

Study and Design of Social Academy Website

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Abstract: - The objective of this research is to overcome obstacles against interacting with students by universities' websites. There are few universities in developing countries deal with their students through the websites. The research went through the principles of website design and contents. Principles of website's design, fundamental services and website usability's factors have been discussed. Universal website to include all students in developing countries is suggested which is academic, social and has features of groups used to enable lecturers interact with their students.

Key Words: website, Social, students, Academy, Universities.

1. INTRODUCTION

The first web server is implemented in 1990 by the scientist Tim Berners-Lee and he was unaware of his achievement's greatness. The reason behind develop this web server is letting all scientist at different search center to share information. Therefore, the first people who used the website are researchers. Few years later, Internet providers appeared and made it easy for private computers to access websites [1]. People who use website classified into different categories depending on their interest. For example, students looking for the lecture's contents, lectures' time table and exams' results. Lecturers care about lectures' time table, journals, results' declaration and booking facilities. Visitors interested in studies plans, facilities and registration information [2].

2. DESIGN OF THE UNIVERSITY'S WEBSITE

University's website design is the interface between the university and users and it follows a set of basic rules:

- 1- **Simplicity:** It means a website should have less graphics and procedures which take lots of time and memory.
- 2- **Compatibility:** it means website has routines which are easy and suitable for all its pages so as it has no failure in navigation.
- 3- **Clarity:** website has pages fit with screen to avoid use scrolling for all information to be read.
- 4- **Homogeneity:** website pages have similar style and connecting to each other in processing.
- 5- **Modernity:** updating website's pictures and information is good evidence about university's vitality.

3. FUNDAMENTAL SERVICES

3.1 Notice Board

In most centers the news, notes, and exams time are published by a poster fixed on a wall, window, or a door. These strategies have been changed by using the website.

3.2 Electronic Student Records

It is time consuming for both student and teacher to maintain traditional student data record card. By using electronic record all students' information is filled at the start of the academic year and each teacher can access it by internet. In addition, student would be able to modify the personal details later in case of necessary. The student's electronic record can be accessed by the teacher of any subject which the student enrolled in. Therefore, it does not need to fill more than one record for each student.

3.3 Exam Results

There are many ways to announce exams' results which are results of homework, practical work, or final exam. Website can afford a field for exams' results which students can access by internet, receiving an email, or getting a messages on mobile phone.

3.4 Other Services

- Supply the student with important and free software (always respecting copyright laws).
- Provide field for discussion group enabling student share ideas and information.
- Hosting pages of students, lecturers, and departments to avoid using different servers [2].

4. THE GAP

1) In developing countries most universities do not provide a website that enables interaction between students and lecturers. There is no field dedicated for uploading lectures, exams' results, announcements and etc...

2) In developed countries, students intend to spend their time on using social websites more than universities' websites.

5. SUGGESTED SOLUTION

The suggestion is to create a comprehensive website that provides an account for each student and lecturer around the world especially in developing countries which enables interaction between the lecturer and his/ her students. The website is one interface holds all the accounts same as Facebook and YouTube.

