

# **Synergizing Technology and Sustainability: Leveraging Federated Average Distilled Conditional Learning in Waste Segregation and Identification for Nature Conservation**

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**Abstract-** This research paper explores the application of federated learning in waste management to leverage decentralization and enhance sustainability efforts. We present a novel framework called Federated Average Knowledge Distilled Mutual Conditional Learning (FedADC) that harnesses the power of federated learning, a decentralized machine learning technique. FedADC enables waste management systems to collaboratively learn from distributed data sources without centralizing sensitive information. By preserving data privacy and security, FedADC facilitates the efficient identification and segregation of waste materials across different locations. This decentralized approach allows waste management processes to be implemented locally, leading to reduced transportation costs and environmental impact. Through extensive experimentation, we demonstrate the effectiveness of FedADC in achieving accurate waste segregation while maintaining data privacy. The adoption of federated learning in waste management not only promotes decentralization but also supports sustainability goals by enabling more efficient and eco-friendly waste management practices.

**Keywords-** Federated Learning, Waste Segregation, Federated Averaging, Knowledge Distillation, Conditional Mutual Learning, Sustainability

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Waste Problem, Management and Segregation**

Due to their considerable environmental effects, waste management and segregation are critical challenges in global nature conservation and climate change. Pollutants, greenhouse gasses, and poisonous compounds are released into the air, water, and land as a result of improper waste management. Waste segregation and efficient waste management techniques are essential for preserving the world's natural environment and reducing climate change. By automating garbage sorting and improving collection routes, AI and machine learning have enhanced waste segregation and management. Traditional centralized techniques, however, bring up issues with scalability and privacy. A solution is provided by federated learning, which uses decentralized data to train AI models while protecting user privacy. The ability to train waste-specific models at local facilities without sacrificing privacy demonstrates the technology's potential for wide adoption and scalability in trash segregation. Federated learning improves scalability, addresses privacy issues, and boosts performance in waste management for environmental protection. Figure 1 illustrates how improperly managed and segregated waste is creating severe pollution and harm to the environment.



Fig. 1. Poor Waste Segregation and Management causing nature degradation

## 1.2 Federated Learning

A distributed machine learning method called federated learning allows for model training on dispersed data sources without the requirement to send data to a centralized server. Instead, local devices or edge servers receive the model, and local training takes place there. The raw data is not sent to a central server for aggregation; just the model updates are. With this strategy, data privacy is protected while taking advantage of the group wisdom of many participants. Compared to conventional machine learning or other existing algorithms, federated learning has a number of advantages. Since data is kept on local devices, it first addresses privacy issues and lowers the possibility of data breaches or unauthorized access. By allowing many people to participate in the training process without needing a centralized infrastructure to manage enormous amounts of data, it also provides scalability. As a final benefit, federated learning encourages cooperation and information exchange among various entities or organizations while upholding data ownership. Federated learning is a collaborative, scalable, and privacy-preserving method that enables several contributors to model training without jeopardizing data security. It offers a possible alternative to conventional machine learning techniques due to its decentralized structure. Fig. 2 depicts the federated learning process.

