

A MODEL OF ONLINE NYSC PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT POSTING AND CLEARANCE SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Place of Primary Assignment (PPA) is the second stage of NYSC service year after twenty-one days on various orientations camps in the country. There are processes involved in posting corps members to their places of primary assignment (PPA) which include among others, registration, posting, and Community Development Service (CDS). The current method of posting is by typing the name of the organization on the posting letter without minding the discipline of the corps member. Over the years NYSC PPA posting has been facing different challenges like delay in collecting the PPA letters, no means where corps members can print their PPA letters, no notifications on posting of PPA and also no platform where establishment can register and request for corps member. This paper introduces a posting notification platform for corps member and also the posting is done automatically using the corps member discipline. This paper also present an approach where establishment or companies can register and request for corps members and finally, there will be automatic assigning of Community Development Service (CDS) immediately the posting is done and automatic clearance system after the posting is done.

KEYWORDS: Place of Primary Assignment (PPA), Community Development Service (CDS), National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Clearance, Establishment and corps member

1.1 Introduction

National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) is a programme or scheme established on 22nd may 1973 under the leadership of Gen yakubu Gowon and was fully inaugurated by the head of state, Gen yakubu Gowon on 4th of June 1973. The scheme was established with the view to provide adequate encouragement and development of common ties among the youth of Nigeria and the promotion of national unity according to the decree No 24 in 1973 after the Nigerian civil war (Adedeji, A 2010).

The NYSC Place of Primary Assignment (PPA) is where corps member are expected to render selfless service with dedication for a year of active service to the country. PPA is the second stage of NYSC service year after 21 days on various orientations camps in the country. The orientation camp is actually the main part of NYSC programme which is just the best and fun part of the whole NYSC activities. After camping the Corp member would realize the camp was just the best and fun part of the whole NYSC programme. After camping, corps members are given their PPA letters (Obasa, P. K. 2015).

The laudable scheme which helped most of our present leaders to have a patriotic understanding of fellow Nigerians by appreciating the uniqueness of different nationalities through living and mingling together is now being threatened by insecurity (Arabamen, K. 2014)

Consequently, a university graduate that has been duly mobilized and documented for the programme is generally known as a corps member, while a group of them are commonly referred to as "youth corporers." A graduate is often deployed to any NYSC Orientation Camp in any part of the country, in most cases outside his place of birth and domicile. 'It was at first, all inclusive of University graduates, HND and NCE holders but later only degree and HND graduates are required to take part in the compulsory National Youth Service Scheme' (Utomwen, D. 2012).

Those mobilized are trained for three weeks in the different orientation camps. At the end of the training, they would be posted to the areas of primary assignment, where they would stay and work for the remaining part of the service year. The service year is ended with a Passing Out Parade (POP). However, the contemporary Nigerian society has witnessed the death of some Corp members in the states that they were posted to serve (Okoro ,S & Ani K.J 2011).

The NYSC programme has helped in the educational development of the country, especially from junior secondary to tertiary levels (Aba,A.A 2010) .

The traditional community development programme which was introduced in the 1976/1977 service year has helped a lot in the promotion of learning, tourism, healthcare and agricultural development. At the end of the 2012 Batch "B" orientation course, 45,000 corps members had been trained in various

skill areas. A further breakdown shows that 5,404 were trained in agro-allied skills, 5,509 in food processing and preservation, 8,035 in culture and tourism-related skills and 5,062 in cosmetology. Information and communication technology had 8,119 power and energy 2,885 and environment 2,672. Another set of 2,837 members acquired skills in beautification, 2,057 in construction and 2,425 in education (Ohagenyi M. 2014). All these portray the relevance of the programme in promoting national integration and socio-economic development.

The recent violent killings of many Nigerian graduates serving the country in different towns and cities of the Northern parts of Nigeria, bring to the limelight the negative orgy of violence meted on Nigerians when religious fanaticism and ethnic sentiments is married to desperate desire to rule the nation forcefully, by any segment of the country or religious sect (Amuta, C 2014).

Although many challenges have threatened the existence of the NYSC programme, its objectives are noble and targeted at youth empowerment and national development. The reality is that the effectiveness of its implementation remains an issue of massive criticism. Again, when the programme started in 1973, corps members were fed in the camp at the rate of three naira per person per day. Ironically, the same amount was used to feed corps members per day for the next ten years, making the then NYSC Director, Col. Peter Obasa to complain that it was grossly inadequate (Obasa, P.K 2015).

