

SUMMARY

Business Challenge

X Education, a company specializing in online courses for industry professionals, struggles with a low lead conversion rate of around 30%. To address this issue, we developed a model to score leads, aiming to identify and prioritize those with a higher likelihood of conversion, aligning with the CEO's goal of an 80% conversion rate.

Objective

To build a logistic regression model to predict the probability of each lead converting into a customer, thereby enabling X Education to focus efforts on the most promising leads.

Methodology and Steps

We divided the project into various checkpoints to meet sub-goals systematically. The steps included:

1. Data Preprocessing:

- **Missing Values and Outliers:** We dropped columns with more than 30% missing values and treated missing values and outliers in the remaining numeric columns.
- **Binary Encoding:** We assigned binary values (0s and 1s) to variables such as 'Do Not Email', 'Do Not Call', 'Search', and 'Magazine'.
- **Dropping Uninformative Columns:** Columns with 'Select' as a predominant value, like 'Lead Profile' and 'How did you hear about X Education', were dropped due to their lack of informative value. Similarly, 'What matters most to you in choosing a course' was dropped as it was nearly homogenous.

2. Feature Engineering & Data Splitting and Scaling:

- **Created dummy features** for categorical variables through one-hot encoding.
- **Training and Test Sets:** Split the data into training (70%) and test (30%) sets.
- **Feature Scaling:** Standardized the features and removed those highly correlated with each other to reduce redundancy.

3. Model Building:

- **Data Imbalance Check:** Noted an initial lead conversion rate of 48.1%.
- **Feature Selection:** Performed Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE) on scaled data, selecting 15 key features.
- **Iterative Model Refinement:** Built and refined the model iteratively, ensuring that all included features had p-values < 0.05 and no multicollinearity ($VIF < 5$).

4. Model Evaluation:

- **Initial Evaluation:** Used a probability cutoff of 0.5 for conversion prediction, achieving 78% accuracy, 83% specificity, and 73% sensitivity.

- Cutoff Optimization: Adjusted the cutoff to 0.42 to balance sensitivity and specificity, maintaining a consistent 78% accuracy on both training and test data.
- ROC Curve Analysis: Plotted the ROC curve, achieving an 86% area under the curve, indicating a robust model.

5. Final Model Testing:

- Prediction on Test Data: Evaluated model performance on test data, confirming the model's effectiveness with 78% accuracy, 79% specificity, and 78% sensitivity.

Insights and Recommendations

- Platform Engagement: Leads spending more time on the platform are more likely to convert.
- Customer Engagement: Improving customer engagement through calls and references, especially for leads active in sending SMS, can significantly enhance conversion rates.
- Target Demographic: Focusing on working professionals, who constitute the majority of the leads, will likely yield better conversion results.

Our logistic regression model effectively identifies high-potential leads, providing X Education with a valuable tool to enhance their lead conversion strategy and work towards the CEO's target of an 80% conversion rate.