

DEPRESSION DETECTION WITH BOOSTING ENSEMBLE LEARNING CLASSIFIERS

Depression is a common mental disorder affecting more than 264 million people worldwide. It is characterized by persistent sadness and a lack of interest or pleasure in previously rewarding or enjoyable activities. It can also disturb sleep and appetite; tiredness and poor concentration are common. Depression is a leading cause of disability around the world and contributes greatly to the global burden of disease. The effects of depression can be long-lasting or recurrent and can dramatically affect a person's ability to function and live a rewarding life.

The causes of depression include complex interactions between social, psychological and biological factors. Life events such as childhood adversity, loss and unemployment contribute to and may catalyze the development of depression.

Psychological and pharmacological treatments exist for moderate and severe depression. However, in low- and middle-income countries, treatment and support services for depression are often absent or underdeveloped. An estimated 76–85% of people suffering from mental disorders in these countries lack access to the treatment they need.

- **Depression is a leading cause of disability worldwide and is a major contributor to the overall global burden of disease.**
- **More women are affected by depression than men.**
- **Depression can lead to suicide.**
- **There are effective psychological and pharmacological treatments for moderate and severe depression.**