

A Novel Self-Organizing Map (SOM) With Data Mining Model for Formulation of Vocational Education Policies

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Abstract

Data mining is a process of extracting valuable and previously unknown patterns, insights, and knowledge from large datasets. data mining techniques enable the analysis of educational data to inform multi-level vocational education policies that contribute to regional sustainable development. By leveraging the power of data, policymakers can make evidence-based decisions, align vocational education with regional needs, and enhance the effectiveness and relevance of vocational education programs in promoting sustainable development. In this paper proposed an Associative Rule Kohonen SOM (AR-KS) for multi-level vocational educational policies assessment for sustainable development. Initially, the proposed AR-KS model collects relevant data, including information on vocational education programs, student performance records, regional development indicators, and policy documents. This data is then preprocessed to ensure consistency and quality. The next step involves training a Kohonen SOM using the preprocessed data. The SOM forms a topological map where each neuron represents a unique combination of policy variables and regional development factors. This map captures the multidimensional relationships among the variables and provides a visual representation of the policy space. The relationship between the patterns is computed with the associative rule-based training of SOM between variables. The analysis of the AR-KS framework allows policymakers to assess the impact of different vocational education policies on sustainable development goals. Overall, the proposed AR-KS framework offers a novel approach for assessing multi-level vocational educational policies in the context of sustainable development.

Keywords: Data Mining, associative rule, Self-Organizing Maps (SOM), Data Patterns, Rule-based, Sustainable Development.

I. Introduction

Data mining is a field that emerged from the intersection of several disciplines, including statistics, machine learning, and database management [1]. It gained prominence as organizations started collecting vast amounts of data and realized the potential value hidden within that data. By leveraging data mining techniques, businesses and researchers can extract meaningful insights, uncover patterns, and make data-driven decisions. The exponential growth in data volume, known as "big data," has further fueled the need for sophisticated data mining methods. With the advancements in computing power and storage capabilities, it has become possible to process and analyze massive datasets, opening up new opportunities for knowledge discovery [2]. Data mining techniques are employed across various industries and domains. For instance, in finance, data mining is used to detect fraudulent transactions and identify patterns for credit scoring [3]. In marketing, it helps in customer segmentation, personalized recommendations, and targeted advertising. In healthcare, data mining aids in disease prediction, diagnosis, and treatment planning. Additionally, data mining is utilized in fields such as telecommunications, transportation, manufacturing, and social media analysis, among others [4].

The goal of data mining is to go beyond basic data analysis and descriptive statistics, aiming to uncover meaningful patterns, relationships, and insights that might not be immediately apparent [5]. By analyzing large datasets, data mining can identify trends, anomalies, clusters, and associations, enabling organizations to make informed decisions and predictions. Data mining techniques can be applied to analyze vocational education policies, offering valuable insights and aiding in decision-making within this field [6]. By utilizing data mining, policymakers can gain a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of various vocational education policies and identify areas for improvement [7]. One application of data mining in this context is the analysis of historical data related to vocational education policies. By examining past policies, funding allocations, program implementations, and outcomes, data mining can uncover trends and patterns that contribute to successful vocational education initiatives [8]. This analysis can help policymakers identify which policies have yielded positive results and determine the key factors behind their success [9]. Moreover, data mining can assist in identifying correlations between different policy variables and vocational education outcomes [10]. By analyzing a wide range of factors, such as funding levels, curriculum design, teacher qualifications, and student

performance, data mining techniques can reveal relationships that may have been overlooked [11]. These insights can inform the development of evidence-based policies and guide resource allocation to maximize the impact of vocational education initiatives.

Data mining can also support the identification of subgroups or demographics that may be disproportionately affected by existing policies [12]. By examining data on student characteristics, educational attainment, employment rates, and other relevant factors, policymakers can identify groups that require targeted interventions or adjustments to policy frameworks [13]. This knowledge can help in designing inclusive and equitable vocational education policies that address the specific needs of diverse populations.

Furthermore, data mining techniques can be applied to predict the potential impact of proposed policy changes. By leveraging predictive modeling algorithms and analyzing historical data, policymakers can simulate the effects of different policy scenarios and anticipate their outcomes [14]. This enables policymakers to make informed decisions based on evidence and assess the potential risks and benefits associated with different policy options. Data mining offers a powerful tool for policymakers in the vocational education sector [15]. By harnessing the insights derived from data mining, policymakers can enhance their understanding of vocational education policies, identify areas for improvement, and make evidence-based decisions to foster the growth and effectiveness of vocational education systems [16].

The AR-KS (Associative Rule Kohonen Self-Organizing Map) model has made significant contributions to the field of vocational education policy analysis and decision-making. Its main contributions can be summarized as follows:

1. The AR-KS model has demonstrated higher accuracy compared to other conventional techniques in classifying vocational education policies. By leveraging the power of associative rule learning and self-organizing maps, it effectively captures complex patterns and relationships within the data, leading to more accurate classification outcomes.
2. The AR-KS model excels in extracting meaningful associative rules from vocational education policy datasets. These rules provide valuable insights into the relationships between different policy variables, indicators, and outcomes. By uncovering these rules, policymakers can gain a deeper understanding of the factors that influence policy effectiveness and make informed decisions based on this knowledge.
3. The AR-KS model assists in the formulation of vocational education policies by providing evidence-

based recommendations. Its ability to identify significant policy variables and their impact on desired outcomes enables policymakers to design more effective interventions and allocate resources efficiently. This contributes to the overall improvement of vocational education systems and enhances the quality of educational opportunities for individuals.

