

Review Article

# Examining Mental Disorder/Psychological Chaos through Various ML and DL Techniques: A Critical Review

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Received: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022; Accepted: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022; Published: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

**Abstract:** Mental soundness is a condition of well-being wherein a person understands his/her potential, participates in his or her community and is able to deal effectively with the challenges and obstacles of everyday life. It circumscribes how an individual thinks, feels and responds to any circumstances. Mental strain is generally recognised as a social concern, potentially leading to a functional impairment at work. Chronic stress may also be linked with several physiological illnesses. The purpose of this research stands to examine existing research analysis of mental healthiness outcomes where diverse Deep Learning (DL) and Machine learning (ML) algorithms have been applied. Applying our exclusion and inclusion criteria, 52 articles were finally selected from the search results obtained from various research databases and repositories. This literatures on ML and mental health outcomes show an insight into the avant-garde techniques developed and employed in this domain. The review also compares and contrasts amongst various deep learning techniques for predicting a person's state of mind based on different types of data such as social media data, clinical data, etc. Finally, the open issues and future challenges of utilising Deep learning algorithms to better understand as well as diagnose mental state of any individual were discussed. From the literature survey, this is evident that the use of ML and DL in mental health has yielded significant attainment mostly in the areas of diagnosis, therapy, support, research and clinical governance.

**Keywords:** DL; Mental Disorders; ML; Social Media; Stress; Suicide

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## 1. Introduction

Stress, mental illness, social anxiety, depression, schizophrenia and psychological issues are all elements that contribute to mental health issues that lead to mental disease. Positive mental health improves one's efficiency and helps reach one's full potential. With approximately 300 million people worldwide experiencing depression, the prevalence of mental illness is on the rise. People who are happy with their lives have fewer mental health problems [1]. To achieve a sound mental health, it is crucial to be able to determine any mental illness or issues at the preliminary stage. There are many clinical approaches

to identify mental illness, mainly through brain chemistry abnormalities which are considered as solid evidences of mental illness [2]. Understanding and providing therapy for people with aberrant mental behaviour requires a thorough examination of mental well-being [3]. Stress has an impact on both mental and physical health by generating issues like arrhythmia (abnormal heart rhythm) and depression. The American Institute of Stress claims that 80% of the US workers are stressed at work and nearly half of them believe they require assistance in learning how to manage stress, while forty-two percent of workers think their colleagues also require assistance for stress management [4]. Various bio-signals can be used to detect stress levels (e.g. ECG, EMG, Respiration, GSR, etc.), since these signals show typical changes when stress is induced. Suicide has consistently been one of the significant causes of death worldwide. Psychiatric stressors act as a major catalyst for suicide. The early recognition of mental disturbances in a highly hazardous group will aid in the prevention of suicidal behaviour and suicide. Social media is a popular platform for individuals to express their emotions [5-6]. Social media's immense popularity and real-time information sharing flow have made it possible to intervene early in large population. However, few automated strategies for collecting psychiatric stressors from social media platforms like Facebook, Weibo, Twitter, Reddi and so forth have been developed [7]. People use social media to change how they identify themselves as having a condition and how they interact with those who have had similar problems, typically inquiring about the treatments of the unpropitious effects or providing coping methods, and therefore, experiencing less stigmatised [6]. Machine learning algorithms could assist Mental Health professionals to determine whether patients are at risk of acquiring a specific mental depressive illness by identifying important behavioural biomarkers. Furthermore, these techniques might help in measuring the effectiveness of a treatment strategy. Recently, DL algorithms are also used for mental health detection. Artificial intelligence is used in mental health research to make predictions based on patients' voices, choice of words and conversation duration. Nevertheless, little study has been conducted on situation prediction to prevent depression [7-8]. The World Health Organization (WHO) classified COVID-19, which is known coronavirus disease 2019, as an outbreak on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020. There were more than 483 million confirmed cases of infection and 6132461 confirmed deaths in 216 countries as of May 31, Mar 2022<sup>1</sup>. This global pandemic has significant pessimistic effects on many individuals' mental healthiness. This COVID-19 pandemic has thus far claimed many lives worldwide and poses a severe threat to global health, food systems and workplace safety [9-10]. Approximately, 40.4 percent of the participants reported having psychological issues and 14.4 percent of the young groups had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. In addition, researchers used ML and DL techniques to analyse the effect of the corona virus epidemic on mental disease [12].