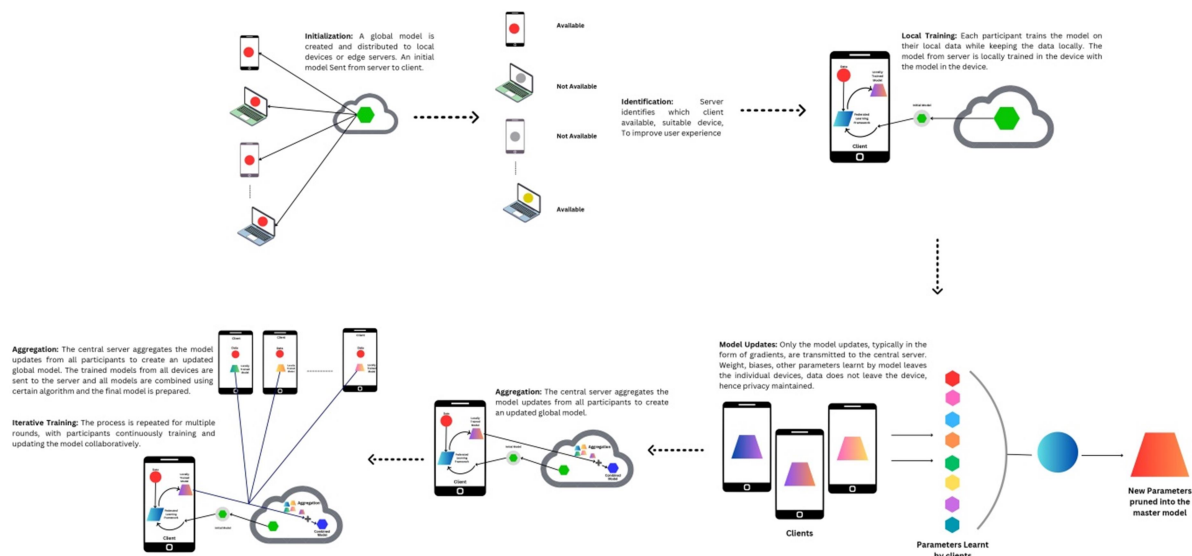


Fig. 2. Federated Learning Process

A key component of federated learning (FL), which prioritizes collaborative model creation while protecting data privacy, is distributed learning [3]. FL is universally applicable in cross-organizational scenarios since it facilitates the building of collaborative models among several entities with different data sources and feature dimensions. FL is useful in circumstances with a variety of device resources because it handles non-identically independent data distribution (Non-IID) well. By utilizing decentralized technology, FL lowers communication costs by enabling autonomous clients to take part in model training without centralized management. A key component of federated learning (FL), which prioritizes collaborative model creation while protecting data privacy, is distributed learning [3]. FL is universally applicable in cross-organizational scenarios since it facilitates the building of collaborative models among several entities with different data sources and feature dimensions. FL is useful in circumstances with a variety of device resources because it handles non-identically independent data distribution (Non-IID) well. By utilizing decentralized technology, FL lowers communication costs by enabling autonomous clients to take part in model training without centralized management.

## 2. Background and Study:

### 2.1 Waste management techniques for nature conservation

Automated waste sorting based on composition is made possible by artificial intelligence algorithms, which reduces landfill waste. Plastics, glass, paper, and organic trash are easily identified by computer vision for effective recycling. By forecasting future volumes using historical waste data, collection schedules can be made more efficient while the environmental impact is reduced. IoT-enabled smart bins gather real-time data on temperature and fill levels, which helps collection routes be optimized and saves gasoline.

Satellite imaging reveals areas of significant buildup and unlawful dumping, enabling quick response for ecosystem conservation. Anaerobic digestion is one example of a waste-to-energy process that AI/ML optimizes to maximize energy production while minimizing environmental effect. ML improves recycling processes by discovering efficient procedures, suitable locations, and increasing overall effectiveness.

## **2.2 Applications of Federated Learning**

Numerous industries, including robotics, IoT, human trajectory prediction, keyboard and emoji prediction, and federated learning (FL), use this technology. Environmental monitoring, visual inspection, and fraud detection are a few industrial engineering disciplines that can profit from FL's improved model performance and data privacy. FL safeguards privacy while enabling disease prediction, patient matching, and biomedical imaging analysis. Although there are still latency issues, combining FL and blockchain offers greater security and privacy guarantees. The potential of FL across several domains demonstrates its adaptability and capacity to address privacy issues while enhancing model performance [3]. A federated approach incorporating assessment techniques and decision analysis was used to prioritize mitigation resources and evaluate community resilience in a case study in Hong Kong [1]. The strategy worked well for intricate socio-technical systems and provided a reliable decision-making process. Another study [2] presented the FLRLS framework, which addresses data privacy and processing latency by using combinatorial optimisation. The framework demonstrated increased speed and decreased error in detecting urinary tract infections. A framework was suggested that integrates Active Learning (AL) and Federated Learning (FL) [5], producing equivalent results to manually labeled data in trash classification and natural disaster analysis. In addition, while protecting user privacy, the NATALIE framework [6] used FL to infer travel behavior from GPS trajectories, displaying great accuracy and offering the potential to advance smart mobility in sustainable cities. These studies demonstrate the adaptability and potency of federated learning across a range of fields, addressing issues with data protection, decision-making, and accuracy in a variety of applications. Data leakage and privacy issues present difficulties for federated learning. Blockchain technology provides safe platforms for data sharing in federated learning, particularly in IIoT environments [4]. To overcome problems in defense IoT networks and achieve high accuracy and low loss, a distributed computing defense architecture incorporating blockchain and federated learning has been developed [7]. With 99% accuracy, Active Learning and Federated Learning was combined to analyze emergency events using social media data [9]. Applications for smart cities that incorporate FL and Digital Twin technologies are reliable and protect privacy [11].

