

Expert System for Predicting Children Mental Retardation using Forward Chaining

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Abstract. Mental retardation is also known as intellectual disability. The symptoms of mental retardation can be detected early since children. This research aims to develop an Expert System (ES) to predict mental retardation in children with 4 type of mental retardation, among others: mild, moderate, severe, and very severe. This ES which is contained the expert knowledge is developed using Forward Chaining (FC) algorithm as research method. Besides to detect type of mental retardation, this ES provides the treatment information based on the type of mental retardation that suffered. Black box testing result that showed all of system functionalities run well, the results of the questionnaire on the ease of use of the system with some respondents also showed good results. Besides, based on the experiment with 23 of symptoms, 4 main rules, and 20 additional rules, showed that FC capable to predict the mental retardation in children well enough.

Keywords: Expert System, Forward Chaining, Mental Retardation

1 Introduction

Children is the best gift given by God towards human and the hope for the parents as the successor of the decendant and hoped that the children will be successfull in the future. There are some children who born in a perfect normal condition, however, there are also children who were born with physical or psychological limitation. A child who has the physical and mental retardation can disturb the development and the growth unnormally [1]. Children who are included in the category of special needs or can be said disabled children, are children with mental retardation where the children needs special treatment. Mental retardation known with the term inteectual disability, mental deficit, mental subnormality or mental handicap (the slow growth of the mental development), that is the imbalance of inteectual process that cause individual hard to face the environment where he or she is [2]. The low number of cognitive function, emotional and social suffered by children who had mental retardation caused difficulty for children to oricess information [1].

Based on Te ICD-10 Classification Of Mentaland Behavioural Disorders, WHO, Geneva 1994 mental retardation was divided into 4 categories; they are light mental retardation (with

Intelligence Quotient (IQ) between 50 and 69), mild mental retardation (with IQ between 35 and 49), heavy mental retardation (with IQ between 20 and 34), and very heavy mental retardation (with IQ less than 20). Parents who know that the children had special needs may have confusion in how to take care of and care for the special needs children, moreover the parents who have no understanding about the categories of mental retardation suffered by the children. This situation that push the scientist to develop a technology which is able to develop the use of computer like human, this thing can be created by applying one of manufactured intelegencial science by making expert system that consist of information about children mental retardation inside and build expert system in taking the decision that will help in predicting the type of the level category of mental retardation children [3].

However, from the total population of Indonesia in 2010 according to the Central Statstic Agency in Indonesia, from 238.5 million if it was assumed that the incidence of mental retardation in Indonesia was approximately 3% of the population, so the estimated number of mental retardation sufferers was 7.15 million [4], [5]. For this reason, parents play an important role in educating children, providing good training in mentally retarded children who are likely to improve children's thinking and ways of knowing their strengths and weaknesses so they can be confident in making decisions.

Today, in Industrial 4.0 era, Artificial Intelligent (AI) is utilized rapidly in many sector and various case study [6], [7], either in economic [8], medicine [9], education [10], [11], game [12], [13], health [14]–[16], and so on. AI technology make computer more intelligent so that can solve various and complex problem. One of AI tehnology that widely used is Expert System (ES). ES is a system that makes computers learn intelligently with expert knowledge inside to solve problem with prediction and also recommendation [3], [17]. ES is not used to replace an expert, but to help and expert, as well as a bridge between users other than experts and experts to get solutions for their problem easy [18]. In previous research, many method that used in ES research, such as Fuzzy algorithm [19], Backward Chaining [20], and also one of the widely used is Forward Chaining (FC) [21]–[23].

FC method is suitable to be used to handle controlling, prognosis problems, and the rules have been clearly defined [24]. There are several related works in ES that used to diagnose mental disorders with FC and the result is quite good [19], [25], [26]. Therefore, in this ES research implement the FC method to diagnose kinds of mental retardation based on the symptoms experienced by the children in daily life. This ES can make the society especially parents easy in diagnosing the mental retardation and knowing how to handle through the informations given. Beside that, parents who have difficulties in finding expert to consult about mental retardation suffered by the children can interact through the system without have to worry about time and distance.