Technological refinements, such as online social media, mobile phones and sensors, have enabled psychiatric researchers and clinicians to collect a vast amount of facts and figures within a short span of time. Machine learning has been established as an effective method for investigating these data [42-44]. In fact, this is achieved through the application of cutting-edge statistical and probabilistic methods to develop systems that can learn from data on their own. This study offers an exhaustive summary of the studies on ML & DL applications in detecting mental illness based on various data sources. Jadhav *et al.* [13] utilised machine learning techniques for scrutinising bipolar disorder using the Mood Disorder Questionnaire. Another research [14] used supervised machine learning for detecting stress levels from bio-signals and was capable of attaining 98.6% accuracy. Subhani *et al.* [15] proposed a paradigm for assessing psychiatric distress at multiple considerable levels involving electroencephalogram signals. The above paradigm used several algorithms, such as Support Vector Machine (SVM), Logistic Regression (LR) and Naive Bayes (NB) classifiers, which achieved 0.94 percent overall accuracy in level-two stress identification and 0.83 percent maximum accuracy for numerous level stress detection. Srividya *et al.* [3] also employed these algorithms (i.e. SVM, NB, LR) to identify the mental state in a target group. They could achieve an accuracy of 0.89, 0.73 and 0.84 percent, respectively. They also used Decision trees, Ensemble (Bagging), KNN and Tree Ensemble algorithm with 0.81, 0.90, 0.89 and 0.90 percentage of accuracy, respectively. Besides machine learning, many researchers started employing DL techniques for predicting depression risk [45-46]. They used Context-DNN Model for predicting the probability risk of depression [8]. In recent years, people have begun to publicly disclose their sentiments on social media

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<sup>1</sup> <https://covid19.who.int/>

platforms. Many researchers have emphasised on the contents generated by the users on the social networks, in order to observe peoples' mental state or psychiatric disorders, such as bipolar depression, anxiousness or schizophrenia. Gkotsis *et al.* [9] and Kharel *et al.* [16] analysed Reddit posts to characterise mental illness-related posts using a DNN and DL approach. Based on data from Reddit, the authors in [17] also present a methodology to diagnose individuals with chronic mental disorders, i.e. panic, bipolar disorder, depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). A fact-based review on the detection of psychological issues utilising online social network (OSN) is presented by the authors of [18]. Other researchers used data collected from Twitter, Facebook, Weibo social media for detecting different types of mental illness such as schizophrenia [7], bipolar disorder [8], major depressive disorder [19], distress [20], spectrum disorder [21], anxiety and sentiments [12].

## 2. An Overview of the Diverse ML and DL Classifiers for Mental disorders

Machine learning technology is a sort of AI technology and computer science that focuses on using data and models to imitate how humans understand and learn, then gradually trying to improve its exactness. This ML technology is supposed to become a highly useful technique for predicting mental state as well as providing significant benefits in a variety of fields, including natural language processing, human-computer interaction, voice recognition and so forth. The most prevalent machine learning methodologies are supervised learning as well as unsupervised learning. SVM, RF, NB, LR, DT, ANN, CNN, KNN, and LSTM are the most extensively used ML and DL approaches in many research, investigations and experiments, particularly in identifying health disorders in the medical area. In this review article, the study materials were segregated, primarily based on mental health issues including schizophrenic, bipolar disorder, chronic depression, posttraumatic distress disorder and other mental health problems of the workers, children and youths. It has been found that these disorders were examined differently in various ways with diverse predictive models.

Amongst the reviewed articles, there are five studies that utilised random forest predictors for different mental states such as chronic mental illness diseases [20], depression and PTSD [23], mental health [3], mental disorder [16] and stress [39]. It is mostly utilised for regression, classifications and other undertakings, i.e., machine learning problems that may be accomplished with the support of decision trees. Furthermore, eleven research publications employed SVM classifier for the prediction of suicide [7], mental disorder themes [6], sentiments [10], depression [22], chronic mental illness diseases [20], Stress [14-15, 39], relaxation detection [21], mental health [3], and mental disorder [16]. It is mostly used for classification; however, it can also be used for regression. Similarly, nine articles applied LR, four articles used Decision tree, seven articles deployed naïve bayes and two studies utilised K-nearest Neighbour that can be applied to labelled data. KNN classifies dependent variables based on similar examples of its individual variables from already known data. Others ML techniques like Bagging uses the ensemble meta-algorithm but involves model training using data from different types of datasets. It will not only help in enhancing the stability and increase models' accuracy; but also help to reduce the diversity of the model. Boosting is a very impactful and extensively used feed classification. The main purpose of boosting algorithm is to reduce the bias of the model.

