Determination of children's nutritional status with machine learning classification analysis approach

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ABSTRACT **Article Info** Article history: Malnutrition is a problem that is often faced by every country around the world. Various facts show that malnutrition is of particular concern to many Received Jul 18, 2023 researchers. To can overcome this problem, every effort has been made such Revised Nov 1, 2023 as developing analytical models in identification, classification, and Accepted Nov 4, 2023 prediction. This study aims to determine the nutritional status of children using the machine learning (ML) classification analysis approach. The methods used in the ML analysis process consist of cluster K-Means, artificial Keywords: neural network (ANN), sum square error (SSE), pearson correlation (PC), and decision tree (DT). The dataset for this study uses data on child nutrition cases Analysis model that occurred in the previous and was sourced from the provincial general Classification hospital (RSUP) M. Djamil, Padang, West Sumatera. Based on the research Knowledge based system presented, ML performance in the nutritional status classification analysis Machine learning gave maximum results. These results are reported based on the level of Malnutrition precision with an accuracy of 99.23%. The results of the analysis can also present a knowledge-based nutritional status classification. This research can contribute to and update the analytical model in determining nutritional status. The results of this study can also provide benefits in handling nutritional status problems that occur in children. This is an open access article under the <u>CC BY-SA</u> license.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Malnutrition is a case of imbalance that occurs between food intake and energy needs in the human body [1]. Cases of malnutrition can affect anyone, including children, adolescents, adults and even the elderly [2]. Malnutrition cases also provide gaps or opportunities to be attacked by various diseases such as stunting, anemia, and others [3], [4]. This case is also indicated as a result of a lack of information in understanding the causes of malnutrition [5]. So with this it is necessary to have a process of analyzing malnutrition status which is measured based on indicators determining the level of nutritional status [6].

Indicators in determining nutritional status basically use parameters of human size, shape, and proportion [7]. Previous research also explained that nutritional status is determined by taking physical measurements based on body mass index (BMI) [8]. Furthermore, physical examination or what is known as the anthropometric approach including measuring height and weight is an indicator in determining malnutrition status [9]. The form of measurement by calculating the weight index based on age, weight based on height and height based on age through the Z-Score is a process in determining nutritional status [10].

With this explanation, the determination of nutritional status can be implemented into the classification process. Previous research explained that the classification process for malnutrition status using

the K-Nearest Neighbor algorithm gave a classification result of 85.24% [11]. The application of the data mining classification analysis model is also able to predict nutritional status by producing solutions that can be used as information [12]. The application of other data mining concepts has also been developed in determining nutritional status using datasets from the results of physical measurements [13]. Data mining techniques in classification and clustering analysis can predict the nutrition of children under 5 years based on height and weight according to age [14]. The development of a classification analysis model in other forms has also been developed with the concept of an expert system using the forward chaining method in determining nutritional status [15]. So that in this case the classification analysis process based on the indicators used gives effective results in determining nutritional status [16].

Based on the history of previous research, this study will also carry out a classification analysis process in determining nutritional status. The analysis process is carried out by developing an analytical model of the machine learning (ML) approach. Previous studies explained that the application of ML is used to predict malnutrition status in toddlers [17]. ML is used as a tool to assist humans in making decisions [18]. ML performance results in a good level of accuracy in the identification process using supervised concepts [19]. Other experimental results show that ML by classifying an intelligent system has good results compared to other methods [20]. The ML classification process presents a model that is able to evaluate the learning process against a data set [21]. Based on previous ML research reports, this study proposes to optimize ML performance in the process of analyzing nutritional status classification. The goal achieved is to develop a classification analysis model to present much better results than before. The development of the ML classification analysis model is presented at the initial pre-processing stage and the learning process.

