ISSN (Online) 2394-2320

International Journal of Engineering Research in Computer Science and Engineering (IJERCSE)

Volume 12 Issue 04 April 2025

IoT-Enabled Smart Drainage Monitoring System for Urban Infrastructure

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Abstract— ***The proposed Smart Drainage Monitoring System, based on IoT technology, addresses the inefficiencies and risks associated with manual sewerage monitoring. Equipped with ultrasonic sensors for water level detection and gas sensors for hazardous gases like methane and carbon monoxide, the system provides real-time feedback displayed on an LCD. Alerts are triggered via a buzzer for abnormal conditions, and a GPS module facilitates precise location identification. This automated system eliminates physical inspections, ensuring safety while optimizing maintenance processes. It is energy-efficient, scalable, and cost- effective, making it a reliable solution for urban drainage management and sustainable infrastructure upkeep.***

Index Terms— ***IoT, Smart Drainage Monitoring, Ultrasonic Sensors, Gas Sensors, Real-Time Monitoring, Drainage Blockage Detection, Environmental Safety, GPS Module***

I. INTRODUCTION

Urban drainage networks are the crucial element of current infrastructure that facilitates effective management of wastewater and protection of public health. With an increase in the degree of population density that results from intensification of urbanization, drainage networks become susceptible to serious clogging, overflows, and pollution. Conventional drainage surveillance systems are primarily vision-based observations that are labor- intensive, exhausting, and susceptible to human errors. Maintenance staff typically must go into hazardous conditions to search for obstructions or gas leaks, putting them at extreme health hazards [1].

Apart from this, there is no efficient system by which the risks are being controlled when they can but before reaching a level where they become hindrances to individuals in their life as well as in environmental hygiene. The conventional drainage management system not only is the most expensive but also is a reactive system where one does something after having encountered a problem. Except for that, physical verification is not possible in the case of large and complex urban drainage systems, leading to postponed maintenance methods and humongous operational expenses.

Under such a limitation, there was a need to picture an automatic, even, and affordable system for monitoring the condition of drainage twenty-four seven and notify the maintenance personnel the moment any variation takes place. IoT-Smart Drainage Monitoring System is intended to overcome all these constraints in the name of advanced technology with real-time monitoring facility and auto-reports generation facility. Several sensors, including ultrasonic sensors to detect the water level, gas sensors to detect life-threatening gases like carbon monoxide and methane, temperature and humidity sensors to detect the atmosphere, and a rain sensor to detect rain, are included in the system [2].

A GPS module is utilized to monitor the location of the drainage system such that necessary action can be implemented in real time when the system needs maintenance Arduino UNO microcontroller is the core

component of the system and also its processor. The microcontroller reads the values from sensors and then presents them on an LCD. For each abnormal value, the system provides a buzzer tone to enable that personnel are alert in real time.

Real-time monitoring reduces manual monitoring to an incredibly enormous degree, with improved efficiency and personnel safety. The cost, scale-up, and energy system architecture make it deployable in any urban network. By minimizing human involvement in the process by automating the monitoring process, the Smart Drainage Monitoring System not only provides improved public safety but also sustainable urban facility management. Through continuous testing and validation, the system has been found to be effective and efficient in providing reliable drainage monitoring.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The high rate of urbanization and rising waste management problems have necessitated the use of smart drainage systems to ensure public hygiene and safety. The use of the Internet of Things (IoT) in drainage management has been studied extensively to improve real-time monitoring, automated cleaning, and worker safety.

This literature review provides an overview of the main

ISSN (Online) 2394-2320

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contributions of ten significant research papers. Prachi Jadhav et al. (2024) suggested a Sensor-based Drainage Monitoring System to identify high flow rates and manhole blockages. Data is transmitted to a server through the ESP8266 Wi-Fi module, which is processed and shown for monitoring. Threshold values are triggered for alerts, enabling timely maintenance responses. The system efficiently minimizes manual intervention with automated alerts [3].

Similarly, Abhishek Singh et al. (2023) developed an Integrated Smart Drainage Monitoring System on weather forecasting and rainwater harvesting to control monsoon road waterlogging. It employs water level sensors and GSM modules for control and monitoring of underground water discharge, hence enhancing road safety by preventing water congestion and flooding.

