DIGITALIZE ONLINE STUDENTS ADMISSION SYSTEM AS NATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ZARIA

BY

ABDULLAHI D.U EZE
08037752541
ezeabdan@gmail.com
BUSINESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT F.C.E ZARIA

SADA HALIMA NAIYA
08034627614
sadahalima29@gmail.com
DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS

RUKAYYA ABIMBOLA OLOWE
09066128161
rukkybims@yahoo.com
BUSINESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT F.C.E ZARIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigate digitalize online students admission system as national growth and development in federal college of education, Zaria, the researchers adapted one objective and one hypothesis for this research work: Determine the easy and accessibility of online students admission system as a growth and educational research development in federal college of education Zaria. There is no significant difference between manual and digitalized online students admission system for easy and accessibility in federal college of education Zaria. Descriptive research design was used. The population of the study comprises of Pre-NCE 43, NCE regular I, II, III 197, 188, 150. NCE PP.I, II, III, IV 150, 160, 170, 180. B.Ed 12, 130, 88, 39, respectively. The sample size is in line with odukumule (2005) who suggest 20% of the produce should be used as sample size that is less than 1507. The findings of the study showed that there was no significant difference in the mean scores of online admission system irrespective of their digitalized world. So the result indicate that due to non-availability of ICT tools/facilities, lack of implementation of online admission and ICT tools in delivering, publishing students admission online will make Federal College of Education to remain in the jet age of digitalized world. It recommended that Nigerian government both federal and state should address the issue of incessant supply of electric powers. NCCE should provide huge sum of money for the procurement of ICT tools/facilities for enabling online admission.

 Key Words: DIGITALIZE ONLINE STUDENTS ADMISSION,   NATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ZARIA

INTRODUCTION

Educational research for national growth and development encompasses our lives and as the foundation of our society and colleges of education in Nigeria, it has importance that cannot be overlooked at. Student admission momentous role in the activities of any school because, no students, no school. Inefficient admission system reduces the number of efficient students in the school due to its speed, delay and integrity. The numerous benefits of digitalization have made applying for admission these days to be computerized such that a prospective student uses the web to apply. But the processes of admitting a student that applied aren't digitalized. Those applications are humanly screened and not digitally screen. Online admission system will not only accept applications from prospective students but, the received applications will be screened digitally and humanly. The human screen rules will be automated to enable the digital screening of applications to know the fulfillment of the requirement by each applicant. This research system, digitalize Online Student Admission System for Federal College Education Zaria adopts the Dynamic System Development Methodology (DSDM) and is designed with VB.net (HTML and ASP.net) and SQL as the languages for the interface design and the database design respectively.

The quest for educational research and knowledge has gained a great momentum and thanks to technology. It has given education a boost, from online admission application system to online lecturing system, technology is virtually seen in the corners of education. Education encompasses our lives and it has formed the foundation of our society. Education helps to stimulate our minds and mold inquisitive minds into intellectuals. Higher learning takes the intellect to the next level, providing a deeper understanding of the world around us.

Admission seeking through application is a process all prospective students must undergo. This process has been manned by manual process despite the digitalized process of student application. This research intends to automate this process of admitting students via the automation and simulation of the standard admission rules of Federal College of Education Zaria.

Admission is the process of being taken into a programmed only after one has qualified by having above the minimum requirement. According to Microsoft® Encarta® 2009 © 1993-2008 Microsoft Corporation, (Encarta dictionary), it is the process of "right, ability, or permission to enter a place or an organization or institution." The 'right' in terms of student admission is the fulfillment of the minimum educational qualifications amongst other requirements.

Digitalization is making life simpler and more interesting. Computers are seen in diverse areas of human life. From sleeping to eating, from exercise to working, technology has become human companion, education is not left out.

The Federal college of Education Zaria, formerly known as the Advanced Teachers' College Zaria. The town of Zaria lies between latitude 11.07 and 12 degrees North and longitude07.44 and 8 degrees East. Located at a distance of about 962Km from Atlantic Ocean, it is about 80 kilometers North of Kaduna, the capital of Kaduna State.

Educational research as a best legacy for national growth and development is given to individuals who help to stimulate our minds and create inquisitive minds into intellectuals. It helps us to learn more about our life and world. Every education icon wishes to make education in his or her watch greener through the incorporation of technology. Hence, many started from online application, computer based test (CBT) and publishing of admitted students names on the

internet but little has adopted the online admission system that will automate the admission rules and standard guidelines of admission. Presently admission process into federal colleges of education is manual but the application process has been digitalized by the body coordinating and conducting admission. Based on the aforementioned the researchers investigate the Digitalize Online Students Admission System as National Growth and Development in Federal College of Education, Zaria.

