Project Proposal

Project Title: Academic feedback system

Student Name: Nidhi Dattani

Enrolment no.: 92200133019

Subject: Capstone Project

Department: Information and Communication Technology

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MARWADI UNIVERSITY
Rajkot-Morbi Road, At & Po. Gauridad,
Rajkot-360003, Gujarat, India

Introduction

As a student, I have seen firsthand how important feedback is for improving the quality of teaching. Unfortunately, the current process often feels disorganized and inefficient. We sometimes fill out paper forms, or maybe a quick online survey, but it is hard to know if that feedback ever leads to real change. This project aims to create a solution to that problem. I will develop a comprehensive system that makes it easy for students to give confidential feedback and for the Head of Department (HOD) to turn that feedback into meaningful improvements. The system will be a complete digital solution, built from the ground up to be smart, secure, and user-friendly.

Problem Statement

The main problem I want to fix is that student feedback often does not lead to real changes in the department. The old ways of getting feedback are slow, sometimes not anonymous, and do not give leaders the information they need to make good decisions. Feedback by itself is just information. Without a good way to look at it, it is hard to find trends, compare how things are going, or figure out what the exact problems are. My project will fix this by creating one main, secure place to collect data on teaching, tests, and events. Then, it will show this information in a clear and simple way for the HOD to use.

Objectives

My project has five specific goals that I plan to achieve:

1. **Develop a Secure Web Platform:** I will build a secure web application that allows students to submit feedback on teaching, assessments, and events. This platform will be designed to handle submissions for an entire academic semester.
2. **Create an Analytical Dashboard:** I will design and build an HOD dashboard that transforms raw feedback into clear data visualizations, like charts and graphs. This will make it easy to understand faculty performance and key trends.
3. **Ensure Full Anonymity:** I will implement a system that guarantees the complete anonymity of all student feedback. This is critical to ensure that students feel comfortable providing honest and open comments without any fear of personal repercussions.
4. **Provide Actionable Insights:** The dashboard will go beyond simple scores. I will include features that help the HOD identify strengths and weaknesses within the department, allowing them to make targeted decisions for faculty development.
5. **Build a Scalable Workflow:** The system will be designed to handle many users and feedback entries, creating a reliable and efficient process from the moment a student submits feedback to the moment the HOD views the analysis.

Relevance to ICT Domain

This project is a perfect example of a real-world application of several key areas in Information and Communication Technology. It is a full-stack software development project, which is at the heart of the ICT domain. I will be using my skills in backend development to build the server-side logic that handles feedback submissions and data processing. On the front-end, I will be creating the user interface for both students and the HOD, focusing on a clean and responsive design.

Furthermore, the project directly involves database management, as I will be designing a relational database to store the feedback securely. Most importantly, it is a project about data analytics. The core purpose is to take a large dataset and present it in a way that provides value and helps with decision-making, which is a major trend in today's ICT landscape. I will be using my understanding of web technologies and data principles to build a tool that improves academic quality through technology.

Feasibility Analysis

5.1 Technical Feasibility

I have chosen a technology stack that I am familiar with and that is perfectly suited for this project: PHP and MySQL. PHP is a robust and mature server-side language that works seamlessly with MySQL, a powerful and widely-used relational database. I have prior experience with both, which makes the project highly achievable. The front end will be built using standard web technologies (HTML, CSS, JavaScript) that are well-documented and easy to work with. All the tools and software I plan to use are free and open-source, so I won't have any technical roadblocks related to licensing or access.

5.2 Economic Feasibility

The cost of this project is essentially zero. I will be using my own personal computer for development, and the chosen technologies—PHP, MySQL, and standard web tools—are all completely free to use. For hosting, I can use a free-tier hosting service or my own local server for the prototype and final demonstration. This makes the project economically sound and a very good value proposition for a university that wants to improve its feedback process without a large financial investment.

5.3 Ethical Considerations

The ethical implications of this project are incredibly important. I am committed to making sure the system is designed with a strong focus on data privacy and user consent. My primary ethical considerations are:

- **User Anonymity:** The system will be designed to ensure that no faculty member or administrator can trace feedback back to an individual student. Student data will be processed in a way that makes it impossible to link them to their specific comments.
- **Data Security:** I will implement security measures to protect the integrity of the data. The feedback will be encrypted, and access to the dashboard will be restricted to authorized users (the HOD) only.
- **Avoiding Misuse:** The data presented on the dashboard will be aggregated and analysed to provide a balanced overview of performance, rather than being used to target or unfairly judge a single person. The goal is to facilitate constructive improvement, not to punish.

Market/User Needs Analysis

There is a clear and pressing need for this system. Through my own observations and research, it is evident that a well-designed feedback tool can bridge the gap between students and faculty. Students want their voices to be heard, and faculty members need constructive, unbiased feedback to grow professionally. The HOD, in turn, needs a consolidated view to manage the department effectively. This solution meets all these needs by providing a centralized, data-driven platform.

Literature Review and Novelty

My research indicates that while many universities have some form of feedback system, they are often basic and lack advanced analytical capabilities. They typically act as simple data collectors rather than providing real-time, actionable insights. For instance, some systems might give a faculty member an average score, but they do not show how that score has changed over time, how it compares to the department average, or break it down by specific feedback on assessments versus teaching.

The novelty of my project is in its laser focus on the HOD dashboard. My system will stand out by not only collecting data but by providing a comprehensive, comparative, and time-based analysis. For example, the HOD will be able to see a faculty member's performance trend over two years, or compare their assessment scores to the department's average for that same period. This deep level of analysis and visualization is what sets my project apart from simpler, existing solutions.

Title: "Students feedback analysis model using deep learning-based method and linguistic knowledge for intelligent educational systems"

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369198754_Students_feedback_analysis_model_using_deep_learning-based_method_and_linguistic_knowledge_for_intelligent_educational_systems

Title: "The Power of Anonymous Feedback in Education"

https://www.markmyprofessor.com/en/blogs/the-power-of-anonymous-feedback-in-education

Conclusion

My proposed Academic feedback system is a relevant, technically feasible, and ethically sound capstone project. By building this system, I will address a clear and important problem within the academic environment. Using PHP and MySQL, I am confident that I can develop a robust and reliable platform. The project's focus on providing a powerful, data-driven dashboard for the HOD demonstrates a creative and innovative approach to a common problem. Ultimately, this system has the potential to improve the quality of education and foster a more open and productive feedback culture.