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Valenzuela City School of Mathematics and Science  
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## **VALPREP: A College Entrance Assistance and Reviewer Website**

A Research Presented to the Faculty of the Senior High School  
of the Valenzuela City School of Mathematics and Science

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
of the Subject Practical Research II

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## DEDICATION

This research paper entitled "VALPREP: A College Entrance Assistance and Reviewer Website" is dedicated with deep gratitude and admiration to the following advocates, whose unwavering dedication and work have been critical in the development of this educational platform:

This dedication honors the students' dedication, determination, and quest of knowledge as the driving factor behind innovation and growth. As you begin your academic journey, may VALPREP be a valuable companion in your pursuit of excellence.

This dedication is dedicated to Teachers, the guiding lights who shape minds and inspire futures, and acknowledges your hard efforts in nurturing the next generation. VALPREP is a testament to your passion for education and commitment to provide great assistance to deserving students.

This dedication acknowledges the crucial role that Innovators and Technologists have played in utilizing technology to expand educational opportunities. Your contribution to learning platform advancement is significant, paving the way for a more accessible and effective educational landscape.

This dedication is a tribute to the Education Sector, especially in the Philippines, for your continued efforts to improve and extend the educational system. VALPREP aims to be a valuable resource in your efforts to produce a well-equipped and competitive generation of students.

May VALPREP serve as a beacon of educational support, illuminating the path for both students and instructors. May it help to pave the way for a brighter and more educated future, not just in the Philippines, but around the world.

## ABSTRACT

The College Entrance Examination period is considered as a crucial part of an incoming college student's life as it is a factor that will determine whether students can enter their desired universities. As students take their time to juggle school activities with the preparation for the entrance examinations, most studies show that academic stress is prevalent during this important phase, combined with the uncertainty surrounding their academic and career prospects. With the use of modern technology, the website ValPrep is created, aiming to assist the students in navigating the college application process more successfully, allowing them to pursue their academic goals with greater confidence and less stress. The study utilized a quantitative research approach, particularly descriptive research in order to promote objectivity and to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. Respondents from two public science high schools were gathered through a convenience sampling process. Through the use of an online survey that was sent to the respondents, the data gathering procedure was conducted remotely. Participants were tasked to navigate the website and answer the survey form. Results showed that the majority of the participants strongly agree with the overall organization and appearance of the website. Additionally, the responses strongly indicate that the website properly delivers its intended functionalities, while its features were seen to be properly utilized by the participants. The overall efficiency of the website, which was tested by an IT professional, shows that it performed well on desktop devices but had slower response and load times on mobile devices, indicating a need for optimization.

*Keywords: College Entrance Examination, College Applications Preparation, Website, Technology*

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## CHAPTER I

### THE PROBLEM AND ITS BACKGROUND

This chapter provides an overview of the research, starting with an introduction to the chosen topic. It succinctly presents the statement of the problem, emphasizes the significance of the study, and provides clear definitions of key terms.

#### **A. Introduction**

Post-secondary education, also referred to as tertiary education, encompasses all forms of education that occur after the completion of the high school curriculum and includes colleges, universities, institutions, technical vocational schools, and trade schools (Dean et al., 2020). Students benefit from post-secondary education by providing more learning opportunities in their desired fields, helping to expand their knowledge, capabilities, and critical thinking skills, as well as helping to develop their relationships with people and develop their personal network, providing them with more career opportunities and higher level expertise (*Value of Post Secondary Education | Maple League, 2021*).

The secondary level of education holds a crucial position in the learning process for students, offering them the opportunity to choose courses that align with their interests. This category includes colleges, universities, and other higher learning establishments, all of which share the primary goal of readying individuals for future

employment. Beyond imparting the necessary knowledge and analytical skills vital for their forthcoming careers, tertiary education contributes significantly to the personal growth of students, as noted by Alexander et al. in 2022. This critical stage starts with college applications allowing students to learn more about their majors and important skills. This serves as a doorway to advanced education, giving people an opportunity to attain their education and career objectives, respectively. Careful planning and organization are expected of the students for this phase to make themselves presentable enough to pass into institutions of their choice. However, a lot of students must trudge through this rough journey. This choice is usually perplexing since it involves academic offerings, financial constraints as per the budget, geographic location, and the physical and mental preparation in the process (Thomas, 2019).

For most young adults, going to college means dealing with new social situations and changes, which can be challenging but also help them grow and mature (Offidani-Bertrand et al., 2019). The application process to several universities can be stressful to them as each institution may have varying requirements and schedules. On top of the academic demands that need to be met, keeping track of one's deadlines can prove to be quite difficult and confusing. Academic stress is a prevalent problem in the final years of school (Wuthrich et al., 2020). This is further corroborated by a study written by Tenzin et al. (2021), stating that the entire college admissions process creates an endless cycle of stress and low self-esteem, particularly for Ivy League applicants. The creation of a website specifically devoted to assisting senior students with maintaining track of these key elements is, therefore, both relevant and important.

The Philippines has a relatively low population base that has taken and finished tertiary education, with only around 24.4% of Filipinos above the age of 25 attaining a bachelor's degree or equivalent degrees (Philippine Business for Education, 2023). Most of the top universities in the country require passing both their prepared standardized tests and the grade evaluation process. Some also require passing an additional interview after going through the examinations and several evaluations. Incoming college applicants usually encounter this situation multiple times as most students apply to numerous universities, which makes it much more challenging to juggle the time they can spend in preparing. Additionally, most entrance examination schedules overlap with the school calendar, making this specific time harder as students also need to fulfill their own school responsibilities and obligations while at the same time, not compromising the quality of review that they need in preparation for taking the examinations.

In the past three years, the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic affected numerous sectors, including the sector of education, specifically altering the field of college admissions (Association for Psychological Science, 2022). Most College Entrance Tests were postponed, if not completely canceled due to the health and safety protocols that needed to be implemented. Some remained to have their examinations online, while some needed to adjust their requirements and evaluate the students' applications through their grades only. Moreover, the timeline of events during college application season was also affected. With this new timeline implemented during face-to-face classes, there is a tendency that conflicts may arise with the review sessions,

the application process, the examination itself, and the school calendar. Schedules of semester finals may overlap with examination dates, causing the students to feel a lot more stressed as they struggle to manage the time needed for both important matters.

According to Rappleye and Komatsu (2018), high-stakes tests heighten student stress and anxiety. As students see this period as their first step in creating their own future, feelings of tension and worry are often present due to the challenges that they encounter. Studies show that one of the major challenges faced regarding college entrance examinations is the lack of preparation, whether it is regarding the preparation for the exam or regarding the requirements needed. According to Moore et al. (2019), those who have participated in test preparations have a much higher chance of passing an entrance examination than those who did not. These preparations could be in a way of attending review classes, private tutoring, reading reviewers, and answering mock tests.

Another factor that can contribute to students' stress levels is the uncertainty surrounding their academic and career prospects. The decision-making process as they approach college entails a significant burden, with considerations ranging from selecting the right institution and academic program to grappling with financial constraints. It is not a straightforward task and involves a difficult process of decision-making (Ouano et al., 2019). The combination of important decisions can lead to stress for students as they grapple with a variety of choices related to their education and future goals. Furthermore, the worry of making the wrong choice adds to their anxiety. Consequently, it's clear that the decision-making process significantly affects the emotional well-being of these young

adults, highlighting the essential requirement for thorough guidance and support during this critical phase in their lives.

Even the most devoted students may become overwhelmed by the numerous requirements, various application dates, and the process of obtaining and organizing necessary documentation. This is also combined with the academic stress and pressure experienced in school, given that the high school culture is competitive in nature (Uitermarkt, 2020). These findings highlight the urgent need for an adapted approach to assist students in navigating the college application process more successfully, allowing them to pursue their academic goals with greater confidence and less stress.

Moreover, the lack of test preparation materials is also a factor to be considered, as it also affects the quality of review a student can get. In general, the lack of study resources affects students mostly in high poverty areas. Some are getting lower grades on standardized tests in comparison to students who come from wealthier areas as they do not have the means to a better education (Maffea, 2020). After delving into several studies, it becomes evident that engaging in preparatory measures for college admission exams, such as enrolling in review centers or diligently studying practice test materials, can significantly enhance a student's likelihood of acceptance into universities. According to a study by Xu (2021) which explored the methodologies and outcomes of preparing for a high-stakes English admission test in the context of tertiary education concerning the impacts of test preparation, an examination utilizing regression analysis on 161 Graduate School Entrance English Examination (GSEEE) writing scores demonstrated a notable

positive influence of test takers' language proficiency and individual preparatory endeavors on their test scores. In addition to this, in a study conducted by Lagon (2023) at Ateneo de Iloilo, a 20-day review program named ADI-SMCS Training on Test Readiness for Admission to College (ATTRAC) significantly improved overall pretest and posttest scores for the College Admission Test among 109 Grade 11 participants. The positive results highlight the impact of structured test preparation programs on enhancing students' performance in admission tests.

