

Review Report - Predicting Undergraduates Dropouts Using Classification Techniques

Priyanga Talagala

2023-09-30

Thank you for submitting “Predicting Undergraduates Dropouts Using Classification Techniques” to SLAAI - ICAI-2023. This paper aims to predict the number of student dropouts in a non-state higher education institute in Sri Lanka. However, there are certain areas within the paper that require clarification. With substantial revisions, changes, and further explanations, this paper has the potential to become more impactful.

1. Page 2: Section III: “There were several students who were absent from the final examination may be due to medical reasons or maybe they had already dropped out before the first endsemester examination; those instances have been renamed to zero.”. What is the motivation for the authors to rename the instances to zero is not very clear to me.
2. Figure 3 : coding 0 and 1 on the x axis will improve the clarity.
3. Table 1: Student Performance (GPA) values are categorised into 3 classes. What is the basis of this categorization. What is the range of the possible values of this variable. Isn't it varies from zero to 4.
4. English language marks also has a similar categorization. Does the university offer a credit values instead of a mark for this subject.
4. Table 1: what is `Count_npass >=0`
5. Page 5: The sentence “ According to the given TABLE III, the accuracy range models are between 87% to 90%” lacks clarity.
6. in the introduction Section the key objectives of the study is defined as “To identify the factors that have affected dropouts” and “ To determine the most suitable algorithm for dropout prediction in non-state higher education institutes”. However this is not well addressed in the results or the conclusion sections.
7. Figure 6, Orange Tool Flow Diagram does not add much contribution to the discussion of the paper.