Additionally, Deep learning have lately gained popularity amongst the machine learning methodologies owing to their capacity to address a wide range of issues such as image recognition, speech recognition and natural language processing. These theories are based on neural networks in the brain, allowing algorithms to learn from experimental data. In this review article, we explored some of the most prominent DL model architectures, such as recurrent neural network (RNN), convolutional neural network (CNN) and long-short term memory (LSTM). A convoluted neural net can process any input, emphasise different aspects of the image/objects and be able to distinguish them from each other. In addition, long-short term memory is an artificial repeating neural network (RNN) architecture used in deep learning. LSTM networks are well suited for classifying, processing and predicting time series data. Since recent past, these deep neural models are being applied in the psychological health sector. According to our study of the selected articles it has been found that CNN has been used in ten articles while RNN and LSTM were both applied in four studies each, for detecting various mental state. Figure-1

demonstrates the overall percentage of use of ML & DL models amongst the reviewed articles in this study. It has been found that the SVM is mostly used algorithm.

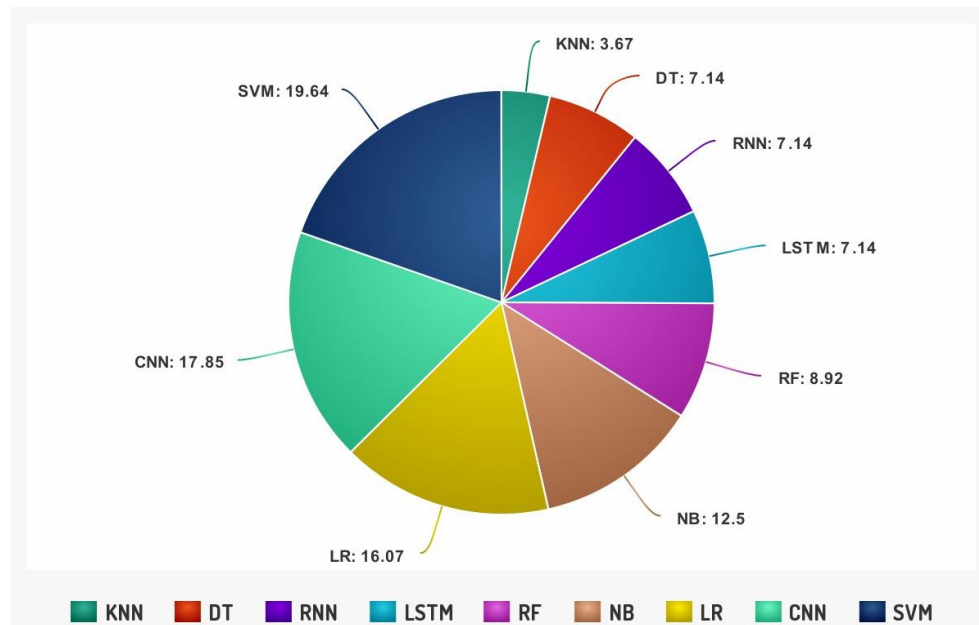


Figure 1. Percentages of Algorithms from Reviewed Articles

### 3. Method

The foremost objective of this study is to investigate the suitability, limitations and challenges of detecting mental health problems using ML and Data mining algorithms based on social media data and a variety of other data sources. We also looked into the suitability of this pre-mental illness detection system by examining the methods of data analysis, data extractions, outcomes and limitations. The sources of data, feature extraction methods and the performance of the classifiers in ML and DL approaches were explored in this study. The search for literature was conducted mainly using major research databases, such as Scopus, Pub-med and WoS (Web of Science). Articles published from 2017 till 2021 were included in the review of this literature. We also checked the medical subject headings related to mental state such as adolescent stress, bipolar disorder, etc., to make sure that the main topics in mental health were incorporated in the literature. The following two subsections discuss the data collection and methodologies from the selected research, while the results or outcomes of those studies have been discussed in the methodologies section (3.2).