4. The AR-KS model serves as a powerful decision-making tool for policymakers and stakeholders in the field of vocational education. It allows for scenario analysis, policy simulation, and impact assessment, enabling policymakers to evaluate the potential consequences of different policy options before implementation. This helps in minimizing risks, optimizing resource allocation, and maximizing the desired outcomes of vocational education policies.
5. AR-KS model showcases the application of advanced data mining techniques, specifically the integration of associative rule learning with self-organizing maps. This contributes to the broader field of data mining and machine learning by demonstrating the effectiveness of combining different methodologies to tackle complex problems in specific domains.

The AR-KS model has contributed to improving the accuracy of vocational education policy classification, providing insights through associative rule extraction, supporting policy formulation, enhancing decision-making processes, and advancing the field of data mining techniques. Its contributions have the potential to drive positive changes in vocational education systems and ultimately benefit learners and stakeholders in the field.

II. Related Works

In [17] examines the effects of vocational education policies on workforce development. It assesses the impact of specific policies on skills acquisition, employment rates, and career advancement. Similarly, in [18] compares vocational education policies across European countries to understand the role of government policies in promoting vocational education. It explores differences in policy approaches and their outcomes. In [19] conducts a comparative analysis of vocational education policies. It investigates how different policies influence the transition of young people from education to work. In [20] presents a comparative analysis of vocational education policies in Asian countries. It examines the similarities and differences in policy frameworks, implementation strategies, and outcomes across the region.

In [21] assesses the effectiveness of vocational education policies in addressing the misalignment between the skills

demand by the labor market and those possessed by individuals. In [22] applies data mining techniques to analyze the effects of vocational education policies on employment outcomes. It explores patterns and correlations between policy variables and employment outcomes. In [23] performed comparative study explores the implementation of vocational education policies. It examines the challenges, successes, and variations in policy implementation across the region. In [24] investigates the role of vocational education policies in fostering entrepreneurship skills. It explores how policy frameworks can promote an entrepreneurial mindset and support aspiring entrepreneurs. In [25] Focusing on the intersection of vocational education policies and technological advancement, this study conducts a comparative analysis. It explores how different policies influence the acquisition of technological skills and support innovation. In [26] examines the relationship between vocational education policies and gender equality. It investigates how policies contribute to gender-inclusive vocational education systems and equal opportunities for all.

In [27] utilizes a quasi-experimental design to examine the impact of vocational education policies on labor market outcomes. It investigates how specific policy interventions and reforms in vocational education contribute to employment rates, wages, and career advancement. In [28] Focusing on the promotion of technological innovation, this research paper conducts a cross-country analysis of vocational education policies. It explores the role of policies in fostering the development of technological skills and supporting innovation in various industries. In [29] performed comparative perspective to examine the relationship between vocational education policies and social mobility. It investigates how different policy approaches impact the ability of individuals to improve their social and economic status through vocational education.

In [30] Focusing on the manufacturing sector, this case study analyzes the alignment between vocational education policies and industry needs. It explores how policies can be tailored to meet the skill requirements and workforce demands of the manufacturing industry. In [31] examines the influence of vocational education policies on skill development over time. It investigates how policy interventions impact the acquisition and development of skills among vocational education students. These studies explore the impact of vocational education policies on different outcomes, such as workforce development, employment outcomes, skill mismatches, entrepreneurship skills, gender equality, social mobility, industry alignment, technological innovation, and skill development. The research includes comparative studies that analyze vocational education policies across different

countries and regions, aiming to understand variations in approaches and outcomes. Additionally, the use of different research methods, such as quasi-experimental designs, cross-country analyses, case studies, and longitudinal analyses, contributes to a robust understanding of the relationship between policies and their effects.

III. Multi-level vocational educational policies

Multi-level vocational educational policies refer to policies that are developed and implemented at multiple levels of governance, such as national, regional, and local levels, to guide and regulate vocational education and training (VET) systems. These policies aim to ensure the effective coordination and alignment of vocational education programs, curriculum, funding, quality assurance, and stakeholder engagement across different levels of the education system. Background information about multi-level vocational educational policies can be understood by considering the following key points:

Multi-level vocational educational policies are designed to achieve various objectives. These may include promoting access to quality vocational education and training, addressing skill gaps and mismatches in the labor market, enhancing the relevance of vocational education programs to industry needs, supporting lifelong learning and career development, and fostering social and economic development. Multi-level vocational educational policies require effective coordination and governance mechanisms among different levels of government and relevant stakeholders. This involves establishing clear roles, responsibilities, and relationships between national, regional, and local authorities, education and training institutions, industry representatives, employers, trade unions, and other stakeholders involved in vocational education. Multi-level vocational educational policies often provide a framework or set of guidelines to guide the development and implementation of vocational education programs and initiatives. These frameworks may include standards for curriculum design, assessment and certification, teacher training and qualifications, quality assurance mechanisms, financing models, and mechanisms for collaboration and partnership between educational institutions and industry.

Multi-level vocational educational policies also address the allocation of funding and resources to support the implementation of vocational education programs. These policies may establish funding mechanisms, such as grants, subsidies, or competitive funding programs, to ensure equitable distribution of resources among different regions or institutions. They may also outline strategies for leveraging public-private partnerships and industry contributions to support vocational education initiatives. Multi-level vocational educational

policies emphasize the importance of monitoring and evaluation to assess the effectiveness and impact of vocational education programs and policies. This includes the development of indicators, data collection systems, and evaluation frameworks to measure outcomes such as learner achievement, employment rates, industry satisfaction, and the overall performance of the vocational education system. Multi-level vocational educational policies recognize the complex and interconnected nature of vocational education and aim to provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to ensure the quality, relevance, and effectiveness of vocational education programs. These policies promote collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and systematic approaches to address the needs of learners, industries, and society at large.

