Design and Implementation of NYSC Orientation Posting scheme in Nigeria

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Abstract— NYSC Posting Information system is designed to overcome the problems encountered with the existing system in terms of insecurity, data redundancy, Information time management and data protection, misplacement and mismanagement of files etc. The new system is designed in such a way that information about each corps member is effectively managed within the database for easy retrieval of information. The Top-down design approach model was used in the course of this research and data collected were implemented using Visual Basic 6 for the front end design and Microsoft Access for the Back end.

Keywords— Corps, Database, Graduates, NYSC, Posting

I. INTRODUCTION

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) is an organization set up by the Nigerian government to involve the country's graduates in the development of the country. Since its inception in 1973, graduates of universities and later Polytechnics have been required to take part in the mandatory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) program for one year whereby the NYSC "Corp" members are posted to cities far from their city of origin. They are expected to mix with people of other tribes, social and family backgrounds to learn the culture of the indigenes in the place they are posted to. This action is aimed to bring about unity in the country and to help youths appreciate other ethnic groups.

There is an "Orientation" period of approximately three weeks spent in a camp away from family and friends in their respective posted state before being deployed to their various place of assignment. This follows by a "passing out ceremony" at the end of the year and primary assignment followed by one month of vacation. From Nigeria point of view however, NYSC was created to foster unity among Nigeria's about 250 ethnic groups and to create a sense of nationhood and selfless service among young people.

However this research paper is hereby presented into the following sections for clarity and better understanding. Section II contains the problem statement of the research, Section III iterated the research goals, Section IV gives account of reviewed Literatures in line with the research focus; Section V describes the methodological approach

employed. Section VI gives the details of the system design, analysis and execution with design layout. Section VII shows system execution and implementation interphase; finally Section VIII concludes the research work with scope for future research and improvements.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Nigerian universities and polytechnics are presently producing thousands of graduates every year and a lot of challenges sprang up yearly from the existing system caused as a result of delays and inconsistencies which might include among others:

- Volumes of records to be kept per each applicant in the database over certain period.
- Poor data handling resulting into names omission.
- Inconsistencies in NYSC overall Statistics across the nation with issues of omission and no call-up letter to Institutional graduates.

III. RESEARCH GOAL

The main aim of this research is to address the hitches being encountered in the existing system by designing and implementing a central database system to handle/managed enormous number of graduates waiting for national youth service corps towards generating a more enhanced call up letters for an effective and efficient posting of qualified students within a stipulated time frame. The research scope is

only limited to: NYSC Registration, Call up Letters and Analysis on population of fresh graduates for NYSC posting.

IV.   LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Historical Review of Nigeria Youth Service Corps
The national youth service corps (NYSC) scheme was established by the then head of state, general Yakubu Gowon in Nigeria on 22nd of May, 1973. By the year 2000, years after the decree enabling its establishment was promulgated, a large and diverse segment of the Nigerian population as well as notable people around the world, commended its establishment and eulogized its operations and achievement, especially   its   momentous   role in promoting national unity, integration and rapid economic development of Nigeria. The Nigeria's former head of state general Yakubu Gowon, who promulgated the NYSC decree in 1973, recalled that the scheme which some ill motivated persons tried to write off at inception, has since grown to such a level of national importance and acceptance to the extent that no one can today speaks   of national   unity,   or   rural   development,   without mentioning the NYSC.

According to Otwin (1990) NYSC is an organization that was set up by the Nigerian government to involve the country's graduates in the development of the country. There is no military conscription in Nigeria, but since 1973 graduates of the University and later Polytechnics have been required to take part in the NYSC programme for one year [5]. This is known as national service year. Corps members are posted to cities far from their place of origin. They are expected to mix with people of other tribes, social and family background, to learn the culture of the indigenes in the place they are posted to. This action is aimed to bring about unity in the country and help youths appreciate other ethnic groups. There is an orientation period of approximately three weeks spent in camp away from family and friends. There is also a passing out ceremony at the end of the year and primary assignment followed by one month of vacation. The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme was establish out of the nation's desire to accelerate socio-economic development, foster national integration and unity after the unfortunate civil war that ravaged the country.

