

# Innovative Approaches in Diabetic Retinopathy Detection- A Comprehensive Study

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**Abstract—** The present study indicates that diabetic retinopathy (DR) is a common complication of diabetes, still causing blindness; therefore, screening procedures ought to be started immediately to avoid complications. Current methods of diagnosis pose a number of difficulties related to availability, expansion potential, and interpretation by a specialist. This systematic review focuses on the utilization of Machine and Deep learning methods for the diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy along with an extensive discussion on the latest advancements. In this study, several approaches are considered originating from the ML and, in particular – the DL theories: Levenberg–Marquardt (LM), CNNs, SVMs, and ensemble methods for the classification and grading of DR by using the retinal images. The study assesses the effectiveness of these models in increasing the diagnostic efficiency, decreasing the time consumption, and providing more efficient approaches in contrast to common practices. Essential and pressing issues that come along with AI, which include data quality, the requirement to develop big annotated datasets, and model explainability in healthcare settings are discussed. The study also provide case studies and application areas where the ML and DL models have been provided and their effectiveness demonstrated in helping the actual patients. From the objective of this study, the conclusions will depict the revolutionary feature of machine learning and deep learning in diagnosing retinopathy in diabetic patients. Thus, it is our intention to point out the existing drawbacks and stress the necessity of integrating a multifaceted team of professionals who will take collective responsibility for refining AI diagnostic tools for ophthalmological practice.

**Index Terms—** Accuracy, Annotated Datasets, Deep Learning (DL), Diabetic Retinopathy, Machine Learning (ML), Vision Loss.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Diabetic retinopathy is one of the most common diabetic complications which has adverse impacts on the Mexican population's quality of life by affecting their vision[1].

Global statistics indicate that more than one-third of the about 463 million diabetic people would develop some type of DR. The anatomy structure of normal healthy eye and diabetic retinopathy eye is shown in Figure 1. This disease has to be identified in its early stages and treated before the disease can progress and severely affect the eyesight.

Several approaches are used in the diagnosis of DR and each has its own benefits and drawbacks[2]. These methods have been the direct ophthalmoscopy by an ophthalmologist who uses a hand held device to look at the retina and the fundus photography where photos are taken and a detailed analysis taken.

Although effective in visualizing the vascular structures, fluorescein angiography is invasive because it requires the injection of a fluorescent dye into the patients' bloodstream. OCT is another form of imaging that is less invasive than the funduscopy technique and it is used when the physician is interested in viewing the cross section of the retina; it has relatively high costs.

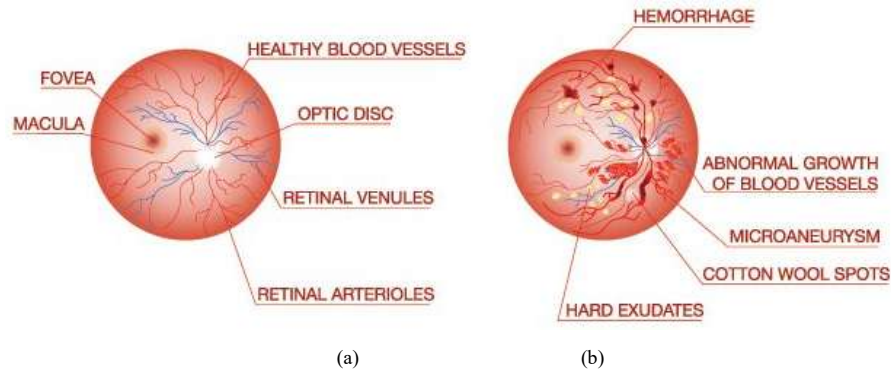


Figure 1. a) Healthy eye b) Diabetic retinopathy eye

Sophisticated methods adopt the ML and DL algorithms to diagnose dependent on the retinal images which always provided better accuracy and in large-scale application [3]. These paradigmatic approaches can handle big quantities of images in tempo but they demand big annotated databases and have issues in terms of explainability and privacy. Combined, these methods improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and usability of the method in diagnosing diabetic retinopathy. Thus, this extensive review seeks to establish the effectiveness of these novel DR frameworks and identify their ability to revolutionize the discovery of DR.