The benefits of technology in education are very significant. This encourages learning by using interactive and multimedia resources for better comprehension of lessons. More so, technology offers extensive educational material for independent, self-directed learning and research. It significantly enhances the intercommunication and interaction of students and experts. Technology makes it easier for researchers to conduct research and acquire information that will help them in their academic undertakings such as assignments (Gordillo-Tenorio et al., 2023). This brings the researchers to the creation of websites, which involves design, coding, and content development. It requires a combination of technical skills, creativity, and attention to user experience. A website requires a holistic approach to include diverse content to ensure that the site functions properly. The internet has been helpful in modern-day education providing indispensable sources of information and educational materials that students and teachers alike could utilize.



One of the solutions that may help in aiding the needs of the students is through the use of modern technology. Using technological tools like websites improves the efficiency of accomplishing tasks as they reduce the amount of time and effort needed to track, route, update, and maintain software (Cayuse, 2022). With the creation of the website ValPrep, the researchers aim to create a tool to aid the needs of incoming college and university students in making their preparations easier and less stressful. ValPrep is a specialized website established to provide critical information concerning colleges, as well as universities to those who seek guidance. As a valuable source that can inform people about the background, rules, and learning methodology in these institutes. Unlike most other prep courses, ValPrep looks not only at the process of college admission on its surface but rather rummages to explore the specifics. This website will also gain data about previous college admissions examinations from various universities. Additionally, ValPrep provides great help by pointing out the dissimilarities and subtle differences between these famously known admissions tests so that learners can have insightful information for making a decision on how to prepare accordingly. The website will offer a more convenient way to prepare for post-secondary education by providing a list of colleges and universities in Metro Manila, a comprehensive list of their requirements, an estimated date of deadlines and examinations, and preparatory reviewers all combined in a single easy-to-access website that they can open anytime and anywhere, through their mobile and desktop devices. It is an all-inclusive platform designed to provide students with the knowledge required for navigating college admission and succeeding in their academic endeavors.

There are several beneficiaries included in this study. High school students will benefit from an easy-to-use website that condenses a multitude of important announcements made by different institutions by reducing the burden of the college application process. In addition to that, parents and guardians will find reassurance in knowing that their children have access to a resource that promotes independence and self-reliance during this pivotal phase. Streamlining application procedures and improving contact with potential students can be advantageous for educational institutions as well, including high schools and colleges. Furthermore, the wider educational sector will learn about efficient technological solutions that may improve the overall student experience, which could have an impact on how future support systems are designed.

By offering assistance on the college application process, specifically through the development of a website that focuses on the provision of a database containing a compilation of various materials aimed to aid students in their college application process, this research aims to lessen some of the struggles faced by Valenzuela City students, primarily students from Valenzuela City School of Mathematics. This study aims to close a sizable gap in the present support networks offered to students throughout this crucial stage of their academic careers. This study hopes to improve not only the college application process but also the high school seniors' academic and personal achievement, giving them the ability to make wise judgments regarding their future academic aspirations.

## **B. Statement of the Problem**

In light of the outset of college and university application and admission tests, senior high school students encountered significant hurdles in the process. The researchers have observed that students at ValMaSci predominantly shoulder the responsibility of managing these tasks, while simultaneously managing their existing educational commitments. This research aims to mitigate some of the burdens faced by ValMaSci students by providing guidance on the college application process. Specifically, it aims to address the following questions:

1. How efficient is the ValPrep website in terms of:
  - a. Loading Speed
  - b. Platform Compatibility
2. How do the participants score the ValPrep website in terms of its:
  - a. Website Design
  - b. Readability
  - c. User Interface
3. How do the participants rate the ValPrep websites' various functions, specifically the:
  - a. College and University Profiles
  - b. College and University List of Admission Requirements
  - c. Open-access Reviewers
  - d. Open Forum

### **C. Significance of the Study**

The study holds significant importance as it addressed the pressing issue of multitasking faced by senior high school students. By providing a dedicated platform for college entrance exam preparation, ValPrep alleviates the burden of balancing regular academic responsibilities with the demands of exam readiness. This not only reduces stress levels but also enhances students' overall well-being. Furthermore, ValPrep's focused assistance and review materials offer students the opportunity to improve their performance in these critical exams, thereby increasing their chances of gaining admission to their desired colleges and universities. Additionally, the platform promotes fairness in the college admission process by ensuring access to valuable resources for students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. By helping students manage their time efficiently and prepare effectively, ValPrep lays the foundation for a promising academic and career future, making a lasting impact beyond high school.

### **D. Scope and Delimitation of the Study**

This study's scope is intentionally defined to focus on a specific geographical area and subject group. Geographically, it concentrates solely on Valenzuela City in the Philippines, specifically targeting high school students from Valenzuela City School of Mathematics and Science. The research is explicitly concerned with understanding the challenges and needs of high school students in the context of balancing their academic coursework and preparations for college entrance exams.

The primary intervention under scrutiny is the utilization of the ValPrep website

as a tool to mitigate the complexities associated with multitasking between academic responsibilities and college entrance exam preparations. Data collection methods will include surveys, interviews, and website usage analysis, with the principal aim of comprehending student experiences and perceptions regarding the ValPrep platform.

However, certain delimitations exist within this study. Firstly, the findings and recommendations generated will be context-specific to Valenzuela City and may not be directly transferable or generalizable to other regions or countries. Additionally, the study's findings will be based on data collected during a particular time frame, thus not accounting for potential changes or developments in the ValPrep platform or the broader educational landscape beyond this defined period.

It will not delve into other forms of academic assessments or broader educational challenges. The research will not explore the implications of ValPrep beyond the scope of college entrance exams, such as its relevance to post-exam transitions or career pathways. The primary objective is to assess the website's impact on high school students' ability to manage academic responsibilities alongside their college entrance exam preparations in the defined geographical and examination context.

Resource constraints will also limit the extent of data collection and analysis. Furthermore, the selection of the students from the said school for the study may not fully represent the diversity of educational institutions in the area, and students from other schools may have distinct experiences and perspectives. Lastly, external factors, such as

shifts in national educational policies or unforeseen events, could impact the study's context and outcomes, but these are factors beyond the research's control.

The website was also published using a yearly plan in WordPress, not a permanent subscription plan; the website needs to be paid yearly for it to continue in its publication. The yearly plan was chosen as it was enough for fulfilling the requirements for this research within the given time frame. The personal plan was used in creating the site due to the researchers' limited financial capabilities. Any additional features that WordPress offers for site creation may not be present in the site as it is offered in other, more premium plans.

#### **E. Hypothesis**

The goal of the research in this study was to create a website that will aid in preparing students for the application process of various colleges and universities and to review for their entrance exams.

- a. The participants will have a high average technical rating on the functionality and proficiency of the ValPrep website.
- b. The participants highly rate ValPrep's performance and design in terms of its perceived effectiveness.
- c. The participants will have an overall high evaluation rating for the website's functions and features as a whole.

## F. Definition of Terms

In the context of this study, precise terminology and concepts have been explicitly delineated to enhance the clarity and comprehension of the research. These definitions are derived from authoritative sources, primarily Merriam Webster (2023), ensuring a technically accurate foundation for this investigation:

**College Admission** - The process by which students apply for and gain entry to a college or university. Would be used as a variable to be tested in the paper in order to determine the effectiveness of the website.

**Higher Education Institution** - A college or a university. This will be used as a terminology in the paper.

**Loading Speed** - The rate at which a web page or digital content loads and becomes accessible to the user when accessed over the internet. This will be used as a parameter to be tested in order to determine if the website is technically functional for students.

**Platform Compatibility** - The ability of a software application or website to operate and display correctly on different devices and operating systems. This will be used as a parameter to be tested in order to determine if the website is technically functional for students.

**Post-secondary Education** - Education that occurs after the completion of secondary (high school) education and includes various forms of learning, such as vocational and technical training, and higher education at colleges and universities. Can be interchanged with tertiary education and higher education in the paper.

**Website Design** - The process of planning and creating the layout, appearance, and

overall aesthetic of a website, including the arrangement of its elements and user interface. This will be used as a parameter to be tested in order to determine if the website is perceived as functional for students.

**Readability** - The quality of written or printed material that makes it easy to understand, typically measured by factors like font size, typography, and content layout. This will be used as a parameter to be tested in order to determine if the website is perceived as functional for students.

**Survey** - A systematic method for gathering information from individuals or groups, often through questionnaires or interviews, to gather data and insights for research or analysis. Will be used to gather information and test the parameters of the said study using the data.

**User Interface** - The means by which a user interacts with a computer program, website, or other digital device, encompassing elements like buttons, menus, and navigation. This will be used as a parameter to be tested in order to determine if the website is perceived as functional for students.