(Onyishi, A.O 2011) opines that the goal or summary of the objectives of the scheme include to develop a sound and result-oriented institution that is committed to the realization of national unity and development. It is an organization that is well motivated and capable of bringing out the best qualities in our youth and imparting in them the right attitude and value for nation building that serves as a catalyst to national development and a sense of pride and fulfillment of its participating graduate youths.

The issue of Corp members receiving the kind of food that some trained dogs will not accept to eat has remained recurrent in some camps. For instance, the first objective is meant to instill the culture of industry at work; the fact is that some youths hardly engage in the primary assignment they are deployed to do, as they operate as 'ghost' corps members that serves the country in their areas of selfish-interest and visits their main place of NYSC posting during the monthly clearance exercise in order to get the monthly federal government allowance.

Similarly, (Onyishi, A.O 2011) stated that the programme is prone to corruption. There are now permanent youth Corp members who never pass out while embezzlement, nepotism, favouritism are now rampant in the scheme. He further writes that some federal officials are totally blind, selfish and corrupt; all they care for is what their bank accounts read after each NYSC programme is completed. That is the

reason they do not want to scrap NYSC. Reports indicate that while the Corp members are supposed to serve in their host communities for a year; in reality, less than 30% of those mobilized actually serve the country, the rest return to their states of origin, only returning to the area of primary assignment during the quarterly and now, monthly screening exercise for payment popularly called "alawi". The inspectors have also being accused of getting 50% or more of the allowances of these 'ghost' Corp members for giving them patriotic cover-up.

This paper will help tackle some of the challenges of primary assignment posting and provide solutions like faster and better means of posting corps member, reduce human applied efforts in the process, faster and more reliable means of posting corps members to their PPA likewise assigning them to CDS. On the other hand, NYSC administrator can log in, register members and process their data.

With this approach, Corp members cannot choose to serve in their father's company or state of origin which is contrary to the aim of the scheme.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The current method used in posting NYSC members to their various place of primary assignment is bedeviled with the following problems:

1. No platform where establishment can register and request for corps members,
2. No means to notify corps members via SMS their PPA posting without waiting for physical letter collection,
3. No means where corps members can be assigned to their respective Community Development Service (CDS) automatically,
4. Time consuming and stressful process involve in reposting of corps member that have been rejected by their PPA, and
5. No CDs attendance monitoring platform.

1.3 Research Aim/Specific Objectives

The aim of this paper is to model an Online NYSC Primary Assignment Posting and Clearance System. This specific objective of this paper is to:

1. Register corps member and automatically posted them to registered establishments for their PPA using the corper's discipline,
2. Develop a module that notifies corps member via SMS their posting and allows corps member print their PPA letters,
3. Create a platform where registered corps member can be assign to a community development service (CDS) group automatically,
4. Create a module where corps member can monitored their CDS status before the system issues the monthly clearance to corps member, and
5. Create a platform that automatically reposts corps members to a different PPA using rejection code for rejected corps member.

1.4 Research Questions

The following questions are answered in this paper, some of which are:

1. Will corps member be posted to their desired place of primary assignment?
2. Can establishment request for as many corps member they want?
3. Can corps member be assign to their desired Community Development Service (CDS)?
4. What will happen if a corps member is rejected from initial place of primary assignment?
5. What happens if a corps member did not receive SMS notification may probably because of network?

1.5. Review of Related Works

Until recently, the processing of orientation camp information of corps members was done manually and this has had some negative effects on the corps. For instance, the delay in the manual processing of corps information such as submission of call up letters, presentation of your last institution ID card and presentation of your original certificate/statement of results for screening, data on which routine is time consuming. This is because of the volume of data on which routine task performed is relatively very large. This result is inaccuracy and slow processing. The data that is being manipulated must be reliable and this requires a reliable system. This intensifies the need to provide a sophisticated machine that will help in the processing for convenience. The system with its advanced features in storage processing and retrieval make this processing very easy. (Okoro, S. and Ani, J. 2011).

There is no platform where corps members can be notified via SMS on where they have been posted to and also printing of their PPA letters, and no platform where establishment can register and request for corps member. These features or challenges for this project in which this aforementioned problems will be thing of the past. With the aid of the computer system retrieval and editing and of documents and all problems of the manual processing will be a thing of the past (Okoro, S. and Ani, J. 2011).

1.6. Existing Problem

The following are the obvious problem of the existing system:

1. Bribery and corruption do happen in the camp, corps member usually bribe the NYSC officers in other for them to be posted to their place of primary
2. Time consuming in waiting to collect posting letter after the 21 days of camping
3. Issue of ghost coppers in the sense that CDS officers will collect bribe in other for the corps member not to attend CDS.

