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## <u>Pre-Final Year</u> <u>Mini – Project Synopsis</u>

"Automated Admission Helpdesk: A College AI-Chatbot Solution"

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# **Introduction**

In today's fast-paced digital era, colleges and universities are constantly seeking innovative ways to enhance their online presence and streamline the admission process for prospective students. One promising approach is the integration of [1] AI-powered chatbots that provide real-time assistance to users navigating the admissions journey. This project, "Automated Admission Helpdesk: A College AI Chatbot Solution" aims to revolutionize how institutions communicate with potential students.

This mini project focuses on designing and implementing a smart, user-friendly chatbot that seamlessly integrates into the college's website. The chatbot is tailored to answer common admission-related questions, offering quick and accurate responses to help prospective students access crucial information effortlessly. With this tool, users [2] can inquire about application procedures, deadlines, eligibility criteria, required documentation, and more—all through a simple and interactive interface.



By embedding this chatbot [3] directly into the college's web portal, the institution not only enhances the user experience but also ensures that essential admission information is readily accessible at any time. This innovation reduces the workload on administrative staff and empowers students by providing instant answers, fostering a more efficient and engaging digital environment for all.

# **Problem Statement**

"Prospective students struggle with accessing timely admission information, causing delays and burdening administrative staff, highlighting the need for an automated solution for instant responses."

## **Description:**

Prospective students often face difficulties accessing timely and accurate information about the college admission process, leading to confusion and potential delays in applications. Traditional methods of obtaining information, such as phone calls, emails, and browsing through extensive web pages, can be time-consuming and may not provide immediate answers. This results in increased workload for the administrative staff who must handle repetitive inquiries, diverting their attention from more complex tasks.

To address this challenge, there is a need for an automated, user-friendly solution that can provide real-time responses to admission-related questions. The solution should be capable of integrating seamlessly into the college website, allowing prospective students to easily interact and obtain relevant information without manual intervention. This project proposes the development of a "Chatbot to Answer College Admission Questions and Embed it into the College Website" to streamline the admission query process, enhance user experience, and reduce administrative burden [1][2][3].



# **Objectives**

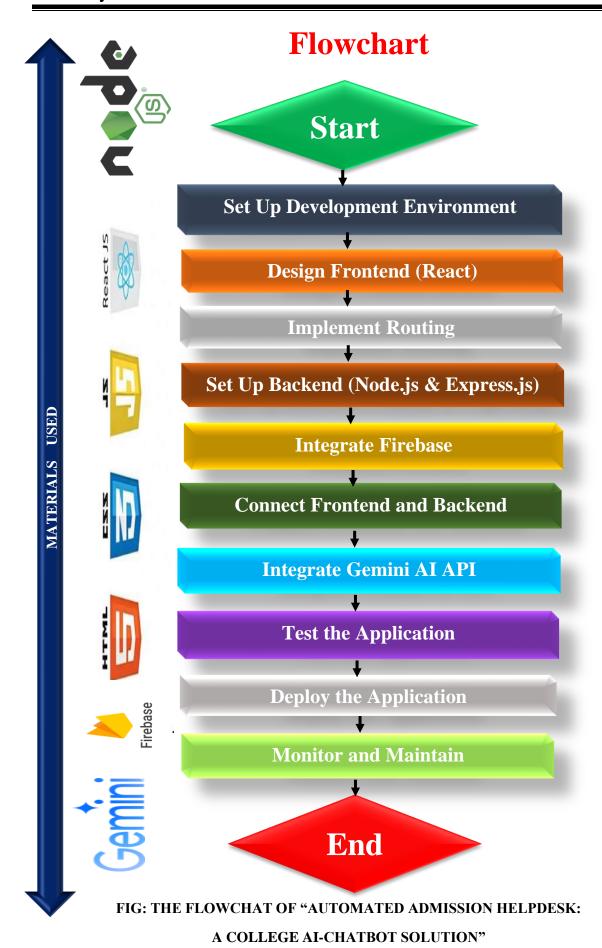
- I. Develop an **AI-powered chatbot** capable of responding to common **college admission queries**.[1][4]
- II. Seamlessly **embed** the chatbot into the **college's official website** for easy user access.[1][4]
- III. Ensure **real-time**, **24/7 availability** of the chatbot to provide **instant responses** to users.[2][4]
- IV. Enhance **user experience** by making **admission information** easily accessible and interactive.[4][9]
- V. **Automate repetitive inquiries** to reduce the **workload on administrative staff**.[3][4]
- VI. Provide accurate and up-to-date admission information to maintain reliability and user trust.[1][8]
- VII. Optimize the chatbot's **interface** for both **desktop** and **mobile devices** for wider accessibility.[11]
- VIII. Implement a **user-friendly design** that guides prospective students through the **admission process**.[4][9]
  - IX. Enable **multilingual support** to cater to a **diverse range of users**.[5]
  - X. Incorporate an option for users to request **further assistance** if their queries are not fully resolved.[10]
  - XI. **Track and analyse user interactions** to improve the chatbot's performance and information accuracy.[6]
- XII. Ensure **data security** and **privacy compliance** for user interactions within the chatbot.[7]
- XIII. Integrate **FAQs** and admission-related **documents** to expand the chatbot's **knowledge base**.[13]
- XIV. Allow for **easy updates** and modifications to the chatbot's knowledge base as **admission policies change**.[12]
  - XV. Collect **feedback from users** to refine and enhance the chatbot's **functionality** and **user experience** over time.[10]

