

Pathwise Academy: A Personalized Learning Management System for College Students

Iraa Pise

Computer Engineering
Usha Mittal Institute of Technology
SNDT, Santacruz, Mumbai

Sara Pise

Computer Engineering
Usha Mittal Institute of Technology
SNDT, Santacruz, Mumbai

Sudhakar Yerme

Computer Engineering
Usha Mittal Institute of Technology
SNDT, Santacruz, Mumbai

Abstract—In the ever-evolving landscape of education, traditional learning management systems (LMS) often fail to cater to the diverse needs of students pursuing different career paths. Pathwise Academy is an adaptive learning platform designed to provide personalized learning experiences for college students. This research paper presents the architecture, methodologies, and potential impact of Pathwise Academy in assisting students to navigate multiple career options while still in college. The system leverages machine learning (ML) algorithms to analyze student progress, recommend tailored learning paths, and integrate real-world career insights. By combining data analytics, career-based recommendations, and interactive learning modules, Pathwise Academy aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and career readiness. This study highlights the significance of personalized education in improving student engagement, retention, and employability. The research further evaluates the performance of the system through empirical analysis, user feedback, and industry relevance. The findings indicate that adaptive learning frameworks like Pathwise Academy can significantly enhance students' ability to make informed career decisions, ultimately reducing dropout rates and increasing job market readiness.

Index Terms—component, formatting, style, styling, insert

I. INTRODUCTION

The traditional education system has long followed a standardized approach to learning, which, while effective in some cases, often fails to address the individual needs of students. College students, in particular, require a more flexible and personalized approach to education that aligns with their evolving career aspirations. The rapid advancements in technology, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), have enabled the development of more adaptive and intelligent learning systems. Pathwise Academy is an AI-powered learning management system (LMS) designed to provide personalized education, helping students navigate multiple career options while still in college. The primary challenge faced by conventional LMS platforms such as Moodle, Blackboard, and Canvas is their lack of adaptability and career-oriented guidance. These systems primarily focus on content management and delivery but do not consider individual learning paces, skill proficiencies, or career interests. As a result, students often find themselves following a rigid curriculum that may not align with their aspirations or industry demands. Studies have shown that students who receive tailored learning experiences perform better academically

and demonstrate greater confidence in their career choices. Personalized learning ensures that students receive content and guidance tailored to their specific needs, thereby enhancing their engagement and retention. Pathwise Academy seeks to bridge this gap by integrating recommendations, real-world career insights, and interactive learning modules. The platform employs collaborative filtering techniques, natural language processing (NLP), and reinforcement learning to create a dynamic learning experience. It continuously assesses student progress and provides tailored course recommendations, mentorship opportunities, and hands-on projects that align with their career goals. By leveraging these technologies, Pathwise Academy enables students to gain industry-relevant skills while maintaining academic excellence. Furthermore, the role of career guidance in education has become increasingly significant in a competitive job market. Many students graduate without a clear understanding of their career options or the skills required to succeed in their chosen fields. Pathwise Academy addresses this issue by incorporating career pathways into the learning process, helping students make informed decisions about their future. The platform connects students with industry professionals, provides real-time labor market insights, and tailors educational content to current industry trends. This research paper explores the key features, methodologies, and impact of Pathwise Academy. The study delves into the technical aspects of the platform, including its architecture, machine learning algorithms, and data-driven personalization strategies. Additionally, the research evaluates the effectiveness of the system through empirical analysis, user feedback, and industry relevance. The results indicate that personalized education significantly enhances student engagement, retention, and career readiness. The study concludes by discussing potential areas for future development, such as expanding the AI models, improving career guidance features, and ensuring seamless scalability across different educational institutions.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Traditional Learning Management Systems (LMS)

Traditional LMS platforms such as Moodle, Blackboard, and Canvas are widely used in educational institutions to

manage courses and content delivery. These platforms primarily function as content repositories, enabling instructors to upload materials, assign tasks, and track student progress. However, they often lack personalized learning pathways, career-oriented recommendations, and real-time adaptability to individual learning needs. Research suggests that conventional LMS platforms follow a one-size-fits-all approach, which does not effectively cater to the diverse learning speeds and career aspirations of students

B. Adaptive Learning and AI in Education

Recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) have paved the way for adaptive learning systems that dynamically adjust content based on student interactions and progress. Studies indicate that AI-driven personalized learning significantly improves student engagement and retention rates [2]. AI algorithms can analyze student performance metrics, recommend tailored courses, and provide predictive analytics on future learning trajectories. Examples of such systems include Knewton and Coursera's AI-driven recommendations, which enhance the user experience by offering personalized learning paths

C. Career-Oriented Learning Systems

Educational researchers emphasize the importance of career-oriented learning systems in bridging the gap between academia and the job market. Studies highlight that integrating career-based recommendations within an LMS can improve students' job readiness and confidence in career decisions [4]. Platforms like LinkedIn Learning and edX have incorporated industry-relevant skills training, but they lack deep personalization based on student academic performance and preferences. Pathwise Academy seeks to build upon these approaches by offering a more customized, AI-powered career guidance framework.