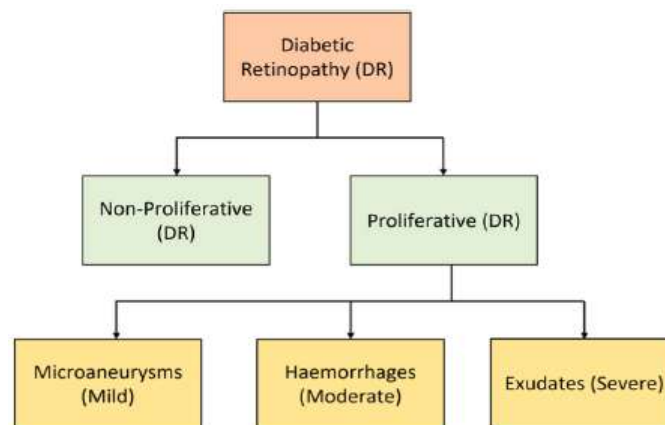


Figure 2. Stages of DR

#### A. Stages of DR

A deep investigation has been carried out how DR is causes for severe illness with respect to the diabetic levels. If diabetic level is high the chances of getting vision loss is high. Further, the categories and diverse stages of DR [4] is represented in Figure 2. The basic form of DR is non proliferative which is a beginning phase of DR, on the other end, proliferative DR is an advanced stage causes for occurrence of new blood vessels in the retina, which results severe eye sight. When outflow is identified in the retina vision loss is occurred because there exist uneven patches in the retina, further this situation is classified into two types superficial and deep overflow. The yellow white or red yellowish wounds identified over the retina, it is a common indication need for clinical surgery. These are occurred due to leakage in abnormal blood vessels. In case of micro aneurysm, multiple red color spots are identified, it is essential to restrict the outflow of the blood in the retina, otherwise the infection may causes for retinal dysfunction.

There are several major issues that actively apply to research in the diabetic retinopathy (DR) detection. One significant problem is the lack of the high-quality annotated dataset for training the sufficient enough and

accurate ML/DL models [5]. These datasets are very much crucial for developing the algorithms that could detect as well as grade the presence of diabetic retinopathy [6]. Nevertheless, obtaining vast amounts of retinal images and their manual labeling proves to be expensive and labor consuming. The third problem area is related to the explanation of AI models to humans. Such complicated working algorithms are generally concealed in the form of 'black boxes' and it becomes challenging for the clinicians to comprehensively trust the existence and working of such algorithms.

Also, privacy and security issues present themselves in case of managing and transferring confidential patient's information besides the mishaps which come with the flows of data across telemedicine channels. Challenges arising from the integration of the different detection technologies into the existing healthcare structures include costs and accessibility, and the fact that the different technologies require the professional training of clinicians and other healthcare workers.

Also, due to the random variation in image quality in the retina examination, confounding factors such as: other diseases of the eye at the time of examination also add to the challenge. Overcoming these factors is crucial for the improvement of the efficiency and increasing the use of the methods for identifying diabetic retinopathy.

#### *B. Problem statement*

Thus, an early diagnosis of DR is the key to preventing vision loss since it is globally ranked as one of the most common diabetic complications. Thus, techniques like direct ophthalmoscopy and fundus photography are not ideal. Also, there are recent advancements in imaging techniques accompanied by Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) models that provide possible solutions but with some issues. This paper seeks to discuss these improvements, as well as provide suggestions and major recommendations in an aspiration to improve diagnosis as faced with the existing challenges.

#### *C. Motivation*

If proper treatment and care is not taken DR causes for destroy of blood vessels, causes loss of vision. In earlier stages, fundus are utilized to detect the DR, moreover traditional analysis is a decisive job and there is a chance of errors in identifying the DR. State of the art models are designed by the several researchers based on computer vision which reduces massive amount of time of clinical experts in the detection of DR. Whereas, the approaches proposed by the researchers are complex and sometimes it is unable to extract non-linear features exactly. Moreover, this kind of failures outcomes fault DR stage detection. Eye is an important organ which interacts with real-world environment to identify different objects. Eye related issues causes for disorders, hypertension, as well as error prone problems in the digitize technological advancement works. Past decades, distinct advanced approaches are employed to identify the eye related issues, but still there is a scope to explore early detection of DR to avoid vision loss. The systematic review on DR explores major challenges and research directions helps the clinical experts as well as researchers to identify a method with low cost and more accurate. The motivation behind in conducting review is that, to explore a detailed analysis on advanced studies in DR detection and classification, further it is also aimed to overcome the key gaps in building the effective solutions.