Kamal Sahoo et al. (2023) proposed an Intelligent Drainage System using IoT sensors, which senses water levels and sedimentation in urban wells. The data is sent to a city government center through an Android application, enabling rapid responses to maintenance requests. The system provides real-time monitoring, reduces maintenance costs, and aids flood control measures.

Manjula K. and Sneha Latha N.L. (2024) developed an Automated Drainage Cleaning System using servo motors and Arduino to drain the drainage system and collect solid waste. It reduces human interaction and increases safety with reduced manual cleaning. Real-time sensor data ensures smooth water flow for effective sewage management [4].

Bhuvaneswari Balachander et al. (2017) suggested a Drainage Monitoring System (DMS) using ultrasonic sensors to monitor water levels and identify blockages. The primary aim of the system is minimizing manual inspections via real-time provision of information to a control unit, thereby ensuring efficiency and safety in maintenance.

Ramadhani et al. (2021) proposed a Smart Drainage and Health Monitoring System to protect manual scavengers from toxic gases. The system also includes ultrasonic level detection sensors and toxic emission detection sensors using gas sensors, which beep when gas concentrations exceed safety standards, thus mitigating health risks and enhancing employee safety.

An Electronic Sniffing Mask has been designed by Ramesh et al. (2021) to enhance employee safety through the detection of toxic gases in drainage systems. The mask includes respiratory sensors attached with an Arduino Mega 2560, and the level of gas is displayed on an LCD screen. Further, the system activates oxygen supply mechanisms in case gas levels go beyond safe limits.

Tarannum Zaki et al. (2021) proposed a Complete Smart Drainage System for smart cities that addresses simultaneous waste and drainage management. By the implementation of IoT for clog detection and monitoring of water flow, the system emphasizes clog prevention through real-time monitoring and automatic cleaning [5].

Chandru and Vadivel (2024) advocated for an All- around IoT-Based Monitoring System, emphasizing increased hygiene by monitoring drainage issues and dust accumulation. The system merges ultrasonic, gas, and dust sensors and image processing techniques to identify abnormalities, thus enhancing cleanliness and work efficiency in industrial and urban areas.

Finally, G. Mounica et al. (2023) proposed a Smart Drainage Monitoring System based on NodeMCU with ultrasonic and gas sensors to detect overflow and poisonous gas leaks. Real-time data is transmitted to a cloud interface and remotely viewed using a mobile app, making it possible for quick response to drainage problems and significantly enhancing city safety while keeping labor-intensive maintenance work to a minimum.

The literature discussed focuses on the revolutionary application of IoT in drainage system management for real-time monitoring, self-cleaning, and worker safety. Most systems are formulated to minimize human intervention and optimize operational efficiency with automation. As much as this is the case, challenges in sensor accuracy, network connectivity, and scalability are still common. Future studies can emphasize the integration of predictive analytics to forecast drainage problems and optimal safety measures to guarantee the protection of maintenance staff.

III. EXISTING SYSTEM

Conventional drainage management systems rely heavily on manual inspection and maintenance, which is long and time-consuming. Maintenance staff visually inspect drainage systems in the majority of rural and urban communities to identify blockages, water overflows, and gas leaks. Conventional methods usually involve opening manholes and visually inspecting drainage. These methods not only prove to be ineffective but also very risky for laborers in terms of their health and lives as the laborers expose themselves to harmful gases like methane and carbon monoxide [6].

The application of visual inspection lacks in the region such that it fails to offer good data, and thus response at crisis time is delayed, and opportunities for flooding and contamination of open areas increase. Limited availability of real-time information and continuous surveillance are some of the major drawbacks of existing manual systems. In the absence of automation, drainage faults would otherwise not be detected until already severe problems, thus also creating vast public inconvenience and possible health hazard. Overflows and blockages would take forever to be detected, and even where problems are faced, it is time-consuming to deal with maintenance personnel, interventions further delayed. Such a reactive approach jeopardizes public safety and operational performance. Semi-automatic urban drainage monitoring systems have been established in some cities, which include low-cost water level sensors and alarm networks. They are of limited capacity and do not permit full-

ISSN (Online) 2394-2320

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scale monitoring. For instance, simple water level meters can report rising water levels but cannot report gas emissions or predict the need for maintenance. Second, none of them provide real-time alerting, and the few that do not facilitate proper interfacing with field maintenance personnel, so there is response lag to significant issues. So, work is still very reactive rather than proactive, which is not appropriate for scale infrastructure in a city.