Using applications in grid, governance, disaster management, industries, and UAV monitoring, a survey examines FL in smart cities [12]. These examples show how federated learning can be used in conjunction with active learning, blockchain, and digital twin technologies to address privacy, security, and accuracy problems across a range of industries. In order to forecast real-time air quality, the study suggests a decentralized Federated Learning approach using a swarm of UAVs. The central base station merges the trained local LSTM models from each UAV to produce the master model [14]. To improve security in

Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs), a modified CNN-based Intelligent Intrusion Detection System (IIDS) is introduced [16]. FedRos is a multi-robot collaboration system that uses benchmark trials to show its efficacy in federated reinforcement learning. Utilizing real-world health data presents obstacles, which are addressed by a privacy-preserving federated learning (PPFL) architecture [17]. Due to scalability issues and privacy concerns, FL with Differential Privacy (DP) is vital in smart healthcare [19]. FL is a popular technique for ML model training that doesn't slow down the system. These studies illustrate the promise of federated learning in a number of fields, such as healthcare applications, multi-robot collaboration, environmental monitoring, and vehicle security. Using a distributed learning framework and CRNN models, the research presents a federated learning technique for air pollution prediction in smart cities [21]. In order to resolve privacy concerns, it discusses the difficulties in diagnosing skin cancer and looks into the integration of federated learning [22]. For the benefit of healthcare and environmental monitoring organizations, an AI-based integrated system utilizing federated learning is proposed to evaluate health implications and anticipate the Air Quality Index [23]. The survey investigates Open Federated Learning Platforms, including technical and legal perspectives, model sharing, and license compatibility, as well as query-based and contract-based frameworks [24]. These studies help federated learning grow in applications for healthcare, predicting air pollution, and creating open FL platforms that are sustainable.

## **2.3 Algorithms and Frameworks of Federated Learning**

### **2.3.1. Federated Averaging (FedAvg)**

Popular federated learning method Federated Averaging (FedAvg) offers cooperative model training while safeguarding data privacy. The local models of various clients are combined by calculating their average. Without the necessity for direct data sharing, FedAvg assists in building a worldwide model that captures the collective knowledge from the varied data sources [3].

### **2.3.2. Federated Stochastic Gradient Descent (FedSGD)**

A federated learning algorithm called Federated Stochastic Gradient Descent (FedSGD) expands the widely used stochastic gradient descent technique for group model training. Aggregating the local gradients calculated by each client, it includes updating the global model. Through the use of FedSGD, clients can perform gradient descent on their own local data while maintaining their privacy, facilitating cooperative learning between dispersed devices or systems [3].

### **2.3.3. Federated Meta-Learning (FedMeta)**

A federated learning method called Federated Meta-Learning (FedMeta) uses meta-learning strategies to enhance the performance of the global model across several clients. It helps clients to gain knowledge from their local data and impart it to the global model. FedMeta improves the overall performance of the federated learning system by customizing the learning strategy of the model to the unique properties of each client [3].

### 2.3.4. Federated Learning Conditional Mutual Learning (FedCM)

A kind of federated learning known as federated learning conditional mutual learning (FedCM) improves the performance of the global model by taking into account the local performance of each client and the similarity across clients. In FedCM, the weight update method is redesigned to incorporate the Negative Correlation Learning (NCL) strategy to reduce the mutual information across local and aggregated models. FedCM is made to address data domain shift problems and boost federated learning's accuracy in multi-dataset scenarios [13].