#### *D. Objectives of the study*

The research aims to review advanced imaging techniques, evaluate machine learning and deep learning models, and integrate AI into telemedicine platforms to enhance diabetic retinopathy detection. It will also address key challenges such as data quality, large annotated datasets, model interpretability, and ethical considerations. The findings will be synthesized and provided recommendations for future research and policy to improve the detection and management of diabetic retinopathy. The research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the field's advancements and challenges.

#### *E. Contributions*

The article under the title Innovative Approaches in Diabetic Retinopathy Detection - A Comprehensive Study contains a literature review on different imaging techniques, machine learning, deep learning, and combining them with telemedicine systems.

It indicates issues in implementation which include data quality, the requirement of big annotated datasets, certainty and explainability of the models, and some social drawbacks. Literature on the topic is inclusive of practical recommendations for the subsequent research and practice, facilitating the transfer of theoretical developments to practice. Further, it inserts real-scenario examples and instances of the implementation of the reviewed technologies to bolster understanding of their potential use to enhance and augment the identification of Diabetic Retinopathy and enhance the knowledge of innovative methods for the disease's identification.

The paper is organized as follows: Section I introduces Diabetic Retinopathy domain, Section II shows other research work performed in DR domain, Section III explains methodology, Section IV points out research issues, Section V deals with datasets and performance measures and last section concludes the research work.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Among the works discussed by Sarra Guefrachi and others [7], the work which offers a new approach using deep learning multistage training for the solution of DR Identification Accuracy is the most relevant. This method uses the CNN in the progressive training phases when various stages train for the different qualities of the retinal images. In this way, the organisation of topics is actually helpful in order to obtain the necessary knowledge of varieties which take place due to diabetic retinopathy. Regarding the training data, the authors devote a lot of attention to the data cleaning and data enhancement as the basics of the set. It depicts trend of performance enhancement of the method in terms of accuracy, sensitivity, specificity and AUC as against other conventional methods. The experiments carried out with the help of few real case scenarios from the public data set indicate that the proposed algorithm is able to identify the signs of DR and therefore the method can be implemented in clinics for the early diagnosis of DR resulting in improved treatment of patients.

The paper by Mohammed Alshahrani and Mohammed Al-Jabbar [8] presents the integration of novel hybrid approaches of educating the diagnosis of DR stages through fundus image analysis. Their method incorporates several feature extraction techniques; using texture, color, and shape features to come up with the feature set. This combination enhances the model's performance in identifying different levels of DR stages distinctly. The authors also stress the significance of proper image preprocessing and innovations of various categories of classifiers to enhance diagnostic precision. Algorithms of this study, tested on the benchmark fundus image datasets, indicate that the proposed hybrid method offers better diagnostic accuracy in the stages of DR as compared to the previously used single-feature techniques. Based on the above research, it can be concluded that there are profound prospects for using hybrid feature fusion methods in clinical diagnosis and prevention of diabetic retinopathy.

Mohanty Cheena, Mahapatra Sakuntala, and others [9] consider the application of the complex deep learning architectures for the enhancement of the identification and differentiation of diabetic retinopathy (DR) from the retinal images. CNN is used to identify DR stages to avoid the difficulties of identifying appropriate features from fundus images because CNNs learn the features of images by themselves. The study also reveals that deep learning methods are useful in working with issues and changes in different retinal images due to DR. Analysis of publicly available databases evidences that the investigated model enhances precision and credibility in contrast to earlier models by a huge margin. These models propose that deep learning-intensive approaches could establish the first medical diagnostics for DR and offers substantial data for clinical uses to enhance people's wellbeing.

