

King Saud University

College of Computer and Information Sciences

Information Technology department

**IT 326: Data Mining**

**Course Project**

# Students Adaptability Level Prediction in

# Online Education

**Project final Report**

1. **Problem**

With the rapid shift toward online education, many students face challenges adapting to virtual learning environments. This difficulty has been exacerbated by technological limitations, varying levels of financial stability, and differences in learning resources. Such challenges can negatively impact students' academic performance and overall well-being. In our project, we aim to study and analyze student data to identify the key factors influencing adaptability to online education. By predicting students' adaptability levels, we can help educators and policymakers implement targeted interventions, thereby improving the effectiveness of online learning and enhancing students' experiences.

1. **Data Mining Task**

In our project, we will employ two data mining tasks to analyze and predict students' adaptability levels in online education: classification and clustering.

For classification, we will train a model to determine whether a student falls into the "High Adaptability" or "Low Adaptability" category, based on features such as age, gender, education level, financial condition, network type, class duration, and device type. The classification will be based on the "Adaptivity Level" class.

As for clustering, our model will group students who share similar characteristics, independent of the class attribute (Adaptivity Level). These clusters will help identify patterns and similarities among students, providing valuable insights into the factors influencing adaptability. This may also uncover previously unnoticed groupings, allowing educators and policymakers to better tailor their strategies for improving online learning experiences.

1. **Data**

* The Source: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/mdmahmudulhasansuzan/students-adaptability-level-in-online-education> [1]

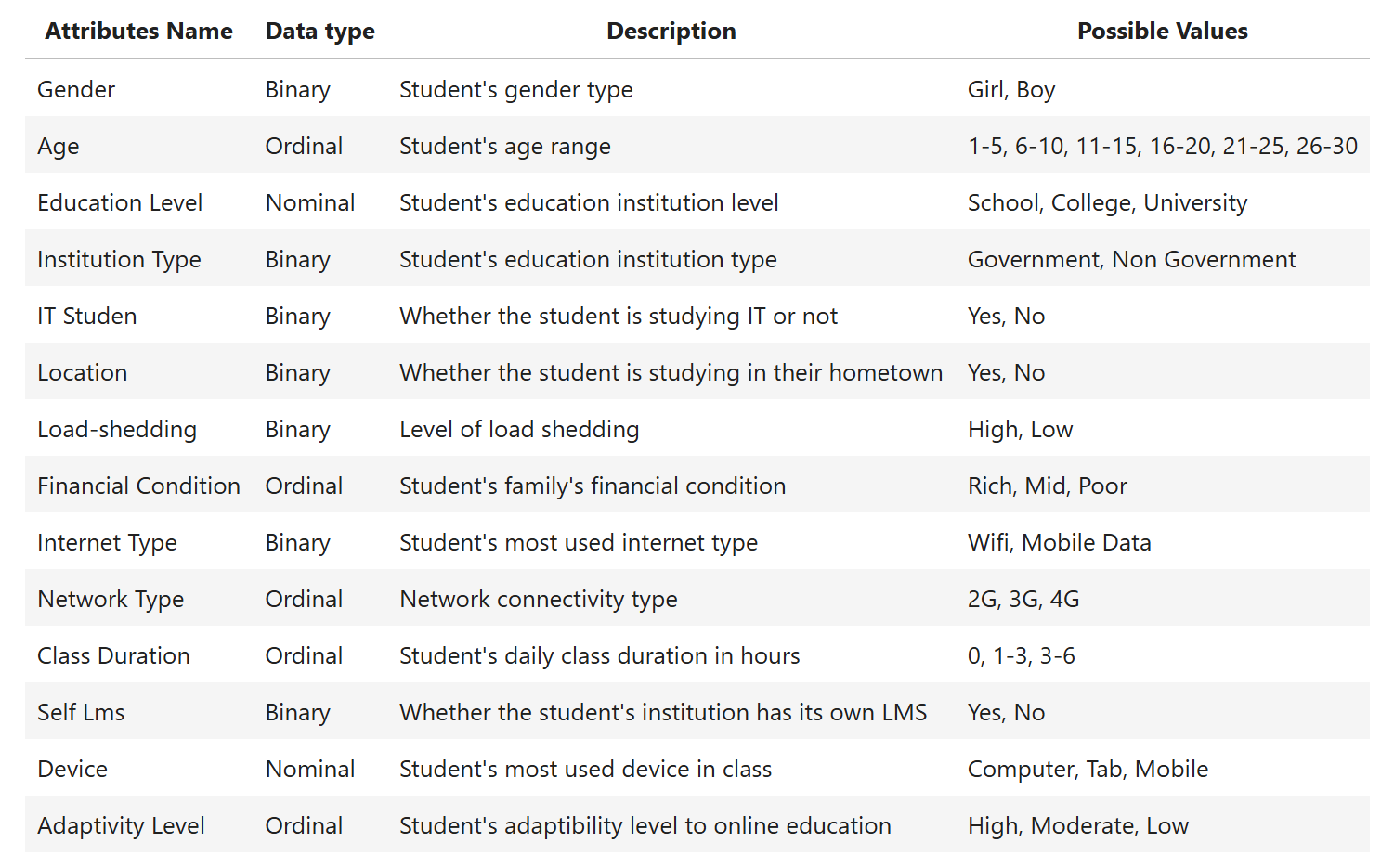
* Number of attributes: 11

* No. of objects: 1205

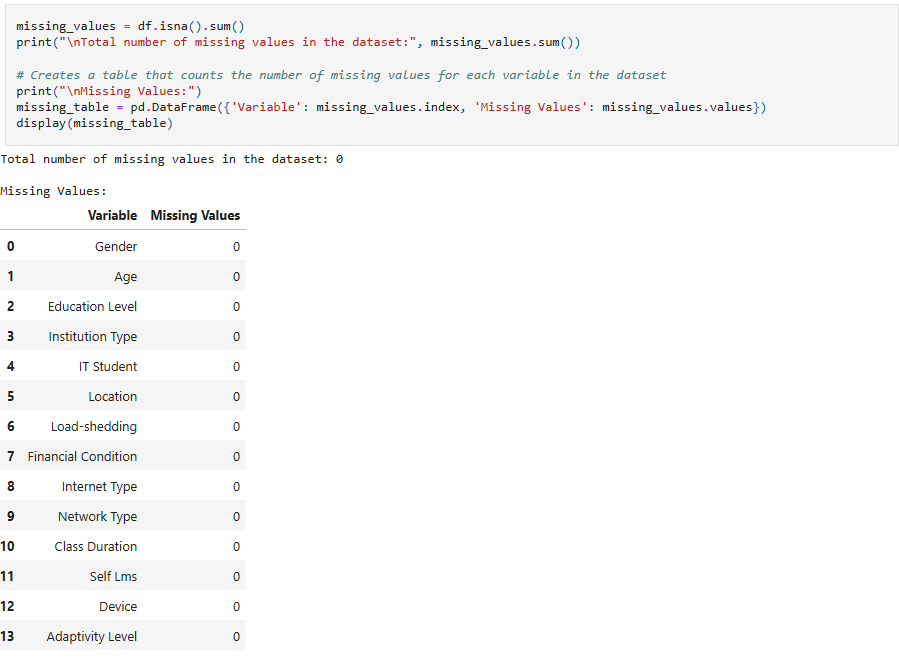
* Class label: Adaptivity Level

To try to understand our data, we reviewed:

* **Attributes’ description**



* **Missing values**



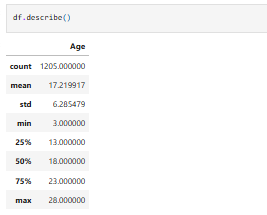
We have no missing values.

* **Statical Measures for each numeric column:**

-Show Five Number Summary:

Using the *df.describe()* function, several key observations can be made from the summary statistics of the "Age" column:

* Age: The age distribution shows a significant range, with the minimum age being 3 years and the maximum age reaching 28 years. The average age of the dataset is 17.22 years, with a standard deviation of 6.29, indicating that there is moderate variability in the age of individuals. The median age (50th percentile) is 18 years, with the lower quartile (25th percentile) at 13 years, and the upper quartile (75th percentile) at 23 years. This suggests that the majority of individuals fall between the ages of 13 and 23 years, but there are a few individuals outside this range.



-Show the Variance:

Variance helps understand the extent of dispersion or scatter of values in each column. As the variance increases, it indicates that the values are more spread out and scattered away from the mean, whereas decreasing variance suggests that the values are less scattered and closer to the mean value. Therefore, our variance results indicate the following:

* Age: The variance of 39.51 indicates a relatively high level of dispersion, suggesting that the ages in this dataset vary significantly around the mean value of 17.22 years.
* Median of Age: The median age of 18.0 indicates that 50% of the values fall below this age, which shows that the distribution is fairly centered around the mean.
* Mode of Age: The mode is 23, meaning this is the most frequent age in the dataset. This suggests that many individuals share this age.