In 1972, the then government under General Yakubu Gowon which had earlier at the end of the civil war in 1970 announced the programme of rehabilitation, reconstructs and reconciliation set necessary machinery in motion for the scheme to be put in place. The Gowon's administration decides to mobilize the educationally qualified youth for the scheme and to inculcate in them the sense of discipline, dedication, national pride and consciousness. This was achieved through nationally directed discipline training in the

form of service to the nation for a short of period before pursuing their chosen careers, (Service Guide, 2009).

Also speaking during a public lecture organized in Abuja on June 4,1998, to mark the silver jubilee of the scheme, the first chairman of the NYSC, Professor Adebajo Adediji, likened the rapid development of the programme to the biblical grain of the mustard seed planted in 1973, that has become a huge in 1998: said he: in spite of all the odds, the NYSC scheme has not only remained intact , but has also prospered and expanded   considerably,   almost expressing identical sentiments during the same occasion, an   ex-corps member, Dr Lanrere VI Bamidele, of the department of Theatre Arts, university of Ibadan, observed that the scheme has become a household   name in Nigeria today. In his words: there is no aspect of the Nigeria social, cultural and economic life that the NYSC has not been touched, or   has   not   contributed meaningfully. It has become a household name in the educational sector that one can say that if it is for the sector alone, the NYSC shall continue to be relevant as long as the resources   could maintain it.   Another ex-corps member, Dr. Goodwill Ogbogodo of the University of Benin, see the NYSC as one of the best programmes that have been introduced to this country.

In the same vein the sixth director General Hafiz Momoh, in his preface to NYSC: twenty years of national service, observed that the scheme has impacted positively on various aspects of our national life. According to him the NYSC "has come to acclaimed as one of the most effective and successful instrument in our continuing efforts at achieving a humane and egalitarian society based on mutual understanding, trust, tolerance and a common vision of our national destiny. In her formal statement on January 15, 1996, the minister of youth and sports in the Gambia, Mrs. Aminah Faal- Sonko, said, that members of the Gambian study team that visited America, Europe, the middle East and a number of African countries in search of a model youth service scheme for the Gambia, were anonymous in their report that "the NYSC in Nigeria is the best organized youth service program in the world.

According to Brig Gen Yusuf Bomoi June (1993), only successfully graduated candidates in the various certificate / diploma or degree examinations are qualified to be called-up for service in the NYSC scheme. Only such candidates are qualified to collect their call up letters from the student affairs officers to their respective institutions.   All prospective corps members are issued with call-up letters on graduation from their respective institutions. The letter informs them of their orientation venues and the date they should register for National NYSC orientation camps.

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B. Operational Scheme of the NYSC
The decree set up a National Directorate comprising a chairman, the Director-General, representatives of committees of vice chancellors, rectors, the armed forces, police, the Nigeria employers' consultative association and time special members. The Directorate is the governing and policy making body of the National Youth Services Corps. The Director General is the chief Executive of the scheme while the coordinator is in charge of the state secretariat. The Decree also provides for the establishment of a Governing Board in each state of the federation. The state Governing Board has a statutory responsibility to assist the Directorate in the smooth operation of the scheme in the state. The Decree also established local governing committees and State Zonal Officers to assist in the operation of the scheme at the grassroots levels.

C. Four Phase Programmes of the NYSC
The four phase programmes of national youth of the national youth service corps is as follows:

- *Mobilization*

This entails collections and collation of data on all prospective corps members from the various corps producing institution nation-wide whose graduates qualify for enlistment into the scheme. Nigeria graduates from foreign institution report directly to the directorate headquarters Abuja, for the evaluation of their certificate preparatory to deployment. Foreign- trained graduates should note that only national who graduated before they turned 30 are eligible to serve irrespective of their age on arrival in Nigeria, it is age at graduation for the first degree that matters.