# **Literature Survey**

To better understand the current state of chatbot technology and its applications in higher education, a comprehensive review of existing literature was conducted. This review highlights various studies that have explored the development, implementation, and effectiveness of chatbots in providing academic support and facilitating admission processes. Below are some key contributions from recent research in this field:

(Followed by the literature survey details).

- I. **Sharma, K., & Kaur, S.** (2021) "Chatbot For College Campus" Developed a university virtual assistant chatbot for information retrieval on courses, faculty, and campus events. The research demonstrated high user satisfaction and reduced university staff workload by handling common student inquiries. Published in *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT)* IJCRT
- II. **Lakkaraju, R., & Madhavi, S.** (2023) Implemented a college enquiry chatbot using natural language processing (NLP) to provide information on admission procedures and academic advising. This system showed a positive impact on user satisfaction. Published in *IEEE Xplore* IEEE Xplore
- III. **Pérez-Marín, D., & Pérez, J.** (2021) "Are We There Yet? A Systematic Literature Review on Chatbots in Education" published in **Frontiers in Education**. This review categorizes research on chatbots, focusing on their design, evaluation methods, and educational effectiveness, providing insights into how chatbots can be integrated into educational systems <u>Frontiers</u>
- IV. **Hobert, S.** (2019) "Evaluation Criteria for Chatbots in Education" found in the **Journal of Educational Technology**. This article discusses the importance of evaluating chatbots based on various criteria, including usability and learning success, which are essential for the effective implementation of educational chatbots <u>Frontiers</u>
- V. Smutny, P., & Schreiberova, P. (2020) "Chatbots as a Teaching Assistant: Potential and Pitfalls" published in Computers & Education. This paper examines the role of chatbots as teaching assistants, addressing their benefits and challenges in educational settings, particularly in answering students' questions IEEE Xplore



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# Working

#### I. User Interaction

- Users access the chatbot through the web interface built with React.
- The chat interface allows users to type messages and submit queries.[4]

#### II. Frontend Handling

- When a user submits a message, the React application captures the input.
- The message is displayed in the [4] chat interface for user visibility.

#### III. API Call to Backend

- o The frontend makes an HTTP request [3] to the backend (Node.js and Express.js) using Axios or Fetch API.
- The user's message is sent to a specific endpoint defined in the Express server.

#### **IV.** Backend Processing

- The Express server receives the user message.
- It may [7] perform any necessary pre-processing, such as sanitizing the input.

## V. Integration with Gemini AI

- o The backend sends the user message to the Gemini AI [1] using the API key.
- o It constructs a request that includes the user's query.

## VI. Response Handling

- The Gemini AI API processes the request and generates a response based on its AI capabilities. (Yang Z., Ji Z., and Huang J., 2020.)
- o The response is sent back to the Express server.

## VII. Sending Response to Frontend

- The Express server receives the response from the Gemini AI API.
- o It sends the AI-generated response back to the React frontend.

## VIII. Display Response

- The frontend receives the AI response and updates the chat interface.
- o The response is displayed to the user in the chat window.

