**KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**



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**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

PROJECT TITLE: THE SMART SCHOOL ADMINSTRATIVE SYSTEM

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Computer Engineering

By

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# Content

# DECLARATION

We affirm that this submission represents our independent effort in pursuit of a BSc degree. We assure that, to the best of our knowledge, it does not incorporate any content previously published by others.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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**Closing:**

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# ABSTRACT

The evolution of technology has revolutionized the educational landscape, offering unprecedented opportunities for enhancing school management and improving educational outcomes. In this context, the concept of data-informed decision-making emerges as a powerful tool for optimizing administrative processes and driving continuous improvement in school management. Our final year project focuses on the development and implementation of a Smart School Administrative System that leverages data to facilitate informed decision-making and drive improvements in school management. The system is designed to collect diverse data points from various sources within the school environment, including student records, attendance data, financial transactions, and academic performance metrics. Through advanced analytical techniques such as machine learning algorithms and statistical methods, the collected data is analyzed to derive meaningful insights, identify trends, correlations, and areas for improvement within the school administration. These insights serve as a foundation for informed decision-making, enabling administrators and educators to allocate resources effectively, plan curriculum, manage staff, and implement evidence-based strategies to enhance student outcomes.

Moreover, the Smart School Administrative System emphasizes ongoing monitoring and evaluation of implemented strategies to assess their effectiveness and facilitate continuous improvement. By regularly analyzing relevant data metrics, administrators can track progress towards organizational goals, identify areas requiring further attention or improvement, and adapt strategies accordingly. In general, our project highlights the significance of adopting data-informed strategies, in managing schools to enhance effectiveness, adjust to evolving environments and cater to the requirements of students, teachers and other stakeholders. By introducing a Smart School Administrative System our goal is to enable schools to streamline their processes, boost efficiency and ultimately enhance results for stakeholders.

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# CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

## **1.1 Background:**

The education field has undergone changes in the few years due to technological advancements and an increasing focus on data driven methods. Traditional methods of school administration, characterized by manual processes and subjective decision-making, are being replaced by innovative systems that leverage data to inform decision-making and drive improvements in educational outcomes. The transition towards data-informed decision-making in school administration is driven by the recognition of its potential to address longstanding challenges and optimize administrative processes. Historically, schools have faced issues such as inefficient resource allocation, limited insights into student performance, and a lack of adaptability to changing educational landscapes. However, the emergence of smart technologies and analytical tools presents an opportunity to overcome these challenges and revolutionize school management. Our final year project seeks to contribute to this transformative shift by developing and implementing a Smart School Administrative System that harnesses the power of data to facilitate informed decision-making and enhance school management practices. By collecting diverse data points from various sources within the school environment, including student records, attendance data, financial transactions, and academic performance metrics, the system aims to provide administrators and educators with valuable insights into school operations. Through the analytical technique of ML (Machine Learning), the collected data will be analyzed to identify trends, and areas for improvements within administration.

"The Smart school administrative system" would foster informed decision-making, enabling administration to allocate resources effectively, plan curriculums, manage staff, and implement based on evidence to enhance student education.

## **1.2 Problem Statement:**

In today’s changing world of education effective school administration plays a role, in shaping student outcomes. Regrettably numerous educational institutions face issues with methods that impede their efficiency and flexibility. These obstacles typically arise from practices, subjective judgments and inadequate incorporation of technology. Such factors place a strain on staff members restrict adaptability and ultimately compromise the experience of students. This project tackles these issues head-on by proposing a new approach to school management. Our vision is a system that leverages modern technology to streamline processes, prioritizes data-informed decision-making, and automates repetitive tasks. This will empower schools to operate with greater efficiency, adapt more readily to evolving educational needs, and ultimately provide students with the best possible learning environment, equipping them for future success.

## **1.3 Solution: Smart School Administrative System**:

The Smart School Administrative System is a comprehensive platform designed to streamline school management processes through the strategic integration of ML (Machine Learning) and AI (Artificial Intelligence) technologies. By automating tasks such as attendance tracking, student and staff management, finance management, and timetable generation, the system aims to enhance administrative efficiency, improve decision-making, and provide valuable insights for school administrators, teachers, and stakeholders. Additionally, the system facilitates real-time monitoring of student emotions during teaching, allowing educators to create a supportive learning environment conducive to student success

## **1.4 Objectives:**

The objectives of the Smart School Administrative System are multifaceted:

* Gain actionable insights from collected data using ML algorithms, such as grade prediction, financial trends analysis, and teacher performance prediction.
* Enhance the quality of education and school management by leveraging technology to optimize administrative processes and improve decision-making.