The pre-processing development stage will produce an optimal analysis pattern. The pattern is generated by conducting tests to measure the strength of each indicator variable using the sum square error (SSE) and pearson correlation (PC) methods. SSE performance can calculate the error rate based on the data pattern formed [22]. Not only that, but SSE is also able to provide stability in analyzing patterns in classifying [23]. In addition to SSE, the PC method also plays an important role in measuring the performance of analytical indicators [24]. The PC method has been proven to be able to present a correlation level relationship between variables [25]. With the performance of the SSE and PC methods, the resulting classification analysis pattern will be able to provide an optimal pattern in determining nutritional status.

The ML learning process stage was developed to present precise and accurate analysis results. Learning outcomes can support the performance of the analysis model in classifying. The ML learning process uses the artificial neural network (ANN) method and the decision tree (DT) method. In principle, ANN is one method that is widely used to carry out the classification process. ANN is also used in solving complex problems by imitating how the human brain works [26]. The application of ANN in carrying out classification analysis has been able to provide a fairly good contribution [27]. ANN adopts a learning process using a modified feedforward algorithm based on network architectural patterns [28]. Not only the ANN method and the DT method are also proposed to provide an overview of decision trees in determining nutritional status. The DT method is capable of presenting knowledge-based patterns of analysis [29]. DT performance can turn facts into information and knowledge [30]. Overall the performance of the DT method in the classification analysis process will provide maximum results [31].

Based on this explanation, this research aims to develop an ML classification analysis model for determining nutritional status. The development of this analytical model is aimed at presenting an effective and efficient classification process. The analytical model developed will also provide updates to the analysis process on ML performance. This update can have an impact on the performance of ML learning by modifying an algorithm. The results of ML development can later be expected to provide precise and accurate output based on a fairly good level of accuracy. Overall, this research can provide contributions and benefits in handling and control in monitoring the development of nutritional status cases for the hospital and other interested parties.

2. METHOD

In carrying out the classification analysis process for determining nutritional status in children, the concept of ML is adopted to provide maximum output. Machine learning has a pretty good performance in dealing with classification analysis problems [32]. Machine learning also provides a fairly good description of the analytical model in the case of classification [33]. Machine learning can be applied in a model of this research framework in carrying out the analysis process of determining nutritional status. The description of the research framework can be presented in Figure 1.

Figure 1 is a research framework presented in the model for carrying out classification analysis. This model was developed to maximize ML performance to provide optimal analysis results. ML development performance is presented in 2 process stages, preprocessing and classification analysis. In more detail, the process stages can be explained as:

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- Preprocessing analysis: The preprocessing analysis stage aims to produce the best analysis pattern in determining nutritional status. This process is presented in data clustering with the performance of the K-Means algorithm which is optimized using the sum square error (SSE) and pearson correlation (PC) methods. K-Means optimization was carried out to test the resulting analysis pattern based on the error rate and correlation between the analysis variables. The analysis pattern produced in preprocessing will maximize the performance of classification analysis in determining nutritional status.
- Classification analysis: The classification process in determining nutritional status will play the role of the ANN and DT methods in presenting the best output results. The analysis process will carry out learning based on previously obtained analysis patterns. The learning process is presented at the ANN training and testing stages as a form of classification analysis process. DT will also contribute actively in presenting analysis output which can be used as a knowledge-based system for determining nutritional status. Overall, the development of this analytical model can present a new algorithm for the classification process for determining nutritional status.

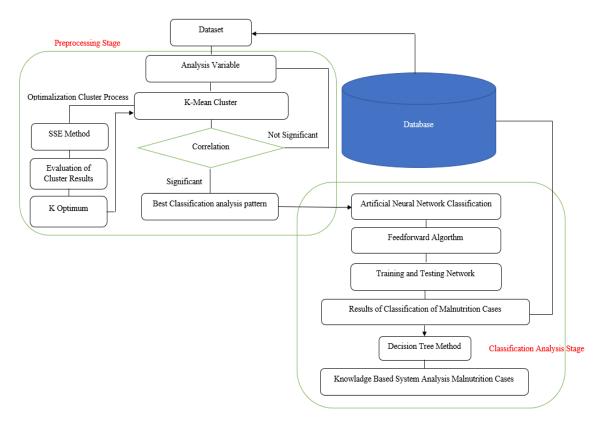


Figure 1. Research framework

2.1. Dataset

The research dataset in determining nutritional status uses data from medical examination results on children sourced from the M. Djamil Padang Provincial General Hospital (RSUP) in 2022. The analysis variables used in the dataset are Gender (X1), Age (X2), Weight (X3), and Height (X4). The sample research dataset can be presented in Table 1.

