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ijirset@gmail.com

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QR Dine Hub

Mr. M. RajaSekaran, M.E., (Ph.D.), R. Kathish, S. Madhubalan, A. Yuvagururajan

Assistant Professor, Dept. of CSE, Kamaraj College of Engineering and technology, VirudhuNagar, Tamil Nadu, India

UG Student, Dept. of CSE, Kamaraj College of Engineering and technology, VirudhuNagar, Tamil Nadu, India

UG Student, Dept. of CSE, Kamaraj College of Engineering and technology, VirudhuNagar, Tamil Nadu, India

UG Student, Dept. of CSE, Kamaraj College of Engineering and technology, VirudhuNagar, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT: The conventional operational framework of college hostel dining facilities faces numerous obstacles, including disputes over tokens, meal service delays, and a lack of effective channels for receiving feedback on food quality. The reliance on physical tokens often results in student conflicts and financial losses, while manual meal tracking contributes to inefficiencies and inconsistent food standards. Moreover, the absence of a structured feedback mechanism undermines the overall dining experience and operational efficacy. To tackle these challenges head-on, urgent action is imperative: the introduction of a QR code-based intelligent dining management system. This pioneering system aims to address token-related issues, offer real-time menu updates via a mobile app, and establish a platform for students to express their concerns effectively. Through the integration of features such as a Feedback Section, Notification System, and Attendance Management, this system endeavors to streamline dining operations, promote transparency, and enhance user satisfaction while adhering to stringent food quality standards. The insights gleaned from this study are poised to enrich ongoing discussions on digital transformation in educational institutions and guide decision-making processes regarding the adoption and enhancement of dining management systems in hostels. Ultimately, the objective is to elevate the overall experience for students, faculty, and administrators, thereby fostering more efficient and effective dining operations in the digital era.

KEYWORDS: QR Code, Token Dispute Resolution, Meal Monitoring, Dining Facility Management, Decision-Making Processes.

I. INTRODUCTION

The QR Code-Based Application represents a comprehensive digital solution tailored to optimize food-related communication and efficiency within educational institutions. By harnessing the capabilities of QR codes and smartphone technology, this initiative offers a suite of features customized to meet the diverse requirements of students, faculty, and administrators. Among its functionalities, the app facilitates real-time monitoring of hostel occupancy, empowering administrators to better manage capacity and allocate food resources effectively. Additionally, it boasts a user-friendly feedback platform enabling students to share their dining experiences, suggestions, and concerns, thereby catalyzing continuous improvement efforts. This feature also expedites the resolution of maintenance, cleanliness, and other food-related issues on campus. "eHostel," an Android application designed to automate hostel management processes, addresses key challenges such as room allocation, fee management, student records, complaint handling, visitor management, leave requests, and notice dissemination. Through this system, students can conveniently apply for hostel admission, access room allocation details, view notices, submit fee receipts, lodge complaints with wardens, and request leave, all while receiving real-time notifications on the status of their requests. Wardens and faculty members can seamlessly manage room allocation, approve leave requests, verify fees, issue digital hostel passes, and address student complaints through a dedicated web-based dashboard. Gatekeepers can efficiently monitor daily visitor entries by scanning visitor barcodes, with all activities accessible to faculty via their associated interface.

The administrator/rector retains overarching privileges, including checking student admission statuses, overseeing room allocations, appointing faculty members as wardens or hostel in-charges, and managing memberships and student complaints. While accessible from anywhere, both the application and web portal operate within the framework of institute regulations. In the ever-evolving landscape of educational institutions, the management of hostel accommodation and dining facilities assumes paramount importance in fostering an optimal environment for student development. Traditionally, these tasks have been labor-intensive and prone to logistical hurdles. However, the advent of digital technology has revolutionized these processes, enhancing efficiency and service quality.

Digitalized hostel and mess management systems streamline administrative tasks, improve user experiences, and optimize resource allocation. This study aims to explore the implementation and impact of such systems, examining their efficacy in enhancing administrative efficiency, user satisfaction, and resource utilization. While digitalized systems offer numerous advantages, including accuracy, speed, transparency, and scalability, their implementation also poses challenges such as initial costs, technical complexities, user adoption, data security, and maintenance. Thus, a balanced assessment of opportunities and challenges is essential for their successful implementation and sustainability.

