**1.2 CURRENT SYSTEM**

The Kirinyaga university is a certified higher learning institution that operates on a given code of conduct, for example in the teaching and learning sector of the university, it is mandatory for students aiming to graduate to develop a project related to their field of study as a partial fulfilment to attain a degree in the field of study they are taking.

In order to make the process successful, university created a paper-work system that involves two parties – supervisor and student. Supervisor is a lecturer who is also involved in other teaching duties and the student must be in his/her final year of study. Student is given a specific timeline to prepare and present one chapter of the entire project and if the supervisor ascertains that it meets the required standard, the student is approved to proceed to the next chapter, if it does not meet the minimum standards then the student is given more guidelines and asked to repeat. The steps are repeated until all the chapters have been completed.

It is required that the assigned supervisor and the student remain in close contact throughout the process. Student are required to research and prepare the contents of the chapter currently dealing with then set an appointment with the supervisor who will ascertain the validity of the work. Students are also required to prepare a presentation that will be used in during the project defend in front a panel of selected supervisors.

Since one supervisor is always handling a couple of students, they have found it necessary to keep log of students who are setting appointment and meeting to check, discuss and approve or disapprove progress. This is one way of making sure this system of project management is successful. For students who appear less in the logs of the supervisor’s lecturer, they are at the risk of being discontinued from the process. When accepting appointments, supervisors tend to accept several students once at a given time. This makes the interaction and guiding ineffective since individual students have project’s that are often non-related in terms of problem they aim to solve, objectives and final system they are to develop.

Once the student has completed all the chapters and the supervisor confirms the validity of the project, the student is awarded a grade based on the creativity, relevance and uniqueness of their project. In order to keep evidence that a student went through all the procedure of project, despite the supervisor keeping logs of the interaction and progress in a registry, the student is asked to document and print the whole process then deliver it to the supervisor who will file and store it.

The current system in operation is limited in various ways since the whole process is done through scheduled physical interaction. Selected supervisors have to balance their time between teaching and serving the students assigned to them leading to minimal and less quality interaction between supervisor and student making the proposed projects not to reach the optimum quality.

**1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Since the inception of this great institution, lecturers at Kirinyaga university have been handling finalist’s project through physical reviewing of materials related to projects rather than having a web-based system that automatically manages most the review and validate processes online. The paperwork procedure has been used for all students across all faculties who are on their final year and are required to develop a project as part of their qualification to attain bachelor’s degree. A lecturer is assigned a number of students who he/she will guide throughout the chapters of introduction, literature review, and methodology.

Currently, there has been minimal effort cultivated by either the university, lecturers, student or concerned stakeholders to centralize the project management activities by developing a system that streamlines the entire steps, thereby, reducing physical interaction and time wastage through moving around trying to locate the supervisor who are on other teaching duties. Because lecturers who are reviewing the student’s project are also required to teach other students, they have found no time to be creative nor request the university to use technology to improve the management of projects from the tedious and time-consuming methodology currently applied.

When presenting projects to lecturers, students tend to take the human error into advantage and show case works with plagiarism, shallow and framed ideas and identical projects to their peer with different supervisor. This leads to lack of competency and creativity by the future problem-solving professionals of a highly demanding society.