2 Methodology

This research used Waterfall as Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) as methodology to build an ES application. Waterfall is used because it is the simple one of SDLC and the requirements of the system have clearly and completely defined [27], [28]. Furthermore, Waterfall is suitable for the rigid and critical system such as ES that used to predict health. Mean while, to predict the kinds of mental retardation is used FC algorithm based on several disease.

2.1 Waterfall Software Development Life Cycle

There are several main phase in Waterfall SDLC to build ES for predicting children mental retardation using FC algorithm that describe in Figure 1, among others [28]: requirement elicitation, analysis, design, implementation, testing, deployment/operation, and maintenance. But, in this research is not conduct the deployment/operation and maintenance phase. In every phase is conduted based on the ES needs, among others:

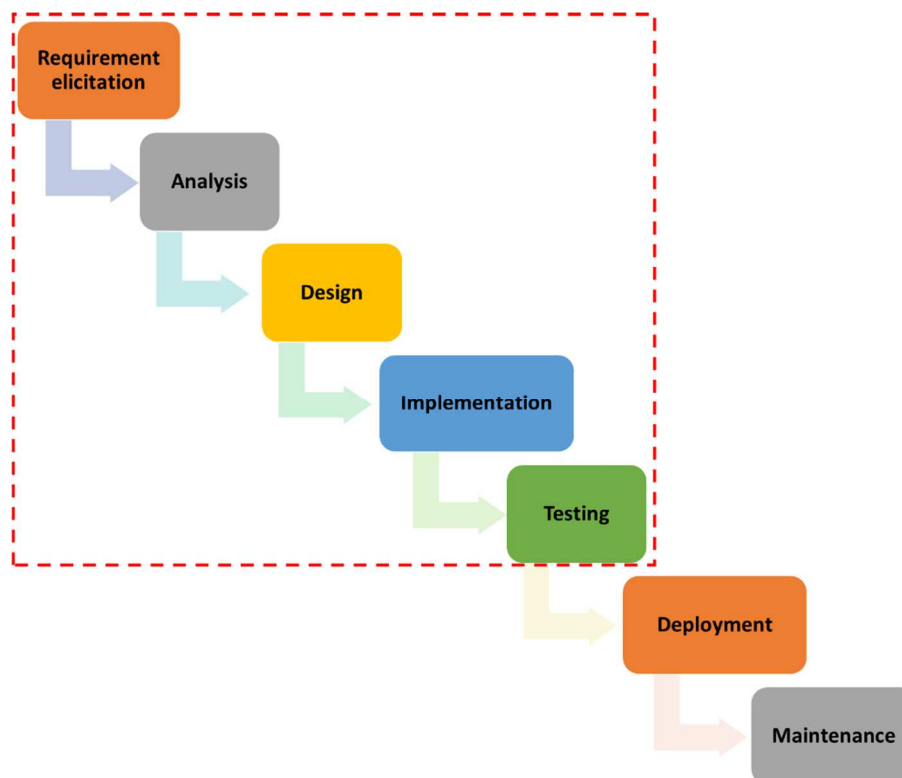


Fig. 1 Waterfall SDLC [28]

1. Requirement Elicitation

Requirement elicitation is an important phase to collect the information completely [29]. Requirement about mental retardation is elicited with direct observation in Al-Kautsar School with Special Needs. Besides observing the condition happened with children with mental retardation, it is also interview the interviewee or expert in the mental retardation about the disease, treatment, and also recommendation. All of the information is collected to be analyze as an ES needs.

2. Analysis

In this phase, all of information from requirement elicitation are analyzed in accordance with the ES needs. Because not of all the information from stakeholders must be available in the system directly. In the analysis phase, the ES functional and non

functional requirement are defined. All of the symptoms and the rules to predict mental retardation is also analyzed and modeled as rule-based model and decision tree.

3. Design

Functional and non-functional of the system is elaborated to be more detail in the design phase. The design phase represent the existing system to be ES that can make the user (either the patient, the expert, or citizen) easier in the using and applying process of ES to diagnose or predict the mental retardation in children. In this phase also design the prototype or user interface of the system

4. Implementation

In the implementation phase, the ES is coded using PHP programming language with web-based platform. With web-based application, the user easier in using an ES by visiting the web site, because can access in the desktop or mobile. FC algorithm will be implemented in this phase and make the ES run based on the rules that represent an expert knowledge inside

5. Testing

Testing phase is conducted with two types, among others black box testing that used for test the functionality of the system and expert judgment evaluate to measure that the system correct and reliable to predict the children mental retardation. In this phase can be shown the performance and usability of the system that measured by questionnaire. An also, testing phase that is directly tested by the interviewee or expert can evaluate what are the mistakes that should be fixed early so that the application become better and comfortable to be used.

