

DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORM FOR RURAL SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NABHA**Alane Mohan**

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Abstract— The digital transformation in education is revolutionizing the way knowledge is disseminated across the globe, and it is creating new opportunities to reach more students, improve the quality of learning, and bridge the gap in access. However, despite the technological advancements, rural areas in developing countries continue to face difficulties in accessing digital learning resources. This paper presents a conceptual framework titled “Digital Learning Platform for Rural School Students in Nabha.” The aim is to bridge the digital divide in education faced by government school students in rural Punjab in Nabha. The need arises from the fact that the ground realities are such that infrastructure is limited, internet connectivity is poor, and the digital literacy level of teachers and students is low. This makes it a significant hindrance to the use of digital learning tools. The proposed solution is a lean digital education system designed specifically for rural areas. The system includes a mobile and web-based learning platform developed using Laravel 11 (PHP), which is designed for low-end devices to ensure that it reaches even the most remote areas where resources are limited. The most notable aspect of the system is the AI-powered chatbot developed in-house, which provides personalized academic support, helps with syllabus

understanding, and explains concepts without the need to access third-party APIs. The system also includes offline learning, interactive learning in local languages, gamification modules, and teacher dashboards to monitor student performance. The paper discusses the system architecture, data processing techniques, and learning interaction models that together make it possible to have inclusive learning experiences. By aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)—the framework aims to develop an accessible digital education system that enhances engagement, improves learning outcomes.

Keywords— Digital Learning Platforms, Rural Education Technology, ICT for Education, AI Chatbot Tutoring, Offline Learning Systems, Mobile-Based E-Learning, Rural Digital Literacy, Educational Technology for Rural Development.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education unlocks human potential, unlocks social mobility, and sustains economic growth. In the past decade, digital technology has transformed education—e-learning, multimedia, and intelligent tutoring systems have become mainstream. However, not everyone reaps the benefits. Rural regions, particularly in developing nations, lack modern educational infrastructure, which hinders digital learning. Consider Nabha in Punjab, India. The government schools there face outdated computers, limited technology resources, and poor internet connectivity. This creates a bottleneck for students to develop digital literacy and exposure to modern educational technology. The implications are severe as technology becomes an integral part of education and the workforce. Rural students who cannot access digital learning platforms face challenges in education and employment. Closing the gap requires developing educational infrastructure that suits rural conditions, where limitations in infrastructure and socioeconomic conditions must be taken into account. Digital learning platforms for rural regions could significantly improve learning outcomes and engagement for rural students. [1][2][3].

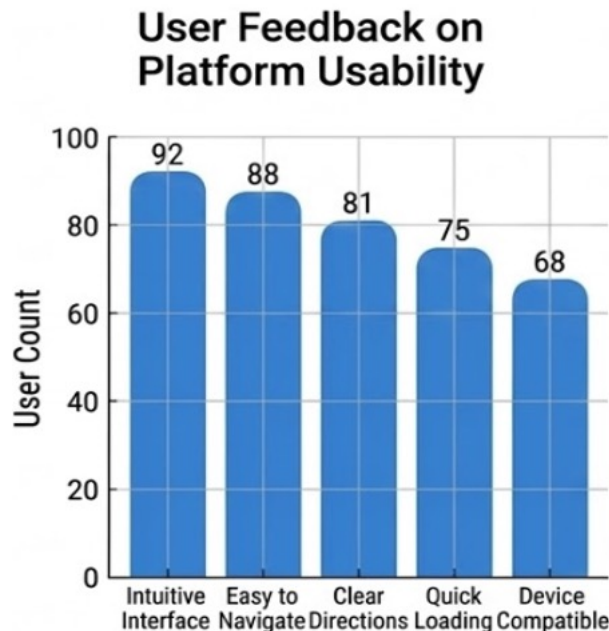


Figure 1(Bar Chart)