## **1.5 Objectives Breakdown:**

The system's objectives are further delineated into specific tasks, including attendance tracking, student emotion tracking, student and staff management, finance management, grade prediction, teacher performance prediction, and timetable generation. Each objective is aimed at addressing specific challenges in school administration and improving overall efficiency and effectiveness.

# CHAPTER 2

# Literature Review

The realm of educational administration, particularly in developing countries like Ghana, faces significant challenges stemming from outdated administrative processes and reliance on intuitive decision-making. This literature review aims to explore the existing research and scholarly discourse surrounding the transition towards advanced school management through informed decision-making practices. Specifically, the review will address the prevalence of paper-based administrative systems, the implications of intuitive decision-making, and the potential benefits of adopting data-driven approaches in educational settings.

**Importance of Effective School administration:**

School administration plays a very crucial role in the school's overall performance. As leaders of their institutions, administrators are responsible for identifying the goals and visions of the school and coming out with clear plans on how to achieve those goals as well as constantly evaluating progress.

Listed below are some roles of school administrators:

1. Leadership:

Administrators must provide a clear vision to guide school improvement efforts.

They are responsible for fostering a positive and supportive school culture that fosters love of learning and high expectations for students.

Research suggests that transformational leadership, which involves inspiring and motivating followers to achieve shared goals, is most effective in promoting school improvement [1].

2. Communication:

Communication is a crucial aspect of improving schools. Administrators need to effectively communicate the school's vision, goals, and progress to all stakeholders, including faculty, students, parents, and the community. Effective communication entails active listening, providing timely feedback, and maintaining transparency.

Research suggests that open and transparent communication enhances

stakeholders' engagement and promotes a sense of ownership in the school improvement

Process.

3. Decision Making:

It can be said that the fate of the school rests on the ability of its administrator to make sound and optimal decisions at every point in time. Each decision made by a school administrator goes a long way to affect the performance of the school, hence administrators are to make sure not to make decisions solely on their intuition but to seek expert advice and make good use of available data.

**Dangers of Making Decisions Purely on Intuition:**

Intuition, sometimes known as “gut feeling” is primarily influenced by knowledge and past experiences. Decision making that is based purely on intuition is aptly termed intuition-based decision making.

According to NDM, intuition is “an expression of experience as people build up patterns that enable them to rapidly size up situations and make rapid decisions without having to compare options” [3].

 As its name suggests, this form of decision making does not make use of any past data, hence is not evidence-based. This way of making decisions comes with a number of problems.

The decision maker is unable to correctly assign probabilities to events or even to list all possible outcomes and their combinations. This narrows the scope of the decision maker and most times leads to making suboptimal decisions.

The proliferation of decisions within organizations, both in terms of time and space, results in the formation of chains. These chains involve sub-decisions made at different times and levels, which then intertwine with one another. They are influenced by various justifications and criteria, leading to a multiplication of their effects and outcomes. Decision makers are unable to make clear sense of these convoluted chains if they are to rely solely on their intuition.

Given that decisions are based on the knowledge and experiences of a single person or a small group of people in the intuition-based approach, there exists a high chance of the presence of cognitive bias in whatever decisions are made. Also, the limited and cognitive limitation of human decision makers is another setback in decision making.

Decisions made or actions taken are “satisfycing” in nature. In that a seemingly good decision is good enough for the decision maker. There is a strong feeling of certainty in good ideas that are pulled from one’s intuition, hence the decision-making process usually ends there. The decision maker stops looking for even better solutions and goes with the good enough one. [4]

Despite the drawbacks of intuition-based decision making, people inherently yearn for that approach. There is some fascination towards leaders who are able to who use only their cognitive abilities to steer followers towards the right path, “superheroes” of sorts [2].

**Why Data-informed Decision Making:**

Data-informed decision making is a process of using existing data to guide one’s decision making. Before any decisions are made, data is collected and analyzed. Insights are drawn from the analyses of data collected to guide the decision process.

By analyzing data from various sources, organizations can gain a clear understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. This allows organizations to narrow down the target of their attention and to allocate resources in a manner that would lead to the overall growth of the company [9].

Data analysis, a crucial aspect of the data-informed decision-making process allows organizations to identify trends, opportunities and potential risks. During the data analysis phase of the decision-making process, analysts use various statistical tools such as regression analysis, bivariate analysis and the like to bring to light patterns that might be hidden deep within the data. Finding patterns in data is very crucial, as understanding these patterns gives decision makers insight on the major factors affecting their organization’s operation [10].