5.1 Website Member Account

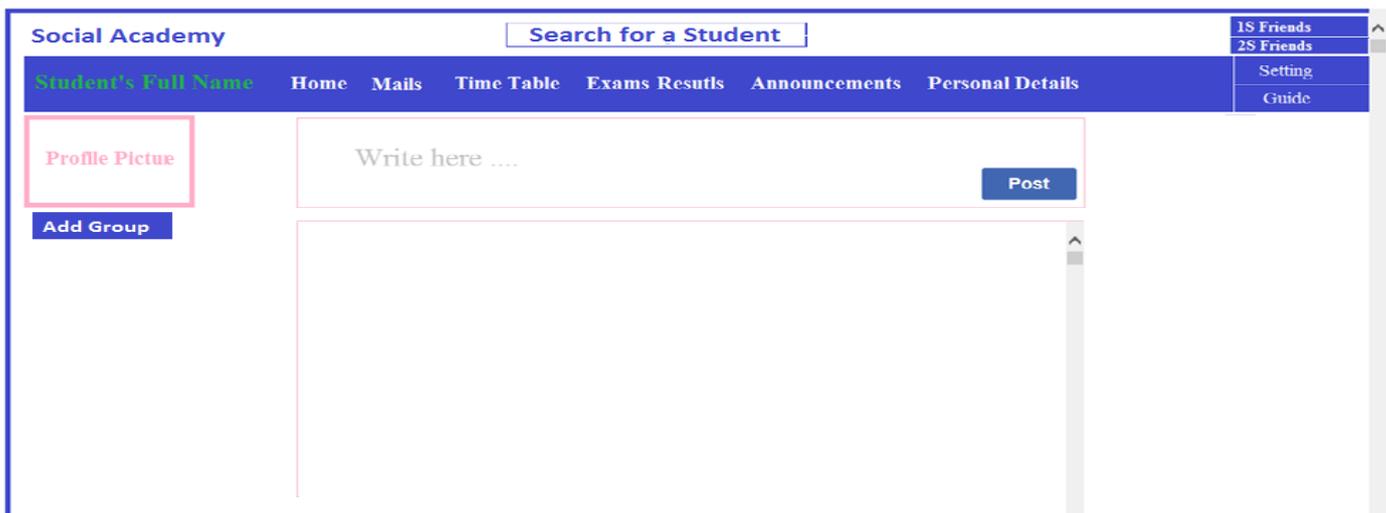


Fig -1: GUI of the Present Website Member Account

- **Home:** It is an icon to return user to the main webpage.
- **Mails:** It is an icon dedicated to students' mails (sent and received) and it is different from classical emails. It is similar to Facebook and Viber messages.
- **Time Table:** It is an icon dedicated for times of students' lectures and exams and it is updating automatically every week and controlled by university's management.
- **Exams' Results:** It is an icon dedicated for final exams' results. It shows all stages results and the students do not need to go to university during results' announcing time.
- **Personal Details:** It is an icon for students' personal details which is filled by employee who is in charge of.
- **Announcements:** It is an icon for general announcements which are sent from college management to students.

- **1SFriends:** It is an icon dedicated for friends from one side such as: university, college, and department. They allowed sending advertisements for awareness to students but students cannot send back to them.
- **2SFriends:** It is an icon for friends who are added by student and they can share ideas with each other.
- **ADD Group:** Through pressing on this icon, it will show a box dialog to let the user (lecturer mostly) choose the type of group he/ she want to make and it has three choices: Study Group, Social Group, and Management Group. When the lecturer makes the study group he/ she can add the students to the group.

5.2 Study Group

- **Lectures:** It is an icon to reach lectures prepared by the lecturer.
- **Assignments:** It is an icon to reach assignments prepared by the lecturer.
- **Home Works:** It is an icon to reach home works prepared by the lecturer.
- **Tutorials:** It is an icon to reach tutorials prepared by the lecturer and student should do it at laboratory.
- **Marks:** It is an icon to reach student's marks of season exams, home works, assignment and quizzes.
- **Resources:** It is an icon to reach the names of books and article recommended by the lecturer.
- **Middle field:** The field in the middle is a room to have discussion between the lecturer and his students.
- **Live Video:** It is an application used by the admin of the group to make live video and it is useful to give lectures online in case of needed.