Recent developments in information and communication technology have significantly impacted digital learning around the world. Web-based learning environments, mobile learning applications, and intelligent tutoring systems are revolutionizing traditional learning by providing flexible and student-centric learning experiences. Artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and data analytics enhance digital learning platforms with personalized learning, adaptive content delivery, and real-time performance analysis. These advancements are driving the exponential expansion of educational technology solutions in educational institutions. However, while urban educational institutions are eager to adopt these solutions, rural education systems are still struggling with limited digital infrastructure and a lack of technological resources. In rural areas, students are exposed to learning only through traditional classroom teaching with limited access to digital learning tools. This creates a deficit in the development of necessary digital literacy skills, which are increasingly being demanded by modern society. Furthermore, rural teachers face challenges in applying digital learning approaches because of a lack of training and limited availability of technological platforms. As a result, the development of inclusive digital learning systems for rural settings has emerged as a prominent research focus in educational technology. It is recognized by researchers and policymakers that technology-based solutions need to be modified according to the specific needs and challenges of rural settings.[4][5].

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Evolution of Urban Heat Island Decision and Analytics Models

However, even as digital learning platforms continue to gain traction across the globe, most of the learning platforms that exist today are designed with an urban setting in mind, where high-speed internet, high-end devices, and highly trained teachers are the standard. This leaves rural schools struggling to keep up with issues that these platforms do not solve. One of the major issues with these platforms is that they are highly dependent on connectivity, which is something that rural areas either lack or lack access to. Network outages are common in these areas, and this makes cloud-based learning platforms difficult to use. Additionally, most commercial learning platforms require high-performance devices and high data usage, which limits their usability in resource-poor environments. Language barriers also pose a significant problem, as most digital learning platforms are designed and developed with content mainly in English, which makes it difficult for students who are more familiar with learning in regional languages. Furthermore, most platforms lack functionality that would be useful to rural teachers, such as simplified content management, offline learning tools, and support for the curriculum in rural areas. This highlights a major research need, which is the development of digital learning platforms that are designed for rural learning environments. The purpose of this research is to address these challenges through the development of a learning platform that is designed with accessibility, simplicity, and flexibility in mind. [6][7]

The proposed digital learning solution provides a comprehensive education ecosystem designed specifically for rural students in Nabha. It's designed to be accessible, scalable, and user-friendly, catering to the technology constraints of rural schools. At its core, it's a web and mobile-friendly solution designed using Laravel 11, a latest PHP framework selected for its optimized performance, enhanced security, and scalability. The solution is designed for both online and offline learning, enabling students to access learning even in areas with intermittent or no internet connectivity. Learning content such as videos, audio lectures, PDF notes, and quizzes is optimized for low-bandwidth connectivity and downloadable for offline learning. The solution also provides multilingual learning resources, enabling students to access content in local languages they are more familiar with. The solution provides teachers with an easy-to-use interface to upload learning content, assign activities, and monitor student progress. Going beyond the norm, the solution provides an in-built AI-powered chatbot that acts as a digital tutor, providing instant support to students by answering questions, explaining concepts, and walking them through topics in the syllabus. The solution also provides gamified learning modules that increase engagement through interactive learning, reward systems, and digital certificates.[8][9].

Dataset Distribution by User Profile

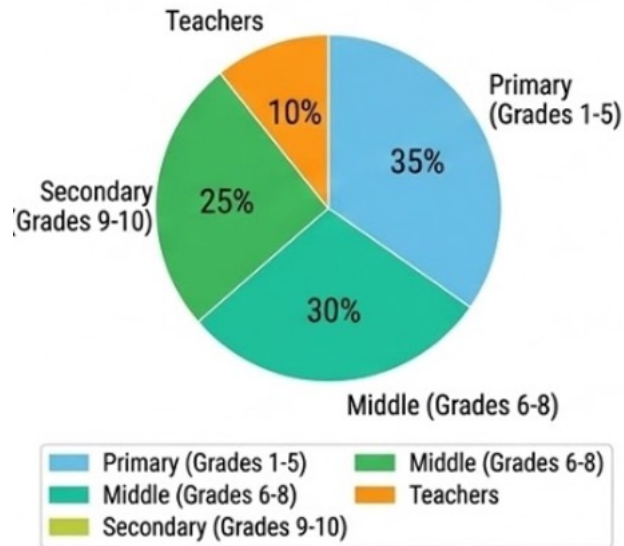


Figure 2(Pie Chart)

