
CAPSTONE PROJECT

PREDICTING ELIGIBILITY FOR NSAP SCHEMES USING MACHINE LEARNING

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OUTLINE

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

Example: The National Social Assistance Programme(NSAP) is a key welfare initiative by the Government of India, targeting the elderly, widows, and disabled individuals in BPL households. The program includes multiple schemes, each with specific eligibility criteria.

Currently, manually verifying applications and assigning the correct scheme is time-consuming and error-prone. Delays or misclassifications may deprive eligible applicants of essential aid.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- The proposed solution is an end-to-end machine learning system designed to **predict the most appropriate NSAP scheme** for applicants based on their demographic and socio-economic profiles. This model aims to support government agencies in automating and accelerating the scheme allocation process, ensuring accurate and timely delivery of welfare benefits.
- **Data Collection:**
 - We utilized the **AI-KOSH dataset** provided under the Government of India's open data initiative.
 - The dataset contains **district-wise pension data** under NSAP, including beneficiary counts by gender, caste, Aadhar, mobile status, and scheme codes.
 - The data was obtained from [AI-KOSH portal](#), which offers trusted and curated public datasets.
- **Data Preprocessing:**
 - Performed extensive **data cleaning** to handle missing, duplicate, or inconsistent entries.
 - Applied **feature engineering** to normalize input variables and convert categorical data (like state/district) into machine-readable format using encoding techniques.
 - Balanced the dataset to ensure fair training across all NSAP schemes (IGNOAPS, IGNWPS, IGNDPS).

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- **Model Development:**

- Built a **multi-class classification model** using supervised machine learning algorithms such as **Random Forest** and **XGBoost**.
- Leveraged **AutoAI in IBM Watsonx.ai Studio** to automatically test and optimize multiple pipelines.
- The Model was Trained To identify the most probable **scheme code** for any new applicant based on input feature.

- **Deployment and Automation:**

- The best-performing model (based on F1 score and accuracy) was **promoted to a deployment space** and served via an API endpoint.
- The solution is fully deployed on **IBM Cloud using Watsonx.ai runtime**, enabling real-time predictions.
- A user can now input socio-demographic details and instantly receive a predicted NSAP scheme eligibility.



SYSTEM APPROACH

We used IBM Cloud Lite and Watsonx.ai Studio to build and deploy our machine learning model. Below are the detailed steps followed during the system setup:

- Navigated to [IBM Cloud](#) and signed into the dashboard.
- Opened the **Resource List** via the top-left menu and ensured all existing resources were cleared (should display 0 in all sections).
- Searched for **Watsonx.ai Studio** in the catalog.
- Selected a **Free service plan** and clicked **Create**.
- After the service was created, clicked **Launch** to open **Watsonx.ai Studio**.
- Selected **Build and manage ML models**, chose **Watsonx.ai runtime**, and clicked **Next → Create**.
- Clicked **Create a new project**, gave it a name and description, and added **cloud object storage**.
- Inside the project, navigated to **Manage → Services & Integrations → Associate service → Associate**.
- Returned to the **Overview**, and clicked **Build a Machine Learning Model Automatically (AutoAI)**.

SLIDE: ALGORITHM & DEPLOYMENT

The model building and deployment involved the following steps using **Watsonx.ai AutoAI**:

- Gave a name to the Project experiment and clicked **Associate**.
- Uploaded the dataset.
- If prompted for **Time Series Analysis**, selected **NO**.
- Choose the **target prediction column** as schemecode from the dropdown.
- Clicked **Run Experiment** to begin training the model.
- Waited for the training to complete and reviewed the **Relationship map** and **Progress visualizations**.
- Reviewed **Pipeline Leaderboard**, and selected the pipeline with **highest accuracy**.
- Clicked **Save As** → viewed in project → **Promote to Space**.
- Created a **deployment space** and promoted the model.
- Clicked **New Deployment**, associated the **Watsonx.ai Runtime**, and saved.
- Under **Overview**, selected the deployed model, and then clicked **Test**.
- Entered **random test input values**, clicked **Predict**, and repeated to verify predictions across data points.