M. A. and S. Sridevi Sathya Priya [10], discuss a new technique in the diagnosis of DR using ResNets. They present an AL framework based on deep learning which utilizes ResNets for enhancing feature extraction from fundus images given their capacity to handle images' difficulties. To this end, this framework is trained to learn more subtle patterns and variations of retinal images in order to assess numerous DR stages. Tons of experiments with well known data sets exhibit that the developed approach enhances the detection of abnormalities and classification to distinct classes higher than traditional convolutional neural networks. The paper also sheds light on the possibility of enhancing the effectiveness of methods like ResNets for the early and accurate identification of DR and improving the clinician's decisions in future.

Renato R. Maaliw [11] provides the reader with a new method for the enhancement of the timely identification of DR through image segmentation and the application of the deep learning technique. The study in question aims to advance the method of image segmentation to provide more precise definition of nuance in retinal tissues that are vital in diagnosis of DR. This segmented data is then fed to a state of art deep learning architecture to study and classify different phases of DR. As for the feature extraction, the framework makes use of the convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to gather these and other features and patterns that may be useful in diagnosis of fundus images. In experiments with standard datasets it is mentioned that the proposed method gives a higher degree of accuracy and sensitivity in early stage diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy compared to the other similar methods. From the study, it is recommended that image segmentation should be carried out hand in hand with reliable deep learning models in DR diagnosis because it reveals accurate diagnosis in the initial stages allowing early treatment of patients.

Abini M.A. and S. Sridevi Sathya Priya [12] discuss the use of pretrained deep neural networks to enhance the identification and staging of DR. In order to deal with challenges concerning fundus images the authors also use

what is known as transfer learning on models such as VGG16, ResNet as well as InceptionV3. Thus, with the use of the diabetic retinopathy datasets for tuning these models, the study aims to achieve an acceptable level of DR classification and different stages of the disease. It considerably results in lesser time for training and resources required for the work to be done and still the work is done effectively. The analysis also reveal that the proposed approaches based on the pretrained models give higher and more reliable performance than conventional techniques. As these findings highlight the prospects of transfer learning in the medical image analysis and innovations in the diabetic retinopathy odds for early diagnosis and treatment consequently.

In this study, Avleen Malhi, Reaya Grewal and others propose a holistic technique [13] for the identification of Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) and the subsequent rating of the disease based on retinal images. They create a hybrid of image processing method integrated with Machine learning algorithms to identify DR and assess the severity of the ailment. The presented approach also includes initial image preprocessing for improving their quality, feature extraction for emphasizing critical structures of the retina, and classification based on modern machine learning algorithms. The study focuses on dividing DR into stages of grading to enhance the code and treatment plan of the condition. Based on benchmark database tests, the accuracy and credibility are satisfactory, which could possibly lead to its application in clinical practice. The work stresses the need and benefits of automating DR grading to ease ophthalmologists' work burden and promptly treat diabetic patients who stand a risk of losing vision.

The researchers working on Capsule Networks for enhancing the detection and classification of DR from retinal images are G. Kalyani, B. Janakiramaiah, A. Karuna and others [14]. Compared with the common convolutional neural network, it can make a sense of hierarchy and the complexity of the fundus image in the capsule networks. This proves that capsule networks are helpful in preserving relations in features and hence aid in the identification and grading of the stage of DR. The experimental comparison also reveals that the proposed method achieves a higher accuracy and is more stable in comparison with the other deep learning models. This research opens up the prospects for applying the capsule networks for improving the effectiveness of the automated DR detecting systems for a more precise diagnosis and patients' early management in clinical practice.

Venubabu Rachapudi, K. Subba Rao and others [15] concentrate on designing and applying of the enhanced deep learning model to diagnose the diabetic retinopathy. They employ CNNs on the images of retinas and distinguish the different phases of the illness. The paper also assumes the importance of fine-tuning of the deep learning model so that it has high precision, less complexity, and fast detection. Optimizations like data augmentation, tuning of parameters and model selection, model pruning are used to optimize these aspects. These findings highlighted better detection capability compare to conventional methods, which highlighted the model's applicability in the diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy at early stage and management. Lastly, the type of model is provided, its ability to detect the state of the clinical picture is considered, and the possible prospects for its subsequent development are generalized.