Statement of Problem

Any manual system is occasioned with a lot of deficiency and set back. The manual system of admission has a lot of deficiencies, ranging from delay to favoritism in admitting students. In this digitalize world where people and technocrats are advocating for paperless society, manual admission system will only upsurge the paper work. Prospective students are notified with the paper means by publishing their names on the school notice board and this in turn does not promote privacy as everyone sees the notice board as against when it is uploaded for you only via your application page/portal. In a nutshell, the problems of the manual admission system are: Ill confidentiality there is no confidentiality as the panels of admission personnel might leak out vital and private information. Privacy the admission application papers can be flung by the wind of nature or human. Hence, the system isn't private even if it looks like. Speed the human efficiency in terms of speed is extremely slow. If they were to consider every application against the requirements then one might be forced to say, the snail is faster. Error most times, there are errors of mapping the application number against the application name, hence two different people will be attached to a slot thereby causing some serious issues. There are also many other errors that can be seen like miss spelt names and wrong application numbers. Class Range due to the inefficiency of human, a class of fifty students might be over populated at the end of admission process thereby making learning un-conducive for the students.

Objectives of the Study

The major objective of this research work is Digitalize Online Students Admission System as National Growth and Development in Federal College of Education, Zaria while the specific objective is:

(1) Determine the easy and accessibility of online students admission system as a growth and educational research development in federal college of education Zaria.

Hypothesis of the Study

(1) There is no significant difference between manual and digitalized online students admission system for easy and accessibility in federal college of education Zaria?

Significance of the Study

This study will be of benefit to merited students education is vital to individual hence the process of admitting students should be true whereby the duly merited individuals will get admitted, not the unmerited via favoritism. This system deals with the issue of admission corruptions and enables the square pegs to be in square holes.

The centralized database is a stoppage to the loss of data and duplication of data which is data irregularities. This will also help in proper preservation of applicants data against the paper based method that after a period the paper gets decay and might even be burnt.

Delimitation of the study

This study is delimited to all business education students comprise form Pre- NCE, NCE I, II, and III, regular, NCE PP I-IV and B.Ed I- 400 Level students of the department. This to convertibly justify the population of the study, 43, 197, 188, 150, regular. NCE PP 150, 160, 170, 180. B.Ed 12,130, 88, 39.

Review of Related Literatures

Advantages of Online Admission

- **Applicants' Convenience –** One of the greatest advantages of the online application system is that applicants can choose to submit their applications at their convenience. All that is required is access to a computer and internet connectivity. Messy handwriting, lack of postal connectivity, delay in courier delivery etc. are unlikely to disrupt the application process. This is a great advantage to candidates in rural areas and candidates with disabilities.

- **Logistics –** No more running out of paper application forms, picking the right colour ink pens, illegible prints and wondering if the application has been received at all. The online application process offers university applicants a uniform platform for filling in their applications and also provides prompts on which fields are mandatory. The acknowledgement is almost immediate and the system user-friendly.

- **Advantage to Colleges and Universities** – Universities and educational institutions are also at a major advantage when it comes to an online admission process. Quick access to student records and databases, efficient systems for filtering out candidates and processing of applications is possible through the online application process. The costs of processing applications and employing additional manpower during admissions are slashed with the implementation of an online application system.

- **Increases Accuracy and Efficiency –** Those who have seen university officials accepting thousands of paper applications each day at office counters understand that high fatigue and monotony involved in the paperwork is a catalyst for errors. Each error could cost students their academic career and educational prospects. The online admission system is highly reliable and efficient and eliminates chances of such errors.

- **Demolishing Geography –** Another great advantage of the online admission system is that it makes it possible for candidates from across the country and even abroad to apply to Indian universities without any hassles. It eliminates the inconveniences caused by ailments and exigencies, providing deserving candidates a convenience that has never before been available.

Disadvantages of Online Admission

- **Computer Literacy and Internet Access** – In India, though Internet penetration is rather high, Internet connectivity and speed issues are major impediments to bring any real advantage to university applicants. Most rural areas experience high blackouts and electricity issues. This means, once again candidates in urban districts and areas are placed at a significant advantage.

- **Low Computer Literacy** – Another major concern is the low rate of computer literacy in India. Current estimates say that only about 6.5 percent Indians are computer savvy. A sudden shift to the online admission process is likely to cause confusion and despondency among a great many applicants.

- **Security Concerns** – In a country like India where security fails of online systems have become increasingly common over the years, online applications make it easier for systems to be breached and for applications or scores to be manipulated. The fear that hackers may target universities and educational institutions is a grave one. Unintentional system failures or server crashes may disrupt the entire admission process of universities and educational institutions. Another important

concern is the confidentiality of student information and associated security risks involved in online application processing.

- **Authenticity** – In most manual admission processes, the eligibility of candidates is proved by verification of originals at the time of accepting applications, ensuring that only genuine candidates apply. Online applications make it easier for fraudsters to manipulate the application process and eligibility requirements.

- **Infrastructural Requirements** – Building a robust and secure online admission process is a task that requires financial and infrastructural resources. Many universities and educational institutions may not have the necessary resources and all these costs will ultimately be borne by the students. In a country where higher education is a luxury few can afford, increased costs may be a deterrent for education.

