

## ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION COMPLIANCE THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI APPLICATION PORTAL

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### ABSTRACT

The accurate submission of photographic identification on application forms is crucial for identity verification and fraud prevention in academic institutions. This study evaluated the implementation and challenges of recommended photo uploads on Federal Polytechnic, Mubi (FPM) application portal. A descriptive survey was conducted, distributing four hundred and three (403) questionnaires to students, staff, and business center operators. Three hundred and ninety (390) filled questionnaires were returned. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency and percentage). Findings revealed that a significant number of students still upload non-recommended photographs due to limited awareness, lack of portal restrictions, and unclear guidelines. The study recommends training programs, awareness campaigns, and portal restrictions to improve compliance with photographic identification standards.

*Keywords: Photographic Identification, Tertiary Institution, Application Form, Photo upload*

### INTRODUCTION

Photographic identification is essential for verifying individual identities, particularly in academic institutions where online applications are standard (Chakraborty & Mallick, 2021). High-quality photographs prevent identity fraud, ensure administrative efficiency, and support secure access to institutional systems (Singh, Kumar & Sharma, 2022). At Federal Polytechnic, Mubi (FPM), students must upload recommended photographs on application forms. These photographs must clearly show the face, be properly lit, have a neutral background, and meet required size and resolution specifications (Li, Zhang & Sun, 2021). Non-recommended photographs may include errors such as shadows, tilted heads, poor lighting, or obstructed features, which compromise verification processes (Kumar et al., 2023). Despite these requirements, many students still upload non-compliant photos, highlighting weak portal enforcement and limited awareness (Rahman, Hossain & Akter, 2020; Osei & Mensah, 2021). Studies show that digital portals without automated photo validation allow incorrect submissions, leading to administrative delays and verification challenges (Patel, Desai & Joshi, 2022). Recommended photographic identification supports accurate biometric verification and complements other identification methods like names, student IDs, and addresses (Chen, Zhao & Wu, 2021). Without enforcement, portals may accept poor-quality photographs, increasing misidentification risks (Alam, Kumar & Singh, 2022; Singh, Kumar & Sharma, 2023). This study assesses the current implementation of photographic identification uploads at FPM, identifies common errors, and proposes strategies for improved compliance and portal design.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Study Area

The study was conducted at Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, Mubi-North Local Government Area, Adamawa State, Nigeria. The institution comprises students, staff, and affiliated business center

operators. Mubi-North has a population of approximately 759,045 (Adebayo, 2004), with a mix of urban and rural settlements.

### Sampling Method

A descriptive survey design was employed. 403 questionnaires were randomly distributed, and 390 were returned (response rate: 96.8%). The questionnaire captured:

1. Demographics
2. Awareness of recommended photographic identification
3. Practices and challenges in photo uploads
4. Portal restrictions and enforcement

### Data Collection Tools

- i. Structured questionnaires
  - ii. Digital cameras, smartphones, or scanners
  - iii. Computers or mobile devices with internet access
- The questionnaire was validated for content and face validity by experts.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1: Socio-Demographic Profile**

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	281
	Female	109
Age	18–25	270
	26–35	88
	36–45	26
	46+	6
Marital Status	Single	300
	Married	90
Education	ND	227
	HND	80
	B.Sc	50
	O-Level	32
Designation	Primary	1
	Student	219
	Staff	122
	Business operators	49

The population is mostly young, single students, consistent with FPM demographics (Singh, Kumar & Sharma, 2022).

**Table 2: Awareness and Practices**

Question	Yes (%)	No (%)
Aware of recommended photo upload	74.4	25.6
Ever uploaded non-recommended photo	97.4	2.6
Support recommended photo upload	100	0
Portal allows non-recommended upload	100	0
Knowledge of photo requirements	76.7	23.3
Awareness campaign conducted	0	100
Experience restriction on non-recommended photo	0	100
Support restriction on non-recommended photo	100	0

Despite awareness, non-compliant photo uploads remain widespread, echoing studies on higher education portals (Rahman, Hossain & Akter, 2020; Chen, Zhao & Wu, 2021).

**Table 3: Frequency of Photo Upload**

Frequency	Percentage (%)
Daily	64.1
Twice weekly	1.3
Others	34.6

High upload frequency underscores the need for automated portal checks to enforce compliance (Alam, Kumar & Singh, 2022; Singh, Kumar & Sharma, 2023).