In the research by Ahlam Shamsan, Ebrahim Mohammed Senan and others [16], the authors have proposed a new deep learning technique for identifying the stages of DR using fundus images. The authors supplement the hand crafted features with the deep learning features to improve the performance of the model. The work as fractionated from the image and includes texture, color, and morphological characteristics that are fused with characteristics that are obtained by the CNN. Specifically, this work is intended to investigate how to combine two kinds of features that have shown effectiveness in stage prediction to achieve better results. A vast amount of tests and improvements have been made and conducted on different and various datasets to show that this combined feature works better than result that depend solely on deep learning or handcrafted features. Therefore, there is an indication that this method can offer a credible and early diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy in a bid to ensure the provision of optimal treatment.

From the study of the literature following research gaps are identified, further these gaps may be considered by the researchers to improve the potentiality in early stage of DR detection to avoid loss of vision.

- In case of DR identification researchers implemented CNN based methods, further to enhance the accuracy other DL models need to be explored.
- In case of real world clinical applications computational complexity and scalability place a vital role, it is essential for the researchers to focus more on these.
- Ensemble models need to be introduced to improve the classification accuracy.
- An attention is needed by researchers to improve the feature extraction methods with different integrated approaches.
- In future, multiple optimization techniques need to introduce to explore the potentiality of DR identification.

### III. METHODOLOGY

Typically, a diabetic retinopathy (DR) detection system satisfies the following general steps: image acquisition, feature extraction and feature verification and finally diagnosis of the disease. Figure 3 showing the sequence of steps involved in DR detection process.

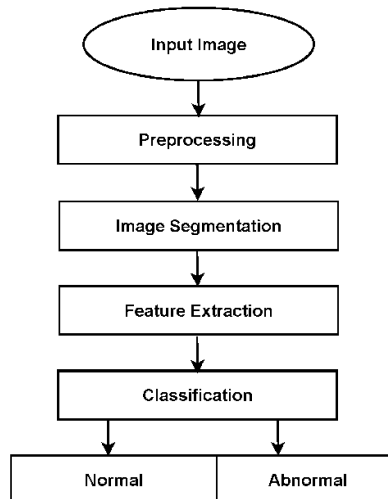


Figure 3. Sequence of steps in DR detection

Below is an outline of the structure: Image acquisition starts with retinal fundus images being caught at high resolution by specialized retinal cameras to start. The images produce fine visualizations of the retina, with markers for diabetic retinopathy such as microaneurysms, hemorrhages, and neovascularization.

Then, the system goes through preprocessing in order to improve image quality for the accurate analysis. Before processing, brightness, contrast and sharpness are adjusted to enhance visibility of retinal features, noise is reduced to remove artifacts, or images may be normalized or resized to a standard scale. Data augmentation is also widely used for machine learning models to enlarge dataset variety by transforming, e.g. rotation, flipping or scaling.

Next, the segmentation focuses on the separation of different interest areas from the retinal image. Specifically, the methods are applied to help identify blood vessels which are frequently afflicted by DR, as well as on areas such as the optic disc and macula that look similar to lesions and would produce false positives if removed. By focusing on regions of interest, segmentation helps the model become more precise in detection of DR.

After segmentation, the system continues to feature extraction. We extract manual features like microaneurysms, hemorrhages and exudates for them to feed into a machine learning classifier. Despite all that has been said above, deep learning approaches, including convolutional neural networks (CNNs) learn these features automatically, which can then capture complex patterns in retinal images without explicit feature engineering.

In the detection and classification stage, the features that are extracted, are used to detect and classify the nuances of diabetics retinopathy. If manual features are extracted such as Support Vector Machines (SVMs) or Random Forests are still powerful traditional machine learning models. And, while CNNs, ResNet, and other deep learning architectures have been widely used in recent systems for classification of images with automatically learned features, they tend to show higher accuracy in detecting DR stages.

Grading or severity assessment categorizes the detected DR into stages from no DR to mild, to moderate, to severe or to proliferative DR after detection. However, this grading is so important to clinical decision making as it allows healthcare providers to ascertain what interventions are required to help stop the disease and track the disease progression.

Common techniques and models used for detecting DR include traditional machine learning classifiers, such as SVMs, Random Forests and Deep learning models, such as CNN, ResNet and DenseNet. Most often, transfer learning is applied to leverage pre trained models and improve detection accuracy.