A screenshot of a computer code

Description automatically generated

**● Understanding the data through graph representations:**

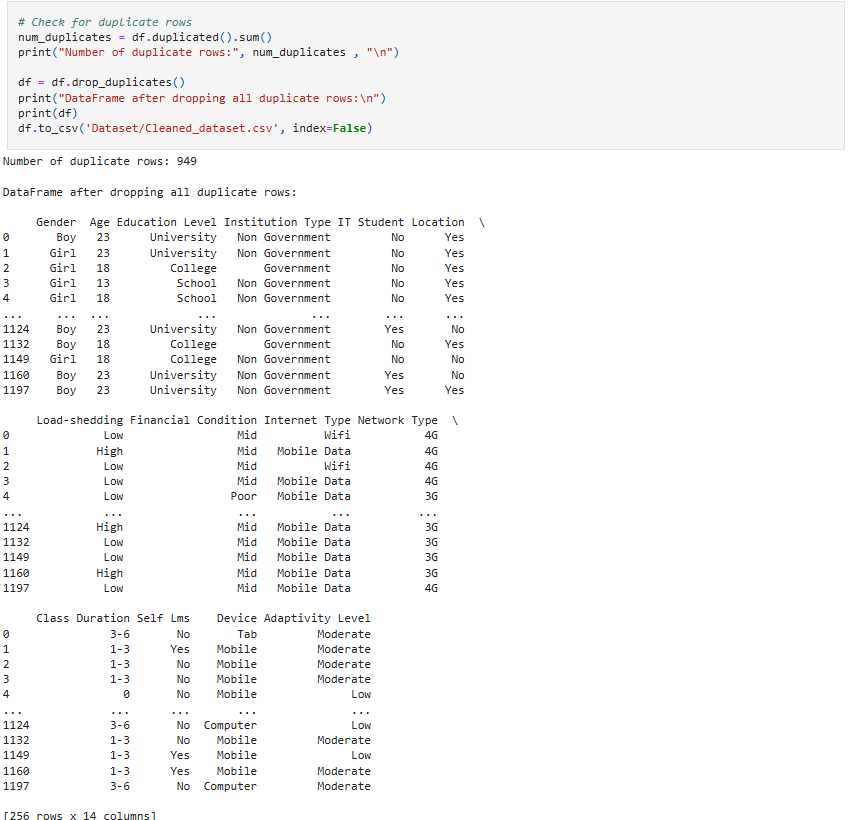
The "**Adaptivity Level**" column was used to analyse the relationship between students' adaptability levels in online education and various attributes such as age, gender, and internet type. Graphical representations aim to uncover patterns and the most influential factors on adaptability, with a focus on differences across demographic groups. These analyses provide insights to enhance online education experiences and strengthen adaptability strategies.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Graph** | **Picture of Graph** | **Description** |
| Bar plot |  | The graph shows that most students exhibit moderate adaptability to online education  (over 600 students), followed by those with low adaptability (over 400 students), while high adaptability represents the smallest proportion (100 students). This indicates that most students require additional support to enhance their adaptability. |
| Pie Chart |  | The chart shows that 57.7% of students rely on mobile data for online education, compared to 42.3% who use Wi-Fi.  This indicates a greater reliance on mobile data, highlighting the need to improve internet connectivity to better support online learning. |
| Bar chart |  | The bar chart illustrates the relationship between being an IT student and the type of device used for studies. It shows that most non-IT students heavily rely on mobile phones, with a smaller proportion using computers, and very limited use of tablets. On the other hand, IT students show a more balanced distribution, where mobile phones are still the most used, but a notable percentage also rely on computers, reflecting the demands of their specialization for more advanced devices. Overall, mobile phones are the most common device among all students, regardless of their specialization. |
| Pie Chart |  | The pie chart shows that 68.3% of students are enrolled in non-government institutions, making them the most common, while 31.7% are in government institutions. This suggests that non-government institutions play a larger role in education, potentially reflecting student preferences or greater options. |
| Bar chart |  | The chart shows that classes lasting 1-3 hours are the most common, attended by about 800 students, followed by 3-6 hours classes with around 200 students, while only 150 students did not attend any classes. This indicates a preference for medium-duration classes among students. |
| Pie Chart |  | The pie chart shows that 82.6% of students do not use self-learning management systems (Self LMS), while only 17.4% rely on them.  This highlights the limited adoption of these systems and the need to raise awareness about their benefits to support independent learning and improve students' educational experiences. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Stacked bar |  | The chart shows that classes lasting 1-3 hours are the most common across all education levels, especially among school and college students. In universities, there is a balance between medium-duration classes (1-3 hours) and longer ones (3-6 hours), reflecting the demands of university education, while the proportion of students not attending any classes is minimal. |
| Bar chart |  | The chart shows that more than 800 students’ study in their hometown, while only about 200 students’ study outside their hometown, indicating that few students need to travel for their education. |
| Bar chart |  | The bar chart shows that male students exceed 600, making them the larger group, while female students number around 550.  Overall, the distribution reflects a relatively balanced representation between genders. |
| Bar chart |  | The bar chart shows that the 21-25 age group is the most common, with over 350 students, followed by the 11-15 and 16-20 age groups. Younger children (1-5, 6-10) and older adults (26-30) are less represented, with fewer than 100 students in each. |

1. **Data preprocessing:**

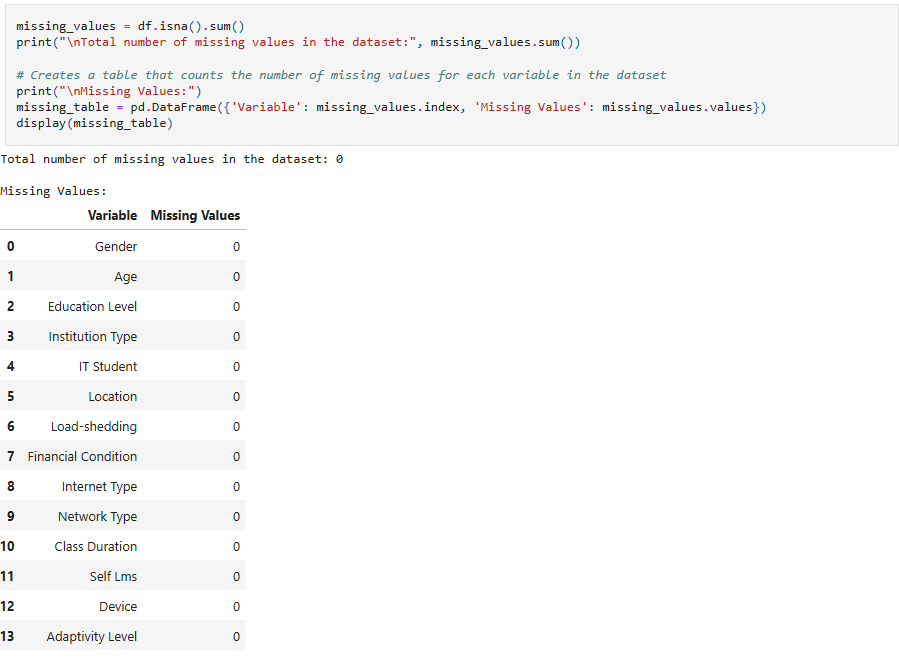
* **Removing duplicates:**



**Description:**

Duplicates can lead to inaccuracies in analysis by artificially inflating certain statistics or biasing results. Removing duplicates helps maintain the integrity of your dataset and to give Accurate Model Training beside Duplicate entries can cause inconsistencies and removing the duplicates ensures the efficiency of the data to make reliable decisions.

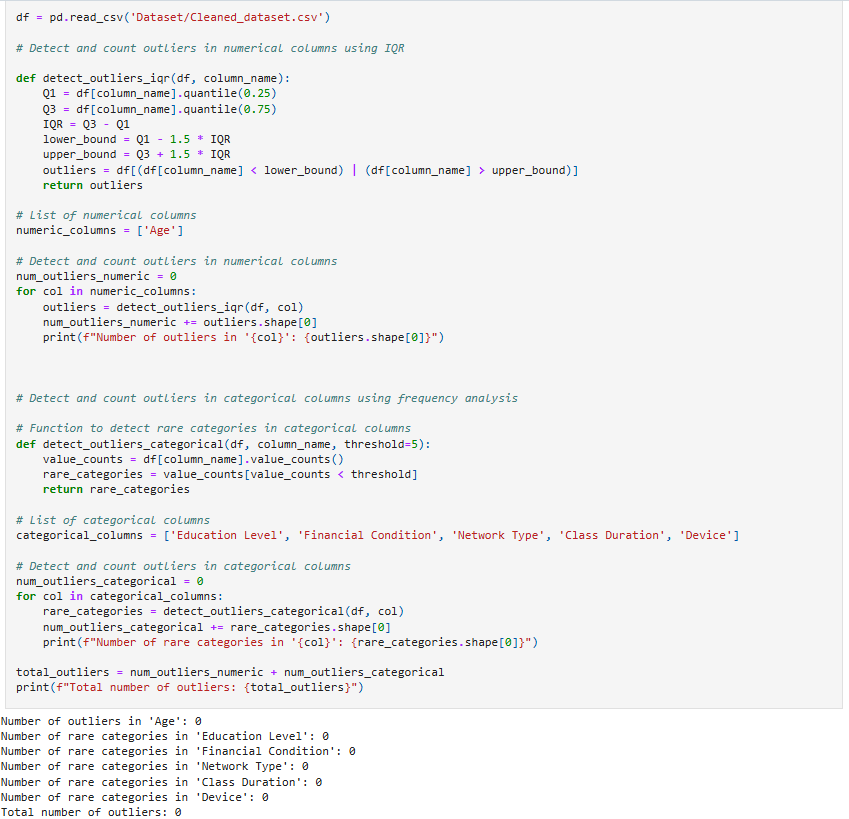
* **Checking for missing values:**



**Description:**

Identifying and addressing missing values in datasets is crucial for maintaining the integrity and reliability of data analysis. Missing values can compromise statistical estimates and lead to misleading conclusions. Analyzing missing data patterns helps refine data collection strategies, ensuring more accurate and robust analysis outcomes.