#### 3.1. Data Assemblage

Data assemblage is a systematic procedure of gathering and analysing data regarding indicators, allowing researchers to determine questions for research, make predictions and assess outcomes. We used some keywords, such as 'stress detection', 'anxiety', 'depression', etc., for searching the publications that are related to mental health or mental disorder. We specified the query of research for each topic based on existing studies on ML, social media and mental illness. Our research only considered the materials which were published in English language. Amongst the literatures reviewed in this study, most of them used online social media, such as Twitter, Weibo, Facebook and Reddit, as their data source for detecting mental health problems. That being said, their methods were different from each other. Amongst these social platforms, Reddit and Twitter are the mostly used ones - utilised by many researchers as their data sources. A wide range of clinical data, such as ECG, electroencephalogram (EEG) signal [28, 33, 52], EMG, Respiration, GSR and sensor data, were also used for stress detection. AI systems are also used in psychosocial research in order to make predictions based on the voice of the patients, choice of words and duration of conversation. The authors in [16] looked at previous research on depression that had used neuroimaging indicators, movement records and a multi-modal fusion of sounds, visuals and texts. The authors in [17] proposed a system which used Pakistani dataset of 500 women in their antenatal period. Furthermore, different online web resources, such as Amazon's MTurk and WESAD, were also utilised.

Table 1 presents a critical analysis of the articles focusing on the mental illness prognosis on the online social media platforms:

**Table 1.** Critical Analysis of Mental Illness Prognosis on Online Social Media

Author(s)	Ref.	Publication Year	Mental health types	Data source	Durations	Data set
Thelwall <i>et al.</i>	[21]	2017	Stress and relaxation	3066 tweets Collected from Twitter	July 2015 (1 month)	Collected 3,000 stress-related tweets using the 1-5 scale system.
Shuai <i>et al.</i>	[24]	2017	Stress	3126 OSN from Amazon's MTurk	Not specified	SNMDD – 3126 OSN users included data for classified training and testing of participants: 1790 males and 1336 females.
Deshpande <i>et al.</i>	[51]	2017	Frustration	10,000 tweets From Twitter	Not specified	Two rows and two columns consist of false negatives and positives as well as true positives and negatives, where the F1 score can be analysed for SVM and NB.
Kandis <i>et al.</i>	[45]	2017	Stress	Extracted data from Facebook	Not specified	The collected dataset includes (1) 405 fully crawled users, (2) 12346 user groups, (3) 98256 liked objects, (4) 171054 statuses and (5) 250027 comments.
Wongkoblap <i>et al.</i>	[48]	2018	Depression	424,619 posts From Facebook	Not specified	424619 posts: 1,249 life satisfaction users and 2,038 life dissatisfaction users.
Tariq <i>et al.</i>	[20]	2019	Mental illness (ADHD, depression, bipolar and anxiety)	Up to 3922 posts were collected from Reddit	Not specified	Used Python (API) for Reddit; download the top 1000 posts top 5 comments per sub-Reddits post like r/Depression, r/ADHD, r/Anxiety, r/Bipolar.
Kim <i>et al.</i>	[7]	2020	Mental illness	633,385 posts were collected from Reddit	January 2017 – December 2018	An aggregate of 228,060 user data, including 488,472 posts, was utilised for the analysis.
Zhao <i>et al.</i>	[50]	2020	(SGMs) mental health	over 20 million data from tweets	17 <sup>th</sup> January, 2015 to 12 <sup>th</sup> May, 2015	2,395 Self-identifying users who were annotated into various SGM subcategories, such as gay (20), transwoman (138), straight (38), lesbian (6), genderfluid (142) and transman (45).
Chintalapudi <i>et al.</i>	[10]	2021	Mental illness during Covid-19	3090 data from Twitter	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020 to 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Investigators were manually coded as a four-section sentiment and each feeling is mapped to 0 to 3 (sadness: 1, fear: 0, joy: 3 and anger: 2).
Nooripour <i>et al.</i>	[46]	2021	Stress	755 data from Internet ads, forums e-mails, and (SMS)	Not specified	Married (389), singles (366), inflected with covid-19 (666), well (89). According to education level higher school (182), graduated (47), associate's degree (259). Average and standard deviation for respondents' ages were 10.63 and 32.53 years, respectively.