2.2 Forward Chaining Method

FC method is a searching system or tracing technique that started with the existed information and combine the rule to create a conclusion or the purpose [6]. FC is very good if it is work with the problem started with the first record of information and want to reach the end of solving, because the whole process will be done in forward order. FC is a rule-based algorithm that represent the facts using IF-THEN-ELSE form [24], [30], then prove the valid argument using modus ponens and Breadth First Search, Depth First Search, or Best First Search to solve the problem that represent with decision tree [31], [32].

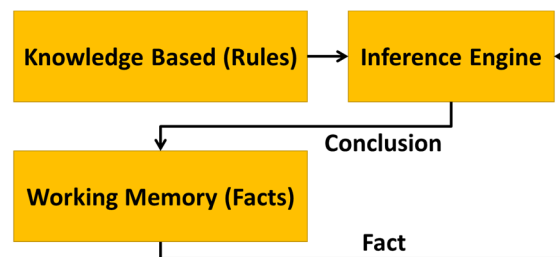


Fig. 2 Forward Chaining Rule-based Model [23], [26]

From Figure 2, the rules that representing knowledge (if in ES it means expert knowledge) will be processed in inference engine and produced the conclusion. The process between inference engine and working memory is repeated based on whether the solution has been found or not yet. FC search a rules or facts that related with the problem to find the solution or conclusion. The conclusion will be produced if the premise clause matches with the problem. FC methos is simple in accordane with the needs of rules that have been available. The proess of FC begin from input the problem (new facts) into system, then if that new facts matched in the IF section, then the rules will be executed and produce the solution. However, it the new facts is not matched with the IF condition, then it will be check the next rules in the ELSE section.

3 Results and Discussions

This section shown the result of the research and several discussion following the Waterfall SDLC phases which is methodology of this research. Begin from requirement elicitation phase, analysis, design, implementation, until test the ES for predicting children mental retardation.

3.1. Requirement Elicitation Result

Based on observation in Al-Kautsar School of Special Needs, from the result of the IQ test examination can diagnose the mental of children, especially if they have possibility of experiencing one of the type of mental retardation. The psychologists will inform the parents and the teacher to conduct a direct observation process with the mentally retarded child, observes the child's behavior and what symptoms are seen and looks at the history of the child's previous illness recorded then concluded. After that it is put into a classroom specifically for persons with mental retardation for the learning stage. However, the suitable prediction, what treatment and suggestion of what type of mental retardation that experienced by the child is not clearly defined. There must be a follow-up check on the expert. So that this ES for predicting children mental retardation is important to build.

From the previous research that related with mental retardation in school-age children [33]–[36], there are 4 types of children mental retardation, among others: mild mental retardation, moderate mental retardation, severe mental retardation, and very severe mental retardation. The characteristics of each type are describe in Table 1. Table 1 also describes the desrcription, symptoms, and the treatment of each type of children mental retardation.

Table. 1 Type of Children Mental Retardation

Type	Description	Symptoms	Treatment
Mild	This level, a children have an IQ range from 50-55 to 70, in this case it is still easy to carry out daily activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Being able to communicate properly 2. Can still be trained and educated 3. Having a normal face character like an ordinary child 	It is recommended that if you do not enter school, you are expected to enter a special school, in daily activities at home, you are taught how to take care of your home and take care of yourself continuously,

