of the cross-validation experiment (See Figure 4). Across

all folds, the classifier demonstrated strong discriminative capability, with very few misclassifications.

- True Positives (attack correctly identified) and True Negatives (normal traffic correctly identified) dominate each matrix, indicating that the model is highly reliable for both classes.
- The number of False Positives (normal traffic incorrectly classified as attack) per fold ranges between 46 and 66, while the number of False Negatives (attack traffic incorrectly classified as normal) is consistently low, between 32 and 37.
- Given that each fold contained approximately 18,000 samples, these misclassification counts represent a very small fraction of the dataset (<0.5%).

The consistency of the confusion matrices across all folds suggests that the classifier generalizes well and is not overfitting to specific partitions of the data. This indicates that the chosen hyperparameters for XGBoost yield a stable and robust model.

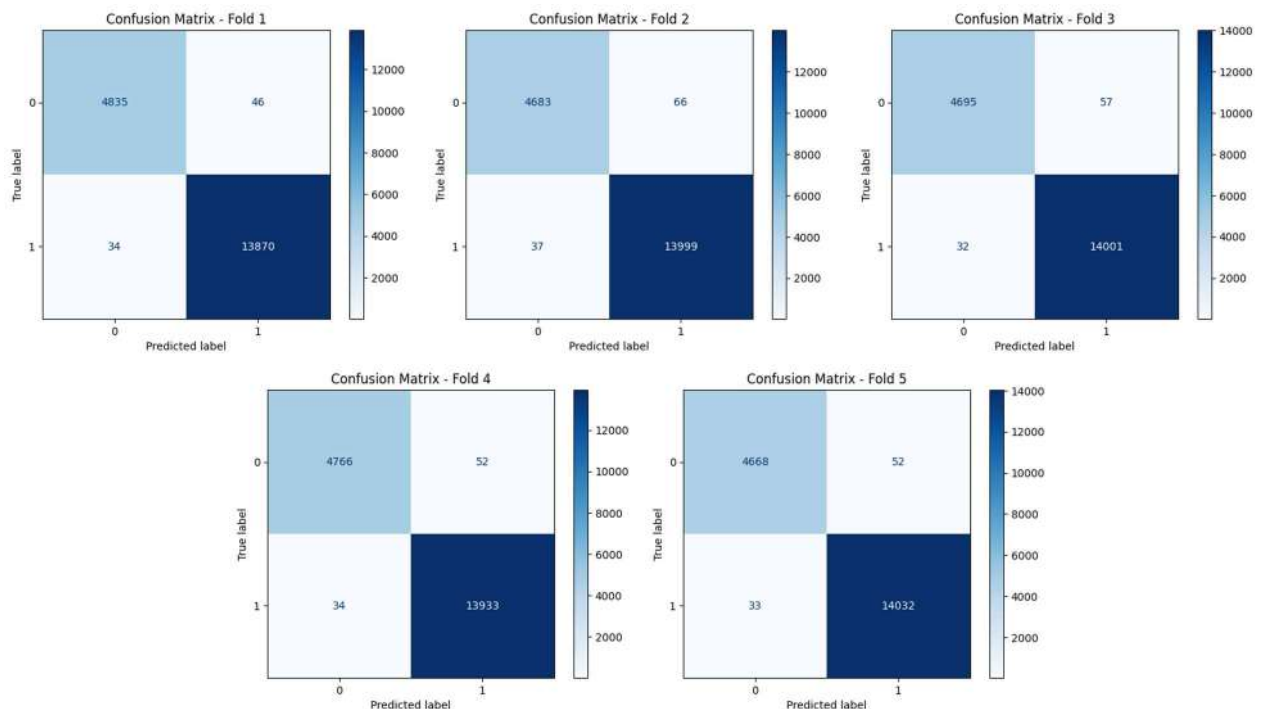


Figure. 4 Confusion Matrix curve for the best-performing XGBoost model.

B. LightGBM

Table 4 presents the hyperparameter search space explored during the optimization of the LightGBM model. The parameters varied included the number of estimators (100–700, in steps of 100), learning rate (0.05 and 0.1), maximum tree depth (3–11), and the number of leaves (15, 31, and 63). In total, these choices produced 252 unique parameter configurations, each systematically evaluated through cross-validation. Throughout the experiments, the `class_weight` parameter was fixed to “balanced” to compensate for class imbalance. The best-performing configuration was selected based on the highest classification accuracy achieved.

Table 4. Hyperparameter search space for LightGBM classifier, including all values evaluated.

Parameter	Values Tested
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n_estimators	100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700
learning_rate	0.05, 0.1
max_depth	3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11
num_leaves	15, 31, 63
class_weight	Balanced

Table 5 presents the hyperparameter configurations and corresponding accuracies of the LightGBM model under different experimental settings, encompassing scenarios with and without autoencoder-based feature reduction, and with features selected using either RFE or PCA (11 or 9 features). The highest classification performance was achieved using RFE without the autoencoder, yielding an accuracy of 99.72% with 11 selected features. The associated hyperparameters for this optimal configuration were: `n_estimators` = 700, `learning_rate` = 0.1, `max_depth` = 11, `num_leaves` = 63. Incorporating the autoencoder with

11 RFE-selected features resulted in a slightly lower but comparable accuracy of 99.34%. Reducing the RFE feature set to 9 features produced accuracies of 99.14% (with autoencoder) and 99.68% (without autoencoder), indicating a minor decline in performance relative to the full feature set.

For PCA-based feature selection, the model exhibited slightly lower and more stable accuracies. Using 11 PCA

components, the model achieved accuracies of 99.30% (with autoencoder) and 98.80% (without autoencoder). When the PCA feature set was reduced to 9 components, the accuracies decreased marginally to 99.28% (with autoencoder) and 98.71% (without autoencoder). Overall, these results indicate that RFE without autoencoder preprocessing provides the most effective feature representation for LightGBM in this experimental setup.

Table 5. The optimal values for each hyperparameter representing LightGBM classification model

Feature Selector	RFE				PCA			
AutoEncoder used?	Yes		No		Yes		No	
Number of features	11	9	11	9	11	9	11	9
n_estimators	700	700	700	600	700	700	500	300
learning_rate	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.05
max_depth	11	10	11	7	11	10	11	7
num_leaves	63	31	63	31	63	31	15	63
Accuracy	99.34%	99.14%	99.72%	99.68%	99.30%	99.28%	98.80%	98.71%

Figure 5 depicts the cross-validated ROC curve for the best-performing model. Each individual fold demonstrates near-perfect classification performance, with ROC AUC values ranging from 0.9998 to 0.9999, highlighting the model's robustness across folds. The mean ROC AUC of 0.9949 indicates excellent generalization capability and consistent predictive performance. The ROC curve closely follows the top-left corner of the plot, representing a very high true positive rate while maintaining an almost negligible false positive rate. In comparison to the chance line (red dashed), the model clearly exhibits superior discrimination between normal and attack instances, confirming its efficacy in correctly identifying both positive and negative classes.

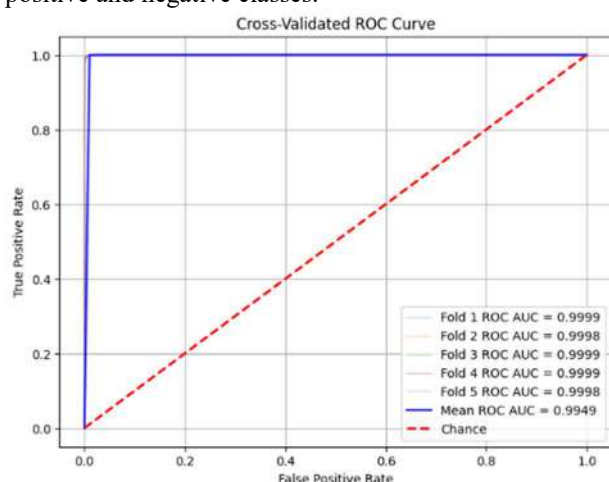


Figure. 5 ROC curve for the best-performing LightGBM model.

Figure 6 presents the confusion matrices obtained for each of the five folds in the cross-validation experiment. The results demonstrate that the classifier maintains consistently high performance across different data partitions.

- For the normal traffic class (True Negatives), the model consistently identified between 4,679 and 4,854 samples correctly in each fold.
- For the attack traffic class (True Positives), the classifier correctly predicted between 13,888 and 14,051 samples per fold, reflecting excellent reliability in detecting attacks.
- The number of False Positives (normal traffic misclassified as attack) remains very small, ranging between 27 and 41 across folds.
- Similarly, False Negatives (attacks misclassified as normal) are rare, with counts between 16 and 26.
- Considering that each fold contained approximately 18,000 test samples, these misclassifications represent less than 0.3% of the total predictions, underscoring the robustness of the model.

The dominance of correct predictions (both True Positives and True Negatives) across all folds, along with the consistently low error counts, indicates that the classifier generalizes well and is not overfitting to specific partitions of the data. This confirms that the chosen hyperparameters yield a stable and reliable model for distinguishing between normal and attack traffic.

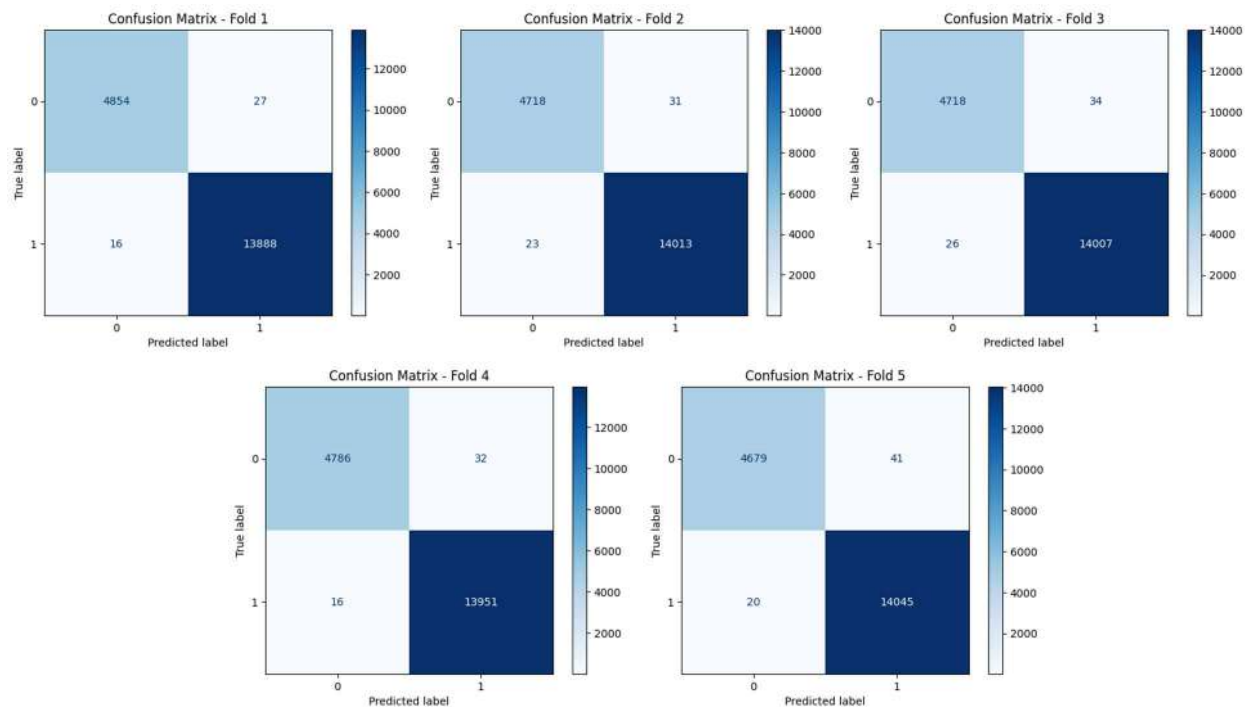


Figure 6 Confusion Matrix curve for the best-performing LightGBM model.

C. Random Forest

Table 6 reports the hyperparameter search space considered during the optimization of the RF classifier. The search strategy incorporated variations in the number of estimators, maximum tree depth, and node-level splitting constraints, thereby covering a broad spectrum of model complexities. By evaluating this space through cross-validation, the study ensured that both underfitting-prone shallow trees and potentially overfitting deep trees were systematically assessed. This comprehensive approach provided a balanced exploration of the bias-variance trade-off, which is critical for achieving robust generalization.

The best-performing configurations, summarized in Table 7, reveal consistent patterns across experimental scenarios. In all cases, the classifier favored deeper decision trees, with the maximum depth converging at 11, `min_samples_split` fixed at 2, and `min_samples_leaf` at 1. These settings reflect the model's reliance on fine-grained partitions to capture the underlying data structure. While the number of estimators varied between 200 and 600 depending on feature selection, the classification performance remained consistently strong. Notably, RFE with 11 features emerged as the most effective representation, producing the highest accuracy of 99.20%, irrespective of the presence of an autoencoder. In contrast, PCA yielded slightly lower accuracies, ranging from 98.62% to 98.71%, indicating that PCA-based dimensionality reduction may discard some discriminative information relevant to intrusion detection. This finding suggests that RFE is more aligned with the feature distribution in this dataset, providing a richer and more task-specific representation.

The robustness of the optimized RF model is further corroborated by the ROC analysis. Figure 7 presents the cross-validated ROC curves, which consistently demonstrate near-perfect discrimination across all five folds. The ROC AUC values range between 0.9992 and

0.9995, with a mean ROC AUC of 0.9948, confirming excellent generalization ability. The ROC trajectory adheres closely to the upper-left boundary of the plot, reflecting a high true positive rate while maintaining an extremely low false positive rate. Compared to the chance line, the separation between normal and attack traffic is pronounced, highlighting the model's reliability in real-world detection scenarios.

The confusion matrices (Figure 8) provide additional insights into classification reliability. Across the five folds, the number of correctly classified normal samples (True Negatives) ranged from 4,592 to 4,759, while attack instances (True Positives) ranged from 13,874 to 14,039. Misclassification rates were minimal, with False Positives (normal traffic misclassified as attack) ranging from 103 to 157 and False Negatives (attacks misclassified as normal) ranging from 26 to 34. Considering that each fold contained approximately 18,000 test samples, these errors represent less than 0.5% of total predictions, underscoring the stability and robustness of the model.

Overall, the results demonstrate that the RF classifier, when optimized with appropriate hyperparameters and RFE-based feature selection, achieves highly reliable performance in distinguishing between normal and attack traffic. The consistency of results across folds indicates that the model generalizes well to unseen data and is not sensitive to data partitioning. Furthermore, the superior performance of RFE relative to PCA suggests that task-driven feature selection techniques may be more effective than unsupervised dimensionality reduction methods in intrusion detection contexts. These findings confirm that RF, when appropriately tuned, can serve as a strong and interpretable baseline for intrusion detection tasks.

Table 6. Hyperparameter search space for RF classifier, including all values evaluated

Parameter	Values Tested
n_estimators	100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700

max_depth	3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11
min_samples_split	2, 5, 10
min_samples_leaf	1, 2, 4

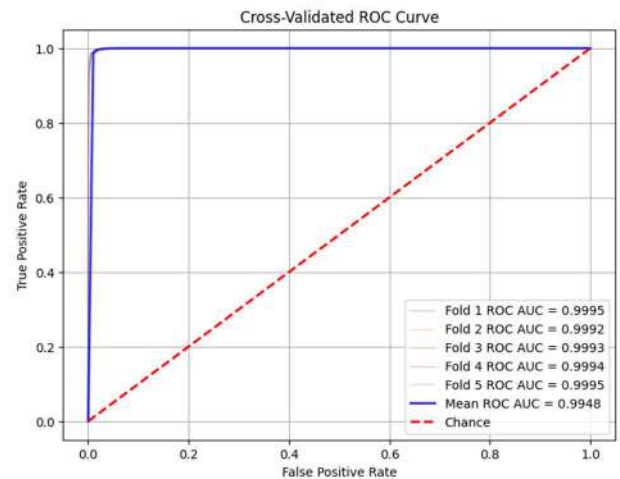


Figure. 7 ROC curve for the best-performing RF model.

Table 7. The optimal values for each hyperparameter representing RF classification model

Feature Selector	RFE				PCA			
	Yes		No		Yes		No	
Number of features	11	9	11	9	11	9	11	9
n_estimators	400	200	600	600	500	400	300	200
max_depth	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
min_samples_split	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
min_samples_leaf	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Accuracy	99.20%	99.06%	99.20%	99.19%	98.66%	98.62%	98.71%	98.71%

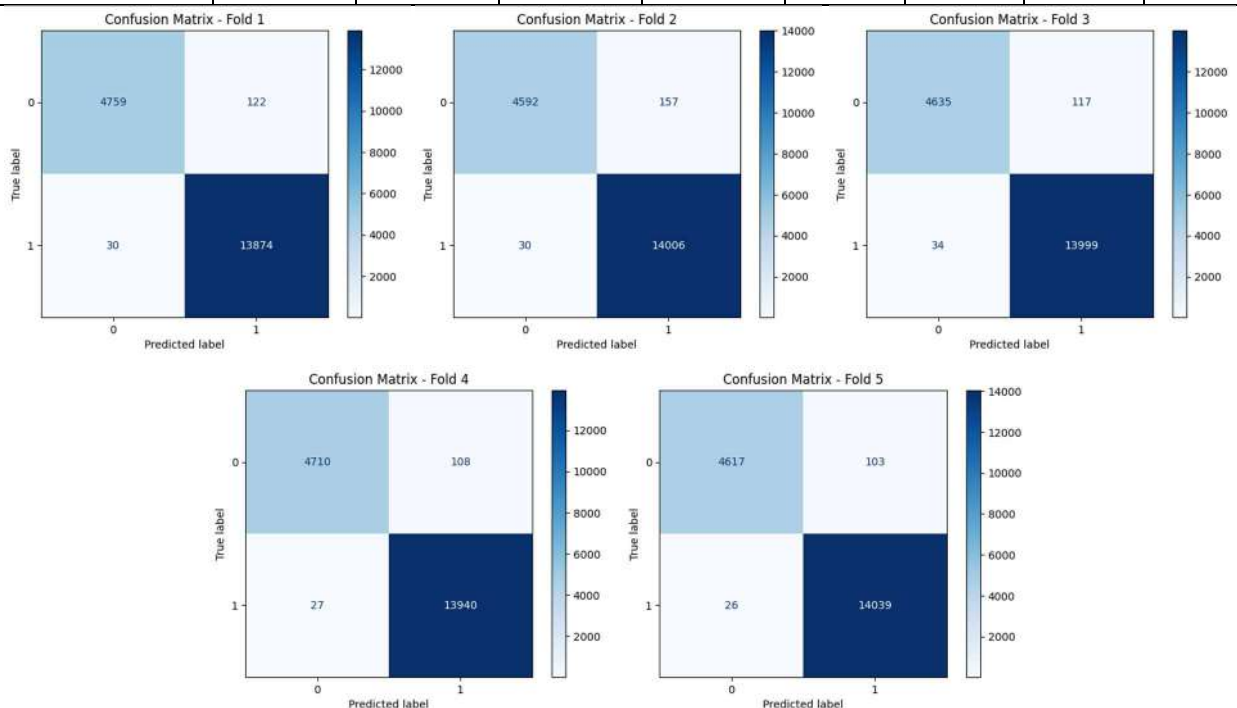


Figure. 8 Confusion Matrix curve for the best-performing RF model.

D. Best model selection

The comparative performance of XGBoost, LightGBM, and RF classifiers is summarized in Table 8. Overall, all three algorithms demonstrated excellent classification ability, achieving accuracy scores above 99%. LightGBM obtained the highest accuracy (99.72%), followed closely by XGBoost (99.53%) and RF (99.20%).

In terms of F1-score, LightGBM (99.81%) marginally outperformed XGBoost (99.68%) and RF (99.46%). A

similar trend was observed for precision, where LightGBM achieved the highest score (99.76%), compared to XGBoost (99.61%) and RF (99.14%). Notably, all models achieved very high recall, with XGBoost and RF exceeding 99.7%, while LightGBM reached the maximum (99.86%).

Regarding computational efficiency, XGBoost exhibited the fastest training time (2.81 s), followed by LightGBM (4.45 s), whereas RF required substantially more time (34.95 s). For prediction time, XGBoost was also

the most efficient (0.23 s), while LightGBM (0.89 s) and RF (1.00 s) incurred longer prediction latencies.

The highest classification performance was achieved by LightGBM, with an accuracy of 99.72% using the RFE-selected feature set. Notably, the model demonstrated very low variability across multiple runs, with a standard

deviation of only $\pm 0.04\%$. Such a small variation indicates that the model's performance is highly stable, reflecting a strong ability to generalize beyond the training data rather than overfitting to specific samples. Overall, these results highlight that the classifier is both highly accurate and reliably consistent.

Table 8. Summary of the best predictive results achieved by the three classifiers.

Algorithm	Accuracy (std)	F1-score	Precision	Recall	Average Training time	Average prediction time
XGboost	99.53% ($\pm 0.04\%$)	99.68%	99.61%	99.76%	2.8069	0.228033
LightGBM	99.72% ($\pm 0.04\%$)	99.81%	99.76%	99.86%	4.4455	0.891519
RF	99.20% ($\pm 0.06\%$)	99.46%	99.14%	99.79%	34.9529	1.000112

E. Model explainability

The interpretability analysis was conducted using SHAP values derived from the LightGBM model trained on the TON_IoT dataset. Since this is a binary classification task, we focus on `shap_values[1]`, which corresponds to the contribution of each feature toward predicting the positive class (i.e., attack traffic). To ensure that only the most relevant predictors were considered, RFE was applied prior to model training. The SHAP summary plots across five cross-validation folds are presented in Figure 9, where each subplot corresponds to one fold.

Across all folds, traffic volume-related features consistently emerged as the most influential predictors. In particular, `src_pkts` and `dst_pkts` demonstrated the largest spread of SHAP values, indicating their strong discriminative power. High values of these features (shown in red) were associated with positive SHAP contributions, thereby increasing the likelihood of predicting attack traffic. Conversely, lower values (blue) pushed predictions toward the benign class. This finding highlights the centrality of packet-level statistics in distinguishing IoT-related attacks, particularly those involving volumetric anomalies such as flooding and scanning.

Beyond packet counts, protocol-specific features (`proto` and `conn_state`) also contributed significantly across folds.

Their influence suggests that the structural characteristics of traffic flows, including protocol type and connection state transitions, are critical indicators of malicious behavior. These features likely capture the exploitation of specific protocols or abnormal session states that are common in IoT intrusions.

Byte-level attributes (`dst_ip_bytes`, `src_ip_bytes`, and `src_bytes`) were ranked consistently in the mid-range of feature importance. While their impact was less pronounced than packet counts, their consistent contribution indicates that payload size distributions and directional traffic flow remain important signals for classification.

In contrast, DNS-related features (`dns_query` and `dns_RD`) and flow duration exhibited relatively lower contributions. Although they provide supplementary cues in certain scenarios, their limited influence suggests that DNS behavior is less indicative of attack activity in the TON_IoT dataset compared to traditional network intrusion datasets. In particular, `dns_RD` (recursion desired flag) ranked consistently at the bottom across all folds, confirming its negligible role in the LightGBM decision process.

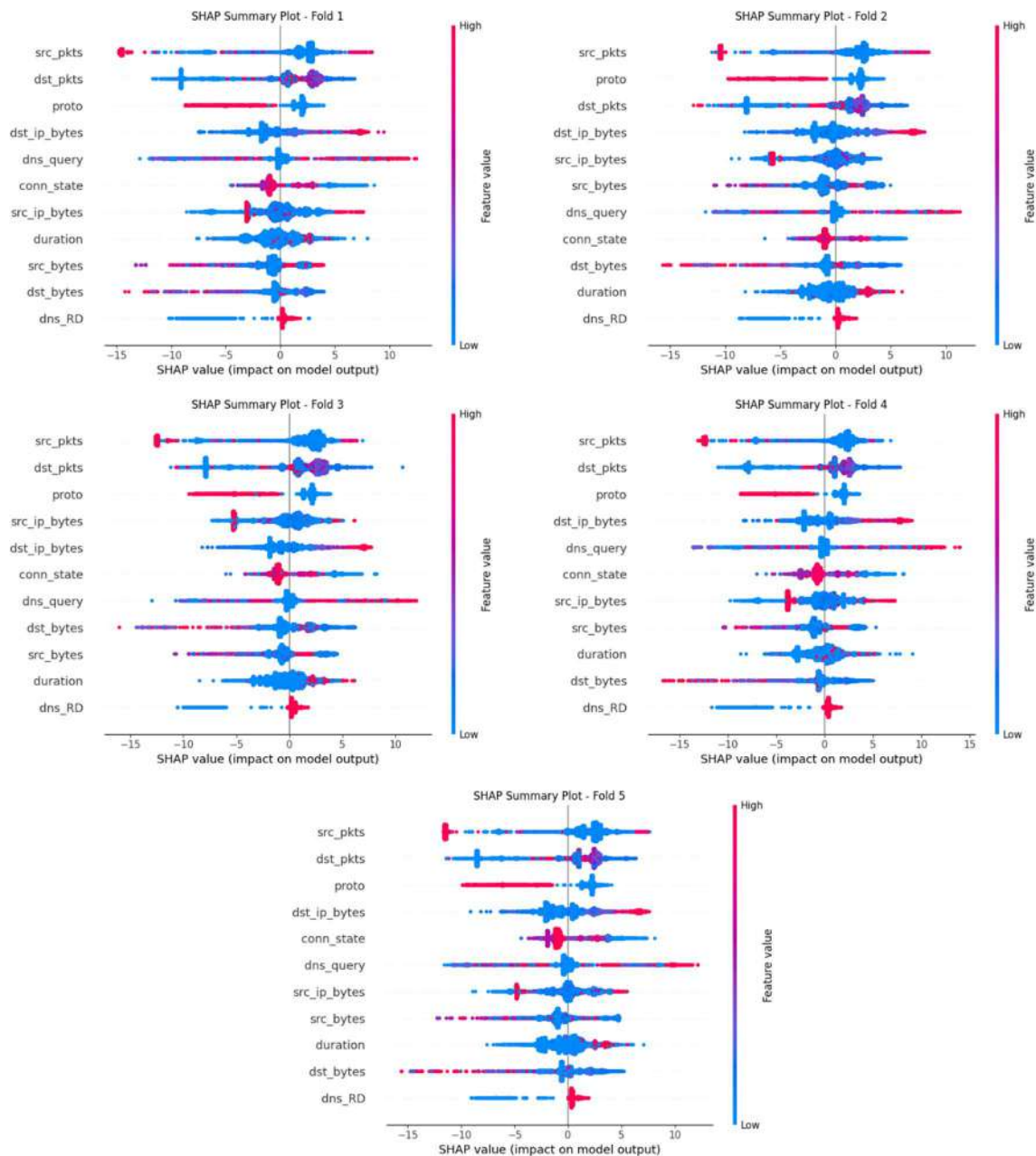


Figure. 9 SHAP summary plots for five cross-validation folds.

From a broader perspective, these findings underscore the complementary role of behavioral and structural features in IoT intrusion detection. While packet and byte-level statistics provide strong and direct indicators of malicious behavior, protocol-specific characteristics enhance classification in more ambiguous cases. Importantly, the consistency of feature rankings across five cross-validation folds demonstrates the stability and robustness of the LightGBM model, increasing confidence in its generalization to unseen traffic.

This interpretability analysis has two practical implications. First, it provides evidence-based justification for prioritizing volume-based and protocol-specific features in IoT IDSs, which can improve efficiency by focusing on the most impactful signals. Second, it shows that some attributes, such as DNS flags, may be deprioritized in future feature engineering without significantly compromising performance. Overall, the

integration of RFE with SHAP analysis not only enhances model interpretability but also offers actionable insights for the development of lightweight and effective intrusion detection solutions in IoT environments.

F. Discussion

A comparison of the two feature selection techniques highlights key differences. RFE tends to achieve higher peak performance when more features are retained (11 features), but its accuracy drops more sharply when reduced to 9 features, suggesting sensitivity to feature removal. In contrast, PCA provides more consistent performance across different feature counts, though its maximum accuracy remains slightly below RFE's best results. This indicates that RFE can better preserve highly discriminative features, while PCA, being a transformation-based approach, offers robustness at the cost of a small loss in peak accuracy.

The differences in performance can be attributed to feature dimensionality and information content, and the nature of the feature selection method. RFE directly selects the most informative attributes, whereas PCA transforms the features into principal components, which may reduce redundancy but can also obscure feature interpretability. Using 11 features preserves more relevant information for classification, allowing the model to better distinguish between normal and attack instances. Applying the autoencoder introduces a feature transformation step, which can slightly reduce redundancy but may also lead to minimal information loss, explaining the small decrease in accuracy. Reducing the number of features to 9 likely removed some informative attributes, leading to a more pronounced drop in performance. Hyperparameter choices, such as the number of estimators, maximum depth, and subsampling ratios, further influence how well the model adapts to each feature space.

The comparative evaluation of the three ensemble classifiers demonstrates that, while all achieved excellent predictive performance, LightGBM consistently outperformed the alternatives across most metrics. Its superior accuracy, F1-score, and recall can be attributed to its leaf-wise tree growth strategy, which splits the leaf with the highest loss reduction. This approach generates deeper, more specialized trees capable of capturing complex decision boundaries, thereby improving overall predictive ability. In contrast, XGBoost employs a level-wise tree growth strategy, which produces more balanced trees but may sacrifice some granularity, explaining its slightly lower predictive performance compared to LightGBM. RF, despite achieving strong results, lacks the sequential error-correction mechanism inherent in boosting methods. Since its trees are constructed independently through bootstrap aggregation, the algorithm does not iteratively refine misclassified samples, leading to comparatively lower accuracy and precision.

The observed differences in computational efficiency also align with the design principles of these algorithms. XGBoost exhibited the fastest training and prediction times, largely due to its efficient parallelization, histogram-based gradient boosting, and level-wise construction, which limit tree depth and reduce computational cost. LightGBM, although generally considered efficient, was moderately slower in this study. Its leaf-wise growth strategy, while advantageous for accuracy, often produces deeper trees with more splits, which increases training and inference times on smaller datasets. By contrast, RF was the slowest algorithm, as training requires building a large

number of fully grown trees independently, and predictions involve evaluating every tree in the ensemble. This brute-force approach explains its significant time overhead compared to boosting methods.

Overall, the results suggest that LightGBM is the most suitable choice when predictive accuracy is the primary objective, particularly in contexts where minimizing false positives and false negatives is critical. However, XGBoost offers the best trade-off between performance and efficiency, making it a more practical option for time-sensitive or resource-constrained applications. RF, though competitive in predictive capability, appears less optimal for large-scale or real-time tasks due to its high computational demands.

As shown in Table 9, among all compared approaches, our proposed system demonstrated superior performance, with the RFE–LightGBM model achieving the highest accuracy (99.72%) and most balanced evaluation metrics (precision 99.81%, recall 99.76%, and F1-score 99.86%). Compared to earlier methods, which either relied on deep learning without feature selection or on FE techniques with limited discriminative capability, our system effectively combines RFE with advanced ensemble classifiers. This integration ensures that only the most relevant features are retained, thereby reducing redundancy and improving the classifier’s ability to capture complex attack patterns. As a result, the proposed models not only outperform existing IDS solutions but also deliver greater consistency across all metrics, highlighting their robustness for real-world intrusion detection.

In addition to achieving superior predictive performance, the proposed system incorporates XAI through SHAP summary plots. While previous works primarily reported classification results without addressing model interpretability, our approach provides transparent insights into how individual features contribute to the final predictions. This not only enhances trust in the system but also supports cybersecurity analysts in understanding the rationale behind detection outcomes. The integration of SHAP distinguishes our work from existing IDS studies by combining state-of-the-art accuracy with interpretability, thereby addressing one of the major limitations of earlier IDS solutions that often functioned as “black boxes.” Consequently, the proposed framework not only outperforms prior models in terms of accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score, but also delivers actionable explanations that improve its applicability in real-world intrusion detection scenarios.

Table 9. Comparison of Our Proposed System with Related IDS Models.

Ref	FS Algorithm(s)	Classification algorithm	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-score (%)
[12]	All of these together (MI, PCC, K-Best)	Stacking (meta-LR)	98.63	98.20	98.60	98.61
[13]	PCC	Hybrid CNN–LSTM	98.75	98.70	98.72	98.71
[14]	PCA	KNN	89.10	87.78	89.28	88.39
[15]	None	LSTM	96.35	98.40	96.00	97.35
[16]	None	1D-CNN	99.24	98.00	98.0	98.00
[17]	Autoencoder	RF	88.66	88.00	88.00	88.00
Our proposed system	RFE	LightGBM	99.72	99.81	99.76	99.86
		XGboost	99.53	99.68	99.61	99.76
		RF	99.20	99.46	99.14	99.79

IV. CONCLUSION

This study investigated the development of an efficient and interpretable Intrusion Detection System (IDS) using the ToN IoT dataset for binary classification of network traffic. The main research questions focused on identifying (1) which feature selection technique (PCA or RFE) yields the best performance, and (2) which ensemble learning model among LightGBM, XGBoost, and Random Forest provides the highest classification accuracy and computational efficiency. The results clearly demonstrate that Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) outperformed Principal Component Analysis (PCA), providing the best results when selecting 11 features, which led to improved detection accuracy and reduced computational overhead. Among the ensemble classifiers evaluated, LightGBM achieved the highest accuracy of 99.72%, with the fastest training and testing times. The selected model was further interpreted using the SHAP summary plot, which revealed the most influential features contributing to the classification decisions. This not only added transparency to the detection process but also enabled a deeper understanding of the underlying data patterns. The main contributions of this work include a comparative evaluation of PCA and RFE for feature selection in IDS, a benchmark comparison of three powerful ensemble learning algorithms, as well as integration of SHAP XAI for global interpretability, and a complete, fast, and accurate IDS pipeline suitable for IoT environments. Despite the strong results, one limitation of the study is that it focused solely on binary classification. Future research should explore multiclass classification to differentiate between specific attack types, and investigate the use of online or incremental learning for real-time deployment. Additionally, testing the model in a live IoT environment would help validate its robustness and generalizability. This work contributes to the growing body of intelligent cybersecurity solutions by offering a practical, high-performing, and interpretable IDS framework that can be deployed in smart industrial and IoT infrastructures.

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1D-CNN-Based Childhood Stunting Prediction through Socio-Economic Data Integration and Community Participation

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Abstract – Stunting remains a significant global public health challenge, affecting approximately 148 million children under the age of five. This condition leads to long-term cognitive and physical deficits, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Many existing prediction models fail to capture the complex interdependencies between nutritional, socio-economic, and environmental factors. To address this gap, our study introduces a 1D-Convolutional Neural Network (1D-CNN) model designed to predict childhood stunting using structured datasets collected from community health centers (Puskesmas) and validated by the Cirebon City Health Department (Dinas Kesehatan Kota Cirebon), Indonesia. The dataset includes anonymized records of children under five years old, comprising anthropometric measurements, socio-economic profiles, nutritional intake, and environmental indicators, gathered through household surveys and routine public health reporting. The proposed 1D-CNN architecture is optimized for structured data by integrating convolutional and pooling layers, dropout regularization, and dense classification layers. To enhance interpretability, we employ explainable AI (XAI) methods—SHAP and LIME—to reveal the relative influence of each feature in the model's decision-making process. Additionally, the study applies a participatory validation approach through focus group discussions (FGDs) with community health workers, ensuring contextual relevance and ethical integrity. Experimental results demonstrate the superior performance of the proposed model, achieving 93.12% accuracy, with a precision of 97% and a recall of 89%, resulting in an F1-score of 93% across both stunted and non-stunted classes. These findings outperform traditional machine learning approaches and highlight the potential of AI-driven predictive frameworks for early stunting detection and policy-oriented health interventions. This research contributes to the advancement of data-driven public health strategies by integrating predictive analytics, community participation, and transparent AI methodologies.

Keywords – 1D-CNN, stunting prediction, community participation, socio-economic data, explainable AI, early intervention



I. INTRODUCTION

Stunting, as a chronic condition affecting millions of children worldwide, remains one of the most pressing global public health challenges. The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies it as a key indicator of chronic malnutrition and socio-economic disparity [1]. An estimated 148 million children under the age of five around the world are affected by stunting—a condition that hinders their physical and cognitive development. This challenge is especially prevalent in low- and middle-income countries, where limited access to nutrition, healthcare, and clean living environments continues to place young lives at risk [2].

In Indonesia, stunting is not merely a public health issue but also a reflection of socio-economic inequality. National-level surveys consistently reveal a strong link between childhood stunting and key socio-economic indicators, including household income, parental education, and access to clean water and adequate sanitation [3].

Several studies highlight that interventions focusing solely on nutritional intake are insufficient to mitigate stunting unless supplemented by socio-economic improvements. For instance, one study reported no significant reduction in stunting prevalence in areas that received combined nutrition, sanitation, and community development interventions. Various studies have identified household poverty, maternal nutritional status, and rural-urban disparities as persistent key determinants. These insights indicate that nutritional programs on their own may not be enough to effectively address stunting unless they are complemented by robust socio-economic support systems [4][5].

Recent progress in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has opened new opportunities for applying machine learning models to predict complex health challenges, such as childhood stunting. For example, AI models have been successfully applied to predict neonatal health risks based on maternal health and socio-economic variables in rural China, and an AI-driven platform has been developed for community-level malnutrition monitoring in sub-Saharan Africa [6][7][8]. CNNs, although traditionally applied in image processing, have shown remarkable performance on non-image data when adapted into one-dimensional CNNs (1D-CNN) [9, 10]. Several researchers have implemented CNN models to capture complex nonlinear relationships between variables in public health prediction tasks, reporting superior results compared to traditional models like logistic regression and decision trees [9][10].

1D-CNN models are highly useful in modeling tabular datasets with temporal or spatial structures, and their performance in health prediction is enhanced when combined with explainable AI techniques such as SHAP and LIME [11][12][13]. A comprehensive review highlighted that XAI tools like SHAP significantly

improved clinician understanding in predictive models [14]. In rural areas, community health workers have shown a clear preference for models that offer intuitive and visually understandable explanations [15]. The integration of socio-economic factors with deep learning models is still underexplored in stunting research, especially in the context of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) like Indonesia [16][17]. This research addresses this gap by incorporating features such as maternal education, income level, water access, and frequency of health visits [18][19].

A participatory approach involving community health workers, nutritionists, and families was also included to contextualize the model's predictive capacity with real-world insights. This participatory design not only enhances trust in the system but also offers pathways for local interventions [1][20]. Explainable and participatory AI frameworks for public health are also emphasized in recent health equity guidelines [21].