- *Orientation Programme*

The orientation programme provides the first venue for affecting the desired change of attitude, as participants receive training in preparation for their next assignment of selfless and patriotic service to their fatherland. The purpose of the course is also to introduce corps members to and familiarize them with the ideas of the youth corps scheme. It is compulsory for every participant to be inducted through orientation training before service; nobody joins the orientation prior to service.

- *Primary Assignment Posting*

The national youth service corps takes care to avoid posting that result in wastage of human resources. Corps members are therefore, as much as possible; posted to areas relevant to their discipline although sometimes national need may override this consideration.

- *Reposting*

Wrong posting or underutilization of corps members, when established is corrected through reposting by the state NYSC secretariat.

V. METHODOLOGY

A. Empirical Issues
From the analysis of the current system obtained in data collection process via the Corp members and the NYSC officials on the field, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The staff allocates registration form manually.
- Registration forms are stored as hard copies.
- Difficulties are experienced in getting information about the corps members.
- Difficulties are experienced in getting in touch with the NYSC director.
- Difficulties are experienced during renewing and updating of corps members profile
- Making reference to students records most times becomes a problem because some of the records are not easily found.

B. Physical Design Components
The physical portion of system design is broken down into three parts (figure 1) namely:

- Input design.
- Process design
- Output design

C. Input Design
The input format is used essentially to state the data elements requested to serve as input to the system. The input forms are designs generally based on the necessary data that needs to be supplied into the system being captured through various input devices using Microsoft Access database.

D. Process Design
Once the inputs are collected, the obtained data are processed properly for effective and subsequent use

E. Output Design
This involves the resultant documentation generated after processing of data/information supplied to the system.

VI. SYSTEM DESIGN, ANALYSIS & EXECUTION
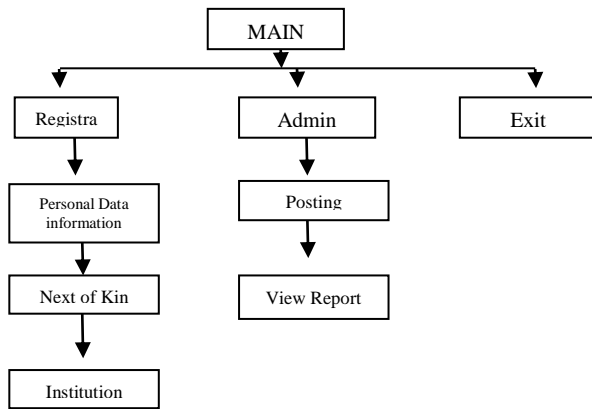
A. The Top - down Design

Figure 1. System Top-Down design architecture

An architectural design is made to break the system into modules and then a detailed design of all the modules is carried out with the system developmental methodology to produce the new computer-based information system

B. Software Requirements
The minimum software requirements for the proposed system include:
- Windows 7, 8 and above
- Visual Basic 6.
- Microsoft Access (Database)

C. Database (Specification)
This specifies the data type and size. The system is dynamic as the system can be easily modified or updated. These are known as scalable systems. In this scenario, Scalable systems are desirable because they can be implemented at one level, and then expanded to keep up with growth or changes. This states that the system has an updatable database which consists of tables that offer relational attributes with both primary and foreign keys [7]. The database could be created as a **project.mdf file**. The database consists of the following Tables:
- Registered Students Table (Table 1)
- Next of Kin registered table (Table 2)
- Institution Registered Table (Table 3)
- Posting Table (Table 4)

Table 1. Registered Students Table

Field Name	Data Type
MATRIC NUMBER	Text
PHONE NUMBER	Text
SURNAME	Text
OTHER NAMES	Text
DATE OF BIRTH	Text
HOME ADDRESS	Text
INSTITUTION	Text
REGISTRATION DATE	Text
GENDER	Text
Marital Status	Text
Degree	Text
FACULTY	Text
DEPARTMENT	Text
STATE	Text
LGA	Text