Concerning the DR detection, methodologies can be grouped into two broad classes: the conventional methods, and the methods based on ML and DL [17] [18]. Across the medical discipline, artificial learning and deep learning systems are essential in the prevention and diagnostics that are obtained through early detection of

different diseases. All of these are AI methods, which could be amalgamated to build sound procedures. The importance of AI and machine learning methods [19] is discussed below: The following presents the relevance of AI and machine learning methods:

#### *A. Traditional Methodologies*

##### *Direct Ophthalmoscopy*

In this procedure, an Ophthalmologist uses a tool to come closer to the eye in order to check for DR in the retina. However, it is rather fast, rather cheap and gives the feedback immediately, but it requires the professional training, and it is less accurate in the applies of the DR at the early stages or in the fine works.

##### *Fundus Photography*

Fundus camera capture images of the retinal, structure which is used for determining the presence of DR and its progression by Microaneurysms, Hemorrhages and Exudates. This results in good paper trails and tracking logs, but if it is going to be analyzed it has to be done by someone who fully understands DR and is often not change sensitive at the early stages.

##### *Fluorescein Angiography*

It is a technique where through intravenous Fluorescein dye, the eye's fundus is used to inspect the status of the retinal blood vessels for signs of leakage or otherwise. Complication arise in the form of allergic reactions; however screening with the test is not very easy compared to its efficiency in diagnosis of ischemia.

##### *Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)*

This procedure entails irradiation of light waves that allow cross-sectional imaging of the eye's retina and as a result allows the physician to visualize the layers of the retina together with searching for further structural modifications typical of DR. About the advantages: High resolution, no need for injection of contrast agents, noninvasive; relating to the disadvantages: High costs, equipment used are specialty ones.

#### *B. Machine Learning (ML) Methodologies*

##### *Traditional ML Algorithms*

Some of the referred algorithms are; Support Vector Machines (SVM), the Random Forest, and the K Nearest Neighbor (KNN) depending on the features namely textures and colors and shapes extracted from the retinal images. They are used to detect and classify usually require features to be extracted manually and cannot process image data as complex as deep learning does.

##### *Feature Extraction and Classification*

This method measures the features from the retinal images, size and location of the lesion and passes the information through the machine learning classifiers to determine DR severity. It offers fixed data for classification although the process of segregation may consume a lot of time.

##### *Deep Learning (DL) Methodologies*

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs): These automated models can be learned and/or trained from ultra large annotated databases in order to detect and diagnose DR signs. They deliver superior image identification rate, can learn multiple features and reduce the need for selecting features manually. But they require a tremendous amount of labeled data and themselves are computationally intensive procedures.

##### *Transfer Learning*

This method makes use of transferred learning using already existing CNN models for improving DR differentiation on DR-specific datasets. Although it reduces needs for large training databases and increases the model deployment, fine-tuning is very sensitive and sometimes may require a lot of computations.

##### *Ensemble Methods*

This is going to comprise either applying multiple DL models or versions of it with an aim of providing the key benefits of all of them. It reduces the effect of noise but at the same time it slows down the computation process and should be used correctly.

##### *Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)*

In the application of Generative Adversarial Networks, new images of the retina are created for model training as well as to supplement the data which increases the efficiency of the overall models. They are comprising of a generator and a discriminator, however, training of this model is somehow complicated and requires a lot of computation power.

Being non-hierarchical quantitative methods, each of them has its strengths and weaknesses, so the decision on choosing this method depends on certain conditions, available resources, as well as the goal when it comes to DR identification.

#### IV. RESEARCH CHALLENGES

Several items have been raised about the research in the detection of DR which hampers the efficiency and practicality of diagnostic solutions regarding the disease [20][6]. These challenges include:

##### *A. Data Quality and Annotation*

The annotations in databases should be of higher quality and it is also important to make sure that the annotations in the models of ML and DL are correct. However, accumulation of samples of the retinal images of the given type in large amounts can be performed just for a rather long time, as well as with essential usage of resources. The possible strategies are that methods of data collection and annotation should be identical for all teams, the approaches, which allowed expanding the existing datasets, should be implemented, and the annotated data should be shared between different institutions.