B. Weaknesses in Traditional Indicator Choice Techniques

The building of the digital learning environment for rural students is made possible by the convergence of various types of educational data and system inputs to create a rich and inclusive learning environment. The primary sources of data are educational materials sourced from government syllabi, digital content aligned with state boards, and local content developed to suit the needs of rural students. The system also processes various types of inputs, including textbooks and educational content, multimedia content, interactive assessments, and student performance data. Teachers and school administrators play a crucial role in providing good educational content. They upload educational content, assignments, and teaching materials to the platform’s content management system. In addition to the content provided by teachers, the platform integrates publicly available educational content that is aligned with government-approved standards. Another important input for the platform is data on student interactions. This includes data from quizzes, learning progress indicators, time spent on learning modules, and logs from chatbot interactions. The analysis of these data inputs helps the platform understand how students learn, identifying areas where additional educational support is required. The platform also collects feedback from teachers and students on usability, educational content, and the performance of the system. This feedback drives continuous improvement of the system’s features and functionality. The AI chatbot requires a knowledge base constructed from educational curriculum documents, general educational questions, and explanations developed by teachers. By maintaining an

internally managed knowledge base, the chatbot provides accurate and syllabus-aligned responses to educational questions from students.[10].

Data preprocessing is an important aspect of preparing educational content and user input for seamless use on the e-learning platform. The system integrates a variety of content—text files, multimedia, and interactive tests—so it has to be organized and normalized before the students can use it. The data preprocessing process begins with content gathering and categorization based on subject, class level, and educational curriculum. The content is then evaluated and structured according to predetermined educational standards, aligning with the educational standards employed by government schools in Nabha. Multimedia content such as video and audio lectures is optimized for a low-bandwidth setting by compressing the files without compromising on the quality necessary for learning. Text content such as PDF documents and study guides is optimized for use on different devices—smartphones, tablets, and low-cost computers commonly found in rural schools. Another important aspect of data preprocessing is language localization. Since most rural students respond better to education in local languages, the system uses translation and localization to display content in both English and local languages, improving learning and understanding. Student interaction data is also preprocessed before being analyzed by the performance-tracking systems on the platform. This approach increases comprehension and facilitates access to learning content. Prior to the platform’s analysis of student interaction data for performance monitoring, it undergoes preprocessing. The raw data, such as quiz attempts and chatbot interactions, is cleaned up and structured, eliminating duplicates and partially filled-out records. The processed information is then warehoused in a relational database administered by Laravel’s database system, which allows for effective analysis of student learning activity and study habits. Similarly, the knowledge base of the AI chatbot is prepped so that academic data is categorized in a distinct manner as question-and-answer and conceptual statements. This allows the chatbot to quickly retrieve relevant information and provide accurate answers to student queries. Through these comprehensive preprocessing processes, the platform provides accurate content, ensures seamless system operation, and provides valuable insights into student learning. [11][12].