* **Detecting the outliers:**

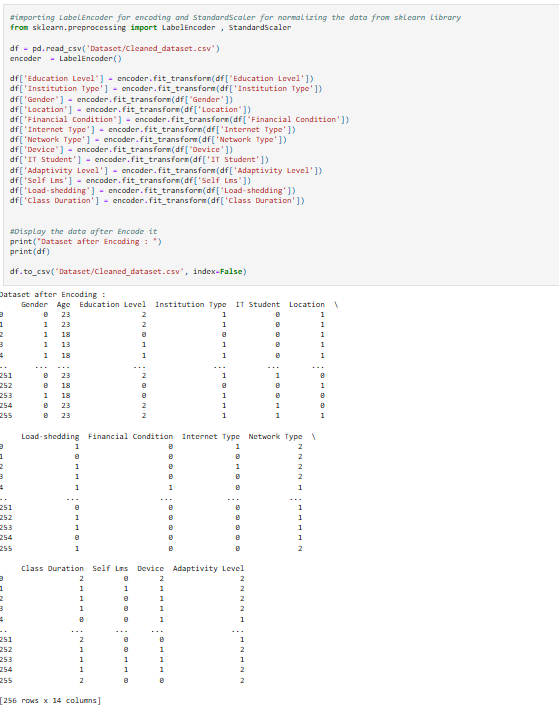


**Description:**

Since there were no outliers detected in the dataset, no adjustments were necessary. The data appears to be consistent, with no extreme values that would significantly impact the analysis. This ensures that the dataset is already well-suited for modeling and that the results we obtain will be more accurate and reliable.

* **Data Transformation:**

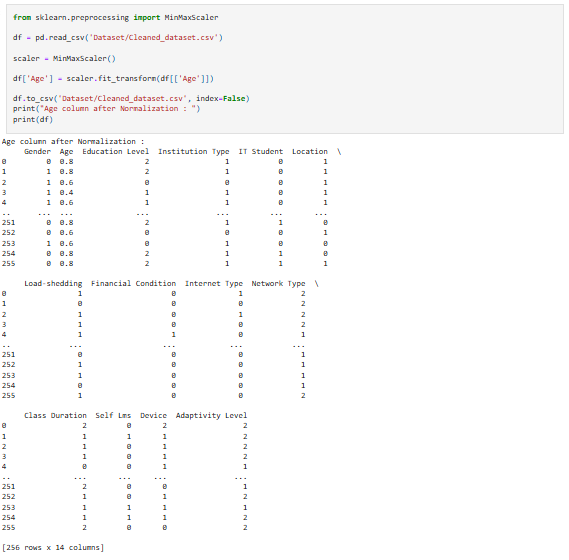
* 1. **Encoding:**



**Description**:

This encoding method provides a numerical representation for 'Education Level', 'Institution Type', 'Gender', 'Location', 'Financial Condition', 'Internet Type', 'Network Type', 'Device', 'IT Student', 'Adaptivity Level', 'Self Lms', 'Load-shedding', and 'Class Duration', where assigning the values 0,1, and 2 helps standardize variables for computational purposes. This enables easier processing and analysis of the attributes data in various algorithms and models. [2]

* 1. **Normalization:**



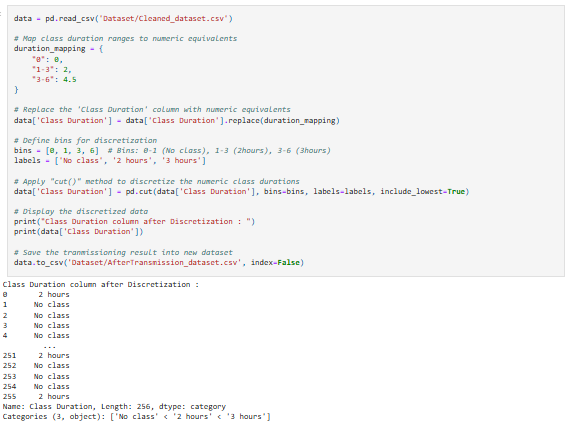
**Description**:

Here in normalization, we normalize the 'Age' column using Min-Max Scaling method since Age has a fixed and bounded range (1-30). This helps us to format all the 'Age' values in the dataset and facilities the analysis process.[2]

* 1. **Aggregation:**

We decided not to apply aggregation to our dataset because the type of analysis and insights we seek donot benefit significantly from summarizing the data into higher-level metrics. Additionally, our dataset contains only one numeric variable, which is Age. Aggregating this single numeric feature would not provide meaningful insights, our dataset primarily focuses on understanding individual student adaptability levels in online education this require detailed data rather than aggregated summaries, as we aim to capture patterns at the individual level, rather than at the group level. Therefore, aggregation would not add significant value to our specific goals.

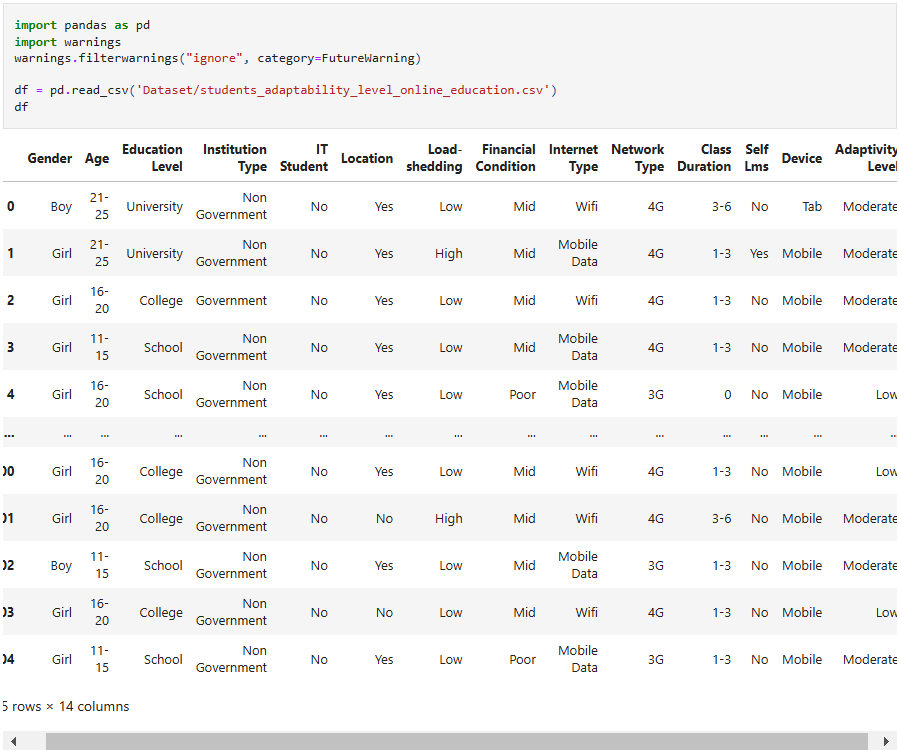
* 1. **Discretization:**



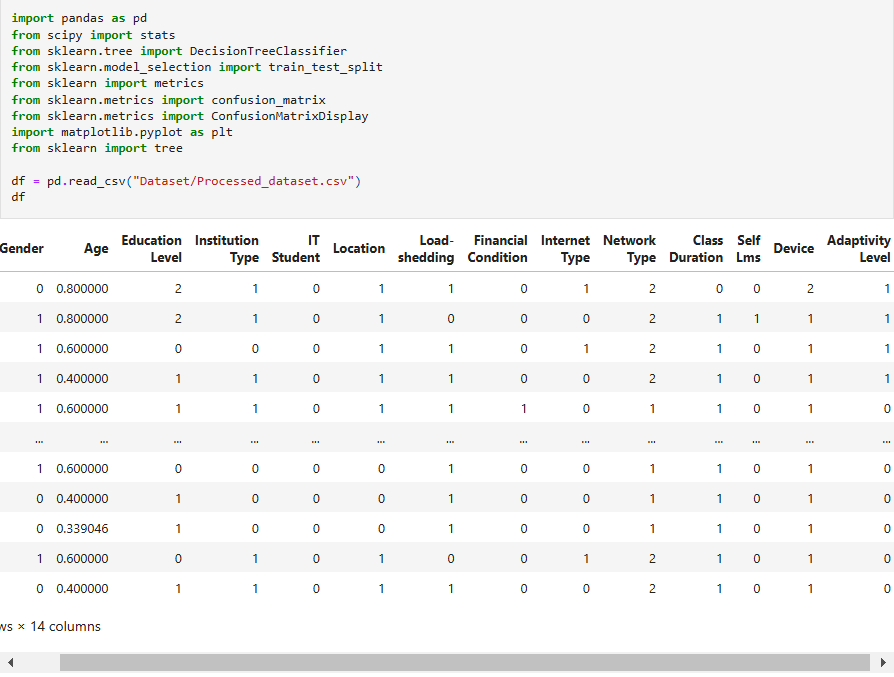
**Description**:

In the discretization method, we categorize ordinal class duration values into three groups: No class (0), 2 hours (1-3), and 3 hours (3-6). By simplifying data, the variability in the class duration was summarized, making the results more interpretable for stakeholders and enhancing data usability.