Type	Description	Symptoms	Treatment	
		4. Can be trained to develop abilities simply in good condition	then identify the potential of children in the field of expertise and teach them to be self-employed or do small business.	
		5. Able to take care of themselves independently		
		6. Smooth talking but difficulty in the language treasury		
		7. Attention is easily diverted		
		8. Can return the message that has been given to the child		
Moderate	At this level children take part in simple social activities that have a range of IQ 35 until 49.	1. Being able to communicate properly		It is recommended that if you have not entered school, you are expected to enter a special school, in daily activities at home you are taught how to take care of your home and take care of themselves continuously and periodically, get closer to children and more often invite children to communicate in order to communicate fluently and speak well
		2. Can still be trained and educated		
		3. Experiencing delays in the development of language understanding and use		
		4. Limited ability in school		
		5. Difficulty in returning the message that has been given		
		6. Have a parroting habit		
		7. Limited language development		
		8. Has a childish nature		
		9. Have a daydreaming habit		
		10. Abstract thinking difficulties namely reasoning skills and thinking well		
		11. Can still distinguish between danger and not danger		
Severe	At this level a children have a motor disorder, abnormal development of the central nervous system that is severe and has an IQ range of 20 until 34	1. When speaking the words spoken are simple	Give extra attention to children, train children in carrying out their own activities even though only very small activities are continuously taught with patience	
		2. Not able to distinguish danger		
		3. Can be trained to take care of himself slowly		
		4. Can still be trained but cannot be educated		
Very Severe	At this level a person is difficult even unable to understand or obey requests or instructions, requires constant help and supervision and has an IQ of less than 20	1. When speaking the words are simple	Give extra attention to the child, always under supervision, try to train the child to follow instructions even though a small possibility can be applied.	
		2. Not able to distinguish danger		
		3. Limited ability to understand and comply with requests or instructions		
		4. Not able to maintain themselves		

3.2. Analysis Result

From the requirement elicitation result, the conclusion or the output of ES is Mild Mental Retardation, Moderate Mental Retardation, Severe Mental Retardation, and Very Severe Mental Retardation (available in Table 2). Those conclusion are resulted from 23 symptoms that are analyzed from Table 1. Table 3 describes the symptoms and code of each symptoms. The functional requirements of the ES is modeled using Use Case Diagram that describe in Figure 3. While, for the non-functional requirements, this ES must be reach functionality, correctness, and accuracy factor of software quality. It means that all of the functionality of system must be run well, with correct all of the logic, and has good accuracy to predict children mental retardation.

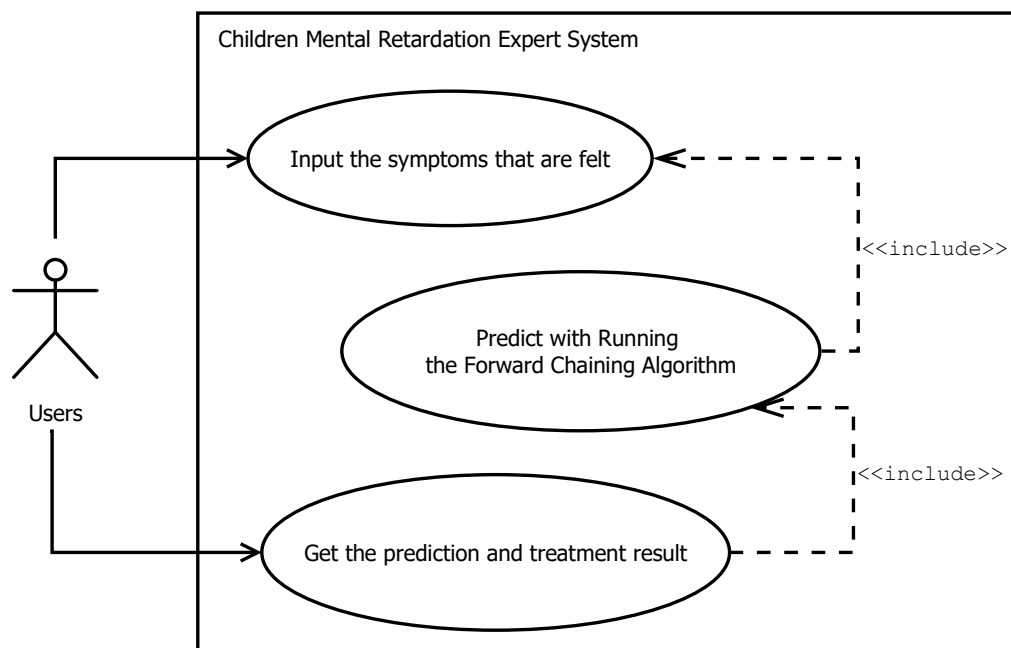


Fig. 3 Use Case Diagram for Children Mental Retardation Expert System

Table. 2 Code of Children Mental Retardation Types

Code of Mental Retardation Types	Name of Mental Retardation Types
P001	Mild Mental Retardation
P002	Moderate Mental Retardation
P003	Severe Mental Retardation
P004	Very Severe Mental Retardation