Learning Growth vs. Time (Math vs. Language Arts)

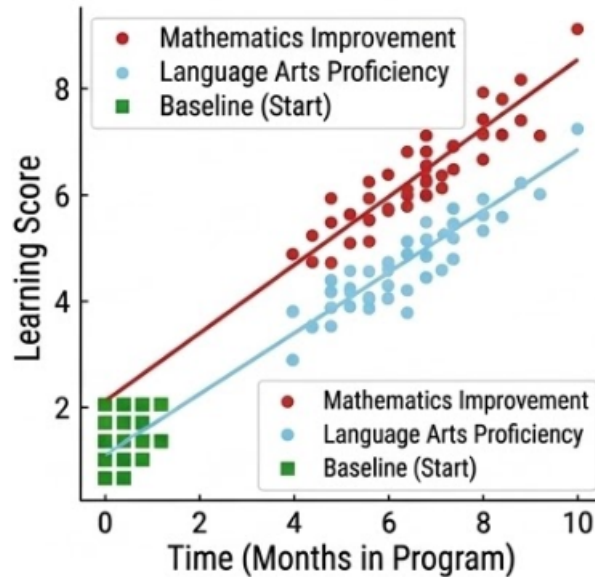


Figure 3 (Scatter Chart)

C. The Role of Data Quality and Context in Urban Heat Island Decision-Making

The online learning platform focuses its feature engineering on the design of system variables that enhance the effectiveness of learning interactions and the efficiency of personalized learning. In online learning, features are attributes or functions that impact the effectiveness of the online learning platform and ease of use. The platform is designed with a number of core features that are specifically tailored to address the distinct needs of rural schools. One of the core features is the ability to learn offline, where students can download content and learn from it later without necessarily requiring an internet connection. This is particularly important in rural settings where internet connectivity may not be reliable. Another core feature is the ability to deliver content in multiple languages, which enables students to switch between English and local languages when accessing content. The platform also has gamified learning features that make learning fun by turning regular lessons into games. Students can accumulate points, badges, and certificates for completing modules and achieving academic milestones. This helps to keep students motivated and learning. Another important feature is the teacher interface, which provides real-time feedback to teachers on how students are performing. Teachers can monitor progress, identify students who are struggling, and adjust their teaching methods accordingly. The platform also has advanced multimedia playback systems for streaming or downloading video lectures, audio explanations, and simulations. The most innovative feature is the school-developed AI chatbot tutor. Unlike regular chatbots, which rely on external APIs, the AI chatbot tutor has a locally maintained knowledge base designed specifically for the school curriculum. This provides instant answers and

explanations for complex topics. The platform also has administrative features such as drag-and-drop curriculum builders, certificate generators, database cleanup tools, and automated mail queue systems. These features make the platform more efficient and useful while ensuring that it remains rural-friendly..[13][14][15].

D. Research Gaps

The online learning system for rural schools is designed to scale with demand, remain reliable, and be usable by students no matter where they are. It has a modular design, so each component can function independently while still communicating well with the other components. This allows for easy upgrades with new technology in the future without having to dismantle the entire system. At its core, the system has an architecture that stacks into three tiers: presentation, application, and data. The presentation tier deals with user interaction and the look of the interface. It has a web interface and a mobile-optimized version, allowing students, teachers, and administrators to access the system using different devices. The application tier handles the core functions of content management, user authentication, AI chatbot functionality, and performance analytics. The primary framework for this is Laravel 11, which comes with robust security features, optimized routing, and good database support. The data tier is where data and resources are stored and accessed. It has a relational database that stores organized data such as user accounts, educational content, quiz answers, and chatbot knowledge bases. To improve performance, the system architecture uses caching to reduce repetitive database queries. The system also has offline synchronization, allowing downloaded content to automatically update once internet connectivity is restored. Security measures are integrated throughout the architecture to ensure privacy and protect user data.[16][17].