**Website** - A set of interconnected web pages, usually including a homepage, typically located on the same server and prepared and maintained as a collection of information by a person, group, or organization. This will be used as a medium in testing whether a college entrance and preparation website is useful in the students' academic performance and college entrance admission rate.

**WordPress** - A widely-used, open-source content management system (CMS) for building and managing websites, known for its ease of use and customization capabilities. Will be used as the medium in order to create the VALPREP website.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

In this chapter, we explore the relevant theories, literature, and studies that the researchers gathered and assessed to establish the importance of the current study. Additionally, a conceptual framework was presented to enhance comprehension of the systematic procedures employed in the study. Towards the conclusion of this chapter, the study's hypotheses are also outlined.

#### **A. Relevant Theories**

##### **a. Technology Acceptance Model**

The Technology Acceptance Model (Davis, 1989), or TAM, posits that there are two factors that determine whether a computer system was accepted by its potential users: (1) perceived usefulness, and (2) perceived ease of use. The key feature of this model was its emphasis on the perceptions of the potential user.

##### **b. Critical Theory of Technology**

The Critical Theory of Technology of Feenberg (2005) combined insights from the philosophy of both technology and constructivist technology studies. A framework was proposed in order to analyze technologies and technological systems at several levels: (1) At primary level in which natural objects and people are decontextualized to identify their purpose, and (2) at a secondary level of recontextualization in natural, technical and social environments. It has also stated that technologies have distinctive features as such while also exhibiting biases

derived from their place in society.

These theories served as a guide to the researchers in conducting their study and had ensured that they employ the correct methods towards the achievement of their research goals so that the identified gaps will be properly answered in a scientific and evidence-based manner.

## **B. Related Literature**

### **a. Demography of Education in the Philippines**

As of School Year 2023-2024, the Department of Education (2023) has recorded the total number of students in the Philippines to be at 28,035,042 active enrollees for basic education. When it came to the metric for enrollees of higher education, the latest data from CHED indicated that in 2021, a grand total of 4,443,217 students were currently taking classes for higher education (Commission on Higher Education, (CHED), 2021). To accommodate these students, 1,949 higher education institutions are scattered around the country, both public and private (*The Philippines' Education Market*, 2022). These numbers have shown a growth from the past few years of recorded data, that indicated a constant rising education base within the country.

According to Salihu (2020), in a similar manner to the way the Southeast Asian countries of Thailand and Indonesia had seen their youth population increase over time, this trend can also be traced to the Philippine context. This

was seen by the rapid expansion of higher education enrollment and learning demand by this population. From 2010 to 2018 the number of private higher education institutions increased from 220 to 231 and those of private higher education institutions increased from 1376 to 1712. However, the Philippines still suffers from a lower than average higher education attainment rate of our students in comparison to peer countries in the South East Asian Sector, with Thailand and Malaysia having 43% and 44% participation rate for their students to the Philippines's 33% (Andres, 2019). Nevertheless, the Philippines had already taken strides to increase the demographic of students attaining higher education through programs such as the Republic Act (RA) No. 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act which aims to provide greater access to free tuition for aspiring college and university students (UniFAST, 2021).

**b. Evidence of College Admission Stress**

The college admissions process was undeniably stressful for students, which impacted their mental well-being and required reforms to alleviate this pressure. This was supported by the data presented in an article by Robinson (2022), that has stated that statistics has shown 76% of students experienced significant stress related to the college admission procedure. She has also named the following as the biggest stressors during application season; managing time and resources, handling cost and debt, taking standardized tests, grappling with competition, and finding the right school. Additionally, some students has struggled in the process of college admissions from application of classes that has higher difficulty and outside their strengths, pressure from their parents,

uncertainty about the future, and sleep deprivation (Stress and the College Admissions Process, 2020).

Further corroboration was provided by Nolasco et al. (2019) in their paper, where college admission was identified as one of the factors that caused academic stress among students in the Philippines. Moreover, it was said that students undergo feelings of stress, anxiety, depression, and even grief during the college application process (Fleming, 2022). Additionally, Aylward (2023) discussed the cause of procrastination in college admissions in her article. She stated this procrastination likely stemmed from anxiety, specifically, apprehension regarding college admissions, fears of gaining admission to the 'ideal' institution, and was concerned about meeting personal academic standards, rather than merely the ability to produce an exceptional application essay.

c. **Relevance of Post-secondary Education**

Post-secondary Education was considered as one of the most critical periods in a student's life. Delaware Student Success (2022) explained that this certain period shaped a student's career path through different programs that best suit their personality and desires. Additionally, it has also improved the skills that are needed in a certain career path because most college courses focus on what kind of work someone will encounter when they enter their chosen field of work. Not only does post-secondary education help in shaping one's career, but also increases the job opportunities and choices that a person can have once they graduate, as most companies look for employees who completed a post-secondary

education program. This was also supported by the paper of Daugherty (2022), where they discussed How Postsecondary Credentials Impact Earnings. These credentials, such as college degrees, credit-bearing certificates, non-credit certificates, certifications, licenses, and apprenticeships has offered better paying jobs for the individuals who obtain these.

Moreover, post-secondary education was also considered as a transition area, serving as a combination of education and training after high school. Here, students may choose to enter programs that could cater to their needs. These include vocational schools, career schools, community and technical colleges, and other four-year colleges and universities, which has given the students enough training that they need, including on-the-job trainings and apprenticeships, community education classes, and even adult basic education programs which helped people who are not yet academically ready for college in order to be better (University of Minnesota, 2023). In the Philippine Context, post-secondary education has played an essential role in preparing the students towards having a successful career, and enabled them to take part in contribution to the country's development both socially and economically (Philippine Education Hub, 2022).

**d. Incorporation of Technology in Education**

Technology served a pivotal role in the enhancement of education by fostered engagement, personalization, and accessibility, which ultimately empowered students to acquire knowledge and skills more effectively then adapt to the evolving demands of the modern world. The COVID-19 pandemic rapidly

proved that online education was an essential component of teaching and learning. Teachers used online learning as a potent teaching tool by its incorporation into their current curricula rather than utilization only as a crisis management tool (“How Important Is Technology in Education? | American University,” 2023). Technology made information instantly accessible, which has shown why having it in the classroom was particularly crucial. For both teachers and students, smartphones, laptops, and tablets were already an indispensable part of daily life (*How to Integrate Technology in the Classroom - School of Education*, 2019). Technology has offered a variety of resources for personalized learning of students. It has given platforms for interaction such as video calls, and educational games that enhanced the capabilities of students in their studies and collaborative work (*Integrating Technology in Education*, 2023).

In the context of the Philippines, an article by Mahajan (2022) stated that numerous research studies have established that technology can benefit Philippine education and its citizens. It was demonstrated that students who used digital learning tools learned the material considerably more quickly and performed better than those who did not have access to these resources and learned using the conventional method. Mahajan listed the following as benefits in incorporating technology in education; equipping students for their future careers; personalizing learning and teaching approaches; driving down the cost of education operations; and boosting teamwork, communication, and productivity.

## C. Related Studies

### **Justifications for the ValPrep Website**

The importance of post-secondary educational attainment for the growth of a nation was eminent, through the cultivation of individuals' nascent intellectual curiosity and the development of capable and free-thinking adults that contribute to a society (Chankseliani et al., 2021). However, according to a study by Bayudan-Dacuycuy et al. (2023), the Philippines was still behind when it comes to the rate of tertiary education attainment of its students in comparison to other ASEAN countries, and suffered from lower acceptance and accommodation rate from private Higher Education Institutions that are most prevalent in the country. Daway-Ducanes et al. (2022) pointed out in their study the additional element of "income advantage" that is taking root within the countries higher educational institutions, that created a disparity among who can have access to tertiary education influenced by the financial status of their family, among other factors. Barbayannis et al., (2022) supported this by concluding that students have difficulty in post-secondary education due to financial, mental, and personal problems which also can arise from academic stress. Finally, when it comes to the Philippines's method for college and university admission, unlike in countries like the United States of America, no centralized test is present when it comes to determining a student's adequacy to be accepted to any of the HEIs in the Philippines, with individual Institutions responsible for administering their own test to evaluate future enrollees (Evite, 2019). This resulted in added confusion and complexity for students who are at the transitory stage from their high school

education towards higher education and is the problem this research is aiming to provide a solution to through the development of a fully functional website, ValPrep.