**Raw data:**



**Data after processing:**



* **Balance Data:**

Before starting the Data Mining Technique, we investigated whether the data was balanced or not:

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Description automatically generated

In the beginning, we reviewed the percentage for each of the three classes in the Adaptivity Level (High, Low, Moderate Adaptivity Level), and we noticed that the percentage is imbalanced (not ranging between 40% to 60%).

* **Process of correcting data balancing**

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Description automatically generated

* **Data after the balancing process:**

By analyzing the counts of the "high" and "low" adaptivity levels, we ensured balance between the two classes. This was achieved by calculating the number of samples in each class and their respective percentages. This process prevents the model from being biased towards the majority class, improving its ability to generalize to new data.

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Description automatically generated

We then calculated the percentage of each class to ensure that the data was balanced. Both adaptivity levels ("high" and "low") were equally represented, with the percentages for each class being comparable, thus confirming the balance in the dataset.

5- **Data Mining Technique:**

We employed both supervised and unsupervised learning methods on our dataset using classification and clustering techniques.

For the classification task, we used a decision tree. This recursive algorithm creates a tree-like structure where each leaf node represents a final prediction. Our model is designed to predict the adaptability level of students, categorizing them into "high" or "low" adaptivity levels (1 for high and 0 for low). The decision tree makes predictions based on several features, including age and other relevant attributes in the dataset. Since classification is a supervised learning technique, we used a training dataset to train the model and a testing dataset to evaluate its performance. We experimented with different training data splits of 70%, 60%, and 80%, and utilized attribute selection measures like Information Gain (IG) and Gini index. To evaluate the model's performance, we calculated its accuracy and used a confusion matrix to summarize key metrics such as sensitivity, specificity, precision, and error rate.

For the clustering process, which falls under unsupervised learning, we excluded the "adaptivity level" labels since clustering doesn't rely on class labels. We used all other attributes in the dataset, we first encoded all categorical and ordinal attributes into numerical values during the preprocessing step. This transformation was essential since clustering algorithms, such as K-means, require numerical data. After that, we utilized all attributes, now represented as numerical values, for the K-means clustering algorithm. The algorithm assigns data points to K clusters, each represented by a centroid, and iteratively recalculates the centroids until they stabilize, ensuring accurate cluster assignment.

To validate the clustering results, we calculated the average silhouette score for each cluster and visualized these scores. Additionally, we used the WSS (Within-Cluster Sum of Squares) method to compare different cluster sizes and determine the optimal number of clusters by assessing the compactness and separation of the clusters.

6- **Evaluation and Comparison:**

* Classification [70% training, 30% testing] Information Gain:

Figure (1) (decision tree):

A diagram of a network

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure (2) (confusion matrix):

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Description automatically generated

* Classification [60% Training and 40% testing] Information Gain:

Figure (1) (decision tree):

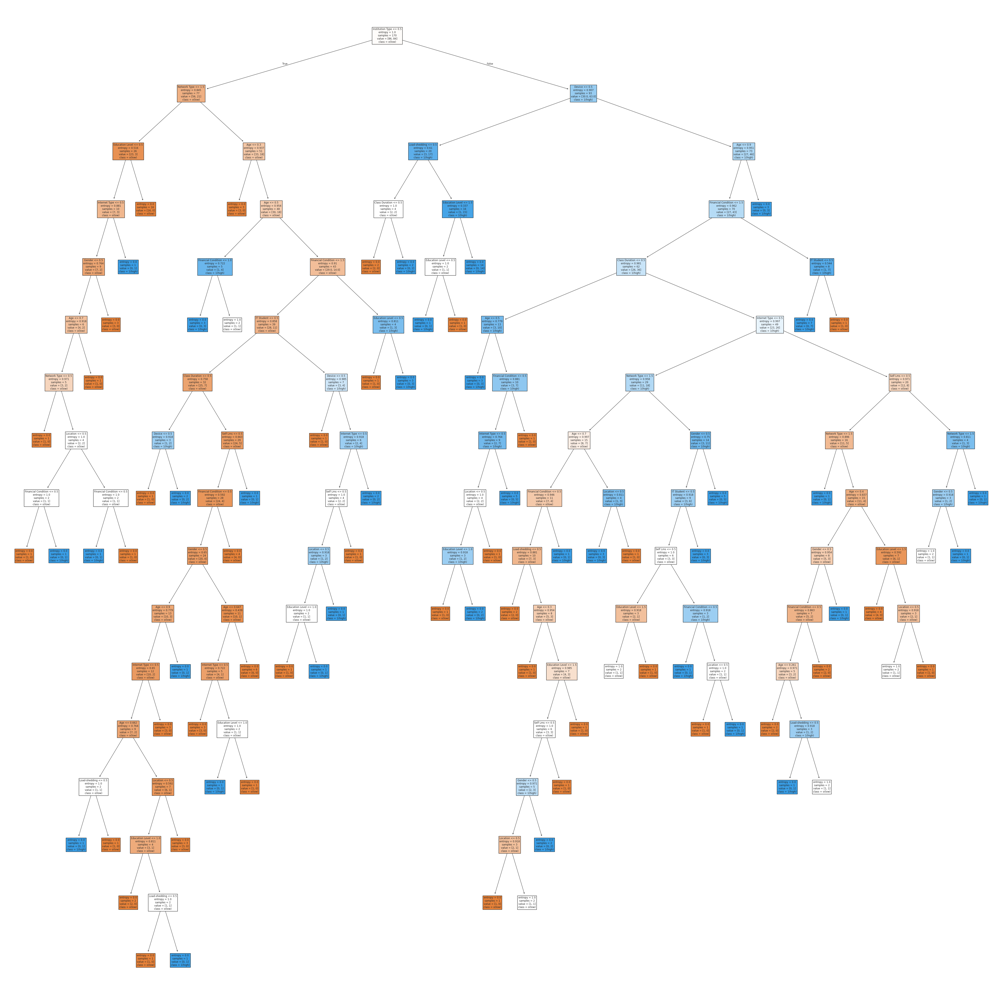
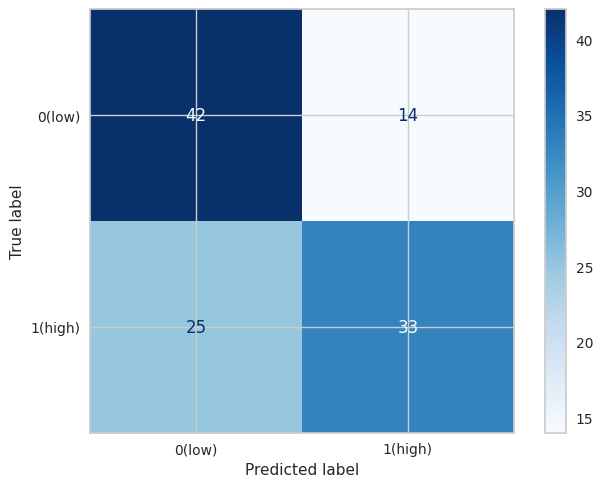


Figure (2) (confusion matrix):



* Classification [80% training and 20% testing] Information Gain:

Figure (1) (decision tree):