ALGORITHM & DEPLOYMENT

- **Algorithm Selection:**
 - **Random Forest** and **XGBoost** for multi-class classification.
- **Data Input:**
 - Age, gender, disability status, marital status, income level, district, etc.
- **Training Process:**
 - Stratified train-test split
 - Hyperparameter tuning using GridSearchCV
- **Deployment:**
 - Model hosted on **IBM Watson Machine Learning**
 - REST API endpoint for integration with form input systems

RESULT

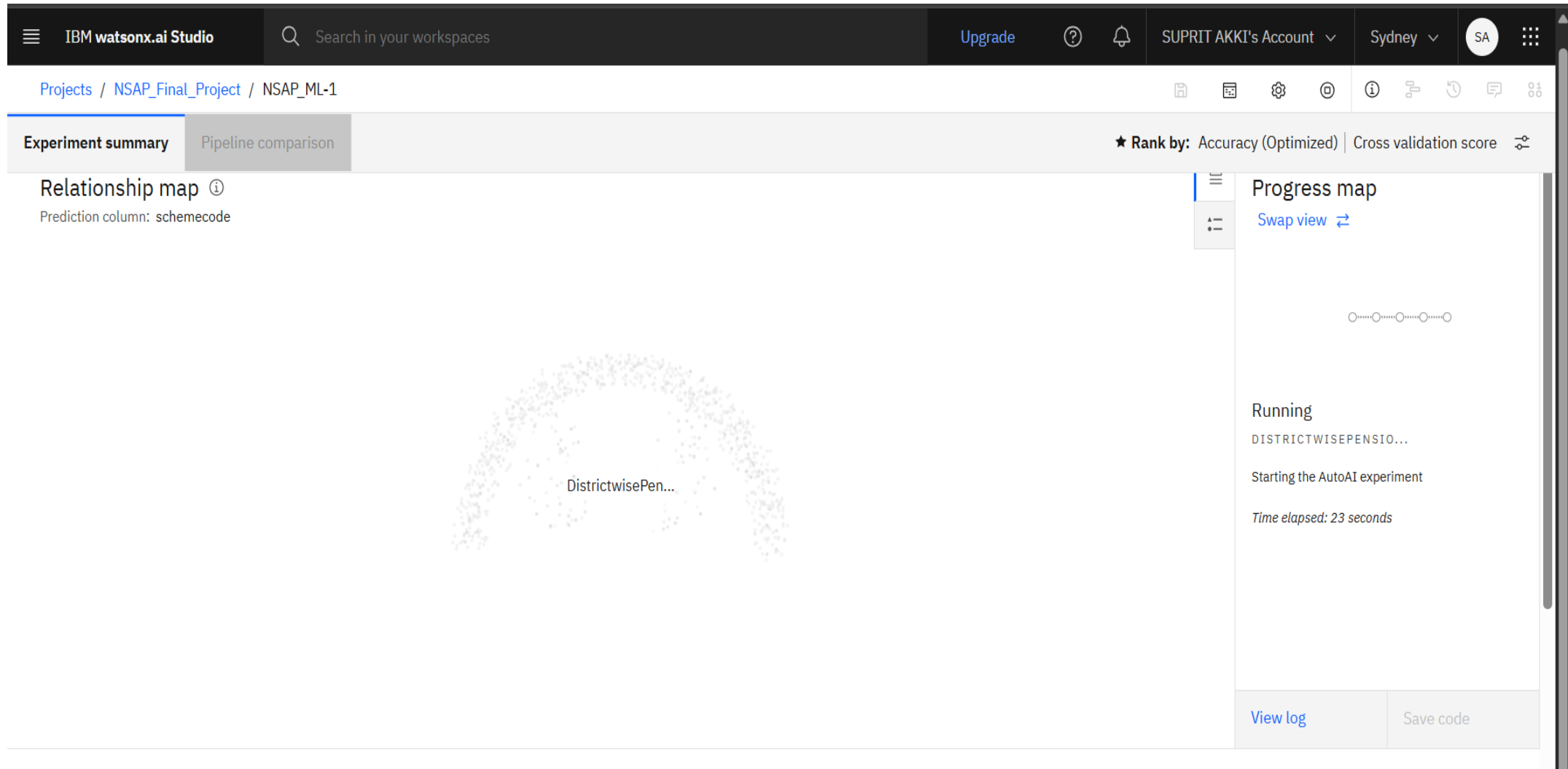


Fig 1.1 – Project Initialization in IBM Watsonx.ai Studio

RESULT

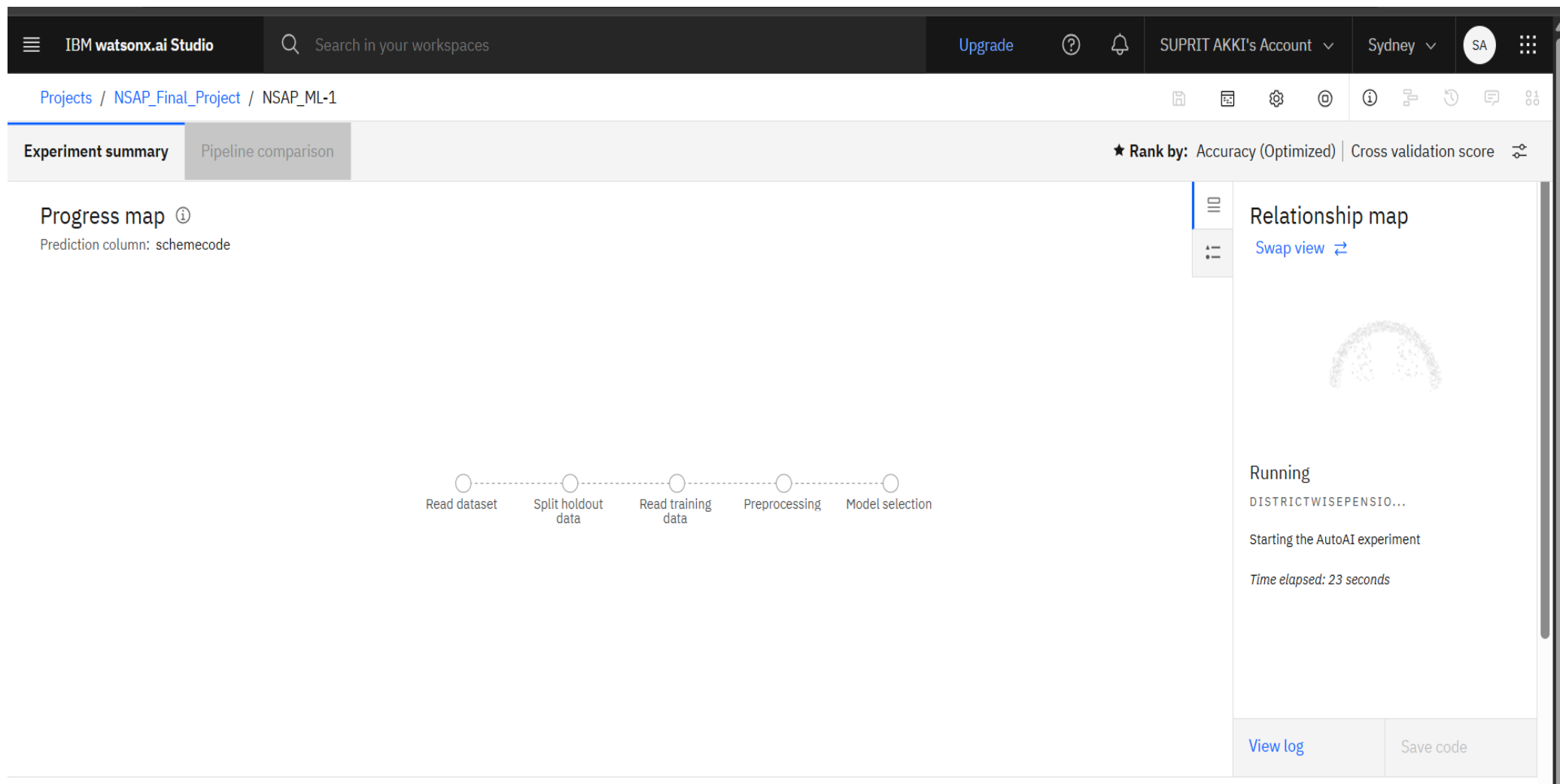


Fig 1.2 – Workflow: Data Processing to Model Selection

RESULT