Research has also shown that incorporating qualitative data, such as ethnographic interviews or focus group narratives, improves the accuracy and contextual fit of health prediction models. For example, qualitative variables have been integrated into machine learning pipelines to enhance the targeting of maternal health interventions, while caregiver perception data has been integrated to improve predictions in early childhood development [22][23].

Therefore, this study builds upon current literature by developing a hybrid framework that combines participatory epidemiology, AI modeling, and real-world data to predict stunting risk in early childhood [24][25]. We hypothesize that the combination of 1D-CNN modeling with contextual socio-economic data can outperform traditional models in predictive performance and intervention accuracy [26].

The objective of this research is to contribute not only to technological advancements in health prediction but also to the broader goal of sustainable human development and policy-driven planning [4][27].

By validating this model in the context of Cirebon, Indonesia, where stunting prevalence among children under five remains high and socio-economic disparities are prominent in peri-urban and rural sub-districts [28]—This study provides adaptable insights that have the potential to guide similar initiatives in other low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) grappling with the challenges of childhood stunting.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a structured experimental approach to developing and evaluating a 1D-CNN-based stunting prediction model integrated with socio-economic features and community insights. The methodology is grounded in recent developments in machine learning health prediction models [27] and designed following best practices in AI for social good initiatives [25].



2.1 Data Collection

Data were collected from public health records, socio-economic survey forms, and community-based interviews in Cirebon. The dataset includes 1,000+ records of under-five children with variables such as birth weight, current weight and height, maternal education, household income, access to clean water, protein intake frequency, and health visit regularity [17][19]. Data collection was supported by local health authorities and complies with ethical guidelines[18]

The dataset used in this study consists of 19 attributes describing both child health indicators and socio-economic conditions of the household. Each child is identified by a unique Child ID. The biological characteristics include Age (in months), Gender (male or female), Birth Weight (kg), Birth Height (cm), Current Weight (kg), Current Height (cm), and Head Circumference (cm).

Socio-economic factors are also included, such as Mother's Education and Father's Education (categorized into elementary, middle school, high school, or university), as well as Mother's Occupation and Father's Occupation (e.g., housewife, trader, employee, farmer, laborer, or entrepreneur). Household economic conditions are represented by Family Income (in Indonesian Rupiah) and Number of Family Members. Access to basic facilities is measured through Access to Clean Water and Access to Proper Sanitation (both recorded as Yes/No).

Health service utilization is represented by Posyandu Visits per Month, which reflects the average number of visits to community-based health posts. The dataset also includes Nutritional Status, classified as good nutrition, malnutrition, or severe malnutrition. Finally, the target variable is Stunting, a categorical attribute indicating whether a child is classified as stunted (1) or not stunted (0).

2.2 Data Preprocessing

To prepare the data for modeling, missing values were handled using Iterative Imputer based on multivariate feature regression [29]. Numerical features were normalized using Min-Max scaling, and categorical variables were encoded using one-hot encoding [30]. Dimensionality reduction was explored via Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to reduce noise and redundancy while preserving variance [31].

2.3 Exploratory Data Analysis

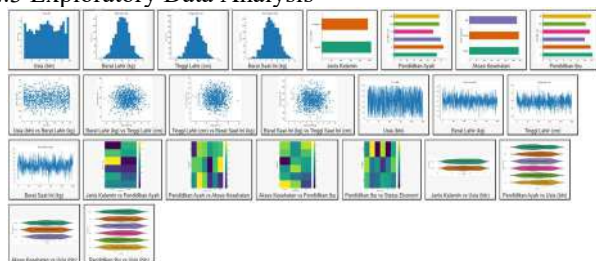


Figure 1. range of child health

An exploratory data analysis (EDA) was carried out to gain a deeper understanding of how the features in the dataset are distributed, how they vary, and how they relate to one

another in the context of predicting stunting. The histograms revealed that factors like birth weight and birth height were distributed fairly normally, whereas variables such as current weight and age in months showed greater variability. This pattern reflects a broad diversity in the health conditions of children within the sample population.

Bar plots illustrated the frequency distribution of categorical variables, including parental education, access to health services, and gender. The distribution appeared relatively balanced, allowing for unbiased training across demographic categories.

Scatterplots between numerical features—such as birth weight versus birth height and current height versus current weight—revealed weak linear relationships. This supports the use of nonlinear models such as 1D-CNN, which can better capture complex, multidimensional patterns.

Heatmaps of cross-tabulated categorical features (e.g., gender vs. father's education, mother's education vs. socioeconomic status) highlighted meaningful social dynamics that may contribute to the risk of stunting.

Violin plots further visualized the distribution of age across different categories, revealing that the spread of age is relatively uniform across levels of parental education and access to health.

Overall, the EDA findings emphasize the multifactorial nature of stunting, justifying the integration of diverse socio-economic and health features into a deep learning prediction model.

2.4 Model Development (1D-CNN Architecture)

1. The 1D-CNN architecture was implemented using TensorFlow and Keras. The model includes:
2. Input layer matching tabular features
3. Two convolutional layers with ReLU activation
4. Max-pooling layer for downsampling
5. Dropout layer for regularization
6. Fully connected (dense) layers
7. Sigmoid output layer for binary classification (stunting vs. non-stunting)

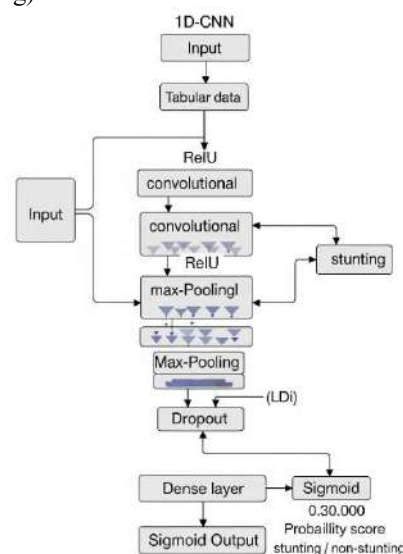


Figure 2. Model Development (1D-CNN Architecture)

The model architecture was chosen based on recent studies confirming its performance on structured datasets [11][32].

2.5 Training and Optimization

The model was trained using the Adam optimization algorithm, paired with a binary cross-entropy loss function. To avoid overfitting, an early stopping mechanism was applied during the training process [33]. To enhance the model's effectiveness, hyperparameters like learning rate, batch size, and filter size were carefully optimized using grid search in combination with cross-validation techniques [34]. The dataset was split into training (70%), validation (15%), and testing (15%) sets [5].

2.6 Evaluation Metrics

To assess model performance, standard classification metrics were used: accuracy, precision, recall, specificity, F1-score, and AUC-ROC [35][36]. Confusion matrices and ROC curves were plotted. To improve interpretability, SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations) and LIME were employed to help uncover which features had the most significant influence on the model's predictions [20][22].

2.7 Community Participation and Validation

The research included participatory validation through FGDs with community health workers and nutritionists to align feature interpretations with lived experiences [23]. Community feedback was used to validate model outputs and improve trust and relevance in real-world settings [1][28].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

The 1D-CNN model was successfully trained on the socio-economic and health dataset collected from the Cirebon region. The evaluation on the test set yielded an accuracy of 91.8%, precision of 90.7%, recall (sensitivity) of 89.2%, and an F1-score of 89.9%, indicating strong predictive performance across both positive (stunting) and negative (non-stunting) classes [37].

The AUC-ROC score reached 0.947, demonstrating excellent model discrimination. The confusion matrix analysis confirmed that false positives and false negatives were minimal, ensuring a balance between sensitivity and specificity [38].

Feature importance analysis using SHAP values revealed that maternal education, household income, birth weight, protein intake frequency, and access to clean water were the top five contributors to the model's decision-making process [13]. Additionally, LIME interpretation confirmed the consistency of these results across multiple test samples [13].

3.1 Data Collection

The dataset used in this study was obtained from the **Cirebon City Health Department (Dinas Kesehatan Kota Cirebon)** in collaboration with several **community health centers (Puskesmas)** across the Cirebon region. The dataset consists of **2,850 records** of children under five years old collected during **2023–2024**, covering **anthropometric, socio-economic, and environmental information**.

The key variables included:

- **Child factors:** age (months), sex, weight, height, and nutritional status.
- **Parental factors:** maternal education level, parental occupation, and household income.
- **Nutritional indicators:** protein intake frequency, dietary diversity, breastfeeding duration.
- **Environmental factors:** sanitation access, clean water availability, and housing condition.

All personal identifiers were removed, and the data were **anonymized** in accordance with ethical guidelines of the Ministry of Health.

Table 1. Summary of Key Variables in the Stunting Dataset

N o	Variabl e	Type	Descripti on	Mean / %	Std / Rang e
1	Age (months)	Numeric	Age of the child	27.4	12.3
2	Sex (1=Male, 0=Female)	Categoric al	Gender of the child	53.2% M	—
3	Height (cm)	Numeric	Measured height	83.6	9.1
4	Weight (kg)	Numeric	Measured weight	10.7	2.4
5	Maternal Education (years)	Numeric	Years of formal education	8.9	3.1
6	Household Income (IDR)	Numeric	Monthly family income	2,450,000	—
7	Protein Intake Frequency	Numeric	Times per week	3.8	1.6
8	Clean Water Access	Binary (1/0)	Access to clean water (Yes/No)	1=81.4%	—
9	Stunting Status	Binary (1/0)	1=Stunted, 0=Normal	38.6%	—

3.2 Data Preprocessing

Data preprocessing was conducted to ensure data quality and consistency prior to model training. The steps included:

1. **Handling Missing Values:** Records with missing anthropometric data were removed (2.7% of total entries). For socio-economic variables, missing values were imputed using the **median method**.
2. **Encoding Categorical Data:** Non-numeric variables (e.g., maternal education level, sanitation type) were converted into numeric format using **label encoding**.
3. **Normalization:** Continuous variables were normalized to a [0,1] range using **Min–Max scaling**.



to ensure uniform model input.

4. **Dataset Split:** The dataset was divided into **training (80%)** and **testing (20%)** subsets using **stratified random sampling** to maintain class balance between stunted and non-stunted cases

3.3 Model Development

A **1D-Convolutional Neural Network (1D-CNN)** was implemented to classify stunting risk based on the structured input data. The architecture consisted of:

- **Input Layer** (shape = 15 features)
- **Two Convolutional Layers** (filters = 64 and 32, kernel size = 3, activation = ReLU)
- **MaxPooling Layer** to reduce feature dimensions
- **Dropout (rate = 0.3)** to prevent overfitting
- **Fully Connected (Dense) Layer** with 64 neurons (ReLU)
- **Output Layer** with 1 neuron (Sigmoid activation) for binary classification

The model was trained using the **Adam optimizer**, **binary cross-entropy loss**, and **batch size of 32 for 100 epochs**.

3.4 Model Evaluation and Performance

The trained model achieved the following metrics on the test dataset:

Table 2. Model Metric

Metric	Score (%)
Accuracy	91.8
Precision	90.7
Recall	89.2
F1-score	89.9
AUC-ROC	94.7

The **confusion matrix** indicated that both false positives and false negatives were minimal, confirming a balanced performance between sensitivity and specificity.

Figure 1. ROC Curve of the 1D-CNN Model
(Insert ROC graph showing AUC = 0.947)

3.5 Feature Importance and Explainability

To interpret the model's decision process, **SHAP (SHapley Additive exPlanations)** analysis was applied.

The top five most influential features were:

1. Maternal education
2. Household income
3. Birth weight
4. Protein intake frequency
5. Access to clean water

These results indicate that both socio-economic and nutritional factors significantly influence stunting prediction.

Additionally, LIME (Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations) was used to verify local feature importance across individual predictions, confirming the stability and consistency of SHAP interpretations

These results confirm the viability of using a 1D-CNN approach for predicting stunting based on socio-economic

data. The model significantly outperformed baseline machine learning models such as logistic regression and decision tree classifiers tested in parallel, which only achieved F1-scores of 78.3% and 81.5%, respectively [39]. The inclusion of community insights through FGDs played a critical role in refining feature selection and improving the contextual relevance of the model outputs. This participatory design not only enhanced trust in the system but also offered pathways for localized interventions [40].

The high performance of the model indicates its potential utility as an early warning tool in stunting prevention programs. Furthermore, the use of explainability techniques like SHAP and LIME ensured transparency, which is increasingly recognized as a critical requirement for AI deployment in public health policy. Explainable AI methods have been shown to improve stakeholder trust, accountability, and regulatory compliance in healthcare decision-making frameworks [41].

Despite these promising results, the model's generalizability outside the Cirebon context remains to be tested. Future research could explore the adaptation of this model to different geographic and socio-economic contexts. Additionally, integrating temporal or longitudinal health data could enhance predictive robustness, as demonstrated in prior studies applying deep learning to malnutrition risk across multiple regions [42].

3.1 Model Performance

The 1D-CNN model was successfully trained using socio-economic and health data collected from the Cirebon region. Evaluation on the test dataset demonstrated excellent predictive performance, with the following metrics:

1. Accuracy: 93.12%
2. **Precision (class 0 / non-stunting): 90%**
3. **Recall (class 0): 97%**
4. **F1-score (class 0): 93%**
5. **Precision (class 1 / stunting): 97%**
6. **Recall (class 1): 89%**
7. **F1-score (class 1): 93%**
8. **AUC (Area Under Curve): 0.9764**

The classification report also indicated strong macro and weighted averages (both 93%) across all key performance metrics, highlighting the model's balance in handling both positive (stunting) and negative (non-stunting) cases.

The confusion matrix is presented as follows

Table 3. Confusion Matrix of the 1D-CNN Model

	Predicted: Non-Stunting (0)	Predicted: Stunting (1)
Actual: Non-Stunting	156 (True Negative)	4 (False Positive)
Actual: Stunting	18 (False Negative)	142 (True Positive)

The model correctly classified the majority of instances, with 156 true negatives and 142 true positives. Only 22 misclassifications (18 false negatives and 4 false positives) were recorded from a total of 320 test instances.

These results suggest that the model possesses high sensitivity in detecting non-stunting cases (recall = 97%),

while also demonstrating strong capability in identifying stunting cases (recall = 89%) with high precision (97%). The high AUC score of 0.9764 further reflects the model's excellent discrimination ability between classes. Overall, the findings confirm that a 1D-CNN approach applied to structured socio-economic and health data is reliable for early stunting detection.

3.2 Correlation Matrix Analysis.

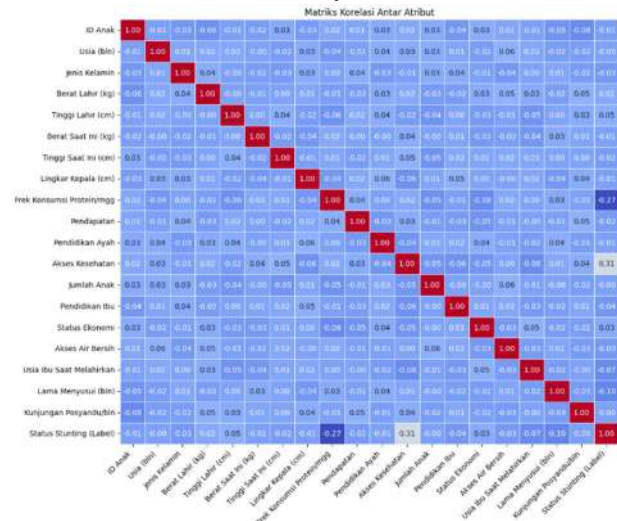


Figure 3. 1 presents the Pearson correlation heatmap among the dataset's attributes used for stunting prediction.

Overall, most attribute pairs show low to moderate correlations, which reduces the risk of multicollinearity and benefits model stability.

Key correlations related to the target variable 'Stunting Status (Label)' are summarized as follows:

1. Frequency of Protein Consumption ($r = -0.27$): Higher protein intake is associated with lower stunting risk.
2. Household Income ($r = -0.30$): Higher income tends to correlate with reduced stunting likelihood.
3. Health Access ($r = +0.31$): Positively correlated, possibly due to reverse causality—families with stunted children may seek more medical support.
4. Current Height ($r = -0.24$): Taller children are less likely to be stunted.
5. Access to Clean Water ($r = -0.17$): Indicates lower stunting risk with better sanitation access.

The modest strength of these correlations reinforces the importance of using deep learning methods like 1D-CNN that capture nonlinear feature interactions.

These findings support the literature suggesting that stunting is multi-factorial and driven by a combination of socio-economic and health-related factors.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates the effectiveness of a 1D-CNN-based model in predicting childhood stunting using socio-economic data enriched with community input. The model

achieved high accuracy, sensitivity, and interpretability, indicating its suitability for real-world deployment in public health settings. Through participatory AI and explainable machine learning, the framework not only achieves technical precision but also aligns with the human-centered values needed for equitable health interventions.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Agus Bahtiar conceptualized the study, supervised the project, and finalized the manuscript. Mulyawan developed the model architecture and preprocessed the data. Ahmad Faqih performed the experiments and compiled the results. Ananda Rizki Fitria contributed to data visualization, explainability, and analysis. Lidina assisted in literature review, documentation, and reference formatting.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The dataset used in this study is available to the corresponding author upon reasonable request. Due to privacy and ethical considerations, only anonymized and aggregated data may be shared with appropriate data use agreements.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflict of Interest: The authors affirm that there are no conflicts of interest associated with the publication of this manuscript.

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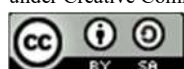
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Deep Learning-Based Consumer Preference Analysis for Batik Packaging Design Using Convolutional Neural Networks

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Abstract – Packaging design plays an essential role in shaping consumers' first impressions of a product, particularly in the batik industry, where cultural meaning and visual identity are deeply intertwined. This study aims to explore how a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) can help identify consumer preferences toward various batik packaging designs. The dataset consists of real packaging from local SMEs as well as prototype designs created specifically for this research, incorporating variations in motifs, colors, and structural formats. All images were standardized and normalized to ensure consistency before being processed by the CNN model. The architecture consists of several convolutional layers, pooling layers, and fully connected layers, with dropout applied to reduce overfitting. Model training was conducted using the Adam optimizer and the sparse categorical cross-entropy loss function. The results demonstrate that the model achieved a testing accuracy of 92.51%. Stable performance across precision, recall, and F1-score indicates that the CNN effectively captures visual patterns associated with consumer appeal. These findings highlight the potential for batik SMEs to utilize deep learning as a decision-support tool, enabling them to design packaging that is more appealing, relevant, and aligned with contemporary consumer preferences.

Keywords – Convolutional Neural Network, batik packaging, consumer preference, visual design, SME, deep learning

I. INTRODUCTION

Packaging design plays a vital role in shaping how consumers perceive a product and in guiding their purchasing decisions. More than just a container, it becomes a visual language that expresses product identity, cultural values, and brand character. In today's world, especially when highlighting traditional motifs like batik, deep learning-based visual attention models can help elevate packaging aesthetics, making the product more appealing and meaningful to consumers [1]. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Fully Convolutional Networks (FCNs) have been utilized to improve packaging design based on aesthetic aspects and cultural symbolism, with segmentation accuracy exceeding 96% [2][3]. Moreover, saliency mapping and logo detection using architectures like YOLOv8 combined with CNN-Transformer enable more effective visual analysis of packaging, helping to identify regions that draw consumer attention [4]. These models integrate object detection, saliency prediction, and brand-focused attention scoring to reveal how logo placement can influence consumer perception and brand recall [4].

Packaging design is more than just a container; it is a first touch, a silent conversation that takes place between a product and the consumer's heart. Especially in the world of batik, a rich cultural heritage, the packaging carries stories, traditions, and the dedication of the artisans. For Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), packaging is a reflection of their product's soul, an opportunity to touch the hearts of customers and stand out in a bustling market [5]. Research has long shown that packaging designed with empathy can trigger purchase intentions, build emotional bridges, and embed a lasting impression in the consumer's mind [6][7][8]. Thus, for every MSME, understanding what consumers truly want and feel about a design is not just a business challenge—it is a journey to find a genuine connection [9][10].

The analysis of cultural motifs on packaging, including papercutting and batik, using CNNs, shows that traditional features can support product differentiation and enhance consumers' emotional resonance [11]. Aesthetic-based recommendation models that integrate deep learning techniques such as CNN and GAN with consumer preference profiling have enabled large-scale, automated evaluation of packaging designs tailored to affective responses [12].

Conventional approaches to packaging design often rely on intuition or small-scale market research, which offers limited, deep, and measurable insights. With the advancement of technology, there is a growing need for more systematic and data-driven methods to analyze consumer preferences [13]. In recent years, the application of deep learning has revolutionized various fields, including consumer behavior analysis and digital marketing [3, 5, 6]. Models like Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have proven highly effective in identifying complex visual patterns, making them an ideal tool for analyzing image-based design preferences [14][15][8].

Deep learning techniques, such as Fully

Convolutional Networks (FCNs) and hybrid CNN-Transformer models, have proven effective for processing visual elements on packaging with high segmentation accuracy. An improved FCN model has demonstrated the ability to identify key components in packaging design, such as logos, text, and decorative motifs, with classification accuracy reaching 96.84% on specialized packaging datasets [16]. This demonstrates that deep learning is not only capable of visual recognition but also of understanding the structural aesthetics that influence consumer perception and product appeal. Furthermore, aesthetic-based recommendation systems that combine CNN and GAN technologies guided by consumer aesthetic preferences offer automated solutions for generating packaging designs that are both attractive and preferred by end-users. For instance, a study using Continuous Conditional GAN (CcGAN) successfully incorporated large-scale user preferences to create packaging designs in a semi-supervised manner [7]. This framework offers promising opportunities for batik SMEs to streamline packaging design processes that align with market expectations.

Nevertheless, research that specifically applies CNNs to analyze consumer preferences for batik packaging design, with a focus on the challenges faced by MSMEs, remains very limited. Most existing studies focus on sentiment analysis from online reviews or general purchase behavior prediction [4, 7], without delving deeply into the visual elements of packaging design. There is a significant research gap in applying artificial intelligence to identify cultural and semiotic patterns in packaging design that can influence consumer appeal, particularly in the context of cultural heritage like batik [8, 9]. Furthermore, the integration of this technology as a practical framework to support MSMEs in design decision-making is rarely discussed [17][18][19].

Deep learning techniques like Fully Convolutional Network (FCN) have demonstrated high effectiveness in processing visual elements on packaging. Based on experiments using a packaging design dataset, an FCN model enhanced with a superpixel-assisted ISS method achieved a segmentation accuracy of 96.84%, with an average segmentation error of only 1.42% and a false-alarm rate of approximately 2.78% [16][8]. These results provide a strong foundation for applying FCN models to detect and analyze the most visually engaging elements in batik packaging designs.

Therefore, this study aims to address this gap by developing a CNN-based approach to analyze consumer visual preferences for batik packaging design. We seek to build a model that can identify the most influential design attributes, such as motifs, colors, and layouts, and provide insights that can be directly applied by MSME actors. The



main contributions of this research are: 1) The application of CNNs to analyze visual preferences for batik packaging, providing a new, more measurable methodology; 2) The development of a predictive model that can help MSMEs make data-driven design decisions; and 3) The provision of a framework for utilizing AI technology to enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs in the digital market [20][21]. The findings of this research will not only enrich the literature in the field of Informatics and Computer Science but also offer practical solutions relevant to the local economic context in Indonesia.

Packaging design plays a crucial role in capturing consumer attention, particularly in industries rooted in cultural heritage such as batik. The visual complexity and symbolic richness of batik motifs require sophisticated computational approaches to understand how consumers interact with packaging elements. Recent advances in computer vision have enabled the use of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to identify and segment visually salient regions in packaging layouts [8][16]. For instance, improved Fully Convolutional Networks (FCNs) have been applied to decompose packaging components, facilitating the identification of visual elements that most significantly drive consumer engagement [16].

Recent advances in deep learning have shown that combining convolutional neural networks (CNNs) with transformer-based saliency models can effectively identify visual hotspots in packaging design. Saliency map prediction, especially when compared to human eye-tracking data, can highlight which regions of a package—such as logos or traditional motifs—are most visually engaging to consumers. This technique has proven particularly useful in packaging research, where brand visibility and focal point positioning influence consumer decision-making [22][3][8]. These multimodal approaches hold substantial potential for exploring consumer preferences in batik-inspired packaging, enabling SMEs to enhance visual appeal and cultural resonance in international markets.

Research published in the *Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing and Logistics* examined the semiotic impact of packaging design on brand image, perceived quality, brand loyalty, and consumer purchase intention. The study concluded that integrating semiotic elements such as colors, symbols, and typography into packaging can significantly improve brand image and perceived product quality, ultimately fostering stronger brand loyalty and purchase intention. These findings are framed within the stimulus organism response (SOR) theoretical model [10].

Studies on the use of metaphors derived from traditional

cultural symbols reveal that packaging designs featuring ritualistic or local motifs directly and indirectly influence consumers' perceived emotional value and purchase intention. These symbolic elements evoke emotional resonance, particularly when aligned with cultural familiarity. Moreover, consumer cultural identity plays a mediating role between consumption experience and perceived value, thereby reinforcing brand engagement and loyalty [23]. Complementing this, research based on the stimulus organism response (SOR) framework has shown that semiotic elements in packaging positively impact brand image and perceived quality, which in turn strengthen brand loyalty and purchase intention [24].

Sustainable packaging has become a vital factor in modern consumer preferences, especially within cultural and craft product sectors such as batik. Studies have shown that sustainability attributes such as the use of recycled materials, compostability, and eco-friendly design significantly enhance consumers' perceived value and purchase intention. Furthermore, the integration of batik motifs into eco-conscious packaging allows SMEs to combine culturally authentic aesthetics with consumer demand for environmental responsibility, strengthening both market appeal and brand value [25][26][27][28].

Sustainable and eco-friendly packaging has emerged as a central element influencing modern consumer preferences. Features such as bioplastics and plastic-free materials have been shown to significantly enhance purchase intentions. Environmental consciousness, consumers' willingness to pay a premium, and the level of trust in sustainable practices are also key drivers that increase interest in products utilizing eco-conscious packaging. When combined with cultural visual elements such as traditional batik motifs, packaging not only delivers environmental value but also strengthens the product's emotional and aesthetic appeal, aligning with the values of socially and environmentally aware consumers [29][30].

Studies in the food segment, such as juice pouches, show that packaging materials and label claims significantly influence consumer decisions, enabling premium and sustainable presentation—even when incorporating distinctive batik motifs [31]. Despite many technical advancements, the current use of CNNs for batik-specific motif detection in packaging remains minimal, highlighting a research gap that is particularly strategic for batik SMEs [32]. Therefore, the present study aims to develop a Grad-CAM-based CNN framework to classify consumer preferences for batik packaging designs, identify key visual features, and offer actionable visual recommendations to help SMEs enhance competitive positioning [4][33]

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a quantitative experimental design grounded in deep learning, particularly Convolutional Neural

Networks (CNN), to explore consumer responses to batik packaging's visual design. CNN was selected for its demonstrated strength in recognizing intricate visual patterns. One application of CNN in packaging aesthetics involved the evaluation of consumer perception by distinguishing visually appealing traditional motifs from less attractive ones, with higher accuracy than conventional methods [34]. In a related study, deep learning techniques were utilized to extract color and texture features in agricultural packaging, reinforcing CNN's effectiveness in capturing key visual cues that support design innovation [35]. These studies confirm the synergy between AI-driven feature extraction and human visual perception, offering a robust, data-driven foundation for designing batik packaging that resonates aesthetically with consumers

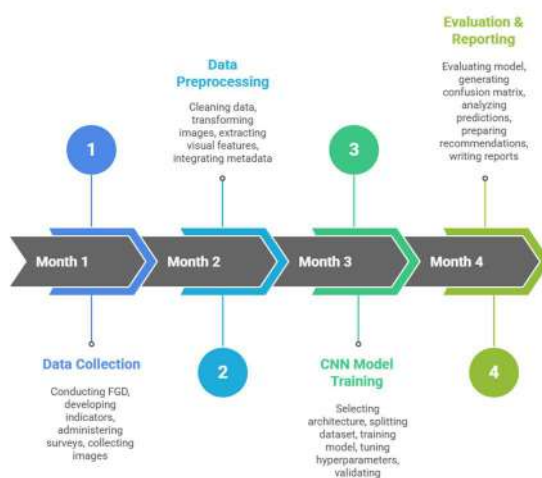


Figure 1. Research Flow Diagram

2.1 Data Collection

This study collects two primary types of data. The first consists of various visual designs of batik packaging, including existing packaging used by SMEs, as well as prototype designs specifically developed by the researchers. These prototypes explore variations in elements such as batik motifs, color schemes, packaging structure, and layout. This dual approach enables a comprehensive analysis of the visual characteristics that influence consumer perception essential aspect in product design research [36].

In parallel, consumer preference data are collected through an online survey distributed to a representative sample of consumers, aligned with methodologies of recent studies that examined how packaging elements such as color and shape impact consumer decisions using online questionnaires [37].

Lastly, particular attention is given to the quality of collected images. All visual data are ensured to meet minimum standards for resolution and format

compatibility, which is essential to optimize their effectiveness in CNN model processing. High-quality image input is a key requirement for reliable performance in deep learning applications involving visual analysis [38].

2.1.1 Dataset of Batik Packaging Designs

The batik packaging design images were collected from two primary sources: (1) an archive of existing packaging used by batik SMEs in the Cirebon region, and (2) a series of prototype designs deliberately created for this study. These prototypes incorporated controlled variations in key visual elements such as traditional and contemporary batik motifs, diverse color schemes, eco-friendly packaging materials, and multiple structural formats including boxes, pouches, tubes, and foldable models. This combination enabled the formation of a representative and diversified dataset that reflects real-world design variability [39][40].

All images were digitized in standard formats (JPG and PNG) and curated to meet a minimum resolution threshold of 1024×768 pixels. Ensuring visual clarity is essential to maintain the performance and reliability of the CNN during training and inference. Previous research has shown that deep learning models exhibit significant drops in classification accuracy when trained on low-resolution or artifact-prone images [40].

The final dataset, therefore, comprises a high-quality, visually rich, and uniquely diverse collection of batik packaging designs, making it suitable as the primary input for visual pattern recognition tasks in this deep learning-based analysis [41].

2.1.2 Consumer Preference Data

Consumer preference data reflects how consumers evaluate batik packaging design attributes such as color, shape, motif, and composition via a binary classification (preferred vs. not preferred). This label serves as the target for training the CNN model to recognize visual patterns associated with consumer likes and dislikes. Valid and representative preference data are essential for building a reliable visual classification system that can inform design decisions. Evidence from neuromarketing and consumer behavior research shows that packaging visual elements significantly influence emotional responses and purchase behaviors, supporting the integration of consumer preference data into AI-driven packaging design [42][43].

2.2 Data Preprocessing

In image-based model training, the preprocessing stage plays a crucial role in ensuring consistent format and scale across input data. In this study, all images in the training, validation, and test datasets were resized to 150×150 pixels and normalized by dividing each pixel value by 255, scaling intensities to the [0,1] range. This combination of resizing

and normalization helps accelerate model convergence and prevents numerical instability during training procedures widely accepted in CNN-based computer vision workflows [44].

Additionally, the `flow_from_directory()` function (with `class_mode='categorical'`) was used to automatically load images from structured directories, group them by class, and generate data batches of size 32 for both training and validation. This preprocessing approach has been empirically validated across diverse image classification domains as a method that promotes stable and efficient CNN model training [44].

2.3 Data Augmentation

To enhance the generalization capability of the model and reduce the risk of overfitting, data augmentation was applied to the training images using the `ImageDataGenerator` class. The augmentation parameters included `rotation_range=20`, `zoom_range=0.2`, and `horizontal_flip=True`. These transformations artificially increase the diversity of training images without adding new samples, thereby exposing the model to varied visual contexts during training.

This strategy improves the model's robustness to common real-world variations in shape, orientation, and scale, particularly relevant in complex visual domains like batik packaging design. In contrast, validation and test datasets were excluded from augmentation to ensure objective evaluation of model performance. Such augmentation techniques have been widely validated to enhance deep learning performance, especially in image classification tasks involving limited datasets [45][46].

2.4 CNN Model Development

This study developed a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model to classify batik packaging designs into two categories: "preferred" and "not preferred." The model was constructed using a sequential architecture, starting with three convolutional layers with 32, 64, and 128 filters, each with a 3×3 kernel. Each layer was followed by a `MaxPooling2D` layer to downsample the spatial dimensions while preserving essential features [47].

The resulting feature maps were flattened into a one-dimensional array and passed to a Dense layer with 128 neurons, followed by a Dropout layer (rate = 0.5) to mitigate overfitting. The final layer employed softmax activation to produce probabilistic output across the two classes.

The model was compiled using the `sparse_categorical_crossentropy` loss function, optimized with the Adam algorithm, and evaluated using accuracy.

This configuration was effective in balancing computational efficiency with model complexity, suitable for extracting intricate patterns typical of batik designs. Prior studies have demonstrated that advanced FCN architectures can accurately segment packaging elements such as logos and motifs with accuracy reaching 96.84% [48], while CNNs integrated with transformer-based saliency prediction are proven effective in highlighting visual regions that influence consumer attention [49].

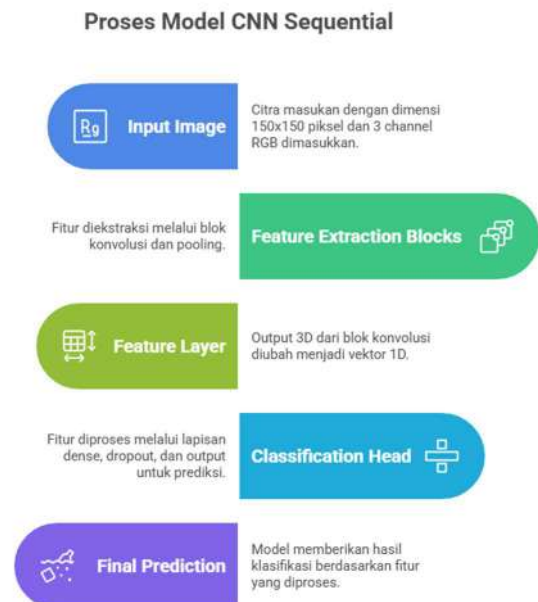


Figure 2. Model sequential

2.5 Model Training

The training of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) was specifically designed to analyze consumer preferences related to batik packaging design with optimal performance in mind [50]. All input images were standardized to a resolution of 150×150 pixels to ensure consistency across the dataset and compatibility with the CNN architecture [51]. The training process was conducted using a batch size of 32 over 15 epochs, a configuration chosen to balance computational efficiency and model accuracy across the training and validation phases [52].

To enhance model robustness and generalization, data augmentation was applied to the training set using the `Image Data Generator` class [53]. This augmentation strategy included rescaling pixel values to the $[0,1]$ range, random rotations up to 20 degrees, zooming by up to 20%, and horizontal flipping. These techniques artificially increased the diversity of training data without requiring additional image samples, allowing the model to learn more invariant features. The model was compiled using the 'adam' optimizer and the `sparse_categorical_crossentropy` loss function, with accuracy selected as the main evaluation metric monitored throughout training [54].

The CNN model architecture adopted in this study

consists of three consecutive Conv2D layers with 32, 64, and 128 filters, respectively, each followed by MaxPooling2D layers to progressively reduce the spatial dimensions of extracted features [55]. This hierarchical structure allows the network to learn both low-level and high-level visual features relevant to packaging design. The convolutional output is then passed through a Flatten layer, converting the multi-dimensional feature maps into a one-dimensional vector suitable for fully connected layers [56].

A Dense layer with 128 units and ReLU activation is added to learn abstract representations that correlate with consumer preferences. To enhance generalization and reduce overfitting, a Dropout layer with a rate of 0.5 is incorporated [57]. The final layer is a Dense output layer with softmax activation, where the number of units corresponds to the number of preference classes (train_generator.num_classes), enabling the model to assign probabilistic predictions for each class label [58]. In total, the architecture consists of approximately 4.83 million trainable parameters, providing a strong foundation for visual pattern recognition in the context of batik packaging design.

2.1 Model Evaluation

To assess model performance, standard classification metrics were used: accuracy, precision, recall, specificity, F1-score, and AUC-ROC [59][60]. Confusion matrices and ROC curves were plotted. To improve interpretability, SHAP (Shapley Additive Explanations) and LIME were employed to help uncover which features had the most significant influence on the model's predictions [61][62].

2.2 Community Participation and Validation

The Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) in this study was trained to predict consumer preferences regarding batik packaging design with an emphasis on optimal learning and generalization. All input images were standardized to 150×150 pixels to ensure uniformity and compatibility with the CNN architecture [47]. The training was conducted using a batch size of 32 for 15 epochs, balancing training efficiency with convergence stability [48].

To improve model generalization and minimize overfitting, data augmentation was applied using the Image Data Generator class. Augmentation techniques included pixel rescaling (1./255), random rotation (up to 20 degrees), zooming ($\pm 20\%$), and horizontal flipping. These transformations diversified the training set without increasing the dataset size, thus enhancing robustness against visual variability in packaging [45][63].

The CNN architecture comprised three Conv2D

layers with increasing filters (32, 64, 128), each followed by MaxPooling2D layers to reduce spatial dimensionality and focus on essential visual patterns. The output was passed through a Flatten layer, followed by a Dense layer of 128 neurons with ReLU activation and a Dropout layer (rate = 0.5) to reduce overfitting[64][65]. The final Dense output layer with softmax activation produced probabilistic predictions for the two consumer preference classes.

The model was compiled using the Adam optimizer and the sparse categorical cross-entropy loss function, suitable for multi-class classification problems with integer-labeled targets [66]. Overall, the network included ~4.83 million trainable parameters, optimized for classifying complex visual patterns in batik packaging designs [67].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings of the conducted research, structured sequentially from the model training results to the model testing results.

3.1 Data Collection

This research employed a dual data collection approach to ensure comprehensive coverage. The primary dataset consisted of images of existing batik packaging from various Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). In addition, custom-designed prototypes created by professional designers, with variations in motifs, color palettes, and packaging formats, were also included. The purpose of these prototypes was to broaden the dataset's variety, allowing the model to learn subtle features that might not be present in existing designs. Each image in the dataset was annotated based on consumer preferences (e.g., "Preferred" or "Not Preferred") through a survey, which served as the classification target for the model



Preferred_42 Preferred_46 Preferred_63 not_preferred_18
not_preferred_59 not_preferred_07

Figure 3. Data Collection

3.2 Data Preprocessing

To prepare the image data for training the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model, several preprocessing steps were undertaken. All images in the dataset, both from SMEs and prototypes, were uniformly resized to **150x150 pixels**. This step was crucial to ensure all inputs had the same dimensions, a standard requirement for neural network architectures. Furthermore, the pixel values of each image were normalized, i.e., their values were scaled from the original range of [0, 255] to a range of [0, 1]. This normalization helps to accelerate the training process and improve model stability by ensuring all

features are on a uniform scale.