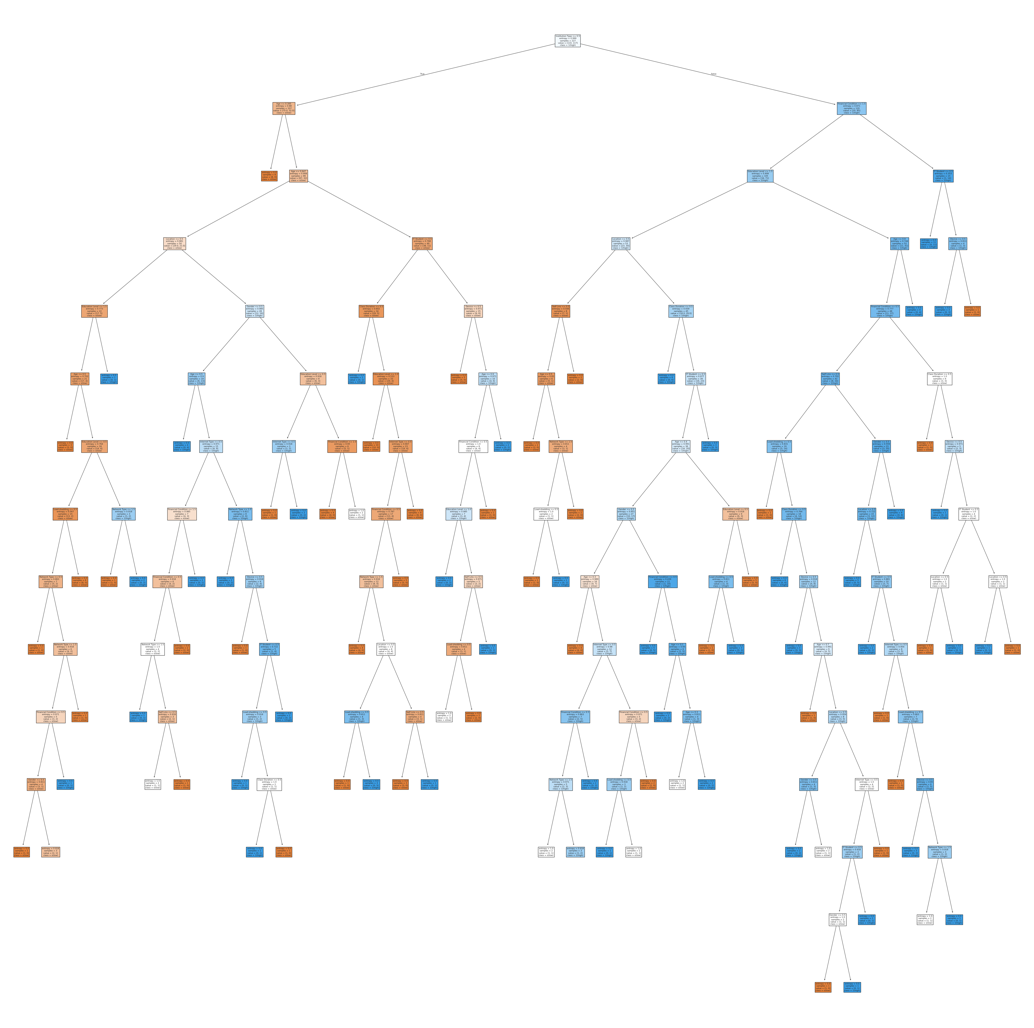
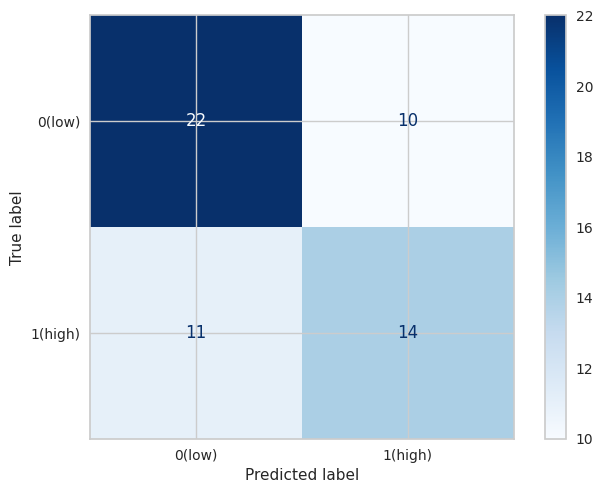


Figure (2) (confusion matrix):



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mining task | Comparison Criteria | | | |
| Classification for  Information Gain | We tried 3 different sizes for dataset splitting to create the decision tree:     * 70% Training data, 30% Test data.  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | Accuracy | 63% | | Precision | 65% | | Sensitivity | 60% | | Specificity | 67% | | Error rate | 36% |      * 60% Training data, 40% Test data. | | | |
| · |  |  |  |
| Accuracy | 65.79% |
| Precision | 70.21% |
| Sensitivity | 56.90% |
| Specificity | 75% |
| Error rate | 34.21% |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | * 80% Training data, 20% Test data.  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | Accuracy | 63% | | Precision | 58.33% | | Sensitivity | 56% | | Specificity | 68.75% | | Error rate | 36% | |

* Classification [70% training, 30% testing] Gini Index:

Figure (1) (decision tree):

A diagram of a tree

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure (2) (confusion matrix):

A screenshot of a graph

Description automatically generated

* Classification [60% training, 40% testing] Gini Index:

Figure (1) (decision tree):

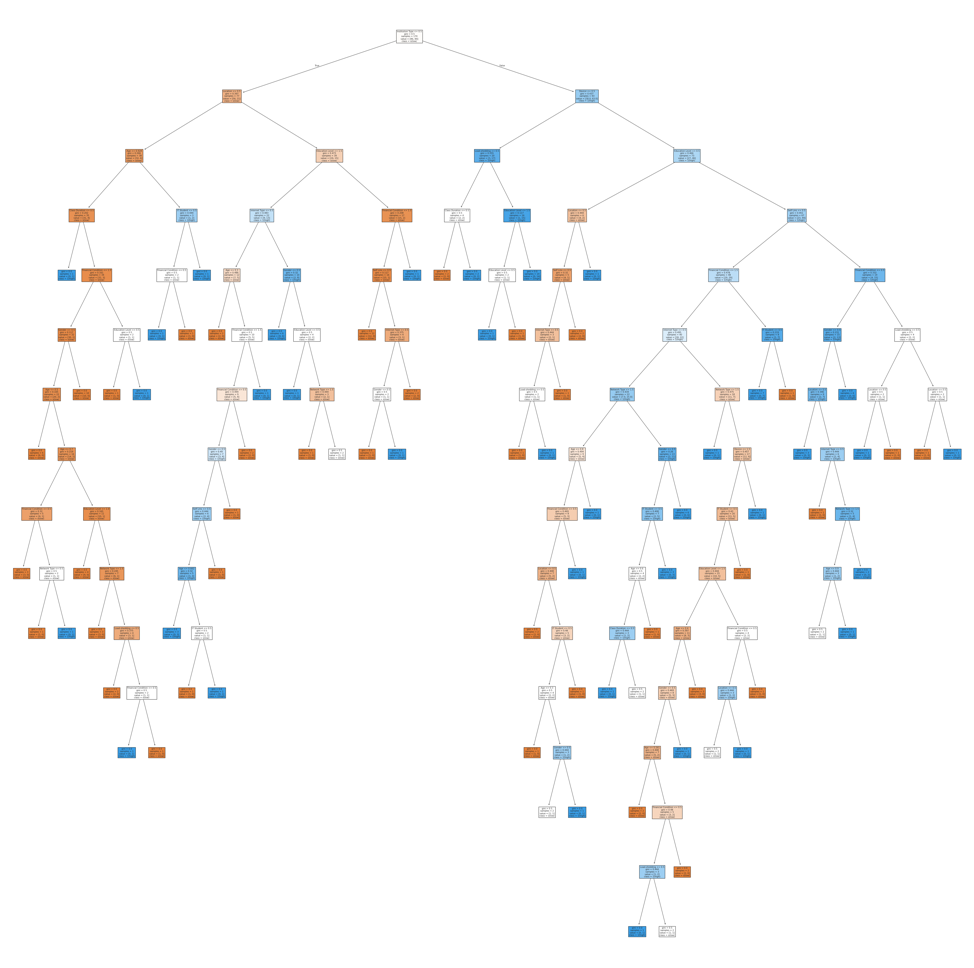
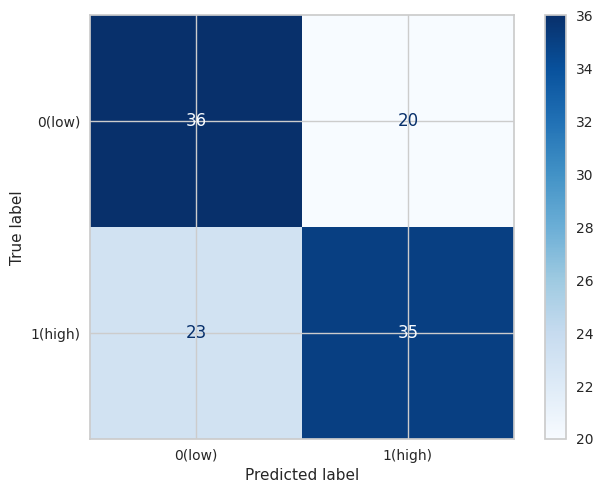


Figure (2) (confusion matrix):



* Classification [80% training, 20% testing] Gini Index:

Figure (1) (decision tree):