Apart from this, the safety of workers is also a matter of concern. Traditional systems do not have gas sensors that can alert workers in real time about hazardous conditions. Thus, the maintenance staff has to face hazardous gases repeatedly without or with minimal protective equipment, which causes huge health risks. Additionally, the time and cost of routine manual inspections make traditional drainage management methods unsuitable for large cities with advanced drainage systems [7].

To offset such limitations, the current IoT-based surveillance systems provide a potential solution. Smart drainage systems with real-time monitoring and automated alerts aid preventive maintenance and increasing public safety. Supported by smart sensors to detect clogging, gas levels, and ambient conditions, systems today offer more efficient and more secure drainage management with reduced human intervention and safeguarding of maintenance staff.

IV. CHALLENGES IN EXISTING SYSTEM

Current drainage management systems are confronted with various challenges that restrict effective maintenance and monitoring. Physical inspection is among the primary challenges, which involves a considerable amount of time, labor, and is susceptible to human errors. Maintenance teams have to visit sewer pipes and manholes manually at times under difficult and hazardous conditions without the shielding provided by personal equipment. This method, besides having a negative impact on the safety of the workers, also causes delay in the detection of blockages, overflows, and gas leakages. Physical observation not only takes much time but also exposes workers to the risk of getting exposed to harmful gases such as methane and carbon monoxide, which are highly toxic to them [8].

One of the primary drawbacks of conventional systems is that they lack real-time monitoring and auto-notifying capabilities. The conventional systems lack real-time monitoring for parameters like water level, gas release, or environmental conditions. Real threats thus remain concealed until they build up to the extent of becoming serious issues. Without real-time alerting and real-time information, drainage issues become worse before detection, resulting in flooding, contamination, and public health risks. This passive mode results in delay in maintenance and maximizes the potential for repeat failures, particularly during emergency or adverse weather situations.

Additionally, a lack of effective predictive maintenance capacity is a considerable drawback of the current systems. Traditional methods are reactive and attend to issues only after they occur. The fact that they lack forward-looking nature reduces efficiency during operation and adds prolonged downtime, especially in urban drainage systems of complex and vast natures. Failure to project potential issues and intervene in due time results in high maintenance cost and interrupted urban activities.

The safety of maintenance personnel also tops the priority list with extremely high considerations. The aging drainage systems do not incorporate gas sensors to detect toxic gases such as methane or carbon monoxide. Consequently, employees are commonly subjected to risky atmospheres in the absence of appropriate warning appliances. The absence of automated safeguard devices increases considerably the likelihood of accidents and the occurrence of long-term disease for the maintenance crew. In addition to this, the manpower and money to be used on manual inspection are very large in the case of big city drain systems. Its use without technological assistance is a waste of money and time. Maintenance activities become laborious and time-consuming and hence fail to attain optimal levels of performance in large drain systems. In that context, application of IoT-based smart drainage monitoring system is the way to tackle the issues. The systems are capable of providing real-time observation, auto-notification, and better labor safety so overall efficacy of the drainage governance is remarkably superior and operating cost and the number of laborers is notably fewer [9].

Table:1 Comparison TDM and IBDM

Aspect	Traditional Drainage Monitoring	IoT-Based Drainage Monitoring
Monitoring Method	Manual inspection and reporting	Automated real-time monitoring via sensors
Detection of Issues	Delayed detection; problems noticed only after major failures	Early detection of issues like blockages, gas leaks, and overflows
Response Time	Slow; relies on annual inspection reports	Fast; instant alerts and remote access
Worker Safety	High risk due to toxic gases and hazardous conditions	Improved safety with gas sensors and automated alerts
Cost Efficiency	High maintenance and labor costs	Reduces long-term costs with predictive maintenance

Data Accuracy	Prone to human error	More precise with digital sensors and automated reporting
Real-Time Alerts	Not available; relies on periodic checks	Instant notifications via mobile or cloud platforms
Predictive Maintenance	Not possible; reactive approach	Predictive analytics prevent issues before they occur
Scalability	Difficult to scale for large cities	Easily scalable with IoT networks
Environmental Impact	Higher risk of pollution and contamination due to delays	Minimizes risks by enabling proactive response

V. METHODOLOGY

IoT Smart Drainage Monitoring System is planned to monitor efficiently the drainage's health, recognize possible danger, and offer instant alerts. Based on IoT technology, the system monitors water level, gas level, temperature, humidity, and rainfall continuously. The system focuses on the Arduino UNO microcontroller as the data capture and processing CPU [10].

