

# Mental Health Prediction For Kenyan University Students

A dark silhouette of a person's head in profile, facing left, wearing a graduation cap. Inside the head area, there is a yellow circuit board pattern, symbolizing the intersection of technology and mental health.

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# Overview

The project aims to create a machine learning model that can classify statements and questions related to mental health challenges expressed by university students in Kenya.



# Problem Statement

Kenyan universities lack support services for mental health despite resource growth.

Research shows high levels of mental health problems among university students in Kenya, particularly for those from poor backgrounds, resulting in dropouts and unrealized potential.

Africa Mental Health Foundation conducts mental health research and develops innovative practices for mental health services in Africa.

In 2023, they are partnering with the Ministry of Education in Kenya to develop a chatbot.

The chatbot will allow students to input their thoughts and feelings and classify their problems to provide fitting resources.

# Objectives

To develop a machine learning model that classifies statements and questions expressed by university students in Kenya related to their mental health challenges.

To help universities establish mental health support and wellness services to their students.

To help university students in Kenya that are facing mental health problems to find resources and support services that will enable them to get better.

# Data

The data used in the project is from the Tech4MentalHealth competition by Zindi Africa. The data comprises statements and questions expressed by Kenyan university students who reported experiencing various mental health challenges. The prompts were based on the question, "What is on your mind?".

<i><b>Text</b></i>	<i><b>Mental Health Problem</b></i>
Why is everything so hard to deal with in this life	Depression
How to avoid drug abuse?	Drugs
Why is life important?	Suicide

# Modeling

	Model	Train Accuracy Score(%)	Test Accuracy Score(%)	Train Log_loss	Test Log_loss
0	Baseline Decision Tree	99	83	0.012334	5.590810
1	Baseline KNN Classifier	81	67	0.499348	3.116017
2	Baseline Random Forest Classifier	99	81	0.106574	0.775972
3	Baseline Adaboost Classifier	85	77	1.031080	1.059045
4	Baseline Gradient Boost	97	83	0.163581	0.509805
5	baseline XGBoost Classifier	93	85	0.219129	0.451154
6	XGBoost Classifier-Grid Search	92	85	0.241682	0.439006

# Evaluation

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The XGBoost Classifier-Grid Search model had a train accuracy score of 92% and test accuracy of 85%.

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Log loss was used as a performance metric because it takes into account the probabilities underlying in the model, not only the final output of the classification.

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The XGBoost classifier had the lowest log loss score, making it the chosen best model.

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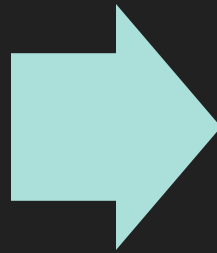
The prior models had high training and test data accuracy but were not chosen due to their log loss scores.

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# Limitations

Due to the imbalance in the dataset the F1-score for drug and alcohol was notably lower than depression and suicide.




Due to a relatively small dataset we could not achieve high score as desired.

# Conclusion

The final model had an accuracy of around 85% and a log score of 0.52.



AMHF can integrate the model into a chatbot prototype and test it on actual university students to predict their mental state and offer appropriate assistance.



The chatbot will correctly identify and classify mental health problems to match students with suitable resources, while also reducing stigma around seeking help.

# Recommendations

AMHF should collect more data on drug and alcohol related problems and other mental health issues not covered in the current data.

The model should be integrated into the chatbot prototype and tested on actual university students to collect performance data.

The chatbot should have a database of resources and services based on the problem identified by the model to ensure users receive appropriate help.



# THANKYOU

Thank you and take care of your mental health