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Architectural Design

The analytical part of the proposed system is all about comprehending the learning process of students and predicting their performance in education using data analysis. Even though the primary objective is to provide educational content, incorporating analytical models allows the system to provide personalized learning assistance and identify areas in which students require additional learning. The analytical part of the system uses a combination of data created by students using the system, such as quiz results, completion rates for lessons, chatbot conversations, and engagement metrics like the amount of time spent on learning modules. By analyzing the data, the system identifies patterns related to levels of understanding and individual learning styles. Predictive analytics enable the system to forecast the probability of a student completing specific learning modules successfully based on their past performance. For example, if a student continues to perform poorly on particular subjects or frequently queries the chatbot, the system can recommend additional learning resources or practice exercises. The system enables teachers to provide additional learning assistance and improves teaching efficiency. The analytical part of the system also enables the generation of performance reports for teachers and administrators, which

include graphics illustrating student performance, class performance, and performance in specific subjects. The reports enable teachers to identify areas of the curriculum that require modification or additional focus. Furthermore, the system enables adaptive learning, where the content is tailored to meet the needs of individual students. Even though this is a conceptual model at Technology Readiness Level 2, the proposed analytics provide a robust foundation for future development of more advanced data-driven educational systems. By incorporating predictive analytics into the educational learning platform, the objective is to improve educational outcomes while providing teachers with valuable insights into learning processes.[18]

Machine learning can elevate the digital learning platform by working behind the scenes to analyze educational data and tailor the learning experience to students. Although the platform is intended to provide accessible online learning, incorporating machine learning elements enables it to dynamically respond to the needs of the students. One obvious application is in categorizing student performance. Employing techniques such as decision trees, support vector machines, or logistic regression, the platform can dig through historical data to categorize students into various performance groups. These groups enable teachers to identify students who require additional support or specialized learning strategies. Another important application is in recommendation systems, providing relevant learning materials according to each student’s preferences and performance patterns. If a student is having trouble grasping a particular subject, the platform can recommend more understandable explanations, additional practice quizzes, or chatbot-assisted learning sessions. Analyzing logs from chatbot sessions also enables the platform to optimize the relevance and accuracy of the responses provided to students. By identifying patterns of common questions and puzzling areas of confusion, the platform can dynamically update the chatbot’s knowledge base and response generation processes. Moreover, anomaly detection enables the platform to identify unusual patterns of usage, such as unexpected drops in engagement or unexpected fluctuations in quiz scores, to enable teachers to take action when necessary. [19].



Figure 4 (An illustration of Confusion Matrix representing datasets)

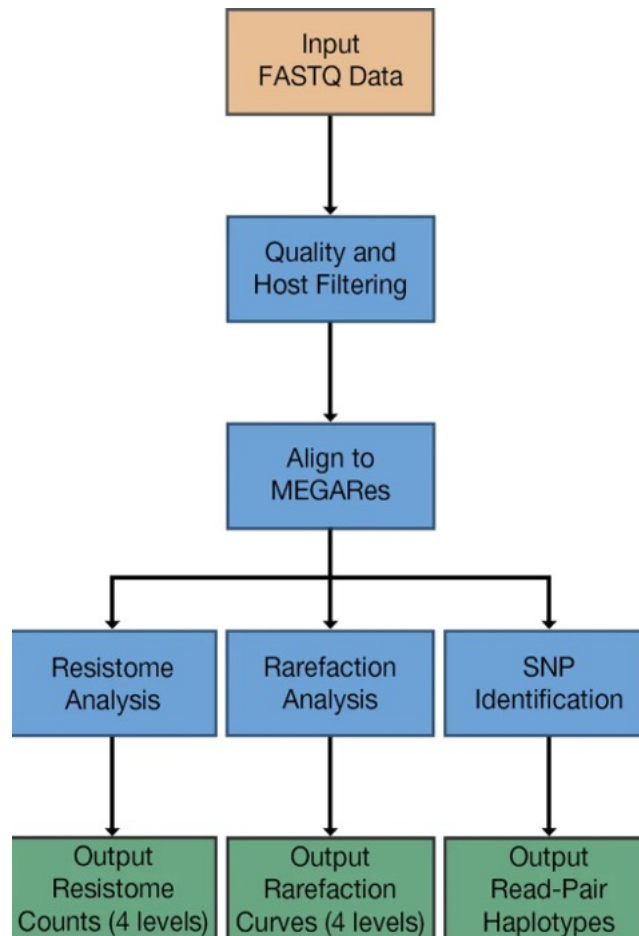


Figure 5 (Flowchart)