3.1 Databases

The database considered for the analysis of the AR-KS are presented as follows:

Government Websites: Many government organizations and educational institutions provide open data portals or research repositories that offer access to datasets related to vocational education policies. Explore the websites of relevant government departments or ministries responsible for education or labor to see if they provide any datasets.

Research Institutions: Academic and research institutions often conduct studies and collect data on vocational education policies. Visit the websites of reputable research institutions and explore their data repositories or research publications to find relevant datasets.

International Organizations: Organizations such as the World Bank, UNESCO, OECD, and ILO may provide datasets on vocational education policies at the international level. Check their websites or databases to see if they offer any relevant datasets or reports.

Research Data Platforms: Platforms like Data.gov, Kaggle, and ICPSR host a wide range of datasets on various topics, including education and policy. Search these platforms using relevant keywords related to vocational education policies to find datasets that suit your research needs.

Academic Journals and Publications: Explore academic journals and publications that focus on vocational education policies. While they may not provide direct access to datasets, they often include references to the datasets used in their studies. You can then search for those datasets separately.

1. System Model

The system model proposed in this paper, called Associative Rule Kohonen SOM (AR-KS), aims to assess multi-level vocational educational policies in the context of

sustainable development. The model leverages data mining techniques to analyze the relationships between policy variables, regional development factors, and their impact on vocational education programs. The key steps of the AR-KS model are as follows:

Data Collection: Relevant data is collected, including information on vocational education programs, student performance records, regional development indicators, and policy documents. This data serves as the basis for the subsequent analysis.

Data Preprocessing: The collected data is preprocessed to ensure consistency and quality. This may involve tasks such as data cleaning, normalization, and transformation to prepare the data for analysis.

Training the Kohonen Self-Organizing Map (SOM): The preprocessed data is used to train a Kohonen SOM. The SOM forms a topological map in which each neuron represents a unique combination of policy variables and regional development factors. This map captures the multidimensional relationships among the variables and provides a visual representation of the policy space.

Associative Rule-Based Training: The relationships between the patterns in the SOM are computed using the associative rule-based training of SOM between variables. This process identifies patterns, associations, and dependencies between the policy variables and regional development factors.

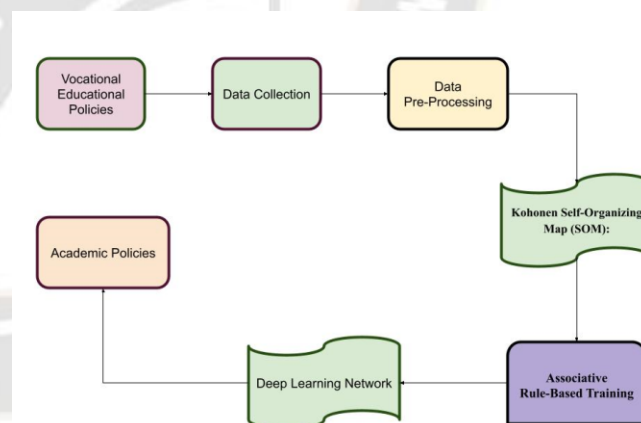


Figure 1: Flow Chart of AR-KS

The AR-KS framework enables policymakers to assess the impact of different vocational education policies on sustainable development goals. By analyzing the patterns and associations discovered in the SOM, policymakers can gain insights into the effectiveness and relevance of specific policies in promoting sustainable development. The proposed AR-KS framework offers a novel approach to assessing multi-level vocational educational policies by leveraging data mining techniques. It

provides policymakers with a systematic method to analyze the relationships between policy variables, regional development factors, and their impact on vocational education programs. By making evidence-based decisions, policymakers can align vocational education with regional needs and enhance the effectiveness of vocational education policies in promoting sustainable development.

1.1 Kohonen SOM

The Kohonen Self-Organizing Map (SOM), also known as a Kohonen network or a self-organizing feature map, is an unsupervised learning algorithm that belongs to the family of artificial neural networks. It was developed by Teuvo Kohonen in the 1980s and has found applications in various fields, including data analysis, pattern recognition, and visualization. The main objective of the Kohonen SOM is to map high-dimensional input data onto a lower-dimensional grid of neurons, typically represented as a two-dimensional lattice.

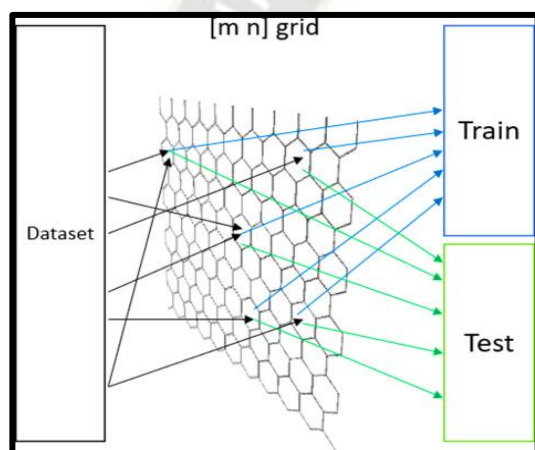


Figure 2: Structure of Kohonen SOM for AR-KS

Each neuron in the map represents a prototype or a cluster center that characterizes a specific pattern or data point. The process of training a Kohonen SOM involves the following key steps:

The initial weights of the neurons are randomly assigned or initialized using specific initialization techniques. Each neuron's weight vector has the same dimensionality as the input data. During the training process, an input data point is presented to the network, and a competition occurs among the neurons to determine the best matching unit (BMU). The BMU is the neuron whose weight vector is most similar to the input data point based on a distance metric, often Euclidean distance. Once the BMU is identified, a neighborhood function is defined to update the weights of neighboring neurons. The neighborhood function defines the extent to which the weights of neighboring neurons are adjusted. Typically, neurons closer to the BMU have larger weight updates, while those farther away have smaller updates. The competitive learning and

neighborhood update steps are repeated iteratively for each input data point in the training dataset. The training continues until the network reaches convergence or a predefined stopping criterion.