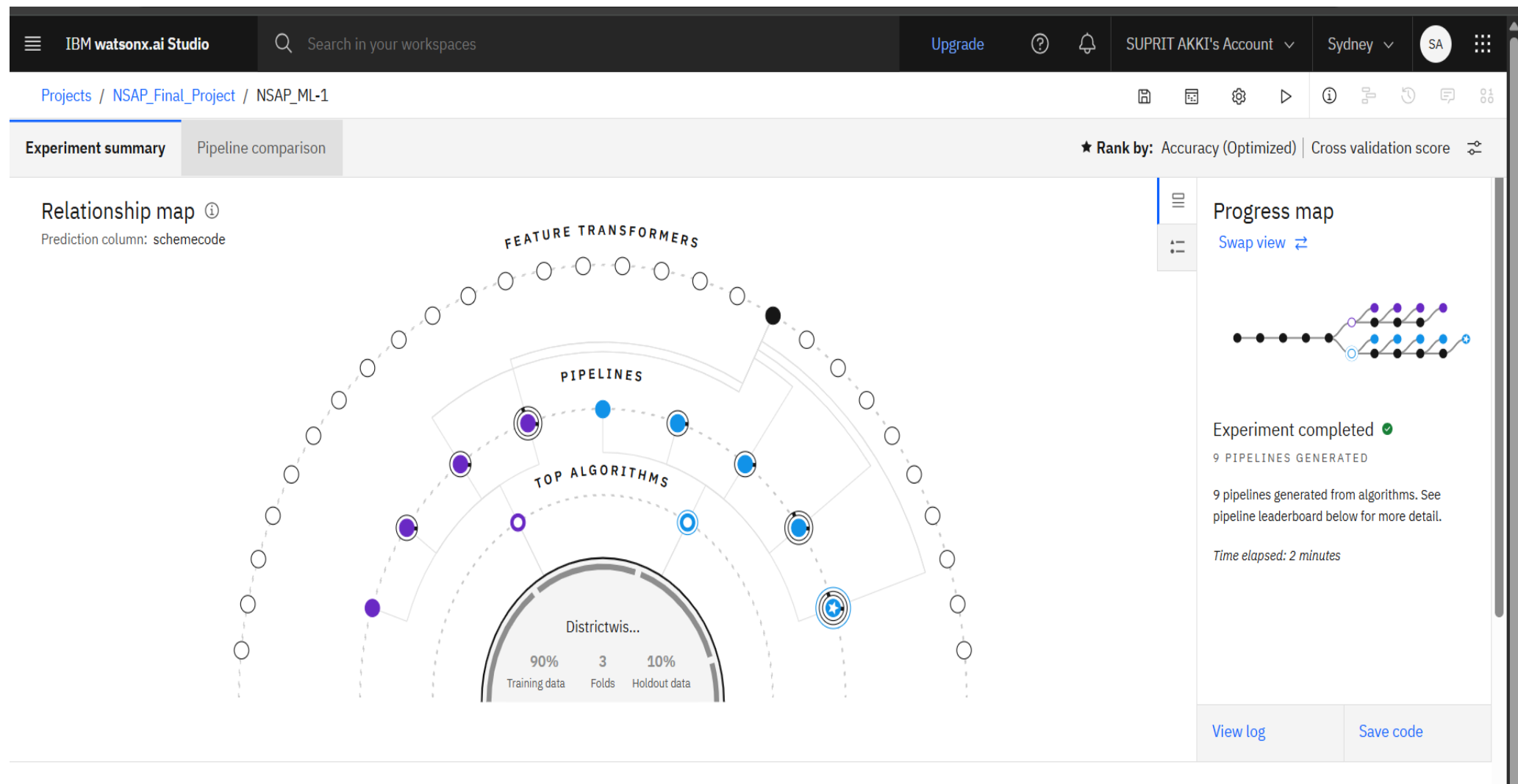


Fig 1.3 – Feature Relationship Map

RESULT

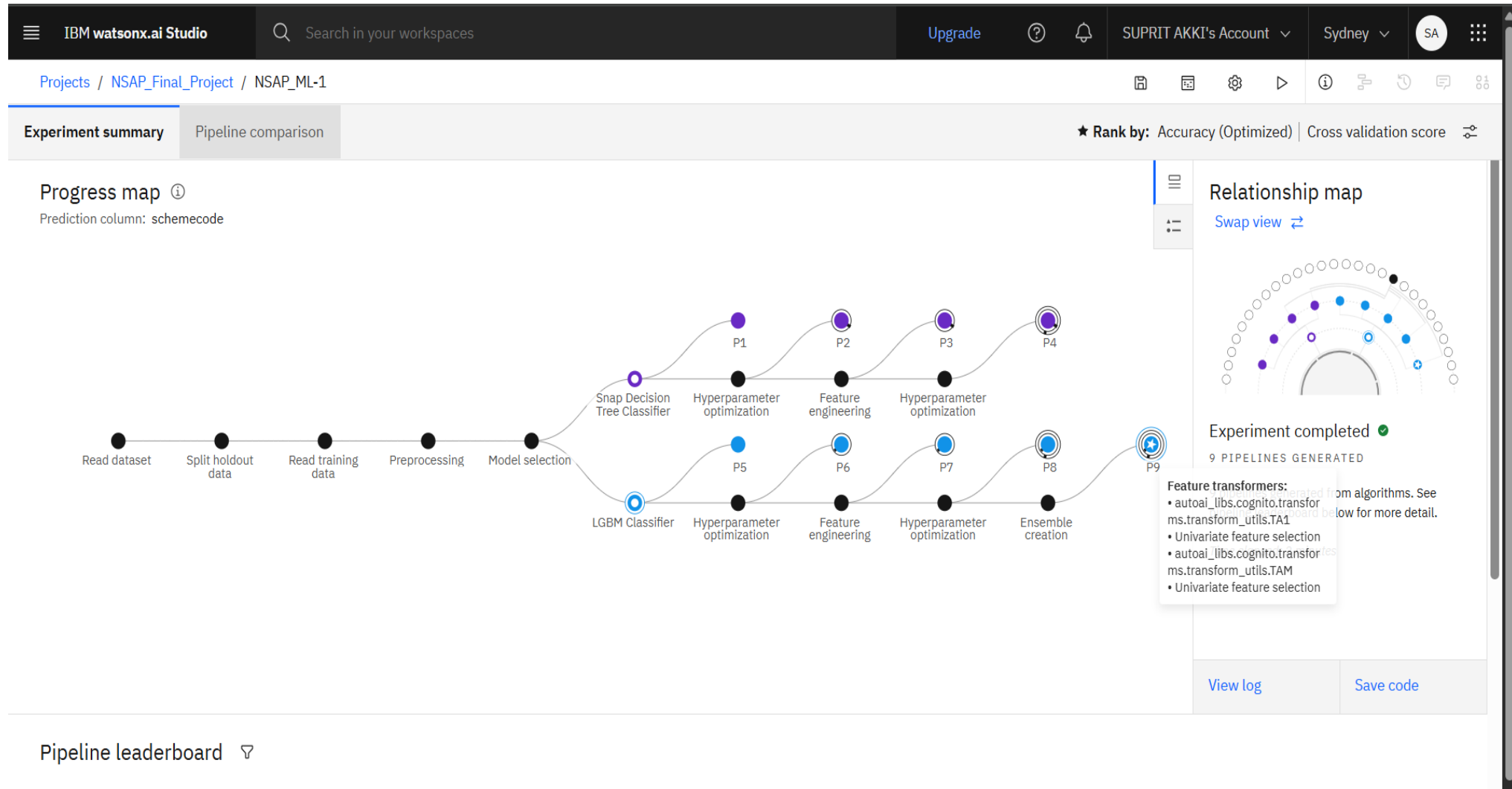


Fig 1.4 – Completed Progress map Model

RESULT

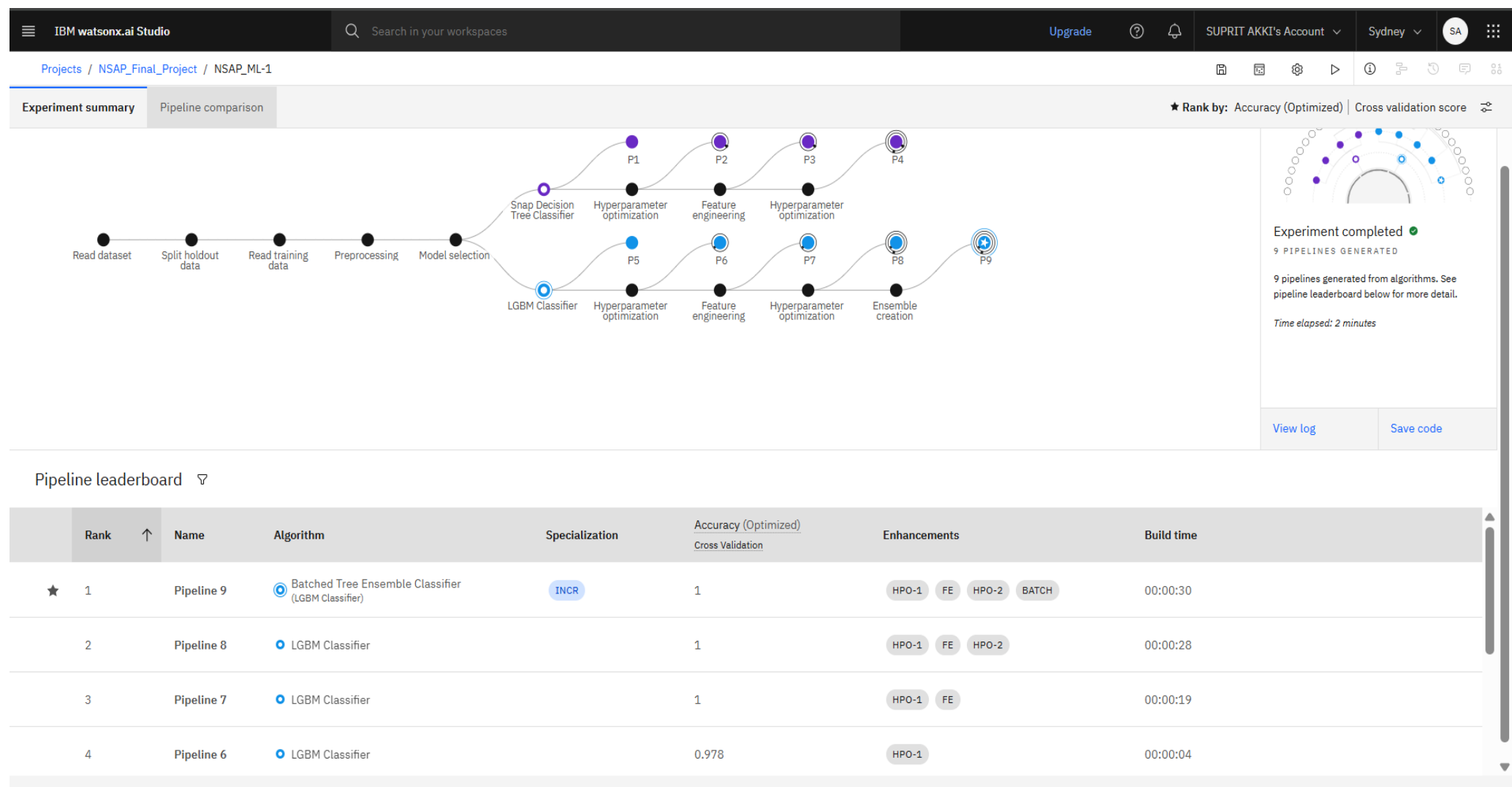


Fig 1.5 – Model Comparison & Performance Leaderboard

RESULT

NSAP_Deploy-2 ✓ Deployed Online

API reference

Test

Enter input data

Text

JSON

Enter data manually or use a CSV file to populate the spreadsheet. Max file size is 50 MB.

[Download CSV template](#) ↓

[Browse local files](#) ↗

[Search in space](#) ↗

[Clear all](#) ×

	finyear (other)	lgdstatecode (double)	statename (other)	lgddistrictcode (double)	districtname (other)	totalbeneficiaries (double)	totalmale (double)	totalfemale (double)	totaltransgender (double)
1	2025-2026	1	JAMMU AND KASH	1	ANANTNAG	107	71	52	0
2	2024-2025	2	Karnataka	5	Dharwad	500	50	80	0
3	2025-2026	1	JAMMU AND KASH	1	ANANTNAG	8393	5037	3356	0
4	2025-2026	10	BIHAR	201	KATI HAR	2102	1275	825	2
5	2020-2021	5	Karnataka	5	Belgaum	15236	0	15236	0
6									
7									