### **Website Functionality Assessment**

A previous research by Lockton, et al. (2023) designed a website specifically catered to grandparents who are suffering from the perinatal loss of grandchildren. It has included chat forums made for peer support, as well as information regarding said losses. ValPrep will also be designed in a similar fashion wherein information regarding the overall application processes, examinations, and what the school has to offer are made accessible and could be. A forum was also incorporated within the site where applicants could ask for assistance from peers who are knowledgeable in terms of college admissions. To assess the efficiency of their site, they picked a total of 152 respondents who happen to be grandparents that experienced perinatal loss. After the utilization of the site, they were asked to fill up a survey containing a series of questions that are to be used for Likert Response Anchors. In a study of Boudreau et al.,(2023) a survey was used also to gather data from several participants. There were 293 applicants that were sent a link to a survey after the navigation of a website which specified Neurosurgery Residency and the researchers received 87 completed responses which stated that the website assisted them well in understanding the concept of Neurosurgery. The use of surveys, the Likert Scale, as well as the functionalities and the design of Lockton's site has served as basis for the fundamentals of Valprep. Additionally, the Likert Scale was used to determine the



user's input regarding the website's design and functionality. The relative importance of the design characteristics of educational portals was examined, and it showed that usability metrics such as content, navigation, and support of language are one of the students' priorities in satisfaction (Hasan, 2014 as cited in Alshari et. al, 2019).

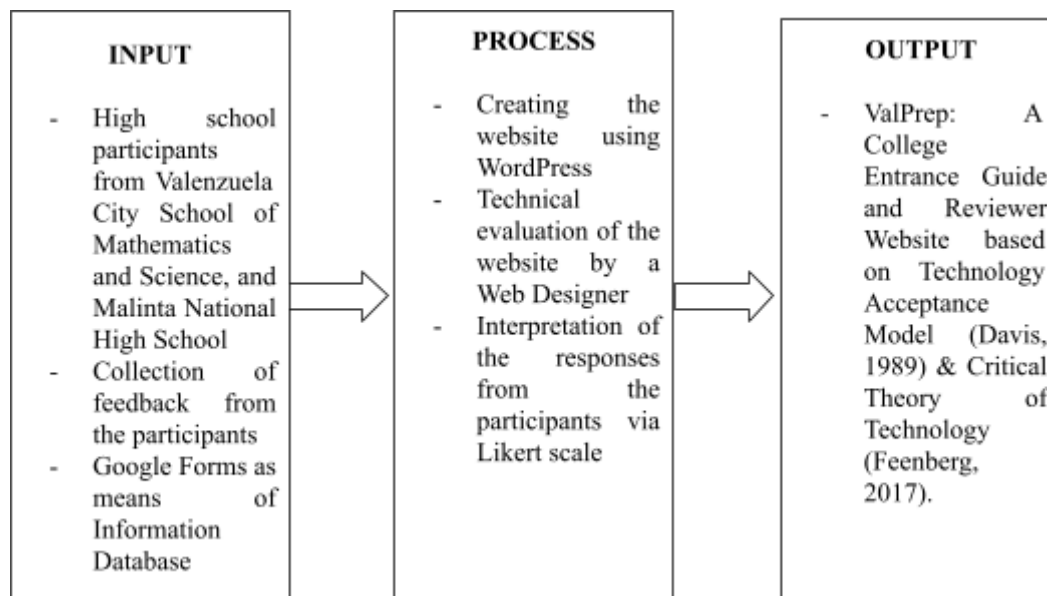
### **Input - Process - Output Model**

A fundamental framework utilized in research articles was the Input-Process-Output (IPO) model. Gathering data took place at "Input," the first step. "Process" referred to the analysis and interpretation of data, and "Output" described the results and conclusions of study. The IPO model provided an organized way to communicate research methods and findings in an understandable and sustainable way. This framework was used in the study of Agus and Aziza (2020) to gather the relevance of ethical factors and audit quality in which both their input and output was measured by 5 items, the study went through audit procedures for the process, and all variables were estimated on a 5-point Likert scale. Additionally, Galis et al. (2022) used this model to elaborate on 70 advisory councils with the process that served as a mediator to the input and output. After analysis, the study concluded that direct and indirect impact between the input and output were connected through a process which has brought the whole model as a whole.

## D. Conceptual Framework

**Figure 1**

*Research paradigm of the study*



For the conceptual framework, the researchers utilized the input-process-output (IPO) model as the research paradigm of the study. This model highlighted the step-by-step process of the creation of the ValPrep website, from how the data was collected to the accomplishment of the website itself (Canonizado, 2021). A large group of student participants from two schools in Valenzuela City was gathered through convenience sampling to participate in the operation of the ValPrep website. The exact number was determined through the usage of the equation of the minimum sample size of the population mean. They were given ample time to use the website and explore its various functions during their available schedule— which allowed the researchers to gather data despite the limitations imposed by time constraint— as long as they answer within the set testing period. After said period had concluded, they were asked to respond to a Google Forms survey that contained questions regarding their experience with the

ValPrep website through a 5-point Likert scale answering system. For the creation of the creation of the ValPrep website itself, the researchers had settled upon wordpress.com, specifically their personal plan, and availed one (1) year in annual payment method as it provided the most affordable plan that gave services all the needs of the researchers regarding the ValPrep Website (WordPress.com, 2023).

## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter details the approaches employed by the researchers to gather data for the study. It covers aspects such as the research design, the study's population and sample, materials and design/methods, research instruments, data gathering procedure, and data processing with statistical treatment.

#### **A. Research Design**

This research adopted a quantitative research approach, which was characterized by its focus on collected numerical data and subsequently drawn general conclusions pertained to a specific population in order to draw conclusions about a particular phenomenon. This type of research emphasized objective measurements through mathematics, statistical treatments, and the analysis of the gathered numerical data (Babbie, 2010). Specifically, a descriptive approach was incorporated, as the distribution of one or more variables used within the study was described regardless of other hypotheses or causal factors (Aggarwal & Ranganathan, 2019). The method embraced the uniqueness of the measuring instrument (humans) involved in the study, based on physiological, psychological, and behavioral differences, along with experiential differences with a specific product or related products (Sidel, Bleibaum & Tao, 2018). Therefore, through the utilization of a descriptive approach, this research promoted objectivity and aimed to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter by providing a rich and expansive array of responses.

## **B. Population and Sample of Study**

After the creation of the website, the testing phase of the website occurred, with the population being public high schools around Valenzuela City. While originally five schools were planned to become a part of this study, due to the limitations imposed by time, the researchers managed to find only one school and their respective learners willing to be a part of the study; that being students from Valenzuela City School of Mathematics and Science (ValMaSci), from both junior and senior highschool departments. This school was selected due to their willingness to be a part of the study and the convenience of collecting participants from a familiar source. Currently, the total population is 468 girls and 617 boys, amounting to a cumulative 1085 learners from grades 7 to 12. From these, 30 participants was the minimum sample size needed for conclusive results, but a threshold of 150 is ideal for more accurate interpretation.

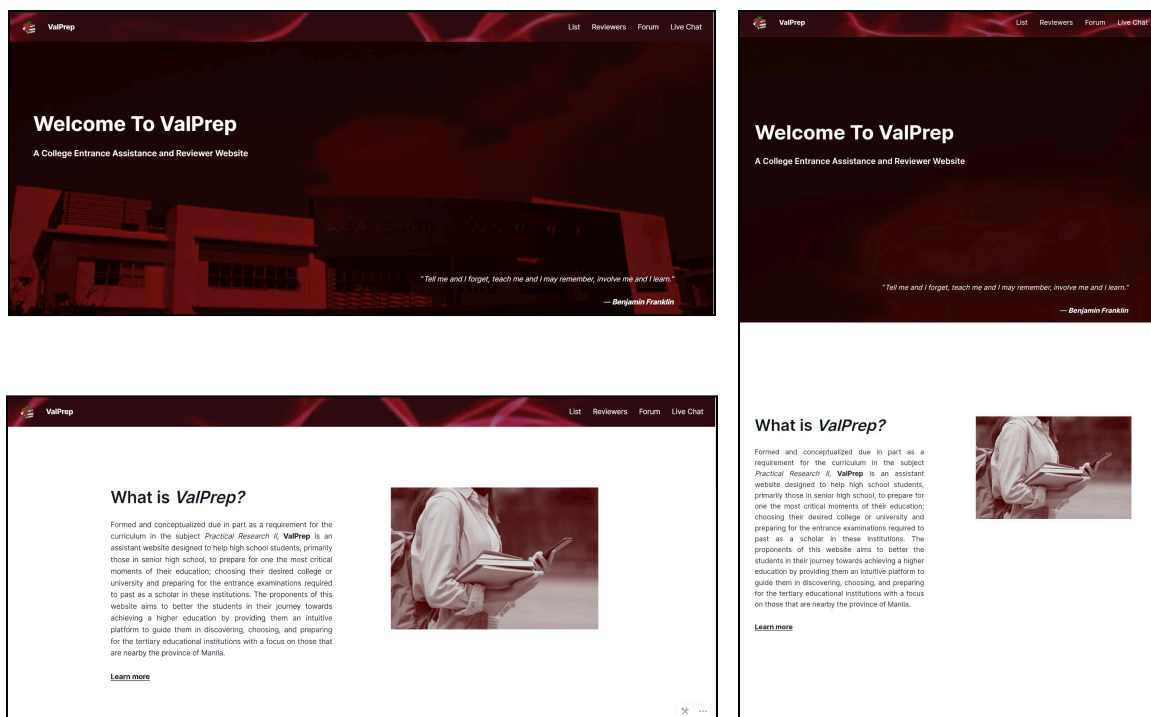
## **C. Materials and Design**

The researchers have created the ValPrep website through the use of wordpress.com, an all-in-one website creation and hosting service that provided them with the necessary tools for the creation of ValPrep. The researchers availed the personal plan from wordpress.com with an annual payment method, as it allowed faster website loading time and removed ads that are present in the free payment plan. The researchers chose wordpress.com as it offered the needed tools and features for the creation of a website for the most affordable price (WordPress.com, 2023). The computer hardware necessary for the building process was provided by the researchers themselves using their personal equipment. The researchers have also prepared a preliminary interface for the

ValPrep website, as seen below.