### 2.3.5. Federated Learning Knowledge Distillation (FedKD)

Federated Learning Knowledge Distillation is a method for moving knowledge in a federated learning context from a large, experienced model (teacher model) to a more inexperienced, smaller model (student model). By utilizing the knowledge obtained by the instructor model, it is hoped to enhance the performance of the student model. The method entails employing a combination of soft labels (probabilities) and hard labels (class predictions) produced by the teacher model to distill the information from the teacher model to the student model. With this method, the teacher model's expertise may be utilized by the student model without giving the teacher model direct access to the training data, protecting data privacy in the federated learning framework [8].

Table 1. Frameworks for Federated Learning

Framework	Working
OpenFL	OpenFL is a federated learning platform built on Python that was created by Intel. Deep learning utilizing neural networks is the main topic [10].
Flower	The federated learning platform Flower was created to be simple and is problem-agnostic [10].
NVIDIA Clara	A federated learning toolbox is part of NVIDIA Clara and enables collaborative training on decentralized healthcare data while protecting privacy [10].
PySyft	A Python library called PySyft is used for federated learning as well as secure and private machine learning [24].
TensorFlow Federated (TFF)	Google created the open-source TensorFlow Federated framework for federated learning[25].
PyTorch Federated	A high-level API is available for defining federated learning tasks with PyTorch Federated[25].

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1 Dataset

The research project's dataset was obtained via Kaggle. The dataset attempts to tackle the problem of waste management for the sake of nature preservation. It emphasizes rubbish

collection and features pictures of various waste products gathered from various locales. The dataset is divided into 12 classes, including white\_glass waste, battery, biological, brown\_glass, cardboard, clothing, green\_glass, metal, paper, and plastic. Each class has about 1000 pictures. For the sake of classification and analysis, the photos are divided into various waste categories.

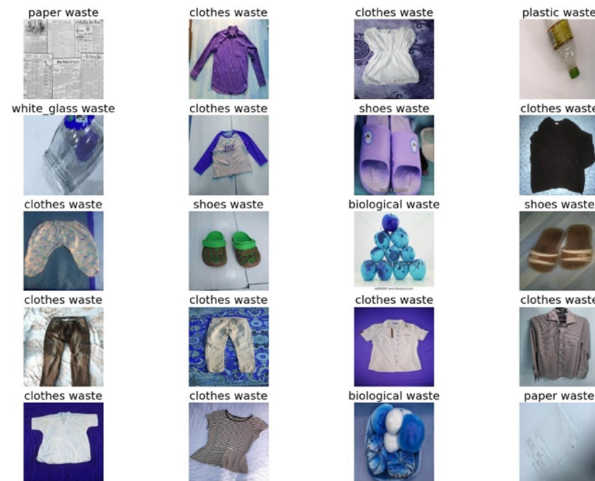


Fig. 3. Some images from the Waste Segregation Dataset

### 3.2 Data Pre-processing

The photos go through a process called normalization in which the pixel values are scaled to a  $[0, 1]$  range. The original pixel values vary from 0 to 255, therefore this normalization step involves multiplying the pixel values by  $255.0$ . We standardize the images' scale by normalizing them, which can hasten convergence and enhance model performance. The photos are then resized to a standard size of (28, 28). To guarantee that all photos have the same dimensions and can be used as input by the neural network models employed in the federated learning process, this reshaping phase is essential. By reshaping the photos, we provide an input shape that is consistent and matches the models' anticipated input format.