Universities with Online Admission Procedure

A number of universities in India have either completely or partially implemented the online admission process. A number of reputed Indian universities such as IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) and Manipal University have gone completely online with their admission process. Other universities of the country that have opted for online admissions for some courses include Delhi University, Bangalore University, Mysore University, Jadavpur University, Mumbai University, and Annamalai University. Some universities that are yet to move from the paper application system include Aligarh Muslim University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of Calcutta, Benaras Hindu University, and University of Allahabad.

Online Admission Support

Unlike foreign universities, Indian universities such as Rajasthan University face a number of problems when it comes to online admissions. In June 2015, hundreds of parents and candidates flocked to Rajasthan University colleges seeking clarity about possible subject combinations,

eligibility, and cut-off marks due to a lack of support despite applying online. In both 2014 and 2015, server crashes, slow connectivity, and technical snags marred the application filling and admission process of Lucknow University, causing unnecessary distress to applicants. Another university that reported technical glitches as early as a fortnight into online registrations is the Mumbai University. Server capacity is one of the major issues faced by this institution. Instances of website crash were reported by a number of applicants as well.

Concepts of Online Publication Packages

Online publication has been around for about ten years --ever since people started putting their text files on the Internet in an effort to share information. However, it seems when dealing with print, we all know what the word publishing encompasses --everything from books, to magazines, to newsletters and brochures. But in the online world, because everything sent across the Internet is, in a sense, posted to the public domain for others to read, many feel that even email, chat groups, anything that IS online, is published. It can make for a confusing area of conversation and research (Feenberg 2011). For the sake of a more focused and easily understood reference, we'll look at online publishing in the same terms in which we think of print publishing --a work meant for public consumption that entails professional (although not necessarily for profit) care given to design, editing, audience, and distribution. Basically, we're addressing what we like to call online desktop publishing; however, even under this title you're likely to find a variety of definitions.

To **publish** is to make content available to the general public. While specific use of the term may vary among countries, it is usually applied to text, images, or other audio-visual content on any traditional medium, including paper (newspapers, magazines, catalogs, etc.). The

word ***publication*** means the act of publishing, and also refers to any printed copies.(Okigbo&Okeke, 2012)

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research design refers to the outline that will be used to collect or generate data that will be relevant to the study. The research design is essentially plan structure and strategies of investigation connived so as to obtain answers to research problems.

Thus, descriptive research design this is concerned on finding facts to ascertain the nature of something as it exists. In contrast analytical research is concerned with determine based on analysis of fact collected.

Population of Study

This to convertibly justify the population of the study, Pre-NCE 43, 197, 188, 150, regular. NCE PP 150, 160, 170, 180. B.Ed 12,130, 88, 39. The breakdown of the population is presented in table 3.1

Table 3.1 Breakdown of population distribution for the selected classes.

Class	Numbers of students
Pre-NCE	43
NCE I-III	535
NCEPPP I- IV	660
B.Ed	269
Total	1507

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample size is which is in line with odukumule (2005) who suggest 20% of the produce should be used as sample size that is less than 1507.

Summary of Responses of Research Hypothesis of the Study

There is no significant difference between manual and digitalized online students admission system for easy and accessibility in federal college of education Zaria?

S/N	Questionnaire	SA	A	D	SD	TR	Mean	S.D	Remark
1	Teachers and students have negative attitude towards the adoption and utilization of online Admission	40	450	80	10	300	3.1	2.5	Accepted
2	Government funding and procurement for ICT tools	600	300	100	0	300	3.3	2.5	Accepted
3	Proper supervision of teachers on ICT and online Admission	40	30	540	10	300	2.1	3.5	Rejected
4	Provision of qualified mechanical personnel for proper maintenance the online admission	200	60	400	30	300	2.3	3.5	Rejected
5	Training of business teachers on periodic basis in educational research	400	600	100	50	300	3.8	2.5	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2019

From the table above, the Teachers and students have negative attitude towards the adoption and utilization of online Admission, with the mean score of 3.1 is accepted while the standard deviation of 2.5. Moreover, Government funding and procurement for ICT tools with a mean score of 3.3 while, the standard deviation of 2.5. The Proper supervision of teachers on ICT and online Admission, with a mean score of 2.1 is rejected while, the standard deviation of 3.5 Provision of qualified mechanical personnel for proper maintenance the online admission, with a mean score of 2.3 the remark is rejected while the standard deviation is 3.5 Training of business teachers on periodic basis in educational research with a mean of 3.8 while the standard deviation is 2.5.

Conclusion

The findings of the study showed that there was no significant difference in the mean scores of online admission system irrespective of their digitalized world. So the result indicate that due to non-availability of ICT tools/facilities, lack of implementation of online admission and ICT tools in delivering, publishing students admission online will make Federal College of Education to remain in the jet age of digitalized world.

Recommendation

1.   The Nigerian government both federal and state should address the issue of incessant supply of electric powers.

2.   NCCE should provide huge sum of money for the procurement of ICT tools/facilities for enabling online admission.

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