

Career Recommendation System

Choose Your Ideal Career



1. Project Overview

1.1 Objective

The Career Recommendation System is a Flask-based web application designed to recommend personalized career paths based on user inputs: technical skills (skills), professional interests (interests), and experience level (experience). Leveraging machine learning models trained on **career_data_new.csv**, the system predicts careers such as **"Data Scientist"** or **"Web Developer."** It supports English and Gujarati interfaces, with the frontend managing language switching via data-gujarati attributes. The project aims to guide students and professionals in career planning.

1.2 Scope

- Backend: Flask REST API using custom Decision Tree and K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) models.
- Frontend: HTML form (index.html) with CSS (styles.css) and JavaScript (script.js) for input collection and result display.
- Dataset: career_data_new.csv, containing Skill, Interests, Experience, and Career columns.

• Features:

- o Predicts careers based on user inputs.
- o Combines predictions from **KNN** and **Decision Tree** into a consensus result.
- o Logs debugging information to app.log.

• Deliverables:

- o Functional Flask application (app.py).
- Trained models (decision_tree_model.pkl, knn_model.pkl).
- o User-friendly frontend with bilingual support.
- o Documentation of model training, selection, and issue resolution.

1.3 Development Timeline

- **Phase 1:** Trained five machine learning models on **career_data_new.csv.**
- Phase 2: Evaluated models and selected KNN and Decision Tree based on accuracy.
- **Phase 3:** Developed Flask backend and frontend.

2. Methodology

2.1 Dataset

The dataset, career_data_new.csv, served as the basis for training and inference:

• Columns:

- o **Skill:** Technical skills (e.g., Python, Java).
- o **Interests:** Professional interests (e.g., AI Research, Web Development).
- Experience: Experience level (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced).
- o Career: Target career path (e.g., Data Scientist, Web Developer).

Role:

- o **Training:** Provided features and labels for model training.
- o **Inference:** Generated category mappings for preprocessing user inputs.

2.2 Model Training

Five machine learning models were trained to predict careers based on encoded inputs (Skill, Interests, Experience):

1. Decision Tree:

- Custom implementation (DecisionTreeScratch) using Gini impurity.
- o Parameters: max_depth=5, min_samples_split=2.
- o Advantages: Interpretable, effective for categorical data.

2. K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN):

- Custom implementation (KNNScratch) using Euclidean distance.
- o Parameters: k=5.
- o Advantages: Simple, high performance on small datasets.

3. Logistic Regression:

o Advantages: Fast, suitable for linear relationships.

4. Naive Bayes:

o Advantages: Probabilistic, efficient for categorical data.

5. Random Forest:

Advantages: Robust, reduces overfitting.

Training Process:

- Preprocessing:
 - Encoded categorical variables:
 - Skill and Interests to numerical codes using pandas.astype('category').cat.categories.
 - Experience to Beginner=0, Intermediate=1, Advanced=2.
 - o Split data into 80% training and 20% testing sets using train_test_split.
- **Training:** Each model was trained on the encoded training set.
- Evaluation: Models were evaluated on the test set using accuracy.
- **Storage:** Models saved as .pkl files for the selected models.

TrainProject.py

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import pickle
from collections import Counter
from math import log
import random
# Load and preprocess data
def preprocess_data(filename):
  df = pd.read_csv(filename)
  # Convert categorical features to numerical codes
  df['Skill'] = df['Skill'].astype('category').cat.codes
  df['Interests'] = df['Interests'].astype('category').cat.codes
  df['Experience_Level'] = df['Experience_Level'].map({'Beginner': 0, 'Intermediate': 1, 'Advanced': 2})
  X = df.iloc[:, :-1].values
  y = df.iloc[:, -1].values
  return X, y
# Split data
def train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42):
  np.random.seed(random_state)
  indices = np.arange(len(X))
  np.random.shuffle(indices)
  test_len = int(len(X) * test_size)
  test_idx = indices[:test_len]
  train_idx = indices[test_len:]
```