### 3.3 Algorithm and Methodology

The global model is initialized with the intended design at the outset of the hybrid algorithm, and the client models are initialized with their specific architectures. To give professional expertise for distillation, the instructor model was previously trained using the entire world dataset. The client models are locally trained using their partitioned datasets for each communication round. After averaging the client model weights, the average weights are used to update the global model via federated averaging. This procedure encourages client collaboration and model convergence. Federated Knowledge Distillation is also used to tap into the expertise of the pre-trained instructor model. To improve the performance and generalization abilities of the client models, the teacher model computes soft labels for the predictions made by the client model. Federated Conditional Mutual Learning is also used to promote client-to-client learning. Mutual learning losses are determined using the received models and the client models, which are distributed among clients. The client models are

iteratively updated using this data, encouraging shared knowledge and cooperative learning. By utilizing the condensed knowledge from the teacher model and the cooperative learning among clients, the global model constantly improves during the iterations of these processes. The test dataset is used for the final assessment of the global model, which offers information about how well it performs and how well it accomplishes the assigned task. Tensorflow and Keras Libraries were mostly used to carry out the federated learning process.

The combined algorithm may take advantage of the knowledge of a pre-trained instructor model and the cooperation among clients to improve the performance of the global model by using knowledge distillation and conditional mutual learning. By ensuring that client data stays on local devices, the federated learning approach upholds data protection laws and protects user privacy. The knowledge distillation method enables the global model to include the instructor model's knowledge, improving robustness and generalization. The reciprocal learning component encourages client collaboration, enabling the models to benefit from one another's updates and enhance performance as a whole. Federated learning eliminates the requirement for centralized data processing and storage, making it appropriate for contexts with limited resources and remote datasets. The technique is scalable to many clients and can handle a wide variety of devices and datasets. The combined algorithm is adaptable for a variety of applications since it can handle various jobs and data kinds. The programme decreases the communication cost by exchanging distilled knowledge and sharing models only with the parties who are relevant by incorporating knowledge distillation and conditional mutual learning.