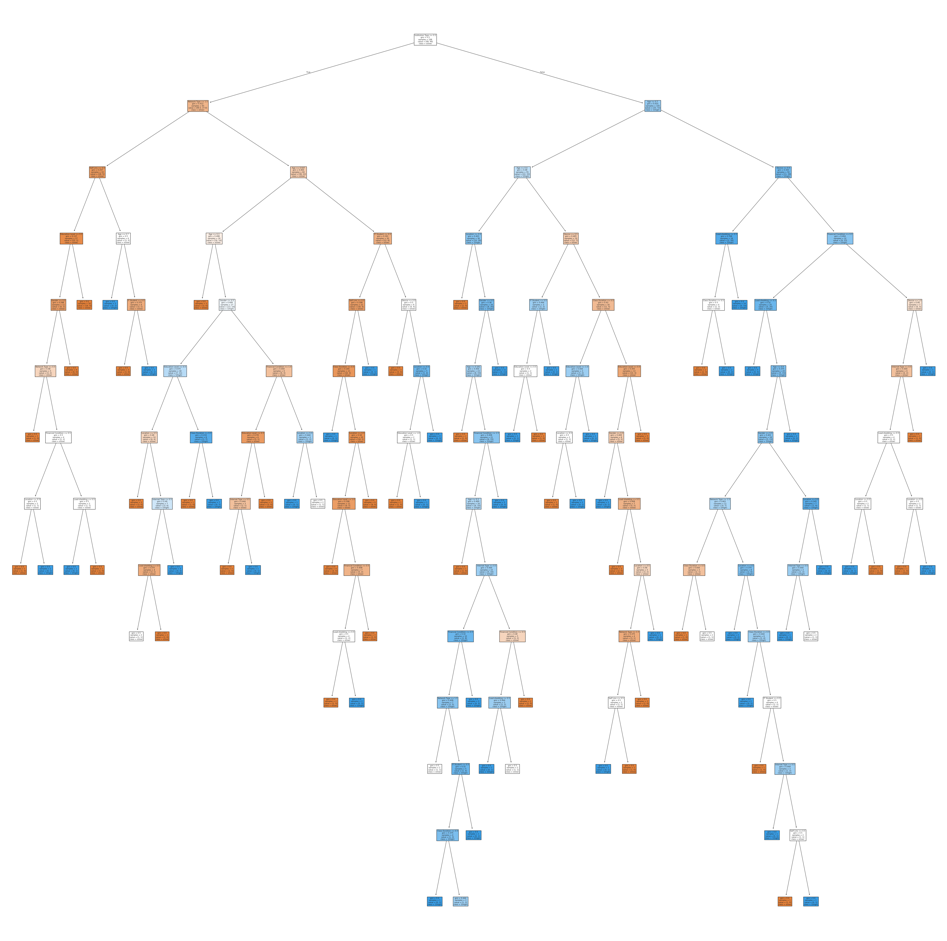
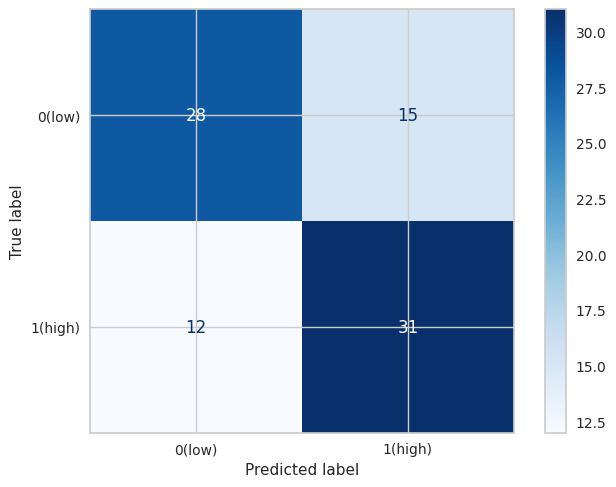


Figure (2) (confusion matrix):



|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mining task | | Comparison Criteria | | | | |
| Classification for  Gini Index | | We tried 3 different sizes for dataset splitting to create the decision tree:     * 70% Training data, 30% Test data.  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | Accuracy | 68% | | Precision | 67% | | Sensitivity | 72% | | Specificity | 65% | | Error rate | 31% |  * 60% Training data, 40% Test data. | | | | |
| · |  |  |  | |
| Accuracy | 62% |
| Precision | 64% |
| Sensitivity | 60% |
| Specificity | 64% |
| Error rate | 38% |
|  | | * 80% Training data, 20% Test data.  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | **Accuracy** | 68% | | **Precision** | 67% | | **Sensitivity** | 72% | | **Specificity** | 65% | | **Error rate** | 31% | | | | | |

* **The better partitioning:**

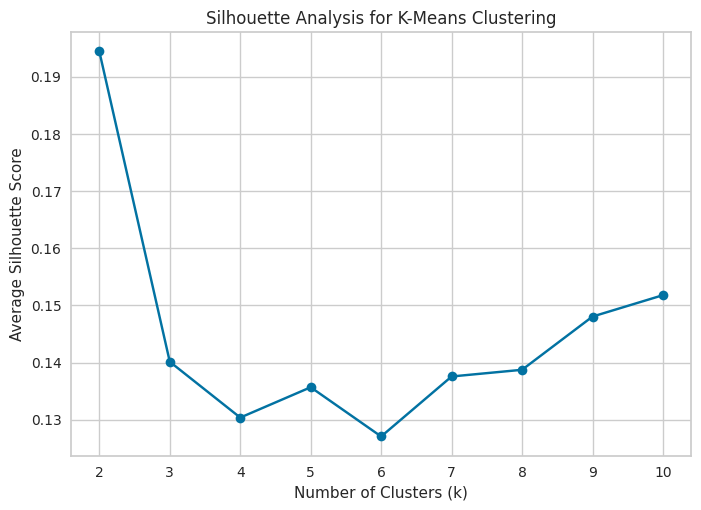
In summary, the models trained with 70% training, 30% testing and 80% training, 20% testing are the most effective across several key metrics, including accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and precision. These models are more balanced in terms of both positive and negative classifications, while the 60% training, 40% testing model has the highest error rate and slightly lower performance in comparison.

* + - * **Clustering**

We choose 3 different sizes [2,3,10] based on the result of the validation methods that we will apply then we will use these sizes to perform the k-means clustering.

**Silhouette method:**

The Silhouette method is a technique used to evaluate the quality of clustering results. It measures how well each data point fits within its assigned cluster compared to neighboring clusters.



**Elbow method:**

The Elbow method is a technique used to determine the optimal number of clusters in a dataset for K-means clustering.

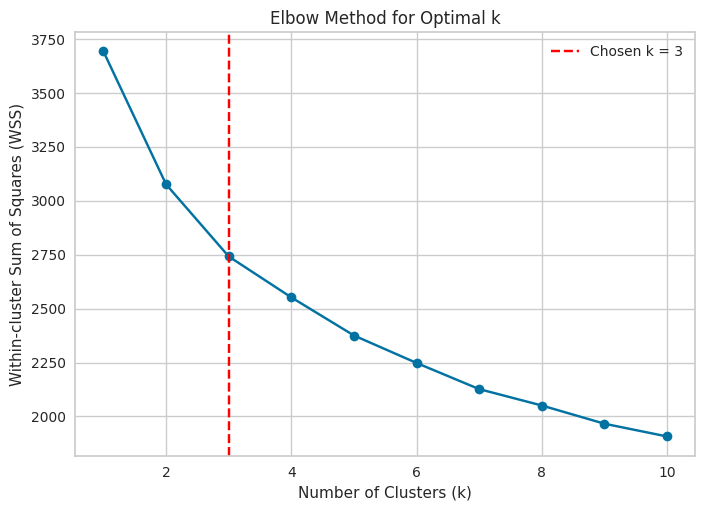


Figure (1): silhouette scores [K=2]

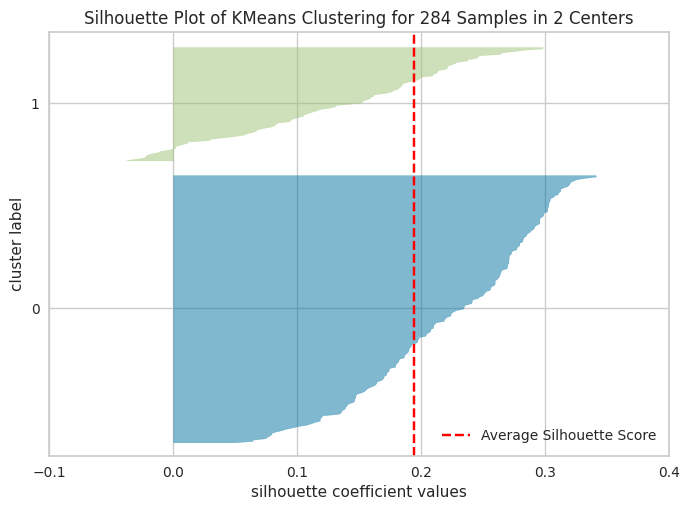


Figure (2): silhouette scores [K=3]