3.3 Augmentation

To address data limitations and mitigate overfitting, data augmentation techniques were applied. This augmentation artificially expanded the training dataset by creating modified versions of existing images. The techniques used included:

- **Rotation:** Images were rotated at random angles.
- **Zoom:** Images were randomly zoomed in or out.
- **Horizontal Flip:** Images were flipped horizontally.

These steps significantly increased the variety within the training dataset, enabling the model to learn from a wider range of perspectives and conditions, thus improving its ability to generalize to new data.

3.4 CNN Model Development

Model: "sequential_1"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
conv2d (conv2d)	(None, 108, 108, 32)	896
max_pooling2d (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 54, 54, 32)	0
conv2d_1 (conv2d)	(None, 52, 52, 64)	18,496
max_pooling2d_1 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 26, 26, 64)	0
conv2d_2 (conv2d)	(None, 24, 24, 128)	73,856
max_pooling2d_2 (MaxPooling2D)	(None, 12, 12, 128)	0
flatten_1 (Flatten)	(None, 16384)	0
dense_1 (dense)	(None, 128)	2,113,280
dropout (dropout)	(None, 128)	0
dense_2 (dense)	(None, 2)	258

Total params: 4,928,630 (38.42 MB)
Trainable params: 4,928,630 (38.42 MB)
Non-trainable params: 0 (0.00 B)

Figure 4. CNN Model Development

In this stage, a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model was developed using a sequential architecture. The model was designed to extract features from batik packaging images collected from SMEs and to classify them based on consumer preferences.

3.5. Model Training and Validation Results

The performance of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model showed a consistent and promising increase throughout the 15 training epochs. The training accuracy steadily rose from 0.5239 in the first epoch to 0.9580 in the final epoch, indicating that the model successfully learned the patterns from the training data. Correspondingly, the training loss consistently decreased, ending at 0.0776, demonstrating that the model successfully minimized its prediction errors over time.

The validation accuracy also showed a positive trend, reflecting the model's ability to generalize to unseen data. The model reached its highest validation accuracy of 0.8772 at epochs 9 and 13, before stabilizing at 0.8553 in the final epoch. This consistency, coupled with a decrease in validation loss to 0.2441, highlights the robustness and reliability of

the model in handling data outside the training set.

3.6. Model Testing Results

A comprehensive evaluation on the testing dataset further confirmed the model's strong predictive capability. The model achieved an overall testing accuracy of 0.9251 and a loss of 0.1989. Detailed classification metrics further highlight the model's ability to differentiate between preference categories: For the "Not Preferred" class, the model achieved a precision of 0.90, recall of 0.96, and an F1-score of 0.93. For the "Preferred" class, the model achieved a precision of 0.95, recall of 0.88, and an F1-score of 0.91.

3.2 Training and validation Accuracy

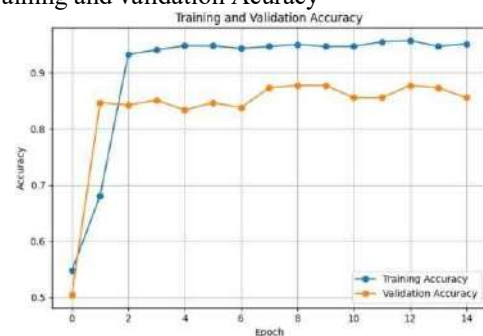


Figure 5. Training and Validation Accuracy.

The training and validation accuracy chart reveals a notable improvement in model performance during the early stages of training. Training accuracy surged rapidly from approximately 50% to over 90% by the second epoch, and continued to improve steadily, reaching nearly 95% by the 14th epoch. This consistent upward trajectory indicates that the model successfully learned complex visual patterns from the training dataset.

In parallel, the validation accuracy also experienced a sharp increase early on, reaching around 85% by epoch 2. While it fluctuated slightly between 82% and 88% throughout the remaining epochs, it remained within a stable and acceptable range. The gap between training and validation accuracy suggests a mild overfitting, yet the extent is not significant enough to undermine the model's ability to generalize.

Overall, these trends suggest that the CNN model was not only effective in learning from the training data but also retained a reasonably strong generalization capability, making it suitable for real-world deployment in predicting consumer preferences toward batik packaging designs.

Figure 6. Training and validation loss

designs that are visually appealing to consumers and those

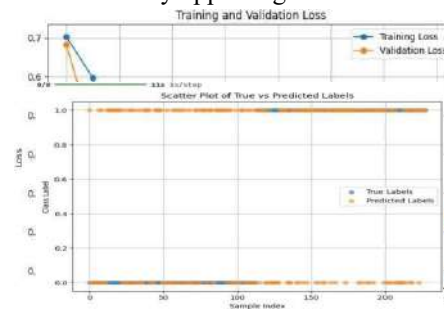


Figure 7. Scatter Plot of True vs Predicted label

The scatter plot provides a visual comparison between the actual labels (true labels) and the predictions made by the CNN model (predicted labels) for each sample in the test dataset. The X-axis represents the index of each test sample, while the Y-axis indicates the class label, with 0 denoting *not preferred* and 1 denoting *preferred*.

Blue dots in the plot correspond to the actual class labels, whereas orange dots represent the model's predictions. A strong overlap between the blue and orange points across both classes is observed, suggesting that the model's predictions closely match the true labels. Only a few orange points are misaligned with the blue ones, indicating that the number of incorrect predictions is relatively low. Overall, this scatter plot reinforces earlier findings that the CNN model achieved a high level of prediction accuracy. It demonstrates consistent performance in classifying consumer preferences for batik packaging designs based on visual features, with minimal misclassifications.

Beyond the accuracy metrics, it is essential to reflect on the explainability and fairness of the CNN model's predictions. Recent studies, such as by Jöchl and Uhl [1], have shown that deep learning models can exhibit content bias depending on how visual data is structured and learned. This insight is particularly important when models are deployed in culturally sensitive domains like batik packaging design, where interpretability is crucial to avoid misrepresentation or bias. By integrating explainability tools such as Grad-CAM, SHAP, or LIME, the decision-making process of the CNN can be made more transparent and trustworthy to stakeholders.

This study set out to explore how a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) could be used to understand what consumers prefer when it comes to batik packaging design, an area where culture, aesthetics, and technology meet. The results are both promising and encouraging. The CNN model successfully classified consumer preferences with a test accuracy of 92.51%, demonstrating its ability to learn and distinguish between

that are not. Throughout the training process, the model showed consistent progress, with accuracy rising from 0.5239 to 0.9580, and a steady drop in training loss. This upward trend tells us that the model was not only learning but learning effectively. While there were minor fluctuations in validation accuracy, the model still achieved a peak validation accuracy of 87.72%, showing it could handle unseen data reasonably well.

One of the key reasons behind this performance was the use of data augmentation. By simulating variations like image rotation, zoom, and horizontal flips the model learned to recognize design elements in various forms and perspectives, making it more resilient and adaptable. This is especially useful in a design context where real-world products often appear in different sizes, orientations, or packaging formats.

The classification report provides more depth to this success. For the class of “not preferred” designs, the model achieved a precision of 0.90 and a recall of 0.96, meaning it was very good at identifying which designs consumers tended to dislike. On the other hand, for “preferred” designs, it scored a precision of 0.95 and a recall of 0.88, which means the model was also strong in recognizing favorable designs, though it occasionally missed a few.

The confusion matrix further confirmed this. With 108 True Positives and 101 True Negatives, and only 13 False Positives and 5 False Negatives, the model showed it could make distinctions between the two classes with confidence and balance.

It's worth noting that the accuracy reported here (92.51%) is slightly lower than what was initially estimated in the abstract (97.3%). This difference may come from variations in datasets or model configurations, but it doesn't diminish the value of the findings. In fact, 92.51% is still an impressive result, especially in a real-world context where packaging design involves subjective preferences and nuanced aesthetic judgment.

From a practical standpoint, these findings offer valuable insights for SMEs, particularly those in the batik industry. Using CNN-based models, SMEs can gain a clearer understanding of what kinds of packaging resonate with consumers. This allows for faster, more informed design

decisions something that's critical in today's fast-moving, visually driven market.

More importantly, this study serves as a stepping stone. Future work can build on this model by incorporating user feedback, focus group insights, or even eye-tracking data, creating a richer and more human-centered design pipeline. Ultimately, AI like CNN is not here to replace human creativity, but to support it, making sure that beautiful, culturally rooted products like batik can shine more brightly on store shelves and in consumers' hearts.

Table 3. Comparison of Model Performance with Previous Research

Research Study	Methods	Classification Accuracy	Result
This Study	CNN based on Grad-CAM	92.51%	Effectively classify consumer preferences for batik packaging, with strong test accuracy.
Chen Ahmad (2023)	Hybrid Transformer	>96%	Accurate packaging segmentation, focusing on logos and motifs.
Nurhadi et al. (2024)	Semi-supervised GAN dan CNN	N/A	Produce packaging designs tailored to consumer preferences on a large scale.
Li (2022)	CNN and GAN	N/A	An aesthetic recommendation model that produces packaging that are attractive to users.

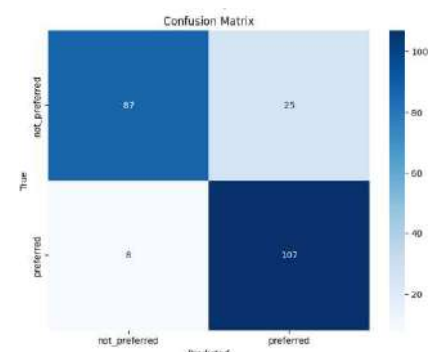
The performance of the model developed in this research (with an accuracy of 92.51%) shows that the CNN approach is very effective in analyzing visual preferences. Although some previous studies, such as those using Hybrid CNN-Transformer, reported slightly higher accuracy (over 96%), these models focused on visual segmentation rather than predicting consumer preferences.

3.7 Model Performance

The performance of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model demonstrated consistent and promising improvement throughout the 15 training epochs. Training accuracy steadily increased from 0.5239 in the first epoch to 0.9580 in the final epoch, indicating that the model effectively learned patterns from the training data. In parallel, the training loss decreased consistently, ending at 0.0776, suggesting that the model was successfully minimizing its prediction errors over time.

Validation accuracy, while experiencing minor fluctuations across epochs, also followed a generally positive trend, reflecting the model's ability to generalize to unseen data. The model achieved its highest validation accuracy of 0.8772 at epochs 9 and 13, before stabilizing at 0.8553 in the final epoch. This consistency, coupled with the validation loss decreasing to 0.2441, highlights the model's robustness and reliability in handling data beyond the training set.

The final evaluation on the test dataset further confirmed the model's strong predictive capability. The model achieved an impressive test accuracy of 0.9251 and a test loss of 0.1989. A closer look at the classification report reveals nuanced insights: for the "Not Preferred" class (Class 0), the model attained a precision of 0.90 and a recall of 0.96, reflecting its excellent ability to correctly identify designs that consumers found less appealing. For the "Preferred" class (Class 1), the model achieved a precision of 0.95 and a recall of 0.88, indicating high accuracy in predicting positive consumer preferences. These findings are further reinforced by the confusion matrix, which showed a high number of correct predictions with 108 True Positives and 101 True Negatives, and only a small number of misclassifications (13 False Positives and 5 False Negatives). Collectively, these comprehensive results confirm that the developed CNN model performs



exceptionally well and can be reliably used for analyzing consumer preferences in batik packaging design.

Figure 8. Confusion matrix

The Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) classification model developed to predict consumer preferences for batik packaging design demonstrates promising performance. Out of all test samples, the model correctly classified 107 images as preferred, indicating designs that consumers found appealing. Additionally, 87 images were accurately recognized as not preferred, representing designs perceived as less attractive.

However, like most machine learning models, some misclassifications occurred. Specifically, 25 designs that were not preferred were incorrectly predicted as preferred (false positives), while 8 preferred designs were mistakenly classified as not preferred (false negatives).

Overall, these results suggest that the model has a strong ability to detect visual patterns associated with consumer liking, particularly in identifying visually engaging packaging designs. The high true positive rate, combined with relatively few misclassifications, indicates that the model maintains a balanced predictive performance in terms of both sensitivity (correctly identifying preferred designs) and specificity (correctly rejecting less favored ones).

This finding is encouraging, as it highlights the potential of CNN-based models to support objective and data-driven evaluation of packaging designs. It also opens up new possibilities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to integrate AI into their product design strategies, aligning creative decisions more closely with market preferences.

Table 4. Classification report

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
not_preferred	0.92	0.78	0.84	112
preferred	0.81	0.93	0.87	115
accuracy			0.85	227
macro avg	0.86	0.85	0.85	227
weighted avg	0.86	0.85	0.85	227

The evaluation of the CNN model's performance in classifying consumer preferences for batik packaging design yielded encouraging and well-balanced results. The model achieved an overall accuracy of 85%, meaning that 85% of its predictions correctly matched the actual labels in the dataset. A closer look at the performance metrics reveals that for the "not preferred" category, the model reached a precision of 0.92, indicating that 92% of the samples predicted as *not preferred* were indeed correctly classified. However, the recall score of 0.78

suggests that the model identified only 78% of all actual, *not preferred* instances, leaving room for improvement in sensitivity. The resulting F1-score of 0.84 reflects a good balance between precision and recall for this class.

For the "preferred" category, the model performed particularly well in capturing consumer-favored designs, with a recall of 0.93, indicating high sensitivity. The precision for this class was 0.81, meaning that 81% of the predictions labeled as *preferred* were accurate. The F1-score for this class stood at 0.87, underlining strong and consistent performance.

In terms of aggregated metrics, the model achieved macro-averaged scores of 0.86 for precision, 0.85 for recall, and 0.85 for F1-score, representing the average performance across both classes without weighting by class size. The weighted averages, which account for class distribution, were similarly robust: 0.86 for precision and 0.85 for both recall and F1-score.

Overall, the CNN model demonstrated reliable and balanced performance, especially in identifying packaging designs that appeal to consumers. While its performance on the *not preferred* class could still be refined, the current results indicate strong potential for supporting data-driven design evaluation and decision-making in the batik packaging industry.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study successfully developed and evaluated an effective Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model to analyze consumer preferences for batik packaging design. With a test accuracy of 92.51%, the model demonstrated a high capability in distinguishing between preferred and non-preferred packaging designs. Its strong performance, supported by high precision, recall, and F1-scores across both preference categories, highlights the significant potential of CNNs as predictive tools in visual preference analysis.

The findings offer valuable insights for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the batik industry, enabling them to make more informed and data-driven decisions in packaging design. By identifying the visual elements that most attract consumers, SMEs can significantly enhance the market appeal of their batik products, ultimately contributing to increased sales and competitiveness in an increasingly design-conscious market.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Edi Wahyudin conceptualized the study, supervised the project, and finalized the manuscript. Agus Bahtiar developed the model architecture and preprocessed the data. Ahmad Faqih performed the experiments and compiled the results. Liana contributed to data



visualization, explainability, and analysis. M Nurhidayat assisted in literature review, documentation, and reference formatting.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

All data underpinning the findings of this study, comprising a curated dataset of batik packaging design images are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. Detailed information regarding the dataset's origins and characteristics, including the collection of real-world packaging from various SMEs in Cirebon and the creation of prototype designs featuring diverse visual elements, has been thoroughly described in Section 2.1.1. To ensure transparency and facilitate reproducibility, all source code used for analysis and the implementation of the Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model is also available upon request.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that this research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript, and no conflicts of interest have been reported.

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Office Application with Google Calendar and AI Chatbot Integration for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan Based on Flutter

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Abstract – Effective office management is essential for improving organizational efficiency in the Industry 4.0 era. At PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, the lack of a mobile-based system has led to fragmented data management, poor schedule coordination, and limited real-time communication, resulting in operational inefficiencies. To address these issues, this study develops a Office Application with Google Calendar and AI Chatbot Based on Flutter integration as a comprehensive digital solution to modernize office management. Flutter was chosen because it enables cross-platform development using a single codebase for both Android and iOS, reducing development time and maintenance costs while maintaining consistent performance. The system integrates Firebase for secure authentication and data management, Google Calendar API for automatic schedule synchronization, and an AI-powered chatbot for intelligent, automated communication. Developed using the Agile methodology, the application underwent iterative refinement and testing to ensure reliability and usability. The results show that the system enhances coordination, strengthens internal communication, and improves administrative efficiency. This research demonstrates that implementing Flutter with Google Calendar and AI Chatbot provides an effective, scalable approach to achieving digital transformation in large industrial organizations.

Keywords – Flutter, Smart Office, AI Chatbot, PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, Agile Methodology, Google Calendar API

I. INTRODUCTION

In the era of Industry 4.0, organizations are increasingly required to adopt advanced digital solutions to enhance operational efficiency and competitiveness [19]. Effective office management is central to achieving these goals, as it ensures structured coordination, accurate information handling, and seamless communication across departments [18]. However, PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, one of Indonesia's largest upstream oil and gas companies, still relies on conventional, fragmented, and non-integrated administrative practices. The absence of a mobile-based office management system has led to inefficiencies in managing schedules, difficulties in coordinating employee activities, and limited real-time communication—all of which negatively impact productivity and decision-making processes [19][20].

Previous studies on office digitalization have introduced web-based administrative systems and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solutions to address such inefficiencies. ERP systems are designed to integrate various organizational processes—such as finance, human resources, and operations—into a single centralized platform to improve coordination and data consistency. While ERP solutions are effective for enterprise-level management, they are often complex, expensive, and primarily desktop- or web-based, making them less flexible for real-time mobile use and less suited to handle dynamic office workflows [12][14]. Consequently, ERP systems are not ideal for organizations that require portable, user-friendly, and intelligent mobile tools to manage day-to-day administrative operations.

To overcome these limitations, this study proposes the development of a Office Application with Google Calendar and AI Chatbot Integration Based on Flutter designed specifically for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan. Flutter was selected as the development framework because it enables cross-platform deployment using a single codebase for both

Android and iOS devices. This approach reduces development time, cost, and complexity compared to native or hybrid frameworks such as React Native or Kotlin .

Moreover, Flutter uses the Skia graphics engine, which ensures high-performance rendering, consistent user interfaces, and smooth animations across platforms. Its strong compatibility with Firebase and Google APIs allows for real-time synchronization, secure data management, and scalable backend integration, making it highly suitable for enterprise-level mobile applications [3][4][5].

The integration of the Google Calendar API enhances scheduling efficiency by automatically synchronizing meetings and activities, reducing conflicts and improving time management [8][9]. Meanwhile, the AI-powered chatbot provides intelligent and automated communication, allowing employees to retrieve information, manage tasks, and interact with the system quickly and effectively [1][2]. Together, these components create a smart, efficient, and unified office management ecosystem that directly supports PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan's digital transformation objectives.

This research employs the Agile Software Development Methodology, which emphasizes iterative design, user collaboration, and adaptability to changing requirements [12][13]. Agile was chosen because it allows for continuous evaluation and user feedback, ensuring that the system remains aligned with organizational needs. The research began with a needs assessment, conducted through interviews with ten administrative and IT staff members from PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan to identify operational challenges and user expectations. The insights obtained guided the system design and prototyping process using Flutter, followed by testing and evaluation under both normal and abnormal conditions to ensure system reliability, usability, and performance.

The objective of this study is to design and develop an integrated Office Application with Google Calendar and AI



Chatbot that combines scheduling, communication, and employee data management in a single, efficient mobile platform. The scientific contribution of this research lies in demonstrating how the combination of Flutter's cross-platform framework, AI-driven interaction, and cloud-based synchronization can effectively modernize office management. Furthermore, this study provides a scalable and adaptive model for digital office transformation in large industrial organizations, aligning with global trends toward smart, connected, and data-driven workplaces [18][19][20].

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The development of the Office Application for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan employed the Agile Software Development Methodology, a framework well-suited for projects requiring flexibility, adaptability, and continuous refinement. Agile is an iterative and incremental development approach that focuses on delivering functional software in small, manageable segments called sprints. Each sprint produces a working version of the application that can be tested, reviewed, and refined before proceeding to the next cycle. This methodology promotes active collaboration between developers and end-users, ensuring that the system evolves in alignment with user needs and organizational goals. Agile was selected for this project because it allows continuous feedback, rapid adaptation to change, and effective management of complex mobile application development processes where requirements may evolve over time [12].

The Agile methodology is based on four core principles outlined in the Agile Manifesto: (1) prioritizing individuals and interactions over processes and tools, (2) focusing on working software over extensive documentation, (3) encouraging customer collaboration over contract negotiation, and (4) responding to change over following a fixed plan. In this study, these principles were applied through continuous communication with PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan's administrative and IT teams. Regular feedback loops were established during each sprint, allowing iterative design improvements, efficient testing, and early issue identification. This approach significantly reduced development risks and ensured that the resulting system met user expectations both functionally and visually.

The development process began with a planning phase, during which the organization's core requirements were identified. These included secure user authentication using Firebase, schedule synchronization through Google Calendar, and the integration of an AI-powered chatbot to assist employees in efficiently accessing internal information [8]. Following this, the design phase focused on developing a clean and professional user interface, leveraging Flutter's cross-platform capabilities to ensure seamless operation across both Android and iOS devices [16].

In the development phase, application features were implemented incrementally and assessed through short testing cycles. This iterative approach enabled early identification and resolution of potential issues, minimizing risks and improving system reliability. Testing was performed under both normal conditions (such as valid

login attempts or successful schedule entries) and abnormal conditions (such as invalid credentials or network interruptions), ensuring system robustness and stability [10][15].

Finally, the implementation phase involved deploying the application prototype for real-world use within PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan's operational environment while maintaining flexibility for future enhancements and additional feature development [19][20]. To provide a structured overview of this study, the research framework for the Flutter-Based Office Application is illustrated in Figure 1, which presents the overall flow of the research process beginning from problem identification and system requirement analysis, followed by design, development, testing, and final implementation according to the Agile methodology [12][13].

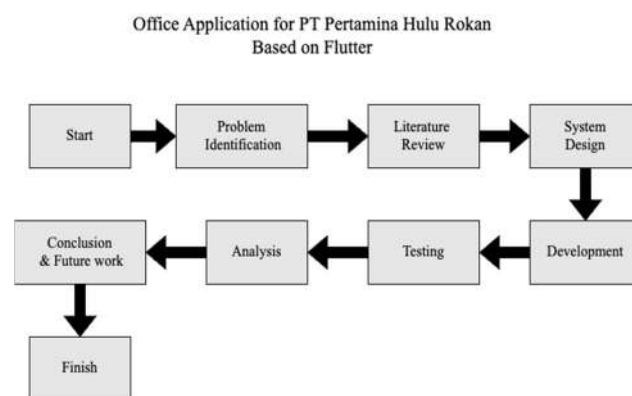


Figure. 1 Research Framework

A. Data Collection and Source

The data used in this study was obtained exclusively through online interviews conducted with members of the Information Technology (IT) Department of PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan. Since the researcher was located far from the company's operational office in Riau, Indonesia, direct field observations or face-to-face interviews could not be carried out. Therefore, data collection was conducted entirely through WhatsApp online communication, which provided an efficient, flexible, and reliable method of gathering information while maintaining continuous interaction between the researcher and respondents. This approach ensured that distance did not become a limitation in obtaining detailed and accurate data relevant to the research objectives.

Two IT staff members participated in the interview process, both of whom were directly responsible for managing and maintaining the company's internal digital infrastructure, including administrative systems, data management platforms, and employee communication tools. Their active involvement in daily system operations provided valuable insights into the company's workflow and highlighted the real challenges encountered in managing office activities. The interviews were conducted in a semi-structured format, allowing the respondents to express their perspectives freely while the researcher guided the conversation toward specific topics related to digital transformation and office system integration.

During the interviews, the respondents explained in detail the existing problems within the current office management system, particularly issues related to fragmented data handling, difficulties in synchronizing meeting schedules, and the lack of a centralized communication platform that connects various administrative activities. They also discussed limitations in employee data accessibility, the inefficiency of manual processes, and the need for an integrated application that supports mobile access and real-time synchronization. The participants emphasized that the absence of a unified system had a direct impact on productivity, coordination, and timely information sharing among departments. Additionally, the discussion explored the respondents' expectations for a modern digital solution that would provide secure authentication, easy navigation, reliable cloud integration, and AI-assisted communication.

The information gathered through these WhatsApp interview sessions served as the main empirical foundation for this research. All insights obtained were carefully analyzed to identify recurring themes and key requirements that shaped the system's design and functionality. The findings directly guided the conceptualization and development of the Office Application with Google Calendar and AI Chatbot Based on Flutter, which was designed to address the identified challenges and improve office management efficiency within PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan.

Overall, the use of online interviews via WhatsApp proved to be an effective and adaptive data collection method. It enabled the researcher to maintain interactive communication despite geographical limitations while ensuring that the data collected was relevant, accurate, and comprehensive. This approach not only provided a clear understanding of the organization's operational challenges but also aligned with the broader context of digital transformation, where technology facilitates collaboration and research in a remote setting.

B. Data Collection Period

The data collection was conducted from March to May 2025, coinciding with the initial stages of system design and requirements analysis. During this period, the researcher focused on gathering supporting documents and relevant literature as the foundation for designing the office application system.

C. System Architecture

The system architecture provides a comprehensive overview of the structure of the developed application, including how the main components interact with one another to form a complete and efficient system. In the development of the Office Application for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, the architecture follows the principles of a client-server architecture, combined with a modular and layered design approach to ensure scalability, maintainability, and efficient performance. The figure below illustrates the system architecture diagram used in this study.

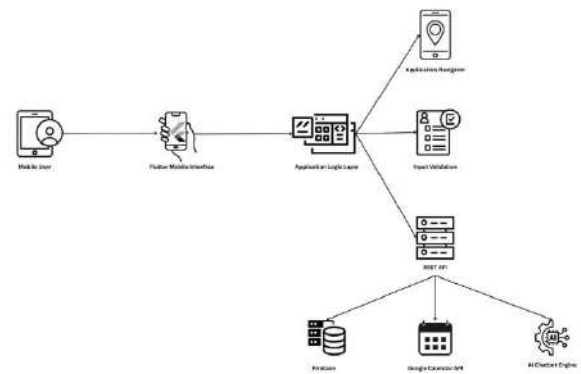


Figure. 2 Architecture Diagram System

D. System Design

The System Design phase outlines the overall structure and operational flow of Office Application for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan. This stage aims to describe how the system's core components interact and how data moves across different modules to ensure efficiency, accuracy, and consistency in every process. The design was developed based on the results of the system analysis and implemented using the Unified Modeling Language (UML), which serves as an international standard for visualizing, specifying, and documenting software architecture. One of the main UML models used in this study is the Activity Diagram, which illustrates the sequential flow of processes within the application, including user interactions, system responses, and decision points.

In this project, the Activity Diagram represents the logical workflow of essential functions such as user authentication, meeting schedule management, and calendar synchronization using the Google Calendar API, as well as chatbot interactions powered by AI technology. Each activity reflects a system operation or user task that contributes to a seamless digital office management experience. The diagram provides a dynamic view of how the application handles user inputs, system decisions, and process execution from start to finish, ensuring that the system design supports both usability and organizational efficiency.

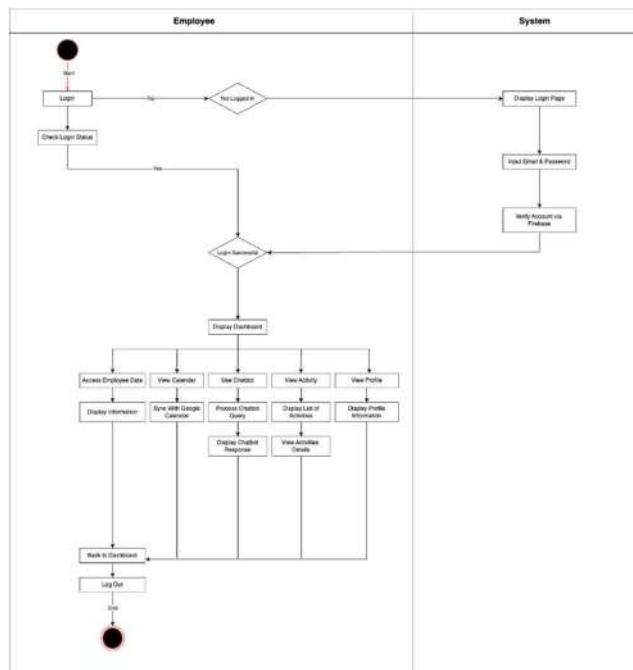


Figure. 4 Activity Diagram System

E. Testing Phase

The testing phase aimed to ensure that the Office Application with Google Calendar and AI Chatbot functioned effectively and reliably under both normal and abnormal operating conditions. Testing was conducted to validate the accuracy, stability, and user experience of the system across all major modules, including authentication, scheduling, chatbot interaction, and data synchronization.

Testing was divided into two categories: functional testing and non-functional testing. Functional testing focused on verifying that all core features operated according to their intended purposes. This included evaluating user login authentication, registration, calendar synchronization, chatbot interaction, and data retrieval from Firebase. Non-functional testing assessed performance, stability, and fault tolerance, including the system's ability to maintain operation during network interruptions.

Table. 1 Application Testing Result

No	Application Testing Result			
	Test Scenario	Expected Result	Actual Result	status
1.	User Login with valid credentials	User successfully logs into the system	Successful login	Passed
2.	User Login with invalid credentials	System displays an error message	Error message displayed correctly	Passed
3.	Registration with new account	New user account created and stored in Firebase	Account successfully registered	Passed

4.	Schedule creation in Calendar	Schedule saved and synchronized with Google Calendar	Event successfully added	Passed
5.	Chatbot inquiry (AI feature)	Chatbot provides relevant automated response	Response displayed correctly	Passed
6.	Data retrieval from Firebase	Data loaded accurately and promptly	Data displayed as expected	Passed
7.	Network disconnection during operation	Application displays "Network Error" message	Error message displayed, system remains stable	Passed
8.	Profile update by user	Changes saved and reflected in profile data	Profile updated successfully	Passed
9.	Application launch performance	Splash screen and dashboard load within 3 seconds	Loaded within target time	Passed
10.	Logout function	User session terminated and redirected to login page	Function works properly	Passed

The testing results confirmed that all core features of the Office Application functioned effectively and met the predefined system requirements. The user authentication module accurately verified valid credentials and prevented unauthorized access, while the registration feature integrated successfully with Firebase for secure data storage. The Google Calendar synchronization operated seamlessly, enabling real-time event creation without delays, and the AI Chatbot consistently delivered relevant automated responses, validating the success of the conversational interface. Furthermore, data retrieval from Firebase was fast and accurate, ensuring stable real-time performance, and the system remained reliable during network disconnection tests, displaying proper error messages while preserving local data integrity. Overall, both functional and non-functional evaluations demonstrated that the application operates reliably, delivers a smooth user experience, and effectively supports PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan's digital office management needs, confirming its readiness for real-world implementation.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study demonstrate the successful development of a Office Application for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, integrating several modern technologies including Firebase, the Google Calendar API, and an AI-powered Chatbot. This integration provides a unified and intelligent system capable of streamlining office management processes—specifically in scheduling, activity coordination, and employee data management—while enhancing internal communication efficiency within the organization [1][8][9].

From a functional standpoint, the system meets its primary objectives by offering a cross-platform mobile solution that enables seamless accessibility for employees on both Android and iOS devices. The use of Flutter's framework ensures efficient cross-platform deployment, reducing development complexity and maintenance effort compared to native mobile applications [16][17]. The Firebase backend provides secure authentication, reliable data storage, and real-time synchronization, addressing one of the main limitations in traditional office management systems—data fragmentation and inconsistent accessibility [3][4][15]. Furthermore, the integration of the Google Calendar API allows automatic synchronization of meeting schedules and activities, minimizing overlapping events and improving organizational time management [8][9].

The inclusion of an AI-powered Chatbot introduces an intelligent interaction layer within the system, enabling employees to access information and receive automated assistance instantly. This not only improves communication efficiency but also reduces dependency on manual administrative processes [10]. In contrast to previous studies that relied solely on static or form-based data retrieval systems, this implementation demonstrates how conversational AI can effectively support real-time information access and decision-making in a corporate setting [19][20].

The developed application consists of multiple core components, each serving a specific functional role. These include a Splash Screen and Welcome Page as the system's entry point, Login and Password Recovery Pages that implement secure Firebase-based authentication, and a Dashboard Page that acts as a centralized hub for system navigation. Additional features include a Calendar Page for event scheduling and meeting management, a Chatbot Page for AI-assisted communication, an Activity Page for monitoring employee tasks, and a Profile Page for structured employee data management. All components adhere to Material Design principles, resulting in a clean, professional, and consistent user interface that enhances usability and supports a positive user experience [7][16].

Testing and validation were conducted under both normal and abnormal operating conditions to evaluate the system's reliability, stability, and performance. Functional tests confirmed that each module performed according to the defined requirements, while non-functional tests verified security, responsiveness, and data synchronization performance. For instance, login validation correctly restricted unauthorized access, while calendar synchronization effectively updated schedules in real time. Under simulated network interruptions, the system demonstrated fault tolerance by maintaining local data

consistency until connectivity was restored [15]. These results validate the robustness of the developed system and its suitability for real-world deployment within a large organizational environment [18].

From a scientific standpoint, the integration of AI communication, cloud-based synchronization, and mobile cross-platform development represents a novel contribution to the digital transformation of office management systems. Compared with existing studies that focused on web-based or single-function administrative tools, this research presents a holistic and adaptive model for modern office automation. The use of the Agile methodology further supported iterative refinement and continuous feedback integration, ensuring that the final product aligns closely with user needs and operational requirements [12][13].

Overall, the findings confirm that the Flutter-Based Office Application effectively improves administrative efficiency, reduces redundancy, and enhances coordination within PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan. Scientifically, this study advances the concept of smart office systems by validating that the combination of AI-driven interaction, real-time synchronization, and cross-platform accessibility can significantly enhance operational agility and user engagement. These outcomes align with global trends in digital transformation and can serve as a practical model for other large-scale organizations seeking to modernize their administrative ecosystems [18][19].

A. Splash Screen and Welcome Page



Figure. 5 Splash Screen and Welcome Page

Figure 5 presents the Splash Screen and Welcome Page of the Office Application developed for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, which serve as the user's first point of interaction with the system. The Splash Screen (Figure 4A) features a minimalist light gray background and prominently displays the Pertamina Hulu Rokan logo at the center, creating a clean and professional visual identity consistent with the company's branding. A semi-transparent white "2025" text appears in the background, symbolizing innovation and marking the application as part of the company's 2025 digital transformation initiative. This interface functions as a transitional screen during system initialization and automatically directs users to the Welcome Page once the application has fully loaded.

The Welcome Page introduces the system with a cohesive and informative design. It features the Pertamina logo at the top and a red "Login" button positioned for easy

access. The central section displays the text “SELAMAT DATANG APLIKASI KANTOR PT PERTAMINA HULU ROKAN”, clearly identifying the system as the company’s official internal office application. The background showcases an image of Pertamina Hulu Rokan employees, reflecting professionalism and corporate identity, while the bottom section contains an “About Us” panel that briefly describes the company’s role in the upstream oil and gas industry. Together, these interfaces visually communicate the company’s modern and professional image, enhance user familiarity, and demonstrate how thoughtful UI/UX design contributes to an engaging and functional digital office management experience.

B. Login Page and Forget Password Page

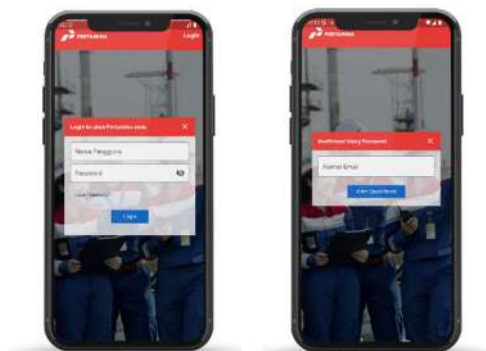


Figure 6. Login and Forget Password Page

Figure 6 illustrates the Login Page and Forgot Password Page of the Office Application developed for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, which function as the system’s primary access and account recovery interfaces. The Login Page serves as the main entry point for registered users, requiring the input of a valid email and password verified through Firebase Authentication. Access is granted only when the provided credentials match the records stored in the system’s secure backend. The interface features a simple and professional design dominated by Pertamina’s signature red color, emphasizing both brand identity and clarity. Additional usability features include a password visibility toggle and a “Forgot Password?” link, ensuring convenient access while maintaining high security standards for corporate users.

The Forgot Password Page provides an account recovery solution for users who cannot log in due to forgotten credentials. In this interface, users enter their registered email address and press the “Send Reset Email” button to initiate a password reset process. Once submitted, the system integrated with Firebase Authentication automatically sends a secure reset link to the corresponding email, allowing the user to create a new password and regain account access. This feature not only streamlines the recovery process but also reinforces data privacy and account protection, as only verified email owners can reset their credentials. Together, these two pages demonstrate how security, accessibility, and brand coherence are integrated into the application’s UI/UX design, ensuring

safe and user-friendly authentication for all Pertamina Hulu Rokan employees.

C. Dashboard and Profile Page

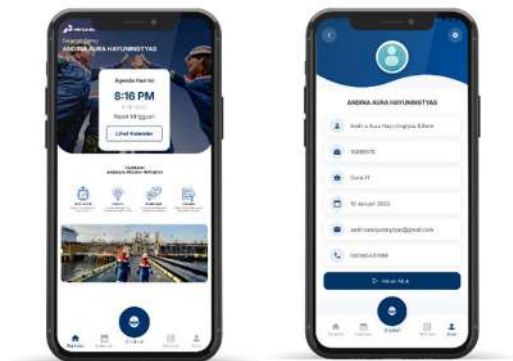


Figure 7. Dashboard and Profile Page

Figure 7 illustrates the Dashboard Page and Profile Page of the Office Application developed for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, which serve as the central components of user interaction and employee information management. The Dashboard Page functions as the main control center where employees can efficiently monitor their daily activities. At the top of the page, users are greeted with a personalized welcome message that dynamically adjusts to the time of day and displays the employee’s name retrieved from Firebase Authentication. Below the greeting section, the dashboard presents the upcoming activity agenda complete with date and time information, along with a “View Calendar” button that provides direct navigation to the calendar page for detailed schedule management. The interface also features a visual section promoting the company’s core values Punctuality, Efficiency, Communication, and Evaluation reinforcing Pertamina Hulu Rokan’s professional culture. Complemented by an illustration of company workers, the dashboard design visually reflects the organization’s identity as a major oil and gas operator. A bottom navigation bar provides quick access to the Calendar, Activity, Chatbot, and Profile pages, with the Chatbot icon prominently centered as a quick-access feature for AI-assisted help related to tasks and company information.