```
return X[train_idx], X[test_idx], y[train_idx], y[test_idx]
# Accuracy
def accuracy_score(y_true, y_pred):
  return np.mean(y_true == y_pred)
# -----
# Naive Bayes (Updated for multiple classes)
class MultinomialNBScratch:
  def fit(self, X, y):
    self.classes = np.unique(y)
    self.class log prior = {}
    self.feature_log_prob = {}
    for c in self.classes:
       X_c = X[y == c]
       self.class\_log\_prior[c] = log(len(X_c) / len(X))
       # Calculate feature probabilities for each class
       feature_counts = np.sum(X_c, axis=0)
       total_counts = np.sum(feature_counts)
       self.feature\_log\_prob[c] = np.log((feature\_counts + 1) / (total\_counts + X.shape[1]))
  def predict(self, X):
    preds = []
    for x in X:
       class_scores = {}
       for c in self.classes:
         # Start with the class prior
         score = self.class_log_prior[c]
         # Add the log probability of each feature
         score += np.sum(x * self.feature_log_prob[c])
         class_scores[c] = score
       preds.append(max(class scores, key=class scores.get))
    return np.array(preds)
# ------
# Logistic Regression (Updated for multiple classes using One-vs-Rest)
class LogisticRegressionScratch:
  def __init__(self, lr=0.01, epochs=1000):
    self.lr = lr
    self.epochs = epochs
    self.models = []
    self.classes = None
```

```
def sigmoid(self, z):
     return 1/(1 + np.exp(-z))
  def fit(self, X, y):
     self.classes = np.unique(y)
     # One-vs-Rest approach for multi-class classification
    for c in self.classes:
       # Create binary labels for this class
       y_binary = np.where(y == c, 1, 0)
       # Initialize weights
       theta = np.zeros(X.shape[1])
       # Train binary classifier
       for _ in range(self.epochs):
          z = np.dot(X, theta)
          h = self.sigmoid(z)
          gradient = np.dot(X.T, (h - y_binary)) / y.size
          theta -= self.lr * gradient
       self.models.append((c, theta))
  def predict(self, X):
     if not self.models:
       raise ValueError("Model not trained yet")
    # Get probabilities for each class
     probabilities = []
    for c, theta in self.models:
       z = np.dot(X, theta)
       probabilities.append(self.sigmoid(z))
    # Stack probabilities and pick class with highest probability
     prob_matrix = np.column_stack(probabilities)
     return np.array([self.classes[i] for i in np.argmax(prob_matrix, axis=1)])
# Decision Tree (Updated for multiple classes)
class DecisionTreeScratch:
  def __init__(self, max_depth=5, min_samples_split=2):
     self.max_depth = max_depth
     self.min_samples_split = min_samples_split
  def fit(self, X, y):
```

```
self.tree = self._build_tree(X, y)
def _gini(self, y):
  counts = Counter(y)
  return 1 - sum((c / len(y)) ** 2 for c in counts.values())
def _best_split(self, X, y):
  best_gain = -1
  best_feat, best_val = None, None
  current_gini = self._gini(y)
  for feature in range(X.shape[1]):
     values = np.unique(X[:, feature])
     for val in values:
       left_idx = X[:, feature] <= val</pre>
       right_idx = X[:, feature] > val
       if sum(left_idx) < self.min_samples_split or sum(right_idx) < self.min_samples_split:
          continue
       left = y[left_idx]
       right = y[right\_idx]
       if len(left) == 0 or len(right) == 0:
          continue
       gain = current_gini - (
          len(left)/len(y)*self._gini(left) + len(right)/len(y)*self._gini(right))
       if gain > best_gain:
          best_gain = gain
          best_feat, best_val = feature, val
  return best feat, best val
def _build_tree(self, X, y, depth=0):
  # Stopping conditions
  if (depth >= self.max_depth or
     len(set(y)) == 1 or
     len(y) < self.min_samples_split):</pre>
     return Counter(y).most_common(1)[0][0]
  feature, value = self._best_split(X, y)
  if feature is None: # No split improves gini
```

```
return Counter(y).most_common(1)[0][0]
    left_idx = X[:, feature] <= value</pre>
     right_idx = X[:, feature] > value
    left_branch = self._build_tree(X[left_idx], y[left_idx], depth + 1)
     right_branch = self._build_tree(X[right_idx], y[right_idx], depth + 1)
     return (feature, value, left_branch, right_branch)
  def _predict_one(self, x, node):
     if not isinstance(node, tuple):
       return node
     feature, value, left, right = node
    if x[feature] <= value:
       return self._predict_one(x, left)
     else:
       return self._predict_one(x, right)
  def predict(self, X):
     return np.array([self._predict_one(x, self.tree) for x in X])
# Random Forest (Updated for multiple classes)
class RandomForestScratch:
  def __init__(self, n_estimators=10, max_depth=5, max_features=None):
     self.n estimators = n estimators
     self.max\_depth = max\_depth
     self.max\_features = max\_features
     self.trees = []
  def fit(self, X, y):
     self.trees = []
     n_{features} = X.shape[1]
     self.max_features = int(np.sqrt(n_features)) if self.max_features is None else self.max_features
    for _ in range(self.n_estimators):
       # Bootstrap sample
       idx = np.random.choice(len(X), len(X), replace=True)
       X_sample, y_sample = X[idx], y[idx]
       # Random feature selection
       feature_idx = np.random.choice(n_features, self.max_features, replace=False)
```