Expand 45 columns

Fig 1.6 – Testing Interface for Prediction

RESULT

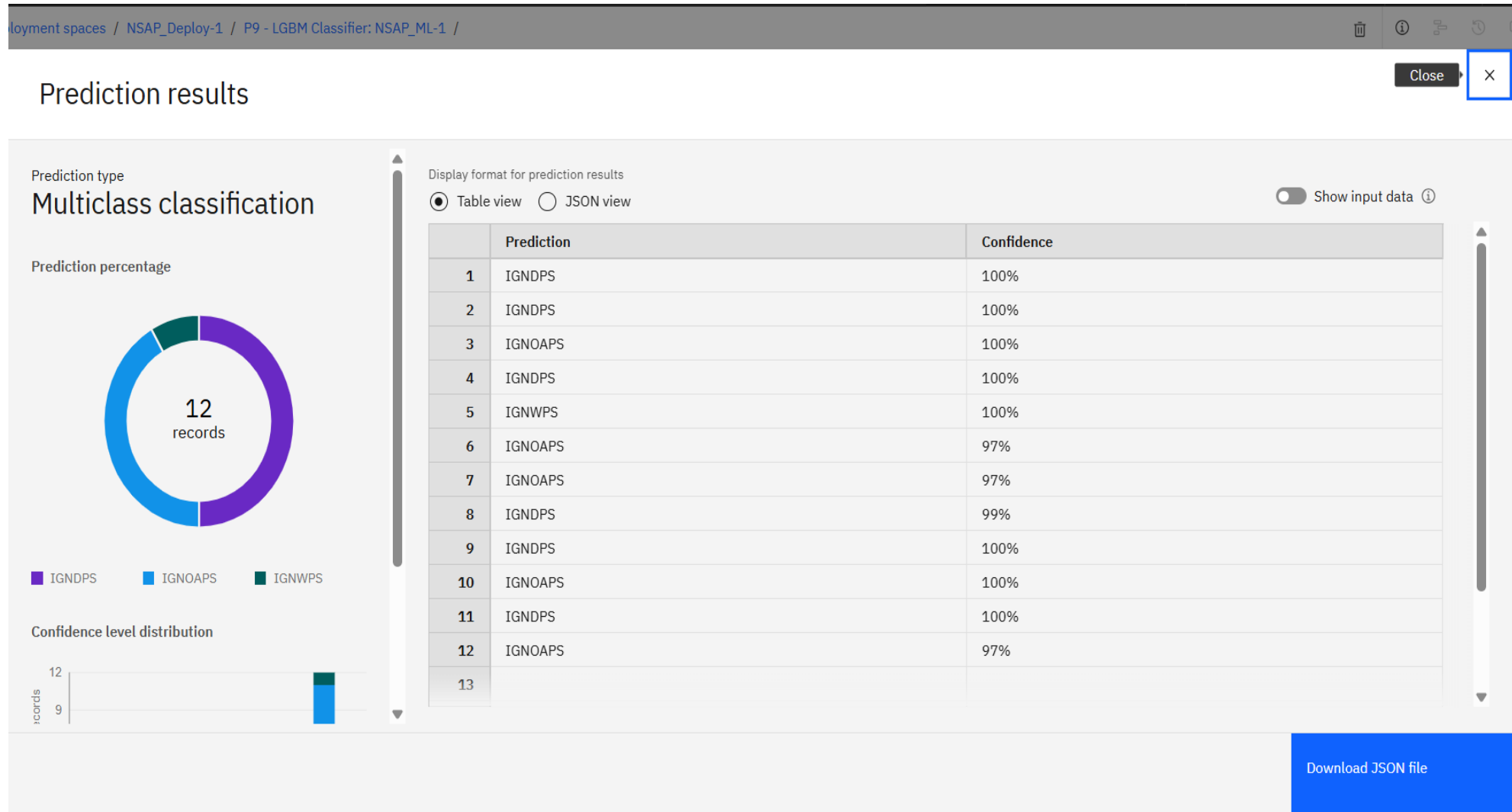


Fig 1.7 – Prediction Output Table

CONCLUSION

- The proposed machine learning solution successfully automated the eligibility prediction for various NSAP schemes using demographic and socio-economic indicators. By leveraging IBM Watsonx.ai AutoAI and cloud deployment capabilities, we achieved high prediction accuracy and end-to-end model integration.

Key Outcomes:

- Accurately predicted scheme eligibility (scheme code) using AI-KOSH data.
- Achieved [insert final accuracy]% accuracy and a strong F1 score.
- Streamlined the welfare scheme allocation process using a fully deployed model on IBM Cloud.
- Eliminated delays and reduced human error in decision-making.

FUTURE SCOPE

1. Real-Time Government Integration

- Integrate the deployed model into **live government portals** or databases (e.g., rural welfare dashboards) for **automated scheme allocation**.
- Enable **real-time eligibility verification** at the point of application.

2. Expansion to More Schemes

- Currently supports **IGNDPS, IGNOAPS, and IGNWPS**.
- Can be extended to include other **NSAP sub-schemes** and related state-specific welfare programs using transfer learning or retraining.

3. Cross-State Generalization

- Enhance the model's robustness by training it on **diverse data** from all Indian states and union territories.
- Helps reduce **bias toward specific districts or regions**.

REFERENCES

- AI-KOSH Open Government Dataset – *District-wise Pension Data under NSAP*
<https://aikosh.indiaai.gov.in/>
- IBM Cloud Documentation – *Watsonx.ai Studio and AutoAI*
<https://cloud.ibm.com/docs>
- NSAP Scheme Guidelines – *Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India*
<https://nsap.nic.in/>
- Scikit-learn Documentation – *Machine Learning Library for Python*
<https://scikit-learn.org/>
- IBM SkillsBuild for Academia – *ML Problem Statement 34*
<https://skillsbuild.org/>

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Journey to Cloud: Envisioning Your Solution



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This certificate is presented to

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According to the Adobe Learning Manager system of record

Completion date: 23 Jul 2025 (GMT)

Learning hours: 20 mins



THANK YOU