

ADVANCED SCHOOL OF SYSTEMS AND DATA STUDIES (ASSDAS)

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BY

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**The Research Topic**

THE NEWLY INTRODUCED DIGITAL SYSTEM FOR REGISTERING MARRIAGES IN GABON.

**Introduction**

Gabon is a country located in West-Central Africa, and its population is estimated at around 2.2 million people. In Gabon, marriage is considered an important social and cultural institution, and traditional marriage customs and practices vary among different ethnic groups in the country.

In Gabon, marriages can be registered through the civil registration system, and couples can obtain a marriage certificate from the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. The legal age of marriage in Gabon is 18 years old, but with parental consent, individuals can marry at the age of 16.

Polygamy is legal in Gabon, but it is not a common practice among the majority of the population. However, it is more prevalent among certain ethnic groups, such as the Fang people, who practice traditional polygamous marriages.

In Gabon, traditional marriage ceremonies are also an important aspect of the marriage process. These ceremonies involve various cultural practices, such as the payment of a bride’s price, the exchange of gifts, and the involvement of family members in the marriage process. These traditional practices are often incorporated into civil marriage ceremonies, which are conducted by the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Overall, marriages in Gabon are an important social and cultural institution that reflects the country's diverse ethnic and cultural heritage. The introduction of an online marriage registration system in Gabon could help to streamline the marriage registration process and make it more accessible to couples, while also preserving the country's traditional marriage customs and practices.

**Field and Subject Area of Study**

The Field of study for this research is Computer Science and the subject area of focus is Digital Systems for Registering Marriages.

**Specific Objectives**

This project cannot be done without an objective. So, therefore, the objectives are;

1. Streamline the registration process: To simplify and streamline the marriage registration process by providing an online system that reduces paperwork saves time, and improves the accuracy of data collection.
2. Improve data collection: To improve the accuracy and completeness of data collection related to marriage registration by introducing an online system that allows for the collection of standardized and complete data.
3. Increase efficiency: To increase the efficiency of the marriage registration process by reducing the time and effort required to complete registration procedures, resulting in shorter wait times for couples.
4. Improve marital statistics: To improve the quality of marital statistics in Gabon by providing a more accurate and complete picture of the number of marriages and their characteristics.

**The Research Problem Statement**

The Problem Setting

In Gabon, the process of marriage registration is currently done through physical paperwork, which can be time-consuming and cumbersome for both couples and registrars. This manual process can lead to several problems, including:

1. Delay in Registration: The manual process of marriage registration can be time-consuming, leading to a delay in registration. This can cause inconvenience for couples who need their marriage certificates for various purposes, such as travel, immigration, or applying for loans.
2. Errors and Inconsistencies: The manual process of marriage registration is prone to errors and inconsistencies, which can lead to incorrect data being recorded. This can cause confusion and difficulties in the future, such as during the divorce process.
3. Lack of Transparency: The manual process of marriage registration lacks transparency, making it difficult for couples to track the progress of their registration. This can cause frustration and a lack of trust in the system.
4. High Cost: The manual process of marriage registration requires a significant amount of paperwork, which can lead to high costs for both the government and couples.
5. Difficulty in Accessing Data: The manual process of marriage registration makes it difficult to access data on registered marriages. This can cause difficulties for government agencies that need this data for policy-making and planning.

By developing an online marriage registration system, these problems can be addressed. An online marriage registration system can provide a faster, more efficient, and transparent process of marriage registration that reduces errors, increases accuracy, and provides greater access to data. It can also reduce the cost of registration, making it more accessible to couples, while also facilitating government agencies access to data for policy-making and planning.

Prior Studies / Works

It is known that marriage registration in Gabon is currently done through a manual, paper-based process, which can be time-consuming and inefficient. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in digitizing government services, including marriage registration, in Gabon.

In 2019, the Gabonese government launched the Gabon Digital 2025 Plan, which aims to digitize government services to improve efficiency and transparency. As part of this plan, the government has expressed an interest in digitizing marriage registration to streamline the process and reduce delays. In addition, there have been several initiatives aimed at digitizing government services in Gabon, including the e-Gabon portal, which provides online access to government services such as tax payment and business registration. This portal could potentially be used as a platform for the online marriage registration system. It is also worth noting that neighboring countries, such as Ivory Coast and Senegal, have already implemented online marriage registration systems. Therefore, there are existing models for the Gabonese government to study and learn from. While there may not be specific studies or research on marriage registration in Gabon, the government's interest in digitizing government services and the availability of existing models provide a foundation for the development of an online marriage registration system.