1.7. The Proposed System

The methodology adopted in this paper is Object-Oriented Analysis and Design Methodology it was adopted because it emphasizes modularity and re-usability and it provides standardized ways to add new behaviors or describe new states. The proposed system has four modules which are corps member registration, SMS alert on posting of corps member to their various PPA, Printing of PPA letters, Reposting of corps member, Assigning corps member to CDS, and Establishment registration and requesting of corps member.

The proposed system has three users which are the administrator, Corp member, and establishment. In the corps registration module, the administrator will be in charge of registering Corp member which include passport photographs and discipline after which state code will be generated for the Corp member, admin will also add CDS group to the system.

Company will register with the system to acquire username and password which they will be using to login to the system subsequently. After successful login, the company will be able to request for Corp member and they can view and accept or reject Corp members.

Corp member will receive SMS alert on their mobile phone on where they were posted to, once SMS is received they will then enter their state code to the system in other to print their posting letters. The posting is done automatically by the system using the disciplined of the Corp member.

In Printing of PPA letters module, the corps member that have receive SMS notification concerning his or her posting will proceed to a cyber café to print his or her PPA letters.

In reposting of corps member module, any corps member that is been rejected will automatically be reposted to a new establishment or PPA.

In assigning corps member to CDS Module, this menu is activated after a corps member has completed has been posted to a PPA, this module work concurrently with automatic posting. Once Corp member has been posted the system equally assign Corps member to CDS group.

In establishment registration and requesting for corps member module, here any establishment can register and request for corps member and state the number of Corps member required, after registration they will be checking status menu to know if Corp member has been assigned to them in which they can either accept or reject the Corp member.

1.7.1 System Modeling

System modeling is the interdisciplinary study of the use of models to conceptualize and construct systems in software development. Figure 1 shows the data flow diagram of the proposed system.

