Project proposal

GBV Reporting App

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Problem domain

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a widespread and detrimental problem in South Africa that affects people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. It includes things like physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse, and usually happens in relationships, families, work, or public places. South Africa has one of the highest rates of GBV in the world, with daily reports of attacks, harassment, and femicide making the news and showing up in national statistics.

Despite the high occurrence, GBV is very underreported. In many cases, it is hard for survivors to report the crime due to a number of barriers, such as:

* Fear of retaliation from the abuser, with power and proximity playing a significant part.
* Shame and stigma, with victims keeping quiet because they fear being condemned by society.
* Distrust in police and judiciary systems, as a result of delayed case resolution, insensitivity, or corruption.
* Geographical isolation, especially in rural areas where police stations and refuges are a distance away.
* Lack of knowledge on the support services provided.
* Conventional reporting mechanisms — e.g., physically going to a police station or dialling a helpline — are typically unavailable, not safe, or inconvenient during emergencies. Further, systems in place rarely ensure opportunities for anonymous and safe reporting, leaving survivors at risk and afraid to report.
* Existing reporting system, such as the police or helplines, are usually unsafe, unavailable, or inconvenient in times of urgency. There is also the aspect of systems in place being careless with the anonymity of the survivor – leaving them feeling at risk and not reporting the crime.

This means that we indeed require a safe, confidential, and friendly online platform where people can make reports of GBV incidents without intimidation or fear. This kind of system would assure anonymity and safety but would also:

* Allow real-time reporting of cases using GPS tagging to map out high-risk areas.
* Give immediate access to support infrastructure, including legal assistance, refuges, health clinics, and helplines.
* Form recommendations based on data to help legal professionals understand GBV and its trends, enabling them to provide better services.
* Offer consensual follow-ups or case tracking to bridge the gap between survivors and services.

This project would be able to aid problems in already existing GBV reporting systems, using a mobile first approach with end-to-end encryption which would enable more cases to be reported and a safer, more private way to access aid. The nature of project is very important because it addresses a serious issue that needs careful attention in both its design and technology.

Proposed solution

In this section, describe the system you plan to develop. Think about

* What should the system do, and how should it do it?
* How would the system improve/support the current domain?
* Whether it should be desktop-, web- or mobile-based (or even a combination of some of them).
* What technologies do you think you’ll use to develop the system?
* A list of all (or at least some of) the screens or system functions you believe the system will need.

When devising your system, keep the following requirements in mind:

* Your system **must** include/be based on a database, regardless of which type of database you choose. Groups of two students must have the absolute minimum of the equivalent of at least 10 tables and groups of 3 at least 14.
* A login system will be needed.
* It should have multiple input (i.e. data capture) screens. A good rule of thumb for the number of screens/system size is around 1 per database table.
* It should include at least one interesting feature that isn’t just a simple data capture screen, such as consuming external data/services or using built-in device features (such as a camera or GPS).
* Be able to generate reports in some or other form.
* Have some form of help or guidance available.
* Incorporate security
* Be maintained via version control (to which I need access)

This section doesn’t require in-depth explanations, as all of this will be presented in later documents. The goal of this section (and document as a whole) is for you (and the reader) to think about what tasks/steps your system development will entail and whether or not the system will have utility. This section should be between half a page and a full page in length.