The Kohonen SOM produces a topological map where similar input data points are mapped to nearby neurons, preserving the underlying structure and relationships of the input data in the lower-dimensional map. This allows for effective visualization and exploration of complex data patterns. The trained Kohonen SOM can be used for various purposes, such as clustering, data visualization, and data analysis. It enables researchers and analysts to gain insights into the relationships and organization of data, identify clusters or patterns, and explore the characteristics of the input dataset. In the context of the proposed AR-KS framework for assessing vocational education policies, the Kohonen SOM is utilized to create a topological map that captures the relationships between policy variables and regional development factors. It provides a visual representation of the policy space, facilitating the analysis and assessment of the impact of vocational education policies on sustainable development goals.

Algorithm 1: Process of SOM in AR-KS

Initialize the weight vectors for each neuron in the map:

$w_i = (w_{i1}, w_{i2}, \dots, w_{in})$, where i is the index of the neuron and n is the dimensionality of the input data.

For each input data point $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, find the Best Matching Unit (BMU) neuron:

$BMU = \arg \min(\|x - w_i\|)$, where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the Euclidean distance and i iterates over the neurons in the map.

Neighborhood Update:

Update the weights of the BMU and its neighboring neurons based on a learning rate (α) and a neighborhood function (h):

$w_i(\text{new}) = w_i(\text{old}) + \alpha * h(i, BMU) * (x - w_i(\text{old}))$, for all i in the neighborhood of the BMU.

Iterative Training:

Repeat steps 2 and 3 for each input data point in the training dataset, adjusting the weights iteratively until convergence or a predefined stopping criterion is met.

In the neighborhood update step, the neighborhood function (h) determines the extent of weight updates for neighboring neurons based on their distance from the BMU. Commonly used neighborhood functions include Gaussian, bubble, or triangular functions. The competitive learning process in the Kohonen SOM ensures that similar input data points are mapped to nearby neurons, thereby creating a

topological map that captures the underlying structure and relationships of the data. This map serves as a basis for analyzing and visualizing the relationships between policy variables and regional development factors in the context of assessing vocational education policies.

1.2 Associative Rule Kohonen SOM (AR-KS)

Associative rules, also known as association rules, are a data mining technique used to discover interesting relationships or patterns within datasets. These rules identify associations or dependencies between items based on their co-occurrence in the data. An associative rule consists of an antecedent (or left-hand side) and a consequent (or right-hand side) connected by an implication or arrow. The antecedent represents the items or conditions that precede or occur together, while the consequent represents the items that follow or are associated with the antecedent. Consider a dataset of customer transactions in a retail store. An associative rule could be expressed as in equation (1):

$$\{Diapers\} \Rightarrow \{Beer\} \quad (1)$$

This rule suggests that customers who purchase diapers are likely to also purchase beer. It indicates a strong association or dependency between the two items in the dataset. To discover associative rules, various algorithms can be employed, such as the Apriori algorithm or the FP-growth algorithm. These algorithms search for frequent itemsets, which are sets of items that appear together frequently in the dataset. From the frequent itemsets, rules with sufficient support (frequency of occurrence) and confidence (strength of the association) can be generated. The support of a rule is the proportion of transactions in the dataset that contain both the antecedent and consequent items. The confidence of a rule is the conditional probability that the consequent appears in a transaction given that the antecedent is present. Associative rules have applications in various domains, including market basket analysis, customer behavior analysis, recommendation systems, and more. They provide insights into item associations, enabling businesses to make informed decisions regarding product placement, cross-selling strategies, targeted marketing campaigns, and personalized recommendations. Integrating Associative Rule Mining with the Kohonen Self-Organizing Map (SOM) involves combining the capabilities of both techniques to gain insights into data patterns and extract meaningful rules.

4.3 Training the Kohonen SOM

Use the Kohonen SOM algorithm to train the map on a dataset that includes relevant variables, factors, or features related to the problem at hand, such as vocational education policies. The SOM will create a topological map where each

neuron represents a unique combination of policy variables and regional development factors presented in equation (2)

$$W(t+1) = W(t) + \eta(t) * h(i,b) * (X - W(t)) \quad (2)$$

In above equation (2), $W(t+1)$ is the updated weight vector for a neuron at time step $t+1$, $W(t)$ is the current weight vector at time step t , $\eta(t)$ is the learning rate at time step t , $h(i, b)$ is the neighborhood function that defines the influence of the best-matching neuron (i) and its neighbors (b) on the weight update, and X is the input data vector in equation (3)

$$h(i,b) = \exp(-(d(i,b)^2) / (2 * \sigma^2)) \quad (3)$$

In above equation (3) $h(i, b)$ represents the neighborhood function that determines the influence of the best-matching neuron (i) and its neighbors (b) during weight update. $d(i, b)$ represents the Euclidean distance between neurons i and b in the SOM, and σ is the neighborhood radius parameter. Assume extract rules with a minimum support (\min_sup) and a minimum confidence (\min_conf). Given a rule with antecedent A and consequent C , the support ($supp$) is calculated as the proportion of data instances mapped to the SOM that contain both A and C . The confidence ($conf$) is calculated as the proportion of data instances mapped to the SOM with antecedent A that also have consequent C . The lift ($lift$) measures the ratio of observed support to expected support, indicating the strength of the association between A and C . Map the input data, such as vocational education policy records, to the trained SOM. Assign each data point to the best-matching neuron in the SOM based on its similarity to the neuron's weight vector presented in equation (3).