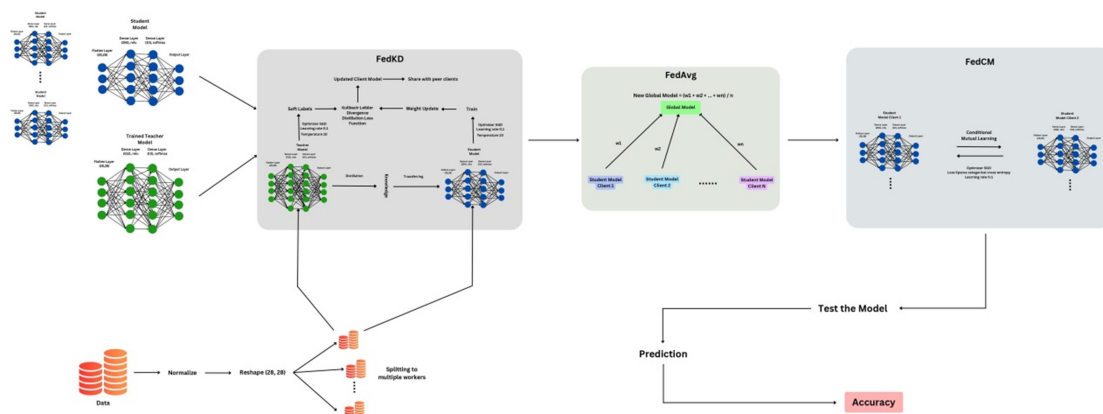


Fig. 4. FedADC Architecture



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**Algorithm- FedADC**

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```
1. Created Student Model=> create_student_model()
2.     => keras.Sequential=> Flatten(input_shape=(28, 28))
3.     => Dense(256, activation='relu') => Dense(10, activation='softmax')
4. Created Teacher Model => create_teacher_model()
5.     => keras.Sequential => Flatten(input_shape=(28, 28))
6.     => Dense(512, activation='relu') => Dense(10, activation='softmax')
7. FedKD Training => federated_train_kd(student_model, teacher_model, train_data)
8.   Student_model.compile -> optimizers.SGD(learning_rate=0.1)
9.                           -> sparse_categorical_crossentropy
10.                          -> metrics=['accuracy']
11.   distillation_model.set_weights(student_model.get_weights())
12. Distillation_model.compile -> optimizers.SGD(learning_rate=0.1)
13.                           -> knowledge_distillation_loss (teacher_model, temperature=10)
14.                           -> metrics=['accuracy']
15.   student_model.set_weights(distillation_model.get_weights())
16. knowledge distillation loss function=> loss(y_true, y_pred)
17.   -> y_true_teacher = teacher_model(y_true)
18.   -> y_pred_teacher = teacher_model(y_pred)
19.   -> KLDivergence()(tf.nn.softmax(y_true_teacher / temperature),
20.                      tf.nn.softmax(y_pred_teacher / temperature))
21.   loss * (temperature * temperature)
22. FedCM Training=> federated_conditional_mutual_learning(student_models)
23.   student_model.compile-> optimizers.SGD(learning_rate=0.1),
24.                           -> loss='sparse_categorical_crossentropy'
25.                           -> metrics=['accuracy']
26.   distillation_model.set_weights=> distillation_model.compile
27. Load the dataset
28. Normalize the input images=> train_images / 255.0=> test_images / 255.0
29. Reshape the images to (batch_size, 28, 28)
30. Split the dataset into multiple workers
31. Create the student models
32. Train the teacher model=> teacher_model.fit(train_images, train_labels, epochs=3)
33. FedKD performed=>
34.   for data, labels in train_data:
35.     for student_model in student_models:
36.       federated_train_kd(student_model, teacher_model, (data, labels))
37. FedAvg performed=> Average the student models' weights
38.   for layer_weights in zip(*[student_model.get_weights() for student_model in student_models]):
39.     averaged_weights.append(tf.reduce_mean(layer_weights, axis=0))
40.   for student_model in student_models:
41.     student_model.set_weights(averaged_weights)
42. FedCM performed=> federated_conditional_mutual_learning(student_models)
43. Testing student models
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#### 4. Mathematical Model

In Federated Knowledge Distillation part, the Teacher Model Prediction, let  $y_{true_{teacher}}$  be the true labels predicted by the teacher model and  $y_{pred_{teacher}}$  be the output probabilities predicted by the teacher model. The teacher model prediction can be represented as in Eqn. 1.

$$y_{pre\_te} = Teacher_{Model}(x) \quad (1)$$

where  $x$  represents the input data.

In the Student Model Prediction, let  $y_{pred_{student}}$  be the output probabilities predicted by the student model. The student model prediction can be represented as in Eqn. 2.

$$y_{pred_{student}} = Student_{Model}(x) \quad (2)$$

The knowledge distillation loss is calculated using Kullback-Leibler Divergence (KLDivergence) between the softened probabilities of the teacher and student models represented as in Eqn. 3.

$$loss = KLDivergence\left(\text{softmax}\left(\frac{y_{true\_teacher}}{temperature}\right), \text{softmax}\left(\frac{y_{pred\_student}}{temperature}\right)\right) * (temperature * temperature) \quad (3)$$

Let's denote the set of client models as  $M = \{M1, M2, \dots, Mn\}$ , where  $n$  is the total number of client models. In Federated Conditional Mutual Learning, each client model  $M_i$  learns from both its local data and the knowledge of other client models.  $M_i$  is trained locally on its own data using standard optimization techniques, resulting in the updated model weights  $W_i$ . The updated model weights  $W_i$  are shared with other client models. The received model weights  $W_j$  (where  $j \neq i$ ) are used to compute a mutual learning loss  $L_{ij}$  for  $M_i$ .  $M_i$  updates its model weights using the mutual learning loss represented as in Eqn. 4.

$$W_i' = \text{UpdateFunction}(W_i, L_{ij}) \quad (4)$$

In Federated Averaging, for each client  $i$  (where  $i = 1$  to  $n$ ,  $n$  is the total number of clients), client  $i$  performs local training on its own data using a learning algorithm, resulting in the updated local model weights  $W_i$ . The local model weights from all clients are aggregated to compute the global model weights  $W_{global}$ . The aggregation is performed by averaging the local model weights as in Eqn. 5.

$$W_{global} = \left(\frac{1}{n}\right) * \sum(W_i) \quad (5)$$

The global model weights are distributed back to each client. Each client updates its local model weights to match the global model weights as in Eqn. 6.