System Components and Installation

1. **Arduino UNO Microcontroller:** Used to act as the master controller to get data from all the sensors.
2. **Gas Sensor (MQ Series):** Detecting poisonous gases such as methane and carbon monoxide and provide feedback regarding the amount of gases.
3. **Water Flow Sensor:** Detecting the flow of water to detect any clog or overflows.
4. **Temperature and Humidity Sensor (DHT11):** Detecting atmospheric conditions inside the drainage system.
5. **Rain Sensor:** Detecting rain and detects danger of overflow.
6. **GPS Module (TinyGPSPlus):** Used as a location keeper of the drainage system to aid the maintenance team.
7. **LCD Display (I2C):** Used to show sensor readings in real-time for on-site monitoring.
8. **Buzzer:** Used to show an audio warning upon detecting critical levels.

Fig:1 Devices

Sensors receive the environmental parameters and transmit the information collected to the Arduino UNO. The microcontroller interprets the information and compares it to the established limit values. Once any of the parameters reaches its critical value (i.e., water flow rate or gas level), the system alerts through the buzzer for the purpose of warning the maintenance department. Real-time readings of the sensor are displayed on the LCD screen to enable on-site staff to respond immediately to measure the situation. Location data are also updated from time to time by the GPS module, and the polluted drainage section is found easily.

VI. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The suggested Smart Drainage Monitoring System on the IoT is designed to overcome the drawback of conventional manual drainage management by offering an all-round and efficient real-time monitoring system. In contrast to conventional systems that are highly manpower-intensive and depend significantly on manual examination, the suggested system adopts a highly advanced IoT technology for remotely monitoring different parameters of drainage and notifying maintenance staff immediately on the identification of any irregularities.

It is founded on a system that utilizes an Arduino UNO microcontroller as the processing unit and sensor data acquisition. Besides those, they utilize a gas sensor to sense hazardous gases such as carbon monoxide (CO) and methane (CH_4), a water flow sensor to sense water flow volume, a temperature and humidity sensor (DHT11) to sense environmental conditions, and a rain sensor to detect rain that causes overflow [11].

The system also includes a GPS module to support accurate position tracking of the drainage system in an effort to support rapid response when there is an emergency case. Information gathered using this method is processed in real-time to aid in detecting any notable deviation from provided thresholds.

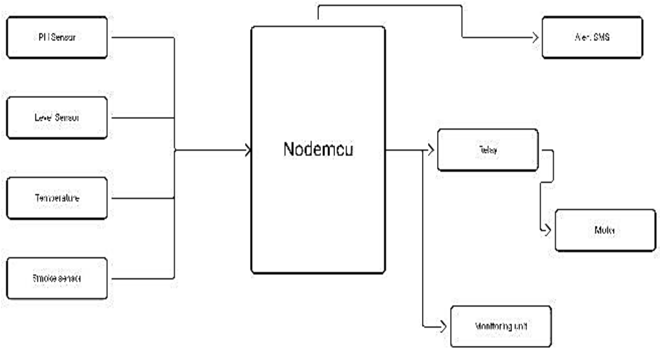

Fig:2 Architecture

When the system detects a risky level of gas, overflow risk, or abnormal environmental parameter, it will produce a buzzing sound to prompt maintenance personnel to take necessary steps in advance. Real-time data such as gas content, water flow rate, temperature, humidity, and position are shown on an LCD window, providing ground personnel with a visual representation of the conditions.