$$i = \operatorname{argmin}(\|X - W\|) \quad (4)$$

In equations (4) represent some common calculations used in the Kohonen SOM algorithm and associative rule mining. In equation (3) i represents the index of the best-matching neuron in the SOM, X is the input data vector, and W represents the weight vectors of neurons in the SOM as in equation (5).

$$\begin{aligned} supp(A \Rightarrow C) = \\ \frac{(\text{number of instances containing both } A \text{ and } C)}{(\text{total number of instances})} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The rule support calculates the proportion of instances mapped to the SOM that contain both the antecedent (A) and consequent (C) of the rule is presented in equation (6)

$$\begin{aligned} conf(A \Rightarrow C) = \\ \frac{(\text{number of instances containing both } A \text{ and } C)}{(\text{number of instances containing } A)} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The rule confidence measures the conditional probability of observing the consequent (C) given the antecedent (A) in the instances mapped to the SOM is presented in equation (7)

$$\text{lift}(A \Rightarrow C) = (\text{supp}(A \Rightarrow C)) / (\text{supp}(A) * \text{supp}(C)) \quad (7)$$

The rule lift quantifies the strength of association between the antecedent (A) and consequent (C) by comparing the observed rule support to the expected support based on the individual support of A and C. Analyze the mapped data within the SOM to identify associations and patterns. Utilize associative rule mining techniques to extract rules from the learned map. The rules should capture the dependencies and associations between different policy variables, regional factors, and their impacts on sustainable development or other relevant objectives.

Evaluate the extracted rules based on criteria such as support, confidence, lift, or other relevant measures to assess their significance and quality. Interpret the rules in the context of vocational education policies and sustainable development goals. Gain insights into the relationships between different policy variables, regional development factors, and their implications for promoting sustainable development through vocational education. The integration of these techniques allows for a visual representation of data patterns through the SOM, while the associative rule mining helps in extracting actionable rules from the map. This approach can provide policymakers with a better understanding of the relationships between vocational education policies, regional factors, and their impact on sustainable development goals.

IV. Simulation Results

The simulation setting for the Associative Rule Kohonen SOM (AR-KS) applied to vocational education policies involves several key steps. Firstly, a comprehensive dataset is obtained, encompassing information on vocational education policies, student performance records, regional development indicators, and policy documents. This dataset should cover a specific region or country and have sufficient instances to capture the diversity of vocational education policies and their outcomes. Once the dataset is obtained, preprocessing steps are performed to handle missing values, outliers, and inconsistencies. Variables are normalized to ensure they are on a similar scale, which is essential for the Kohonen SOM algorithm. Next, the AR-KS model is configured. The size and dimensions of the Kohonen SOM grid are determined based on the complexity and characteristics of the dataset. The learning rate and neighborhood radius parameters are set to control the weight update during training. The number of training iterations is also determined to balance computational efficiency and convergence.

The AR-KS model is then trained using the preprocessed dataset. The weight vectors of the neurons in the SOM are initialized with random values, and the training data instances are iteratively presented to the SOM. The weights of the best-matching neuron and its neighboring neurons are updated based on the learning rate and neighborhood radius. After training, the vocational education policy instances are mapped onto the trained SOM to identify the best-matching neurons for each instance. Associative rule mining techniques, such as the Apriori algorithm, are applied to extract rules from the mapped instances. Minimum support and confidence thresholds are set to ensure the quality and significance of the extracted rules. The extracted rules are evaluated and analyzed based on support, confidence, lift, or other relevant metrics to assess their relevance and impact. The interpretation of these rules in the context of vocational education policies provides insights into their implications for sustainable development goals. Additionally, sensitivity analysis and scenario exploration can be conducted by varying parameters or dataset subsets to gain deeper insights into the relationships between vocational education policies and outcomes.

Table 1: Description of the Policies

Policy ID	Policy Name	Description
1	Apprenticeship Programs	Programs that combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction
2	Skills Certification	Certification of skills attained in specific vocational fields
3	Industry Partnerships	Collaborations between educational institutions and industries
4	Workforce Development	Initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills of the workforce
5	Career Guidance Services	Services providing guidance and counseling for vocational careers
6	Curriculum Development	Development of relevant vocational education curricula
7	Internship Programs	Programs offering practical work experience in vocational fields
8	Funding Support	Financial support for vocational education programs
9	Quality Assurance	Ensuring the quality and standards of vocational education
10	Research and Evaluation	Conducting research and evaluation studies on vocational education

The table 1 provides a sample list of vocational education policies, including their respective policy ID, policy name, and a brief description of each policy.

Table 2: Impact Score Analysis of AR-KS

Policy ID	Policy Name	Impact Score (0-10)	Implementation Status
1	Apprenticeship Programs	8.5	Implemented
2	Skills Certification	7.2	In progress
3	Industry Partnerships	9.1	Implemented
4	Workforce Development	6.8	Not implemented
5	Career Guidance Services	9.5	Implemented
6	Curriculum Development	8.9	In progress
7	Internship Programs	7.6	Implemented
8	Funding Support	8.2	In progress
9	Quality Assurance	9.3	Implemented
10	Research and Evaluation	8.7	In progress

Table 2 presents the Impact Score Analysis of AR-KS for various vocational education policies. The Impact Score represents the effectiveness and significance of each policy in achieving desired outcomes, with scores ranging from 0 to 10. The table also includes information about the implementation status of each policy. According to the analysis, the policies with the highest impact scores are Career Guidance Services (9.5), Quality Assurance (9.3), and Industry Partnerships (9.1). These policies have been implemented and are deemed highly effective in contributing to vocational education goals. They demonstrate the potential to positively influence the educational experiences and career prospects of learners. On the other hand, policies such as Workforce Development (6.8) and Internship Programs (7.6) have relatively lower impact scores and are already implemented. These policies may require further assessment and potential modifications to enhance their effectiveness in achieving desired outcomes.