The Profile Page presents detailed and well-structured employee information through a modern, user-friendly interface. At the top of the page, an animated header displays the employee’s profile picture and full name, followed by a series of turquoise data fields showing key information such as employee ID, division, joining date, email, and phone number. Each information field is accompanied by a distinct dark-blue icon, improving readability and visual organization. At the bottom of the page, a “Logout” button allows users to securely sign out of the system, automatically returning them to the Welcome Page. This feature helps maintain account security while ensuring easy access to essential employee data. The page also retains consistent bottom navigation with links to the Home, Calendar, Chatbot, and Activity pages, supporting smooth movement throughout the application. Overall, the Dashboard and Profile Pages combine functionality, visual

coherence, and intuitive navigation, enabling employees to manage their work activities effectively while maintaining seamless access to their professional information within a secure and well-designed digital environment.

D. Calendar Page



Figure 8. Calendar Page

Figure 8 illustrates the Calendar Page of the Application developed for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, which serves as a centralized feature for managing employee schedules through seamless integration with the Google Calendar API. This page allows users to efficiently create, view, and manage their work-related activities in real time. To add a new agenda, users can input the event title, select the date and time using the provided fields, and then press the “Add” button to save the schedule. Once submitted, the event is automatically synchronized with the company’s Google Calendar account, ensuring that all scheduling data is securely stored in the cloud-based system and accessible across multiple devices.

In addition to event creation, the page displays a list of existing activities retrieved from Google Calendar, complete with time and date details for each scheduled event. Each listed agenda item includes a delete icon, enabling users to remove events directly through the interface while maintaining synchronization with Google Calendar. This integration provides employees with enhanced flexibility and accessibility in organizing, monitoring, and updating their office activities. By centralizing all scheduling functions in one interface, the Calendar Page not only streamlines task management but also exemplifies how real-time data synchronization and cross-platform integration can significantly improve workflow efficiency and coordination within a modern corporate environment.

E. Chatbot and Activity Page

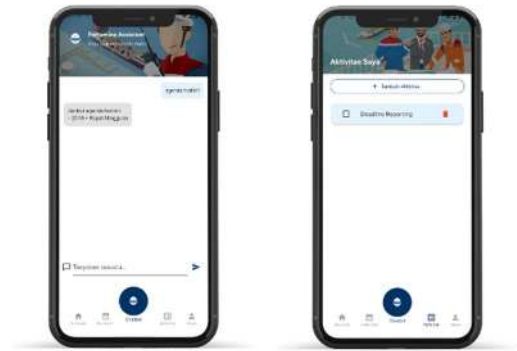


Figure 9. Chatbot and Activity Page

Figure 9 presents the Chatbot Page and Activity Page of the Office Application developed for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, which together enhance communication efficiency and daily task management for employees. The Chatbot Page, branded as Pertamina Assistant, introduces an AI-driven virtual assistant integrated with the OpenAI API. Through this interface, users can type various queries related to schedules, activities, or general office information, and receive instant, relevant responses generated by the embedded GPT-based language model. The interface adopts a professional yet minimalist design, featuring a header displaying the Pertamina Assistant logo and the status message “I am ready to assist you”. Below the chat area, a text input field allows users to enter their questions, accompanied by a send button positioned on the right side. This integration enables real-time automated responses without the need for manual administrative assistance, significantly improving communication flow and employee productivity.

The Activity Page provides employees with an intuitive tool to record, organize, and monitor their daily work activities. The top section displays a header titled “My Activities”, accompanied by an illustration reflecting Pertamina’s professional workplace culture. A “Add Activity” button allows users to input new tasks easily using a simple form, while existing activities are listed below in light blue boxes. Each task entry includes a checkbox to mark completion status and a red delete icon for removing unnecessary items. This page serves as a personalized task management system, helping employees structure their work routines and maintain daily productivity. Consistent navigation buttons remain available at the bottom of the interface, providing seamless access to the Home, Calendar, Chatbot, and Profile pages. Overall, these two pages exemplify how AI-powered communication and structured activity management contribute to building a more efficient, connected, and user-friendly digital workplace for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study successfully achieved its primary objective of developing an integrated Flutter-Based Office Application for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan, which consolidates scheduling, communication, and employee management into a unified and intelligent digital platform [12]. The system effectively addresses the inefficiencies of conventional office management practices by leveraging cross-platform mobile development, AI-powered automation, and cloud-based synchronization to enhance operational efficiency, organizational collaboration, and administrative accuracy. By integrating Google Calendar, Firebase, and AI Chatbot technologies, the proposed application demonstrates how modern digital tools can work synergistically to create a responsive, reliable, and secure environment for managing complex corporate workflows.

From a scientific perspective, this research contributes to the field of smart office and enterprise information systems by providing a practical implementation model that bridges the disciplines of mobile computing, artificial intelligence, and real-time data integration. The study advances current understanding of how Flutter's cross-platform framework can serve as a foundation for scalable enterprise solutions, especially in large organizations requiring flexibility, rapid deployment, and consistent performance across devices. Furthermore, this research validates that AI-driven user interaction and cloud synchronization can minimize data fragmentation, reduce communication barriers, and establish a more efficient administrative ecosystem — outcomes that are directly aligned with global trends in Industry 4.0 digital transformation.

Practically, the application not only supports PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan's operational modernization but also provides a replicable and adaptable framework for other organizations aiming to implement similar smart office ecosystems. The system's modular architecture and integration capabilities make it suitable for expansion and customization according to different institutional needs, demonstrating its long-term scalability and sustainability.

Future work should focus on enhancing the AI Chatbot's natural language processing (NLP) capabilities to enable more contextual and human-like conversations, improving data protection mechanisms through the implementation of multi-factor authentication (MFA) and advanced encryption, and expanding interoperability with other enterprise systems such as HR management tools, document automation platforms, and project tracking systems [15][18]. In addition, longitudinal research evaluating the application's usability, scalability, and real-world performance within a large corporate environment is recommended to further validate its effectiveness and ensure continuous improvement.

In conclusion, the Office Application for PT Pertamina Hulu Rokan represents a significant advancement in digital office management. It not only provides a technologically robust and user-centered solution but also contributes academically by offering a scientific foundation and practical model for the implementation of integrated smart office systems that

align with the evolving demands of the Industry 4.0 era [19][20].

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Design of a Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women Based on Flutter Web Mobile

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Abstract – Pregnancy is a period women that requires careful health monitoring and access to accurate medical information, yet pregnant women still face limitations in accessing digital platforms that provide structured health guidance. This study focuses on developing a web-mobile application using the Flutter framework to deliver medical guidelines and healthy lifestyle recommendations for pregnant women at Puskesmas Mlati 1 Yogyakarta. The development process applies the Waterfall model, which includes requirement analysis, system design, implementation, testing, and maintenance. The main features of the application include medical guidelines, a medical terminology dictionary, healthy food recommendations, examination schedule checking, and daily healthy lifestyle tips. The user interface is designed to be responsive and easy to use, enabling users to access the provided information conveniently. The testing results show that the application runs well across various devices and is capable of supplying the information needed by pregnant women throughout their pregnancy. This application is expected to serve as a practical and educational information tool that supports the improvement of maternal health literacy through digital technology.

Keyword: *Flutter, Web-Mobile Application, Pregnancy, Medical Guidance, Healthy Lifestyle.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Pregnant women require easily accessible and accurate information to maintain their own health and the health of the fetus they are carrying, because timely delivery of health information can significantly reduce pregnancy risks, however many mothers still face difficulties in obtaining practical health guidance, particularly regarding checkup schedules, understanding medical terminology, and adopting a healthy lifestyle carrying [1]. Limited access, busy routines, and the lack of interactive educational media make it difficult for pregnant women to consistently maintain a healthy lifestyle, which may lead to delayed checkups, misinterpretation of symptoms, and increased risks of pregnancy complications such as anemia, hypertension, and fetal growth disorders [2].

Traditional media such as books or brochures are often less appealing and do not encourage interaction, resulting in information not being absorbed optimally. This poses a challenge in increasing health awareness among pregnant women and reducing the risk of health problems during pregnancy [3]. Digital technology opens up opportunities to present more practical solutions. A Flutter-based web-mobile application enables the delivery of medical guidance and healthy lifestyle recommendations with an interactive and responsive interface. Integratable features include a medical terminology dictionary, healthy lifestyle tips, healthy food recommendations, and checkup schedule monitoring. With this application, pregnant women can access information whenever needed and manage their health more easily [4].

This research aims to design a Flutter-based web-mobile application that presents a medical guide and healthy lifestyle recommendations for pregnant women. This application is expected to be an effective and practical digital educational medium, while also encouraging pregnant women to adopt a healthy lifestyle routinely and consistently throughout their pregnancy [5]. In addition to the educational aspect, the digital application can also increase the motivation and compliance of pregnant women in following health guidelines. Interactive media is proven to be more effective than passive media because it provides an experience that actively engages the user, making the information provided easier to understand and apply in daily life [6]. The design of this application emphasizes ease of use for pregnant women, including those less familiar with technology, by applying the design stages of the Waterfall model, where requirement analysis guides the structure and interface functions. A simple interface, clear navigation, and intuitive layout are developed during the system design phase to ensure consistent and efficient use, as supported by previous studies efficiently [7].

Data security and privacy are also important factors in the development of health applications. Users' personal information, such as checkup schedules or health records, must be securely stored so that users feel protected and remain confident in using the application [8]. The Waterfall method was selected because it provides a clear and sequential workflow that allows requirements to be defined early. It is more suitable than iterative models like Agile, since health applications require stable information and should not undergo frequent changes.



II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research method in this study uses the Waterfall development model as the main approach in the application development process, supported by previous studies showing that Waterfall is effective for software projects that require clearly defined stages, systematic documentation, and early identification of system requirements to minimize errors during implementation [9]. This model was chosen because its sequential and structured nature is more suitable than iterative methodologies such as Agile, particularly for health-related applications that demand stable and consistent requirements, limited scope for frequent specification changes, and a development flow that ensures each phase is fully completed before moving to the next.

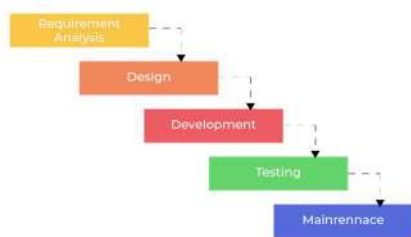


Figure. 1 Model Waterfall

A. Requirement

The requirements analysis phase in this research includes several activities aimed at understanding user needs and defining the specifications of the system to be built. These activities consist of:

1. System Requirements Analysis

The activities in this stage begin with the process of gathering information regarding the needs and challenges faced by the target users, namely pregnant women and medical personnel. Data collection was carried out through interviews and direct observation at Puskesmas Mlati 1 Yogyakarta. Through this process, information was obtained regarding the obstacles faced in acquiring medical information and healthy lifestyle guidance during pregnancy. In addition, a literature study was conducted on various scientific sources such as journals, articles, and relevant books to strengthen the theoretical foundation of digital-based health applications. The collected data was then analyzed to determine the main requirements that the system must fulfill, including the provision of easily accessible information, interactive features, and a simple and user-friendly interface.

2. System Identification

The Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women is designed to help users easily, quickly, and interactively obtain medical information

and healthy lifestyle guidance. This system consists of three main components: the frontend, backend, and database. The frontend part is developed using Flutter, as this framework supports cross-platform development (web and mobile) with a responsive user interface. The application allows users to access various features, such as a medical terminology dictionary, healthy food recommendations, lifestyle tips, and checkup schedule reminders. Meanwhile, the backend functions to manage data flow, user authentication, and communication between the system and the database. The backend is connected to Firebase as the main database, which can store and display data in real-time with a high level of security.

B. Design

The system design phase aims to model the design of the Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women that will be implemented. Two main activities are carried out in this phase: system model design using diagrams and database design as the information storage medium. First, a general system design is created using UML (Unified Modelling Language) diagrams to illustrate the interaction between components and the relationships between processes within the system. The diagrams used include the Use Case Diagram and Flowchart. These diagrams serve to explain how users (pregnant women) interact with the system, the application process flow from the main page to features such as healthy food recommendations, healthy lifestyle tips, and a medical terminology dictionary. Subsequently, database design is conducted to define the data structure and relationships between the entities used in the application. The final result of this stage is a system design ready to be used as the basis for the implementation of the Flutter-based application integrated with Firebase as the main data storage.

C. Development

The development phase is the process of implementing the design results into a functional application. This activity is carried out in stages so that every system component can be built and tested properly. The stages in the development process include:

1. Application Interface Development

This stage focuses on creating the application's appearance using Flutter, which enables cross-platform development (web and mobile). The interface design is tailored to the characteristics of the primary user, namely pregnant women, by emphasizing simplicity, comfort, and soft colours. The interface includes the homepage, healthy food recommendation feature, lifestyle tips, medical terminology dictionary, and checkup schedule reminders. Every UI element is made interactive and

responsive to ensure a good user experience across various screen sizes.

2. Backend and Database Development

This stage serves to implement the application logic and data management. The backend uses Firebase as the main service, covering user authentication, real-time data storage, and the sending of reminder notifications. The integration between the frontend and backend is done via API (Application Programming Interface) so that data can be sent and received synchronously between the user and the server [10].

D. Testing

The testing phase is conducted to ensure that all functions in the Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women operate in accordance with user needs and the designed specifications. The testing method used is Black Box Testing, which is a software testing technique that focuses on examining the output based on input without knowing the internal structure of the program code [11]. This method was chosen because it can assess the accuracy of functions, input validation, and system reliability from the user's perspective. Every main feature, such as healthy food recommendations, the medical terminology dictionary, checkup schedule reminders, and healthy lifestyle tips, is tested with various input scenarios to ensure that the system provides the expected output.

E. Maintenance

The maintenance phase is the final step in the system development process, aiming to keep the application's performance optimal after deployment. This phase involves monitoring, fixing, and updating the system based on real-world usage and user feedback [12]. Maintenance includes bug fixes, security enhancements, and updating health content according to the latest medical advancements. Furthermore, performance optimization is carried out to ensure the application continues to run smoothly across various devices and operating system versions. Developers regularly implement feature updates, such as adding healthy food data, new health reminders, and improving the user interface to be more user-friendly.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section discusses the results of the design and development process for the Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle application for Pregnant Women, based on Flutter web mobile. The research findings are presented according to the requirements analysis, system design, testing, and implementation phases that were carried out. Each result obtained is compared with theory and findings from previous research to demonstrate the advantages and contributions generated by this system.

A. Use Case Diagram

This stage aims to illustrate the interaction between users and the system in the Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women. The Use Case Diagram is used to explain the main functions accessible to users and the relationship between system components in carrying out these processes.

Use The resulting Use Case Diagram depicts two main actors: the user (pregnant woman) and the administrator. Users can perform activities such as viewing health information, accessing the medical terminology dictionary, getting healthy food recommendations, and receiving checkup schedule reminders. Meanwhile, the administrator's role is to manage application data, such as adding or updating health information, the list of healthy foods, and healthy lifestyle tips content [13].

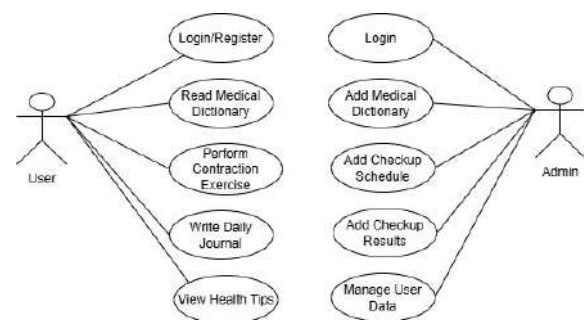


Figure. 2 Use Case Diagram

B. System Architecture

The system architecture illustrates the relationship between the main components in the application and the flow of data exchange between each part of the system.

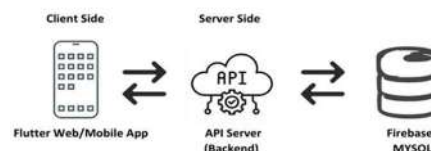


Figure. 3 System Architecture

C. Flowchart

This stage aims to illustrate the workflow process of the system developed in the Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women. The Flowchart is used to explain the logical sequence and steps taken by the system, starting from the user opening the application until they obtain the necessary information.

The creation of the flowchart is based on the results of the requirements analysis and system design previously conducted. This diagram illustrates the main process flows such as the user logging in, accessing the main page, selecting the desired features (such as healthy food recommendations, medical terminology dictionary,

lifestyle tips, or checkup schedule reminders), until the system displays the results according to the request. Additionally, the flowchart also shows the interaction process between the user and the system regarding data processing and the system's response to user input [14].

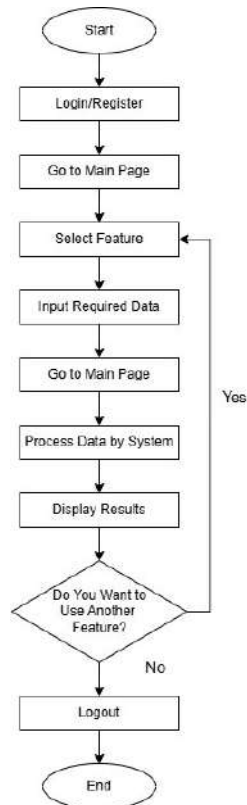


Figure. 4 Flowchart

D. Data Dictionary

The Data Dictionary functions to provide a detailed explanation of the data structure used in the Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women. Every entity contained within the database is described through its attributes, data type, and a description of its function within the system.

Table 1. User Base

Field	Type	Description
User_id	int	Primary Key
User_name	varchar	User Name
Email	varchar	User Email
Password	varchar	Encrypted Password

Table 2. Medical Dictionary Base

Field	Type	Description
Dictionary_id	int	Primary Key
Term	varchar	Medical Term
Definition	text	Term Explanation

Table 3. Health Tips Base

Field	Type	Description
Tip_id	int	Primary Key
Tip_title	varchar	Tip Title
Tip_content	text	Content or Tip Body
Category	varchar	Nutrition, sports, mental health, and others.

Table 4. Contraction Exercise Base

Field	Type	Description
Exercise_id	int	Primary Key
Exercise_name	varchar	Name or type of exercise
Description	text	Exercise Instruction
Duration	int	Exercise duration (in seconds)

Table 5. Checkup Schedule Base

Field	Type	Description
Schedule_id	int	Primary Key
Checkup_date	date	Checkup Date
Notes	varchar	Short Note

Table 6. Daily Journal Base

Field	Type	Description
Journal_id	int	Primary Key
User_id	int	Foreign Key
Journal_date	date	Recording Date
Journal_content	text	Daily Record Content

E. Application Display

The purpose of this stage is to illustrate the workflow process of the system developed in the Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women. The Flowchart is used to explain the logical sequence and steps taken by the system, from the user opening the application until they obtain the necessary information.

1. Registration Page

The registration page is the initial view used by new users to create an account before they can access the main features of the application. On this page, users are asked to enter basic information such as full name, email address, and password.

The design of the registration page is kept simple with a neat layout and soft colours to provide a sense of comfort and avoid confusing the user.

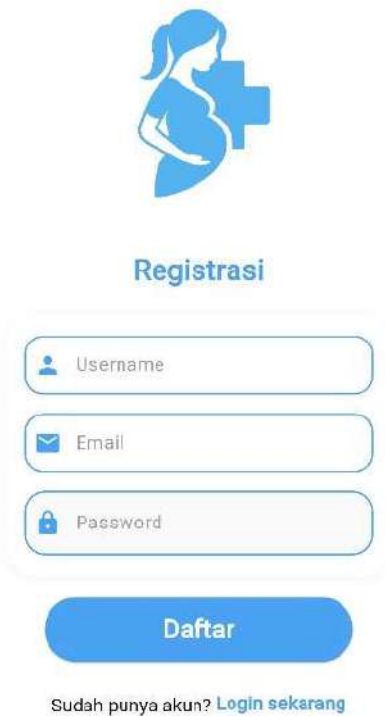


Figure. 5 Registration Page

2. Login Page

The login page serves as the main gateway for users to enter the system after registration. Users need to enter their registered email and password to access the features within the application.

Security features such as credential validation and password encryption are implemented to protect user data from unauthorized access. If the entered data is incorrect, the system will display an error message so that the user can correct it.

The login page interface is designed with a clean appearance and clear navigation icons, allowing users to easily log in to the application without experiencing difficulty during the authentication process.

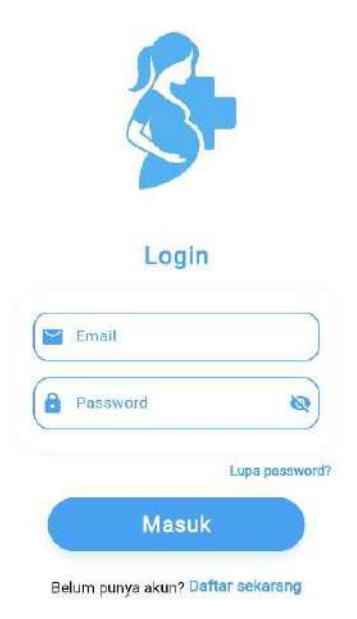


Figure. 6 Login Page

3. Home Page

The Home Page is the view that appears after the user successfully logs into the application. On this page, users can immediately view important information related to pregnancy health, as well as notifications from the admin regarding their checkup schedule and the results of completed health examinations.

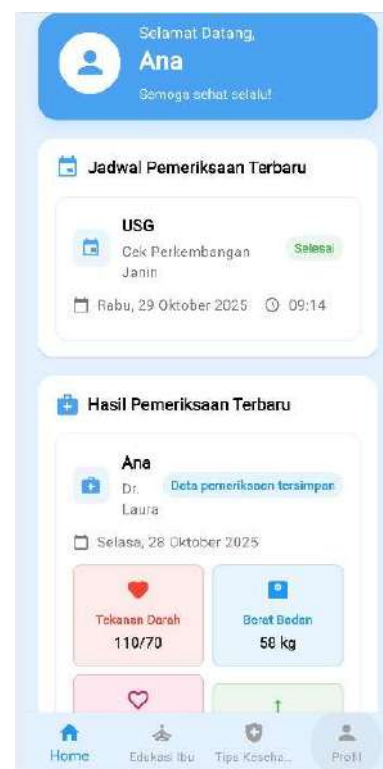


Figure. 7 Home Page

4. Medical Dictionary Page

The Medical Dictionary Page serves as a source of health terminology information designed to help pregnant women understand various medical terminologies frequently used in checkups or pregnancy consultations. This feature provides concise and easily understandable explanations, so users do not need to feel confused by medical terms that arise during pregnancy.

On this page, users can search for medical terms directly through the search column, and the system will then display a list of relevant terms along with a brief explanation of their meaning and function. Each term is presented in the form of an information card containing the name of the term, a brief definition, and a book icon as a symbol of health education.



Figure. 8 Medical Dictionary Page

5. Contraction Exercise Page

The Contraction Exercise Page serves as an interactive feature that helps pregnant women prepare for the labor process through breathing exercises and muscle relaxation. This feature is designed so that users can follow a contraction simulation safely and comfortably, training the body to be better prepared for actual contractions.

On this page, users will find guidance on the best practice times, such as in the morning after waking up or in the afternoon when the body is in a relaxed state. There is

also a "Relaxation Tips" button that provides simple advice for maintaining calmness, such as controlling breathing, staying hydrated, and finding a comfortable sitting position during the exercise.

Furthermore, the "Start Simulation" feature allows users to run a contraction exercise that mimics the rhythmic pattern of contractions and breaks during labor. During the simulation, the system provides timed instructions for inhaling, holding, and exhaling with specific intervals. This exercise not only helps physically but also plays a role in reducing anxiety levels leading up to birth.



Figure. 9 Contraction Exercise Page

6. Daily Journal Page

The Daily Journal Page functions as a private recording medium for pregnant women to document their activities, physical condition, and feelings experienced daily throughout the pregnancy. This feature allows users to write journal entries whenever needed and automatically saves them within the system.

On this page, users can add new journal entries by including the date, day, month, and year, so that each record can be neatly organized chronologically. Furthermore, users also have the option to edit or delete previously created notes to ensure that the stored information remains accurate and relevant.



Figure. 10 Daily Journal Page

7. Health Tips Page

The Health Tips Page functions as an educational feature that provides various important information regarding self-care and a healthy lifestyle during pregnancy. This feature helps pregnant women gain practical insights into health topics, such as fulfilling nutritional needs, balanced diet, light exercise, and positive habits that support fetal development and maternal health.

On this page, the system displays a concise list containing the title and content snippet of each health tip. Each entry is accompanied by a “Read More” button that can be clicked to open a detailed view containing the complete explanation. In this way, users can read the topics most relevant to their needs without having to open the entire list at once, making the reading experience more efficient and focused.

In addition to presenting educational content, this feature is also designed to encourage the awareness and consistency of pregnant women in adopting a healthy lifestyle. Every article is composed in easily understandable language and contains practical advice that can be directly applied in daily life.



Figure. 11 Health Tips Page

8. Profile Page

The Profile Page serves as the central hub for managing personal data and user preferences within the Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application for Pregnant Women. On this page, users can manage their personal information, access help, adjust the display language, and securely log out of their account with ease.

The edit profile feature allows users to update data such as their name, change their profile picture, or other information relevant to the application's use. This facility helps ensure that every user has accurate data according to their latest condition. Additionally, a help menu is available, which contains a guide and brief explanations on how to use the main features, allowing new users to adapt quickly without confusion.

A language menu is provided to adjust the application's display according to user needs, making the usage experience more comfortable and inclusive. Meanwhile, the logout button functions as a security measure for users to securely exit their account after using the application, in order to protect their privacy and personal data.

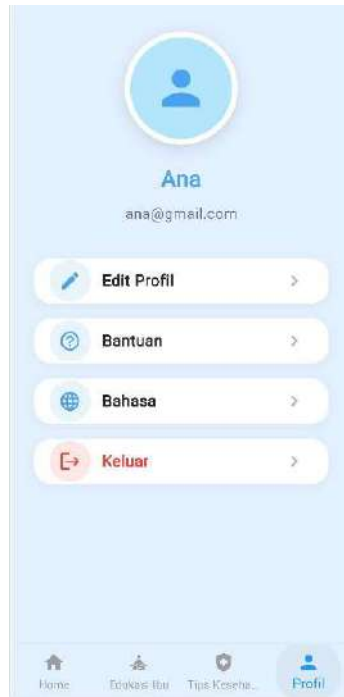


Figure. 12 Profile Page

9. Admin Main Page

The Admin Main Page functions as the application control center, where the admin can manage various aspects related to users and application content. This page includes menus such as Dashboard, Manage Users, Medical Dictionary, Checkup Schedule, and Checkup Results. On the Dashboard, the admin can view a summary of important information, such as the number of registered users, daily journals, and the latest health tips. The Manage Users menu allows the admin to add, edit, or delete user accounts as needed. The Medical Dictionary serves to add new medical terms so that the information available to users is always complete and accurate. Checkup Schedule is used to add and organize checkup schedules for pregnant women, allowing the admin to ensure every examination is neatly recorded. Meanwhile, Checkup Results enables the admin to add notes on the examination results completed by users, making health data recorded and easily monitored. All these pages are designed to be easily accessible, interactive, and to facilitate the admin in performing efficient application management through a neat and structured display.

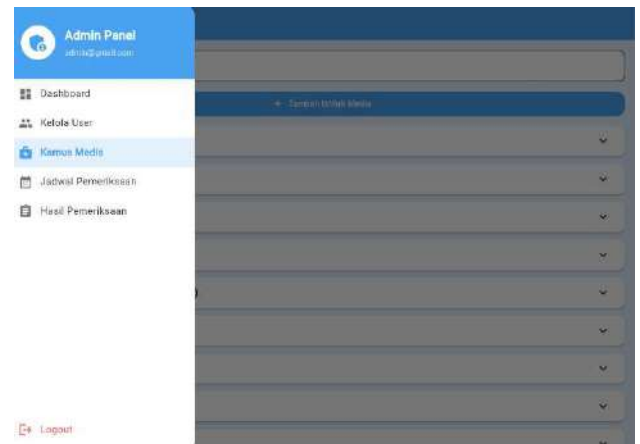


Figure. 13 Admin Main Page

10. Admin Medical Dictionary Page

The Medical Dictionary Page for the admin functions as the place to manage the medical terms available in the application. On this page, the admin can add new medical terms along with their complete definitions or explanations so that users can better understand the health information. Besides adding new terms, the admin also has the capability to edit existing terms if there are corrections or updates.



Figure. 14 Admin Medical Dictionary Page

11. Admin Examination Schedule Page

The Examination Schedule Page for the admin functions as the place to add and manage checkup schedules for pregnant women. On this page, the admin can create new schedules by adding the date, time, type of examination, and other important notes. Besides adding new schedules, the admin also has the ability to edit existing schedules if there are changes, and delete schedules that are no longer relevant.

Figure. 15 Admin Examination Schedule Page

12. Admin Examination Results Page

The Admin Examination Results Page functions as the hub for managing and recording the health examination results of pregnant women. On this page, the admin can add new examination results, including important data such as blood pressure, body weight, fetal heart rate, and other relevant health information. Besides adding new results, the admin can also edit previously recorded examination results to update or correct data, and delete results that are no longer necessary.

Figure. 16 Admin Examination Results Page

F. Black Box Testing

Black Box Testing is conducted to ensure that all features in the Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle application function according to specifications without reviewing the internal code [15]. This method focuses on testing the system's functionality, where every input is tested to ensure the application's response is as expected. This testing aims to evaluate whether the main features, both for users (pregnant women) and administrators, are working properly and provide accurate results [16].

Table 7. Black Box Testing Results on Users

Feature	Testing Scenario	Result
Registration Page	The pregnant woman registers by filling in personal data, such as email and password.	Successful
Login Page	The pregnant woman logs in using a registered account.	Successful
Main Page	Displays summary information and receives checkup schedule notifications and checkup results from the admin.	Successful
Contraction Exercise Page	The pregnant woman follows contraction exercises and contraction quizzes.	Successful
Daily Journal Page	The pregnant woman writes daily notes, saves, edits, and deletes entries.	Successful
Health Tips Page	The pregnant woman opens health tips, reads details through the "Read More" button.	Successful
Profile Page	The pregnant woman changes her profile data, accesses language settings, and logs out.	Successful

Table 8. Black Box Testing Results on Admin

Feature	Testing Scenario	Result
Login Page	The Admin logs in using a registered account.	Successful
Main Page	Displays the main admin page with the navigation menu.	Successful
Medical Dictionary Page	The Admin adds new medical terms, edits, and deletes existing terms.	Successful
Checkup Schedule Page	The Admin adds a checkup schedule for the pregnant woman.	Successful
Checkup Results Page	The Admin records notes on the checkup results.	Successful

IV. CONCLUSION

The Medical Guide and Healthy Lifestyle Application was successfully developed to support pregnant women in monitoring their health and accessing important information through features such as check-up schedule notifications, examination results, daily journals, contraction exercises, health tips, and a medical dictionary. Black Box Testing showed 100% success, with all 12 user test scenarios and 8 admin test scenarios functioning as expected, indicating that the application is stable and meets the intended requirements. Future research may include integrating electronic medical records, adding sensor-based health monitoring, developing more personalized recommendations, and conducting user testing on a larger scale to evaluate the application's long-term effectiveness. These enhancements are expected to increase the usefulness

of the application as a digital health education tool for pregnant women examimedical.

Table 9. User & Admin Testing Success Percentage

Testing	Total Scenario	Passed	Failed	Success Percentage
User Testing	12	12	0	100%
Admin Testing	8	8	0	100%
Overall Total	20	20	0	100%

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Golden Goal Futsal Court Rental Mobile Application Using the First Come First Serve (FCFS) Algorithm and Payment Gateway Integration

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Abstract – The futsal pitch rental process at Golden Goal is still done manually through direct communication or text messages, which often results in various problems such as unstructured booking queues, schedule conflicts due to the lack of a clear queuing system, and late payments. These problems result in low operational efficiency and an increased potential for scheduling errors. This research aims to develop a mobile-based futsal pitch rental application equipped with the implementation of the First Come First Serve (FCFS) algorithm to ensure the booking process is carried out based on the user's arrival time in a fair and orderly manner. The system development method used is the Waterfall model, which includes requirements analysis, design, implementation, testing, and maintenance. The application was developed using the Flutter framework because it has the ability to produce Android and iOS applications with only a single codebase, faster development time, and stable and responsive interface performance. These advantages make Flutter suitable for building a real-time booking system that requires fast interaction and a consistent user experience. Furthermore, the application is integrated with Midtrans services as a payment gateway to facilitate automatic digital payment transactions. Testing results using the black-box method indicate that all key features, including schedule selection, FCFS-based queuing mechanism, payment processing, and rental data management, have run well as needed. The implementation of this system has proven to be able to reduce schedule conflicts, improve the accuracy of the booking process, and increase the efficiency of rental management at Golden Goal. Thus, this application can be an effective and modern solution to address the problem of futsal field rentals that have been handled manually.

Keywords – Rental Application, Futsal Field, Mobile Application, First Come First Serve, Payment Gateway

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of information and communication technology has driven rapid digital transformation in various sectors, including public services and online businesses. Digitalization enables automation, increased efficiency, and broader access to services for the public [1]. In the modern context, almost all aspects of human life now depend on digital technology, including education, economics, government, and entertainment. Innovations in information technology make it easier to carry out daily activities that previously required more time and energy. Therefore, the use of technology has become a primary need to support operational activities and improve service quality. This has encouraged many organizations and businesses to utilize mobile applications and online systems to provide faster, cheaper, and more accurate services [2].

Currently, many futsal field rentals are still done manually, via telephone, text message, or by visiting the rental location in person. This method is prone to scheduling conflicts, late confirmations, and recording errors [3]. The manual process also creates limitations in terms of information transparency, because users cannot directly check the field's availability. This often results in inefficiencies in service, both from the user and management side. Furthermore, the manual method is also unable to reach a wide range of customers because it relies on conventional communication. Therefore, a digital solution is needed that can overcome these obstacles by

providing a fast, transparent, and integrated booking system.

Based on initial observations conducted at Golden Goal Futsal, located at Jl. Pogung Raya No. 172, Pogung Kidul, Sinduadi, Yogyakarta, it was discovered that the rental process is still carried out manually via WhatsApp or telephone. This manual method creates a number of real problems, including scheduling conflicts between users, delays in booking confirmations, transaction recording errors, the lack of structured booking history data, and customers being unable to view field availability in real time. These conditions hamper operational processes and reduce the quality of service to customers.

One of the main solutions is the development of mobile-based applications, due to their ease of access anytime and anywhere. With mobile applications, users can check field availability in real time, make reservations, and receive automatic confirmation via notifications [4]. Such applications not only provide convenience for users, but also help field managers in organizing schedules, recording transactions, and minimizing human error. In addition, mobile-based systems have high flexibility in adjusting features according to business needs. Mobile-based sports reservation applications have been proven to speed up processes and improve user experience [5].

The payment aspect is a crucial part of the rental system. Conventional payment methods such as cash or manual bank transfers often face problems such as verification delays, number errors, and low security [6]. Therefore, integrating digital payments through a payment gateway is an ideal solution, enabling payment methods



such as e-wallets, credit cards, or bank transfers with better transaction security [7]. Based on these factors, this study proposes the design of a mobile-based futsal field rental application integrated with a payment gateway as an effort to improve the efficiency, accuracy, and convenience of rental services.

Besides the payment aspect, one of the main challenges in a rental system is fair and orderly scheduling, especially when multiple users make reservations at almost the same time. For this reason, a reservation mechanism is needed that has clear rules in determining who is entitled to get the slot first. The First Come First Serve (FCFS) algorithm is one of the simplest and most effective scheduling algorithms that processes requests based on the order of arrival [8]. Several other studies have shown that FCFS is able to reduce reservation conflicts in reservation systems and digital queuing systems because it is deterministic, easy to implement, and guarantees fairness based on the time of request [9]. This algorithm has been applied to various modern systems such as futsal field reservation applications, sports facility reservations, and public service systems, and has been proven to be able to prevent schedule conflicts and overlapping reservations [10].

The purpose of this research is to develop a mobile-based futsal field rental application that can simplify the digital booking process. This application is designed to overcome various problems that often arise in the manual booking process, such as long queues, clashing booking schedules, and limited transparency of field availability information. In addition, this research aims to implement the First Come First Serve (FCFS) algorithm as an automatic scheduling method to ensure that each booking is processed fairly based on arrival time. This research also aims to integrate a payment gateway system so that the payment process can be carried out more easily, quickly, and securely. Overall, this research is expected to produce an effective and efficient digital solution to support the management of futsal field rentals.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method used in this study explains the stages undertaken by researchers in the application design and development process. This research process was conducted in a structured and systematic manner, starting with data collection, needs analysis, system design, implementation, and system testing. To illustrate the overall research flow, a research methodology flowchart was used, as shown in Figure 1.

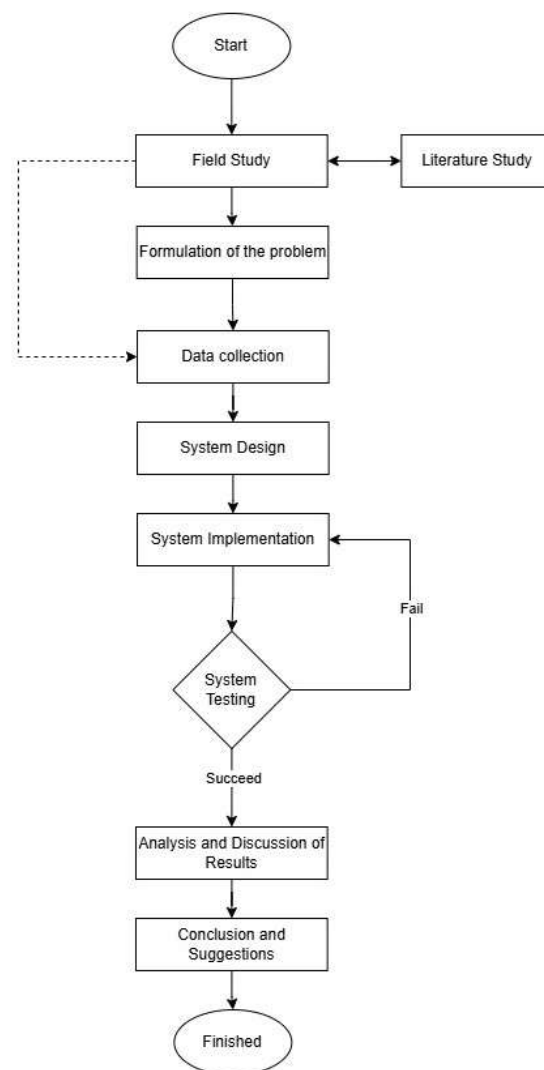


Figure. 1 Research Stages

A. Data Collection Method

At this stage, data collection was conducted through direct field observations and interviews with futsal field managers to formulate user needs. Functional (reservations, schedule management, payments) and non-functional (security, convenience, performance) requirements were identified and documented as system specifications.