Table 1 is a presentation of the research dataset in the classification process to determine nutritional status. The dataset includes 20 samples from the 576 total data used in this research. The entire dataset will later be involved in the classification process in determining nutritional status.

Table 1. Sample research dataset					
Patient	Gender	Age	Tall body	Weight	
Patien 1	P	19	47.1	4.4	
Patien 2	P	6	32	3.6	
Patien 20					
	Р	4	36	2.8	

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2.2. K-Mean cluster

The basic concept of this method is very simple determining the number of clusters (k) and continuing to calculate the distance between each data [34]. The K-Mean performance process groups data into clusters based on the specified distance [20]. In the resulting performance, K-Means presents the cluster center value by calculating the new centroid until it is found that the value has not changed [35]. The working concept of the cluster method in calculating the distance from each data to the cluster center is presented in (1).

$$d(x,y) = \left| |x - y| \right| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - y_i)^2} ; i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$$
(1)

According to (1) explains that d(x,y) is the process of calculating the centroid point with the point of each object using euclidean distance. Each data will later be measured using the euclidean distance in determining the cluster point. The results presented by the cluster method can form an analysis pattern.

2.3. Sum square error

The SSE method calculates the accuracy of distance measurements in calculating the total difference from the actual value. The SSE value can be used as a parameter in measuring the error level in a pattern [36]. Calculate the centroid value of the SSE, can be seen from (2) [37].

$$SSE = \sum_{i=0}^{k} (Xi - Yi)^2$$
 (2)

According to (2) explains that SSE is a calculation to assess the error of an analysis process. The X value is the actual value and the Y value is the value to be achieved. SSE method used to measure the difference between the data obtained with the prediction model that has been done before. SSE is often used as a research reference in determining optimal clusters [38].

2.4. Person correlation

Pearson correlation is a statistical concept that is capable of performing calculations in carrying out a measurement process [39]. PC can be combined with several methods to provide better performance results [40]. PC-based techniques can also be used to select optimized features in reviewing output from a model [41]. The PC calculation can be presented in (3) [42].

$$P X, Y = \frac{E (XY) - E (X)E (Y)}{\sqrt{E (XX) - E.E(X)}\sqrt{B (Y.Y) - E.E (Y)}}$$
(3)

According to (3) explains that the value of cov (X, Y) is the covariance between X and Y. The value of X, Y is the standard deviation value of the variables X and Y. The value of E (X) is an expected value of X [42].

2.5. Artificial neural networks

ANN is a branch of science with the concept of an information processing paradigm inspired by the biological nervous system, such as information processing in the human brain. ANN is a method that can be used in carrying out the classification process by presenting a fairly good level of performance [43]. ANN performance provides the maximum level of results in dealing with problems such as identification, classification, and prediction [44], [45]. Based on the concept that has been explained, ANN can carry out learning by adopting a series of mathematical calculation processes [46]. Learning can be modified in a model that is applied in the form of an algorithm to produce decisions [47]. The model is presented in an architectural pattern based on the input layer, hidden layer, and output layer [48]. Overall the concept of ANN aims to provide optimal output from the learning process carried out [49].