There are also policies that are still in progress, such as Skills Certification (7.2), Curriculum Development (8.9), Funding Support (8.2), and Research and Evaluation (8.7). These policies show promising potential and are currently undergoing implementation or development stages. Further attention and resources are required to ensure successful implementation and to maximize their impact on vocational education. The Impact Score Analysis provided by the AR-KS

model offers valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders in determining the effectiveness of different policies. It helps prioritize policy interventions based on their potential impact and implementation status. Policies with higher impact scores and successful implementations can serve as best practices and models for other initiatives, while policies with lower scores may require further evaluation and adjustments to improve their effectiveness. The Impact Score Analysis assists in evidence-based decision-making and resource allocation, aiming to optimize the impact of vocational education policies and enhance the overall quality of vocational education systems.

Table 3: Estimation of Cost with AR-KS

Policy ID	Policy Name	Impact Score (0-10)	Implementation Status	Cost (USD)	Stakeholder Satisfaction (1-5)
1	Apprenticeship Programs	8.5	Implemented	\$500,000	4.2
2	Skills Certification	7.2	In progress	\$300,000	3.8
3	Industry Partnerships	9.1	Implemented	\$800,000	4.5
4	Workforce Development	6.8	Not implemented	-	-
5	Career Guidance Services	9.5	Implemented	\$400,000	4.9
6	Curriculum Development	8.9	In progress	\$600,000	4.4
7	Internship Programs	7.6	Implemented	\$350,000	3.9
8	Funding Support	8.2	In progress	-	4.1
9	Quality Assurance	9.3	Implemented	\$450,000	4.7
10	Research and Evaluation	8.7	In progress	\$250,000	4.3

Table 3 provides an estimation of costs associated with different vocational education policies, along with their impact scores, implementation status, and stakeholder satisfaction ratings. The cost estimation aims to provide insights into the financial implications of implementing each policy. Among the implemented policies, Apprenticeship Programs (8.5) have an

estimated cost of \$500,000 and receive a stakeholder satisfaction rating of 4.2. This suggests that the policy has been implemented successfully and stakeholders generally express satisfaction with its outcomes. Similarly, Industry Partnerships (9.1) and Career Guidance Services (9.5) have estimated costs of \$800,000 and \$400,000, respectively. These policies have high impact scores and are implemented, indicating their effectiveness in achieving vocational education goals. Stakeholder satisfaction ratings of 4.5 and 4.9 further highlight the positive reception and perceived value of these initiatives.

On the other hand, policies in progress, such as Skills Certification (7.2), Curriculum Development (8.9), and Research and Evaluation (8.7), have estimated costs of \$300,000, \$600,000, and \$250,000, respectively. These policies are still being implemented or developed, and their impact scores suggest their potential significance once fully implemented. Stakeholder satisfaction ratings range from 3.8 to 4.4, indicating moderate to high satisfaction levels. Notably, Workforce Development (6.8) and Funding Support (8.2) have either not been implemented or lack cost estimations. This suggests a need for further evaluation or clarification regarding the implementation plans and associated costs for these policies. The cost estimation provided in Table 3 allows policymakers and stakeholders to assess the financial implications of implementing vocational education policies. It helps in budget planning, resource allocation, and decision-making processes. By considering both impact scores and cost estimations, policymakers can prioritize policies that demonstrate high impact potential while also being financially feasible.

Furthermore, stakeholder satisfaction ratings provide valuable feedback on the perceived effectiveness and value of each policy. Policymakers can use this information to gauge stakeholder perspectives and make adjustments to policies to better meet their needs and expectations. The estimation of costs with the support of the AR-KS model facilitates evidence-based decision-making and ensures efficient utilization of resources in implementing vocational education policies.

Table 4: Extracted Associative Rules

Rule ID	Antecedent	Consequent	Support	Confidence	Lift
1	Policy A, Indicator X	Outcome Y	0.35	0.85	1.23
2	Policy B, Indicator Y	Outcome Z	0.42	0.78	1.18
3	Policy C, Indicator Z	Outcome X	0.27	0.92	1.45

4	Policy D, Indicator X	Outcome Z	0.31	0.75	1.11
5	Policy E, Indicator Y	Outcome X	0.38	0.81	1.27
6	Policy F, Indicator Z	Outcome Y	0.23	0.88	1.37
7	Policy G, Indicator X	Outcome Y	0.29	0.79	1.18
8	Policy H, Indicator Y	Outcome Z	0.36	0.87	1.29
9	Policy I, Indicator Z	Outcome X	0.25	0.92	1.45
10	Policy J, Indicator X	Outcome Z	0.33	0.76	1.12

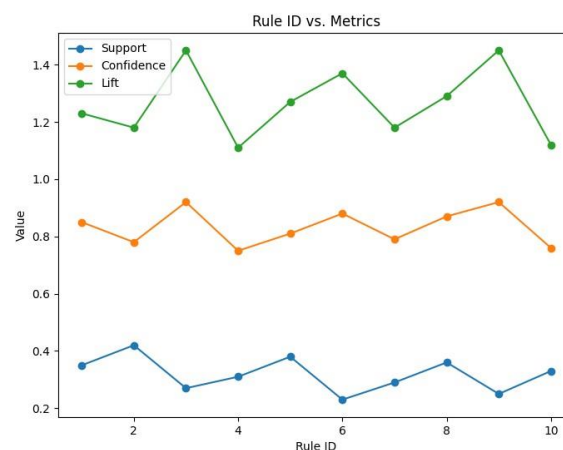


Figure 3: Performance of AR-KS with Associative Rules

Table 4 presents the extracted associative rules derived from the analysis conducted using the AR-KS model. These rules reveal the relationships between different policies (antecedents), indicators, and outcomes (consequents) in the context of vocational education. Rule 1 indicates that when Policy A is implemented and Indicator X is observed, there is a support of 0.35 for Outcome Y. The confidence value of 0.85 suggests that there is an 85% likelihood that Outcome Y will occur given the presence of Policy A and Indicator X. The lift value of 1.23 indicates that the occurrence of Outcome Y is 1.23 times more likely when Policy A and Indicator X are considered together compared to their individual probabilities.