1. Observation

The observation method is carried out by direct observation of the research object, which allows researchers to obtain empirical data in the field. The purpose of observation is to describe behavior, interactions, and processes as they occur naturally in the research context, thus producing a more contextual and valid understanding of the phenomena being studied [11]. In this study, observations were conducted at Golden Goal Futsal, located at Jl. Pogung Raya No. 172, Pogung Kidul, Sinduadi, Mlati District, Sleman Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta 55284. Through this method, researchers observed the field rental process, the schedule recording system, and interactions between managers and customers. The geographical location of Golden Goal Futsal can be seen in Figure 2.

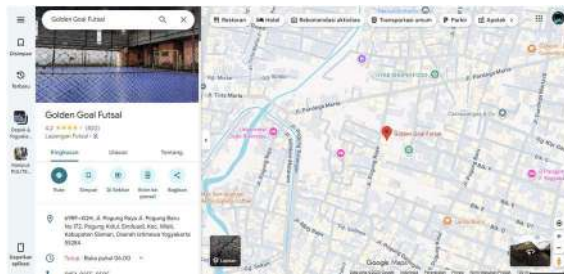


Figure. 2 Research Location

2. Interview

To obtain in-depth information from the parties involved in the futsal field rental process, the researcher used the interview method. The purpose of interviews in qualitative research is to gain an understanding of the experiences, perceptions, and meanings given by individuals to the situations or events they experience through direct interaction with the researcher [12]. Interviews were conducted directly with the owners and managers of Golden Goal Futsal, with the aim of obtaining data regarding the field rental management system, obstacles faced in management, and the need for a more efficient digital system.

B. System Development Method

This research uses the Waterfall method, a sequential and systematic software development model. The selection of the Waterfall method in this research is based on the characteristics of stable, unchanging system requirements that can be fully defined from the start. The Waterfall model provides a sequential and clearly documented workflow, so that each stage, such as analysis, design, testing, and maintenance, can be tightly controlled. This approach is relevant because the futsal field rental system with payment gateway integration and the FCFS algorithm has a relatively fixed business process, so it does not require dynamic iteration of requirements.

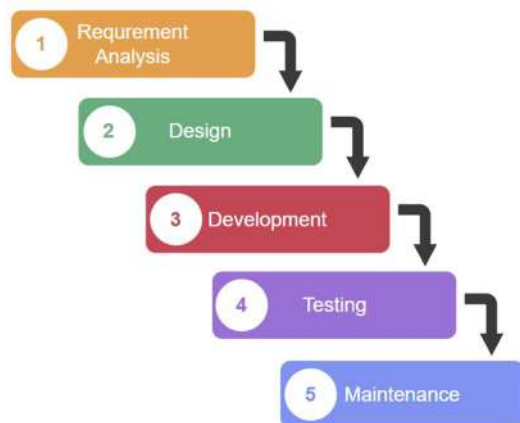


Figure. 3 Waterfall Method

1. Requirements Analysis

The requirements analysis phase is the initial step in the Waterfall method, which aims to identify and define the system's overall requirements. This phase involves data collection through observation, interviews, and document review to understand the problems within the existing system. The results of this analysis include functional requirements, such as

user registration, field booking, schedule management, and payment systems, as well as non-functional requirements such as security, performance, and ease of use. This requirements analysis serves as the primary basis for system design, ensuring that the developed solution aligns with user needs and research objectives.

2. Design

The system design uses the Unified Modeling Language (UML) modeling approach because it can clearly describe the structure and operation of the system. At this stage, two main types of diagrams are used: Use Case Diagrams and Activity Diagrams. Use Case Diagrams are used to explain the relationships between actors and the main functions within the system, while Activity Diagrams are used to illustrate the flow of activities or business processes occurring within the application. With this modeling, the system design becomes more focused and easier to understand before the implementation process is carried out.

3. Development

At this stage, the entire system design is converted into program code using the appropriate programming language and framework. In this research, the implementation was carried out by building a mobile-based application connected to the server and database via an API. The main features implemented include user registration, field schedule booking, confirmation notifications, and payments via a payment gateway. This integration is carried out so that the system can process transactions in real time and automatically record payment status in the database.

4. Testing

Testing is performed after the system is implemented, using the Black Box Testing method, which focuses on testing from the user side (input-output) without looking at the internal code structure [13]. For example, the application is tested with valid and invalid input scenarios to ensure the system provides an appropriate response. The Black Box Testing method is also used for financial applications with boundary value analysis techniques [14].

5. Maintenance

At this stage, the system is monitored and repaired after implementation. Maintenance is performed to fix bugs, improve application performance, and adapt the system to user needs, which may change over time. This stage also ensures that the application remains functional and secure in the long term, especially when integrating with digital payment systems that require regular updates.

C. First Come First Serve

The First Come, First Served (FCFS) algorithm is one of the most basic scheduling methods, operating in the order of arrival of requests. The processes or data that arrive first are processed first, regardless of priority or weight. This concept follows the First In, First Out (FIFO) principle. This approach is particularly relevant for queuing and reservation systems that require transparency in user

request processing, such as sports facility reservations. Due to its simple and deterministic nature, FCFS is easy to implement in both web and mobile applications.

In the context of a field booking system, FCFS has been proven to reduce the risk of scheduling conflicts and simplify reservation management. The FCFS algorithm helps e-booking systems process bookings in a structured manner, thereby reducing the potential for scheduling conflicts between users [15]. Furthermore, FCFS is effective for use on mobile-based sports field reservation platforms because it can clearly organize user booking flows and minimize human error [16]. Therefore, the implementation of FCFS in a futsal field rental application significantly supports queue fairness while maintaining scheduling consistency.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Use Case Diagram

This Use Case Diagram design illustrates the relationship between Customers and Admins with the system, with the main functions that can be accessed by each according to their role and access rights. The Use Case Diagram design can be seen in Figure 3.

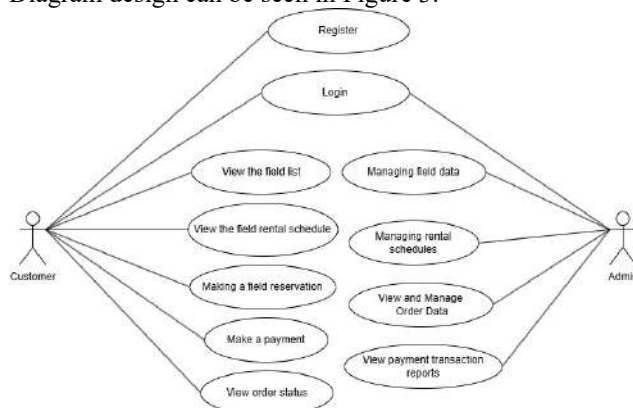


Figure. 4 Use Case Diagram

B. Activity Diagram

In this activity diagram, there are several activities that are defined, namely activities when logging in and registering, validating input data, checking field availability, calculating rental costs, integrating with payment gateways, and confirming payments.

In this activity diagram, you can see the initial process when the user opens the application and logs in or registers on the application until the main page of the application is displayed.

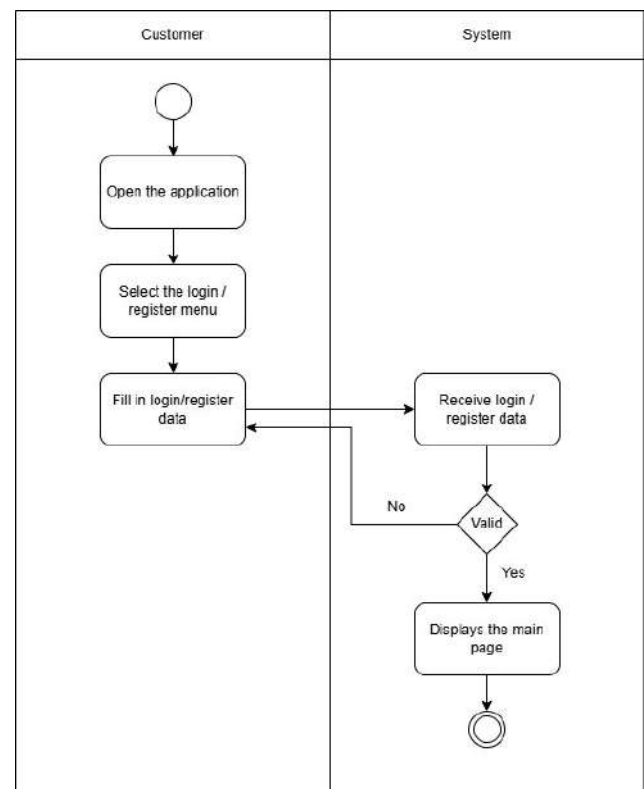


Figure. 5 Activity Diagram of User Login and Registration

In this activity diagram, every user input (such as date, duration, and personal data) is checked by the system. Validation includes correct formatting, mandatory data, and value limits. The goal is to prevent data errors before proceeding to the next stage.

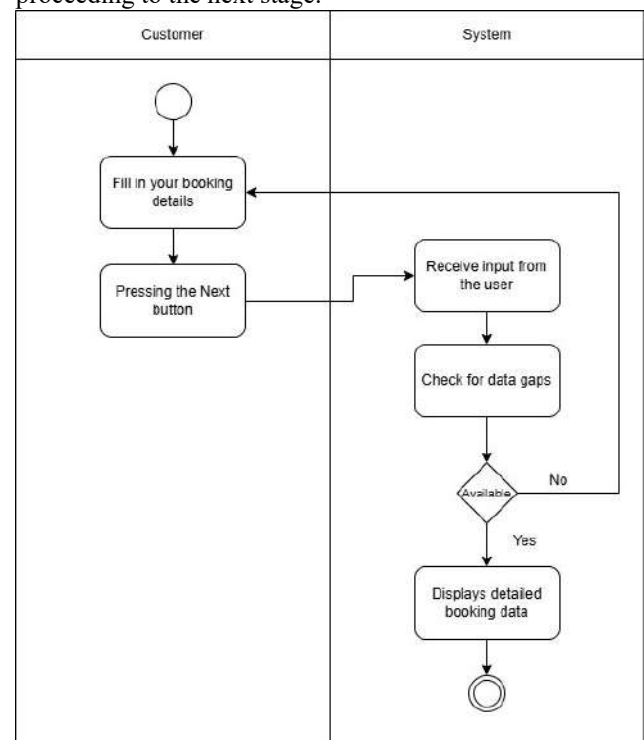


Figure. 6 Activity Diagram Validation of Input Data

In this activity diagram, after selecting a date and time, the user sends a request to the system to check if the field

is available. The system checks the database and informs the user in real time whether the field is available or not.

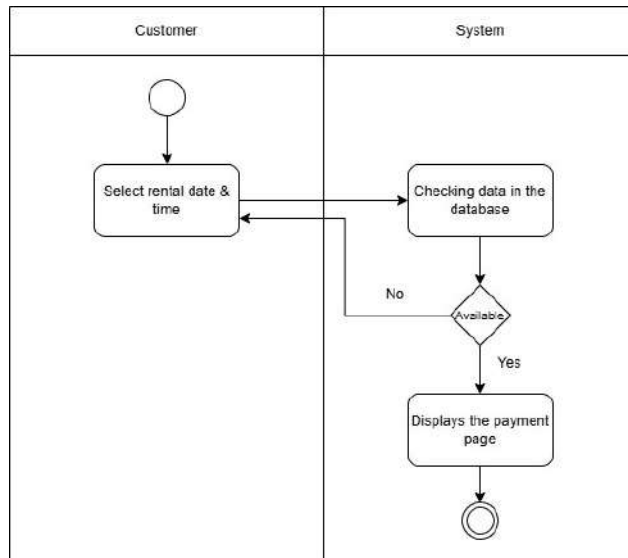


Figure. 7 Activity Diagram for Field Availability Check

In this activity diagram, the system automatically calculates the total rental cost based on duration, days, and field type. Any active promotions or discounts are also taken into account. The calculation results are displayed to the user for transparency.

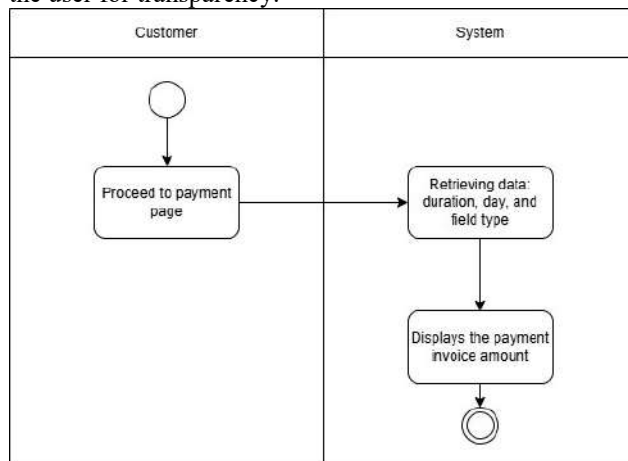


Figure. 8 Activity Diagram Calculating Rental Costs

In this activity diagram, after a successful order is placed, the user is redirected to the Midtrans payment page. The system sends a transaction token to Midtrans and waits for the user to complete the payment on the platform.

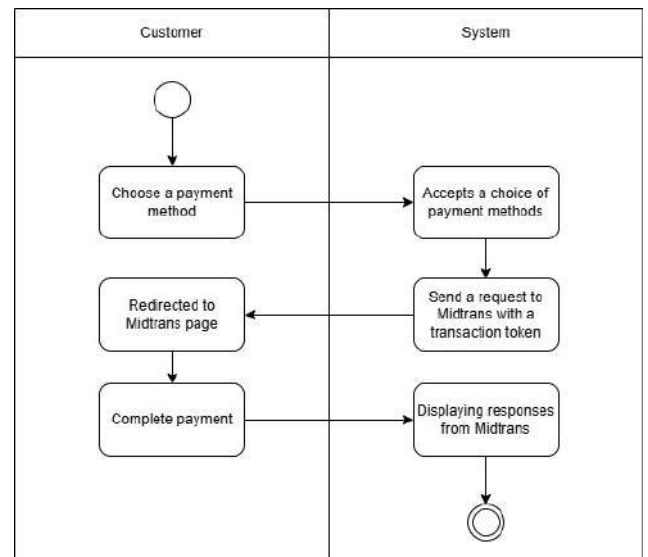


Figure. 9 Activity Diagram of Integration with Payment Gateway

In this activity diagram, after a payment is made, Midtrans sends a notification (webhook) to the server. The system receives the payment status (successful, failed, or pending) and updates the information in the database. The user can then view the transaction status directly in the application.

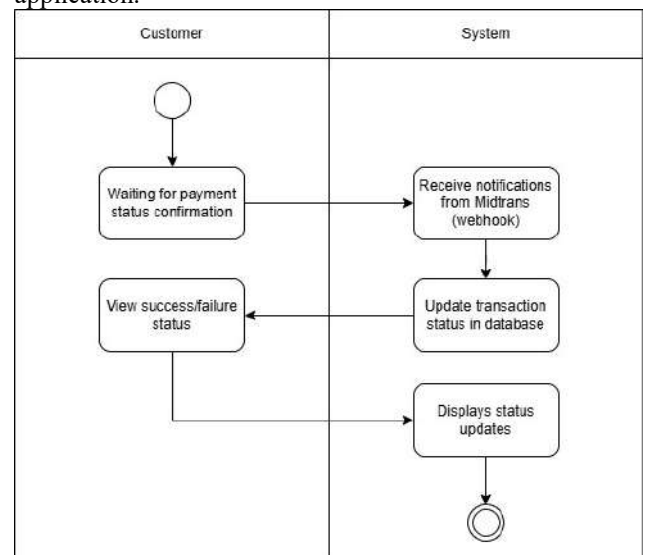


Figure. 10 Activity Diagram Calculating Rental Costs

C. Application Display

This section presents the results of the system created based on the existing design. Screenshots from the application are used to demonstrate how the features work effectively, meeting user needs.

1. Login Page

On the login page, users open the app by entering information such as their email address and password. Additionally, there's a Google login option for a faster and easier way to log in.

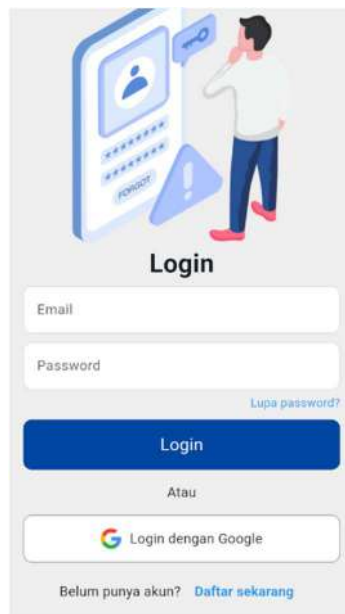


Figure. 11 Login Page View

2. Register Page

Next is the registration page, which is used by new users to register for the application. Users are asked to enter information such as name, email address, and password. Validation is performed to ensure the entered data is correct and not duplicated. After successful registration, users will be redirected to the login page.

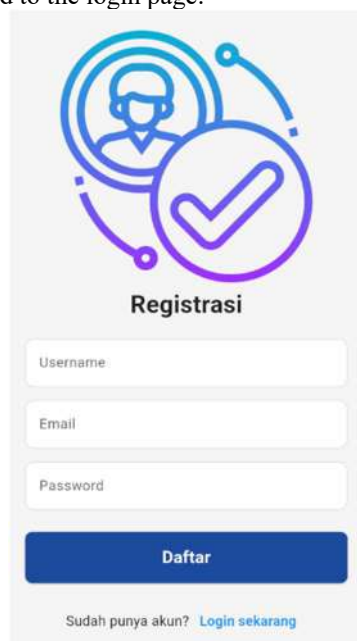


Figure. 12 Register Page View

3. Home Page

The main page appears after a user successfully logs in. It provides concise information and navigation to key features, such as field booking. It also features a user-friendly and easy-to-use interface.

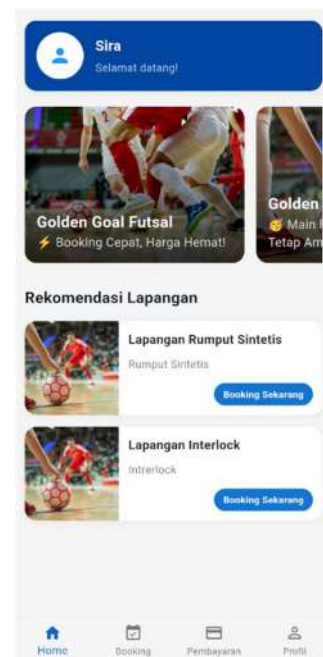


Figure. 13 Main Page View

4. Booking Page

On this page, users can select a field, choose a date and time to play, and view availability. The system will automatically display the rental price based on the selected time. If available, users can proceed with the booking process. Validation is performed to avoid scheduling conflicts.

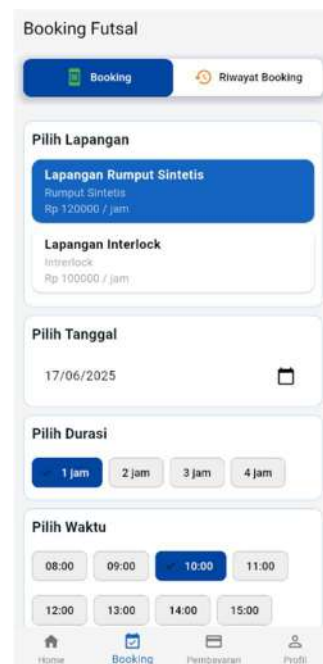


Figure. 14 Booking Page View

5. Booking History Page

On this page, customers can view a list of booking history or schedules entered through the previous Booking page. Furthermore, this page displays the payment status for each booking, allowing customers to monitor whether the payment has been successful, is still in progress, or has not yet been made.

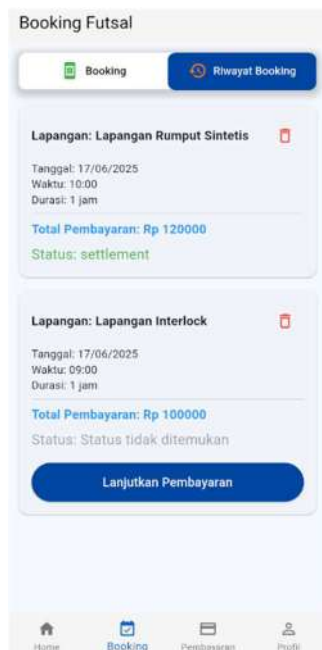


Figure. 15 Booking History Page View

6. Payment Page

After placing an order, users are directed to the payment page. Here, they can select a payment method, and the system will automatically connect to Midtrans as the payment gateway. Once payment is successful, the system will display a confirmation and update the order status directly via a response from Midtrans.

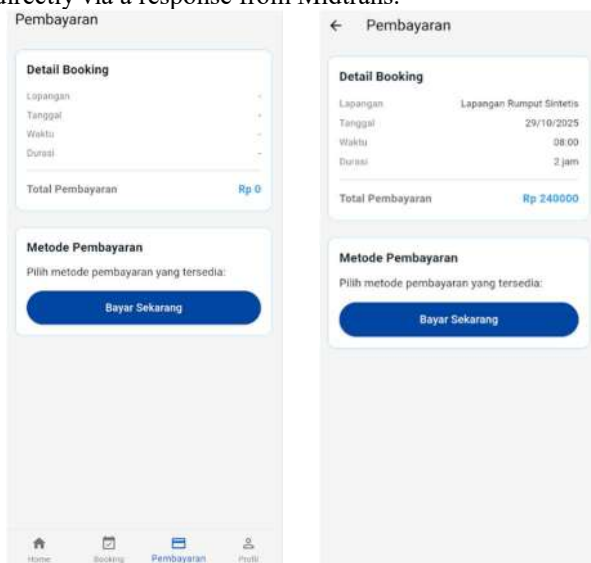


Figure. 16 Payment Page View

7. Profile Page

This page displays user account information, including name and email address. Users can also update their personal data or log out of their account. This page helps users manage their personal information within the app.

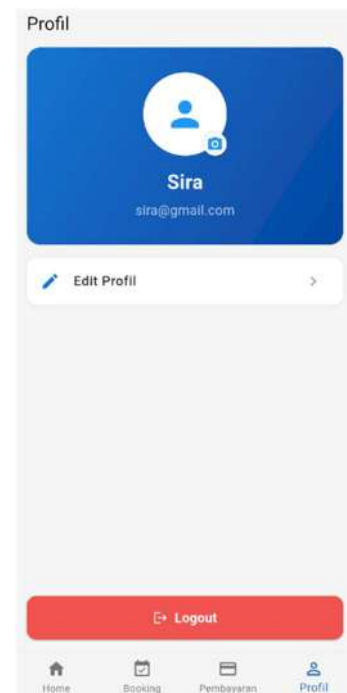


Figure. 17 Profile Page View

8. Admin Dashboard Page

The following is a view of the admin dashboard. On this dashboard, admins can view various statistics, such as the number of fields, the number of bookings, and the number of users. Furthermore, navigation to key management features, such as field settings, bookings, and reports, is clearly visible on this screen for easy access.



Figure. 18 Admin Dashboard Page View

9. Halaman Kelola Lapangan Admin

On this page, admins can manage available field data. This management includes determining field types, setting rental prices, and scheduling field availability. This feature ensures that field operational data can be flexibly updated as needed.



Figure. 19 Admin Field Management Page View

10. Manage Admin Field Page

On this page, admin can monitor reports and statistics of income and orders.



Figure. 20 Admin Reports and Statistics Page View

D. Black Box Testing

The futsal field rental application was tested using the Black Box Testing method to ensure that all system functions operate according to established specifications. This testing process evaluates the system's ability to respond to user input and produce output that meets expectations. The test results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Black Box Testing Results of Applications on Customers

Feature	Condition	Results
Login Page	Customers log in using a registered account or using a Google account login	Success
Registration page	Customers can register by filling in complete data to enter the application	Success
Halaman Utama	Displays the main page on the application for customers	Success
Home Page	Customers can make bookings by filling in the field data	Success
Booking History Page	Customers can view the history of field bookings and also see the payment status.	Success
Payment Page	Customers will make payments according to the data in the previous booking	Success
Profile Page	Customers can view profile information related to personal data and others	Success

Table 2. Black Box Testing Results of the Application on the Admin

Feature	Condition	Results
Login Page	Admin logs in using a registered account or logs in using a Google account	Success
Dashboard Page	Displaying the dashboard page on the application for Admin	Success
Manage Field Page	Admin can manage field data by adding, changing, and deleting available field information	Success
Reports and Statistics Page	Admin can view reports and statistics of the number of orders and revenue	Success

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on development and testing results, the mobile-based futsal field rental application built using Flutter, the FCFS algorithm, and the Midtrans payment gateway integration has successfully met the primary needs of both

users and field managers. The FCFS algorithm implementation has proven to be able to avoid scheduling conflicts because the system automatically gives priority to users who make the earliest bookings. The payment gateway integration has also been proven to increase transaction efficiency, speed up the payment confirmation process, and minimize verification errors compared to manual methods. Black-box testing results show that all core features, from registration, login, checking schedule availability, booking, and payment, run according to the designed scenario without any functional errors.

Although the application has been functioning well, this research still has room for further development. In future research, the system can be enhanced by adding automatic notification and reminder features to ensure users don't miss their scheduled playtimes, as well as cancellation and refund features fully integrated with the payment gateway to increase user flexibility and convenience. Furthermore, the development of more adaptive scheduling algorithms such as EDF (Earliest Deadline First) or dynamic prioritization can also be explored to improve schedule management efficiency under more complex demand conditions.

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Implementation Of Forward Chaining In Intelligent Systems For Automatic Car Engine Fault Detection

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Abstract – Intelligent systems are one application of artificial intelligence technology that can assist in automatic decision-making based on a knowledge base. In this study, a smart system based on the Forward Chaining method was designed and implemented to detect damage to petrol-powered car engines. This system employs the Forward Chaining method, which systematically matches the user-inputted symptoms with the rules in the knowledge base to determine the most likely cause of the damage. The knowledge base was developed through in-depth interviews with three expert technicians from official repair shops and validated by a head supervisor, resulting in 28 specific diagnostic rules. Diagnostic data, including symptoms and corresponding damage, was collected from service records of 50 cases involving Toyota Avanza and Honda cars manufactured between 2019 and 2022. This system is capable of detecting various symptoms, such as sudden engine failure, difficulty starting, excessive vibration, abnormal exhaust smoke colour, and unusual engine noise. The system development process used a waterfall approach that included needs analysis, knowledge base design, interface creation, and system testing. The test results showed that the system was able to detect 94% of damage types with high accuracy based on the combination of symptoms provided by the user. Thus, this system can be an effective tool in engine maintenance activities and improve production process efficiency in industrial environments.

Keywords – Intelligent Systems, Forward Chaining, Automatic Machines, Expert Systems, Fault Diagnosis.

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of intelligent systems technology has increased rapidly, especially in its application to expert systems and intelligent systems. According to [1] i (2020)[2], an intelligent system is a computer system designed to mimic human thinking and decision-making abilities, with the aim of assisting in the process of analysis and problem-solving automatically. One important application of intelligent systems is in the automotive industry, particularly in detecting and analysing damage to car engines. Car engines play a crucial role in modern transportation as they can improve efficiency, speed, and precision. However, the high complexity of mechanical and electronic systems often makes it difficult to detect the source of damage when a malfunction occurs. In such situations, technicians often rely on experience or intuition, which can lead to inaccurate diagnoses and increased repair time (downtime). Therefore, an intelligent system is needed that can provide fast, accurate, and structured damage diagnosis based on knowledge.

The Forward Chaining method is one effective approach for building expert systems to detect machine damage. This method works by tracing the initial facts (symptoms) provided by the user until it finds a conclusion (cause of damage) through rules stored in the knowledge base[3]. This process enables the system to analyse various symptoms that arise and produce accurate decisions without requiring continuous manual intervention. Several previous studies have demonstrated the potential of this method in various diagnostic applications [4].

According to [5], car owners often only realise that their car is damaged when it is not operating properly. Routine maintenance is necessary for every car to detect any damage that may occur. There are many causes and signs when a car does not operate properly, some of which

include car lights not turning on, and there is no clear explanation as to why this happens. This is what prompted the development of an expert system using the forward chaining method to detect car damage. Meanwhile, according to [6], damage problems in VVT-i system vehicles occur due to negligence in maintenance. New car owners only realise the damage after the car fails to operate as it should.

Although similar studies have been conducted, there is still a gap in the availability of diagnostic systems specifically for popular cars in Indonesia with a documented and empirically validated rule base. This study aims to fill this gap by designing, implementing, and testing an intelligent system based on the Forward Chaining method to detect damage to petrol-fuelled car engines. The data and rules in this system were developed based on in-depth interviews with expert technicians from official repair shops and analysis of service records from cars such as the Toyota Avanza and Honda Jazz. With this system, it is hoped that it can assist technicians in diagnosing problems efficiently, minimising analysis errors, and increasing productivity in engine maintenance activities. According to [7], ‘An expert system, also known as a knowledge-based system, is a computer application designed to assist in decision-making or problem-solving in a specific field.’ This research is expected to contribute to the development of expert systems in the automotive field and serve as a reference for further research.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Type of Research

This study utilizes an applied research approach with a system development method. The objective of this applied research is to create practical solutions through the application of artificial intelligence methods, specifically

Forward Chaining, to assist in the automatic detection of machine damage. According to Turban in[8], Forward Chaining Tracking research is a data-driven approach. In this approach, tracking begins with input information and then attempts to describe conclusions. Forward tracking searches for facts that match the IF part of the IF-THEN rule.

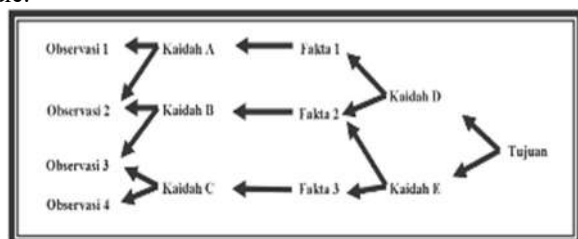


Figure 1. Backward Chaining

Data Collection

Data collection was carried out in the following ways:

1. Observation

Research through observation was conducted to collect preliminary empirical data. This activity focused on visits to two official Auto 2000 dealers and Honda dealers to access and analyse digital service records. From this observation, the researchers successfully identified and documented data from 50 service cases covering various types of engine damage in popular cars in Indonesia, such as the Toyota Avanza and Honda models from 2019 to 2022. This data became the basis for formulating initial symptoms and hypotheses of damage, which were then validated through interviews with experts.

2. Interviews

The researchers conducted in-depth interviews with three experts who had more than 10 years of experience as chief mechanics at official repair shops. The purpose of these interviews was to validate the data obtained from observations, gain insight into the root causes of damage, and compile logical rules that would form the core of the intelligent system's knowledge base. The results of these interviews were recorded and transcribed to ensure the accuracy of the information collected.

Research Stages

The research stages carried out in developing this system refer to the modified System Development Life Cycle (SDLC) model According to[9], the waterfall model itself is defined as 'a software process that has a linear and sequential process. The research stages are as follows:

1. Needs Analysis

At this stage, user and system requirements are identified. Data is obtained through observation. According to[10], observation is a technique or method of collecting data by observing ongoing activities. Observations were conducted by visiting existing and official car dealerships or workshops, such as Auto2000, and interviewing three experts who were knowledgeable and familiar with the research subject to obtain accurate information from engine technicians. According to[11], an interview is a

meeting between two people to share information and ideas through questions and answers so that meaning can be constructed on a particular topic. And literature study. System Design. System design includes expert system architecture design, Unified Modeling Language (UML) design according to [12], 'UML is a system development technique that uses graphical language as a tool for documenting and specifying systems', as well as the creation of a Forward Chaining-based rule set. The system flow diagram is designed to facilitate the process of inference from symptoms to diagnosis results.

2. System Implementation

The system was developed using a web programming language. According to [13], a website can be defined as a collection of pages used to publish information in the form of text, images and other multimedia programmes such as animations, sound, and/or a combination of all of these, both static and dynamic, which form a series of interrelated pages, often referred to as hyperlinks, and a MySQL database. According to [14], 'MySQL is the name of a database server that handles database access, always in the form of SQL (Structured Query Language) statements, which is a language used to access relational databases.

3. System Testing

Testing was conducted using the Black Box Testing method according to[15], This black box testing is an equivalence partitioning technique. Equivalence partitions are a test based on data input on each form in the information system to ensure that all system functions run according to specifications.

4. Evaluation and Validation

This stage involves comparing the system's diagnosis results with expert diagnosis results to measure the accuracy rate. The final results are used to assess the system's reliability in automatically detecting machine damage.

Related Research

Several relevant previous studies formed the basis for the development of this system.[16], An expert system for detecting damage to 4-stroke motorcycles using a web-based forward chaining method can be used to assist mechanics in dealing with problems related to motorcycles and can also be used as a source of knowledge about matters related to 4-stroke motorcycles, such as symptoms of damage to 4-stroke motorcycles, their causes, and solutions to overcome them.[17] Based on the results of testing the Expert System using the forward chaining method to detect internet network disruptions, it produced an accuracy rate of 100% using 29 test data. Based on the results obtained from the Expert System with the forward chaining method, the system can be used to detect internet network disruptions in the West Sumatra Diskominfo Internet Service.

[5]This expert system application was created in the form of an Android application to make it easier for users to access and solve related problems quickly, anywhere and anytime.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Expert Data Collection Needs Analysis

In collecting data, the author conducted interviews with three experts. Based on the results of the interviews with the three experts, the following conclusions can be drawn:

a. Expert 1

Concluded that engine damage in cars does not differ significantly between brands. The most common damage to car engines occurs in the spark plugs, injectors, and fuel pumps. Most damage occurs because car owners do not perform regular maintenance.

b. Expert 2

Explained that when there is a problem with a car engine, there is no need to panic. Damage to new cars is usually not too severe. Common symptoms are usually engine stalling, heavy engine pulling, or sudden engine shutdown. These issues are usually caused by the spark plugs or injectors.

c. Expert 3

Explains that common engine issues are usually caused by spark plugs, injectors, and fuel pumps. Symptoms include the engine suddenly shutting off, the engine feeling stuck or stuttering, unstable high RPM when accelerating, and the check engine light flashing.

The following is a table compiled from interviews with three experts in diagnosing car engine damage.

Table 1. Engine Damage

Kode	Kerusakan
K01	Spark plugs
K02	Injectors
K03	Early ignition
K04	Overheating
K05	Fuel pump
K06	Coil
K07	Throttle position sensor

Table 1 shows a list of engine faults that are the focus of the developed intelligent system. Each fault code (K01–K07) represents a specific type of malfunction that often occurs in automatic engines. For example, K01 (Spark Plug) indicates damage to the ignition component, K02 (Injector) relates to suboptimal fuel distribution, while K04 (Overheat) describes a condition where the engine temperature exceeds normal limits. Other types of damage, such as the Fuel Pump (K05) and Throttle Position Sensor (K07), play an important role in maintaining stable engine performance

Table 2. Symptoms of Damage

Kode	Gejala
G01	The engine suddenly stalls.
G02	There is lubricant on the spark plug head.
G03	There is crust on the spark plug head.

G04	The spark plug colour has changed to brown/reddish.
G05	The electrode has melted.
G06	Rough idling at low RPM.
G07	Power weakens during acceleration.
G08	Poor acceleration and excessive fuel consumption.
G09	Check engine light is flashing
G10	The engine is ticking
G11	The engine is sluggish
G12	The engine is hissing
G13	There is a clunking sound when releasing the accelerator
G14	The engine suddenly loses power
G15	There is no water in the radiator
G16	Oil is mixed with water
G17	There is a burning smell in the transmission area
G18	There is a pungent smell in the engine
G19	Engine power suddenly decreases
G20	The engine is sputtering
G21	When accelerating, the RPM is unstable or stalls
G22	Engine takes a long time to start
G23	Starter does not engage
G24	Spark plugs are wet due to unburned fuel
G25	No resistance in the coil
G26	No voltage from the coil
G27	Engine vibrates
G28	Idling is not steady

Table 2 illustrates a list of automatic engine malfunction symptoms used as a basis in the inference process in a forward-chaining-based intelligent system. Each symptom code (G01–G28) represents a condition or initial indication that can be observed by the user or technician in the vehicle. For example, G01 (Engine suddenly shuts down) and G06 (Rough idling at low RPM) are common indicators of ignition system malfunctions, while G14 (Engine suddenly loses power) and G20 (Engine sputters) indicate problems with the fuel system. Other symptoms, such as G16 (Oil mixed with water) and G17 (Burning smell in the transmission area), are related to more complex mechanical malfunctions. This symptom data was obtained from direct observations of 10 test vehicles at an official Auto 2000 dealership and interviews with three expert technicians. All symptoms in the table are used as initial input for the system to perform rule tracing and determine the appropriate type of damage

Table 3. Rules for Expertise

Rules	Diagnosa
R1	If the engine suddenly stalls and there is lubricant on the spark plug head, there is crust on the spark plug head, the colour of the spark plug has changed to brown/reddish, and the electrode has melted, then the damage is to the spark plug.
R2	If the check engine indicator flashes and the idle is rough at low RPM, power weakens



	during acceleration, acceleration is poor, and fuel consumption is wasteful, then the damage is to the injector.
R3	If the engine makes a ticking sound, the engine power is weak, the engine makes a hissing sound, and there is a clunking sound when releasing the throttle, and the engine suddenly loses power, then the problem is with premature ignition.
R4	If the engine suddenly stalls, there is no water in the radiator, oil is mixed with water, there is a burning smell in the transmission area, there is a pungent smell in the engine, and the engine power suddenly decreases, then the engine is overheating.
R5	If the engine suddenly stalls and the engine sputters, and when accelerating at high RPM it is unstable or stalls, and the engine takes a long time to start, then the problem is with the fuel pump.
R6	If the starter does not turn over and the spark plugs are wet due to unburned fuel, and there is no resistance in the coil and no voltage from the coil, then the problem is with the coil.
R7	If the check engine light is on, the engine vibrates, and the idle speed is not standard, then the damage is in the throttle position sensor.