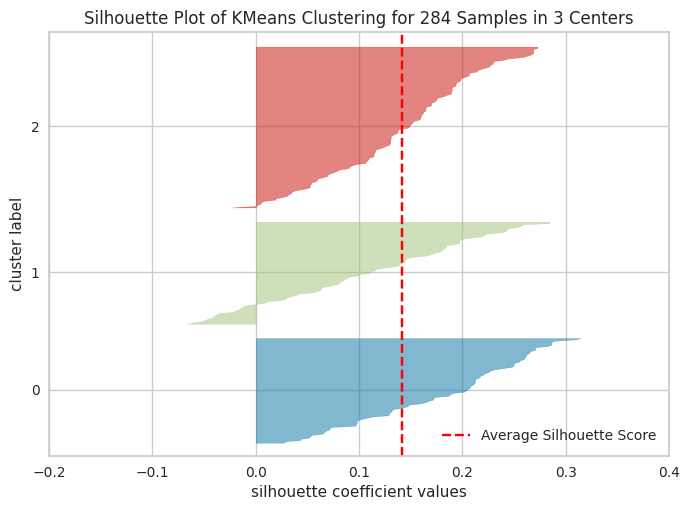
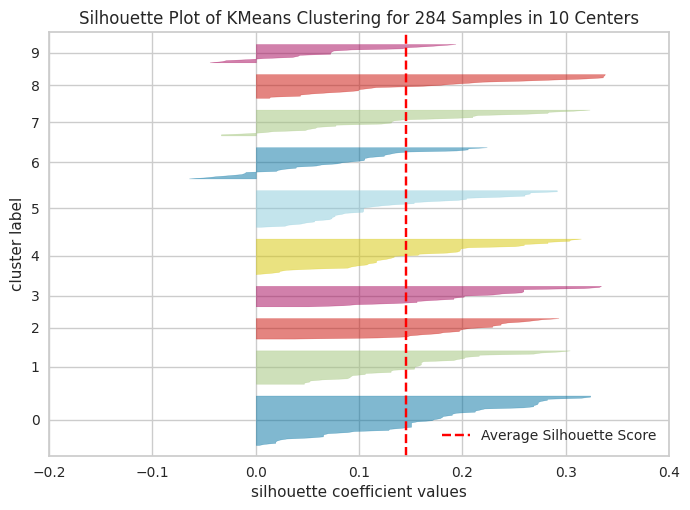


Figure (3): silhouette scores [K=10]



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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mining task | Comparison Criteria | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clustring |  | | We tried 3 different sizes for dataset splitting  to create the decision tree:  K=2, K=3, K=10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of clusters | |  | K=2 | | | | | K=3 | | | | | K=10 | | | |
|  | Average Silhouette width |  |  | |  |  | |  | |  |  | |  | |  |  |
| 0.1944 | 0.1434 | 0.1433 |
| total within-cluster sum of square |  |  | 3075.963 | | |  |  | 2741.921 | | |  |  | 1907.36 | |  |
|  | | |  | | |  | |  |

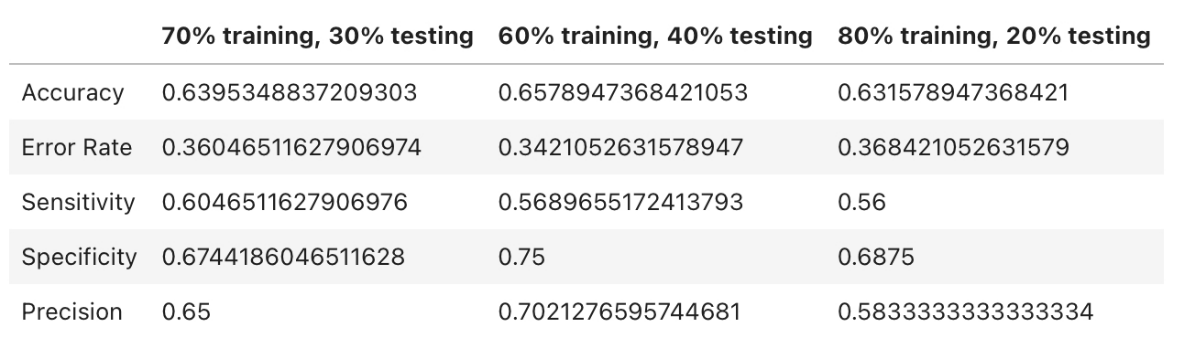
**7. Findings:**

Initially, we selected a dataset representing students’ adaptability levels in online education with the aim of understanding the factors that influence their success in this environment and identifying potential areas for improvement.

To ensure accuracy, reliability, and precision in our results, we applied several data preprocessing techniques to enhance the dataset's efficiency. Using various visualization methods, such as bar plots, Pie Chart, and Stacked bar, we clarified the data and made it easier to interpret. This allowed us to apply appropriate data processing techniques. Based on these visualizations and other analyses, we ensured that the dataset was free from any outliers or missing values that could negatively impact the results.

Furthermore, we implemented data transformations, including normalization, and balanced data process to assign equal weight to certain features and streamline data processing during mining tasks.

Consequently, we conducted data mining tasks, encompassing classification and partitioning. For classification, we employed the Gini index and information gain metrics. Experimenting with three different sizes of training and testing data allowed us to achieve optimal results for both model construction and evaluation. Here are our findings:

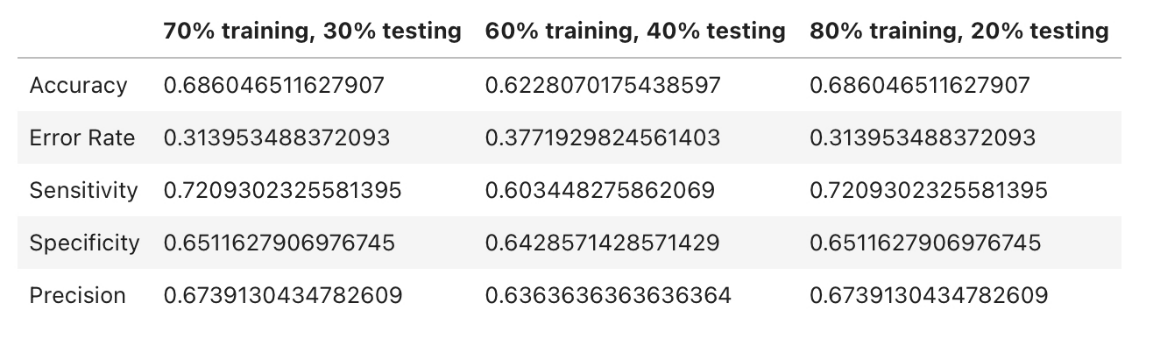


* **Information Gain:**

Based on the results for the models trained using different training/testing splits, the following observations can be made:

* Accuracy: The model trained with the 60% training set and 40% testing set achieved the highest accuracy (65.79%), indicating it performed slightly better overall.
* Error Rate: The model trained with the 80% training set and 20% testing set exhibited the highest error rate (36.84%), suggesting the 70-30 split has a lower error rate and better performance in reducing classification errors.
* Sensitivity: The 70% training set and 30% testing set model achieved the highest sensitivity (60.47%), meaning it is better at identifying positive instances.
* Specificity: The model trained with the 60% training set and 40% testing set obtained the highest specificity (75%), indicating better performance in correctly identifying negative instances.
* Precision: The model trained with the 60% training set and 40% testing set achieved the highest precision (70.21%), meaning it has the best accuracy when predicting positive outcomes.

In summary, the model trained with a **60% training set and 40% testing set** generally performs better across various evaluation metrics compared to the other partitioning schemes.



* **Gini index:**

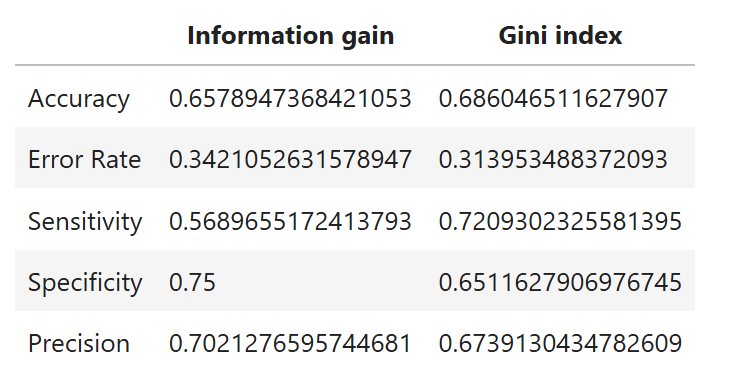
Based on the results for the models trained using the Gini Index criterion, the following observations can be made:

* Accuracy: The models trained with 70% training, 30% testing and 80% training, 20% testing achieved the highest accuracy (68.61%), showing better overall performance compared to the 60% training, 40% testing model (62.28%).
* Error Rate: The 60% training, 40% testing model has the highest error rate (37.72%), while the 70% training, 30% testing and 80% training, 20% testing models have the lowest error rate (31.40%).
* Sensitivity: The 70% training, 30% testing and 80% training, 20% testing models achieved the highest sensitivity (72.09%), meaning they are more effective at identifying positive instances.
* Specificity: The models trained with 70% training, 30% testing and 80% training, 20% testing achieved the highest specificity (65.12%), indicating better performance in correctly identifying negative cases.
* Precision: The 70% training, 30% testing and 80% training, 20% testing models achieved the highest precision (67.39%), indicating they are more accurate in predicting positive outcomes.

In summary, the models trained with **70% training, 30% testing and 80% training, 20% testing** are the most effective across several key metrics, including accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, and precision. These models are more balanced in terms of both positive and negative classifications based on the results provided.