```
X_sample = X_sample[:, feature_idx]
       tree = DecisionTreeScratch(max_depth=self.max_depth)
       tree.fit(X sample, y sample)
       self.trees.append((tree, feature_idx))
  def predict(self, X):
     all_preds = []
    for tree, feature idx in self.trees:
       X_{subset} = X[:, feature_idx]
       preds = tree.predict(X_subset)
       all_preds.append(preds)
    # Majority voting
     return np.array([Counter(col).most_common(1)[0][0] for col in zip(*all_preds)])
# K-Nearest Neighbors (Updated for multiple classes)
class KNNScratch:
  def __init__(self, k=5):
     self.k = k
  def fit(self, X, y):
     self.X train = X
     self.y\_train = y
  def _euclidean(self, a, b):
     return np.sqrt(np.sum((a - b) ** 2))
  def predict(self, X):
     preds = []
    for x in X:
       # Calculate distances to all training points
       distances = [self._euclidean(x, x_train) for x_train in self.X_train]
       # Get indices of k nearest neighbors
       k_indices = np.argsort(distances)[:self.k]
       # Get labels of nearest neighbors
       k_labels = self.y_train[k_indices]
       # Majority vote
       preds.append(Counter(k_labels).most_common(1)[0][0])
     return np.array(preds)
```

```
# Save model to file
def save model(model, filename):
  with open(filename, "wb") as f:
     pickle.dump(model, f)
# Main driver
if __name__ == "__main__":
  # Load and preprocess data
  X, y = preprocess data("/content/career data new.csv")
  # Split data
  X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
  # Initialize models
  models = {
     "naive bayes": MultinomialNBScratch(),
     "logistic_regression": LogisticRegressionScratch(lr=0.1, epochs=1000),
     "decision_tree": DecisionTreeScratch(max_depth=5),
     "random_forest": RandomForestScratch(n_estimators=20, max_depth=5),
     "knn": KNNScratch(k=5)
  }
  # Train and evaluate models
  results = \{ \}
  for name, model in models.items():
     print(f"Training {name}...")
     model.fit(X_train, y_train)
    y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
     acc = accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred)
    results[name] = acc
     print(f"{name.replace('_', '').title()} Accuracy: {acc:.2f}")
     save_model(model, f"{name}_model.pkl")
  # Print summary
  print("\nModel Performance Summary:")
  for name, acc in results.items():
     print(f"{name.replace('_', ' ').title():<20}: {acc:.2f}")</pre>
```

2.3 Model Evaluation and Selection

The models were evaluated on the test set, yielding the following accuracies:

1. Decision Tree: 92%

2. K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN): 99%

3. Logistic Regression: 48%

4. Naive Bayes: 51%

5. Random Forest: 56%