The Focus of the Study

Marriage is a special and important event in one's life. It is a union of two people who have decided to spend the rest of their lives together. However, registering a marriage can often be complicated and time-consuming, requiring couples to travel to government offices and fill out paperwork. To make this process easier and more accessible, we are proposing an online marriage registration system for Gabon. This system will allow couples to register their marriages from the comfort of their homes, using a simple and user-friendly online platform.

The online marriage registration system will offer the following features:

* Easy-to-use platform: The online platform will be user-friendly and easy to navigate. Couples will be able to complete the registration process in a few simple steps.
* Secure and confidential: The platform will be secure and will protect the confidentiality of couples' personal information.
* Time-saving: The online system will save couples time by eliminating the need to travel to government offices and wait in long queues.
* Cost-effective: The online system will save couples money by eliminating the need for legal assistance or intermediaries.
* Efficient processing: The system will allow for faster processing and registration of marriages, reducing couples’ time to wait for their marriage certificates.

Overall, the online marriage registration system will make the process of registering marriages in Gabon faster, easier, and more accessible to all.

**Methodology**

Agile methodology can be used in building our system by breaking down the development process into small, iterative steps or sprints. An agile methodology is an iterative approach to software development that involves continuous collaboration between the development team and stakeholders to deliver a high-quality product that meets their needs and expectations.

By using agile methodology in building this system, the developer can deliver a high-quality product that meets the needs and expectations of all stakeholders, in a timely and efficient manner.

**Background and the Justification of Study**

Background:

In Gabon, traditional marriage ceremonies are commonly practiced, but they are not recognized as legal marriages unless they are registered with civil authorities. However, the registration process can be time-consuming and cumbersome, requiring couples to visit government offices multiple times, present various documents, and navigate bureaucratic procedures. This can be particularly difficult for couples who live in remote areas or have limited mobility. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it even more challenging for couples to register their marriages in person, as government offices may have restricted hours or be closed altogether.

Justification:

A digital marriage registration system in Gabon would offer several benefits, including:

* Convenience: The current process of marriage registration in Gabon requires couples to take time off work or travel to the city hall, which can be inconvenient, especially for those living in remote areas. An online registration system would allow couples to register their marriage from the comfort of their homes, at any time.
* Time-saving: The current registration process can take several days to complete, as couples must provide various documents, undergo medical examinations, and wait for administrative procedures to be completed. An online system could streamline this process, enabling couples to register their marriage more quickly.
* Reduced costs: An online registration system would eliminate the need for couples to travel to the city hall, reducing transportation and accommodation costs. Moreover, it would require fewer staff members, reducing the operational costs of the city hall.
* Increased accuracy: The current registration process is manual, increasing the likelihood of errors in data entry and document processing. An online system would reduce human error, ensuring that data is accurately captured and processed.
* Improved data management: An online system would provide a centralized database that could be accessed by authorized personnel, enabling more efficient data management and monitoring.

Overall, an online marriage registration system in Gabon would provide a more efficient, convenient, and cost-effective way for couples to register their marriage, while also ensuring compliance with social distancing measures during the pandemic.

**Expected Outcome of the Research**

The implementation of a digital marriage registration system in Gabon is expected to have several positive outcomes. Below are the expected outcomes we will focus on:

* Increased Access to Marriage Registration: The digital system will provide increased access to marriage registration for all couples, regardless of their location or mobility. Couples who live in remote areas or have limited mobility will be able to register their marriages without the need to travel to government offices, making the process more convenient and accessible.
* Improved Public Health Outcomes: The digital system will also have public health benefits, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The system will reduce the need for in-person visits to government offices, reducing the risk of transmission of the virus

**The Research Implementation Schedule**

The research work would follow the timeline as provided below: -

* The first chapter will be done in a month
* The second chapter would be developed in a month
* The third chapter would be developed in a month
* The fourth chapter would be done in a month
* The fifth chapter would be completed in a month.