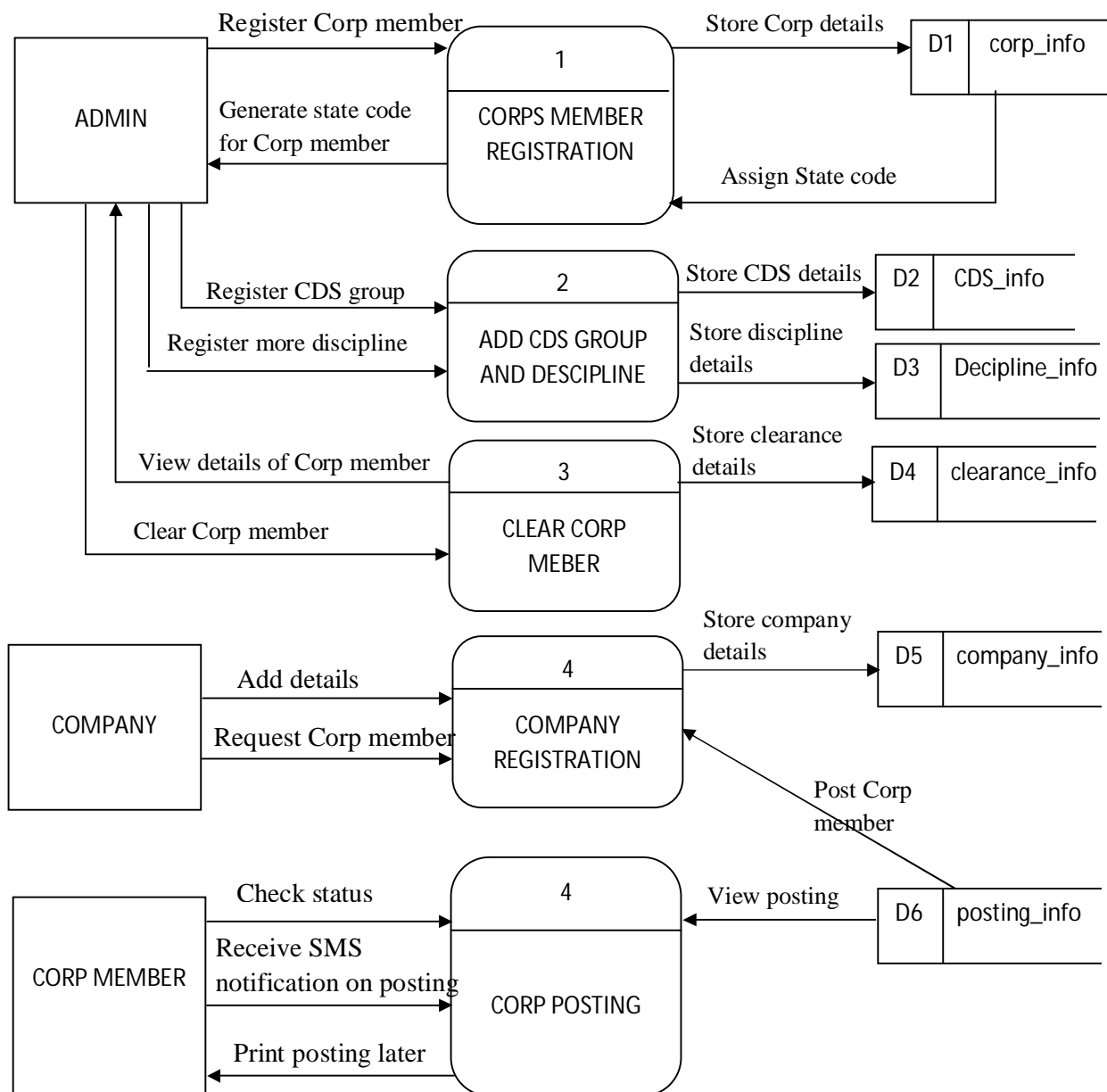


Fig 1: Data Flow Diagram of NYSC Primary Assignment Posting and Clearance System

1.7.2 System Use Case Design

Figure 2 shows the interaction of the actors involved in the NYSC system.