```
Training naive_bayes...
Naive Bayes Accuracy: 0.51
Training logistic regression...
Logistic Regression Accuracy: 0.48
Training decision_tree...
Decision Tree Accuracy: 0.92
Training random_forest...
Random Forest Accuracy: 0.56
Training knn...
Knn Accuracy: 0.99
Model Performance Summary:
Naive Bayes : 0.51
Logistic Regression: 0.48
Decision Tree : 0.92
Random Forest
                 : 0.56
Knn
                   : 0.99
```

Selection Criteria:

• Accuracy: Prioritized models with the highest test set accuracy.

Selected Models:

- KNN (99%):
 - o Achieved the highest accuracy, indicating excellent generalization.
 - o Simple to implement and effective for the dataset's size and structure.
- Decision Tree (92%):
 - Second-highest accuracy, highly interpretable.
 - o Complements KNN's approach with rule-based predictions.

Discarded Models:

- Logistic Regression (48%): Poor performance, likely due to non-linear relationships in the data.
- Naive Bayes (51%): Low accuracy, possibly due to assumption of feature independence.
- Random Forest (56%): Underperformed compared to Decision Tree, despite ensemble approach.

The selected models (KNN and Decision Tree) were integrated into the Flask backend, with predictions combined via a consensus mechanism (most common prediction).

2.4 System Implementation

The project was completed with the following components:

Backend (app.py)

- **Framework:** Flask, serving a REST API and frontend.
- Models:
 - o Loaded from decision_tree_model.pkl and knn_model.pkl.
 - Defined as DecisionTreeScratch and KNNScratch classes.

• Preprocessing:

- Loads skill_mapping, interest_mapping, and experience_mapping directly from career_data_new.csv.
- o Uses exact matching to map skills and interests to numerical codes.
- o Defaults to code 0 for unmatched inputs, logging warnings.
- o Maps experience to 0, 1, or 2.

app.py

from flask import Flask, request, jsonify, render_template import pickle import numpy as np from collections import Counter import pandas as pd import logging

import os

Set up logging logging.basicConfig(

```
level=logging.DEBUG,
  format='%(asctime)s %(levelname)s: %(message)s',
  handlers=[
     logging.FileHandler('app.log'),
     logging.StreamHandler()
  ]
logger = logging.getLogger(__name__)
app = Flask(__name__)
# --- Model Class Definitions ---
class DecisionTreeScratch:
  def __init__(self, max_depth=5, min_samples_split=2):
     self.max\_depth = max\_depth
     self.min_samples_split = min_samples_split
  def fit(self, X, y):
     self.tree = self._build_tree(X, y)
  def _gini(self, y):
     counts = Counter(y)
     return 1 - sum((c / len(y)) ** 2 for c in counts.values())
  def _best_split(self, X, y):
     best gain = -1
     best_feat, best_val = None, None
     current_gini = self._gini(y)
     for feature in range(X.shape[1]):
       values = np.unique(X[:, feature])
       for val in values:
          left_idx = X[:, feature] <= val</pre>
          right_idx = X[:, feature] > val
          if sum(left_idx) < self.min_samples_split or sum(right_idx) < self.min_samples_split:
            continue
          left = y[left_idx]
          right = y[right\_idx]
          if len(left) == 0 or len(right) == 0:
            continue
          gain = current_gini - (
            len(left)/len(y)*self._gini(left) + len(right)/len(y)*self._gini(right))
          if gain > best_gain:
            best_gain = gain
            best_feat, best_val = feature, val
     return best_feat, best_val
```

```
def build tree(self, X, y, depth=0):
    if (depth >= self.max_depth or
       len(set(y)) == 1 or
       len(y) < self.min_samples_split):
       return Counter(y).most_common(1)[0][0]
     feature, value = self. best split(X, y)
    if feature is None:
       return Counter(y).most_common(1)[0][0]
    left_idx = X[:, feature] <= value</pre>
     right_idx = X[:, feature] > value
    left_branch = self._build_tree(X[left_idx], y[left_idx], depth + 1)
    right_branch = self._build_tree(X[right_idx], y[right_idx], depth + 1)
     return (feature, value, left_branch, right_branch)
  def _predict_one(self, x, node):
     if not isinstance(node, tuple):
       return node
    feature, value, left, right = node
     if x[feature] <= value:
       return self._predict_one(x, left)
    else:
       return self._predict_one(x, right)
  def predict(self, X):
     return np.array([self._predict_one(x, self.tree) for x in X])
class KNNScratch:
  def init (self, k=5):
     self.k = k
  def fit(self, X, y):
     self.X_train = X
     self.y_train = y
  def _euclidean(self, a, b):
     return np.sqrt(np.sum((a - b) ** 2))
  def predict(self, X):
     preds = []
    for x in X:
       distances = [self._euclidean(x, x_train) for x_train in self.X_train]
       k_indices = np.argsort(distances)[:self.k]
       k_labels = self.y_train[k_indices]
       preds.append(Counter(k_labels).most_common(1)[0][0])
```