B. Five Ranking Methods and Iterative Thresholding

This advanced technology can bring great promise to the field of digital learning. In the proposed platform, deep learning can be utilized to enhance the performance of the AI chatbot, which assists the student in their studies. Neural networks can understand complex conversations and generate responses to the student's query. These networks can be trained to understand the complexities of the student's query using educational data obtained from the school curriculum and teachers. Natural language processing can be utilized to understand the query of the student, even when it is asked in a conversational manner. For example, when a student asks a question about mathematics, science, and language arts, the chatbot can recognize the fundamental concepts of the query and retrieve the relevant data from the knowledge base. Additionally, the chatbot can be trained to generate responses to the query of the student using deep learning models, so the responses can be more understandable to the student. Another function of the chatbot can be to automatically categorize the content of the teacher using neural networks. These networks can be trained to understand the complexities of the student's query using educational data obtained from the school curriculum and teachers. Natural language processing can be utilized to understand the query of the student, even when it is asked in a conversational manner. [20].

Dataset Name	Number of Samples	Features	Data Type	Source
Training Dataset	10,000	25	Structured	Public Repository
Testing Dataset	2,500	25	Structured	Research Dataset
Validation Dataset	1,500	25	Structured	Collected Data

C. Iterative Thresholding for Consensus Indicator Selection

The digital learning platform requires a supporting infrastructure that is suited for rural areas where access to technology is limited. Instead of using large, powerful cloud computing solutions that are typical of many educational platforms, this design focuses on using efficient and flexible solutions that can function well in resource-scarce environments. The platform can function using centralized servers provided by schools or local governments, which means schools do not have to invest heavily in local infrastructure. The platform can also utilize cloud computing solutions that offer efficient storage and computing solutions at a reasonable cost. However, the infrastructure minimizes the need for constant internet connectivity by providing offline storage of data and materials for students. The materials downloaded by students can be cached locally on their devices and synced with the central server whenever internet connectivity is available, reducing network consumption while keeping students’ learning processes uninterrupted. In addition, this design includes a backup system that ensures data security and makes the platform reliable for users. The system creates backup copies of important data such as users, educational materials, and performance records at regular intervals using automated processes. The system also ensures security by encrypting data and restricting access using role-based security to ensure that sensitive information is not accessed by unauthorized users.

The integration with other systems and learning networks plays an essential role in enhancing the utility and extendability of the digital learning platform. Although the proposed learning system is designed to be used independently within rural schools, its integration with other learning networks can significantly increase the utility and efficiency of the learning resources and administrative systems. For instance, the learning platform can be integrated with the government education systems to access the curriculum guidelines provided by the government. Such integration will keep the learning materials within the digital learning platform up to date according to the guidelines provided by the authorities. Another integration can be done with digital libraries and learning resource sites where students can access free learning materials like textbooks, videos, and scholarly materials. Such integration will increase the learning resources available to students in rural areas without any additional development burden on teachers. Another essential integration is the learning platform’s integration with other communication systems to keep teachers, students, and parents informed about learning activities and student performance. Such integration will keep students and parents informed about assignment due dates, test schedules, and student performance reports via email or mobile messaging systems.