Table. 3 Code of Children Mental Retardation Symptoms

Symptoms Code	Symptoms Description
G001	Can be invited to communicate well
G002	Can be trained and educated
G003	Have a normal face character like an ordinary child
G004	Can develop abilities simply in good condition
G005	Able to take care of themselves independently
G006	Fluent speaking but difficulty in language vocabulary
G007	Attention is easily transferable
G008	Can return the message that has been given to the child
G009	Experiencing delays in language development and understanding
G010	School ability is limited
G011	Difficulty in returning a message that has been given
G012	Have a parroting habit
G013	Limited language development
G014	Childish
G015	Have a daydreaming habit
G016	Difficulty in thinking abstractly in reasoning skills and thinking well
G017	Still able to distinguish danger and not danger
G018	When speaking the words are simple
G019	Not able to distinguish danger
G020	Can be trained to take care of himself slowly
G021	Can still be trained but cannot be educated
G022	Limited ability to understand and comply with requests or instructions
G023	Unable to maintain themselves

The output prediction from Table 2 and the symptoms from Table 3 are represented with IF-THEN form as rule-based representation. Then, the rules will be represented with decision tree so that the system will be saved the knowledge in the tree data structure. The rules of children mental retardation symptoms are available in Table 4 as matrix mapping, Table 4 as rule-based representation, and Figure 4 as tree structure that use binary tree data structure. Decision tree diagram will make it easier to arrange the basic knowledge and the rule and deciding the conclusion of the kinds of mental retardation from every identification action and some symptoms. For the node or rule do not included in the four types of mental retardation, it can be said that they did not experience the mental retardation or unpredictable.

Table. 4 Relation Matrix between Symptoms and Mental Retardation Types

Symptom Code	Code of Mental Retardation Types			
	P001	P002	P003	P004
G001	x	x		
G002	x	x		
G003	x			
G004	x			
G005	x			
G006	x			
G007	x			
G008	x			
G009		x		
G010		x		
G011		x		