2.6. Decision tree

Previous research reviews describe the decision tree method used to produce a decision tree. The results of DT performance are used to train machine learning by producing decision trees that produce a classification of 93% accuracy values obtained [50]. In another discussion, the DT method is also applied to supervised machine learning [51]. The performance of the DT method provides output with an accuracy rate of 99% [52].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The process of classification analysis in determining nutritional status is carried out by developing the preprocessing analysis stage and the learning analysis stage. This development can present maximum output

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results. In the preprocessing analysis stage, development is carried out by optimizing the performance of cluster processes in producing analysis patterns. The optimization process is presented in two directions, namely determining the optimal K value and measuring the error rate using the SSE method. The results of the preprocessing analysis experiments that have been carried out can be presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2 is the result of preprocessing analysis experiments to produce classification analysis patterns. Based on these tests, it can be seen that Figure 2(a) presents the results of experiments to determine the optimal K value. Optimal K value = 3 based on the resulting elbow graph. Figure 2(b) presents the cluster results based on the K values obtained. Apart from that, Figure 2(c) also presents the error rate of cluster processing results for each K value with SSE calculations. Based on these results, it can also be seen that the SSE value with K=3 has a minimal error rate among other experiments. Thus, the results of the clustering process can be presented in Table 2.

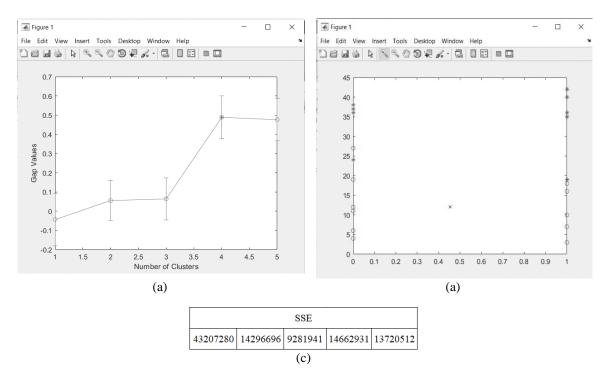


Figure 2. Preprocessing analysis results presented include: (a) K-mean elbow graph, (b) cluster analysis results, and (c) SSE calculation results

Table 2. Cluster analysis results						
No	Gender	Age	Tall body	Weight	Status	
1	F	19	47.1	4.4	Good nutrition	
2	F	6	32	3.6	Good nutrition	
3	Μ	7	30	4.2	Good nutrition	
4	F	4	36	2.8	Good nutrition	
5	F	11	51	5.6	Good nutrition	
6	Μ	3	41	3.6	Good nutrition	
7	Μ	10	35	3.3	Good nutrition	
8	Μ	18	45	3.7	Good nutrition	
9	М	40	55	5.1	Malnutirition	
10	Μ	42	61	7.2	Malnutirition	
11	М	19	68.7	8.2	Malnutirition	
12	F	27	34.2	4.2	Good nutrition	
13	F	36	57.9	5.1	Malnutirition	
14	F	37	67.7	7.2	Malnutirition	
15	Μ	16	41	3.7	Good nutrition	
16	М	35	45	17	Malnutirition	
17	М	36	60	4.2	Malnutirition	
18	F	38	67.9	8.1	Malnutirition	
19	М	50	66	59	Obesity	
20	М	35	60	62	Obesity	

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Table 2 presents the results of the cluster analysis which will become a pattern of classification analysis in determining nutritional status. The analysis pattern will later be measured again to ensure the accuracy of the analysis variables. Measurement of pattern analysis involves the performance of the PC method as the final stage of the development of preprocessing classification analysis. The performance results of the PC method can be presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Pearson correlation analysis results							
Correlations							
		Gender	Age	Tall_body	Month	Case	
Gender	Pearson correlation	1	0.625	0.654	0.792	0.587	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		0.599	0.820	0.212	0.220	
	Ν	20	20	20	20	20	
Age	Pearson correlation	0.625	1	0.749^{**}	0.487^{*}	0.707	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.599		0.000	0.029	0.978	
	Ν	20	20	20	20	20	
Tall_body	Pearson correlation	0.654	0.749^{**}	1	0.393	0.773	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.820	0.000		0.087	0.244	
	Ν	20	20	20	20	20	
Month	Pearson correlation	0.792	0.487^{*}	0.393	1	0.715	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.212	0.029	0.087		0.363	
	N	20	20	20	20	20	
Case	Pearson correlation	0.587	0.707	0.773	0.715	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.220	0.978	0.244	0.363		
	N	20	20	20	20	20	