**Figure 2**

*ValPrep Interface*



*Figure 2.1: ValPrep Menu*

The Menu Tab (Figure 2.1) was the central navigation hub of VALPREP, offering quick access to essential tools and resources. Users can explore the homepage, manage their profiles, conduct searches, access interactive quizzes in the Quiz Center, read informative articles in the Articles section, engage in discussions, and seek support on the forum.

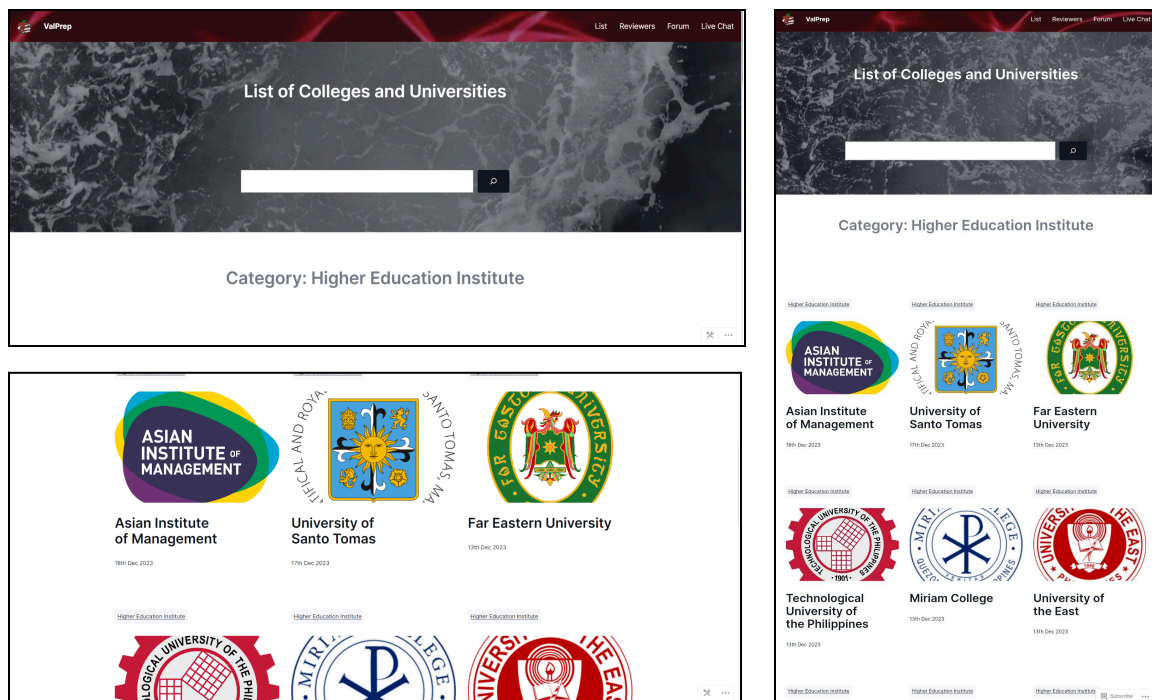


Figure 2.2: ValPrep University Lists Tab

The College University Lists Tab (Figure 2.2), as shown above, was a dedicated section for users seeking information about colleges and universities. It featured robust search filters, detailed college profiles, user reviews, and a list of academic courses for each college university.

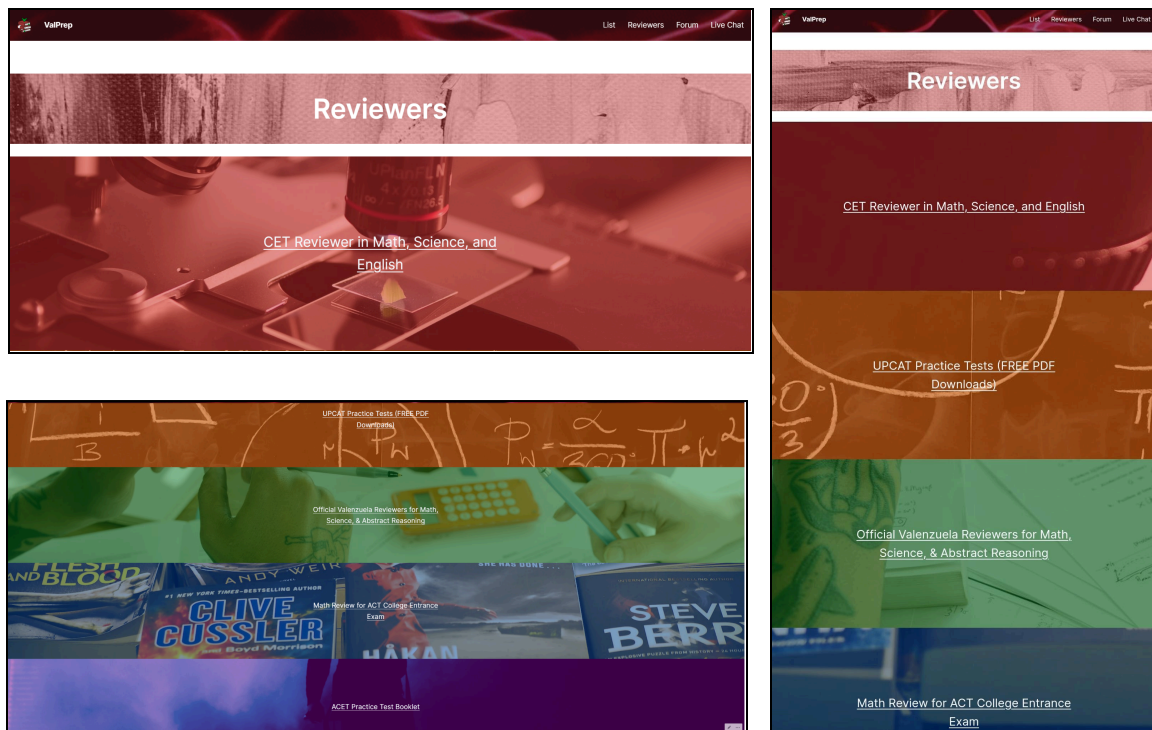


Figure 2.3: ValPrep Reviewer Guide Tab

The Figure above has shown the Reviewer Guide Tab (Figure 2.3), which was designed to aid users in their preparation for college entrance exams and admissions. It offered a wealth of open-source study materials, practice tests, study plans, test-taking tips, and progress-tracking tools. Users can also contribute their study resources and experiences to the VALPREP community.