* **The best model between information gain and the Gini index:**

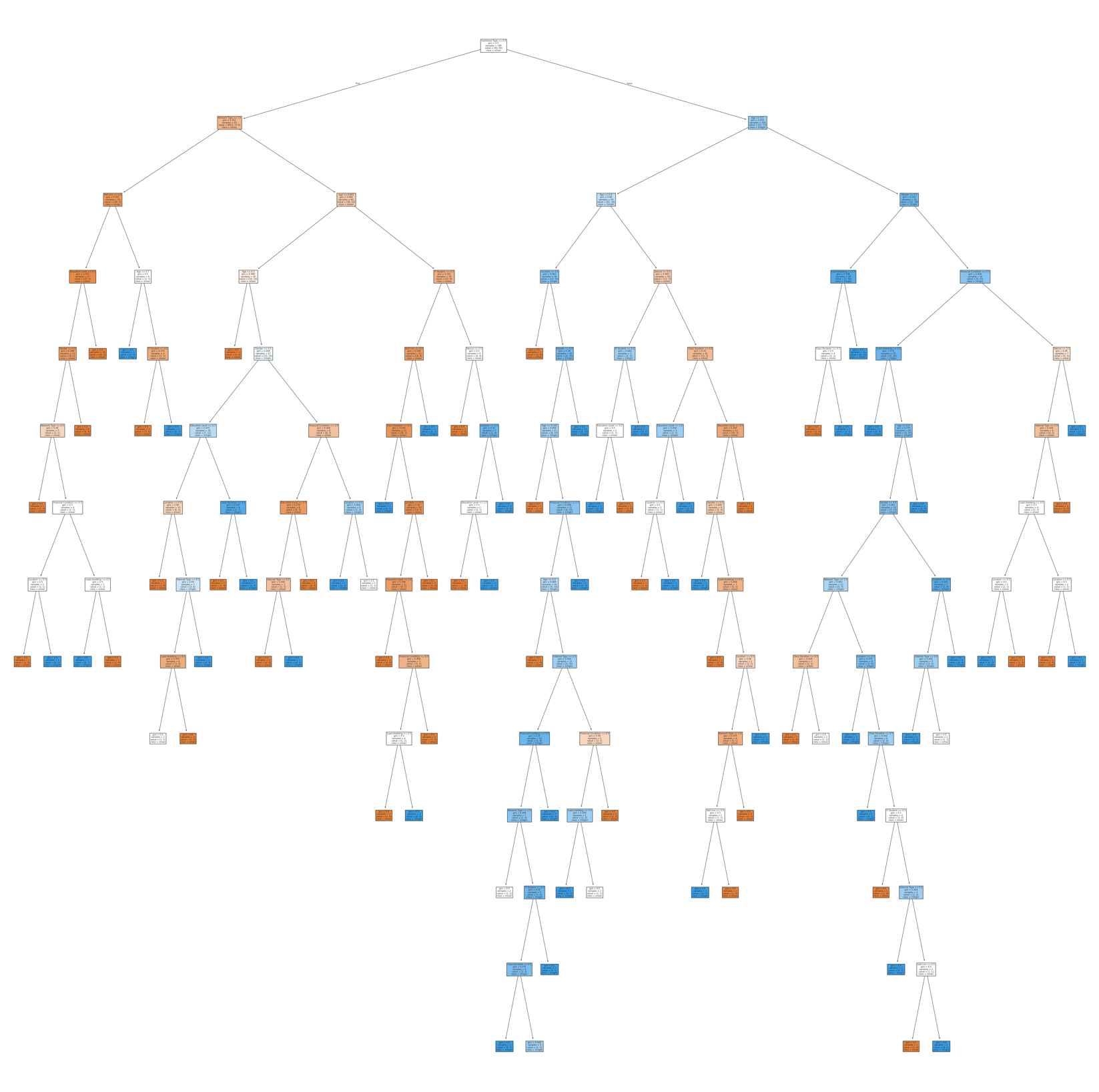
After selecting the best model split from Information Gain, which was 60% training, 40% testing, and the best split from Gini Index, which was both the 70% training, 30% testing, and 80% training, 20% testing, we reviewed the values of each for comparison between Information Gain and Gini Index, and we reached the following conclusion:



* Accuracy and Error Rate: The Gini Index split demonstrates higher accuracy (68.60% or 0.686) compared to Information Gain (65.79% or 0.658), resulting in a lower error rate of 31.39% (0.313) for Gini Index versus 34.21% (0.342) for Information Gain. This suggests that the Gini Index model classifies cases more accurately, making it more dependable.
* Sensitivity and Specificity: The Gini Index split outperforms in sensitivity (72.09% or 0.7209) compared to Information Gain (56.90% or 0.569). However, Information Gain achieves higher specificity (75% or 0.75) than Gini Index (65.16% or 0.6516). Sensitivity reflects the ability to identify positive cases, where Gini Index excels, while Information Gain is better at predicting negative cases due to its higher specificity.
* Precision: Information Gain shows higher precision (70.21% or 0.702) compared to Gini Index (67.39% or 0.673). This indicates that when the model predicts positive cases, Information Gain is correct more often than Gini Index.

Conclusion: The 80%-20% split using the Gini Index offers better overall performance with higher accuracy, lower error rate, and superior sensitivity. However, if specificity and precision are more critical, Information Gain could be a better choice. For a balanced approach prioritizing classification accuracy, the Gini Index model is the preferred option.

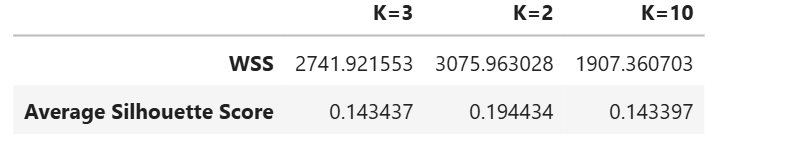
This was the decision tree associated with this division:



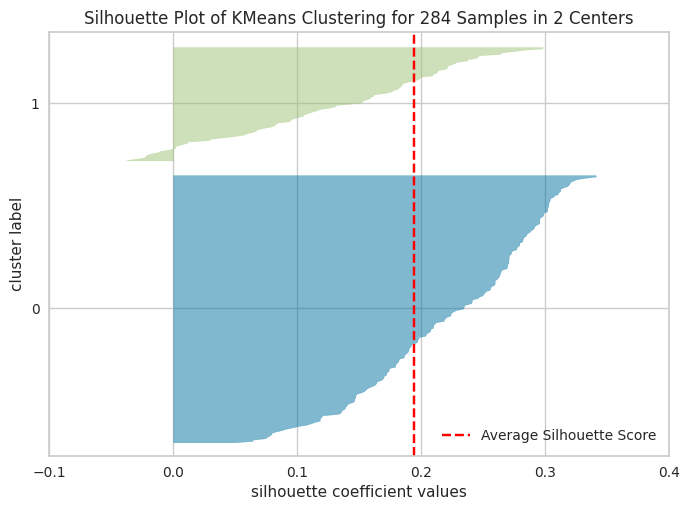
In this tree, the splitting process begins with the criterion of Institution Type, where samples are segregated based on their Institution Type values. The selection of features at each node is determined by their Gini values. Following the split on Institution Type, the tree considers the Network Type and Age, dividing samples accordingly. Subsequently, the Self Lms is examined, leading to further division of samples.

This splitting procedure persists for each attribute, guided by their respective values at each level, until reaching the leaf nodes. These leaf nodes act as terminal points, providing the final classification (whether 'low' or 'high' adaptivity level) based on the path followed through the tree.

For Clustering, we used K-means algorithm with 3 different K to find the optimal number of clusters, we calculated the average silhouette width for each K, and we concluded the following results:



We've decided that K=2 is the best choice for our clustering model based on the metrics we've analyzed(WSS, Average Sihouette Score, Visualization of K-mean). This choice is because K=2 gives the highest silhouette width, also k=2 have a highest value of WSS Comparison of WSS value for K=3,k=10 Also, having a silhouette plot of kmeans clustring of 284 samples of 2 centers was one of the most important criteria for choosing k=2 as the best k, indicating that it creates distinct and cohesive clusters. And this was the corresponding chart:



From the graph of KMeans Clustering for 284Samples in 2 Centers, the fact that most of the silhouette scores with a positive value reinforces the notion that the samples are well-matched to their clusters and are distant from neighboring clusters. This indicates that the clustering solution has successfully separated the data points into distinct and well-defined clusters. Note that while most silhouette scores being positive is a positive indicator, it does not necessarily imply that the clustering solution is "extremely perfect" or flawless. There might still be some degree of overlap or ambiguity between clusters, especially if there are samples as above in the first center with silhouette scores close to 0 or negative values

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**Finally**, both models have proven valuable in predicting the level of flexibility exhibited by students, thereby contributing significantly to our overarching goal of assisting individuals in adapting to online learning environments. However, given that our dataset includes a class label " Adaptivity Level " supervised learning models, particularly classification models, are deemed more accurate and suitable for application. Supervised learning approaches are more accurate than unsupervised learning model(clustering), as the expected output is known beforehand this way we make use of the class label attribute. We harness this existing knowledge to refine the accuracy and relevance of our predictive models, empowering students to make informed decisions about their learning strategies and adaptability in online educational settings.

**8. References:**

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