```
return np.array(preds)
# Load the trained models
models = \{\}
model_names = ["decision_tree", "knn"]
for name in model names:
    with open(f"{name}_model.pkl", "rb") as f:
       models[name] = pickle.load(f)
    logger.info(f"Successfully loaded {name}_model.pkl")
  except Exception as e:
     logger.error(f"Failed to load {name} model.pkl: {str(e)}")
    raise
# Load category mappings from dataset
def load_category_mappings(filename="career_data_new.csv"):
    if not os.path.exists(filename):
       raise FileNotFoundError(f"{filename} not found. Ensure the dataset is in the project directory.")
    df = pd.read csv(filename)
    skill_mapping = dict(enumerate(df['Skill'].astype('category').cat.categories))
    interest_mapping = dict(enumerate(df['Interests'].astype('category').cat.categories))
    experience mapping = {'Beginner': 0, 'Intermediate': 1, 'Advanced': 2}
    logger.info("Successfully loaded category mappings from dataset")
    logger.debug(f"Skill mapping: {skill_mapping}")
    logger.debug(f"Interest mapping: {interest_mapping}")
    logger.debug(f"Experience mapping: {experience_mapping}")
    return skill_mapping, interest_mapping, experience_mapping
  except Exception as e:
    logger.error(f"Error loading category mappings: {str(e)}")
    raise
skill_mapping, interest_mapping, experience_mapping = load_category_mappings()
# Helper function to preprocess input
def preprocess input(skills, interests, experience):
  try:
    # Validate inputs
    skills = skills.strip().lower() if skills and isinstance(skills, str) else list(skill_mapping.values())[0].lower()
     interests = interests.strip().lower() if interests and isinstance(interests, str) else
list(interest mapping.values())[0].lower()
    experience = experience if experience in experience_mapping else "Beginner"
    # Map to numerical codes using exact matching
    skill code = None
```

```
for k, v in skill_mapping.items():
       if v.lower() == skills:
         skill\_code = k
         break
    if skill code is None:
       logger.warning(f"Skill '{skills}' not found in skill_mapping, defaulting to code 0")
       skill code = 0
    interest code = None
    for k, v in interest_mapping.items():
       if v.lower() == interests:
         interest code = k
         break
    if interest code is None:
       logger.warning(f"Interest '{interests}' not found in interest_mapping, defaulting to code 0")
       interest\_code = 0
    experience_code = experience_mapping[experience]
    # Log the mappings used
    logger.debug(f"Input: skills='{skills}', mapped to '{skill_mapping.get(skill_code, 'Unknown')}' (code:
{skill_code})")
    logger.debug(f"Input: interests='{interests}', mapped to '{interest_mapping.get(interest_code,
'Unknown')}' (code: {interest code})")
     logger.debug(f"Input: experience='{experience}', mapped to code: {experience_code}")
    return np.array([[skill_code, interest_code, experience_code]], dtype=float)
  except Exception as e:
    logger.error(f"Error in preprocess input: {str(e)}")
    raise
# Route to serve the frontend
@app.route('/')
def index():
  logger.info("Serving index.html")
  return render_template('index.html')
# Recommendation endpoint
@app.route('/recommend', methods=['POST'])
def recommend():
  try:
    data = request.get_json()
    logger.debug(f"Received request: {data}")
    # Extract and validate inputs
```

