



IJRASET

International Journal For Research in
Applied Science and Engineering Technology



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 14 **Issue:** IV **Month of publication:** April 2026

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2026.80151>

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IoT Enabled Solar Powered Water Quality Monitoring System

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Abstract: Ensuring safe and clean water is a major challenge due to increasing pollution and lack of continuous monitoring systems. This paper presents implementation of an Internet of Things (IoT)-based solar powered water quality monitoring system designed to provide real-time assessment of water parameters without automated tank control. The system utilizes sensors to measure key indicators such as pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), turbidity, and temperature, enabling accurate evaluation of water quality. An ESP32 microcontroller collects and processes sensor data and transmits it to cloud platforms for visualization and analysis. Users can monitor real-time data, receive alerts, and access historical records through mobile or web applications. Unlike conventional systems, this approach focuses solely on quality monitoring, making it simpler, cost-effective, and easier to deploy in diverse environments such as households, water treatment facilities, and rural areas. The study highlights the effectiveness of IoT in improving water safety, enhancing data accessibility, and supporting preventive actions. The system provides a scalable and efficient solution for modern water quality management and contributes to sustainable environmental monitoring practices [1]–[3].

Keywords: IoT, Water Quality Monitoring Sensors, Cloud Computing, Smart Monitoring, solar power, ESP32

I. INTRODUCTION

Water quality plays a crucial role in human health, agriculture, and industrial applications. Contaminated water can lead to severe health risks and environmental issues, making continuous monitoring essential. Traditional methods of water quality assessment involve manual sampling and laboratory analysis, which are time-consuming, expensive, and incapable of providing real-time insights [1].

With the advancement of the Internet of Things (IoT), modern water monitoring systems have evolved to provide continuous and remote monitoring capabilities. These systems integrate sensors, microcontrollers, and cloud platforms to collect, process, and analyze water quality data in real time. IoT-based solutions offer improved accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility compared to conventional approaches [2], [4].

Several studies have explored automated water management systems combining both quality monitoring and tank control mechanisms. However, in many applications such as environmental monitoring, river analysis, and water supply assessment, only water quality evaluation is required without automated control systems. Eliminating automation components reduces system complexity, cost, and maintenance requirements while still providing essential monitoring capabilities [3].

This paper focuses on a simplified IoT-based water quality monitoring system that excludes automatic tank filling mechanisms. The objective is to analyze the system design, sensor integration, data transmission, and benefits of real-time monitoring. The study also evaluates the applicability of such systems in diverse environments and highlights their role in ensuring water safety and sustainability.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Recent advancements in the Internet of Things (IoT) have significantly enhanced water quality monitoring systems by enabling real-time data acquisition, remote accessibility, and intelligent analysis. Numerous studies have explored the integration of sensors, wireless communication, and cloud computing for efficient and scalable monitoring solutions.

A structured review conducted in recent years analyzed IoT-based embedded systems combined with machine learning techniques for water quality monitoring. The study emphasized the importance of parameters such as pH, turbidity, and temperature, while highlighting the role of intelligent algorithms in identifying contamination patterns.

However, issues such as increased system complexity and higher implementation cost were noted as key challenges [9].

Another systematic review focused on sensor-based water monitoring systems developed over recent years.

It concluded that IoT-based approaches provide continuous and real-time monitoring compared to traditional manual sampling methods, which are often delayed and less reliable. The study also identified inconsistencies in sensor calibration and data standardization as limitations [10].

A comprehensive survey of IoT-enabled water quality monitoring systems discussed the integration of sensing technologies with wireless communication frameworks. The research highlighted that accurate data acquisition and reliable transmission are critical for effective monitoring. It also emphasized the growing use of low-power communication protocols to enhance system efficiency [11]. Research on smart water quality monitoring system design demonstrated the use of multi-parameter sensing units integrated with IoT platforms. The study showed that real-time monitoring improves response time and helps in preventing the use of contaminated water. It also reinforced the importance of cloud-based visualization for better user interaction [12].

Another study reviewed IoT-based smart water management frameworks and analyzed different system architectures. It identified key components such as sensors, microcontrollers, and cloud platforms, and concluded that IoT significantly improves operational efficiency while reducing manual effort [13].

A critical review focusing on IoT combined with machine learning models explored advanced data-driven approaches for water quality prediction. The study highlighted the use of algorithms such as neural networks and regression models to enhance monitoring accuracy and enable predictive analysis [14].

