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**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY- AFRICA**

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**MIDTERM PROJECT**

**TITLE**

**SHULE-FINDER**

**A WEB PLATFORM THAT HELPS PARENTS AND GURDIANS FIND SUITABLE SCHOOLS**

**Problem Statement**

In Kenya, the process of selecting an appropriate school for a child remains a complex and often opaque experience for many parents and guardians. Despite the critical importance of early and secondary education, most school-related information is either inaccessible, unreliable, or highly fragmented across various offline and informal platforms. A significant proportion of decision-making relies on word-of-mouth, subjective opinions, or outdated promotional materials, leaving parents with limited means to conduct objective comparisons between institutions.

Moreover, the absence of a centralized, digital, and trustworthy school directory makes it particularly difficult for families—especially those relocating to new regions or with limited social networks—to identify suitable educational institutions that meet their specific needs in terms of academic performance, fees, religious or curriculum preferences, and proximity. This lack of transparency exacerbates educational inequality, disproportionately affecting low-income families and communities with limited internet literacy or connectivity to traditional information networks.

Schools themselves also face challenges in showcasing their unique offerings and achievements due to the absence of standardized digital marketing or listing platforms. As a result, many high-performing yet lesser-known institutions remain under-enrolled, while more prominent or better-publicized schools continue to dominate parental consideration—regardless of fit or merit.

This information asymmetry between educational supply and demand undermines both parental agency and institutional visibility, creating a cycle of inequity, inefficiency, and uninformed decision-making.

**Proposed Solution**

To address the gaps outlined above, the **Shule Finder** platform proposes a comprehensive, web-based solution designed to centralize, organize, and democratize school-related data in Kenya. It will serve as an intuitive and dynamic directory of schools, allowing users to explore institutions based on key parameters such as:

* Location (county, town, or neighborhood)
* Curriculum type (CBC, 8-4-4, British, Montessori, etc.)
* Fee structure (estimated tuition ranges)
* School category (public, private, international, faith-based)
* Facilities and extracurricular activities
* Academic performance metrics (e.g., KCPE/KCSE results)
* Boarding options and gender composition

The system will include a robust search and filtering engine that allows users to refine school options based on customized preferences. Additional features such as user reviews, image galleries, maps, and contact information will enhance the utility of the platform for parents and guardians.

For schools, Shule Finder provides a valuable visibility tool, enabling them to claim and customize their profiles, upload verified data, and engage with potential stakeholders transparently. This dual-sided value proposition aims to foster a more informed, inclusive, and equitable education ecosystem.

From a technical standpoint, the solution will be built using the **MERN stack** (MongoDB, Express.js, React.js, Node.js), ensuring scalability, speed, and modern web architecture practices. The design will prioritize mobile responsiveness, offline usability where possible, and accessibility features to serve users across diverse digital environments.