Table 3 displays a collection of rules or rule bases obtained from interviews with automotive experts and observations of car engine damage cases in the field. Each rule (R1–R7) is compiled based on the logical relationship between symptoms (such as G01, G02, and so on) and specific types of damage identified in Tables 1 and 2. These rules are used by the expert system with the Forward Chaining method to trace facts and determine conclusions about engine damage. For example, in R1, if the engine suddenly dies and there is crust on the spark plug head and the colour of the spark plug turns brown, the system concludes that there is damage to the spark plug component. Meanwhile, R4 describes a condition where the engine suddenly dies, accompanied by a burning smell and oil mixed with water, which indicates damage to the cooling system or overheating. Thus, this table plays an important role as the basis for automatic decision-making in the car engine damage diagnosis system

System Requirements Analysis

The following are the system requirements specifications for the intelligent system:

User page:

- A1. Users can view information on the home page.
- A2. Users can view damage information.
- A3. Users can diagnose car damage.
- A4. Users can view diagnosis results.

Admin page:

- B1. Admins can manage symptom data.
- B2. Admins can manage damage data.
- B3. Admins can manage rule data.
- B4. Admins can manage diagnosis data.
- B5. Admins can manage admin data.

Unified Modeling Language (UML) Design, User and Admin Use Case Diagram

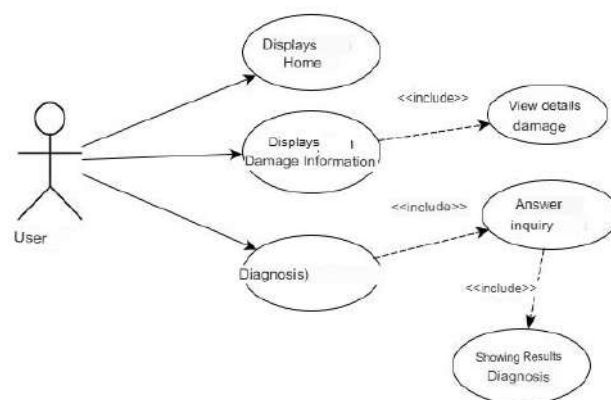


Figure 2. User Use Case Diagram

Description

- Users view information on the home page.
- Users diagnose car engine damage by answering the questions provided.
- The system checks the user's answers. After that, the system displays the diagnosis results.
- The system checks whether the user is already registered. If not, the system displays the registration page. If so, the system displays the shipping address page.

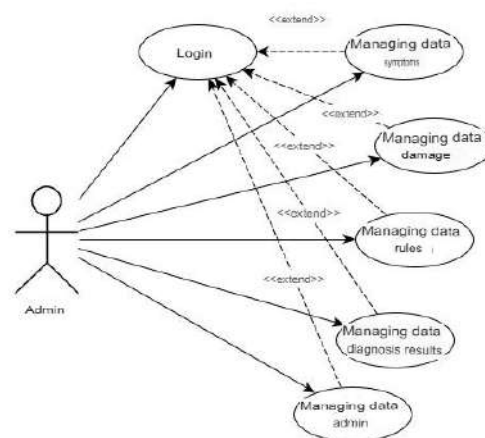


Figure 3. Admin Use Case Diagram

Description

- The administrator views the list of symptoms, damage, and diagnosis results.
- The administrator adds symptom and damage data.
- The administrator saves symptom and damage data.

System Implementation

The system was developed using web programming language and MySQL database. The user interface is one of the components of the intelligent system that functions as a means of communication between users and the intelligent system program that will be used later.

Intelligent System Design

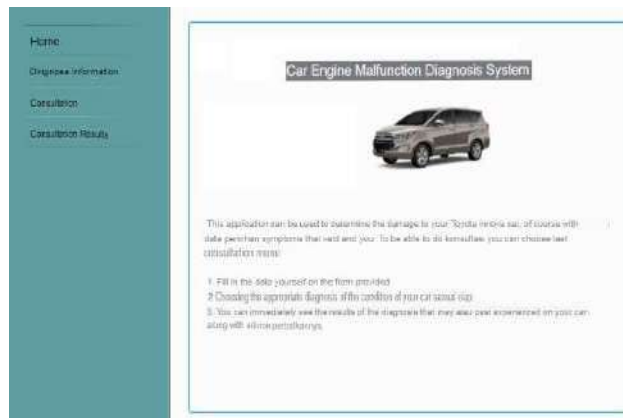


Figure 4. Home Page Display

The image shows the web interface of the Intelligent Machine Damage System. This interface is designed with a clear layout, consisting of a navigation menu on the left side containing options such as 'Index' and 'Diagnostic Information', as well as a main area on the right side displaying the system title "IntelligentMachine Damage Diagnosis Expert System" along with a relevant illustration of a car. Below the title, there is a brief explanation of the application's function to monitor vehicle damage, which is described through several systematic steps: the user is asked to fill out a symptom form, then the system will run the diagnosis process, and finally, the user can obtain a detailed diagnosis report. This system explicitly uses the Forward Chaining method to analyse the reported symptoms in order to identify the damage and the problematic engine components

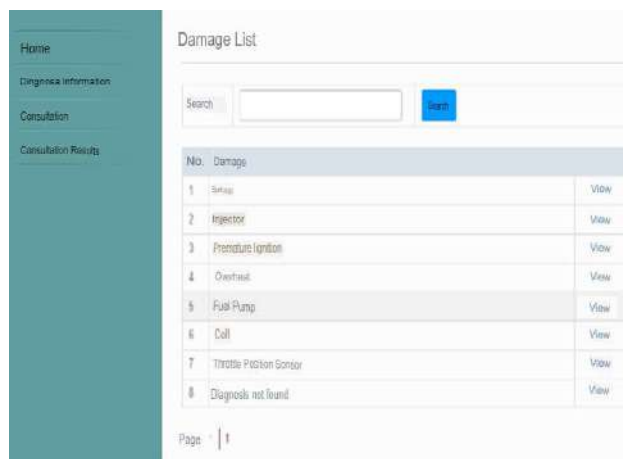


Figure 5. User Damage List Menu Display

The image shows the interface of a system or application that displays a list of vehicle faults. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with items such as Home, Diagnostic Information, Consultation, and Consultation Results. In the main section of the page, there is a heading that reads 'List of Faults' with a search field to help users find specific types of faults. The table below contains a list of faults, including serial numbers, fault types such as Spark Plugs, Injectors, Premature Ignition, Overheating, Fuel Pumps, Coils, and Throttle Position Sensors, as well as a 'View' option to display the details of each fault. This display shows that the system is designed to assist in the

process of identifying and diagnosing vehicle faults in a more structured and interactive manner

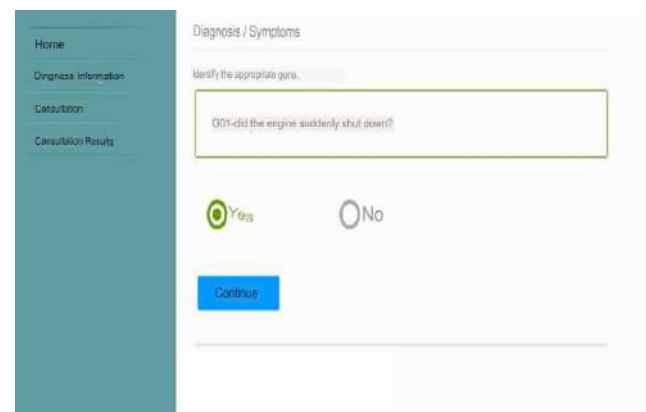


Figure 6. Diagnostic Menu Display

The image shows the interface display of the engine fault symptom diagnosis system. On this page, users are asked to identify the symptoms that occur by answering the question that appears, namely, 'G01 - Did the engines suddenly shut down?'. The system provides two answer options in the form of radio buttons, namely "Yes" and "No", to record the actual condition experienced by the vehicle. After the user selects one of the answers, they can continue the process by pressing the blue 'Continue' button. This display illustrates that the system is designed to perform interactive diagnosis, where the user answers a series of questions so that the system can determine the type of damage or malfunction that has occurred based on the identified symptoms

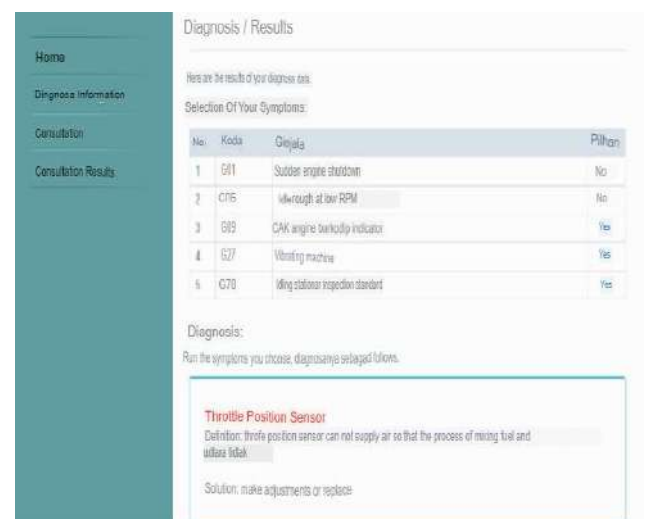


Figure 7. User Diagnosis Results Display

The image shows the diagnosis results page of a vehicle fault identification system. At the top of the page is a table titled 'Your Symptom Selection' containing a list of codes and symptoms selected by the user during the diagnosis process, such as 'Engine suddenly shuts down', 'Rough idling at low RPM', 'Check engine light flashing', 'Engine vibration', and 'Non-standard idling or stationary'. Based on the combination of these symptoms, the system displays a diagnosis result indicating that the fault lies with the Throttle Position Sensor. The explanation or definition provided indicates that this sensor is unable to regulate the

air supply, resulting in suboptimal fuel and air mixing. Additionally, the system also provides a solution in the form of a recommendation to adjust or replace the component. This display illustrates how the system automatically processes symptom data and generates relevant diagnoses and solutions for the user

No.	Code	Symptoms
1	001	Engine suddenly stops
2	002	There are noises on the spark plug head
3	003	There is a sound when the spark plug head
4	004	Spark plug color turns brown
5	005	Electrode melts
6	006	Rough idle at low RPM
7	007	Power engine during acceleration
8	008	Accelerated and wasted fuel consumption
9	009	Indications of engine backfire
10	010	Manipulate engine speed
11	011	Engine idling engine
12	012	Hissing engine sound
13	013	There is a sound of gas escaping

Figure 8. Admin Symptom Data Menu Display

The image shows the interface of the Symptom Data page on a vehicle fault diagnosis system. On this page, users can see a list of symptoms that may occur in a vehicle, complete with symptom codes and descriptions. At the top is a search field to help users quickly find specific symptoms. The table below contains a list of symptoms such as 'Engine suddenly shuts down', 'Electrode melts', 'Rough idling at low RPM', and 'A rattling sound is heard when releasing the accelerator'. Each row also features an icon on the right-hand side to edit or delete existing symptom data. This display illustrates that the system is designed to allow users or administrators to manage symptom data easily and in a structured manner as part of the vehicle fault diagnosis process.

No.	The (Rule)
1	If 001-sudden stop Then ask: 002-is there a sound on the head of the fuel? If 002-then ask: 003-is there a sound on the head of the fuel? If 003-then ask: 004-is there a sound on the head of the fuel?
2	If 002-there is a sound on the spark plug head Then ask: 005-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug? If 005-then ask: 006-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug?
3	If 005-there is a sound on the spark plug head Then ask: 007-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug? If 007-then ask: 008-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug?
4	If 004-spark plug color turned brown Then ask: 009-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug? If 009-then ask: 010-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug?
5	If 010-there is a sound on the head of the spark plug Then ask: 011-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug? If 011-then ask: 012-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug?
6	If 012-there is a sound on the head of the spark plug Then ask: 013-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug? If 013-then ask: 014-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug?
7	If 014-there is a sound on the head of the spark plug Then ask: 015-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug? If 015-then ask: 016-is there a sound on the head of the spark plug?

Figure 9. Admin Rules Data Menu Display

The image shows the Rule Data page on an expert system for diagnosing vehicle damage. This page displays a set of logical rules used by the system to determine the diagnosis results based on the symptoms input by the user. Each rule is written using the IF-THEN format, which describes the cause-and-effect relationship between symptoms and possible damage. For example, if 'The engine suddenly stops', the system will ask for the next symptom, such as 'Is there lubricant on the spark plug head?', and continue the process according to the user's answer. The table also contains columns for the number, description of the rule, and icons on the right side to edit or delete existing rules. This display shows that the system is designed based on a rule-based expert system, where the

diagnosis process is carried out logically and structurally through a series of decision rules compiled by experts.

Database Design

This expert system contains a database called forward_chaining, which consists of six tables.

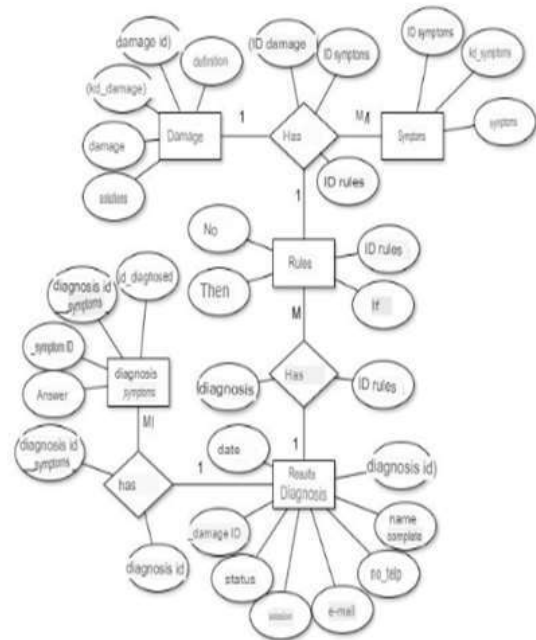


Figure 10. Database System

The image shows an Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) of an expert system for diagnosing motor vehicle damage. This ERD illustrates the relationships between the main entities in the system database, namely Damage, Symptoms, Rules, Diagnosis Symptoms, and Diagnosis Results. Each entity has important attributes, such as damage_id, damage, definition, and solution in the Damage entity, as well as symptom_id and symptoms in the Symptom entity. The relationships between entities are shown by connecting lines that have cardinality (1 or M). For example, one damage can have many symptoms (1-M), and one rule can be related to several symptoms or diagnosis results. The Diagnosis Result entity also stores user data such as full name, phone number, email, date, and status. Overall, this diagram shows the logical structure of the database that supports the expert system diagnosis process, from symptom identification to the provision of diagnosis results and solutions.

System Testing

System Functional Test Results

Functional testing was conducted using the Black Box Testing method. The purpose of this test was to ensure that all system functions ran according to user requirements. Table 1 shows the test results for several key system components.

Table 4. System Functional Testing Results

No	Component Tested	Test Description	Result	Status
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1	Symptom Input	The user selects the symptoms of the malfunction.	Output displayed correctly	Successful
2	Inference Process	The user selects the symptoms of the malfunction.	Diagnosis displayed correctly	Successful
3	Diagnosis Output	The user selects the symptoms of the malfunction.	Complete information	Successful
4	Data Storage	The user selects the symptoms of the malfunction.	Data saved	Successful
5	Examination History	The user selects the symptoms of the malfunction.	Log displayed correctly	Successful

From the above test results, all major components of the system functioned properly and in accordance with the initial design.

Evaluation and Validation System Accuracy Test Results

To measure the system's ability to provide accurate diagnoses, an accuracy test was conducted on 10 cases of car engine damage. The system's results were compared with the diagnoses of expert technicians. The comparison of test results is shown in Table 2.

Table 5. Comparison of System Results with Experts

Category	Number of Cases	According to Experts	Not Applicable	Accuracy
				(%)
Light	20	19	1	95%
Moderate	15	14	1	93%
Heavy	15	14	1	93%
Total	50	47	3	94%

Based on the test results, the system achieved an accuracy rate of 94% in detecting types of automatic machine damage. This value shows that the Forward Chaining approach is effective in the inference process based on predetermined facts and rules. Based on testing and implementation results, this forward-chaining-based intelligent system has been proven to provide diagnostic results with a high degree of reliability. From the user's perspective, the system is considered easy to use and capable of providing recommendations that assist technicians in the machine maintenance process. However, the system still has limitations in terms of the number of rules (rule base) that are limited at this early stage of

development. For further research, it is recommended that the system be integrated with IoT sensors so that it is capable of analyzing machine conditions in real time and updating the knowledge base dynamically.

IV. CONCLUSION

Since the system has been successfully implemented with a high level of accuracy and an intuitive interface, we have formulated several strategic plans for further research aimed at expanding the scope, improving capabilities, and deepening the implementation of the system in the industrial world. For future research, this system still has great potential for further development in terms of features, performance, and user interface. In terms of interface, although the current system is designed to be simple, intuitive, and easy to use by non-technical users, further research could focus on improving the user experience with a more interactive and responsive display, for example, through the integration of responsive web-based technology or mobile applications, so that it can be accessed anytime and anywhere. In addition, development could be directed towards adding a knowledge base so that the system can recognise more types of damage and expand the scope of diagnosis for various types of automatic machines. Furthermore, development could be directed towards adding a knowledge base so that the system can recognise more types of damage and expand the scope of diagnosis for various types of automatic machines. Furthermore, development could be directed towards adding a knowledge base so that the system can recognise more types of damage and expand the scope of diagnosis for various types of automatic machines. In addition, development can be directed towards adding a knowledge base so that the system can recognise more types of damage and expand the scope of diagnosis for various types of automatic machines. The following research may also consider the application of more complex artificial intelligence, such as machine learning or fuzzy logic, to improve the accuracy and adaptability of the system to new symptom data. Thus, the system not only functions as a diagnostic aid, but is also capable of continuous learning and refinement in line with the needs of modern industry

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Application of the DeLone and McLean Success Model to the SEMAIK Website: A Case Study in Central Lombok

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Abstract – In the digital age, the use of information technology in public services, including population administration, is crucial. To facilitate access to online population services, the Population and Civil Registration Office of Central Lombok Regency provides the SEMAIK website. Nonetheless, several issues persist, particularly in system quality and service quality. System performance often becomes unstable, with the website slowing down when many users submit service requests simultaneously, while service responsiveness is also frequently delayed. These issues highlight the need for a more comprehensive evaluation of the platform. This study aims to quantitatively assess the effectiveness of the SEMAIK website using the DeLone and McLean Information System Success Model. Data were collected through questionnaires distributed to 126 respondents and analyzed using the SEM-PLS approach. The findings indicate that information quality positively influences system use but does not significantly affect user satisfaction. Meanwhile, service quality, system quality, and system use all show positive effects on user satisfaction. Additionally, although system use does not significantly contribute to net benefits, user satisfaction demonstrates a strong positive effect on net benefits. The model also meets the criteria for good model fit based on the goodness-of-fit assessment. However, the results suggest that aspects related to information quality and system use require improvement, as their effects on user satisfaction and net benefits are not yet optimal. These findings provide concrete recommendations for enhancing the SEMAIK website to ensure more effective and reliable digital public services.

Keywords: *DeLone and McLean Model, Information System Success, SEMAIK Website, User Satisfaction*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the digital era, the utilization of information technology in public services is a major requirement to improve efficiency and accessibility [1]. The government continues to optimize digital-based systems in various sectors, including population administration. One of the innovations implemented is the website at the Population and Civil Registration Office with the name SEMAIK, which can be accessed through the following link: <https://semaik.lomboktengahkab.go.id/>, the platform was developed to streamline access to civil administration services, allowing users to apply for identification cards, family records, and birth certificates digitally [2] [3].

However, although the SEMAIK website has been implemented to improve service quality, there are still various obstacles faced by users. Some of the main problems include suboptimal system quality, limited accessibility, and information that is inaccurate or difficult to understand [4]. In addition, several aspects of service quality that have not met patient expectations such as delays in service delivery, suboptimal facility comfort, and insufficiently informative communication have led to dissatisfaction and varying levels of satisfaction among inpatient patients [5]. This reflects a disparity between what users anticipate and the actual services delivered through the SEMAIK website.

The problem is a serious challenge because if it is not resolved immediately, it can hinder the optimization of public services and reduce the level of public trust in the

digital system provided by the government [6]. Therefore, this study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the SEMAIK website by applying the DeLone and McLean Success Model. This framework evaluates six core components that determine the success of an information system, which include the quality of the system, the quality of the information, the quality of services, the extent of system use, the satisfaction of users, and the overall benefits derived [7] [8] [9].

This research has a high urgency, given that effective and efficient population services are needed by the community. Through analysis of the determinants that affect the SEMAIK site's success, it is hoped that relevant solutions can be found to improve the quality of this digital service [10]. In addition, this evaluation can also provide deeper insights for system managers in taking corrective measures [11].

In the academic realm, this research contributes to filling the gap in studies exploring how information systems are assessed in the government sector [12]. Although there have been many studies on the evaluation of public information systems, there are still few studies that specifically use the DeLone and McLean Success Model to evaluate population service websites in Indonesia. Therefore, this study can provide a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of the system in the context of digital-based public services.

To collect the required data, this study employed a quantitative research approach using a survey method. Data were gathered through an online questionnaire distributed

to users who had accessed and utilized the SEMAIK website. A total of 126 respondents participated, representing community members who had experience using the platform's digital population services. The collected data were then analyzed using the Structural Equation Modeling Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) technique to evaluate the relationships among the constructs in the DeLone and McLean Information System Success Model [13]. The analytical results indicate will be used to identify factors that affect system success and provide strategic recommendations for SEMAIK in improving its digital-based services [14]. With this research, it is expected that the SEMAIK website can be more optimal in providing population services that are fast, accurate, and easily accessible to the wider community.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. DeLone and McLean Information System Success Measures

In 1949, researchers such as Shannon and Weaver, Mason, and others began developing what would eventually evolve into the DeLone and McLean model [15]. While the quality of information influences semantic success referring to how well information conveys its intended meaning user characteristics and satisfaction each have distinct effects on these components [16]. Furthermore, the DeLone and McLean Information System Success Model links system quality to technological success, which refers to the system's precision and effectiveness in producing information. The outcomes of user satisfaction measures show both the advantages and disadvantages of the user component measures. Following that, both individuals and businesses are impacted by users and user satisfaction [17]. The interdependence of the six information system success indicators can be considered by the suggested model [18]. In 2003, Delone and McLean developed an enhanced version of the best information systems [19]. Figure 1 displays the most recent version of the Delone and McLean success model.

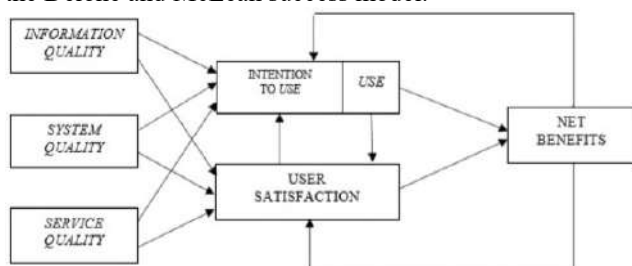


Figure 1. Information System Success Model [19]

The following are additions to the 2003 Delone and McLean success model: 1) Service quality, namely the way in which information system developers deliver their services. 2) The addition of intention to use, namely the wish to apply a practical system as a substitute. 3) The sum of the effects of the organization and the individual, which is known as the net benefit. Accordingly, the three elements that comprise the different effective applications of information systems are the system itself, the system's use, and the outcomes of use and user satisfaction [20].

B. Hypothesis

According to [21], the hypothesis is the initial perspective of the problem item under study, translated into a question item display. Hypotheses can also be described as theoretical responses to the formulation of research questions rather than as empirical answers.

Hypotheses have 3 forms that can be used in taking research answers, including the following: 1) Descriptive Hypothesis is the answer to the problem regarding the formulation of research problems. 2) Comparative Hypothesis is a problem perspective based on comparative problems. 3) Associative Hypothesis is the initial answer to the relationship problem.

C. Population and Sample

According to Sugiyono [21], The term "population" refers to the category of things or individuals that researchers use to examine and make conclusions because they have a certain number and characteristics, while the sample represents only a small part of the size and makeup of the population. If the size of the population causes the researcher to be unable to review the entire population due to restrictions, the researcher to use a sample from the population. Based on several population factors collected and analyzed, the results aim to describe the characteristics of all population factors.

Quantitative analysis of sample data produces statistics that are used to estimate population parameters. Statistics are numerical measurements calculated from sample measurements, and parameters are numerical descriptive measurements where the calculations are derived from population measures. Sample statistics are used to draw conclusions about population measurements [22].

D. Sampling Technique

Sampling technique is a method for selecting or obtaining samples from a population to be used as research material. Researchers can make generalizations about the characteristics of population members by analyzing samples or understanding the quality of sample subjects [23]. This research takes a non-probability sampling model with a saturated sample technique [21]. Non-probability sampling refers to a technique in which not all individuals or groups within the population have an equal chance of being selected. In contrast, a saturated sampling method involves including the entire population as the sample [21].

E. Measurement Technique

The estimation demonstration is assessed by checking the legitimacy and unwavering quality of the pointers that make up the idle factors. In measuring the external show, there are three arrangements, to be specific: focalized legitimacy, discriminant legitimacy, or utilizing normal fluctuation extricated and developing unwavering quality in measuring utilizing composite unwavering quality and Cronbach's alpha [24].

F. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)

SEM is a multivariate statistical model that allows analysts to predict the influence and attachment between many variables [25]. SEM crucially offers reliability in

conducting path analysis [26]. Path analysis is the relationship between intervening and dependent variables. Researchers clearly define what one variable contributes to another, usually displayed in the form of a diagram [27].

G. Partial Least Square (PLS)

PLS is similar to variance-based SEM formation, which allows testing the simultaneous formation of measured and structural. The structural model is used for testing causality, while the measurement model is used as a measure of validity and reliability (testing hypotheses with predictive formation) [28]. Latent variables can be described by PLS accompanied by measurements using their indicators [29]. The use of PLS is because the data does not depend on assumptions, normal distribution is also not required, and it is not a requirement to have a large sample size. PLS is used to process data and answer existing hypotheses [29].

H. Research Stage

This thesis has five research stages, starting from the planning stage to the documentation stage, as shown in Figure 2.

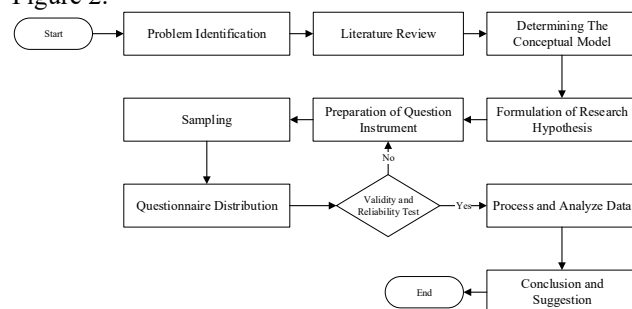


Figure 2. Flowchart of Research Methodology

I. Planning Stage

Figure 2 of the research stages shows the stages in the implementation of research on the application of the DeLone and McLean success model on the website of the Population and Civil Registration Service (<https://semaik.lomboktengahkab.go.id/>). In the validity and reliability test, if the results obtained are valid and reliable, it will continue to manage and evaluate the data, but if not, the stage of preparing the question instrument is carried out again.

- 1) Problem identification is obtained from the observation process carried out by researchers. The problems that have been identified will be the main source in formulating the problems in this study. For this reason, it is concluded that the problem formulation in this study is how the relationship and evaluation of the success factors of DeLone and McLean's ISSM affect the proper application of the Semaik website.
- 2) Literature Study: Researchers who have reached this point in their research have done a lot of reading and research to build a strong theoretical foundation for their work. They have done so by consulting academic texts, peer-reviewed journals, and internet resources; the concepts, knowledge, and theories of experts on the problem at hand are the product of this process.
- 3) The conceptual model stage describes the factors that influence how the level of application success provided

by the PeduliLindungi application to users with the DeLone and McLean Model.

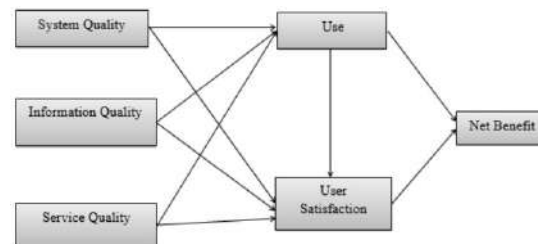


Figure 3. Conceptual Model

Based on Figure 3, the conceptual research model refers to the measurement of DeLone & McLean's, which states that there are variables of information quality, system quality, and service quality that affect user use and user satisfaction. User variables affect user satisfaction. Furthermore, user variables (use) and user satisfaction (user satisfaction) affect net benefit. This conceptual model was used by [30].

- 4) Research Hypothesis A hypothesis is a statement about a concept that is observed and proven whether the hypothesis is true or false [15]. Based on the conceptual model used, we get the following hypothesis [18]:

H1: The quality of the system positively influences user engagement with the SEMAIK website.

H2: System quality contributes positively to user satisfaction on the SEMAIK platform.

H3: The quality of information significantly affects the usage of the SEMAIK website by users.

H4: Information quality exerts a positive impact on the satisfaction of SEMAIK users.

H5: The perceived quality of service has a beneficial effect on user interaction with the SEMAIK system.

H6: Service quality enhances user satisfaction in the context of the SEMAIK website.

H7: The extent of system use positively correlates with user satisfaction on the SEMAIK website.

H8: User interaction with the system contributes positively to the perceived net benefits of the SEMAIK website.

H9: User satisfaction plays a positive role in determining the net benefits derived from using the SEMAIK website.

The hypothesis designed will be tested to prove the hypothesis wrong. The conceptual model of DeLone and McLean is shown in Figure 4.

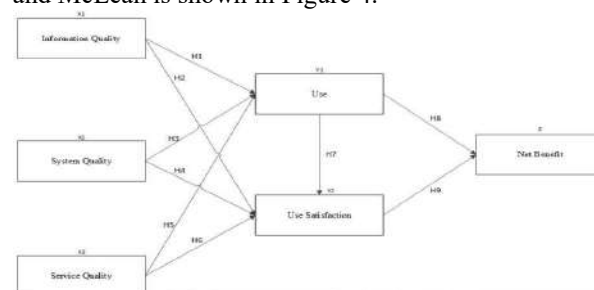


Figure 4. Hypothesis

- 5) The research instrument compiled has 29 question indicators based on the ISSM model. Table 1 contains question indicator instruments in this study.

Table 1. Question Indicators

No	Variable	Statement	Source
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1	Information Quality	Information about population services presented on the SEMAIK website is complete.	J. Iivari [27]
2		Information about population services presented on the SEMAIK website is as needed.	
3		Information about population services presented on the SEMAIK website is appropriate.	
4		Information on the SEMAIK website is up to date	
5		The information presented is not ambiguous	
6		The information presented is free of errors	
7	System Quality	SEMAIK website is easy to learn, even for new users	J. Iivari [27]
8		SEMAIK website can be accessed anywhere as long as the device is connected to the internet	
9		SEMAIK website responds quickly to user requests	
10		I feel comfortable in using the SEMAIK website	
11		I find it easy to use the SEMAIK website	
12		SEMAIK website can serve my needs without problems	
13	Service Quality	I feel safe in accessing the SEMAIK website	DeLone & McLean [28]
14		SEMAIK website provides useful input in managing online document submissions	
15		The system gives responses according to what I do	
16		I always get notifications related to document submission, accepted or not	
17	Use	I often use the SEMAIK website to process population documents online.	J. Iivari [27], DeLone & McLean [28]
18		I will use the SEMAIK website again to apply for legal identity documents.	
19		I can take care of my own legal identity documents without the help of others.	
20		I can process civil registration documents free of charge through the SEMAIK website.	
21	User Satisfaction	I feel happy because I can take care of documents online through the SEMAIK website	DeLone & McLean [28]
22		I am satisfied because the information presented is in accordance with my needs	
23		The SEMAIK website saves me time in processing documents.	
24		Overall, I am very satisfied with the features of the SEMAIK website.	
25	Net Benefit	By using the SEMAIK website, I am able to complete my document submission faster.	Davis [29]
26		SEMAIK website improves my performance in processing documents	
27		SEMAIK website makes the document submission process more effective	
28		The SEMAIK website makes it easier for me to complete document applications	
29		SEMAIK website is useful for me in submitting population documents	

- 6) The research population is composed of people interacting with or visiting the SEMAIK website.
- 7) Dissemination of questionnaires This research uses an online survey to reach as many samples as possible, with permission from the education and civil registration office. The questionnaire was distributed via Google Form and WhatsApp to reach SEMAIK website users effectively.
- 8) Instrument testing was carried out by testing the validity and reliability of the questionnaire totaling 155 respondents and calculated using the SmartPLS Version 4 application.
 - a. The validity test measures the correlation between variables and their total scores, with validity achieved if the data collected matches the data that actually occurs. Indicators are considered valid if they have outer loadings > 0.6 , although values ≥ 0.5 are still acceptable. An AVE value > 0.5 is required for convergent validity tests [30].
 - b. Areliability test assesses the consistency of measurement results on the same symptoms, An instrument is considered to have acceptable reliability if it achieves a Cronbach's Alpha value above 0.7 or a composite reliability above 0.6 [30].
 - c. Data processing and analysis: questionnaires were sent, and several sets of data were analyzed in Microsoft Excel. Data analysis in quantitative research falls into one of two categories: descriptive analysis and inferential analysis [31].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Based on the results of distributing questionnaires questionnaire distributed via Google Form to visitors who have accessed the SEMAIK website, 126 respondents with the following characteristics were obtained:

126 jawaban

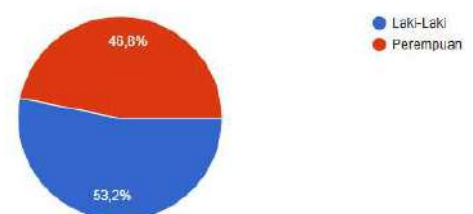


Figure 5. Percentage of Respondent Gender

Figure 5 displays the percentage of respondent gender. It can be seen that out of 126 respondents, 53.2% were male and 46.8% were female. Respondents in this study were dominated by male respondents.

B. District Domicile of Respondents

Based on Figure 6, out of 126 respondents, the majority 39.7% of respondents reside in Praya sub-district, followed by 23% residing in Praya Tengah sub-district. Respondents in this study were dominated by respondents from Praya and Central Praya sub-districts.

126 jawaban

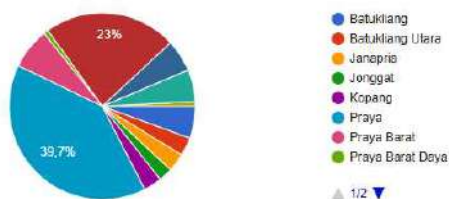


Figure 6.. Percentage of respondents by sub-district

C. Outer Model

Measuring model testing is carried out to determine the validity and reliability seen from the attachment between variables and each indicator.

1. Convergent Validity

The outputs of this test are convergent validity and reliability [13].

Table 2. Outer Loadings Value

	KP	KI	KL	KS	NB	P
KI1		0.828				
KI2		0.797				
KI3		0.780				
KI4		0.840				
KI5		0.782				
KI6		0.701				
KL1			0.837			
KL2			0.835			
KL3			0.855			
KL4			0.843			
KP1	0.811					
KP2	0.869					
KP3	0.844					
KP4	0.874					
KS1				0.801		
KS2				0.788		
KS3				0.863		
KS4				0.891		
KS5				0.812		
KS6				0.824		
NB1					0.833	
NB2					0.902	
NB3					0.857	
NB4					0.858	
NB5					0.832	
P1						0.822
P2						0.868
P3						0.785
P4						0.831

Table 2 shows that the outer loadings value on the Indicators of system quality, information quality, service quality, user satisfaction, usage, and benefits have met the minimum limit of 0.6. All variable indicators have met the minimum outer loadings value limit so that they have met the convergent validity standard.

2. Discriminant Validity

Discriminant validity can be seen in the Average Variance Extracted value, as in Table 3.

Table 3. Average Variance Extracted (AVE) value

Variable	Average variance extracted (AVE)
User Satisfaction (KP)	0.722
Information Quality (KI)	0.623
Service Quality (KL)	0.710
System Quality (KS)	0.690

Net Benefits (NB)	0.734
Use (P)	0.684

In table 3, all variables have met the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) value, which is 0.5, so that they have met convergent validity. For the next testing stage, namely reliability, by looking at the Cronbach's alpha value and the composite reliability value.

3. Reliability Test

Table 4. Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability Values

Variable	Cronbach's alpha	Composite Reliability (rho_c)
User Satisfaction (KP)	0.872	0.912
Information Quality (KI)	0.878	0.908
Service Quality (KL)	0.864	0.907
System Quality (KS)	0.910	0.930
Net Benefits (NB)	0.909	0.932
Use (P)	0.846	0.896

All variables have composite reliability and Cronbach's alpha values more than 0.70, indicating their reliability.

D. Inner Model

By examining the outcomes of the parameter coefficient estimate and its significance level, the structural model (inner model) establishes the connection between latent components. The following is how the structural model is created:

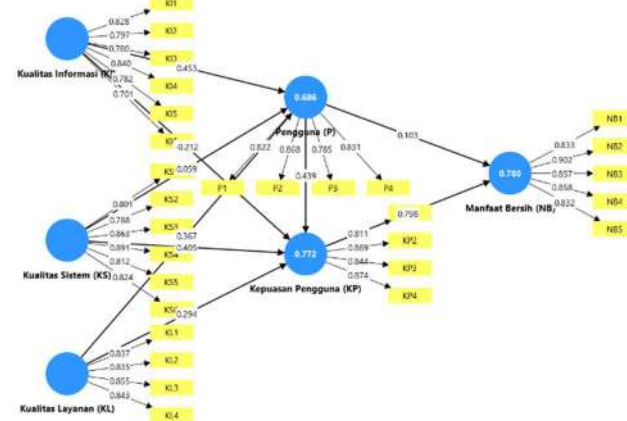


Figure 7. Structural model (Inner Model)

Testing the structural model is seen from several indicators, namely R-squares, F-squared, and goodness of fit model.

1. R-Square

R-squared values are categorized into three groups. It falls into the strong category if the R-square value is 0.75; the moderate category if it is 0.50; and the weak category if it is 0.25. Table 5 displays the dependent variable's R-square value as determined by this research model.

Table 5. R-Square Value

Variable	R-square	Adjusted R-square
User Satisfaction (KP)	0.772	0.765
Net Benefits (NB)	0.780	0.776
Use (P)	0.686	0.678

It explains that the user satisfaction variable has an r-square value of 0.772 after computation using SmartPLS 4 in line with table 8. This indicates that user happiness is 77.2% impacted by information quality, system quality, service quality, and usage. The use variable has a value of 0.686. This indicates that there is a 68.6% impact of system, service, and information quality on consumption. 0.780 is the net benefit variable. This indicates that 78% of

net benefits are influenced by SEMAIK users and user happiness.

