

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The 8.4.4 education system was introduced in the 1980's. However there are many missing aspects which touch on the benefit of persons going through the system. The way the 8.4.4 system is structured makes students to have a view of education as passing exams and proceeding to higher levels in academics hence neglecting the practical aspect which gives students skills in various fields. As a result most students have no idea of what they would want to pursue in higher institutions of learning. Proper guide on the careers existing and opportunities outside the academic field is lacking. Most of the students end up in universities or colleges doing courses which unfortunately they are not well informed about. This leads to wasted time and resources especially when a student drops out of the course after some time. The lack of information leads to students enslaved within only few courses.

In Kenya the Joint Admission Board is in charge of admitting form four leavers to public universities and assigning them courses to pursue. This is based on how well the student performed in the national exams. During admission large percentages end up in courses which they know totally nothing about. Those who fail to meet the minimum requirements are left to decide what to do with themselves. It's a survival for the fittest scenario.

University course admission guide system aims to try to reach out to form four leavers by providing information on what various courses entail and what the job market has for them. It aims at widening their thinking horizons about several courses/careers in life and hence enable them to make the right decisions in life.

1.1 Problem Definition

The Kenya education system has no automated systems which help form four leavers choose their

preferred degree courses/ careers they intend to pursue. There are no systems exclusively for course guidance. Most students after getting their results are not sure of how to compute their cluster points arising from the difficulties in the computation involved.

There is also difficulty in finding out which courses exist at the various higher education institutions and what the courses entail. They also face problems in knowing where (in terms of institution) to pursue their dream courses. In Kenya education system most schools tend to emphasize on particular courses/careers and not giving students a chance to think on their own and pursue their passion.

Since students don't get proper information, they end up doing courses just because their points allow them to but many before long realize that they are in the wrong fields of careers. This mostly leads to drop outs from courses after 1 or 2 years of study at the higher learning institutions.

1.2 Project Justification

The main motivation towards doing this project is that

- a. It would enable ease of computation of cluster points which is a tedious and error prone process
- b. The system will make it possible to have up to date information on the courses and make that information easy to access. By making such information readily available, it will help several young people make sound minded decisions concerning the courses they would want to pursue hence avoid wasted time doing the wrong courses.
- c. The system also serves as a motivation for students still in secondary school to work harder so as to be able to get grades that should enable them join courses they wish.

1.3 Project Scope

The project is an online system meant to realize several functionalities. These functionalities define the scope of the project. The system will provide functionality for computing course cluster points and determining the courses that can be pursued given those particular points. The system will also be able to give detailed information concerning the courses, where they are offered, possible fields of work upon successful completion of course. The system will also extend to provide membership

functionalities where registered members are allowed to hold discussion on key issues regarding courses. Members are also entitled to emailing services.

1.4 Aims and objectives

University Course Admission Guide System is meant to achieve the following aims and objectives

- a. To Provide information on courses to prospective students to public universities in Kenya
- b. To enable students know at first hand the courses they qualify for given their grades and subject combinations.
- c. To enable students make wise and informed decisions on the courses they wish to pursue.
- d. To enable students (who are members) share ideas and information touching on courses and careers through holding of discussion forums.