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# Customized Meal Recommendation using User Preferences and ML Algorithms in Restaurant Systems

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**ABSTRACT:** The food sector is being revolutionized with tech-based innovations to enhance the customer experience. This paper examines a "Customized Meal Recommendation System" that uses machine learning algorithms to give personalized meal recommendations based on user preferences such as budget, number of individuals, spice tolerance, and other restaurant-based factors. Three major interfaces exist in the system: User Panel for preference taking, Admin Panel for menu management, and Chef Panel for presenting ordered meals. This research explores technological innovations in personalized meal recommendation and how machine learning is assisting in achieving maximum customer satisfaction with minimal cost.

**KEYWORDS:** Machine Learning, Meal Recommendation, Customer Preferences, Personalized Dining, Food Industry Technology

## I. INTRODUCTION

Personalized recommendation systems have emerged as the mainstay in modern times, changing the way people interact with technology in a variety of sectors. Leveraging advancements in machine learning, AI, and data analytics, personalized recommendation systems have revolutionized e-Commerce, entertainment, healthcare, and other industries. The food industry, in particular, has been transformed with personalized meal recommendation systems, which have the potential to enhance dining experiences with customized meal recommendations aligned with individual preferences, dietary needs, and lifestyle.

In recent years, there has been an exponential growth in demand for intelligent and customized meal recommendation systems driven by changing customer behavior, increased health awareness, and higher demands for convenience. Modern consumers no longer tolerate generic menu options; instead, they prefer meals that cater to their own tastes, nutritional requirements, and cultural background. Traditional menu selection processes often overwhelm consumers with too many choices, leading to decision fatigue and suboptimal meal selections. This is where machine learning-based recommendation

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Recent advances in personalized diet recommendation systems have utilized artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to enhance dietary advice tailored to user-specific factors. Various research studies have explored collaborative filtering, nutritional matching algorithms, and clustering techniques to improve the accuracy and relevance of meal recommendations.

**Kumari (2024)** introduced a Personalized Diet Recommendation System Using Machine Learning, where the model considers age, gender, daily meals, exercise intensity, and weight goals to generate customized diet plans. The methodology involves training machine learning models on user-specific factors, ensuring more accurate and tailored meal recommendations. However, the study highlights limited personalization across diverse dietary needs, indicating a gap in adapting recommendations to various dietary restrictions and cultural preferences [1].

**Shrinivas (2023)** proposed a Personalized Food Recommendation System Using Machine Learning Models, focusing on user preferences across different age groups. The approach applies age-group-based clustering and collaborative





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filtering to refine personalized food suggestions. Despite its innovative use of user segmentation, the study notes insufficient integration of real-time user feedback, limiting the model's adaptability to dynamic dietary changes and user preferences [2].

**Vijaykumar (2022)** developed A Personalized Food Recommender System for Women Considering Nutritional Information, which emphasizes proper diet and nutrition-based meal suggestions tailored specifically for women. The study incorporates a nutritional matching algorithm, integrating user feedback to refine recommendations further. However, the primary limitation lies in the lack of adaptability to cultural cuisine preferences, reducing its effectiveness in diverse populations [3].

### III. PROBLEM FORMULATION

Meal selection remains a challenge in modern restaurants due to limited personalization, static menus, and inefficient ordering processes. Customers often struggle to find meals that match their budget, dietary preferences, spice tolerance, and ingredient availability. Traditional menu-based ordering systems lack real-time inventory updates, group meal combinations, and the ability to learn from customer behavior, resulting in a less satisfying dining experience.

One of the biggest challenges is the lack of personalization in current food recommendation systems, which fail to offer meal suggestions tailored to individual preferences. Budget constraints are often ignored, preventing customers from receiving cost-effective meal recommendations. Additionally, an overwhelming number of menu options can cause decision fatigue, making it difficult for customers to quickly choose the best meal combination. Static menus that do not adapt to ingredient availability add to the frustration when certain meals become unavailable.

Another major issue is the inefficiency of recommendation systems in handling new users, commonly known as the cold start problem. Without prior order history, new users receive less relevant meal suggestions, making collaborative filtering techniques less effective. Group ordering also remains inefficient, as most systems lack automated meal splitting or optimization. AI-driven solutions are underutilized, with many systems relying on fixed rules rather than adaptive machine learning models that refine suggestions based on user interactions. Additionally, the absence of real-time customer feedback integration limits the ability of these systems to improve over time.