### 3.2. Methodologies

ML algorithms are becoming a prominent tool for detecting mental health issues. Previously, categorisation techniques [3-4, 11, 13, 19, 20] were employed to predict a variety of matters in Mental health, including stress, suicide, anxiousness and depression. Many methods for analysing data, utilised in the detection of various sorts of mental health problems, have been developed. Authors of [22] utilised tweets by categorising them into word lists to identify frustration trends. Each tweet is categorised using SVM and NB. The results were presented using preliminary classification metrics - evaluated based on F1 score and accuracy. In another similar study [23], the researchers collected data from tweets using CES-D questionnaire to screen for depression and TSQ for PTSD. ML models were then used for the prediction. The model was trained HMM to detect various changes between the distressed and the not distressed groups. A TensiStrength [20] system where ML algorithms were used to detect stress/relaxation energy for comparison with Tensistrength and the social network mental disorder detection (SNMDD). In this study, the authors detected each type of SNMDs with a binary SVM and proposed a two-phase

framework called SNMDD, where the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase drained various discriminatory features of the users and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase introduced a new SNMD-based tensor model to generate latent reasons for training and use of TSVM classifiers. The majority of previous studies contrasted several types of ML approaches. Support vector machines [7, 10, 14-15, 22], naive bayes [20-25], logistic regression [2, 10, 21], random forest [20, 23], decision tree [13, 22], gaussian process [12], K nearest neighbour (KNN) [3], ANN [11] and CNN [5-7, 25, 31,33] were the most used ML approaches for estimating mental health-related problems. On the contrary, AdaBoost, gaussian process, the hybrid technique of factor graph model (FGM) with CNN, JRip rule, Markov logic networks (MLNs) were the least used ML approaches. Compared with the previous models based on ML in classification tasks, recently DL has gained significant popularity and has obtained superior outcomes in the detection of mental illness [5, 2]. DL approaches including deep neural network (DNN) and sparse deep neural network (SDNN) have been used in the detection of psychiatric problems in previous studies [4-5, 7, 10, 28, 32-33]. Kumar *et al.* [19] found that RF achieves around 87% accuracy rather than SVM and DT. They further expanded their work with NN or CNN. Another study [34] surveyed social media users where respondents from 10 countries completed 135 surveys and majority of respondents' which approximately 85 percent expressed interest in mental health programs delivered through social media, especially to publicise overall health and wellbeing (72 percent) and to cope with emotional distress (90 percent). The authors in [17] proposed a neural network that was established based on multi-layer perceptron (MLP-NN) predictor to anticipate the risk of distress, strain and anxiety in pregnant ladies. Table 2 represents a comparison of the existing research projects on mental state disorder prediction using various ML and DL Algorithms.

**Table 2.** A Summary of Existing Works on Mental State Disorder Prediction Using ML and DL Algorithms

Data Source	Ref.	Mental State	ML and DL algorithms	Result
Twitter	[2]	Mental illness, bipolar disorder	Logistic regression	10-fold cross validation, Area under the ROC Curve (AUC) = 0.83
Twitter	[7]	Suicide	CNN, SVM	Precision = 0.78, AUC= 0.74, Recall= 0.96, F1=0.83
Reddit	[6]	11 mental disorder themes	FF, SVM, Linear regression, CNN	Binary classification, AUC: 91.08 and multiclass classification, AUC: 79.8
Reddit	[5]	Mental illness	XGBoost , CNN	AUC = 90.49 (CNN)
Twitter	[10]	Sentiments	BERT model, SVM, logistic regression, LSTM	BERT = 0.89, LR =0.75, SVM=0.7475, LSTM =0.65
Tencent Weibo	[35]	Adolescent distress	RNN	Baseline MSE = 0.25, MSE = 0.19
Twitter	[22]	Depression	NB, SVM	Multinomial naive bayes = 0.83 and SVM =0.79 (F1 score)
Sina Weibo, Twitter, Tencent Weibo	[33]	Stress detection	CNN	AUC= 0.916
Reddit	[37]	Anxiety, bipolar, depression, suicide	RNN	Not Specified
Reddit	[38]	Suicidal risk	RNN	Not Specified
Reddit API	[20]	Chronic mental illness diseases	Random forests, SVM, naive bayes	Not Specified
Facebook data	[22]	Depression detection	Decision tree, KNN, SVM and ensemble	Highest AUC = DT
Twitter	[21]	Stress and relaxation detection	TensiStrength, AdaBoost, J48 tree, Naïve bayes, Deccsion table, JRip rules, logistic regration, SVM	Not Specified
Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Reddit	[35]	Suicide	LSTM with attention	AUC = 0.94
Twitter	[23]	Depression and PTSD	Random forests, ROC curve, LIWC predictors	N <sub>depr</sub> =74, 990, N <sub>ptsd</sub> =54, 19
Twitter posts	[25]	Depression	Tweep, naive bayes (NB), CNN	Not specified
Mood disorder questionnaire	[13]	Bipolar disorder	Decision tree	AUC = 0.88
Questionnaire (656 samples)	[3]	Mental health	Logistic regression, NB, SVM, DT, KNN, ensemble, random forest	AUC=89% (SVM, KNN), AUC=90% (Ensemble, RF)
Database of Stress Recognition in Automobile Drivers	[14]	Stress	Linear SVM, Quadratic SVM, Cubic SVM	AUC = 98.6% (Cubic SVM with gaussian kernel function)