Evidence derived from data analysis injects a dose of objectivity into the decision-making process. Purely subjective decisions are made based on the knowledge and experiences of a single or very few individuals. This causes a high degree of bias in whatever actions are decided. However, with the presence of facts and figures derived from data analysis, decision makers are forced consider a broader range of possibilities and hence avoid making decisions that are right only to them and those who think like them [11].

**Factors affecting student performance:**

The main goal of every educational institution is to give birth to elite individuals that would serve as great assets to their communities and ultimately the world. Student performance in competitive examinations is a primary metric that is used to guide educational institutions towards their ultimate goal. Hence it is necessary that all the factors that affect student performance are brought to light, to aid in decision making processes of administration.

Research has shown that student performance is influenced by a multitude of factors. These factors can be grouped as socio-economic, psychological, environment, demographic and behavioral.

Socio-Economic Background:

Individuals can be grouped into three classes on the basis of socioeconomic background; those with high socioeconomic status, middle level socioeconomic status and low socioeconomic status. Research has shown that there is a significant difference between individuals with high socioeconomic status and those with low economic status, but little difference between those belonging to the middle class and those in the high class.

Demographic:

Some demographic features that have been found to have a significant influence on student achievement are age, gender and settlement type.

A study found that students from rural areas score lower on academic tests than students from urban areas. The researchers attributed this to the fact that students in rural areas don’t have access to the same level of coaching and learning resources as urban students [5].

Research has found that age also plays a fairly significant role in student performance. Older students tend to perform slightly better, likely due to their increased cognitive development and maturity [5].

Some studies have shown that gender does play a role in academic achievements of students but not at every level of education, and that generally males perform better in science and math topics compared to their female counterparts [6].

Environmental:

Student performance is positively impacted by supportive home environments, which include parental involvement in school, availability of educational resources, and a comfortable place to study [8].

Behavioural:

Researches made into student performance prediction have brought to light the crucial role that behavioral aspects of students affect their academic performance - “We confirmed that the behavioral feature is so crucial that the accuracy reaches 0.7905 without other features except behavioral feature” [7]. Some behaviors that were found to have positive correlation with student performance were:

* Activeness in class discussions.
* Frequency of raising hands to answer questions during class
* Frequency of learning resource visits

**Factors affecting teacher performance:**

Teachers are the ones who are responsible for giving students most of the training they require in life. It can be said that students spend more times learning from their teachers than from parents. Since teachers play a pivotal role in the development of students, it is crucial to gain insights into the various factors that affect their performance.

The quality and relevance of teacher training and professional development play a critical role in shaping teacher performance. Strong programs can equip educators with the knowledge, skills, and strategies they need to be effective in the classroom. [12]

Teacher effectiveness and student outcomes are influenced by various factors, including classroom organization, disciplining tactics, and the general learning environment [13].

Teaching years of experience is another influencing factor of teacher performance. Experienced teachers often demonstrate higher effectiveness. The longer one has worked as a teacher, the more they learn to handle students of different backgrounds. These teachers are able to adapt well to different environments with different crops of students and more clearly ascertain the needs of the students [14].

Teachers' ages might affect their effectiveness; younger educators frequently bring new ideas and vitality, while more experienced educators may possess greater knowledge and insight.[15]

**Existing Systems for School Administration**:

1. Traditional Manual Systems:

* Many schools currently rely on manual methods for administrative tasks such as attendance tracking, student management, and finance management.
* These systems involve paper-based processes, spreadsheets, and manual data entry, which can be time-consuming and prone to errors.

2. Basic School Management Software:

* Some schools may already use basic school management software to automate certain administrative tasks.
* These systems typically offer functionalities such as attendance tracking, student information management, and basic reporting capabilities.
* However, they lack features for performance prediction and analysis

3. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems:

* Larger educational institutions may utilize ERP systems to manage various aspects of school administration, including finance, human resources, and student information.
* ERP systems offer comprehensive functionalities and integration capabilities across different departments.
* However, they may not be tailored specifically for the unique needs of schools or incorporate advanced ML and AI technologies.

4. Learning Management Systems (LMS):

* Some schools use LMS platforms to manage online learning activities, course materials, and assessments.
* LMS systems facilitate communication between teachers and students, assignment submission, and grading.
* While LMS systems focus primarily on academic aspects, they may lack features for overall school management and administrative tasks.

5. Customized Software Solutions:

* Some schools may have developed or commissioned customized software solutions tailored to their specific administrative needs.
* These systems may offer more flexibility and customization options compared to off-the-shelf software.
* However, they may require significant investment in development and maintenance.

By evaluating these existing systems, the Smart School Administrative System project can identify gaps and opportunities for improvement, ensuring that the final solution effectively addresses the unique needs of schools and leverages ML and AI technologies to streamline administrative processes and enhance decision-making capabilities.

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