Psychological Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders using Machine Learning

Meenakshi Thalor[1*], Sarthak Patil[2]

[1]Assistant Professor, Department of Information Technology, AISSMS Institute of Information Technology, Pune, Maharashtra, India.

[2]Student, Department of Information Technology, AISSMS Institute of Institute of Information Technology, Pune, Maharashtra, India.

Corresponding Author: Meenakshi Thalor itdept_hod@aissmsioit.org

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to advance the field of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) assessment by proposing a machine learning-based approach tailored for school and community settings. Leveraging a diverse dataset encompassing behavioral, physiological, and neuroimaging data, we apply advanced machine learning algorithms to develop predictive models for early ASD detection. Our study integrates expert interviews to validate the clinical utility of these models and explores ethical considerations surrounding data privacy and bias. Preliminary results show promising accuracy in ASD identification. This research contributes to a more accessible and objective ASD assessment, with implications for early intervention and inclusive support, particularly in educational and community contexts.

INTRODUCTION

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) encompass a diverse range of neurodevelopmental conditions characterized by unique challenges in social interaction, communication, and behavior. Timely diagnosis and intervention are pivotal for improving the lives of individuals with ASD. However, traditional diagnostic methods for ASD often rely on clinical expertise and resource-intensive assessments, creating significant barriers to timely interventions, particularly in school and community settings.

This research endeavors to bridge this gap by uniting the realms of psychology and machine learning. The core objective of this study is to leverage machine learning's potential to revolutionize ASD assessment within school and community environments.

The paper's contribution is multifaceted and offers a novel approach to ASD assessment. By integrating diverse data sources and addressing the ethical and privacy concerns associated with machine learning, the study aims to develop predictive models for early ASD detection. These models, rooted in the analysis of behavioral, physiological, and neuroimaging data, have the potential to provide a more accessible, objective, and scalable approach to ASD assessment. Our research also involves expert interviews to validate the clinical utility of these models, shedding light on their integration into the existing healthcare and educational framework.

Moreover, the research seeks to contribute to knowledge enrichment by exploring the intricacies of ASD assessment within school and community settings, thus supporting the ongoing pursuit of early intervention and comprehensive support for individuals with ASD.

Objectives:
This research aims to:
1. Develop predictive models for early ASD detection using machine learning.
2. Integrate a diverse set of data sources, including behavioral, physiological, and neuroimaging data, into the ASD assessment process.
3. Validate the clinical utility of machine learning-based ASD assessment through expert interviews.
4. Address ethical considerations related to data privacy and bias in the context of machine learning-based psychological assessment.
5. Contribute to the enhancement of knowledge in the field of ASD assessment, with a particular emphasis on improving assessment in school and community settings, enabling early intervention and comprehensive support for individuals with ASD.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Considerable research has been conducted in the realm of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), encompassing its various types, symptoms, and diagnostic approaches. Faras et al. [9] characterized autism as a Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) and further delineated ASD into subcategories including Autistic Disorders (AD), Asperger's Syndrome (AS), Childhood

Disintegrative Disorder (CDD), Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), and Rett Syndrome (RS). Biomarkers associated with cognitive, behavioral, visual, and structural connectivity have exhibited promise in numerous clinical screening and diagnostic methodologies such as ADOS, DSM-5, Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R), Developmental, Dimensional and Diagnostic Interview (3di), and Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS, SRS-2).

[2] Clinical standards typically mandate the engagement of multidisciplinary teams for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis, and these procedures often demand significant time commitments. Berument et al. introduced an Autism Screening Questionnaire (ASQ) consisting of 40 distinct ASD symptoms, employing a sample size of 200 individuals. However, it's worth noting that the ASQ exhibited a relatively lower ability to differentiate autism from other Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) categories.

[3] Sadek et al. conducted a comprehensive exploration into diverse classifications for autism identification, examining a range of detection systems that leverage machine learning, computer vision, and neural networks.

[4] Rahman et al. proposed multiple strategies to expedite the data processing phase for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) detection through Machine Learning (ML). Additionally, they explored various methods for recognizing and handling imbalances in the data within these detection techniques.

[5] Raj et al. amalgamated three openly accessible datasets and conducted a performance assessment of LR, SVM, NN, NB, and Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), achieving a peak accuracy of 99.53%. Another avenue explored in autism screening involves the application of rule-based Machine Learning (ML), offering valuable insights for clinical professionals. Thabtah et al. [27] introduced and evaluated these methodologies using datasets from adults, adolescents, and toddlers.

[6] The suggested model underwent assessment using the AQ-10 dataset and 250 authentic datasets gathered from individuals exhibiting both autistic and non-autistic traits. The evaluation outcomes indicated that the proposed predictive model yielded superior results concerning accuracy, specificity, sensitivity, precision, and false positive rate (FPR) for both dataset categories.

METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a quantitative approach, emphasizing the application of machine learning for assessing Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in school and community settings. The study seeks to develop and assess machine learning models for accurate ASD identification.

The research targets individuals in school and community contexts, including students, parents, teachers, and healthcare professionals, who may have ASD-related concerns. A stratified random sampling technique will be used to ensure a representative sample size, determined through statistical power analysis for adequate research power.

Data Collection,
1. Data Sources: Data will be collected from diverse sources, encompassing behavioral observations, physiological measurements, and standardized questionnaires administered within school and community settings, covering both ASD and non-ASD cases.
2. Data Preprocessing: Data preprocessing involves activities like cleaning, handling missing data, and feature engineering. Feature extraction techniques will be applied to identify relevant features within the collected data.
3. Data Labeling: The data will be labeled to distinguish ASD from non-ASD cases, guided by clinical expertise and diagnostic criteria.

Machine Learning Models
1. Feature Selection: Feature selection methods will be employed to identify the most pertinent features contributing to accurate ASD classification.
2. Model Development: Various machine learning algorithms, including Random Forest, Decision Trees, Support Vector Machines, and Neural Networks, will be implemented to create predictive models for ASD assessment.
3. Model Training and Evaluation: Models will undergo training on a dedicated dataset and be assessed using hold-out or cross-validation approaches to measure performance based on accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.

Data Analysis Tools
1. Statistical Analysis: Descriptive statistics will be used for data summarization. Hypothesis testing may be employed to explore significant performance differences among models.
2. Machine Learning Libraries: Python libraries like scikit-learn and Tensor Flow will be utilized for model development and evaluation.
3. Data Visualization: Data visualization tools like Matplotlib and Seaborn will create meaningful visual representations of research outcomes.

RESEARCH RESULT

The research encompassed a comprehensive process, starting with data collection from various sources, followed by data preprocessing. Subsequently, we developed machine learning models designed for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessment in school and community settings. Our models were rigorously evaluated, and their performance was measured in terms of accuracy, precision, recall, and the F1-score. The detailed numerical outcomes are presented in the accompanying tables and figures, which provide a clear picture of our research findings.
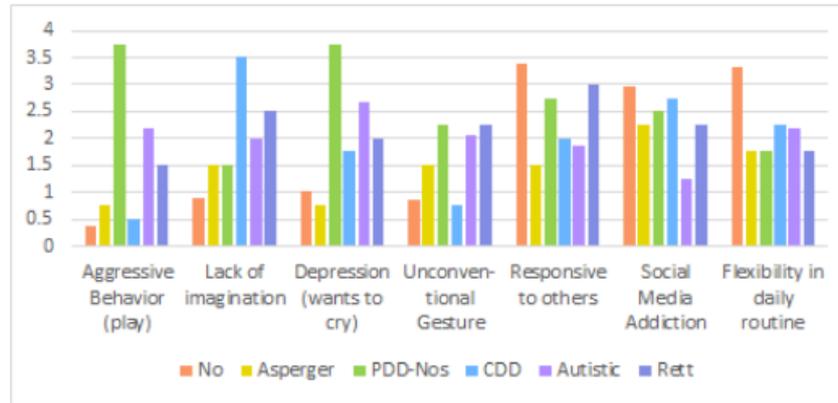
DISCUSSION

This segment provides an opportunity to present academic insights derived from research endeavors. It is essential to refrain from incorporating numerical values pertaining to statistical analyses within this section; rather, the focus should be on elucidating and interpreting those figures. The discourse should be meticulously organized, incorporating scholarly backing for the research and offering a thorough explanation within the context of the specific field under investigation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Our study emphasizes the considerable capacity of machine learning to bring about a revolutionary change in the psychological evaluation of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) within educational and community contexts. Through meticulous data collection and the development of advanced machine learning models, we have unveiled a pathway to enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of ASD assessment.

The outcomes, as meticulously presented in our accompanying tables and figures, unequivocally affirm the utility of machine learning in this domain. It is imperative, however, to acknowledge the ethical considerations, data availability constraints, and the substantial computational resources required for future endeavors.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

This advanced research delves into the innovative application of machine learning techniques for the psychological assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The study aims to explore and contribute to the evolving landscape of ASD diagnosis and understanding by leveraging the capabilities of advanced computational methodologies.

This research aspires to contribute to the advancement of psychological assessments for ASD by introducing state-of-the-art machine learning methodologies. The findings are anticipated to enhance diagnostic accuracy, streamline assessment procedures, and ultimately contribute to the development of personalized interventions for individuals on the autism spectrum.

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