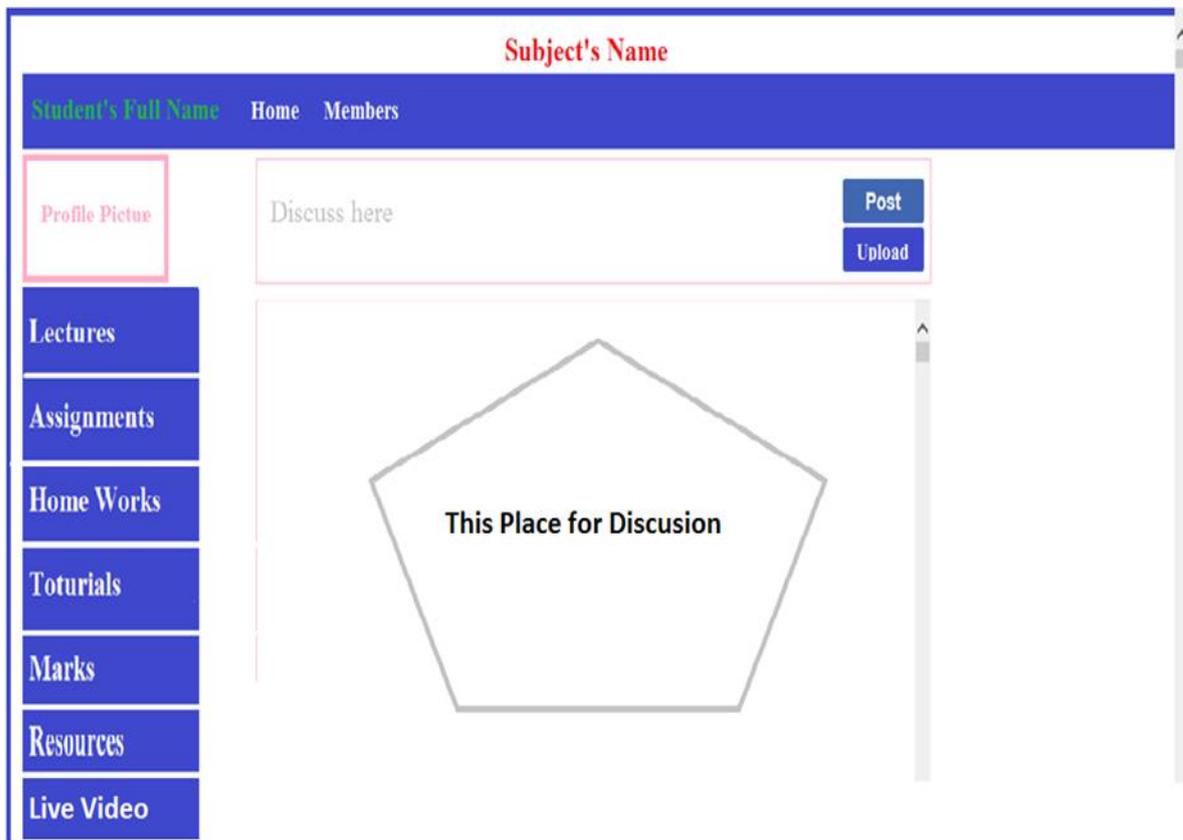


Fig -7: GUI of the Present Study Group

6. WEBSITE'S FEATURES

- 1- The web has application can be installed on user's mobile phone which send notification to the phone in case of any activity happens concern him on the website. This feature is existing on Facebook and Viber which installed on mobile phones.
- 2- It is possible on the website to search for any student by using his full name and the student can activate or deactivate this feature by make his website hidden to others.
- 3- The website is easy to use because it is similar to Facebook application and the groups similar to Face Group.
- 4- The website dedicated only for students at universities and the student can add any student from other universities and share activities with him.
- 5- University, college, and department can share any advertisement with students.

7. WEBSITE'S ADVANTAGES

- 1- Enabling lecturers to deal with their students.
- 2- Encouraging lecturers to make better lectures because there is a central control on the educational program.
- 3- Makes learning more vital because of the fast exchange for ideas and information.
- 4- It is easy for the student to get the information because there is a field for discussion with other students inside each Study Group which managed by the admin (the lecturer).
- 5- Sending mails is easy because there is no email address such as yahoo mail and Hotmail. It is just interring the student's page or window and writes the mail.
- 6- It is easy to check the lectures or exam's time table which automatically updated every week.
- 7- It is very easy and fast to get season exams' results and it does not need to attend the university to get final exams' results.
- 8- It is easy and fast to get the lectures.
- 9- It is easy and fast for the lecturer to announce to students about declaring exams, cancel them or anything concerns the students.
- 10- It is easy and fast for students to know about anything new upload the website because of the notifications he/she receives on mobile phone.
- 11- The website is designed upon social principles and that make it more usable from students than classical websites.
- 12- It is very easy for the university's management to contact with all students and posting awareness advertisements for them.
- 13- In case of making contract with companies of plagiarism detectors or global libraries, it would be very easy to spread it to the students and researcher.
- 14- It is easy to supply students with new and useful software.
- 15- In case of bad situation and curfew, lecturers can broadcast lectures to students.
- 16- In case of any development in developed countries universities' websites, it would be easy to spread it to developing countries universities' students.

8. SOFTWARE'S MECHANISM

Java language has been used to develop a simulator website. It enables the user to sign up to the website, add members to his friends list, chooses a color to his account interface. The user can exchange messages and photos with his/her friends, upload photos and share it with others and share daily activities with friends. The user has the ability to add three types of group to his/her group list: Study Group, Social Group, and Management Group. It is possible to develop new types of the groups to the website in case of new idea is coming up.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Through this research the features of a standards website have been discussed. It mentioned how to follow websites at developed countries. Website design has been suggested which is a combination between educational and social activities. The suggested website contains activities includes lecturers, students, and universities' staffs. In addition, features and advantage of the website have been explained. The suggested website cares about students interacting with the lecturer and university's management.

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