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 3 is the result of measuring the PC method to ensure the correlation between the analysis variables in the classification of nutritional status. Based on these results it can be seen that the Gender variable (X1) has a correlation level of 0.587 to Case (Y). Age variable measurement (X2) also has a correlation level of 0.707 to Case (Y). furthermore the Tall_Body variable (X3) also has a fairly good correlation of 0.773 with Case (Y). The Month variable (X4) in the analysis results is also able to present a correlation of 0.715 to Case (Y). Thus it can be concluded that the analysis variables used have contributed to the determination of nutritional status. based on the measurement results of the PC method, the analysis pattern can be used as a pattern in the classification process. This pattern will later be forwarded to the process of learning analysis stages using the ANN method. In the ANN analysis process, the process begins with the architectural design of the analysis pattern. The ANN analysis pattern architecture can be seen in Figure 3.

Figure 3 explains that the architecture of the ANN analysis pattern has several interconnected layers including the input layer, hidden layer, and output layer. The input layer consists of 4 input units sourced from the previously used dataset indicators. The input data will later be carried out by a learning process by adopting a feedforward algorithm to get maximum results. The learning outcomes of ANN in the classification analysis process can be presented in Figure 4.

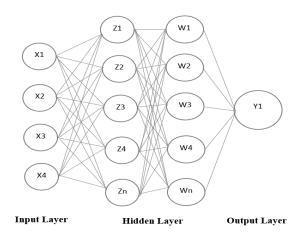


Figure 3. ANN analysis pattern architecture

(4-5-8-10-1)

99.959600

0.040400

Figure 4 is the output of classification analysis results based on the level of validation of the performance of the feedforward learning algorithm. The ANN output results will later be compared with several other output results based on network architecture pattern experiments. The comparison process is carried out to determine the best ANN architectural pattern. The results of this comparison can be presented in Table 4.

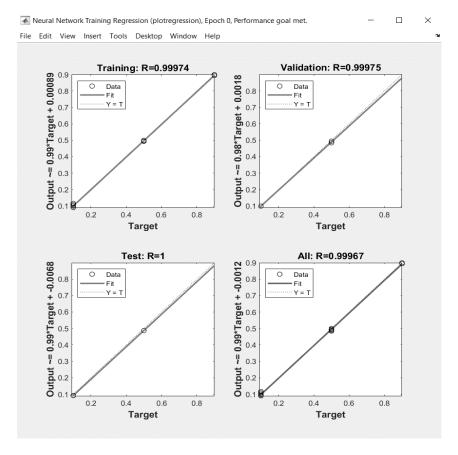


Figure 4. ANN learning validation results

Tuble 1. Determination of the best dreinteetaful pattern								
Single hidden layer								
Architecture	Training			Testing				
Architecture	Accuracy	MSE	Performance	Accuracy	MSE	Performance		
(4-5-1)	99.730700	0.269300	0.002693	99.366950	0.633050	0.006331		
(4-8-1)	99.998400	0.001600	0.001000	99.998400	0.001600	0.001000		
(4-10-1)	99.717400	0.282600	0.002826	99.988600	0.011400	0.003300		
(4-15-1)	99.693400	0.306600	0.001000	99.988500	0.011500	0.007200		
(4-20-1)	98.420400	1.579600	0.001000	99.999446	0.000554	0.003700		
Multi hidden layer								
Architecture	Training MSE			Testing				
	Accuracy	MSE	Performance	Accuracy	MSE	Performance		
(4-5-5-1)	99.944100	0.055900	0.0016	99.997600	0.002400	0.001600		
(4-5-8-1)	99.444500	0.555500	0.000845	99.998600	0.001400	0.000845		
(4-5-5-8-1)	99.893900	0.106100	0.006300	99.997100	0.002900	0.003800		
(4-5-8-8-1)	99.995800	0.004200	0.001400	99.998200	0.001800	0.001400		