##### *B. Variability in Retinal Image Quality*

Decreased quality of the retinal image is the factor that significantly depends on the retinal image quality and affects the DR detection algorithms' performance. Thus, there is a need to nib the various image pre-processing techniques and evolution of better algorithms which can withstand the variability of image quality.

##### *C. Model Interpretability*

The primary disadvantage of deep learning models is that in most of the cases, they function like the 'black boxes', hence, it is very difficult to understand [how] a particular diagnosis has been made. Some of the presented solutions are the introduction of the procedure of creating explainable AI, on the inclusion of methods of model interpretability into the processes and the implementation of sufficient measures of data protection.

##### *D. Data Privacy and Security*

Out of the entire topic fragments associated with the patients, privacy and security threats hinder the analysis as patient data is limited and sensitive. Among the requirements some of them include; there should be adequate measures to safeguard the data, the solutions for interface should be friendly and it must meet the legal regulation.

In addition to above challenges, the integration of advanced DR detection technologies into clinical practice, generalization across diverse patient populations, cost and accessibility, real-time analysis and processing, handling multi-morbidity, and ethical and regulatory issues are all challenges that need to be addressed. In conclusion, addressing these challenges is crucial for the successful implementation of AI and DR detection technologies in healthcare.

#### V. DATASETS AVAILABILITY AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

##### *A. Dataset Availability*

The datasets are important in the screening and analysis of DR since they present various resources that Researchers and practitioners can use. Among all, Kaggle Diabetic Retinopathy Detection is probably the most popular one which includes a set of high-resolution images of the retina along with DR stage annotations [21]. MESSIDOR is a public database that consists of 1,200 fundus eye images collected from the French Research and Innovation Directorate; all images contain DR and are labeled according to the disease's presence and severity[22]. The EyePACS dataset [23], another huge resource, is one of the datasets of the Kaggle competition containing tens of thousands of images of the retina used for the creation and testing of ML/AI models. Others are IDRiD (Indian Diabetic Retinopathy Image Dataset) [24] which provides retinal fundus along with pixel level annotation of other related diseases like microaneurysms, hemorrhages or exudates. The DIARETDB1[25] data base consists of 89 coloured fundus images of diabetic retinopathy of which 68 were original abnormal images with clinical signs of DR and 21 were abnormal images without symptoms of DR and five were normal images to be used for working in diagnosing algorithms. Also, the Retinal Images for Diabetic Retinopathy (RIDB) dataset is a useful dataset that contains the images of DR and other retinal disorders with annotations. Lastly, the e-optha website has two categories of databases namely e-optha EX and e-optha MA that mainly deal with the identification of exudates and microaneurysms respectively. These datasets are indeed crucial for

pushing forward the automated DR detection systems, the availability of the datasets enriches the variation of the images and assists the improvement of the deep learning model with sufficient and annotated retinal images.

### B. Performance Measures

When evaluating the performance of diabetic retinopathy (DR) detection approaches, several key metrics and measures are commonly used [26][27]. These performance evaluation measures help assess the accuracy, reliability, and overall effectiveness of diagnostic methods. Here's an overview of the primary performance evaluation measures:

$$Accuracy = \frac{True\ Positives + True\ Negatives}{Total\ Instances} \quad (1)$$

$$Sensitivity = \frac{True\ Positives}{True\ Positives + False\ Negatives} \quad (2)$$

$$Specificity = \frac{True\ Negatives}{True\ Negatives + False\ Positives} \quad (3)$$

$$Precision = \frac{True\ Positives}{True\ Positives + False\ Positives} \quad (4)$$

$$F1\ Score = \frac{2 \times Precision \times Sensitivity}{Precision + Sensitivity} \quad (5)$$

Mean Squared Error (MSE) and Mean Absolute Error (MAE) metrics often used for regression tasks but can be relevant if DR detection involves predicting continuous variables (e.g., DR severity).

$$MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (Predicted - Actual)^2 \quad (6)$$

$$MAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |Predicted - Actual| \quad (7)$$

A low average prediction error is preferred and this measures how huge the error bar for prediction is. Thus, the presented performance assessment indicators can enable researchers and practitioners in their purposeful and systematic evaluation and comparison of the numerous DR detection methods existing within the literature and guarantee that introduced approaches perform with high credibility, consistency, and applicability for usage in clinical associated applications. The Table.1 shows the performance evaluation of the various models.