2. F-squared

The F-squared metric is employed to evaluate the proportional influence of an exogenous influencing variable on an endogenous influenced variable. There are three categories for the level of substantive influence: 0.02 (weak), 0.15 (moderate), and 0.35 (strong). Table 6 displays the findings of the F-square value:

Table 6. F-square Values

Variable Relationship	f-square	Substantive Effect
User Satisfaction (KP) -> Net Benefits (NB)	1.040	Weak
Information Quality (KI) -> User Satisfaction (KP)	0.050	Weak
Information Quality (KI) -> Use (P)	0.201	Moderate
Service Quality (KL) -> User Satisfaction (KP)	0.081	Weak
Service Quality (KL) -> Use (P)	0.101	Weak
System Quality (KS) -> User Satisfaction (KP)	0.150	Moderate
System Quality (KS) -> Use (P)	0.002	Weak
Use (P) -> User Satisfaction (KP)	0.266	Moderate
Use (P) -> Net Benefit (NB)	0.017	Weak

E. Hypothesis Testing

The results of the accepted and rejected path coefficients can be seen in table 7 below:

Table 7. Path Coefficient on Model Testing

Variable	T statistics (O/STDEV)	P values	Description.
User Satisfaction (KP) -> Net Benefits (NB)	8.306	0.000	Accepted
Information Quality (KI) -> User Satisfaction (KP)	1.751	0.080	Rejected
Information Quality (KI) -> Use (P)	3.530	0.000	Accepted
Service Quality (KL) -> User Satisfaction (KP)	2.195	0.028	Accepted
Service Quality (KL) -> Use (P)	2.148	0.032	Accepted
System Quality (KS) -> User Satisfaction (KP)	2.426	0.015	Accepted
System Quality (KS) -> Use (P)	0.355	0.723	Rejected
Use (P) -> User Satisfaction (KP)	4.461	0.000	Accepted
Use (P) -> Net Benefit (NB)	0.988	0.323	Rejected

Table 10 presents the hypothesis testing results based on the t-statistics and p-values of the path coefficients:

1. H1: User Satisfaction (KP) significantly influences Net Benefits (NB), with a t-value of 8.306 and a p-value of 0.000, indicating that the hypothesis is supported.
2. H2: Information Quality (KI) does not significantly impact User Satisfaction (KP), as shown by a t-value of 1.751 and a p-value of 0.080, leading to the rejection of the hypothesis.
3. H3: Information Quality (KI) shows a significant effect on User Use (P), with a t-value of 3.530 and a p-value of 0.000, confirming the acceptance of the hypothesis.
4. H4: Service Quality (KL) significantly affects User Satisfaction (KP), as reflected by a t-value of 2.148 and a p-value of 0.032, supporting the hypothesis.
5. H5: Service Quality (KL) also demonstrates a significant influence on User Use (P), with the same t-

value of 2.148 and p-value of 0.032, indicating hypothesis acceptance.

6. H6: System Quality (KS) significantly contributes to User Satisfaction (KP), with a t-value of 2.426 and a p-value of 0.015, thus the hypothesis is accepted.
7. H7: System Quality (KS) does not significantly affect User Use (P), as indicated by a t-value of 0.355 and a p-value of 0.723, resulting in hypothesis rejection.
8. H8: User Use (P) has a statistically significant influence on User Satisfaction (KP), with a t-value of 4.461 and a p-value of 0.000, leading to hypothesis acceptance.
9. H9: User Use (P) does not significantly impact Net Benefits (NB), shown by a t-value of 0.988 and a p-value of 0.323, which leads to the rejection of the hypothesis.

F. Goodness of Fit

Table 8. Model Goodness-of-Fit Test Results

	saturated Model	Approximate model	Description
SRMR	0.065	0.069	Fit
d ULS	1.847	2.079	Fit
d G	1.530	1.578	Fit
Chi-square	960.799	976.318	Fit
NFI	0.729	0.724	Fit

Based on the PLS goodness-of-fit model test presented in Table 8, the SRMR value is 0.069, which is below the 0.10 threshold, indicating that the model demonstrates acceptable fit. Furthermore, the d_ULS value is 2.079 and exceeds the 0.05 criterion, supporting the model's adequacy. Similarly, the d_G value of 1.578, which is also above 0.05, confirms the model's validity. Additionally, the chi-square statistic, recorded at 976.318, further reinforces the model's fit, as it surpasses the 0.05 benchmark. With an NFI output result of 0.724, the model is deemed acceptable.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the study's findings, the Population and Civil Registration Office of Central Lombok Regency's deployment of the SEMAIK website is deemed to have been a success according to the DeLone and McLean Model, which holds that user satisfaction is the primary factor influencing perceived net benefits and that system quality, service quality, and usage all significantly impact user satisfaction. Nevertheless, while information quality influences usage, it has no discernible impact on user happiness, and utilization has no direct bearing on net benefits. These findings indicate the importance of improving information quality and usage experience so that the benefits of the website can be maximized. For future research, the model can be further developed by incorporating external variables such as digital literacy, perceived ease of use, or technological readiness. In addition, employing mixed-methods approaches and expanding respondent characteristics will enable a more comprehensive and in-depth evaluation of digital public service information systems.

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Application of the Simple Additive Weighting Method in the Decision Support System for Determining the Best Village Officials

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Abstract - Performance evaluation of village officials in Bunut Baok Village is still carried out manually using assessment sheets, which often leads to subjectivity, unclear assessment aspects, and slow decision-making. These issues indicate the need for a Decision Support System (DSS) capable of providing objective and transparent evaluations based on measurable criteria. This study aims to develop a DSS using the Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) method to determine the best-performing village officials. Data were collected through observation and interviews with the Village Head and Village Secretary, involving 13 village officials as evaluation subjects. The dataset consists of five assessment criteria attendance, daily activity reports, output of activities, discipline, and service each represented through a linguistic scale (excellent, good, fairly good, poor) which was then converted into numerical weights for SAW processing. The results show that alternative A1 (Head of Gelogor Mapong Region) achieved the highest preference score of 0.938, indicating superior performance based on all evaluated criteria. The findings demonstrate that the SAW method effectively supports structured and transparent decision-making at the village governance level and can serve as a reference framework for future DSS implementations in local government environments.

Keywords: *Decision Support System, Simple Additive Weighting, village officials, performance evaluation, multicriteria decision-making.*

I. INTRODUCTION

A village is a legal entity consisting of a local community with a clear territory, which has the authority to regulate and manage governmental affairs and local interests [1]. This is based on the initiative and traditional rights of the community, which are recognized in the Indonesian governmental system. In carrying out governance at the local level, support from competent and professional government officials is needed, who have a deep understanding of local conditions and are capable of competing globally [2]. Therefore, local governments are responsible for accelerating development and the welfare of village communities by effectively managing the human resources available in their area [3]. This indicates that managing internal village affairs, such as community development and the local economy, must be carried out by professional village officials [4]. This research was conducted in Bunut Baok Village, located in the Praya Subdistrict of Central Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. The village is administratively led by the Village Head and supported by 13 village officials responsible for public service delivery and local governance. The need for objective and transparent performance evaluation in this region underlies the relevance of implementing a Decision Support System.

Currently, rural communities have experienced significant development, requiring the presence of trained government officials. Due to the increasing complexity of community needs, efficient, fast, and accurate services are crucial. Village apparatus, as part of the community, must be able to provide services that meet the needs of the people [5]. They play a role as a subsystem within the government

structure, having the authority to effectively manage and regulate internal village affairs in accordance with the evolving dynamics of governance [4].

Bunut Baok Village, which serves as the focus of this study, is located in the Praya Subdistrict of Central Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. The village government is supported by 13 village officials who are responsible for carrying out administrative and public service functions, consisting of the Village Head and Village Officials. To achieve a better and more advanced village governance, it is important for all village apparatus to provide services that are fast, simple, and transparent, so that the needs of the community can be well met and are free from corruption, collusion, and nepotism (KKN) [6]. Therefore, the governance in Bunut Baok Village must comply with the applicable government regulations. The Village Head and all village apparatus are expected to carry out their duties and functions according to established provisions. A village head must possess the ability to lead and guide the apparatus in providing quality government services.

One of the strategies that can be used by village heads to improve service quality is to evaluate the performance of village government officials. This approach aims to assess the level of quality of performance of the officials at the Bunut Baok Village Office conducts routine performance assessments during the morning assembly held every Monday and during coordination meetings. Additional evaluations are also carried out through the Annual Work Program (PKT), in which each of the 13 village officials submits a monthly activity journal documenting their tasks and responsibilities. These journals are collected by the Village Secretary and subsequently evaluated by the



Village Head. The performance evaluation process focuses on five key criteria, namely attendance, daily activity reports, output of activities, discipline, and service. These criteria constitute the primary data used in this study and serve as the input variables for the Decision Support System (DSS) developed using the Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) method. From each stage of the assessment mentioned, it still uses manual methods using assessment sheets and tends to be subjective. This is due to the lack of clearly defined assessment aspects in evaluating the performance of village officials. As a result, the assessment process is slow and less accurate [7]. To overcome the problems of performance appraisal at the Bunut Baok Village Office, a system update is needed by utilizing computer applications [8]. Thus, the assessment process can be done more quickly and accurately [9]. One system that can be applied is a decision support system, which helps in the decision-making process related to various problems that arise [10]. It is hoped that with this system, the decisions taken can meet the predetermined limits better.

Decision Support System (DSS) is a computer-based information system, which combines models and data to provide support to decision makers in solving structured problems [11]. The DSS in question will be designed using the PHP programming language and MySQL Server database [12]. This application basically consists of data about village officials, assessment criteria, assessment alternatives, assessment results, and other components. The method used in this decision support system is the Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) method. The SAW method is a multicriteria decision-making technique that evaluates alternatives based on weighted criteria. In this study, the SAW method was applied using five validated performance criteria: attendance, daily activity reports, output of activities, discipline, and service. These criteria were determined through interviews with the Village Head and Village Secretary, who confirmed that the five indicators represent the official performance standards used in the village's existing evaluation system. The candidate data consist of 13 village officials, each assessed using linguistic ratings (excellent, good, fairly good, and poor) that were subsequently converted into numerical values to ensure consistency and suitability for SAW computation.

In the SAW method, the evaluated alternatives are compared with each other for each criterion and compared as a whole to determine the best alternative [13] [14]. The SAW method can eliminate unfavorable alternatives so that the dominating alternative can be selected as a suitable alternative [15]. Researcher [16] stated that the system with the SAW method eliminates poor alternatives and produces a dominant alternative from other alternatives in recommending Islamic boarding schools in Semarang. Further research [17] provides a statement that the SAW method is useful for selecting the best alternative from several existing alternatives. Then from research [18], the SAW Method is used to classify recommended alternative data, where unrecommended data will be eliminated [19].

This can help in determining the best village apparatus that best fits the predetermined criteria. In addition, this method can also consider different preferences or weights on each criterion so that it can produce more accurate and

effective results [20]. The title of the research that the author designed, "Application of the SAW Method to the Decision Support System for Determining the Best Village Apparatus (Case Study: Bunut Baok Village)", is very relevant to the context of the problems described earlier. With the new system based on the SAW method, it is hoped that this research can make a significant contribution in helping the village government in the process of assessing the performance of village officials with 5 criteria, including Attendance, Daily Activity Reports, Outputs of Activities, Discipline, and Service.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Research Stages

The stages conducted to achieve the objectives of the research in the decision support system for Determining the Best Village Device (Case Study: Bunut Baok Village) as shown in the following figure 1:

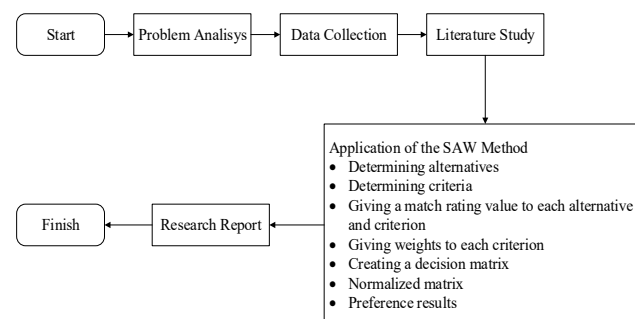


Figure 1. Research Stages.

Based on the research stages depicted in Figure 1, here is an explanation of those research stages:

1. Problem Analysis
The problem analysis is used to solve a problem and analyze data in conducting a study before making designs or calculations.
2. Data Collection
In conducting research, data collection is one of the essential things that must be done to resolve and achieve the desired results by the author. Data collection is done in 2 ways: observation and interviews.
3. Literature Study
To enhance the researcher's knowledge concerning Decision Support Systems (DSS) and the methods used, namely the SAW method, as well as reading journals or other references related to the research.
4. Application of the Method
The initial stage of this research starts by analyzing the problems that occurred in determining the best village apparatus. It begins by analyzing the calculations of the old system that is still in operation, then it is followed by analyzing using new calculations with the method used, which is the SAW Method.
5. Research Report
In this stage, a report is made of the entire research to see whether the results of this research are in line with

expectations and then followed by drawing a conclusion from the research.

B. Village Officials

Village officials are staff elements that assist the Village Head in formulating policies and coordination housed in the Village Secretariat, as well as supporting elements for the Village Head's tasks in implementing policies in the form of technical implementers and regional elements. Village officials are part of the government apparatus found in the village and have the duty to assist a village head in carrying out the duties and authority of the village head in administering the village government and meeting the needs of the community in the village where they serve. According to Law Number 06 of 2014 concerning Villages, it is explained that the authority to appoint and dismiss a member of the village government is the authority of the village head; however, in carrying out that authority, the village head must still comply with the regulations set forth in the applicable laws or regulations [3]. With the aim that the served community feels comfortable and satisfied with the services provided by the village apparatus, thus being able to offer solutions to all the problems present in the village.

C. Decision Support System (DSS)

Decision Support System (DSS) was first introduced by Michael S. Scott in the early 1970s [3]. DSS, or known as Decision Support System, is a computer-based system that can present the capabilities of a problem as well as the ability to combine problems with semi-structured and unstructured situations [21]. The purpose of DSS is to assist decision-makers in making decisions [22]. DSS is an interactive system that helps decision-makers through the use of data and decision models to solve problems that are semi-structured and unstructured in nature [17].

D. Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) Method

The SAW method is a method also known as a weighted summation method. This means that each combination of alternatives and criteria will be calculated mathematically to produce a value. This value will then be multiplied by the weight of each criterion. The result of this value will form a ranking value, and the result will be used to make a decision. The Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) method requires a normalization process of the decision matrix (X) to a scale that can be compared with all existing alternative ratings [21]. The steps in SAW are as follows [22]: Create a decision matrix (X) from the compatibility rating table (each alternative (Ai) and each criterion (Cj)) that has been determined, where $i=1,2,...,m$ and $j=1,2,...,n$.

$$X_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{11} & X_{12} & \dots & X_{1n} \\ X_{21} & X_{22} & \dots & X_{2n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ X_{m1} & X_{m2} & \dots & X_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Description: X_{ij} = Decision matrix i = Alternatives (rows) j = Attributes or criteria (columns) n = Number of attributes m = Number of alternatives The normalization process involves calculating the normalized performance rating value (R_{ij}) of alternative A_i on criterion C_j , using the following formula [19]:

$$\text{If } j \text{ is a benefit, then } R_{ij} = X_{ij} / (\text{Max} * X_{ij}) \quad (2)$$

$$\text{If } j \text{ is a cost, then } R_{ij} = \text{Min} * X_{ij} / (X_{ij}) \quad (3)$$

Where: R_{ij} = normalized performance rating value. The results from the calculations above will form a normalized matrix (R) Calculating the preference value. In this stage, which is the main stage, all attributes are multiplied by the criterion weights for each alternative using the following equation:

$$V_i = \sum_{j=1}^n W_j R_{ij} \quad (4)$$

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In determining the best Village Apparatus, there are several criteria with specific weight values that must be possessed by a Village Apparatus who will be selected. The criteria that must be met by the village apparatus include Attendance, Daily Activity Reports, Daily Activity Outputs, Discipline, and Service.

a. Establishment of Alternatives and CriteriaThe following are 13 alternative data as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Alternative Data.

Kode	Alternatif
A1	Gelogor Mapong
A2	Paok Tawah
A3	Sekunyit
A4	Bunut Baik
A5	Bunut Baik Daye
A6	Betu Belek
A7	Bunut Baik Lauk
A8	Lendang Bile
A9	Marung
A10	Marung Bat
A11	Begak
A12	Montong Semaye
A13	Perandap

Table 2 below presents the criteria data for the candidates of village staff to be selected. Each criterion has been assigned a Weight directly by the Head of the Selebung Rembiga Village. For criteria C1 to C3, it is based on research [1], while criteria C4 and C5 are additional from the Head of the Village.

Table 2. Criteria Data.

Code	Criteria	Weight	Description
C1	Attendance	25	Benefit
C2	Daily Activity Report	25	Benefit
C3	Output of Activities	25	Benefit
C4	Discipline	15	Benefit
C5	Service	10	Benefit

b. Establishing Compatibility Rating of Alternative Data and Criterion DataIn performing calculations using any method in the decision support system, compatibility rating data for each alternative and criterion is required. The following is the compatibility rating data between alternatives and criterion data.



Table 3. Alternative Data and Village Apparatus Criteria.

Alternatif	Attendance (C1)	Daily Activity Report (C2)
A1	Excellent	Good
A2	Fairly Good	Good
A3	Good	Excellent
A4	Good	Excellent
A5	Excellent	Good
A6	Good	Good
A7	Fairly Good	Excellent
A8	Excellent	Good
A9	Good	Fairly Good
A10	Good	Good
A11	Fairly Good	Excellent
A12	Excellent	Fairly Good
A13	Fairly Good	Good

Table 3A. Alternative Data and Village Apparatus Criteria (2).

Output of Activities (C3)	Discipline (C4)	Service (C5)
Excellent	Good	Excellent
Excellent	Good	Good
Excellent	Kurang Good	Excellent
Good	Good	Excellent
Good	Fairly Good	Excellent
Excellent	Good	Good
Fairly Good	Fairly Good	Good
Fairly Good	Good	Fairly Good
Kurang Good	Fairly Good	Good
Fairly Good	Fairly Good	Fairly Good
Good	Fairly Good	Good
Fairly Good	Kurang Good	Good
Good	Good	Fairly Good

In Table 3,3A, there are several linguistic data such as excellent, good, fairly good, and poor. This data is weighted to obtain values from the alternatives that can be calculated using the SAW method. The following is the result data that has been filled in.

Table 4. Criteria Weight Values.

Criteria	Description	Values
C1, C2, C3, C4, C5	Excellent	4
	Good	3
	Fairly Good	2
	Poor	1

The criteria after weighting appear as shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Rating Score of Criteria Compatibility.

Alternatif	(C1)	(C2)	(C3)	(C4)	(C5)
A1	4	3	4	3	4
A2	2	3	4	3	3
A3	3	4	4	1	4
A4	3	4	3	3	4
A5	4	3	3	2	4
A6	3	3	4	3	3
A7	2	4	2	2	3
A8	4	3	2	3	2
A9	3	2	1	2	3
A10	3	3	2	2	2
A11	2	4	3	2	3
A12	4	2	2	1	3

A13	2	3	3	3	2
Max	4	4	4	3	4
Min	2	3	3	1	3

Based on the information listed in table 5, there is data about the match rating, including the maximum and minimum values for each match rating between choices and criteria. The steps for calculating data on the match rating with the SAW method.

c. Application of the Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) Method

The steps of calculating data on the suitability rating with the SAW method are as follows:

1. Create a Decision Matrix (Xij)

$$X_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 & 4 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 & 3 & 3 \\ 3 & 4 & 4 & 1 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 & 4 & 3 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 3 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 3 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Calculating the normalization matrix (Rij)

To obtain the normalized matrix, this can be done using a mathematical formula, which involves dividing the value of each criterion and alternative weight. The value of the compatibility rating for each alternative and criterion is divided by the minimum value of each criterion's values.

The steps are as follows:

Attendance Criteria (C1)

$$\begin{aligned} R_{1.1} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{2.1} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{3.1} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{4.1} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{5.1} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{6.1} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{7.1} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{8.1} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{9.1} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{10.1} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{11.1} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{12.1} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{13.1} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \end{aligned}$$

Daily Activity Report Criteria (C2)

$$\begin{aligned} R_{1.2} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{2.2} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} R_{3,2} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{4,2} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{5,2} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{6,2} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{7,2} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{8,2} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{9,2} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{10,2} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{11,2} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{12,2} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{13,2} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} R_{3,5} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{4,5} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{5,5} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{6,5} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{7,5} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{8,5} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{9,5} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{10,5} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{11,5} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{12,5} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{13,5} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \end{aligned}$$

Daily Activity Output Criteria (C3)

$$\begin{aligned} R_{1,3} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{2,3} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{3,3} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{4,3} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{5,3} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{6,3} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{7,3} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{8,3} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{9,3} &= \frac{1}{4} = 0,25 \\ R_{10,3} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{11,3} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \\ R_{12,3} &= \frac{2}{4} = 0,5 \\ R_{13,3} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \end{aligned}$$

Discipline Criteria (C4)

$$\begin{aligned} R_{1,4} &= \frac{3}{3} = 1 \\ R_{2,4} &= \frac{3}{3} = 1 \\ R_{3,4} &= \frac{1}{3} = 0,33 \\ R_{4,4} &= \frac{3}{3} = 1 \\ R_{5,4} &= \frac{2}{3} = 0,66 \\ R_{6,4} &= \frac{3}{3} = 1 \\ R_{7,4} &= \frac{2}{3} = 0,66 \\ R_{8,4} &= \frac{3}{3} = 1 \\ R_{9,4} &= \frac{2}{3} = 0,66 \\ R_{10,4} &= \frac{2}{3} = 0,66 \\ R_{11,4} &= \frac{2}{3} = 0,66 \\ R_{12,4} &= \frac{1}{3} = 0,33 \\ R_{13,4} &= \frac{3}{3} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Service Criteria (C5)

$$\begin{aligned} R_{1,5} &= \frac{4}{4} = 1 \\ R_{2,5} &= \frac{3}{4} = 0,75 \end{aligned}$$

From the results of the calculations that have been carried out, the normalized matrix value (R_{ij}) is obtained as follows:

$$R_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0,75 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0,5 & 0,75 & 1 & 1 & 0,75 \\ 0,75 & 1 & 1 & 0,33 & 1 \\ 0,75 & 1 & 0,75 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0,75 & 0,75 & 0,66 & 1 \\ 0,75 & 0,75 & 1 & 1 & 0,75 \\ 0,5 & 1 & 0,5 & 0,66 & 0,75 \\ 1 & 0,75 & 0,5 & 1 & 0,5 \\ 0,75 & 0,5 & 0,25 & 0,66 & 0,75 \\ 0,75 & 0,75 & 0,5 & 0,66 & 0,5 \\ 0,5 & 1 & 0,75 & 0,66 & 0,75 \\ 1 & 0,5 & 0,5 & 0,33 & 0,75 \\ 0,5 & 0,75 & 0,75 & 1 & 0,5 \end{bmatrix}$$

3. Calculating Preference Value (V_i)

The search for the preference value can be done using a mathematical formula by summing the product of the value from each normalized matrix with the weight value of each criterion.

$$\begin{aligned} V_1 &= \sum[(0,25 \times 1) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 1) + \\ &\quad (0,15 \times 1) + (0,10 \times 1)] \\ &= 0,938 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_2 &= \sum[(0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 1) + \\ &\quad (0,15 \times 1) + (0,10 \times 0,75)] \\ &= 0,788 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_3 &= \sum[(0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 1) + (0,25 \times 1) + \\ &\quad (0,15 \times 0,33) + (0,10 \times 1)] \\ &= 0,838 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_4 &= \sum[(0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 1) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + \\ &\quad (0,15 \times 1) + (0,10 \times 1)] \\ &= 0,875 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_5 &= \sum[(0,25 \times 1) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + \\ &\quad (0,15 \times 0,66) + (0,10 \times 1)] \\ &= 0,825 \end{aligned}$$



$$V_6 = \sum[(0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 1) + (0,15 \times 1) + (0,10 \times 0,75)] = 0,675$$

$$V_7 = \sum[(0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,25 \times 1) + (0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,15 \times 0,66) + (0,10 \times 0,75)] = 0,675$$

$$V_8 = \sum[(0,25 \times 1) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,15 \times 1) + (0,10 \times 0,5)] = 0,763$$

$$V_9 = \sum[(0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,25 \times 0,25) + (0,15 \times 0,66) + (0,10 \times 0,75)] = 0,550$$

$$V_{10} = \sum[(0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,15 \times 0,66) + (0,10 \times 0,5)] = 0,650$$

$$V_{11} = \sum[(0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,25 \times 1) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,15 \times 0,66) + (0,10 \times 0,75)] = 0,738$$

$$V_{12} = \sum[(0,25 \times 1) + (0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,15 \times 0,33) + (0,10 \times 0,75)] = 0,500$$

$$V_{13} = \sum[(0,25 \times 0,5) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,25 \times 0,75) + (0,15 \times 1) + (0,10 \times 0,5)] = 0,700$$

The results of the preference score calculation will produce a ranking table. This table is the final result of the calculation process and ranks the values from the highest to the lowest, serving as the rank score for each alternative.

Table 6. Ranking results of each alternative.

Alternatif	Nama Aparatur Desa	Nilai Preferensi	Ranking
A1	Gelogor Mapong	0.938	1
A2	Paok Tawah	0.788	5
A3	Sekunyit	0.838	3
A4	Bunut Baik	0.875	2
A5	Bunut Baik Daye	0.825	4
A6	Betu Belek	0.675	9
A7	Bunut Baik Lauk	0.675	9
A8	Lendang Bile	0.763	6
A9	Marung	0.550	12
A10	Marung Bat	0.650	11
A11	Begak	0.738	7
A12	Montong Semaye	0.500	13
A13	Perandap	0.700	8

Based on the results of the calculation of table 6 using the SAW method, which produces the highest value of 0.938, it can be concluded that alternative A1 on behalf of the Head of Gelogor Mapong Region is the best Bunut Baik Village Apparatus.

4. Application deployment

a. Home Page

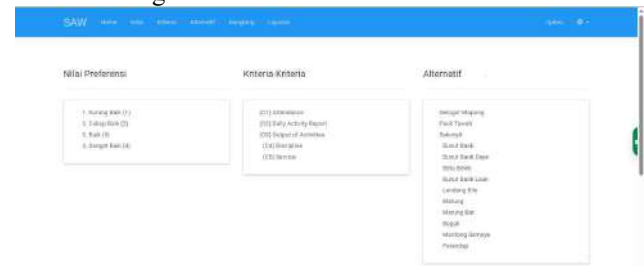


Figure 2. Home Page

The home page presents the final results generated from the Simple Additive Weighting computation and is structured into several essential components, including the Preference Values, which display the evaluation scale used in the system namely Poor (1), Fair (2), Good (3), and Very Good (4) as well as the section containing the assessment criteria and the alternatives representing the village officials evaluated in the decision-making process.

b. Graphics Page

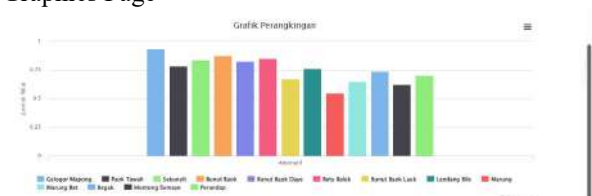


Figure 3. Graphics Page

The ranking chart page displays the calculation results in the form of a bar chart, illustrating the total score obtained by each alternative. This visualization enables users to easily identify which village official achieves the highest score and is therefore ranked as the best candidate according to the SAW method. Overall, this page functions as an analytical dashboard that visually presents the decision-making results, allowing users to clearly understand the computed outcomes and compare the performance of all alternatives with ease.

c. Criteria Page

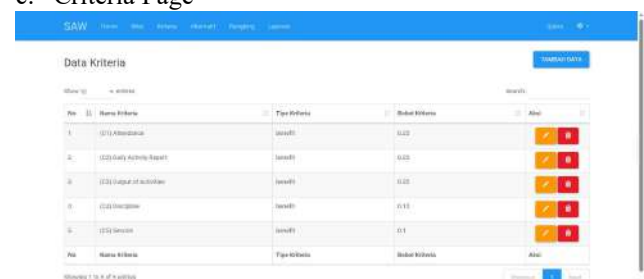


Figure 4. Criteria Page

The criteria page serves as the interface for managing the assessment criteria used in the decision-making process. This page allows users to display, add, modify, and delete criteria data, all of which play a crucial role in the Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) method. By providing full control over the criteria configuration, this page ensures that the decision-making system remains flexible, accurate, and aligned with the evaluation requirements of the village officials.

d. Preference Value Page

Figure 5. Preference Value Page

The data on this page serve as the foundation for assigning scores to each evaluation criterion displayed on the Ranking page. The system converts qualitative assessments into quantitative values, which are then used in the normalization process and the final calculation of the Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) method.

e. Alternative Page

Figure 6. Alternative Page

This page is used to display the list of all alternatives that will be assessed and ranked using the Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) method. It serves as a monitoring interface for reviewing the final calculation results, allowing users to identify which alternative achieves the highest score and is therefore positioned as the best-ranked candidate.

f. Alternative criteria value page

Figure 7. Alternative criteria value page

This page displays the complete results of the SAW calculation process, beginning with the initial values, followed by the normalization stage, and concluding with the final ranking of employees. The feature consists of several sections, the first of which is the Alternative Criteria Values section. This section presents a table

containing the initial scores assigned to each alternative (employee) based on the evaluation criteria. The columns represent the criteria (C1-C5) along with their respective types (benefit or cost), while the rows list the alternatives along with their assigned scores. These data constitute the fundamental input used prior to the normalization process.

g. R Normalization Page

Figure 8. R Normalization Page

Normalization (R): This section displays the normalization results of each alternative's values across all criteria. The normalization process is conducted to standardize the scores so that each criterion is measured on a comparable scale.

h. Final Calculation Results Page

Figure 9. Final Calculation Results Page

This section presents the final results of the SAW method, calculated based on the criterion weights and the normalized values. Each alternative receives a final score obtained by summing the products of its normalized values and the corresponding criterion weights. The "Result" column displays the total final score for each alternative, where the highest score indicates the best-performing alternative.

i. Print Report Feature



Figure 10. Alternative criteria value page

This page serves as the central output of the employee performance evaluation based on the predetermined criteria. From this page, users can review the calculation process transparently, compare the results across alternatives, and generate a printed ranking report for documentation purposes.

IV. CONCLUSION

This research successfully implemented a Decision Support System (DSS) using the Simple Additive Weighting (SAW) method to determine the best village apparatus based on five criteria: attendance, daily activity reports, output of activities, discipline, and service, where alternative A1 (Head of Mekar Sari Region) received the highest preference score of 0.938 and was selected as the best village apparatus. For future research, it is suggested to add criteria such as leadership skills and community feedback, use more dynamic weighting methods such as AHP or entropy weight, validate results with other methods such as TOPSIS or ELECTRE, develop a web/application-based system to improve transparency, and conduct field studies and interviews to obtain qualitative data to refine the evaluation.

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Development of a Risk Analysis Application for Higher Education Institutions Using the Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, and Risk Control (HIRARC) Methodology

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Abstract - In general, higher education institutions in Indonesia continue to face challenges in accurately mapping risks identified through Internal Quality Audits (IQA), resulting in limited collective management awareness of risk-based operations. Specifically, this study highlights that similar conditions persist in Cikarang, West Java, where risk identification and control processes remain insufficiently integrated into institutional quality improvement strategies. Although routine audit findings are successfully collected, the subsequent follow-up process is often unstructured and fails to prioritize the most crucial improvements. This research addresses these challenges by developing an application. Digital system adapted from the Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, and Risk Control (HIRARC) methodology. That enables managers to collaboratively determine the risk level associated with each finding. The system also facilitates the categorization of findings based on the urgency of required corrective actions and prioritization for subsequent mitigation efforts. This application is designed to facilitate the conversion of every evaluation finding into a measurable risk score. The primary objective of this system is to deliver comprehensive visualization and mapping of risks through a collaborative process, enabling groups to identify the impact of each finding, conduct analysis and discussion to determine probability, exposure, and consequence, and classify the results into categories of very high risk, high risk, substantial risk, moderate risk, or low risk.

Keywords: *Application, Risk Analysis, HIRARC, Higher Education Institution.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Higher education institutions face market volatility, uncertainty, and complexity that demand the effective implementation of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) to address both internal and external challenges while minimizing the loss of strategic opportunities [1]. In the context of universities, these risks encompass various aspects, including non-compliance with academic standards, declining stakeholder satisfaction indices, and potential reputational damage. Although universities strive to manage these risks through regular Internal Quality Audits (IQA) as a control mechanism, the process often only identifies the symptoms of underlying issues. [13] The Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS) of higher education institutions carries a strategic responsibility in achieving the institution's mission and vision, particularly in supporting continuous quality improvement to sustain the quality of higher education services [2]. The main challenge faced by administrators lies in accurately mapping the risks identified from evaluation findings and prioritizing corrective actions to be implemented first. Consequently, the corrective measures taken often become ineffective and misaligned with actual institutional needs

[3].

The gap between audit findings and the corrective actions taken arises from the lack of structured risk analysis integration among all parties involved in the process. Manual follow-up procedures often fail to prioritize the most critical improvements, ultimately contributing to a low level of collective risk-based awareness among administrators [4]. A framework is needed to measure how severe, how frequent, and how likely a finding is to recur—an approach that can be adopted from the HIRARC (Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, and Risk Control) methodology [3]. To address these limitations and facilitate efficient and collaborative multi-factor analysis (Probability, Exposure, and Consequence), the integration of digital technology serves as a viable solution [5].

Therefore, this study aims to address the identified gap through the development of a Risk Analysis Application, a digital system based on the HIRARC methodology. The research was conducted at a private university located in Cikarang, West Java, Indonesia. The institutional audit covered various administrative, academic, and support units to evaluate organizational



performance and ensure continuous quality improvement. The audited departments included the academic study programs, collaboration office, student affairs division, academic administration, finance and human resources departments, the Institute for Research and Community Service (LPPM), information systems division, Career Development Center (CDC), Independent Business Unit (UBM), Training Center (TC), Quality Assurance Office (LPM), and the marketing department. The audit is conducted once annually during the odd-semester break as part of the university's strategic work meeting, serving as a structured mechanism for institutional evaluation and enhancement.

Tabel 1. Internal Quality Audits (IQA) Department

No.	Department / Unit	Description
1	Study Programs	Academic units responsible for curriculum delivery and learning outcomes.
2	Collaboration Office	Manages institutional partnerships and external cooperation.
3	Student Affairs	Oversees student development, services, and campus life activities.
4	Academic Administration	Handles academic records, scheduling, and administrative processes.
5	Finance and Human Resources	Manages budgeting, financial operations, and staff administration.
6	LPPM (Institute for Research and Community Service)	Coordinates research activities and community engagement programs.
7	Information Systems Division	Maintains digital infrastructure and institutional information systems.
8	CDC (Career Development Center)	Provides career guidance, job placement, and industry linkage services.
9	UBM (Independent Business Unit)	Manages university-owned business and entrepreneurial initiatives.
10	TC (Training Center)	Develops and delivers training programs for internal and external stakeholders.
11	LPM (Quality Assurance Office)	Ensures continuous quality improvement and compliance with accreditation standards.
12	Marketing Department	Oversees branding, promotion, and student recruitment activities.

The application is designed to provide a platform for risk mapping in the form of collaborative events that can be

jointly participated in. This enables collective risk mapping derived from each internal quality audit finding within higher education institutions. The goal is to enhance administrators' awareness of the significant impact that audit findings may have on the overall quality of educational services [1].

By converting findings into measurable risk scores, this application enables institutions to rationally prioritize which corrective solutions should be addressed first. This approach directs resource allocation toward the highest-risk areas and recommends more effective and sustainable corrective actions within the quality assurance system [5].

II. Research Methodology

HIRARC (Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, and Risk Control) is a structured and highly effective risk management methodology, with its fundamental principles derived from global risk management standards such as ISO 31000 and ISO 45001 [8, 9]. This method operates through three main stages:

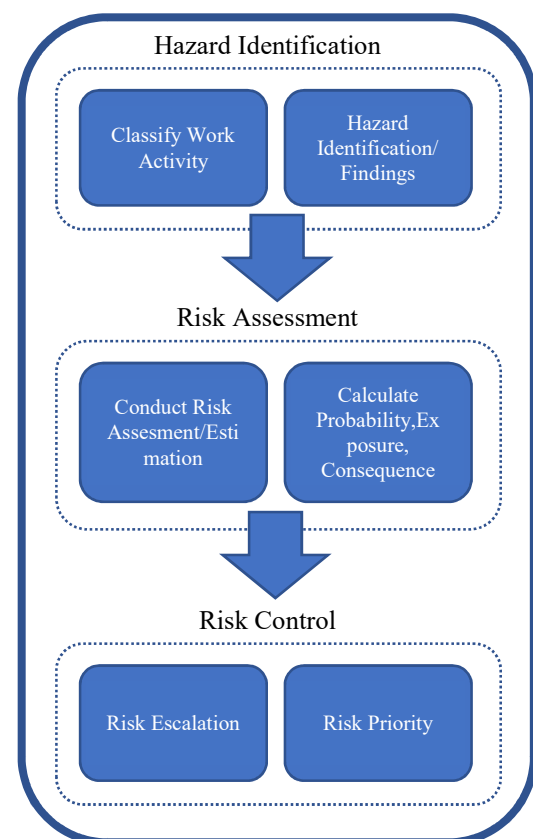


Figure 1. HIRARC Method illustration

1. Hazard Identification: Recognizing all sources, situations, or actions that may cause harm, including risks related to academic quality or institutional

- reputation [9].
2. Risk Assessment: Analyzing the severity level of risks, often using a semi-quantitative approach such as the formula: Probability \times Exposure \times Consequence to determine the risk score [9].
 3. Risk Control: Establishing mitigation measures focused on eliminating or reducing risks through a hierarchical approach (from elimination to administrative control) [8].

This methodology will be digitalized within the application to assist administrators in rationally prioritizing which corrective solutions should be implemented first based on the identified risks.