myPersonality (SWLS dataset, CESD dataset)	[1]	Depression	logistic regression, LF model	Not specified
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Korea	[8]	Depression Risk	Context DNN, DNN	AUC =0.9546 (CDNN)
Questionnaires	[16]	Mental disorder	SVM, DT, random forests (RF)	AUC= 87.02%(RF)
Survey	[11]	Psychological distress	ANN	Not Specified
Questionnaire from students	[9]	Mental state	Apriori	Not Specified
Ad hoc online questionnaire	[39]	Stress	Multiple linear regression, random forests, logistic regression, NB, SVM	Not Specified
Questionnaires	[40]	Major depressive disorder (MDD)	Extreme gradient boosting, nested cross-validation	Not Specified
EEG (5 min)	[26]	depression	CNN	AUC =0.935% (left hemisphere) and 0.960%(right hemisphere)
EEG (1000 Hz)	[27]	Cross-task mental workload assessment	CNN	AUC = 0.88
EEG (1 sec)	[52]	Mild depression	CNN	AUC = 0.856
EEG Data from Electrical Geodesic Inc. (EGI), USA	[15]	Mental Stress	SVM, NB, logistic regression	Not Specified
Voice data	[29]	Depression	CNN	MAE = 8.2; Baseline MAE = 10.4
Video from webcam	[30]	Depression	CNN and LSTM	AUC = 0.901
Elicited speech voice data	[31]	Short-term detection of mood disorders	CNN and LSTM	AUC = 0.756; Baseline AUC = 0.622
Voice and visual data	[41]	Mental disorder	Auto encoder and LSTM	AUC = 0.692; Baseline AUC= 0.498

#### 4. Discussions, Limitations and Future Research Directions

This paper has critically reviewed various ML and DL techniques used for diagnosing different mental disorders and initiatives to offer effective treatment. The review covers a wide range of articles published between 2017 and 2021. We analysed the outcomes according to the dataset of the articles which includes: social media data, survey questionnaire data, clinical data and research on video and audio data. The selected studies have been summarised in Table-1, according to their data source, focused mental state, used algorithms and results.

A bibliometric analysis of publications related to ML and mental health in social media was conducted in this research. The majority of the publications studied in this article are concerned with diagnosing and detecting depression, suicide risk and cognitive decline. We noticed an increasing number of research articles utilising ML and DL algorithms to explore mental health effects based on the previous findings. In fact, there are significant research opportunities to investigate whether they can detect and diagnose other mental health diseases with equal accuracy, including mood disorders, neurobiological abnormalities and eating disorders. However, we have strictly followed the set inclusion and exclusion criteria, keeping this study limited to the search results thus generated. In future, we plan to conduct systematic literature review to investigate different other aspects of the approaches in this domain.

#### 5. Conclusion

For assessing and resolving mental health issues, several different methodologies and techniques have been devised and developed. There are indeed various opportunities and solutions for continuous improvement in this regard. However, there are still numerous difficulties in discovering and investigating the mental health sector by employing a wide range of essential facts and criteria in machine learning.

The purpose of this study was to investigate current research on the use of ML and DL algorithms in mental health outcome studies. To sum up, research in the field of ML for mental health has made significant progress, particularly in the recent years. Furthermore, we have analysed the systems developed for predicting physiological distress as well as presented a detailed comparison amongst them.

The majority of the articles have focused on machine learning and deep learning approaches which consist of numerous data sources, different feature extraction methods as well as performance of various classifiers. Our review of the selected articles revealed that most of the researchers utilised support vector machine (SVM) classifier amongst the diverse predictive machine learning algorithms and employed CNN amongst the deep learning algorithms. In fact, many studies have widely adopted using online social media data sources, since social media is considered as one of the most used platforms for expressing ones' mental issues. Therefore, researchers used data sources like Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, WhatsApp, e-mail services, Amazon's MTurk. However, in most cases, researchers adopted various datasets generated from Twitter. Overall, it is highly likely that ML may dramatically improve the identification and diagnosis of mental illnesses.

### Acknowledgement

This research work was financially supported by the Xiamen University Malaysia Research Fund (Grant No. XMUMRF/2021-C8/IECE/0025).

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