#### IX. Firebase Integration (Optional)

- o If implemented, Firebase can store chat history and user data for further analysis or retrieval.
- o User authentication can also be handled via Firebase.

### X. Continuous User Engagement

- The user can continue to interact with the chatbot by asking further questions.
- The cycle [4] of sending messages to the backend and receiving responses continues.

### **XI.** Monitoring and Analytics

- The application can include Firebase Analytics to track user interactions and engagement metrics.
- This data can be used to improve chatbot performance and user experience over time.

### XII. Iterative Improvements

o Based on user feedback and analytics, you can make adjustments and improvements to the chatbot's functionality and user interface.

## On Summarize The Working

This working process highlights the interactive loop between the user, the frontend application, the backend server, and the AI API, allowing for dynamic conversation and support in higher education scenarios.

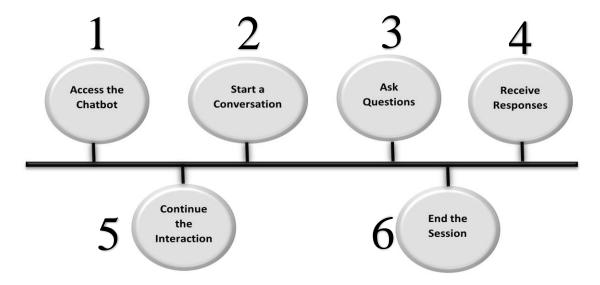


FIG: How To Use

# **Expected Outcomes**

### I. Improved Response Time

 The chatbot can provide instant responses to common inquiries, significantly reducing wait times for prospective students seeking information about the admissions process.[2]

### II. 24/7 Availability

The chatbot can operate round-the-clock, allowing prospective
 [1] students to get assistance outside of regular office hours, enhancing accessibility.

## III. Increased Engagement

 By facilitating real-time conversations, the chatbot can keep prospective students engaged and encourage them to ask more questions, leading to a deeper [2] understanding of the institution.

#### **IV.** Consistent Information

o The chatbot ensures that all users [4] receive accurate and consistent information regarding admission requirements, deadlines, and procedures, reducing the chances of misinformation.

## V. Scalability

 During peak admission periods, the chatbot can handle a high volume of inquiries [3] simultaneously, alleviating pressure on admissions staff.

## VI. Personalized Experience

 The chatbot can offer personalized responses based on user interactions, preferences, and profiles, creating a tailored experience for prospective students.[5]

## VII. Data Collection and Insights

The chatbot can collect valuable data on user inquiries and behaviour, providing [6] insights into common questions and concerns. This data can inform improvements in the admissions process.

#### VIII. Reduced Administrative Burden

 Automating responses to frequently asked questions can free up admissions staff to focus on more complex queries and personalized outreach efforts.

#### IX. Guidance Through the Admissions Process

• The chatbot can guide users step-by-step through the application process, from filling out forms to submitting required documents, making the process more straightforward.

### X. Enhanced Student Support

 By providing information on scholarships, financial aid, and campus resources, the chatbot can support prospective students in making informed decisions.

## **XI.** Increased Applications

o Improved user experience and support may lead to a higher number of completed applications, [1] as prospective students feel more confident and informed.

#### XII. Feedback Mechanism

 The chatbot can include features to gather feedback on the admissions process, helping institutions identify areas for improvement.

#### **XIII.** Integration with Other Systems

• The chatbot can be integrated with the institution's CRM or application management systems, [12] streamlining the admissions workflow and enhancing data management.

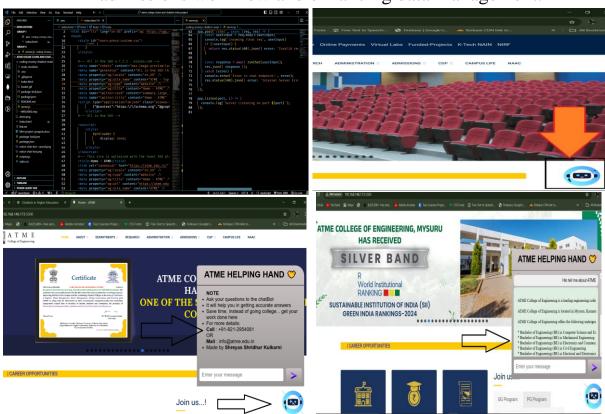


FIG: Final Output Of The Project

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