II. METHODOLOGY

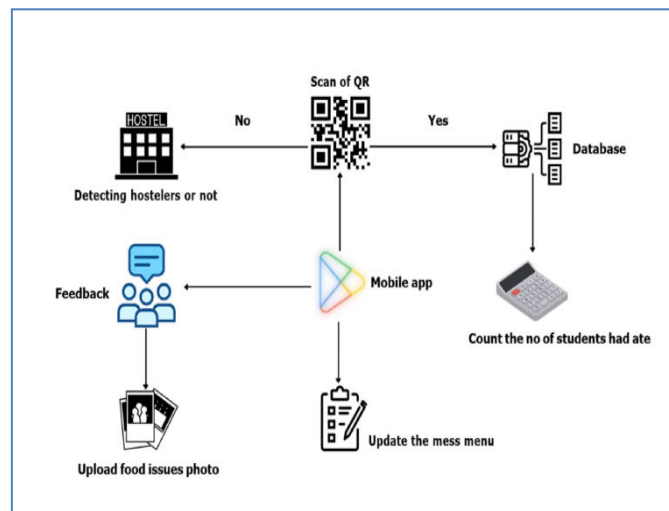


Figure 1: Methodology

QR code-based systems consistently enhance user convenience by eliminating the need for physical tokens, resulting in expedited meal collection and reduced waiting times. Integration of QR codes with mobile apps facilitates instant menu updates, granting users access to real-time information about meal options, special dishes, and menu changes. Furthermore, QR code-enabled apps equipped with complaint mechanisms offer a direct channel for users to report concerns, enabling prompt resolution of food quality issues and overall enhancement of the dining experience.

Quantitative Analysis:

System Performance Metrics: Quantitative data pertaining to system performance, including processing times for hostel allocation, meal planning efficiency, inventory turnover rates, billing accuracy, and system uptime, will be collected and analyzed. Data will be gathered before and after the implementation of the digitalized system to assess improvements or changes in performance.

Qualitative Feedback: Surveys:

Online surveys will be distributed to students, staff, and administrators to gather qualitative feedback on their experiences with the digitalized hostel and mess management system. The survey will encompass questions regarding user satisfaction, ease of use, perceived benefits, encountered challenges, and suggestions for improvement. **Interviews:** In-depth interviews with key stakeholders, including hostel managers, mess supervisors, IT personnel, and student representatives, will be conducted to gain insights into specific functionalities, user experiences, and organizational impacts of the digitalized system. **Focus Groups:** Focus group discussions may be conducted to facilitate group interactions and explore common themes or concerns related to the digitalized hostel and mess management system, allowing for a deeper understanding of stakeholders' perspectives and experiences.

Data Analysis:

Quantitative data analysis will involve statistical techniques such as descriptive statistics, comparative analysis, and trend analysis to identify patterns, trends, and correlations in system performance metrics. Qualitative data analysis will employ thematic analysis techniques to identify recurring themes, patterns, and insights from survey responses, interview transcripts, and focus group discussions.



Integration of Findings:

Quantitative and qualitative findings will be integrated to provide a comprehensive understanding of the implementation and impact of the digitalized hostel and mess management system. Triangulation of data from multiple sources will enhance the validity and reliability of the study findings. Key findings will be summarized, and implications for practice and future research will be discussed.

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Improved User Experience: Streamlining meal collection processes and offering instant menu updates can significantly enhance the overall dining experience for hostel residents.

Elimination of Penalties: This system mitigates the risk of token loss, thereby averting potential penalties for students and reducing overall token costs incurred by the management.

Mitigated Conflicts: The removal of physical tokens minimizes conflicts between students and mess staff, fostering a more peaceful dining atmosphere.

Enhanced Transparency: Real-time menu updates and direct feedback mechanisms promote transparency, fostering trust between students and mess management.

Elevated Food Quality: Providing feedback on food quality concerns ensures prompt resolution, ultimately leading to an enhancement in food standards.

Login Module: This page serves as a login portal where users can access their accounts using credentials provided by the administrator.