```
skills = data.get('skills', ")
     interests = data.get('interests', ")
     experience = data.get('experience', 'Beginner')
     language = data.get('language', 'english')
     # Preprocess the input
     input data = preprocess input(skills, interests, experience)
     # Get predictions from KNN and Decision Tree models
     predictions = {}
     for name in ['decision_tree', 'knn']:
       try:
          model = models[name]
          pred = model.predict(input data)[0]
          logger.debug(f"{name} prediction: {pred}")
          predictions[name] = str(pred)
       except Exception as e:
          logger.error(f"Error in {name} prediction: {str(e)}")
          raise
     # Determine consensus prediction
     consensus = Counter(predictions.values()).most_common(1)[0][0]
     logger.info(f"Consensus prediction: {consensus}")
     # Format predictions for response
     prediction_list = [f"{name.replace('_', '').title()}: {pred}" for name, pred in predictions.items()]
     return jsonify({
       'consensus': consensus,
       'predictions': prediction_list
     })
  except Exception as e:
     logger.error(f"Error in /recommend: {str(e)}", exc_info=True)
     return jsonify({
       'error': f'An error occurred while processing the recommendation: {str(e)}'
     }), 500
if __name__ == '__main__':
  logger.info("Starting Flask application")
  app.run(debug=True)
```

Frontend

- Files: index.html, styles.css, script.js.
- Functionality:
 - o Form collects user inputs and sends them to /recommend via fetch API.
 - o Displays consensus prediction.
 - o Supports English and Gujarati via data-gujarati attributes in script.js.
- **Limitation:** Free-text inputs may not match dataset categories, risking preprocessing errors.

File Structure:

oject/
— app.py
— career_data_new.csv
— decision_tree_model.pkl
— knn_model.pkl
— static/
— styles.css
— templates/
index.html

3. Challenges and Solutions

3.1 Challenge: Incorrect Predictions

• Issue: Early implementations returned incorrect careers (e.g., expected "Data Scientist", got "Web Developer").

• Causes:

- 1. Preprocessing Mismatch: Initial hash-based mapping in preprocess_input assigned incorrect codes to inputs like skills="Python".
- 2. Fallback Mappings: Hardcoded mappings (e.g., {0: 'Python', 1: 'Java'}) didn't align with training data, causing misaligned inputs.
- 3. Invalid Inputs: Free-text fields allowed inputs not present in career_data_new.csv.

Solutions:

- Exact Matching: Updated preprocess_input to use exact matching, mapping inputs to codes based on dataset categories.
- Direct Dataset Usage: Removed fallback_mappings, requiring career_data_new.csv for accurate mappings.
- o Removed Transliteration: Eliminated Transliterator class, as models output English and frontend handles Gujarati.
- Enhanced Logging: Added DEBUG logs for skill_mapping, interest_mapping,
 and input mappings (e.g., Input: skills='python', mapped to 'Python' (code: 0)).
- Recommended Dropdowns: Suggested frontend dropdowns to ensure valid inputs.

3.2 Challenge: Dependency on Fallback Mappings

- Issue: Initial reliance on fallback_mappings led to prediction errors when dataset categories differed.
- Solution: Modified app.py to load mappings exclusively from career_data_new.csv, ensuring consistency with training data.

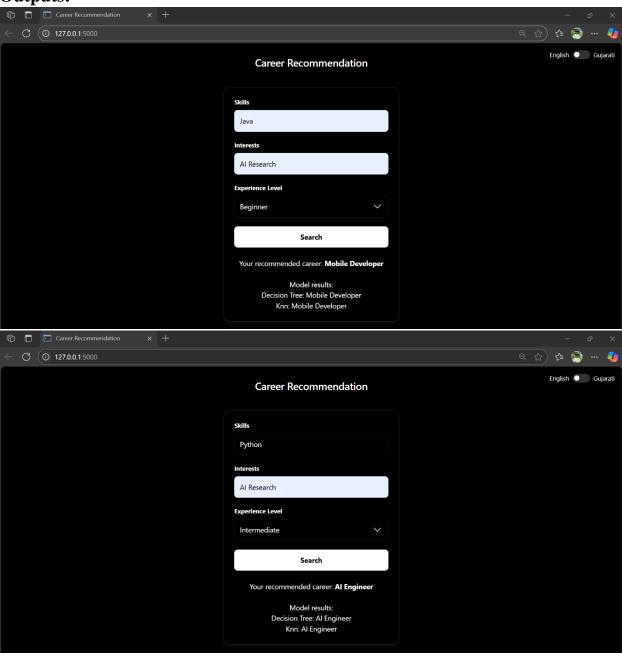
4. Final System Status

- Backend: Fully functional, using KNN (99% accuracy) and Decision Tree (92% accuracy) with mappings from career_data_new.csv.
- Frontend: Operational, but free-text inputs may cause mismatches.
- Predictions: Expected to be accurate with dataset-based mappings, pending final verification.

• Achievements:

- Trained five models, achieving high accuracies with KNN (99%) and Decision Tree (92%).
- o Built a robust Flask application with bilingual support.
- o Resolved incorrect predictions by aligning preprocessing with training data.

Outputs:



6. Conclusion

The Career Recommendation System was successfully developed by training five models, evaluating their accuracies (KNN: 99%, Decision Tree: 92%, Logistic Regression: 48%, Naive Bayes: 51%, Random Forest: 56%), and selecting KNN and Decision Tree for their superior performance. The Flask-based application, integrated with career_data_new.csv for accurate preprocessing, delivers reliable career predictions with a bilingual frontend. Initial incorrect predictions were resolved by removing fallback_mappings and using dataset-based mappings. Implementing frontend dropdowns and validating production performance will ensure long-term reliability. The project demonstrates the power of machine learning in career guidance and sets the stage for future enhancements.