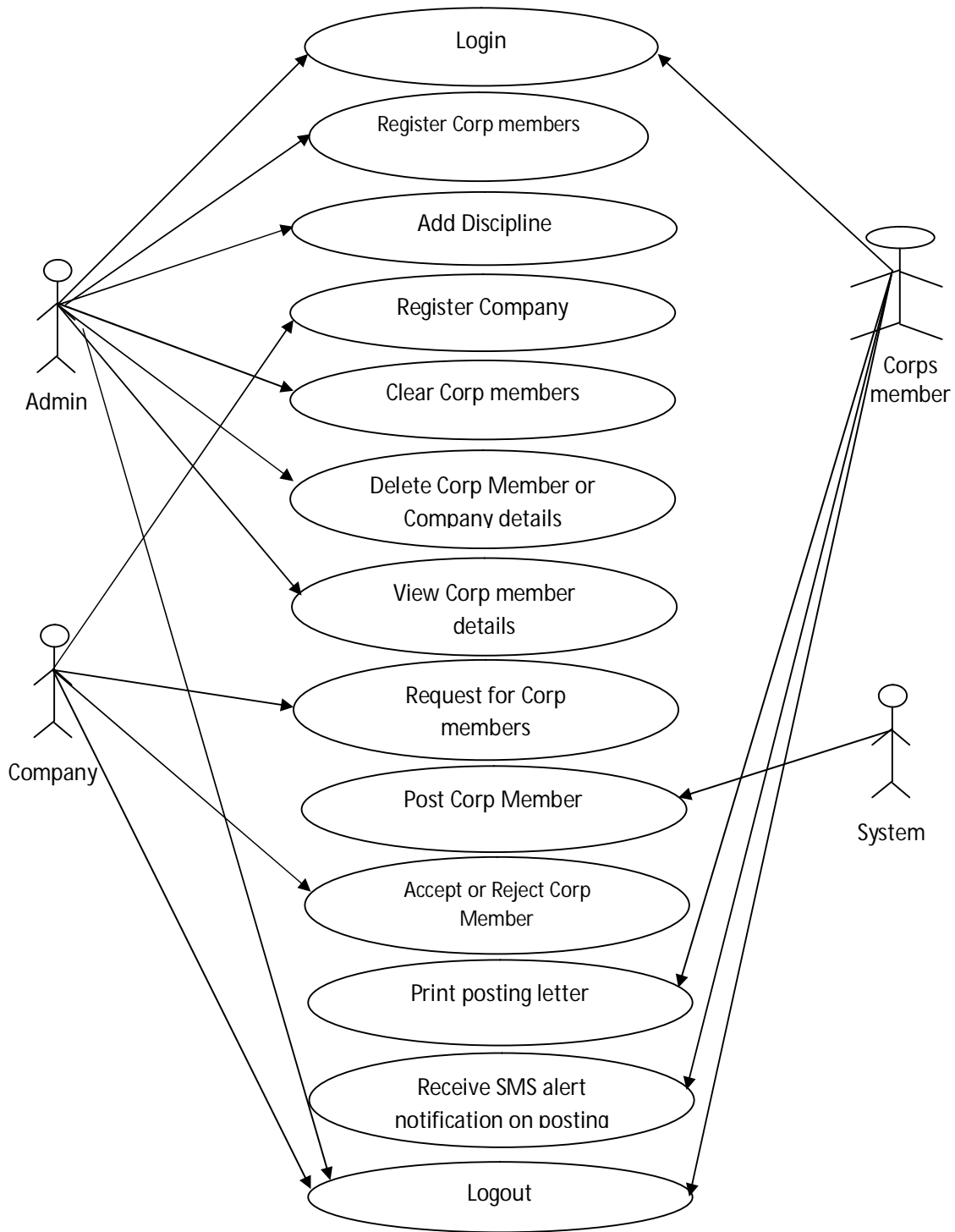


Figure 2: System Use Case Design

1.7.3. System Implementation

In the design of this system, Adobe macromedia Dreamweaver as the Integrated Development Environment and also the front end design, server side language, Hypertext pre-processor to connect the text field to the database and MYSQL was use as the back end design to store all the information of the

complete system and XAMPP control panel was used for the virtual server. Application Program Interface (API) was used for the SMS alert.

1.7.3.1 Sample Main Menu

Figure 3 shows the main menu of the administrator, while figure 4 shows the input for registration of corps member.

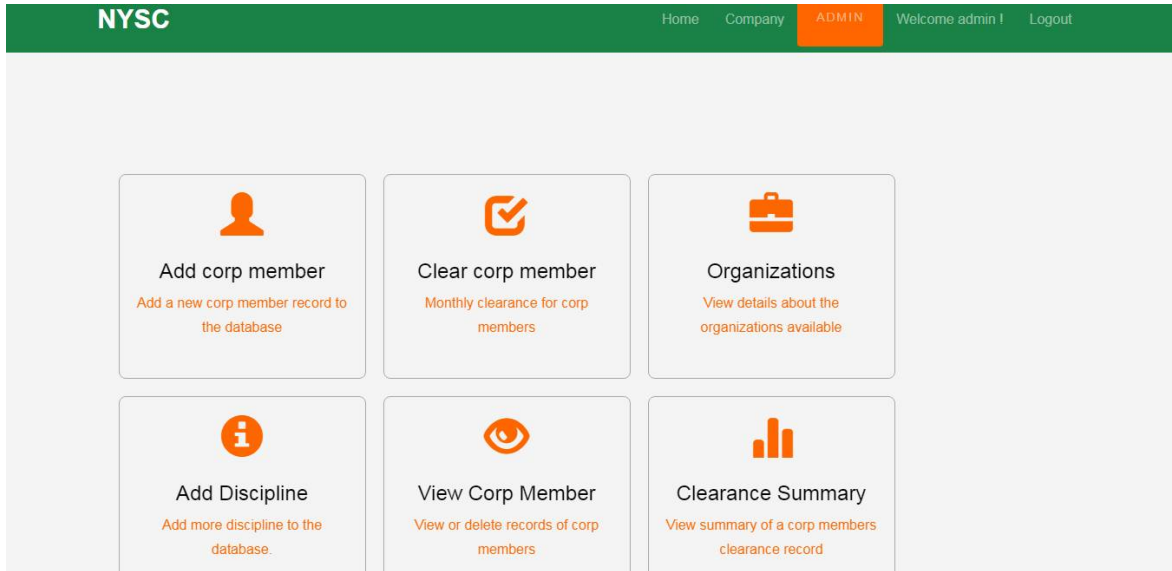


Figure 3: Main Menu of the Administrator

Figure 4: Input Registration for Corps Member

1.7.4 System Deployment

NYSC primary assignment posting system work strictly with internet and can be access with any device either a mobile phone or a computer system. The system is hosted on a server and a domain was registered in other for the system to be accessed worldwide. There must be a unit in the bulk SMS in other for corps member to be receiving SMS.

1.8 System Result

The system posted corps members to their place of primary assignment using their discipline. Corps members were able to receive SMS notification on the posting likewise assigning of CDS on their phone and also establishment were able to register and request for corps member.

1.9 Conclusion and Recommendation

This paper was able to solve the entire problem stated in the problem statement. In this paper we were able to automatically post corps member to their various place of primary assignment and also assign CDS. With this paper, manually writing out corps member posting will be a thing of the past, and also corps member will be able to print their posting letters immediately they receive the notification of the posting on their mobile phone.

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