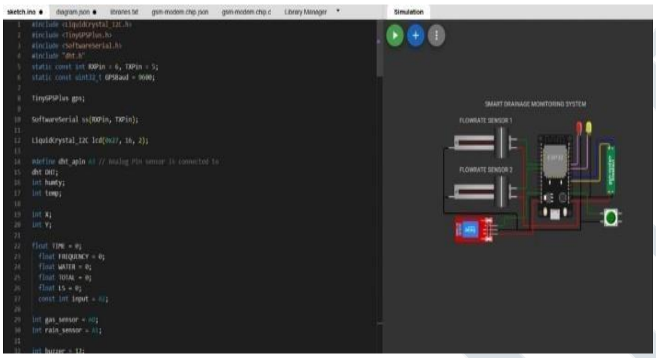

Fig:3 Working Module

The low human intervention provides independent operation, lowering the possibility of safety risks with maximum maintenance performance. The cost- and energy-saving approach also allows the system to be applied in urban areas. The combination of automatic alarm and monitoring facilities assists in improving public safety, shortening maintenance response time, and preventing human exposure to dangerous circumstances [12].

VII. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The IoT-based Smart Drainage Monitoring System was designed, implemented, and tested under various simulated scenarios to test its performance and reliability. The system showed effective real-time monitoring of drainage parameters such as gas concentration, water flow rate, temperature, humidity, and rain levels. Proper display of sensed data on the LCD screen and GPS module location tracking were provided. Throughout the test, the system was able to detect dangerous gas leaks and irregular water flow, causing the buzzer to sound for alarming surrounding staff in real time.

Fig:4 Monitoring Level

The rain sensor was able to detect the levels of rain and the temperature and humidity sensor delivered correct environmental data. The GPS module was able to detect drainage location, which is crucial in responding rapidly during emergency situations. Analysis data gathered showed that the system could successfully track drainage conditions and produce early warning indications for clogging or flooding potential.

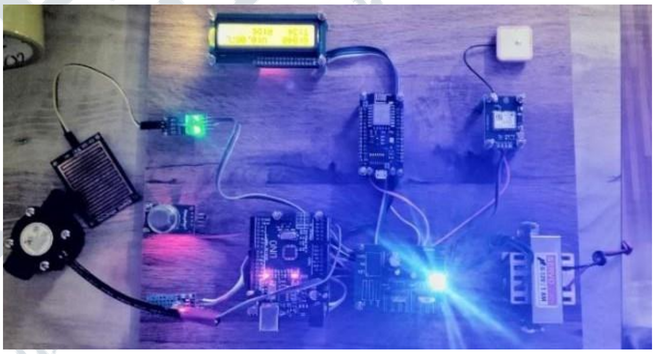

Fig:5 Working Model

The minimal power consumption and being packaged in a small format made it of practical use for real-life implementations. This aside, sensor calibration from time to time was needed to ensure precision, particularly when weather conditions fluctuated. In general, the system was cost-effective and safe for real-time drainage monitoring with room for further improvement in integration into the cloud and AI-enabled predictive maintenance to add more functions.

VIII. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The IoT Smart Drainage Monitoring System was successfully able to eliminate the tedium of monitoring and controlling the drainage. It succeeded in providing real-time data, as well as alarming and efficiently detecting threats like gas leakage, abnormal water flow, and environmental conditions. When implemented with other gas sensors, water flow sensor, temperature and humidity sensor, rain sensor, and GPS for the detection of gas and overall monitoring as well as response systems, the Arduino microcontroller provided an economic yet efficient data processing and display system. The LCD display provided an effective method of visualization of data from sensors, and the buzzer provided a real-time warning system on alarm. The inclusion of the GPS module gave the system the capability of location tracking, which is needed for quick response in emergency calls.

Although effective, the system also has its limitations, including the need for a stable power supply and vulnerability to errors when exposed to harsh environmental conditions. Sensor accuracy and system dependability need to be tested and calibrated. Whereas some attempt at incorporating more functionality and effectiveness within the system can be made, there are areas that can be improved. Integration with cloud infrastructures will enable data storage, remote tracking, and history-based analysis, which will benefit predictive maintenance and improved forecasting of drainage issues. Integration with artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms would also enable the system to act proactively by projecting future failures or anomalies based on historical data.

Evolution as a mobile phone application would introduce real-time observation and alarm to the field crew and authorities, leading to quicker decision- making. The inclusion of solar panels would also provide day-and-night operations, especially in rural and off-grid locations. Using these technologies, the Smart Drainage Monitoring System may be developed into an advanced and upgraded form for urban and industrial drainage systems, thereby eliminating the risk of flooding and pollution and supporting green infrastructure.

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