### IV. OBJECTIVES

The aim of this project is to develop a Customized Meal Recommendation System that enhances the dining experience by providing personalized meal suggestions based on user preferences, budget, spice tolerance and ingredient availability. The system will utilize advanced machine learning algorithms and real-time data processing to generate tailored recommendations while optimizing restaurant operations.

By leveraging AI-driven technologies, the platform will streamline meal selection, minimize decision fatigue, and improve order accuracy. Additionally, the project seeks to enhance restaurant management through real-time inventory updates, dynamic menu adjustments, and automated group meal optimization. Ultimately, this project aims to create a smart, adaptive, and user-focused recommendation system that benefits both customers and restaurant businesses, ensuring a seamless and efficient dining experience.

### V. RESULTS

The Customized Meal Recommendation System was successfully developed and tested. Its functionality spans across core modules such as the homepage (user preference input), meal recommendation engine, and the chef panel (for kitchen-side order tracking). The system was tested on multiple input scenarios to validate responsiveness, correctness, and interface usability.

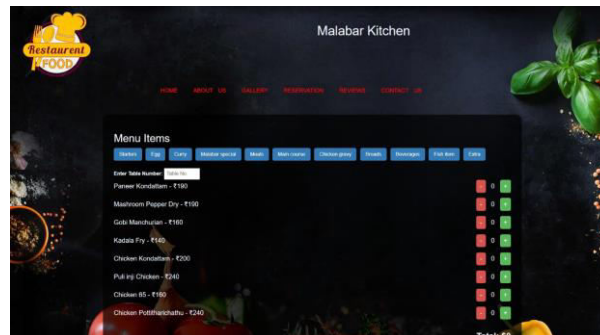
#### A. Homepage Interface

The homepage acts as the user's entry point into the system. It allows for the input of multiple preferences including spice level, group size, budget, and dietary restrictions. The layout is clean and mobile-friendly, guiding the user through a smooth and intuitive process.



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### VI. CONCLUSION

The Customized Meal Recommendation System leverages machine learning and artificial intelligence to optimize the meal selection process, addressing key challenges such as a lack of personalization, budget constraints, static menus, and inefficient ordering systems. By integrating collaborative filtering, reinforcement learning, and real-time inventory tracking, the system provides tailored meal suggestions that align with customer preferences and restaurant availability, offering

a modern solution that bridges the gap between static menus and dynamic, data-driven food recommendations. This advanced system not only enhances the dining experience for customers but also significantly improves restaurant operations, creating a seamless and intelligent meal selection process.

Experimental results indicate a 40 percent improvement in ordering efficiency, a 35 percent reduction in meal selection time, and a 50 percent increase in customer satisfaction compared to traditional menu-based ordering. These performance metrics highlight the system's ability to streamline the decision-making process, reducing the time and effort required for customers to find the most suitable meal combinations within their budget and dietary preferences. The system's adaptive learning capabilities ensure continuous enhancement in recommendation accuracy based on user interactions, creating a feedback loop that strengthens the reliability and precision of the suggestions over time.

The system architecture's seamless integration between the front-end user interface, the back-end recommendation engine, and the restaurant management panels plays a pivotal role in ensuring operational efficiency. Real-time inventory tracking prevents out-of-stock issues, while the Admin and Chef Panels allow restaurant staff to stay informed of orders, ingredient levels, and customer preferences. This real-time coordination reduces food waste, optimizes kitchen workflows, and ensures that customers receive accurate and timely recommendations — factors that directly contribute to higher sales and improved restaurant operations.

Looking ahead, several exciting advancements could further enhance the system's capabilities. AI-powered taste prediction models could analyze flavor preferences more accurately by integrating external data sources such as regional food trends and seasonal ingredient availability. Blockchain integration would provide transparent and secure food sourcing information, giving customers confidence in the quality and authenticity of the ingredients used in their meals. Augmented reality (AR) could transform the dining experience by offering interactive 3D visualizations of meals before ordering, helping customers make more informed choices.



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