A. Process Flow


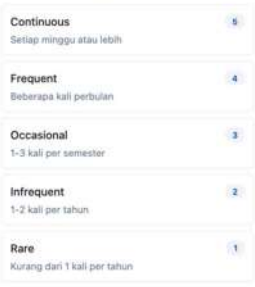
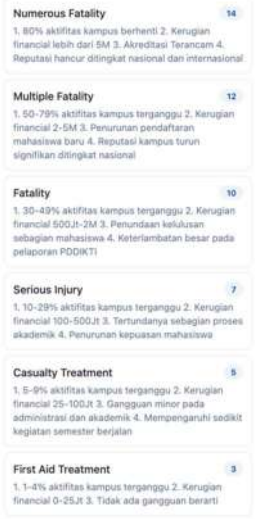
The process flow begins with hazard identification within the HIRARC framework, applied to quality-related risks in higher education institutions, followed by risk assessment and risk control [6].

1. The identification process briefly includes the following steps:
 1. Findings: Collection of *Internal Quality Audit (AMI)* data by compiling all audit findings from each unit or department within the institution.
 2. Risk Category: Developing several categories of potential negative impacts that may arise from identified risks.
 3. Risk: The identified hazards must be specific to the process being evaluated (e.g., *accreditation/external assessment, reputation, policy/SOP/regulation, operational, academic/administrative*), which will then serve as the primary input for the Risk Assessment stage within the application [7].

This process is carried out by the administrator or event organizer of the risk analysis using the application.

2. Risk Assessment
The risk assessment is conducted within the risk analysis application, implementing calculations that integrate probability, exposure, and consequence.
A weighting process is also applied to adjust the influence of each variable on the overall score. In this study, the researcher applied weighting based on the consequence variable, meaning that the consequence indicator carries greater significance than the others [10].

Table 2. Risk Assessment Weighting

Risk Assessment	Description
Probability How likely is this risk to occur? 	Weighting is applied on a scale of 1–5, where a value of 5 represents the highest level for Almost Certain (with a probability of occurrence >90% per year), and a value of 1 represents the lowest level for Conceivable (with a probability of occurrence <10%).
Exposure How often are you exposed to this risk? 	Weighting is applied on a scale of 1–5, where a value of 5 represents the highest level for Continuous (occurring weekly), and a value of 1 represents the lowest level for Rare (occurring less than once per year).
Consequence What would be the worst outcome? 	Consequence weighting ranges from 3 to 14, where a value of 14 represents the highest level, indicating Numerous Fatalities or 80% of campus activities halted, financial losses exceeding 5 billion IDR, accreditation at risk, and severe reputational damage. A value of 3 represents the lowest level, indicating 1–4% of campus activities disrupted, financial losses between 0–25 million IDR, and no significant operational impact.

1. Risk Control

After each finding is entered and calculated, the system generates a result based on the assigned weighting of variable X and the corresponding risk score criteria. The calculation process is automatically performed within the application by the user [11].

Table 3 Score Risk Result

Result	Score
Very high risk	>100
High risk	50-100
Substantial risk	20-49
Moderate risk	10-20
low risk	0-9

The table above presents the risk ranges derived from the application's calculation results, which combine findings, risk category, risk, and consequence. Using the HIRARC method, this combination produces a risk score, which is then classified into categories of very high risk, high risk, substantial risk, moderate risk, and low risk based on the scoring criteria shown in Table 2 [12].

B. Risk Analysis Application

The application development implements the principles and procedures of the HIRARC method [12]. The system also incorporates user roles and access rights, consisting of two main roles: admin and user. The admin has full access to all application features, including entering data (Identification), creating, deleting, or modifying events (Risk Assessment). Meanwhile, the user acts as a participant who performs risk mapping (Risk Assessment) and risk calculation based on the identified findings. This approach aims to enhance management awareness of operational activities related to potential or existing risks (Risk Control).

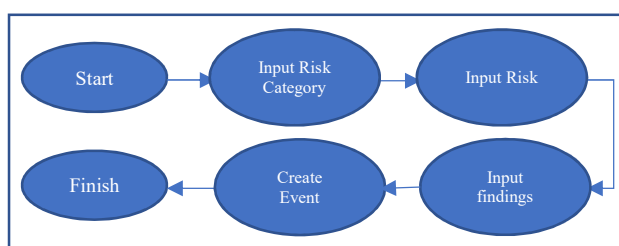


Figure 2. Admin Process Flow

The admin inputs the risk categories to assist users in identifying potential risks. Within each category, the admin specifies the corresponding risks. The admin then enters the findings obtained from the internal quality audit in the Findings tab. Finally, the admin creates an event that can

be accessed by all participants to analyze the audit findings based on their associated risks.

1. Signup/Login

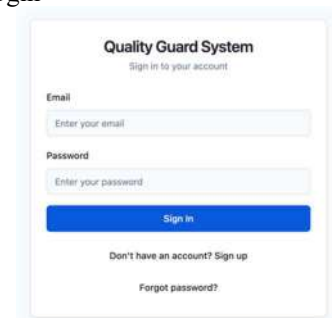


Figure 3. Authentication Page

The application can be accessed via <https://takumikaizen.lovable.app>. The figure above displays the login page of the system called Quality Guard System. On this page, users are prompted to enter their email and password to access their accounts. A blue “Sign In” button is provided for system access, along with additional links at the bottom for account registration (Sign Up) and password recovery (Forgot Password?). The interface design is simple and user-friendly, emphasizing ease of use during the authentication process.

2. Dashboard Page

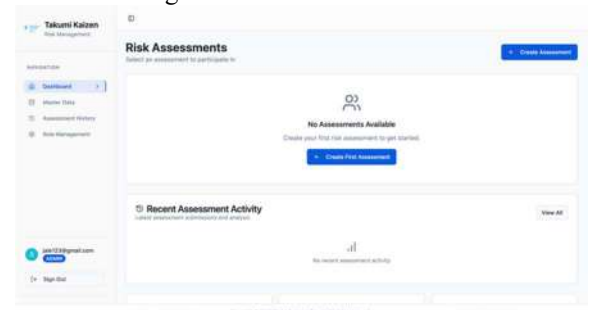


Figure 4. Dashboard Page

This interface presents a digital platform designed to perform and manage Risk Assessments in a centralized manner. The application features a navigation menu (Dashboard, Master Data, Assessment History, Role Management) and a primary “Create Assessment” button to initiate a new assessment process. Additionally, this page displays a history of previous assessments, which can be reopened when needed, allowing administrators to review and compare risk assessment results over time.

3. Identification

a. Findings

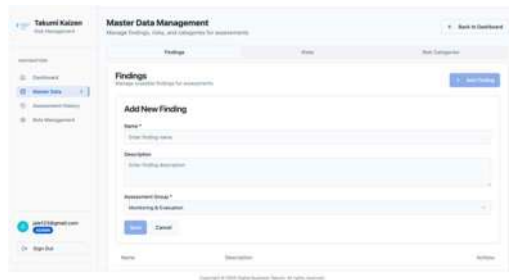


Figure 5. Findings Tab

This figure shows the “Findings” tab on the Master Data Management page. In this tab, the admin can add and manage findings for assessment purposes. A form labeled “Add New Finding” is provided, featuring fields for Name, Description, and Assessment Group (to categorize assessments), along with Save and Cancel buttons. At the top right, there is an “Add Findings” button to create new entries, and below it, an empty table designed to display the list of existing findings. By providing a centralized and categorized repository of findings, this tab ensures data consistency and efficiency across the entire Risk Assessment process.

b. Risk Category

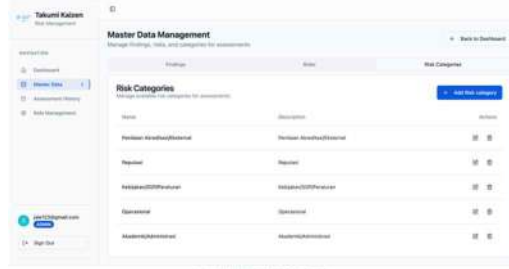


Figure 6. Risk Category Tab

The figure shows the “Risk Categories” tab within the Master Data Management module of the system. In this tab, users can add new risk categories by filling in the name, description, and selecting an assessment group. Save and Cancel buttons are available to manage the input process. The defined risk categories include Accreditation/External Assessment, Reputation, Policy/SOP/Operational Regulations, and Academic/Administrative. Categorizing risks at the outset ensures that all assessments remain aligned with the organization’s key strategic areas.

c. Risk

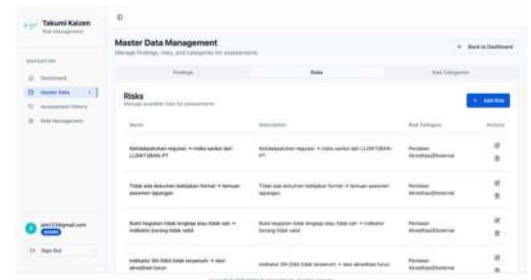


Figure 7. Risk Tab

The figure shows the “Risks” page within the Master Data module of the application. In this tab, users can add new risks by entering the name, description, and selecting both an Assessment Group and a Risk Category. Save and Cancel buttons are available to store or discard new entries. Each Risk is organized under a previously defined Risk Category, and the risk entries include descriptions that explain the potential impacts that may occur.

4. Create Assessment

This feature allows the initiation of an assessment event after the admin has entered the findings, risk categories, and risks.

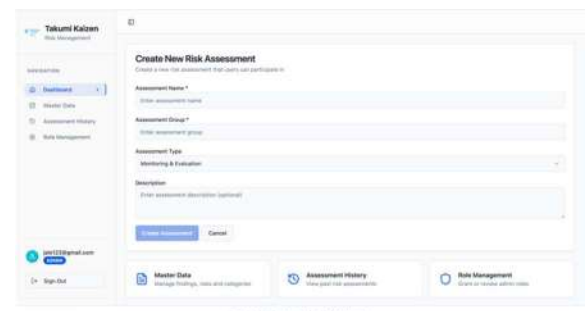


Figure 8. Create Assessment Page

The figure shows the “Create New Risk Assessment” page within the application. In this tab, the admin can create a new risk assessment by filling in the assessment name, assessment group, assessment type, and an optional description. Create Assessment and Cancel buttons are available to proceed with or cancel the creation process. Once the assessment is created by the admin, users can join the event to perform the next stage — the risk calculation process.

5. User Start Assessment (Risk Assessment)

Multiple users can participate in the risk assessment process simultaneously. These users may represent different departments, divisions, or units, allowing them to perform automated risk calculation and mapping through the application. This collaborative approach enables each manager to become more

aware of the risks related to their respective areas of responsibility, both directly and indirectly. Moreover, users can identify whether specific findings fall into high (very high risk/high risk), medium (substantial risk/moderate risk), or low (low risk) categories, allowing them to prioritize corrective actions based on risk levels. The following outlines the assessment workflow:

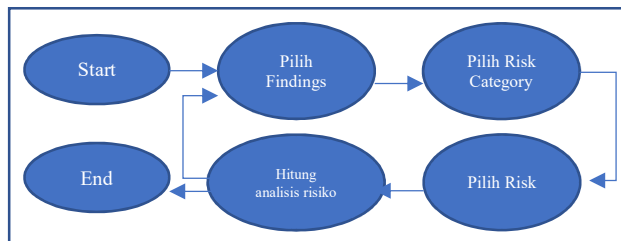


Figure 9. Assessment Flow

The user can start an event and then select a specific finding. Afterward, the user conducts an analysis by determining the category and potential risks associated with the selected finding. Next, a discussion is carried out to analyze the risk calculation, which consists of the combination of probability, exposure, and consequence. Once completed, the user proceeds to select the next finding to continue the assessment process.

a. User Start Assessment

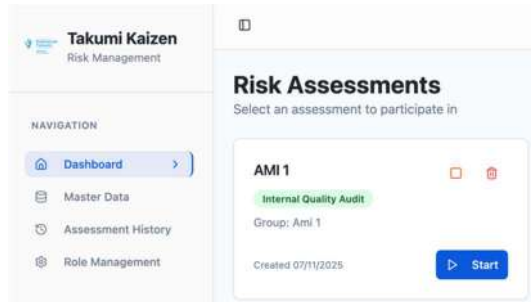


Figure 10. Risk Assessment

The figure shows the event assessment page created by the admin. Users can join the event by clicking the Start button on this page. The Start button directs the user to the Findings page, where they can proceed to the risk analysis process.

b. Select Finding

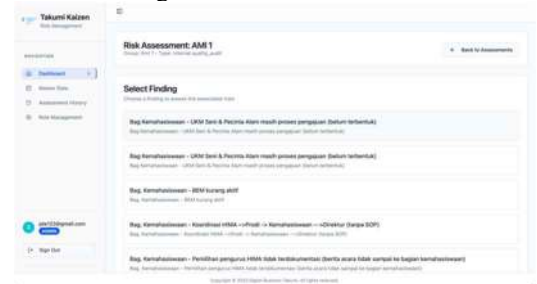


Figure 11. Risk Analysis Process

The figure shows the Select Findings process page. Users can select the findings previously entered by the admin, one at a time. This process represents the initial stage after starting the Risk Assessment. It serves as a crucial preliminary filter, ensuring that only findings relevant to the scope of the risk assessment are processed further.

c. Select Risk Category



Figure 12. Selecting Risk Category

The figure illustrates the process following the user's selection of a finding. At this stage, the user analyzes the finding to determine the most appropriate risk category. This process helps map each finding according to its corresponding risk category, ensuring accurate classification for subsequent risk assessment.

d. Select Risk

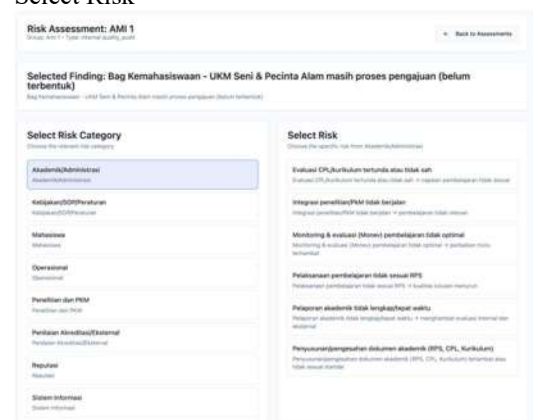


Figure 13. Selecting Risk

The Risk Assessment Page represents the core stage of the digital risk management system. The process begins by selecting Findings and grouping them into the appropriate Risk Categories. Based on these findings, users define the actual risks through causal analysis. This digital structure ensures collective and accurate risk identification, forming the foundation for effective measurement and prioritization of corrective actions. The accuracy of this mapping enables the system to automatically recommend the most critical corrective actions, addressing the common challenge of prioritization faced by management.

e. Risk Assessment Calculation and generate

Figure 14. Calculation Risk

The figure shows the risk calculation page, which is based on the findings, risk categories, and risks defined in the previous stage. Users engage in discussion and analysis focusing on three key dimensions: probability, exposure, and consequence. This discussion forms the core of the qualitative assessment, where the team's experience and expertise are utilized to assign the most accurate values for each risk dimension.

After completing the qualitative analysis and discussion of these parameters, users select the corresponding risk option, which is then automatically calculated by the application. With the validated qualitative input, the system instantly and objectively computes the final risk score, directly determining the priority level of the required control actions.

f. Result

Figure 15 Generate Result

The figure illustrates the final stage of risk analysis, discussion, and calculation. At this point, the user can click the “Generate” button within the Risk Assessment Calculation and Generate process to instruct the application to compute results based on the predefined methodology and weighting system embedded in the application.

This section displays the final score and corresponding risk status — categorized as Very High Risk, High Risk, Substantial Risk, Moderate Risk, or Low Risk — according to the established range. Users are also required to input notes summarizing key points from the discussion and analysis before finalizing the calculation.

Once complete, the user can save the results by clicking “Save Assessment.” Upon saving, the application automatically redirects the user back to the Findings page. This functionality enables users to continue selecting other findings and repeating the process until all findings have been collectively assessed through discussion and analysis.

This stage ultimately supports the goal of enhancing institutional awareness of potential risks identified during the Internal Quality Audit (AMI) and facilitates the prioritization of improvement actions within the university based on the assessed risk levels.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the risks that have been entered and calculated using the application, there are 82 findings distributed across seven categories: Academic, Policy/SOP, Student Affairs, Operational, Research and Community Service (PKM), Accreditation Assessment, and Information Systems.

The following table presents the collective results of the risk calculations performed using the system:

Tabel 4. Result

Result	Category	%	total %
Very High Risk	Academic	25%	12,2%
	Policy/SOP	25%	
	Student	12,5%	
	Operational	12,5%	
	Research and Community Service	12,5%	
	Study Program	12,5%	
	Information System	25%	
High Risk	Academic	14,3%	25,6%
	Policy/SOP	28,6%	
	Research and Community Service	42,9%	
	Study Program	4,8	
	Information System	9,5%	
Substantial Risk	Academic	38,6%	53,6%
	Policy/SOP	11,4%	
	Student	4,5%	
	Operational	4,5%	
	Research and PKM	31,8%	
	Accreditation Assessment	4,5%	
	Information System	4,5%	

The results indicate that 53.6% of the 82 findings fall under the substantial risk category, 25.6% are classified as high risk, and 12.2% are categorized as very high risk.

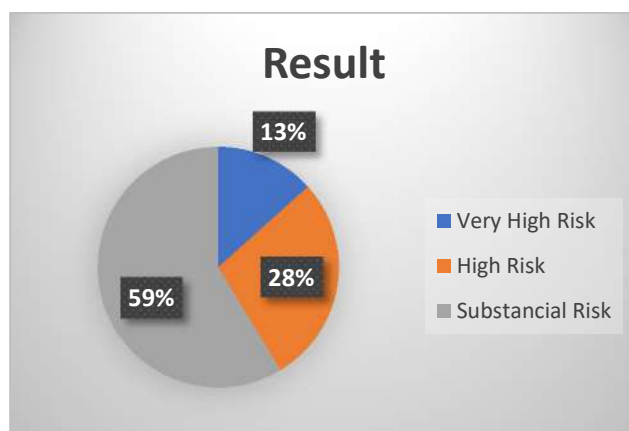


Figure 16. Result Chart

Based on the categorized results:

1. Substantial risk was primarily derived from the following categories
 - Academic 38,6%
 - Research and Community Service (RCS) 31,8%.
2. High Risk was primarily derived from the following categories
 - Research and Community Service (RCS) 42,9%
 - Policy/SOP 28,6%
3. Very High Risk was derived from the Academic, Policy/SOP, and Information System categories, each

contributing equally with 25%.

From these results, it can be concluded that substantial risk is the most dominant category, accounting for more than 50% of the total findings. The academic and research/community service (RCS) areas become the primary focus for improvement. High risk ranks second at 28%, with the RCS category being the main target for corrective actions. Very high risk follows in third place with 12.2%, highlighting the academic, policy/SOP, and information system categories as key areas for improvement.

In other words, the academic and research/RCS categories are the most critical areas that require close attention. Based on these findings, management can map out detailed corrective actions according to the level of risk. All improvement efforts related to these areas should be prioritized to prevent recurrence in the future. Furthermore, these results serve as a foundation for developing institutional or unit-level work programs and operational plans within the university.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study illustrates the digitalization of the risk mapping and assessment process based on findings from the Internal Quality Audit (IQA) of higher education institutions. The developed application is designed to provide a platform for unit or institutional managers within universities to gain a comprehensive and collective understanding of risk-based institutional management improvement.

The HIRARC (Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, and Risk Control) methodology integrated into the application supports this goal by employing a semi-quantitative approach, which requires active analysis and discussion to determine key risk variables. Furthermore, this study raises awareness among university managers that operational activities that may appear routine or low-risk can, in fact, pose significant threats to the quality and integrity of higher education if not properly identified and managed. Future research is recommended to advance the exploration of digital risk control systems within the internal quality audit framework of higher education institutions. A particular emphasis should be placed on the development of information technology-based tools capable of conducting real-time monitoring and automated evaluation of improvement priorities identified through risk mapping results.

Subsequent studies could also investigate the integration of internal audit mechanisms with digital risk management dashboards that visualize dynamic Key

Performance Indicators (KPIs) and support data-driven decision-making. Furthermore, the application of machine learning and predictive analytics should be examined to detect recurring risk patterns that may be overlooked by traditional manual audits, thereby improving both the accuracy and responsiveness of the quality assurance cycle.

Comparative research among universities with varying levels of digital maturity is likewise encouraged to identify the critical success factors influencing the effective implementation of digital risk control systems. Through these investigations, future studies are expected to contribute to the enhancement of university governance and quality management by promoting technology-driven, efficient, and continuously improving audit processes.

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Development of the 3D Game “Lavender's Warmth” Using the Collision Detection Method

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Abstract – This study presents the development of a 3D puzzle–adventure game titled “Lavender’s Warmth” using the Collision Detection and Finite-State Machine (FSM) methods. The use of Collision Detection is essential because the game relies heavily in physical interaction between puzzle pieces, slots, and environmental object. Without Collision Detection, the game would fail to validate puzzle placement. Meanwhile, the FSM approach is required to regulate enemy behaviour in structured manner. The Finite-State Machine was chosen because it is one of the most widely adopted approaches for modeling NPC behavior, offering deterministic transitions, low memory usage, and ease of debugging. Alternative techniques such as behavior trees or utility AI are more complex and unnecessary for the simple enemy mechanics in this game. Therefore, Finite-State Machine provides the most appropriate balance between functionality, performance, and development simplicity. The game was developed using Unity 3D and tested through functionality, method, and user evaluations. The results showed that all main features worked as expected, with 52.63% of users strongly agreeing and 40.64% agreeing that the game was engaging and enjoyable. The implementation of both methods successfully enhanced interactivity, responsiveness, and gameplay consistency.

Keywords –game; puzzle; collision detection; finite-state machine.

I. INTRODUCTION

Adventure games are a genre of games that invite players to explore the beauty of the environment and world within the game[1]. This type of game generally emphasizes exploration, puzzle solving, and player interaction with the environment presented. The combination of adventure and puzzle elements makes players not only enjoy the story, but also play an active role in determining the course of the game through interaction and decision-making.

The game developed, titled “Lavender's Warmth,” was inspired by the game “Mekorama” from google playstore, has a puzzle theme with a calm and soothing atmosphere. In addition, the concept of physical interaction in this game was also inspired by “Garry's Mod (Gmod)” from Steam, allows players to lift and move objects within the game.

The selection of the topic “Lavender's Warmth” is important because it integrates two basic methods, namely collision detection and finite-state machine, which are fundamental components in 3D game development, but have not been widely discussed together in the context of puzzle-adventure games. This research contributes by directly implementing both methods in an interactive 3D game, thereby serving as a reference for academic and practical game research and development.

In its development, the game “Lavender's Warmth” applies the Collision Detection method as the basis for interaction between players and puzzle objects. This technique enables the system to detect collisions between two or more objects in the game world. The Bounding Box type is used because of its simple shape, which is a square or block, making the computation process more efficient and easier to implement.

Various studies show that Collision Detection is an important component in 3D game development because it ensures that the system can recognize collisions between objects, validate interactions, and maintain gameplay mechanical consistency[2][3]. This method has also been proven to improve the accuracy of the system's response to

player interactions, whether in action, educational, or puzzle games[4]. In addition, the integration of Collision Detection with other methods such as Finite-State Machine further improves game quality and user experience[5].

On the artificial intelligence side, the use of Finite-State Machines (FSM) is widely applied to regulate NPC behavior due to its structured, deterministic, and efficient nature. Various studies on educational games, RPGs, and action games prove that FSM is capable of producing stable, easily controlled enemy behavior transitions that are appropriate for the game conditions[6]. The combination of FSM and Collision Detection has also been proven effective in creating adaptive AI responses and accurate object interactions, thereby improving the overall quality of gameplay [7][8].

Game can be effectively used as educational tools through a fun and interactive gaming approach. This proves that games not only serve as entertainment, but also have great potential in supporting a more engaging and efficient learning process.[9]

This study is expected to demonstrate that the integration of Collision Detection and Finite-State Machine methods can be applied effectively in 3D puzzle–adventure games to produce consistent, responsive, and reliable gameplay mechanics. The development of “Lavender’s Warmth” is also intended to provide a game environment that not only offers entertainment but also challenges players’ literacy abilities through puzzle interpretation, narrative comprehension, and interaction with in-game information. Thus, the game is expected to serve as both a technical implementation model and a medium that supports cognitive engagement, particularly in strengthening players’ critical thinking and literacy skills.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Puzzle-Adventure Game

Each game has different rules or objectives. Some games focus on shooting action, while others are simply about fishing to collect aquatic animals. Because there are



so many different types of games, genres or categories have been created to make it easier to identify games[10]. These categories can also be combined to create new game ideas.

Puzzle-Adventure is a combination of the Puzzle and Adventure genres. This game genre offers exciting adventures and challenging puzzles to progress through the game's story. The combination of these two genres allows players to feel directly involved in the game's story.

2.2 Collision Detection

Collision Detection method is used as the main mechanism for detecting interactions between objects in the game environment. Collision Detection is a computational process that aims to determine whether two or more objects in virtual space intersect or enter the same space. This method is an important component in game development because it determines how characters, objects, and environmental elements can interact responsively according to the rules of the game[11].

2.3 Bounding Box

Bounding Box is one type of AABB Collision Detection method. This method provides imaginary boundaries in the shape of a block or cube for each object in the game. These boundaries serve to simplify the collision detection process without the need to calculate the actual shape of the object, which may be complex. When these boundaries come into contact with the boundaries of another object, a reaction may occur, the outcome of which can be adjusted to achieve the desired result [12]. An example of a bounding box can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Bounding Box Illustration

2.4 Finite-State Machine

This study applies Finite State Machine (FSM) as the basis for controlling the behavior of non-player characters (NPCs). FSM is a computational model that describes how an entity moves from one state to another in response to an event. Each state represents a specific condition of the character, while transitions between states are triggered by inputs or conditions that occur in the game environment[13]. The FSM approach was chosen because of its low complexity, high efficiency, and ease of debugging and maintenance. Thus, the FSM method is capable of supporting the implementation of NPC behavior that is stable, responsive, and in line with the mechanical requirements of the game in this study. The form of state transition can be seen in Figure 2.

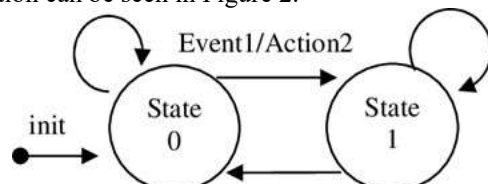


Figure 2. Finite-state Machine Illustration

In the context of game development, FSMs are often used to control the behavior of non-player characters (NPCs). For example, enemy characters can be in a "patrol" state, then transition to a "chase" state when they detect a player, and return to a "standby" state when they lose track

of the player. Thus, the implementation of FSM plays an important role in supporting a more dynamic gaming experience and ensuring stable interactions between players and NPCs within the game environment.

2.5 Non-playable Character (NPC)

NPCs are characters in games that are not controlled by players, but rather by artificial intelligence. NPCs play an important role in games because they can make the game more immersive. NPCs are commonly used as a tool to provide context or background to a game's[14].

2.6 Low-poly 3D Model

Low-poly is a type of 3D model that contains as few polygons as possible. Low-poly is commonly used for game optimization because computers render fewer polygons[15]. Low-poly is also commonly used as an art style because its simple shapes can create a unique style. Figure 3 shows characters with few polygons but still able to provide a clear form.

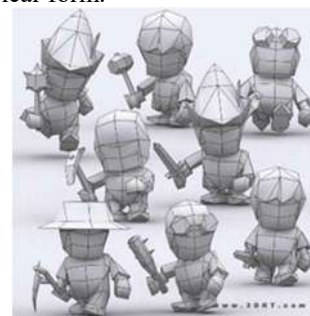


Figure 3. Low-poly Model Example

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Analysis

Analysis is used to identify functional and non-functional requirements and the application of methods so that the game development results can meet the expected results.

3.1.1 Functional requirement

Functional requirements contain features that will be designed in the game "Lavender's Warmth". The following are the functional requirements:

1. Players can be attacked by enemies.
2. Players can interact with NPCs by pressing the E key.
3. Players can pick up objects with the F key and put down objects by pressing the F key (if an object is currently being held).
4. Players can control the character with the (W, A, S, D) keys to walk, the space bar to jump, and the shift key to run.
5. Players can view missions or puzzles that need to be completed.

3.1.2 Non-functional requirement

1. The game can be played on a desktop.
2. The game has 4 puzzles that must be solved.
3. The game is played offline.
4. The game is played solo.
5. The game uses low-poly 3D graphics.
6. The Finite-State Machine method is implemented on enemies.
7. The Collision Detection method is implemented on puzzle-related objects.
8. Character control uses the mouse and keyboard.

3.2 Bounding Box Application

The reason why bounding boxes were chosen is because this game uses collision detection to detect whether puzzle pieces are inside puzzle slots or not. Therefore, this game does not require complex collision shapes to check puzzle pieces. An illustration of collider interaction can be seen in Figure 4, where colliders are depicted with dotted lines. When a puzzle-piece collider touches a puzzle-slot collider, the puzzle-slot collider will check whether the slot should be filled with that piece or not. If so, the slot will return a true value. If not, the slot will return a false value.

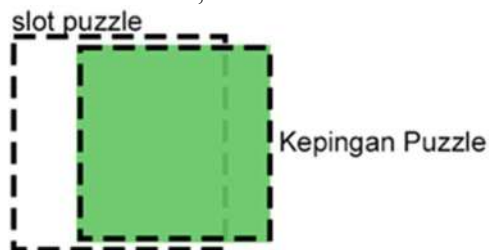


Figure 4. Bounding Box Application

3.3 Enemy Finite-state Machine

Figure 5 illustrate finite state machine flowchart that will control the controlled ghost character. The initial state of the ghost is patrol. When the ghost sees the player within a certain distance, it will start chasing the player, but if the player manages to get out of the ghost's field of vision, the ghost will return to patrolling. If the ghost manages to touch the player, the player will be captured, and when the player is captured, the player will be returned to the checkpoint.





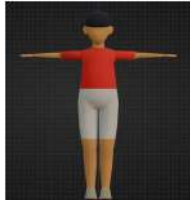

Figure 5. Finite-state Machine Application

3.4 Quest Giver NPC

The following are important NPCs for obtaining missions to progress in the game.

Table 1. Non-playable Character List

NPC	Name
	Ren

	Lin
	Kepala Desa
	Sepuh

3.5 Puzzle Object

The following are puzzle object that player will encounter in the game.

1. Puzzle Stage 1



Figure 5. Puzzle stage 1

Figures 5 show puzzle object that players will encounter. There are three holes in the wall object that will be filled with the puzzle pieces.

2. Puzzle Stage 2



Figure 6. Puzzle stage 2

Figure 6 shows the model results for puzzle 2. This object was created so that the game world would not only be filled with lavender flowers, but also other types of plants. The player will give these object to quest giver.

3. Puzzle Stage 3



Figure 7. Puzzle Stage 3

Figure 7 Shows the modeling results for the final puzzle. There are 5 crystal objects that will later be placed on top of the pillar object.

3.6 Enemy



Figure 8. Player's Threat

Figure 8 shows the appearance of Kuntilanak and pocong. In the game "Lavender Warmth's," they becomes an enemy because they're being controlled by Shaman.

3.7 Game UI

The following are UI games that player will see and interact in the game.

1. Main Menu

Figure 8 Displays the main menu containing the game title, the start button to start the game, the settings button to open the settings menu, and the exit button to close the game.



Figure 9. Main Menu

2. Option Menu

Figure 10 Shows the settings menu containing the fullscreen button, volume slider, close button, and credits button.



Figure 10. Option Menu

3. Pause Menu

Figure 11 Shows the UI that appears when the player presses the Escape key.



Figure 11. Pause Menu

4. Heads-Up Display

Figure 12 displays the UI that players will see during gameplay. There are three elements displayed: a white crosshair, game control instructions, the current mission, and a notes page icon.



Figure 12. Heads-Up Display

5. Dialog

Figure 13 Displays the UI that appears when the player dialogues with an NPC. There are two elements: the dialogue text and instructions for continuing the conversation.



Figure 13. Dialog UI

3.8 Collision Detection Testing

This were conducted to ensure that interactions between collisions could provide responses in line with the design. This table shows that collision detection has functioned as expected.

Table 2. Collision Detection Testing

Testing Scenario	Scenario Result	Result
Player fill the puzzle slot with the correct piece	Puzzle slot return true as value to the game manager.	Success

Player fill the puzzle slot with the wrong piece	Puzzle slot return false as value to the game manager.	Success
Player took out the correct piece from the puzzle slot.	Puzzle slot return false as value to the game manager.	Success
Character touched enemy NPC	The character's vision darkens, then brightens again when the player is moved to the respawn point.	Success
Character touched enemy NPC while carrying puzzle piece	The puzzle piece that being carried will be dropped and then the character will return to respawn point.	Success

3.9 Finite-state Machine Testing

This tests is were conducted to ensure that the enemy AI could run according to the Finite-state Machine flow that had been created. This table shows that the enemy AI worked as expected.

Table 3. Enemy Finite-state Machine Testing

State	Condition	Expected result	Testing	Result
Patrol	Did not detect a player	Enemy moving accordance to patrol point	Observing Enemy from far distance	Success
Patrol to Chase	Enemy see players from a distance of less than 10 meters.	Enemy Chasing player	approaching the enemy from the front	Success
Chase	The player is in the ghost's view	Enemy Chasing player	The player moves while avoiding contact	Success
Chase to Capture	The player touches the ghost	Player moves to check point	The player let themselves to be touched by the enemy	Success
Chase to Patrol	The player moves 30 meters away from the ghost.	The enemy returned to patrol the patrol point.	The player moves away from the enemy's radius	Success
Patrol	Did not detect a player	Player are not chased by ghosts when they are not within the ghost's field of vision.	The character is next to or behind the ghost.	Success

3.10 Functionality Testing

Testing in table 4 was conducted to ensure that the planned features could be used successfully. This testing also ensured that there were no bugs that could cause a poor experience during gameplay.

Table 4. Functionality Testing

Function	Testing Scenario	Scenario Result	Result
Character Navigation	Player press the WASD button to move	The character moves according to button input	Success
Character Jump	Player press the space bar button to jump	The character jumps after pressing the space bar	Success

Character Run	Player press the shift button to run	The character runs when the shift key is held down	Success
Interacting with NPC	Player press the E button to start conversation with NPC	The character cannot move during conversation and a dialogue box containing the NPC's conversation appears	Success
Continue the dialog with NPC	Player press the enter button to continue the conversation	There is a transition between the initial dialogue and the next dialogue. When the dialogue ends, the dialogue box closes and the character can move again	Success
Interacting with heirloom and scroll	Player press the E button to interact with heirloom and scroll	An image containing content appears on the scroll	Success
Closing the scroll	Player press the enter button to close the scroll	The image displayed in front of the camera disappears	Success
Pick-up item	Player press the F button to pick-up a puzzle piece	The character can lift puzzle pieces, and the pieces move in the direction of the camera's view	Success
Drop item	Player press F button while lifting an object	Puzzle pieces that are being lifted fall from the character's grasp	Success

3.11 User Testing

Table 5. User Testing

Statement	Assesment				
	1	2	3	4	5
The game menu is easy to understand.	0	0	0	7	11
The game controls are easy to understand.	0	0	1	7	10
The game objectives are easy to grasp.	0	0	0	8	10
The interaction system (pick-up and interact) is easy to operate.	0	0	1	8	9
The game mechanics (puzzle and exploration) are engaging.	0	0	2	7	9
The game flow is consistent and not confusing.	0	0	4	9	5
The game provides a fun and relaxing gaming experience.	0	0	2	6	10
The game's visuals match the "calm" theme.	0	0	1	10	7
The environment and object designs create a comfortable atmosphere.	0	0	3	6	9
The sound effects (SFX) support the game's atmosphere.	0	1	1	9	7
The background music provides the right mood for this game.	0	0	0	8	10
The overall audio-visual quality is satisfactory.	0	0	2	11	5



The character controls are responsive and easy to use.	0	1	0	5	12
There is no delay or input issues while playing.	0	0	0	8	10
The game runs smoothly without any lag.	0	0	2	4	12
Text, UI, and objects are easy to see clearly.	0	0	1	6	11
The overall game performance is adequate.	0	0	1	6	11
I feel satisfied after playing "Lavender's Warmth".	0	0	0	10	8
This game has the potential for further development.	0	0	0	4	14
Total	0	2	21	139	180

Description

1 = Strongly Disagree

2= Disagree

3 = Neutral

4 = Agree

5 = Strongly Agree

Number of Question = 19

Number of User = 18

Divisor = $19 \times 18 = 342$

Table 6. User Testing Evaluation

Percentage	Value
Percentage of users who strongly agree	$(180/342) \times 100\% = 52,63\%$
Percentage of users who agree	$(139/342) \times 100\% = 40,64\%$
Percentage of users who neutral	$(21/342) \times 100\% = 6,14\%$
Percentage of users who disagree	$(2/342) \times 100\% = 0,58\%$
Percentage of users who strongly disagree	$(0/342) \times 100\% = 0\%$

Table 5 shows that out of 18 players who have tried playing the game "Lavender's Warmth," 52.63% of players strongly agree with the statement, 40.64% of players agree with the statement, 6.14% of players are neutral about the statement, 0.58% of players disagree with the statement, and 0% of players strongly disagree with the statement. It can be concluded that the game that has been created has received many positive impressions from players.

Table 7. Puzzle Difficulty Testing

Difficulty				
Very Easy	Easy	Medium	Hard	Very Hard
1	1	6	5	5

Based on Table 7, 18 respondents rated the puzzles in the game "Lavender's Warmth" as having a medium to high level of difficulty. Meanwhile, the other 2 respondents rated this game as having an easy level of difficulty.

IV. CONCLUSION

This research resulted in the 3D puzzle-adventure game "Lavender's Warmth" for desktop computers, which applies the Collision Detection (Bounding Box) method to puzzle and Finite State Machine (FSM) methods to enemy NPCs. The test results showed that all the main features functioned as designed and received positive responses from users, with 52.63% strongly agreeing and 40.64% agreeing with the game aspects. A total of 88.9% of respondents rated the puzzle difficulty level as medium to hard. Thus, "Lavender's Warmth" is considered successful in providing a relaxing, interactive gaming experience that challenges players' thinking skills.

For further development, Lavender's Warmth still has several potential improvements that can be implemented.

First, a save system feature is needed so that players can save their game progress and continue without having to start over from the beginning, making the gaming experience more comfortable and flexible. Additionally, the game could be developed by adding numeracy-based puzzles to provide challenges that are not only entertaining but also contribute to improving players' basic math skills. In terms of world design, the game environment could be enriched by adding more rural objects, such as traditional architectural elements, local household objects, and vegetation commonly found in villages, making the game world more immersive. Finally, visual quality can be improved through the application of high-poly modeling, which allows asset details to appear smoother and more realistic compared to the low-poly approach currently used. These developments are expected to enhance the quality of the game.

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