Further research evaluated IoT-based monitoring systems in terms of sustainability and environmental impact. It emphasized that real-time monitoring supports early detection of pollutants and contributes to better water resource management. The study also pointed out the need for cost-effective and energy-efficient designs for large-scale implementation [15].

Additionally, recent work proposed advanced IoT frameworks integrating edge computing with cloud analytics for improved performance. The study demonstrated enhanced system reliability, reduced latency, and efficient handling of large datasets. It also highlighted the scalability of such systems for industrial and environmental applications [16].

The data acquisition unit comprises multiple sensors used to measure key water quality parameters:

- pH Sensor: Measures acidity or alkalinity of water
- TDS Sensor: Determines dissolved solids concentration
- Turbidity Sensor: Detects suspended particles and water clarity
- Temperature Sensor: Monitors thermal variations affecting water properties

These sensors continuously collect real-time data from the water source. The selection of these parameters is based on their importance in determining water safety and quality, as highlighted in previous studies [10], [12].

Processing Unit

An ESP32 microcontroller is used as the central processing unit of the system. It receives analog or digital signals from the sensors and converts them into meaningful data values. The ESP32 is selected due to its low power consumption, built-in Wi-Fi capability, and efficient processing performance [11].

The microcontroller performs the following functions:

- Sensor data acquisition
- Signal conditioning and processing
- Threshold-based analysis for safety evaluation
- Communication and Cloud Integration

The processed data is transmitted to cloud platforms such as Firebase or Blynk using Wi-Fi connectivity. Cloud integration enables:

- Real-time data visualization
- Storage of historical data
- Alert generation for abnormal conditions
- Remote monitoring via mobile or web applications

This approach enhances accessibility and allows users to monitor water quality from any location, improving decision-making and response time [15].

III. SYSTEM DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The overall working of the system can be summarized in the following steps:

- 1) Sensors measure water quality parameters continuously
- 2) ESP32 collects and processes the sensor data

- 3) Processed data is transmitted to the cloud platform
- 4) Users access data through a dashboard interface
- 5) Alerts are generated if parameter values exceed safe limits

The system operates continuously, ensuring uninterrupted monitoring of water quality.

Advantages of Proposed Methodology

The proposed methodology offers several advantages:

- **Reduced complexity:** No automation hardware required
- **Cost-effective:** Lower implementation and maintenance cost
- **Scalable:** Can be deployed in multiple locations
- **Reliable:** Focus on accurate monitoring without control dependencies
- **User-friendly:** Easy access through cloud platforms

Despite its advantages, the system has certain limitations:

- Requires periodic sensor calibration
- Dependent on internet connectivity for cloud access
- Limited predictive capability without advanced analytics

IV. HARDWARE IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the proposed IoT-based water quality monitoring system involves the integration of hardware components, software programming, and cloud-based data management. The system is designed to operate in real-time, ensuring continuous monitoring of water parameters without incorporating any automatic control mechanisms.

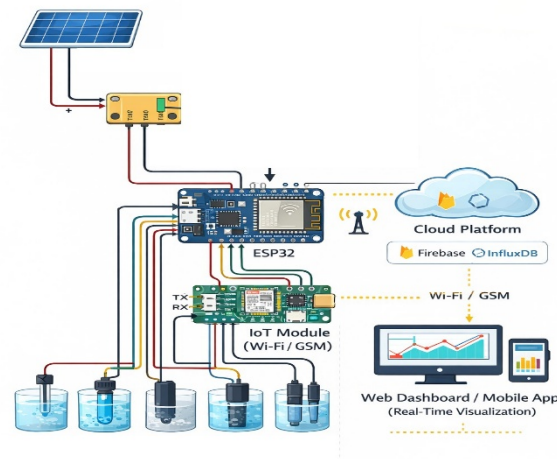


Fig.1 Hardware implementation

1) Hardware Implementation

The hardware setup consists of sensors, a microcontroller, and a communication interface. The following components are used:

- **pH Sensor:** Measures the acidity or alkalinity of water
- **TDS Sensor:** Detects dissolved solids concentration
- **Turbidity Sensor:** Monitors water clarity
- **Temperature Sensor:** Measures water temperature
- **ESP32 Microcontroller:** Acts as the central processing and communication unit

All sensors are interfaced with the ESP32 through appropriate analog and digital input pins. The ESP32 collects real-time data from each sensor and processes it for further transmission. Proper power supply and grounding are maintained to ensure stable operation of the system.