G012	X		
G013	X		
G014	X		
G015	X		
G016	X		
G017	X		
G018		X	X
G019		X	X
G020		X	
G021		X	
G022			X
G023			X

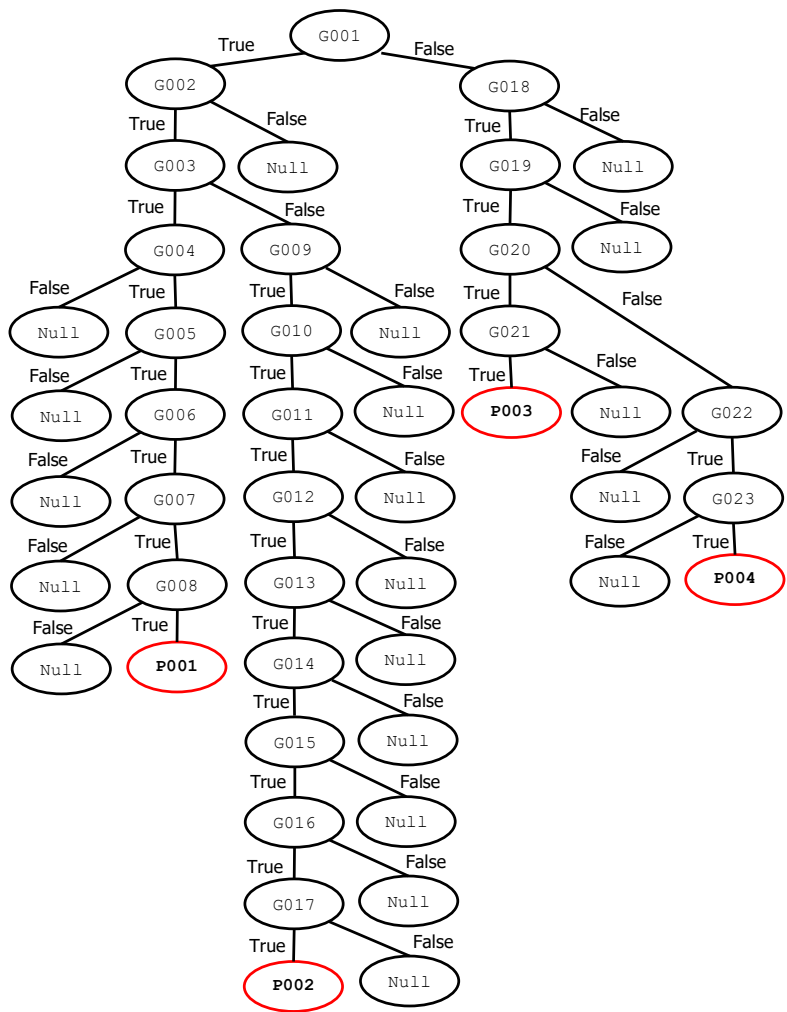


Fig. 4 Decision Tree structure for Children Mental Retardation Prediction

Table. 5 Rule-based Representation for Children Mental Retardation Prediction

Rule Number	Rule Description
R001	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = TRUE, THEN IF G004 = TRUE, THEN IF G005 = TRUE, THEN IF G006 = TRUE, THEN IF G007 = TRUE, THEN IF G008 = TRUE, THEN P001
R002	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R003	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = TRUE, THEN IF G004 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R004	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = TRUE, THEN IF G004 = TRUE, THEN IF G005 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R005	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = TRUE, THEN IF G004 = TRUE, THEN IF G005 = TRUE, THEN IF G006 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R006	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = TRUE, THEN IF G004 = TRUE, THEN IF G005 = TRUE, THEN IF G006 = TRUE, THEN IF G007 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R007	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = TRUE, THEN IF G004 = TRUE, THEN IF G005 = TRUE, THEN IF G006 = TRUE, THEN IF G007 = TRUE, THEN IF G008 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R008	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = TRUE, THEN IF G010 = TRUE, THEN IF G011 = TRUE, THEN IF G012 = TRUE, THEN IF G013 = TRUE, THEN IF G014 = TRUE, THEN IF G015 = TRUE, THEN IF G016 = TRUE, THEN IF G017 = TRUE, THEN P002
R009	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R010	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = TRUE, THEN IF G010 = FALSE, THEN TRUE
R011	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = TRUE, THEN IF G010 = TRUE, THEN IF G011 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R012	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = TRUE, THEN IF G010 = TRUE, THEN IF G011 = TRUE, THEN IF G012 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R013	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = TRUE, THEN IF G010 = TRUE, THEN IF G011 = TRUE, THEN IF G012 = TRUE, THEN IF G013 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R014	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = TRUE, THEN IF G010 = TRUE, THEN IF G011 = TRUE, THEN IF G012 = TRUE, THEN IF G013 = TRUE, THEN IF G014 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R015	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = TRUE, THEN IF G010 = TRUE, THEN IF G011 = TRUE, THEN IF G012 = TRUE, THEN IF G013 = TRUE, THEN IF G014 = TRUE, THEN IF G015 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R016	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = TRUE, THEN IF G010 = TRUE, THEN IF G011 = TRUE, THEN IF G012 = TRUE, THEN IF G013 = TRUE, THEN IF G014 = TRUE, THEN IF G015 = TRUE, THEN IF G016 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R017	IF G001 = TRUE, THEN IF G002 = TRUE, THEN IF G003 = FALSE, THEN IF G009 = TRUE, THEN IF G010 = TRUE, THEN IF G011 = TRUE, THEN IF G012 = TRUE, THEN IF G013 = TRUE, THEN IF G014 = TRUE, THEN IF G015 = TRUE, THEN IF G016 = TRUE, THEN IF G017 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R018	IF G001 = FALSE, THEN IF G018 = TRUE, THEN IF G019 = TRUE, THEN IF G020 = TRUE, THEN IF G021 = TRUE, THEN P003