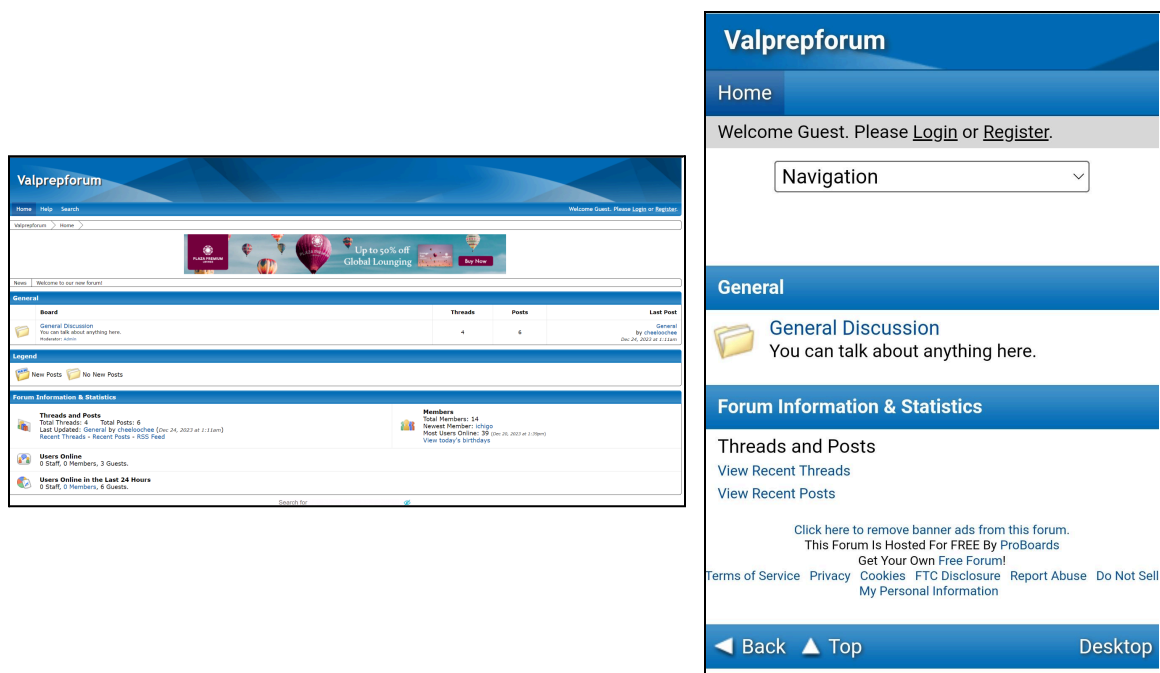
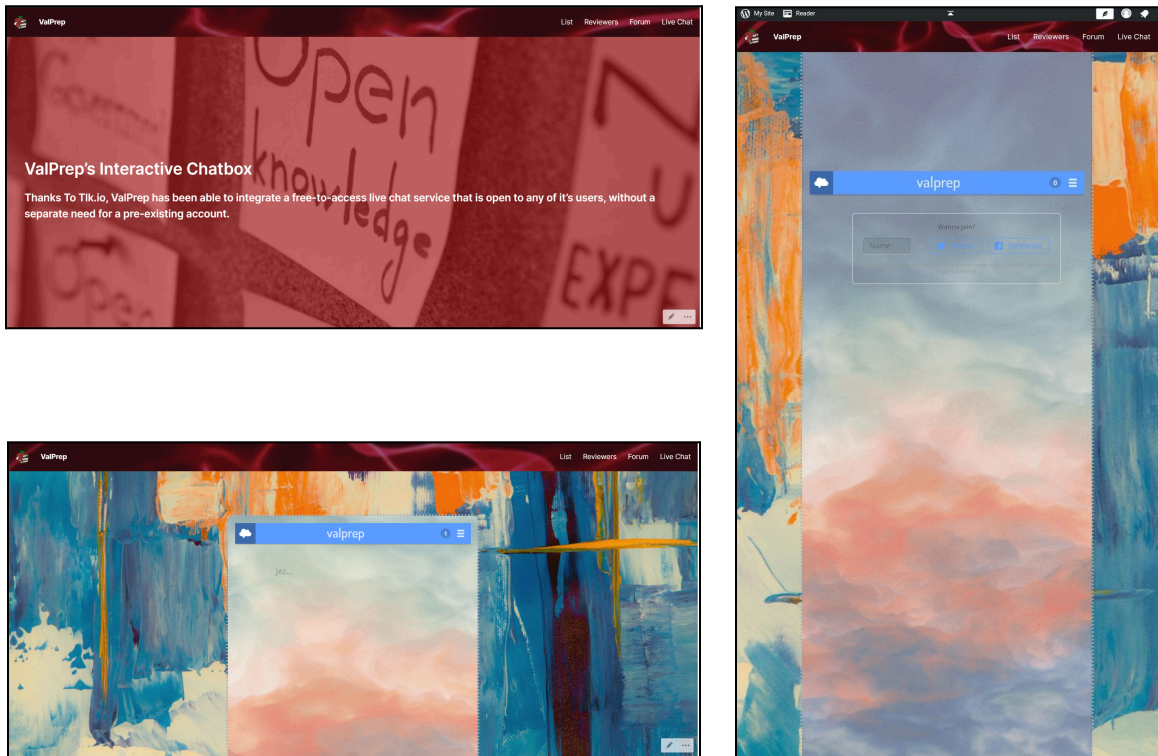


Figure 2.4: ValPrep Forum Tab

The ValPrep Forum (Figure 2.4) was an integral part of ValPrep: A College Entrance Assistance and Reviewer Website, offered students and educators a collaborative platform to exchange insights, seek expert guidance, and access valuable resources for college entrance success. It required login authentication for an individual user to access and has designated moderator accounts to handle any issues. It has provided a diverse and supportive community, expert advice, resource sharing, specialized discussion forums, and a secure environment for all participants. These four tabs collectively created a user-friendly and comprehensive platform, supported individuals on their journey toward college entrance success.



*Figure 2.5: ValPrep Live Chat Tab*

The Live Chat tab (Figure 2.5) as seen on the main menu of ValPrep was integrated within the site in order for live chat to take place between the users of the site with each other or with the site's developers. The idea of a live chat for the site was implemented specifically for requests for assistance and inquiries related to college admissions and the site itself.

#### **D. Research Instruments**

The researchers created the ValPrep website using wordpress.com, an all-in-one website creation and hosting service that has provided them with the necessary tools for the creation of ValPrep. The researchers availed from wordpress.com a personal plan with an annual payment method, as it allowed faster website loading time and removed ads that are present in the free payment plan. The researchers chose wordpress.com as it offered the needed tools and features for building a website for the most affordable price (WordPress.com, 2023). The computer hardware necessary for the building process was provided by the researchers themselves using their personal equipment. The researchers had also prepared a preliminary interface for the ValPrep website, as seen above. In addition, a Google Forms survey was established to extract information from the participants. A total of 21 questions have been included with 9 related to research question 2 and 12 related to research question 3. Two Google forms with identical questions have been sent out, with the difference being their intended audience of either senior or junior high schoolers for easier data separation.

**Table 1***Likert scale questionnaire questions.*


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Survey Questions
1.1 ValPrep is visually appealing and eye-catching.
1.2 Users find ValPrep's visual presentation to be sensible and organized.
1.3 The design elements of ValPrep capture the website's overall theme regarding its purpose.
2.1 The contents of ValPrep are readable and easy to comprehend.
2.2 ValPrep's content organization is presented in a way that makes complex topics accessible to users.
2.3 Users find the information on ValPrep to be clear and straightforward.
3.1 The ValPrep website has a user-friendly interface.
3.2 ValPrep's interface facilitates easy navigation and information retrieval.
4.1 The College and University Profiles are detailed and provide reliable information.
4.2 The information presented in the profiles provides all the information necessary with an attached link to its main website.
4.3 ValPrep contains a substantial number of College University Profiles that are present within the Metro Manila area.
5.1 The website's College and University List of Admission Requirements feature is complete and accurate.
5.2 ValPrep's College and University List of Admission Requirements is up-to-date.
5.3 ValPrep's College and University List of Admission Requirements is comprehensive, providing a thorough understanding of what is expected for admission.
6.1 The Open-access Reviewers provided on the ValPrep website are informative.
6.2 Users find the information shared by Open-access Reviewers on ValPrep to be enlightening and helpful.
6.3 The Open-access reviewers include topics and/or subjects included in admission tests of the colleges featured in the website
7.1 Users were able to access the linked forum page of ValPrep.
7.2 The open forum was functional and had a working account system.
7.3 Users were able to access the live chat present in ValPrep's forum section.

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The survey was scrutinized by the validators of the research, which include the validator for the materials & design as well as the statistician, guaranteeing that the questions represented the research questions they sought to answer. In addition, the results of the questionnaire was scrutinized under Cronbach's Alpha equation to determine its reliability, interpreted in accordance to the table below, from Hamidy and Claver (2019).

**Table 2**

*Cronbach's Alpha Internal Consistency Interpretation Table*

Range	Internal Consistency and Reliability
A = 1.00	Perfect
0.99 > a	Excellent
0.79 > a	Acceptable
0.59 > a	Poor
0.5 > a	Unacceptable

### **E. Data Gathering Procedure**

After the creation of the website, the testing phase took place. The researchers gathered participants from the participating public high school in Valenzuela City which was the Valenzuela City School of Mathematics and Science. The participants were chosen through the convenience sampling process. The data-gathering process was conducted online as the researchers would send a compiled link of both the survey form and the website itself, including the information and instructions that the participants would need to participate, separated between senior high schoolers and junior high schoolers.

The chosen participants were tasked to use the website for a total of 30 minutes,

in which they had to explore the different elements and the technical aspects of the website. Afterwards, the researchers proceeded to the collection of the participants' responses through the use of Google Form online survey questionnaires which allowed the said participants to evaluate the site through five-point Likert scale questions. To ensure the accuracy of the survey questionnaire used by the researchers to test the user feedback for the ValPrep website, it was examined by a statistician and a validator. The initial survey questionnaire was modified based on the feedback of the statistician on which showed more accurate responses from the participants. Said questions are asked for input regarding the site's overall functionality and interface quality, which aim to answer the second and third research questions. The researchers also provided rewards through a raffle for the participants who answered the survey and reviewed the website as a token of gratitude, with a cumulative cash pool of 3000 pesos.