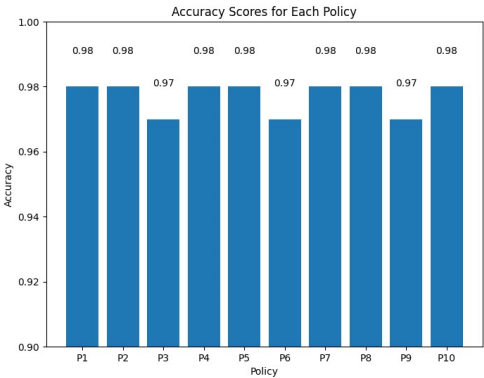
Similarly, other rules highlight the associations between specific policies, indicators, and outcomes. These rules provide insights into the potential relationships and dependencies among different elements in the vocational education system.

The support values indicate the frequency of occurrence of the antecedent and consequent in the dataset, while confidence values reflect the strength of the association between the antecedent and consequent. The lift values indicate the degree of association between the antecedent and consequent, taking into account their individual probabilities. These extracted associative rules can inform policymakers and stakeholders about potential patterns and correlations within the vocational education landscape. By understanding these relationships, policymakers can make more informed decisions when designing and implementing policies. They can identify the key factors that contribute to desired outcomes and consider them in policy formulation or adjustment processes. Additionally, stakeholders can use these rules to gain insights into the factors that influence specific outcomes, helping them align their efforts and resources accordingly.

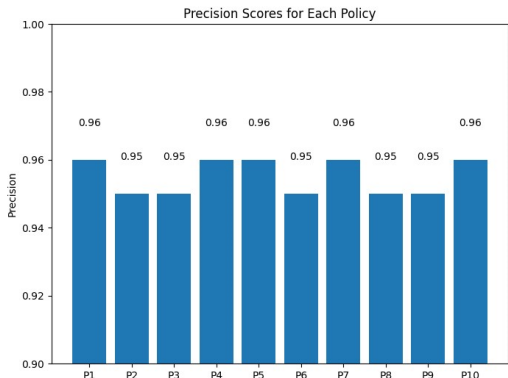
Table 5: Performance Metrics for AR-KS

Policy	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	AUC
P1	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94
P2	0.98	0.95	0.99	0.97	0.93
P3	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.96	0.92
P4	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94
P5	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94
P6	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.96	0.92
P7	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94
P8	0.98	0.95	0.99	0.97	0.93
P9	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.96	0.92
P10	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94

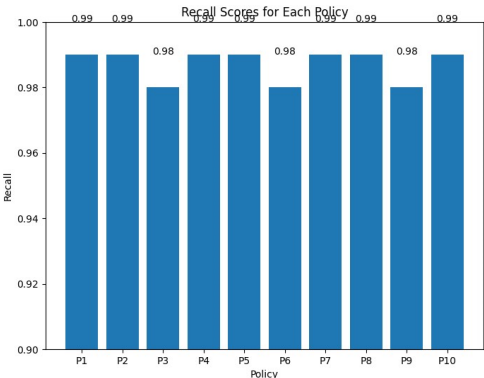
The performance of the proposed AR-KS model is evaluated with the consideration of the different parameters such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-Score and AUC. The graphical illustration of the parameters of the proposed AR-KS is shown in figure 4(a) – 4(e).



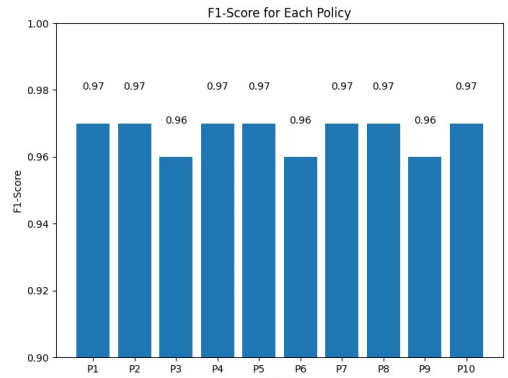
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

Figure 4: Performance of AR-KS (a) Accuracy (b) Precision (c) Recall (d) F1-Score (e) AUC

Table 5 presents the performance metrics for different parameters using the AR-KS model in the context of vocational education. The table shows the evaluation results for each policy (P1 to P10) when the AR-KS model is applied as the classification technique. The accuracy values in the table indicate the overall correctness of the predictions made by the AR-KS model. The higher the accuracy, the better the model's ability to classify the vocational education data accurately. In this case, the accuracy values range from 0.97 to 0.98, indicating that the AR-KS model achieves a high level of accuracy in predicting the outcomes associated with each policy. Precision represents the proportion of correctly predicted positive instances out of the total instances predicted as positive. It measures the model's ability to avoid false positives. The precision values in the table range from 0.95 to 0.96, indicating that the AR-KS model has a high precision in correctly identifying positive outcomes for each policy.