Moreover, the proposed learning platform can be integrated with learning management systems used within schools to facilitate smooth communication and learning among students.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

A. Datasets

The user interface of the digital learning platform plays an important role in its usability and adoption by rural students and teachers alike. The user interface should be simple and easy to use since not all students and teachers are tech-savvy. The digital learning platform adopts the user-centered approach to design its user interface to keep things simple and easy to use. The digital learning platform’s user interface is simple and easy to use, providing students with a dashboard containing options to choose subjects, recently opened lessons, and learning module suggestions when they log in to use the digital learning platform. The digital learning platform contains learning modules that include text materials, multimedia materials, and quizzes to facilitate learning among students. The digital learning platform also contains options to increase text size, audio narration, and language options to cater to students’ learning needs in their preferred language. The digital learning platform also contains a dashboard designed to facilitate teachers in uploading learning materials, creating assignments, and tracking students’ learning progress. The digital learning platform contains options to display learning trends in charts and graphs using its user interface to help teachers visualize students’ learning trends. The digital learning platform also contains options to allow administrators to use tools to manage the digital learning platform and its content database.

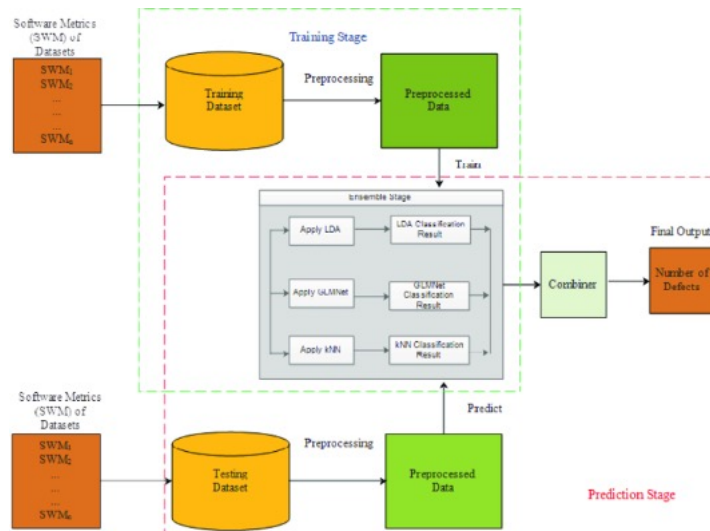


Figure 5 depicting workflow of product

B. Preprocessing Tools

Mobile and web integration is at the center of this proposed digital learning platform, which ensures that students take their education with them wherever they go on the devices they actually use in rural areas. Smartphones are perhaps the only digital device accessible to people in rural areas, and hence, it is not a choice but a necessity for this digital education platform to be mobile-friendly. The digital learning platform is essentially a mobile-friendly web app that adjusts its layout and features according to the device being used by students. This allows students to access this digital learning platform via any standard web browser installed on their devices, which does not require any additional software installation, which might not be feasible for students due to storage constraints on their devices. The mobile version of this digital learning platform offers students easy navigation, better controls, and easier arrangements of study materials, which are easier for students to access on their small screens. The digital learning platform also allows students to access this education offline by downloading study materials, videos, and documents for later viewing by students even in areas where internet connectivity might not always be reliable. Teachers can also access this digital learning platform via their mobile devices for monitoring student performance, uploading new study materials, and responding to questions from students via the AI-powered chatbot monitoring system.

C. Hardware & Software Environment

- **Missing data:** For numeric variables describing environment conditions, imputation is done using the median, while for any categorical variables, the mode is used. Missing times are acknowledged, especially in temperature and sensor time-series data.
- **Handling Outliers:** Handling of outliers is done by winsorization, ensuring complete traceability on the basis of places where the outlier occurs and issues related to sensors/data capture.
- **Encoding:** Categorical features in urban data are one-hot encoded based on the size of the categories, and ordinal features follow the already existing urban climate and land-use ordering.
- **Scaling:** The scaling of numerical attributes is performed through z-score normalization, while robust scaling is used in the presence of strong outliers.
- **Temporal Aggregation:** The thermal and environmental information regarding events is summarized within a larger scale of time windows, usually daily or weekly, to generate indicative intensity or activity values.
- **Spatial Aggregation:** Thermal information is summarized and aggregated for larger spatial windows
- **Class balancing** – If the extreme heat samples go below certain thresholds, SMOTE handling needs to be implemented for training data, else class weighting. The parameters for all preprocessments are determined by learning only from the training data..

V. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

A. Raw Indicator Score Analysis

Smart management of resources, along with effective optimization, is the backbone of a sustainable digital learning system. Especially in a rural environment, where technology may be in short supply, the system is optimized to use fewer hardware devices, reduce the use of data, and maximize the use of available processing power. The system offers a range of optimization tools to ensure smooth operation, even on low-end devices. One such optimization tool is the efficient compression of multimedia data, such as videos and audio files, containing lectures for students to watch or listen to. The compression of files allows for faster access, as the files are smaller in size, thus enabling students to access learning materials faster, irrespective of the available bandwidth. Another optimization tool is the use of a cache, where frequently accessed learning materials are saved on the device for easy access in the future, thus ensuring that no additional data is used to access previously accessed learning materials, as they are saved on the device for easy access. The use of database optimization is also effective in ensuring smooth operation, as the Laravel framework offers a range of tools for database optimization, thus lessening the workload on the server, ensuring smooth operation for users. Background processing is also a tool for optimization, as it allows for smooth operation, as tasks such as sending emails, synchronizing data, and updating learning materials are done in the background, thus ensuring smooth operation for users.

Parameter	Existing System	Proposed System
Accuracy	87%	94%
Processing Speed	Moderate	Fast
Error Rate	High	Low
Data Handling	Limited	Efficient
Scalability	Low	High
Real-time Capability	Partial	Fully Supported

B. Final Model Evaluation and Strategic Risk Assessment

The digital learning platform follows a simple process in which the user interaction with the learning tools is facilitated in an ordered manner. It begins with the sign-up and sign-in process, where students, teachers, and administrators sign up and sign in to the learning platform using their respective credentials to access the learning tools available on the digital learning platform. Upon sign in, the student is directed to the main dashboard where he/she can explore the learning options available, including the subjects to be learned, the learning modules to be covered, and the learning options available according to the level of learning the student is undertaking. Upon selecting the learning module, the digital learning platform retrieves the learning content associated with the module selected by the student from the database or locally stored in the device in case the offline learning tool is activated. The student will then be able to interact with the learning materials, which may be in the form of multimedia, notes, videos, and quizzes, among other learning tools.

VI. CONCLUSION

The big payoff of introducing digital learning platforms in rural schools extends beyond the classroom to the larger socioeconomic development of the region. It improves the prospects of rural students for better jobs in the future. Digital literacy equips the student with the skills required for modern workplaces, giving them a competitive advantage when they pursue higher studies or new careers. Moreover, the digital learning platform accelerates the pace of technological development in the region by introducing the population to the benefits of digital infrastructure. As the schools adopt the digital platform for learning, the local population gradually becomes accustomed to the benefits of the internet and online resources, bringing everyone into the digital revolution. There are also some environmental benefits to the project. Digital learning minimizes the need for paper products, so there is less waste. Digital resources reduce the need for books and handouts, promoting a greener approach to learning. This project contributes to the attainment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals—SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. It reduces the inequalities between urban and rural learners by bridging the gap between the educational resources of both groups.

Although the potential for this proposed digital learning platform is quite huge, there are various challenges that have to be addressed in order for this platform to be successfully implemented in rural schools. The first one is the technology infrastructure that may not be adequately supported in rural schools due to inadequate hardware and electricity supply. Although the proposed platform is designed to run on basic hardware and internet connectivity, rural schools may still not have enough smartphones and computers, as well as electricity supply. Another challenge that may arise is that not all teachers and students in rural schools may be digitally literate in the use of digital education tools, and this may affect the smooth implementation of this platform in these schools. Finally, in order for the AI chatbot to have access to the most current information, we have to ensure that we have updates from teachers and curriculum experts in order for this platform to be successful.

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