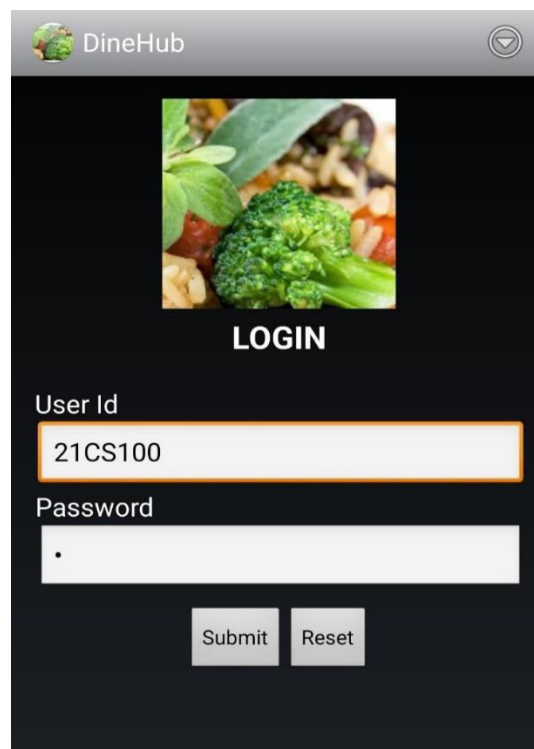


Figure 2: Login Form

Menu Module:

Following the login module, this section provides users with detailed menus for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, presented in separate widgets. Users have the option to express their preferences through like and dislike buttons associated with each item.

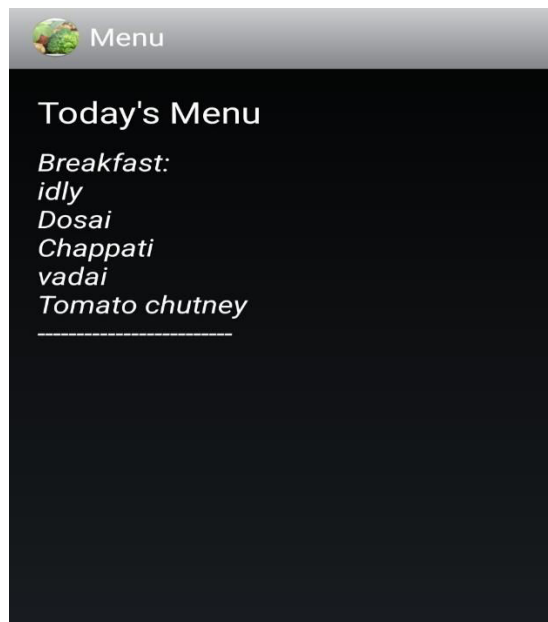


Figure 3. Menu Module

Admin Module:

This section serves as the sign-in page for administrators, allowing them to log in using their credentials to access student details and make necessary adjustments as needed.

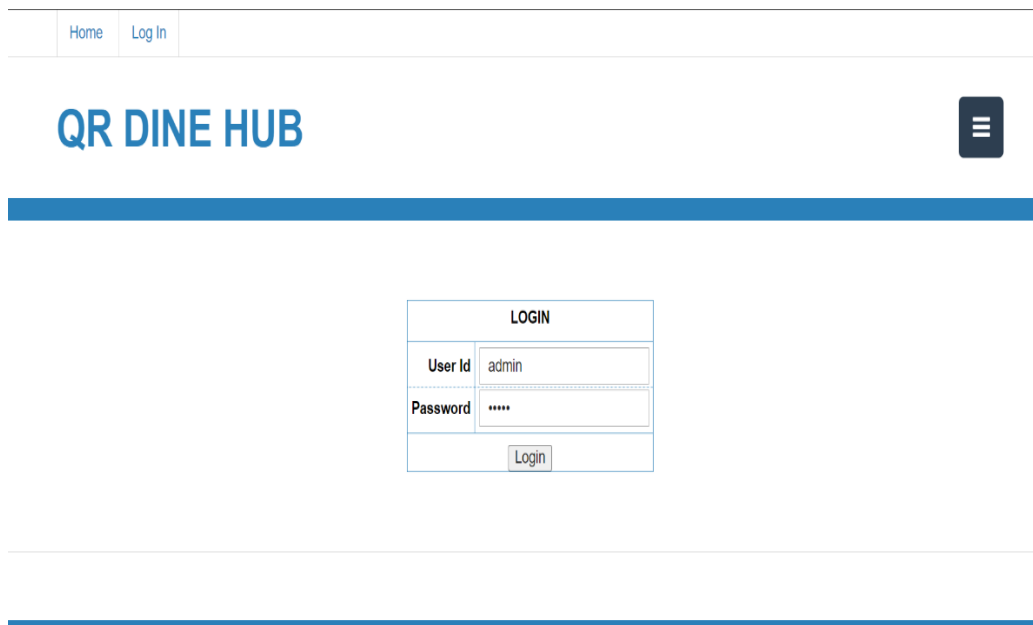


Figure 4. Admin Login

Admin Main Page:

This section, housed within the admin module, provides access for administrators to modify menu details for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



QR Student Menu User Count Feedback Attendance Signout

QR DINE HUB



ADD MENU	
Category	Breakfast ▾
Item 1	idly
Item 2	Dosai
Item 3	vadai
Item 4	Sambar
Item 5	Tomato chutney
<input type="button" value="Create"/>	

TODAY MENU							
Date	Category	Item1	Item2	Item3	Item4	Item5	Task
2024-03-02	Breakfast	Idly	Dosai	Chappati			Delete
2024-03-02	Dinner	Idly	Chappati				Delete
2024-03-02	Lunch	Meals	Lemon Rice	Tomato Rice	Curd Rice		Delete
2024-03-19	Breakfast	Idly	Chappati	Dosai	Vadai		Delete
2024-03-19	Dinner	Idly	Dosai				Delete
2024-03-19	Lunch	Full Meals	Curd Rice				Delete

Figure 5. Admin Main Page

Count Module:

This section focuses on tracking user attendance. Administrators can monitor session attendance, with counts updated automatically upon user login.

QR Student Menu User Count Feedback Attendance Signout

QR DINE HUB



USER COUNT	
Select Date	05-04-2024 📅
<input type="button" value="Show Count"/>	

Figure 6. Count Form

Feedback Module:

This section is dedicated to collecting and managing user feedback. Administrators can review feedback provided by users regarding food quality or any other related concerns.

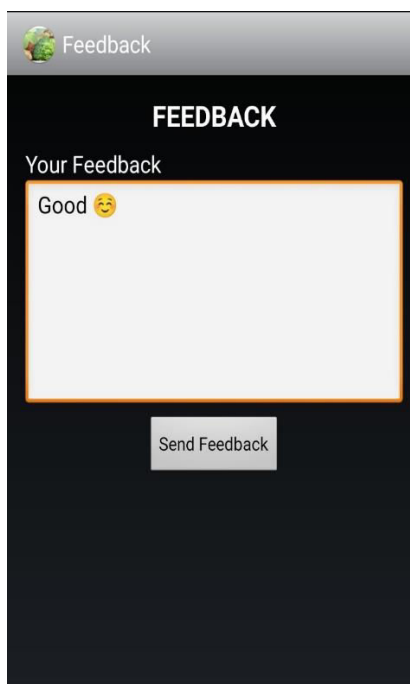


Figure 7. Feedback form

IV. CONCLUSION

The examination of digitalized hostel and mess management systems within educational settings underscores the profound impact of technology on refining administrative operations, enriching user experiences, and maximizing resource allocation. Employing a mixed-methods approach integrating quantitative analysis and qualitative feedback, this study has yielded invaluable insights into the deployment and effects of such systems. Results indicate that digitalized hostel and mess management systems yield manifold advantages, including heightened efficiency, enhanced transparency, augmented communication, and more informed decision-making driven by data. Quantitative scrutiny has demonstrated tangible enhancements across various performance metrics such as processing times, accuracy, and resource optimization. Meanwhile, qualitative input from stakeholders has reinforced the positive influence of these systems on user contentment, convenience, and overall operational efficiency in hostel and mess facilities. Nevertheless, the research has also pinpointed several hurdles associated with system implementation and adoption, encompassing initial investment costs, technical intricacies, user training imperatives, and data safeguarding issues. Resolving these obstacles is imperative to ensure the successful integration and enduring viability of these systems. Ultimately, this study underscores the transformative potential of digitalized hostel and mess management systems in educational contexts. By harnessing technology to automate and refine administrative workflows, these systems foster a more efficient, transparent, and user-centric environment benefiting students, staff, and administrators alike. Delving into user-centric design principles to further refine the usability, accessibility, and overall user experience of digitalized hostel and mess management systems. This endeavor may entail conducting user testing sessions, gathering feedback from diverse user demographics, and refining system design iteratively based on user input. Exploring the integration of predictive analytics and machine learning algorithms to anticipate future demand for hostel accommodations and meal services, optimizing resource allocation, and proactively mitigating potential issues such as food shortages or overcrowding. Additionally, conducting a thorough cost-benefit analysis to assess the financial implications of implementing and sustaining digitalized hostel and mess management systems. This analysis could quantify the return on investment, identify potential cost efficiencies, and guide decision-making regarding system upgrades or expansions.

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