Table 4. Determination of the best architectural pattern

Table 4 presents the results of a comparison in determining the best architectural pattern in carrying out a classification analysis. The best architectural pattern has two hidden layers with each unit including 5 and 8. Thus the architectural pattern can be said to be multi-layer hidden. The results of the tests that have been carried out show that the output of the analysis gives an accuracy rate of 99.23% and a mean square error (MSE) value of 0.77%. Based on the test results, it can be concluded that the ANN classification analysis process has presented optimal output in determining nutritional status.

0.008600

99.959600

0.040400

0.004100

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The classification process for determining nutritional status is continued with the analysis stage using the DT method. The performance of the DT method can present output results in the form of knowledge-based. These results will be reflected in a decision tree in dealing with determining nutritional status. The results of the analysis process with the DT method can be presented in Figure 5.

Figure 5 is the result of the analysis of the DT method in determining nutritional status. The results of the experiments that have been carried out get the output of a decision tree graph which is the knowledge base of classification analysis. The graph is also equipped with rules for determining nutritional status based on the resulting rule base. Based on the overall results of the classification analysis experiment with the ML approach, this study has been able to report optimal results of the analysis. These results can be measured with a maximum level of accuracy and minimal error.

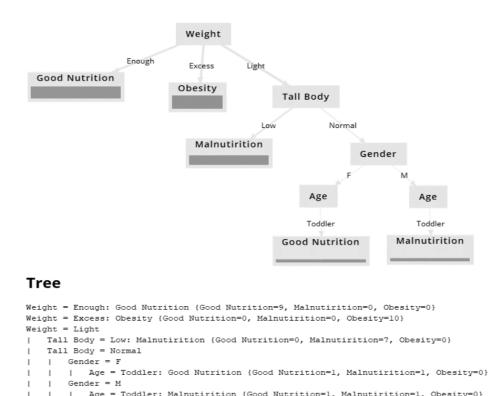


Figure 5. Results of the DT method analysis process

Based on the discussion that has been carried out, the results of this research have been able to present an effective classification analysis process in determining nutritional status. The analytical performance developed has also been able to provide novelty in the ML classification analysis model. This novelty actively contributes to and has a significant impact on ML learning. The results of the analysis output will be used by related parties in handling and monitoring the growth of malnutrition that occurs in children.

4. CONCLUSION

The process of determining nutritional status using the ML approach is able to provide the maximum classification analysis process with the resulting output. This output has been proven to be precise and accurate in determining nutritional status, having an accuracy of 99.23%. based on these results it can be concluded that ML works with a pretty good performance. ML performance is based on the development of an analytical model that presents a novel classification process. This novelty can be seen from the initial preprocessing performance to produce analysis patterns. Another novelty is also presented in the classification process by presenting a knowledge-based system for determining nutritional status based on a decision tree. With the novelty generated in an analysis model, it can be used as an alternative solution in dealing with the problem of determining nutritional status. The resulting classification analysis model is also capable of playing an active role as a media control for handling nutrition cases.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Mrs. Dr. Hj. Zerni Melmusi, SE, MM, Ak, CA as Yayasan Perguruan Tinggi Komputer (YPTK) and Prof. Dr. Sarjon Defit, S.Kom, M.Sc as Chancellor of Universitas Putra Indonesia YPTK Padang who has provided the opportunity for this research. This research was fully funded by Universitas Putra Indonesia YPTK Padang with agreement Nomor: 124/UPI-YPTK/LPPM/P/KP/VII/2023 funding for the 2023 Similitupi Research.

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