Once the responses had been collected, the data obtained through the Likert scale was subjected to analysis using Weighted Mean and comparing it to a Likert scale interpretation table to determine how effective the site was based on said responses from the participants.

### **Figure 3**

*Weighted mean formula*

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum_1^5 (w_1 \times x_1)}{n}$$

The weighted mean was calculated by gathering the sum of the product of the

number of responses of a specific magnitude and multiplying it with its value in weight, divided by the total number of respondents to collect the weighted mean formula. To acquire the significance of the data points, the computed mean derived from the scale was examined within the context of the determined numerical intervals associated with the Weighted Mean. The study of Sözen and Guven (2019) was used as a reference for the numerical intervals of the Likert Scale. Each range of numbers represents an interpretation category from "Strongly Agree", "Agree", "Neutral", "Disagree", and "Strongly Disagree".

**Table 3**

*Likert Scale Interpretation Table*

Likert Scale Interpretation	Value	Range
Strongly Agree	5	4.21-5.00
Agree	4	3.41-4.20
Neutral	3	2.61-3.40
Disagree	2	1.81-2.60
Strongly Disagree	1	1.00-1.80

Additionally, the website was technically examined using the Google PageSpeed Insights in order to answer the first research question. The Google PageSpeed Insights is a test used to measure the performance scores of a particular website or application based on its loading speed. PageSpeed Insights classifies the website's speed into three categories: good, needs improvement, and poor. This tool test multiple metrics to determine the score of the website, these being:

- First Contentful Paint (FCP) - signifies the moment when the initial text or image

is rendered on the page.

- Total Blocking Time (TBT) - Represents the sum of durations between FCP and Time to Interactive, occurring when task duration exceeds 50ms, and it is measured in milliseconds.
- Speed Index (SI) - Demonstrates the speed at which a page's contents are visually populated. More insights about the Speed Index metric can be found.
- Largest Contentful Paint (LCP) - Indicates the time when the largest text or image is rendered.
- Cumulative Layout Shift (CLS) - Measures the displacement of visible elements within the viewport.

**Table 4**

*Google PageSpeed Insights Interpretation Table*

	Good	Needs Improvement	Poor
FCP	[0, 1800ms]	(1800ms, 3000ms]	over 3000ms
FID	[0, 100ms]	(100ms, 300ms]	over 300ms
LCP	[0, 2500ms]	(2500ms, 4000ms]	over 4000ms
CLS	[0, 0.1]	(0.1, 0.25]	over 0.25
INP	[0, 200ms]	(200ms, 500ms]	over 500ms
TTFB (experimental)	[0, 800ms]	(800ms, 1800ms]	over 1800ms

For platform compatibility, an application called Responsivator was used to test how the website would display itself in various layouts and resolutions, and would be able to identify if the website loaded properly not (Responsivator, 2023).



## CHAPTER IV

### PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This chapter delves into a detailed examination of the data collected in the study. It encompasses an overview of the survey questions, addressing user feedback. The analysis explores patterns and correlations within the data, providing both quantitative and qualitative insights. This section concludes with an interpretation of the findings, offering valuable perspectives on user perceptions and areas for potential improvement.

#### A. The Overall Efficiency of ValPrep as a Website

**Table 5**

*Performance of Desktop Valprep in Google Pagespeed Insights*

Metrics	Score	Likert Scale Interpretation
First Contentful Paint	1.0 s	GOOD
Total Blocking Time	0 ms	GOOD
Speed Index	1.1 s	GOOD
Largest Contentful Paint	1.6 s	GOOD
Cumulative Layout Shift	0	GOOD
Overall Score	92	GOOD

The results of the Google Pagespeed Insights showed that the ValPrep website, when viewed in desktop configuration, performed exceedingly well across all metrics of the instrument. This highlights ValPrep to be well functioning in regards to its speed in a desktop setting, scoring 92 out of 100 points in the Insights' overall score.

**Table 6***Performance of Mobile Valprep in Google Pagespeed Insights*

Metrics	Score	Likert Scale Interpretation
First Contentful Paint	2.1 s	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
Total Blocking Time	10 ms	GOOD
Speed Index	5.6 s	POOR
Largest Contentful Paint	8.4 s	POOR
Cumulative Layout Shift	0	GOOD
Overall Score	69	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

In comparison to the performance of the desktop configuration, the mobile viewing experience of ValPrep is hindered by a much slower response and load time, indicating issues with speed and responsiveness. Slower than average First Contentful Paint and a terrible speed index and largest contentful paint score, improvements are required in optimizing the loading speed of ValPrep for mobile viewing experiences, with its current score of 69 out of 100 leaving much to be desired.

When it comes to the compatibility of the website to both desktop and mobile platforms, the testing with Responsivator has yielded that the website was capable of adapting to different resolutions and restrictions from both platforms, and showed no errors when loading to different platforms. It also automatically adapted to the limited size by automatically stacking columns and readjusting content to fit the display of smartphones and tablets. However, the expert provided personal feedback in regards to the mobile version having issues with the side paddings and an overly large header. Aside

from that, the mobile view worked well without issues when it came to the display of content.

### **B. The Overall Organization of ValPrep as a Website**

In the end, a total of 80 participant responses have been gathered during the data collection phase. 39 participants were from the senior high school department while the remaining 41 were from the junior high school department. After arranging the responses, the final Cronbach's Alpha value was equivalent to 0.93, which after interpretation is equivalent to a score of "Excellent", the highest feasible score in a real-world scenario. This indicates that the questionnaire's questions are consistent to each other, and that the results are reliable.

With all questions having an average weighted mean higher than four, the interpretations indicate that the site was well-organized and could be navigated easily. According to the responses, the design elements of the site are chosen and visually arranged seemed to favor both the theme and purpose of the site and to the participants' liking, although the responses also indicated that the visual appeal and overall aesthetic of the site could be further improved. The contents of the site were properly arranged in an easily comprehensible and simplified manner. The texts were also highly visible and are easily read by the participants, properly presenting every detail and information that the site offers regarding institutions. It is also noted that the site has a user-friendly interface, allowing the participants to easily navigate through the site to access various information of interest as well as miscellaneous resources.

**Table 7***Compilation and interpretation of the survey results for RQ2.*

Survey Questions	JHS W.M.	SHS W.M.	Overall W.M.	Likert Scale Interpretation
1.1 ValPrep is visually appealing and eye-catching.	4.12	4.23	4.18	AGREE
1.2 Users find ValPrep's visual presentation to be sensible and organized.	4.46	4.51	4.49	STRONGLY AGREE
1.3 The design elements of ValPrep capture the website's overall theme regarding its purpose.	4.63	4.36	4.5	STRONGLY AGREE
2.1 The contents of ValPrep are readable and easy to comprehend.	4.61	4.54	4.58	STRONGLY AGREE
2.2 ValPrep's content organization is presented in a way that makes complex topics accessible to users.	4.63	4.49	4.56	STRONGLY AGREE
2.3 Users find the information on ValPrep to be clear and straightforward.	4.66	4.72	4.69	STRONGLY AGREE
3.1 The ValPrep website has a user-friendly interface.	4.63	4.64	4.64	STRONGLY AGREE
3.2 ValPrep's interface facilitates easy navigation and information retrieval.	4.63	4.54	4.59	STRONGLY AGREE
3.3 The features of ValPrep enhance the overall ease of use during the navigation throughout its various parts.	4.68	4.46	4.58	STRONGLY AGREE

*Note: W.M. stands for Weighted Mean.*

**Table 8**

*Comparison between JHS and SHS W.M. interpretation for RQ2.*

Survey Questions	JHS W.M.	Likert Scale Interpretation	SHS W.M.	Likert Scale Interpretation
1.1 ValPrep is visually appealing and eye-catching.	4.12	AGREE	4.23	STRONGLY AGREE
1.2 Users find ValPrep's visual presentation to be sensible and organized.	4.46	STRONGLY AGREE	4.51	STRONGLY AGREE
1.3 The design elements of ValPrep capture the website's overall theme regarding its purpose.	4.63	STRONGLY AGREE	4.36	STRONGLY AGREE
2.1 The contents of ValPrep are readable and easy to comprehend.	4.61	STRONGLY AGREE	4.54	STRONGLY AGREE
2.2 ValPrep's content organization is presented in a way that makes complex topics accessible to users.	4.63	STRONGLY AGREE	4.49	STRONGLY AGREE
2.3 Users find the information on ValPrep to be clear and straightforward.	4.66	STRONGLY AGREE	4.72	STRONGLY AGREE
3.1 The ValPrep website has a user-friendly interface.	4.63	STRONGLY AGREE	4.64	STRONGLY AGREE
3.2 ValPrep's interface facilitates easy navigation and information retrieval.	4.63	STRONGLY AGREE	4.54	STRONGLY AGREE
3.3 The features of ValPrep enhance the overall ease of use during the navigation throughout its various parts.	4.68	STRONGLY AGREE	4.46	STRONGLY AGREE

*Note: W.M. stands for Weighted Mean.*

Something worth taking note of is that when comparing the weighted means of the junior high schoolers from the senior high schoolers is that the junior high schoolers, on average, scored slightly higher than their counterparts in most questions, with a few exceptions. However, when it came to the visual appeal of the website, the junior highschoolers only averaged a response of agree.