Rule Number	Rule Description
R019	IF G001 = FALSE, THEN IF G018 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R020	IF G001 = FALSE, THEN IF G018 = TRUE, THEN IF G019 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R021	IF G001 = FALSE, THEN IF G018 = TRUE, THEN IF G019 = TRUE, THEN IF G020 = FALSE, THEN IF G022 = TRUE, THEN IF G023 = TRUE, THEN P004
R022	IF G001 = FALSE, THEN IF G018 = TRUE, THEN IF G019 = TRUE, THEN IF G020 = TRUE, THEN IF G021 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R023	IF G001 = FALSE, THEN IF G018 = TRUE, THEN IF G019 = TRUE, THEN IF G020 = FALSE, THEN IF G022 = FALSE, THEN NULL
R024	IF G001 = FALSE, THEN IF G018 = TRUE, THEN IF G019 = TRUE, THEN IF G020 = FALSE, THEN IF G022 = TRUE, THEN IF G023 = FALSE, THEN NULL

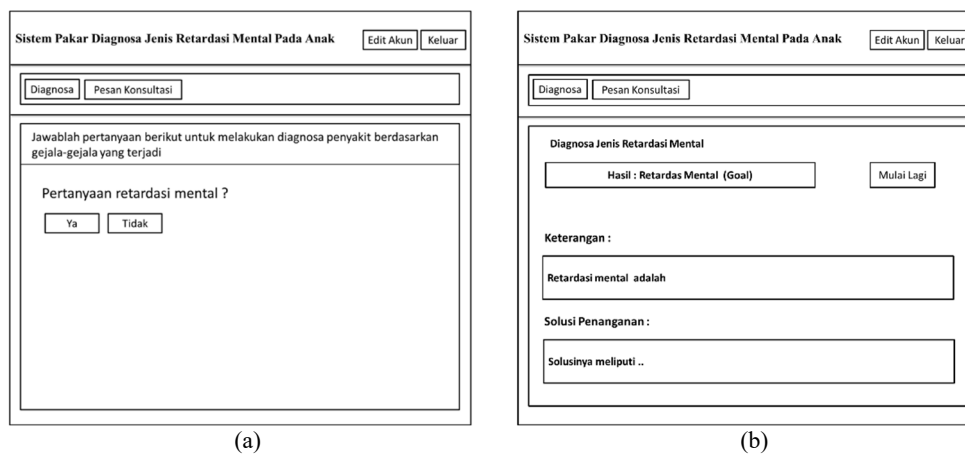


Fig. 5 (a) The example of User Interface Design for Answer the Symptoms Diagnosis, (b) The example of User Interface Design for Children Mental Retardation Prediction Result

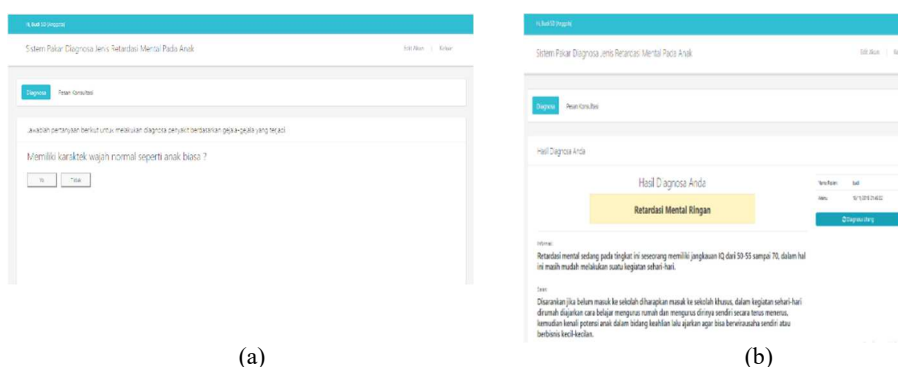


Fig. 6 (a) The example of User Interface Implementation for Answer the Symptoms Diagnosis, (b) The example of User Interface Implementation for Children Mental Retardation Prediction Result