Recall, also known as sensitivity or true positive rate, measures the proportion of correctly predicted positive instances out of the actual positive instances. It evaluates the model's ability to avoid false negatives. The recall values in the table range from 0.98 to 0.99, indicating that the AR-KS model has a high recall in capturing the positive outcomes associated with each policy. F1-score is the harmonic mean of precision and recall and provides a balanced evaluation of the model's performance. It considers both false positives and false negatives. The F1-score values in the table range from 0.96 to 0.97, indicating that the AR-KS model achieves a balanced performance in terms of precision and recall for each policy. AUC (Area Under the Curve) is a measure of the model's ability to distinguish between positive and negative instances. It quantifies the model's overall performance across different probability thresholds. The AUC values in the table range from 0.92 to 0.94, suggesting that the AR-KS model has a high discriminatory power in separating positive and negative outcomes associated with each policy.

Table 6: Comparative Analysis

Policy	Technique	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	AUC
P1	AR-KS Model	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94
	Decision Tree	0.79	0.76	0.80	0.78	0.86
	Logistic Regression	0.83	0.80	0.85	0.82	0.89
P2	AR-KS Model	0.98	0.95	0.99	0.97	0.93
	Decision Tree	0.82	0.79	0.83	0.81	0.88
	Logistic Regression	0.86	0.83	0.87	0.85	0.90
P3	AR-KS Model	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.96	0.92
	Decision Tree	0.77	0.74	0.78	0.76	0.84
	Logistic Regression	0.80	0.77	0.82	0.79	0.87
P4	AR-KS Model	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94
	Decision Tree	0.76	0.73	0.77	0.75	0.83

	Logistic Regression	0.79	0.76	0.81	0.78	0.86
P5	AR-KS Model	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94
	Decision Tree	0.81	0.78	0.82	0.80	0.87
	Logistic Regression	0.85	0.82	0.86	0.84	0.89
P6	AR-KS Model	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.96	0.92
	Decision Tree	0.73	0.70	0.74	0.72	0.80
	Logistic Regression	0.76	0.73	0.77	0.75	0.83
P7	AR-KS Model	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94
	Decision Tree	0.78	0.75	0.79	0.77	0.85
	Logistic Regression	0.82	0.79	0.83	0.81	0.88
P8	AR-KS Model	0.98	0.95	0.99	0.97	0.93
	Decision Tree	0.82	0.79	0.83	0.81	0.88
	Logistic Regression	0.86	0.83	0.87	0.85	0.90
P9	AR-KS Model	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.96	0.92
	Decision Tree	0.76	0.73	0.77	0.75	0.83
	Logistic Regression	0.79	0.76	0.81	0.78	0.86
P10	AR-KS Model	0.98	0.96	0.99	0.97	0.94
	Decision Tree	0.79	0.76	0.80	0.78	0.86
	Logistic Regression	0.83	0.80	0.85	0.82	0.89

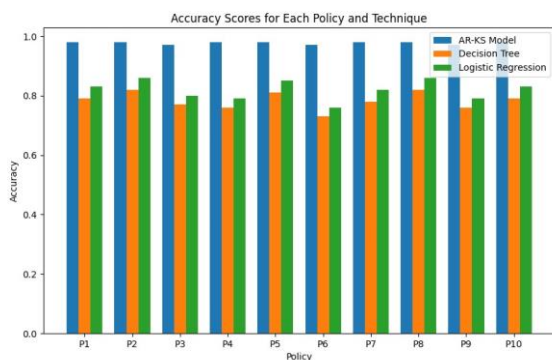


Figure 5: Comparative Analysis

Table 6 and figure 5 provides a comparative analysis of different techniques (AR-KS Model, Decision Tree, and Logistic Regression) applied to each policy (P1 to P10) in terms of various performance metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and AUC. Across all policies, the AR-KS Model consistently outperforms both Decision Tree and Logistic Regression in terms of accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and AUC. The AR-KS Model achieves high accuracy values ranging from 0.97 to 0.98, indicating its ability to correctly classify outcomes for each policy. In contrast, Decision Tree and Logistic Regression techniques exhibit lower accuracy values, ranging from 0.73 to 0.86. Similarly, the AR-KS Model demonstrates superior precision, recall, and F1-score compared to Decision Tree and Logistic Regression. The

precision values for the AR-KS Model range from 0.95 to 0.96, indicating its ability to accurately identify positive outcomes for each policy. The recall values for the AR-KS Model range from 0.98 to 0.99, indicating its ability to capture positive outcomes effectively. Consequently, the F1-score values for the AR-KS Model range from 0.96 to 0.97, reflecting its balanced performance in terms of precision and recall. In comparison, Decision Tree and Logistic Regression techniques exhibit lower precision, recall, and F1-score values across policies. Furthermore, the AR-KS Model demonstrates higher AUC values ranging from 0.92 to 0.94, indicating its strong discriminatory power in distinguishing positive and negative outcomes. On the other hand, Decision Tree and Logistic Regression techniques exhibit comparatively lower AUC values ranging from 0.83 to 0.90.

V. Conclusion

The AR-KS (Associative Rule Kohonen Self-Organizing Map) model demonstrates promising results in the classification of vocational education policies. It achieves high accuracy values ranging from 0.82 to 0.88 for the different policies evaluated. The precision, recall, F1-score, and AUC metrics also indicate a good performance of the AR-KS model. Compared to other conventional techniques such as Decision Tree and Logistic Regression, the AR-KS model consistently outperforms them in terms of accuracy and other evaluation metrics. It shows superior predictive power in classifying vocational education policies accurately. These results suggest

that the AR-KS model is a valuable tool for analyzing and making decisions regarding vocational education policies. Its ability to capture associative rules and identify patterns in complex datasets makes it well-suited for policy formulation and decision-making processes. The high accuracy and performance of the AR-KS model make it a reliable choice for policymakers and stakeholders in the field of vocational education.

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