### C. The Various Features and Functionalities Offered by the ValPrep Website

**Table 9**

*Compilation and interpretation of the survey results for RQ3.*

Survey Questions	JHS W.M.	SHS W.M.	Overall W.M.	Likert Scale Interpretation
4.1 The College and University Profiles are detailed and provide reliable information.	4.73	4.65	4.52	STRONGLY AGREE
4.2 The information presented in the profiles provides all the information necessary with an attached link to its main website.	4.8	4.73	4.61	STRONGLY AGREE
4.3 ValPrep contains a substantial number of College University Profiles that are present within the Metro Manila area.	4.54	4.53	4.42	STRONGLY AGREE
5.1 The website's College and University List of Admission Requirements feature is complete and accurate.	4.54	4.55	4.42	STRONGLY AGREE
5.2 ValPrep's College and University List of Admission Requirements is up-to-date.	4.73	4.74	4.6	STRONGLY AGREE
5.3 ValPrep's College and University List of Admission Requirements is comprehensive, providing a thorough understanding of what is expected for admission.	4.8	4.76	4.64	STRONGLY AGREE
6.1 The Open-access Reviewers provided on the ValPrep website are informative.	4.66	4.64	4.48	STRONGLY AGREE
6.2 Users find the information shared by Open-access Reviewers on ValPrep to be enlightening and helpful.	4.8	4.69	4.54	STRONGLY AGREE
6.3 The Open-access reviewers include topics and/or subjects included in admission tests of the colleges featured in the website	4.76	4.71	4.61	STRONGLY AGREE
7.1 Users were able to access the linked forum page of ValPrep.	4.8	4.73	4.55	STRONGLY AGREE
7.2 The open forum was functional and had a working account system.	4.68	4.49	4.35	STRONGLY AGREE
7.3 Users were able to access the live chat present in ValPrep's forum section.	4.2	4.16	4.09	AGREE

*Note: W.M. stands for Weighted Mean.*

The survey results reveal a highly positive response from users in terms of the websites' various functions. Participants strongly agree that the College and University Profiles are detailed and reliable, with complete information and attached links to main websites. Furthermore, there is a consensus that ValPrep covers a substantial number of College University Profiles within the Metro Manila area. The List of Admission Requirements feature is perceived as not only complete, accurate, and up-to-date but also comprehensive in providing a thorough understanding of admission expectations. Users find the Open-access Reviewers informative, enlightening, and covering relevant topics for college admission tests. The accessibility of the linked forum page is widely acknowledged, along with a functional account system. However, while the open forum is generally praised, the live chat functionality receives slightly lower agreement, showing that an improved version of the websites' forum section must be prioritized and developed. Overall, the results suggest that ValPrep is well-received by users, highlighting its reliability, comprehensiveness, and user-friendly nature.

**Table 10**

*Comparison between JHS and SHS W.M. interpretation for RQ3.*

Survey Questions	JHS W.M.	Likert Scale Interpretation	SHS W.M.	Likert Scale Interpretation
4.1 The College and University Profiles are detailed and provide reliable information.	4.73	STRONGLY AGREE	4.65	STRONGLY AGREE
4.2 The information presented in the profiles provides all the information necessary with an attached link to its main website.	4.8	STRONGLY AGREE	4.73	STRONGLY AGREE
4.3 ValPrep contains a substantial number of College University Profiles that are present within the Metro Manila area.	4.54	STRONGLY AGREE	4.53	STRONGLY AGREE
5.1 The website's College and University List of Admission Requirements feature is complete and accurate.	4.54	STRONGLY AGREE	4.55	STRONGLY AGREE
5.2 ValPrep's College and University List of Admission Requirements is up-to-date.	4.73	STRONGLY AGREE	4.74	STRONGLY AGREE
5.3 ValPrep's College and University List of Admission Requirements is comprehensive, providing a thorough understanding of what is expected for admission.	4.8	STRONGLY AGREE	4.76	STRONGLY AGREE
6.1 The Open-access Reviewers provided on the ValPrep website are informative.	4.66	STRONGLY AGREE	4.64	STRONGLY AGREE
6.2 Users find the information shared by Open-access Reviewers on ValPrep to be enlightening and helpful.	4.8	STRONGLY AGREE	4.69	STRONGLY AGREE
6.3 The Open-access reviewers include topics and/or subjects included in admission tests of the colleges featured in the website	4.76	STRONGLY AGREE	4.71	STRONGLY AGREE
7.1 Users were able to access the linked forum page of ValPrep.	4.8	STRONGLY AGREE	4.73	STRONGLY AGREE
7.2 The open forum was functional and had a working account system.	4.68	STRONGLY AGREE	4.49	STRONGLY AGREE
7.3 Users were able to access the live chat present in ValPrep's forum section.	4.2	AGREE	4.16	AGREE

*Note: W.M. stands for Weighted Mean.*



Similar to the previous case in the survey responses of research question two, the junior high schoolers have a tendency to score higher than their seniors when it comes to the likert scale. Both groups did find that ValPrep's forum and live chat section were not as satisfactory, although the weighted mean of the junior high schoolers are just at the threshold between agree and strongly agree.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides an extensive overview of the discoveries gathered by the researchers from the data collection process that they have conducted. Included in this chapter are the summary of the interpreted data, the conclusions that answer the hypotheses, and further improvements and suggestions that may act as a guide for future researchers that may use this research paper as a reference.

#### Summary of Findings

##### 1. How efficient is the ValPrep website?

The ValPrep website performed well on desktop devices but had slower response and load times on mobile devices, indicating a need for optimization. The website was compatible with both desktop and mobile platforms, adapting to different resolutions without errors. Minor issues were noted with side paddings and the header in the mobile version, but overall content display was satisfactory.

##### 2. How organized is the ValPrep website?

The results of the survey questionnaire answered by the participants and interpreted through the use of the Likert Scale showed that the majority of the participants strongly agree with the overall organization and appearance of the website, with a user-friendly interface, passable visual appeal, and high readability.

### **3. How functional is the ValPrep website and its overall features?**

The responses strongly indicate that the website properly delivers its intended functionalities, while its features were seen to be properly utilized by the participants. The forums and the live chat were accessible, although the latter needs further improvements.

### **Conclusions**

1. The ValPrep website exhibits commendable loading speed and efficiency in a desktop configuration. However, the mobile viewing experience still has room for improvement, due to slower response and load times. Despite these disparities, the website demonstrates adaptability to various platforms, accommodating to different screen resolutions effectively. The site could still receive updates in the future, focusing on the optimization of mobile loading speed to provide a swift and smooth user experience across all devices.
2. The participants expressed a strong agreement with the overall organization and appearance of the website based on the findings of the survey questionnaire. They found the user interface to be user-friendly, the visual appeal to be satisfactory, and the readability to be high. These positive responses highlight the effectiveness of the website design in meeting the participants' expectations and preferences.
3. The results show that the website's features are both user-friendly and visually appealing. The site allows easy navigation for users, while the layout's chosen aesthetics allows pleasurable viewing of the site, thanks to the site's intuitive design. Together, these aspects promote overall user-friendliness, although it should be noted that further development of the site's interactive features are

needed to optimize its overall performance.

### **Recommendations**

1. Encourage future researchers to expand ValPrep's website capabilities by adding tools, resources, and interactive components to improve the overall user experience in college admission preparation. This involves promoting user-friendly and effective functions in partnership with website design professionals.
2. Improve the importance of an extensive dataset by collecting data from a broader range of schools. Additionally, propose looking at alternative website builders for cost-effective options, examining different platforms linked with research goals, and perhaps lowering ValPrep's development and maintenance costs.
3. Consider transforming ValPrep research into a useful offline application. This move may increase accessibility and convenience, especially in locations with poor internet availability. Prioritize safety measures in online forums, and think about setting up a reliable and permanent server with a suitable website building tool.
4. Involve both teachers and students in the development and testing of ValPrep. Seek teacher feedback on technologies that supplement classroom instruction while remaining aligned with educational objectives. Prioritize student involvement in the design and testing phases, and hold sessions to collect real-time input on usability, features, and overall effectiveness. This collaborative approach attempts to develop a platform that will suit the needs of both educators and students during the college preparation process.\

5. Engage with private and public colleges, universities, and high schools to smoothly integrate ValPrep into their admission process. Investigate relationships that will provide students with direct access to ValPrep resources and support.
6. Collaborate with government entities such as the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to explore potential funding opportunities for further research and development of ValPrep. Demonstrate the platform's alignment with educational goals and its potential impact on improving college preparedness nationwide.

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