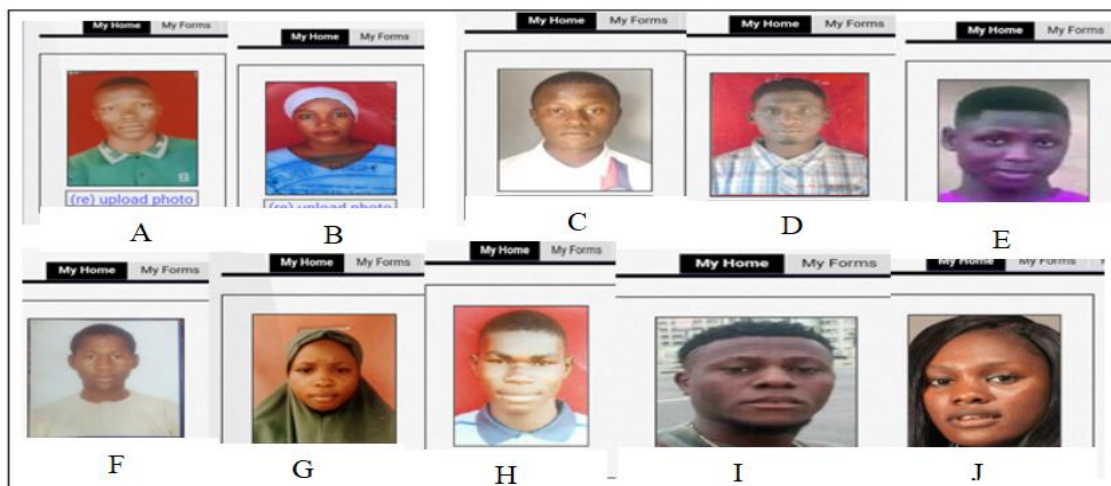
### Common Errors in Photographs

Photograph analysis revealed that;

- a. Head tilt or poor orientation (Li, Zhang & Sun, 2021)
- b. Shadows or patterned backgrounds (Patel, Desai & Joshi, 2022)
- c. Low resolution or blurry images (Kumar et al., 2023)
- d. Obstructed facial features (Chen, Zhao & Wu, 2021)

These errors reduce the reliability of identity verification and highlight the need for training, awareness, and portal validation.

### Sample Non-Compliant Photographs from FPM Portal



**Figure 1**

Figure 1 contains sample photographs obtained from the Federal Polytechnic, Mubi (FPM) application portal. These images clearly demonstrate the types of errors that frequently occur when students upload their passport photographs. When carefully examined, the issues observed in these images strongly align with concerns raised in recent studies on digital identity verification systems. For example, Li, Zhang, and Sun (2021) emphasize that proper head positioning and frontal alignment are essential for accurate facial recognition. In Figure 1A and 1B, the applicants' heads are noticeably tilted and positioned too far from the camera. Because of this poor orientation, important facial landmarks such as the eyes, nose, and chin cannot be properly aligned or measured. Facial recognition systems depend heavily on symmetry and correct positioning, so such misalignment reduces verification accuracy.

Similarly, Patel, Desai, and Joshi (2022) highlight the importance of a plain and shadow-free background for effective image processing. In Figure 1C, there are visible shadows behind the subject's head, which may interfere with background separation during automated analysis. Figure 1I shows a portrait-style image with a designed or decorative background instead of a neutral one. Patterned backgrounds introduce visual noise and can disrupt facial detection algorithms.

Lighting and resolution issues were also clearly observed. Kumar et al. (2023) explain that blurry or low-resolution images weaken the system's ability to detect fine facial details. Figure 1D and Figure 1F shows that the photographs were taken from too far away, reducing facial clarity. Figure 1E appears too dark, while Figure 1H is excessively bright with high contrast. Both poor lighting and extreme brightness distort facial features, making reliable verification difficult.

Furthermore, Chen, Zhao, and Wu (2021) stressed that all key facial features must be fully visible for proper biometric authentication. Figure 1E above shows that only one ear is visible due to head tilt and poor positioning. In Figure 1G, the ears are partially covered. When facial features are obstructed or incomplete, identity matching systems may produce inaccurate results.