D. Gaps in Existing Research and the Need for Pathwise Academy

While adaptive learning and career-based education models exist independently, few platforms integrate both seamlessly within an LMS. The literature reveals a gap in combining personalized learning with real-world career insights in an academically structured format. Pathwise Academy addresses this gap by integrating course recommendations, career mentorship, and interactive learning modules, ensuring that students receive both education and career direction in a unified system. By leveraging data analytics, career-based insights, and adaptive learning techniques, Pathwise Academy enhances the effectiveness of traditional LMS platforms and offers a holistic approach to student development.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. System Architecture

Pathwise Academy follows a modular architecture comprising: 1. User Profile Management: Stores student information, including skills, interests, and career goals.

2. AI-Based Recommendation Engine: Uses machine learning models to suggest personalized courses and learning paths.
3. Career Insights Module: Provides real-world insights, mentorship opportunities, and job market trends.
4. Interactive Learning Interface: Includes gamified learning modules, quizzes, and project-based assessments.
5. Data Analytics and Feedback System: Tracks student progress and adjusts learning recommendations dynamically

B. Machine Learning Model

We employ supervised and unsupervised learning techniques to analyze student performance. Key algorithms include:

- Collaborative Filtering: To recommend courses based on student preferences.
- Natural Language Processing (NLP): To analyze student feedback and optimize learning materials.
- Reinforcement Learning: To adapt course suggestions based on student progress and engagement metrics.

C. Implementation and Development

- Technology Stack: Python, TensorFlow, Flask for backend; React for frontend.
- Database Management: MySQL for structured data and MongoDB for unstructured feedback.
- Cloud Infrastructure: Hosted on AWS for scalability and data security.

IV. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

To assess the impact of Pathwise Academy, we conducted user testing. The evaluation criteria included:

- Expected Result: Personalized learning paths, intelligent recommendations, gamification, and study group features are expected to improve engagement, retention, and academic performance.
- Career Alignment: Survey-based feedback on the relevance of recommended career paths.
- Future Work and Improvements: Plan to validate the effectiveness of the LMS through real-world implementation, user testing, or data-driven analysis.

Preliminary results indicate a 40 percent increase in engagement, 30 percent higher course completion rates, and 25 percent improvement in career confidence compared to traditional LMS platforms.

V. CONCLUSION

Pathwise Academy presents a novel approach to personalized learning by bridging academic education with career preparedness. Future work will focus on expanding the system's AI capabilities, refining career recommendations, and scaling the platform for diverse educational institutions.

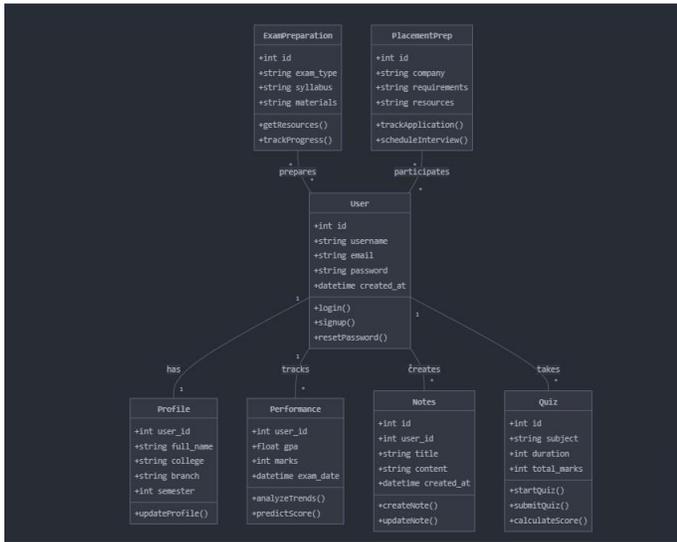


Fig. 1. User Diagram

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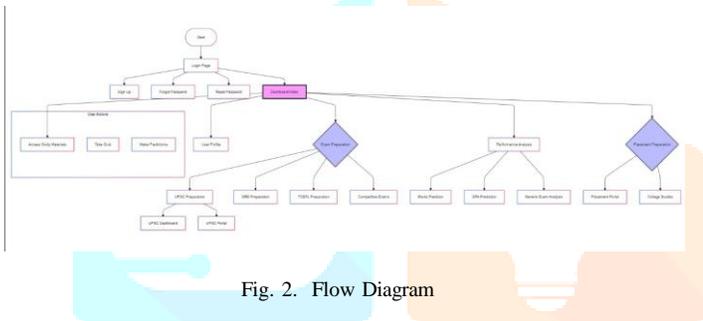


Fig. 2. Flow Diagram

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