TABLE I. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS BETWEEN DIFFERENT MODELS

| Ref No. | Approach                                                                                     | Extracted Features                                  | No. of Images used                        | Overall Classification Accuracy                                                       |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [7]     | Deep learning model for diabetic retinopathy using Inception ResNetV2, VGG16 and DenseNet121 | CNN                                                 | 2631                                      | 96.61% accuracy with Inception V2<br>94.20% accuracy with DenseNet                    |
| [8]     | Hybrid technique combining CNN models and SVM algorithm                                      | FFNN network using hybrid features extracted by CNN | 35126                                     | 99.7% Accuracy                                                                        |
| [9]     | Hybrid network combining VGG16 and XGBoost classifier DenseNet121 Network                    | CNN                                                 | APTOS 2019 dataset containing 3662 images | 79.50% accuracy by Hybrid model<br>97.30% accuracy with DenseNet121                   |
| [10]    | ResNet-50                                                                                    | CNN                                                 | APTOS 2019 dataset containing 3662 images | 96% accuracy for binary classification and 80% accuracy for multiclass classification |
| [11]    | DR-UNET and attention-aware deep learning                                                    | CNN                                                 | 1940 images                               | 99.20%                                                                                |

|      |                                                                                                                |                                                                             |                                              |                                                                               |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [12] | Deep neural network using VGG-16 and MobileV2                                                                  | CNN                                                                         | APTOS 2019 dataset containing 3662 images    | 90.05% accuracy by VGG16<br>92.0% accuracy with MobileV2                      |
| [13] | Automated system for grading DR detection using exudates and micro aneurysms.                                  | GLCM                                                                        | 1361 images                                  | 92.1% accuracy for exudates<br>99.9% accuracy for micro aneurysms.            |
| [14] | A reformed capsule network                                                                                     | Convolution and Primary capsule layer                                       | 1200 images from Messidor dataset.           | 97.98% accuracy for healthy images<br>97.65% for stage1<br>97.65% for stage2  |
| [15] | Deep learning model for detection of diabetic retinopathy                                                      | GLCM, Deep neural network with a butterfly optimization algorithm (DNN-BOA) | 1200 images Messidor and DIARETDB1 89 images | 98.3% accuracy for Messidor database<br>98.9% accuracy for DIARETDB1 database |
| [16] | Three approaches<br>1. Prediction of DR by ANN<br>2. Dense121 and Alex models<br>3. ANN with radiomic features | DenseNet-121 AlexNet and PCA, DWT, LBP, FCH, and GLCM                       | 35126                                        | 99.10% accuracy for ANN with Dense-121 radiomic features.                     |

## VI. CONCLUSION

The detailed examination thus validates that solutions that offer distinct and improved alternatives in DR identification can greatly help in enhancing the addressing of this important condition. Prospective of early DR diagnosis using advanced imaging techniques incorporating machine learning and telemedicine is promising according to the study. But, that also means the framework must be able to address existing issues and more importantly come up with solutions that are easily implementable at scale to harness the aforementioned values.

The study also draws on the developments in retinal imaging namely the OCT and the ultra-wide field retinal imaging which have better resolution than the previous imaging systems and a wider field of view for early diagnosis of DR. New advancements in machine learning and more specifically in deep learning have drastically improved DR detection with the use of Convolutional Neural NETWORKS (CNNs). Tele-ophthalmology and screening has helped in increasing the accessibility of DR diagnosis despite geographical or resource barriers. The following are the other challenges that persist with AI; Some of these challenges including the quality of the data, problem of interpreting the outcome of the models, and cost.

Important future research questions will include the fine-tuning of those approaches, the enhancement of data quality and the optimization of the implementation of novel detection techniques into the clinical practice. It is therefore concluded that by pursuing such strategies, the healthcare fraternity can work towards improving the early diagnosis and containment of DR with the view of improving outcomes among patients with this disease and decreasing the social costs attributed to vision loss due to this condition.

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