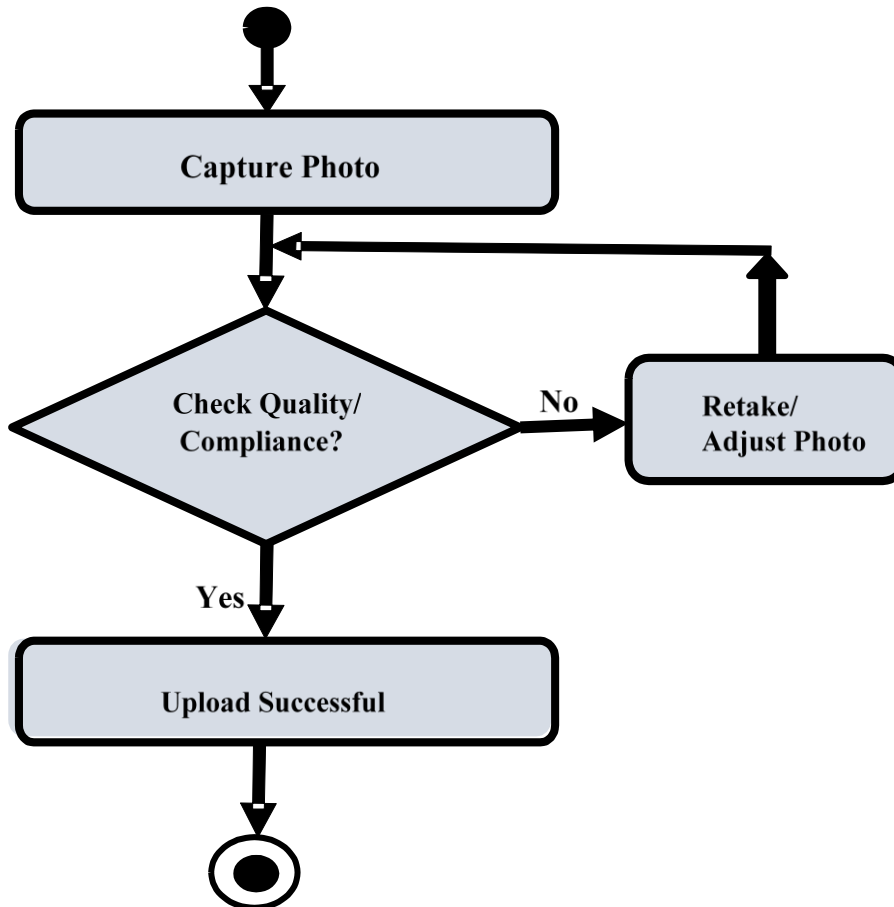
Overall, every image presented in Figure 1 fails to meet the recommended standards for acceptable photographic identification upload. The problems observed tilted heads, poor lighting, background shadows, excessive distance, and obstructed facial features directly reflect the challenges identified in recent academic research.

These visual examples clearly show that without proper guidance and automated portal restrictions, students are likely to submit photographs that compromise the reliability of identity verification systems. Therefore, Figure 1 provides practical evidence supporting the need for stronger awareness efforts, clearer upload instructions, and automated validation mechanisms within the institutional portal.

#### **Proposed photographic upload validation process**

To address the identified weaknesses, an improved upload validation workflow is proposed.

### Recommended Photographic Upload Validation Flowchart



**Figure 2**

Figure 2 above shows the flowchart of how the Photographic Identification is uploaded at FPM. A student's Photo is captured, quality check/compliance is made, if the uploaded picture meets the compliance, the photo will be uploaded. If the quality check/compliance is not met, the photo will be retaken or adjusted to meet the need of the upload.

### DISCUSSION

The study confirms that recommended photographic identification uploads at FPM are not fully enforced. Non-compliant photos are widespread due to lack of portal restrictions and awareness campaigns (Singh, Kumar & Sharma, 2022; Alam, Kumar & Singh, 2022). Other studies show that automated portal validation and awareness campaigns can significantly reduce non-compliant uploads (Rahman, Hossain & Akter, 2020; Li, Zhang & Sun, 2021; Patel, Desai & Joshi, 2022).

### CONCLUSION

The study shows that Federal Polytechnic, Mubi has not fully implemented recommended photo upload standards. Many students still submit non-compliant photographs due to weak portal enforcement and limited awareness. Enforcing proper photo uploads will strengthen identity verification, reduce errors, and improve institutional credibility.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct stakeholder training on photo upload standards
2. Implement awareness campaigns for students, staff, and business operators
3. Introduce portal restrictions to prevent non-recommended uploads
4. Monitor and review compliance regularly

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