Table 2. Next of Kin Registered Table

Field Name	Data Type
MATRIC NUMBER	Text
NAMES	Text
PHONE NUMBER	Text
DATE OF BIRTH	Text
GENDER	Text
MARITAL STATUS	Text
HOME ADDRESS	Text

Table 3. Institution Registered Table

Field Name	Data Type
MATRIC NUMBER	Text
PHONE NUMBER	Text
SCHOOL NAME	Text
CERTIFICATE	Text
JAMB REG NO	Text
REGISTRATION DATE	Text
YEAR ADMITTED	Text
YEAR FINISHED	Text

Table 4. Posting Table

Field Name	Data Type
ID	AutoNumber
MATRIC NUMBER	Text
SURNAME	Text
OTHER NAMES	Text
GENDER	Text
JAMB REG NO	Text
STATE	Text
LGA	Text
STATE POSTED TO	Text
CALL NUMBER	Text

VII. SYSTEM EXECUTION

The set of Instructions (codes) written using Visual Basic 6 as well as Microsoft Access for the implementation of the proposed system to be interacted with both by the System Administrators and Students/applicants [3]. However, the specific effects are produced in accordance to the semantics of the instructions being executed. This implies that each instruction of the interphase is a description of specific action to be carried out for a specific task to be executed as described below:

A. Admin Log-in
This page is where the administrator of the program sign-in into the system (Figure 2) by entering the login details.
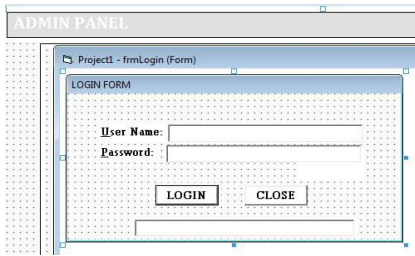
Figure 2.   Login Screen

B. Student Bio-data Form

This form is available for the proposed Institutional Corp members to fill (Figure 3). They are to supply the necessary information required by the form for them to proceed.

Figure 3.   Student Bio Data Form

C. Institution Record Form

This form is where the institution enters all necessary information about each of the graduating student / proposed corps member (Figure 4).
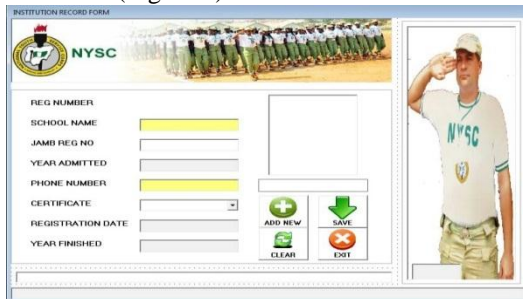

Figure 4.   Institution Data Screen

D. Next of kin Form

This form is where the details of the proposed corps member's next of kin is entered (Figure 5) in case of emergencies in the course of the service year.
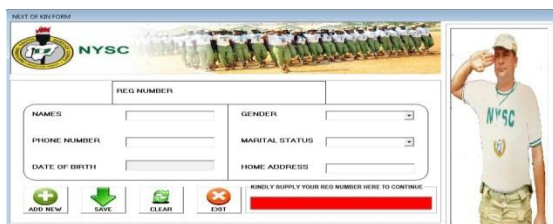

Figure 5: Next of Kin Screen

VIII.   CONCLUSION

With this research, a parallel change is necessary as stated in the course of this research to address the challenges identified with the existing system being used by the NYSC body. This research has hereby succeeded in providing an understanding of the ways information system can be easily harnessed primarily for the benefit of NYSC Posting using practical and useful illustrations. After system testing, it was observed that the design and Implementation of the Project was achieved because of its effectiveness and mode of operation in meeting the research goals and objectives. However, there is need for improvements in the subsequent/future research work which might be induced based on technological dynamism.

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