3.3. Design Result

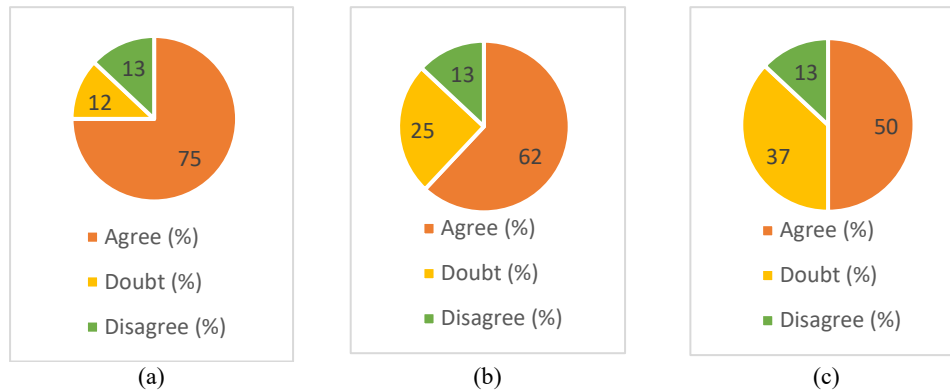
In the design phase, ES for predicting children mental retardation is modeled using Unified Modeling Language (UML) that based on object oriented analysis and design [37]–[39]. Besides using Use Case Diagram and its Use Case scenario, the system also design using Activity Diagram, Sequence Diagram, and Class Diagram. In this phase also design the data model and user interface that is described the example in the Figure 5 (present with Indoensian language).

3.4. Implementation Result

Implementation phase build the system using PHP programming language with MySQL as database. All of rules from Table 5 are implemented in the program code and tree structure as data structure that is design in accordance with Figure 4. The user interface design is also implemented such as show in Figure 6 as an example.

3.5. Testing Result

On the testing, it is done the trial system using blackbox testing that is one of the testing software focused on the functionality side, especially on the input and output application. From the blackbox testing result in the Table 6 shows that all of the function if the system are run correctly. Then, from the evaluation process using questionnaire with 8 respondents and 7 question in accordance with usability of the system show that the system is usable and easy to use. The results of questionaire are shown in the Figure 7. Because of FC is a rule-based algorithm, as long as the rules are complete and appropriate, the prediction results will be appropriate. In this system the FC algorithm has stored all the rules to predict children mental retardation completely.



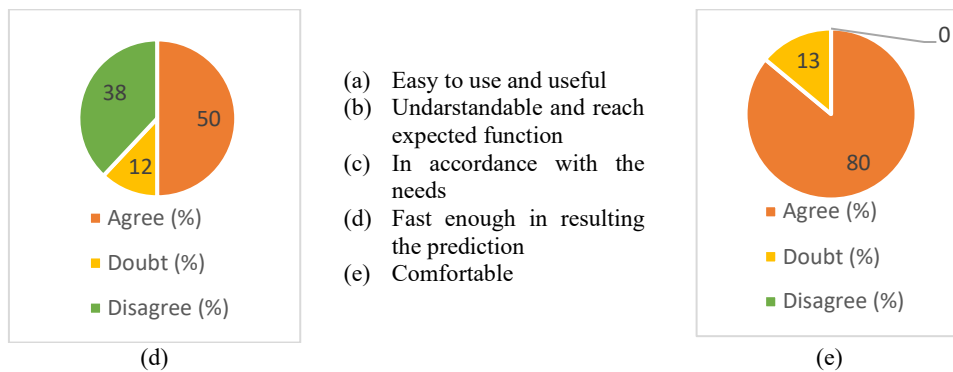


Fig. 7 The Result of System Evaluation using Questionnaire

Table. 6 Blackbox Testing Result

Tested Items	Description	Match with Expected Output	Result
Registration Feature	Users can fill in their data into system and system store the data.	Yes	Success
Login	Users can Login into the system if their account is valid, if not valid the system will be informed the error message.	Yes	Success
Manage symptoms	User (administrator) prepare the symptoms and the question in the ES for diagnose the children mental retardation from patient	Yes	Success
Manage type of mental retardation	User (administrator) set the type of children mental retardation, and the setting must be saved well	Yes	Success
Symptoms form	System provide the form for patient answer the symptoms and ES will be diagnosed basedaon the input. All of the input will be stored in the system	Yes	Success
Run Prediction	Forward Chaining will be run the rules or knowledge of the expert.	Yes	Success
Show the result	System show the result of children mental retardation prediction, and the information about the treatment.	Yes	Success

4 Conclusions

Children mental retardation is a serious case because can impact the affect the development and future of the child. This research contribute for prediction the symptoms of children mental retardation utilizing Expert System technology with Forward Chaining algorithm early. Based on the expertiment result, Forward Chaining algorithm had been implemented well because of all of the rules was defined completely to predict the result. And also the functionality and usability of the system are good in accordance with the result of the blackbox testing and evaluation using questionnaire.

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