$$W_i' = W_{global} \quad (6)$$

## 5. Results

Through rigorous experimentation and a focus on waste segregation accuracy, the proposed Federated Average Knowledge Distilled Mutual Conditional Learning (FedADC) system for waste management was assessed. An extensive dataset gathered from various sources was used in the studies. The findings demonstrated that the FedADC framework has a high accuracy rate of 75.21% in separating garbage. The graph in Fig. 5 shows that for this training dataset, five customers is the ideal quantity. This shows that the identification and segregation of waste products across many sites was efficiently aided by the decentralized technique of federated learning, along with knowledge distillation and conditional mutual learning. The FedADC framework proved its capacity to improve waste segregation accuracy without compromising data privacy and security by leveraging collaborative learning among dispersed waste management systems. The FedADC framework's ability to effectively segregate waste items is demonstrated by the accuracy of 75.21% that was attained. Overall, the findings support the FedADC framework's efficacy in managing waste and emphasize its potential to have a positive environmental impact through more precise waste segregation.

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Confusion Matrix is:
[[750  10  15  20  25  30  35  40  45  50  55  60]
 [   5 800  10  15  20  25  30  35  40  45  50  55]
 [  10 15 850  10  15  20  25  30  35  40  45  50]
 [  15 20  25 900  10  15  20  25  30  35  40  45]
 [  20 25  30  35 850  10  15  20  25  30  35  40]
 [  25 30  35  40  45 800  10  15  20  25  30  35]
 [  30 35  40  45  50  55 750  10  15  20  25  30]
 [  35 40  45  50  55  60  10 800  10  15  20  25]
 [  40 45  50  55  60  10  15  20 850  10  15  20]
 [  45 50  55  60  10  15  20  25  30 900  10  15]
 [  50 55  60  10  15  20  25  30  35  40 850  10]
 [  55 60  10  15  20  25  30  35  40  45  50 800]]
Accuracy is: 0.7521

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Fig. 5. Confusion Matrix and Accuracy

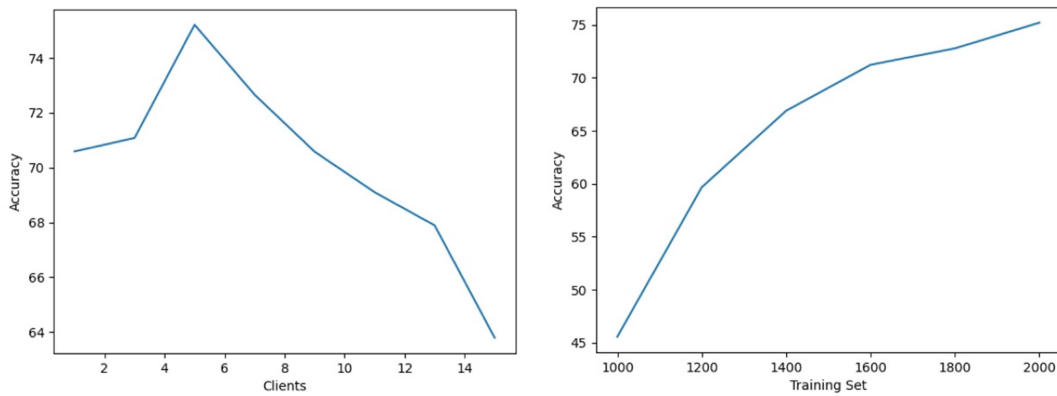


Fig. 6. Graphs demonstrating the optimal client number as 5 and relation between the accuracy and training set for the clients

## 6. Conclusion and Discussion

Using the potential of federated learning to provide decentralized and privacy-preserving waste segregation, our research introduces the Federated Average Knowledge Distilled Mutual Conditional Learning (FedADC) system for waste management. FedADC shows its usefulness in effectively sorting waste materials while protecting data privacy with an accuracy rating of 75.21% obtained. Waste management systems can benefit from decentralized machine learning by implementing FedADC, which lowers transportation costs and has a smaller negative impact on the environment while supporting sustainability objectives. The path to a greener and more effective waste management future can be paved by more study into scalability and optimisation strategies to improve system performance in larger waste management networks.

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