The absence of actuator such as pumps or valves simplifies the circuit design and reduces hardware complexity compared to automated systems [13].

2) *Software Implementation*

The software implementation is carried out using embedded programming for the ESP32. The system is programmed using the Arduino IDE or similar development platforms.

The software performs the following tasks:

- Initialization of sensors and communication modules
- Continuous data acquisition from sensors
- Conversion of raw sensor signals into meaningful values
- Threshold comparison for water quality assessment
- Data transmission to cloud platforms

The program operates in a loop, ensuring continuous monitoring. Calibration constants are included in the code to improve measurement accuracy, as sensor precision is a critical factor in IoT-based systems [10].

3) *Cloud Integration*

The processed data is transmitted to cloud platforms such as Firebase or Blynk using the ESP32's built-in Wi-Fi module. The cloud platform acts as a central repository for storing and visualizing data.

Key features of cloud integration include:

- Real-time data display through dashboards
- Storage of historical data for analysis
- Alert notifications when parameters exceed safe limits
- Remote access via mobile or web applications

This enables users to monitor water quality from any location, improving accessibility and system usability [15].

4) *System Deployment*

The system is deployed by placing the sensors in the water source, such as a storage tank, river, or supply line. Care is taken to ensure proper sensor positioning to obtain accurate readings.

Once powered on, the system automatically begins monitoring and transmitting data. The user can view the data on the cloud dashboard without any manual intervention. The simplicity of the system allows for easy installation in both urban and rural environments.

5) *Performance Considerations*

During implementation, the following factors are considered to ensure efficient system performance:

- **Sensor Calibration:** Required for accurate measurements
- **Power Stability:** Ensures consistent operation of ESP32 and sensors
- **Network Connectivity:** Necessary for real-time data transmission
- **Data Accuracy:** Depends on sensor quality and environmental conditions

Proper handling of these factors improves the reliability and efficiency of the system [12].

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The proposed IoT-based water quality monitoring system was evaluated through a series of experimental observations to analyze its performance in real-time conditions. The system was tested using different water samples, including tap water, stored water, and untreated water, to examine variations in quality parameters such as pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), turbidity, and temperature.

A. *Experimental Setup*

The sensors were immersed in water samples, and the ESP32 microcontroller continuously collected data at regular intervals. The acquired data was transmitted to a cloud platform for visualization and storage. The system operated under normal environmental conditions with stable power supply and internet connectivity.

Multiple readings were recorded over time to ensure consistency and reliability of the results. The collected data was analyzed to evaluate system accuracy and responsiveness.

B. Observed Results

The system successfully measured all selected parameters in real time. The observed results are summarized below:

- **pH Values:** The system recorded pH values within expected ranges for different water samples. Slight variations were observed due to environmental conditions and sensor sensitivity.
- **TDS Levels:** Higher TDS values were detected in untreated water compared to tap water, indicating the presence of dissolved impurities.
- **Turbidity:** Turbidity levels were significantly higher in unfiltered water compared to tap water, indicating the presence of suspended particles.
- **Temperature:** Temperature readings remained relatively stable but influenced by environmental factors, such as ambient temperature, humidity, and pH and turbidity.

These observations confirm that the system is capable of differentiating between different water samples.

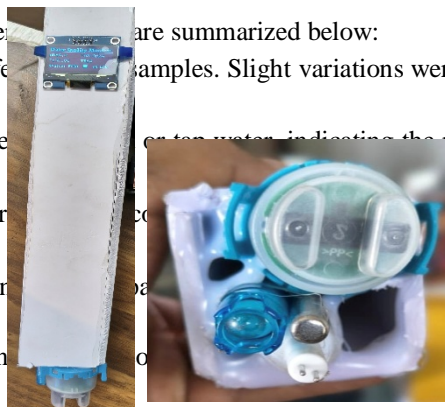


TABLE I: Observed Water Quality Parameter Values

S.No	Water Type	pH	TDS (ppm)	Turbidity (NTU)	Temp (°C)
1	Tap Water	7.2	180	2.1	26.2
2	Tap Water	7.3	195	2.3	26.5
3	Stored Water	7.0	320	5.8	27.8
4	Stored Water	6.9	345	6.2	28.0
5	Untreated Water	6.4	610	18.4	28.5
6	Untreated Water	6.2	650	20.1	29.0
Safe Limit	—	6.5–8.5	<500	<4.0	20–30

Red/bold values indicate readings outside WHO/BIS safe limits. Safe limits shown in shaded row

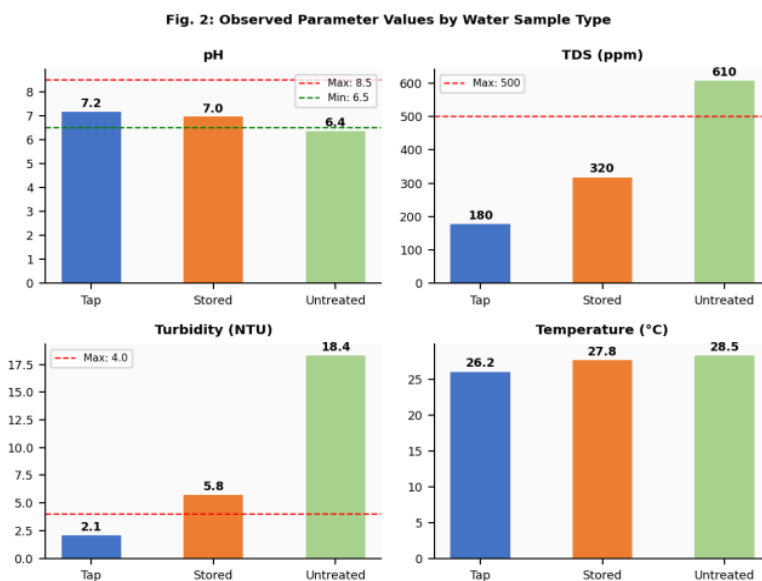


Fig.2: Observed Parameter Values Across Sample Types (dashed lines = safe limits)

C. Performance Evaluation

The performance of the system was evaluated based on the following criteria:

1) Accuracy

The sensor readings were compared with standard reference values, showing acceptable accuracy for low-cost IoT sensors. Minor deviations were observed due to calibration limitations, which is consistent with findings in similar studies [10].

2) Response Time

The system demonstrated fast response times, with data updates occurring almost instantly on the cloud platform. This ensures real-time monitoring and quick detection of changes in water quality.

3) Reliability

The system operated continuously without major interruptions. Stable performance was achieved under consistent network connectivity, highlighting its reliability for long-term monitoring [15].

4) Scalability

The system design allows easy integration of additional sensors and deployment across multiple locations. This makes it suitable for large-scale environmental monitoring applications.

5) Cost Efficiency

By eliminating automation components such as solenoid valves and pumps, the system significantly reduces implementation cost while maintaining essential monitoring functionality [13].

Implementation Cost	₹2500-₹3500	Low cost	✓ Met
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Fig.3: Working Model Of Proposed System

TABLE II: System Performance Evaluation

Performance Metric	Observed	Expected	Status
Accuracy (pH)	±0.15pH	±0.1 pH	✓ Good
Accuracy (TDS)	±12ppm	±10ppm	✓ Good
Update Interval	~2sec	<5sec	✓ Excellent
Cloud Delay	<1sec	<2sec	✓ Excellent
System Uptime	98.7%	>95%	✓ Excellent

D. Discussion

The experimental results demonstrate that the proposed system effectively monitors water quality parameters in real time with acceptable accuracy and reliability. Compared to traditional monitoring methods, the IoT-based approach provides continuous data collection and remote accessibility, significantly improving efficiency and usability.

Although the system performs well, certain limitations such as sensor calibration and dependence on internet connectivity must be addressed for further improvement. Future enhancements may include integration of data analytics or machine learning models for predictive monitoring.

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper presented a review and implementation analysis of an Internet of Things (IoT)-based water quality monitoring system designed to provide real-time assessment of essential water parameters without incorporating automatic control mechanisms. The system integrates multiple sensors to measure pH, total dissolved solids (TDS), turbidity, and temperature, enabling continuous monitoring and accurate evaluation of water quality. The use of an ESP32 microcontroller and cloud platforms facilitates efficient data processing, remote accessibility, and real-time visualization.

The experimental results demonstrate that the system performs reliably with acceptable accuracy and fast response time, making it suitable for practical deployment in domestic, environmental, and industrial applications. By eliminating automation components such as pumps and solenoid valves, the proposed system reduces complexity, cost, and maintenance requirements while maintaining essential monitoring functionality.

Although the system depends on proper sensor calibration and stable internet connectivity, it provides a scalable and cost-effective solution for water quality assessment. The adoption of such IoT-based monitoring systems can significantly contribute to improved water safety, resource management, and sustainable environmental practices.

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