



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 11 Issue: V Month of publication: May 2023

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2023.53012

www.ijraset.com

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ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538

Volume 11 Issue V May 2023- Available at www.ijraset.com

A Smart Manhole Monitoring and Detection System

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Abstract: An intelligent manhole cover management system is a crucial foundation in a smart city to effectively prevent frequent accidents related to manhole covers. Proper management of the drainage system is essential for ensuring the safety of residents. Regular inspections alone can lead to flooding and blockages in the drainage system. The displacement, relocation, and deterioration of manhole covers pose serious risks to personal safety, which contradicts the goals of smart city development. The system incorporates multiple sensors to monitor the status of manholes, including detecting lid openings, cover theft, and temperature variations. Additionally, this paper aims to analyze real-time levels of toxic gases. If the gas levels exceed the predetermined threshold, alerts will be sent to the authorized individuals through their connected mobile devices, even if they are remotely located.

Keywords: IOT (Internet of Things), smart city, manhole, sensors.

I. INTRODUCTION

Technology has significantly impacted various fields today. In modern cities, critical systems like the electrical grid, network, and drainage are located underground. Manhole covers are installed in pavements to facilitate access to these systems. However, accidents resulting from the displacement, loss, and damage of manhole covers are common, endangering lives and safety as vehicles and individuals may fall into these uncovered holes [1]. This undermines the fundamental purpose of smart cities. To ensure the well-being of sanitation workers who face health risks, an IoT system and network have been developed to detect harmful gases, including methane (CH4), carbon monoxide (CO), ammonia (NH4), and SO2, among others. Failure to properly decontaminate sewage when it reaches hazardous levels can lead to accidents and illnesses, such as influenza and dysentery, caused by prolonged exposure to toxic gases and pollutants.

Additionally, the status of manhole covers, including damage or loss, is typically assessed through periodic inspections conducted by government officials and reports from individuals on the road. However, these inspections require significant human resources to cover a large number of manhole covers in a city, and they do not provide real-time performance [2].

Addressing the issue of manhole cover theft is challenging without a monitoring mechanism for conventional covers. Moreover, since different types of manholes may belong to different governmental organizations, thefts not only result in public property losses but also increase the risk of exposed holes. These pressing challenges have prompted the development of intelligent systems to manage all manhole covers in a city, particularly in smart cities [3],[4].

An effective intelligent manhole cover management system should possess the following features:

- 1) Self-perception: Each manhole cover should have the ability to detect if it is slanted, damaged, or displaced, as well as determine its location.
- 2) Active real-time alerts: Manhole covers should be capable of actively alarming in real time when they are tilted, damaged, or relocated.
- 3) Real-time response: The intelligent management system should promptly respond to manhole cover alerts and enable real-time scheduling of repair personnel.
- 4) Low management expenses: The intelligent system aims to reduce costs associated with human resources, bandwidth, and energy consumption.
- 5) Short average repair time: The primary objective is to minimize the risk of falling into uncovered manholes by significantly reducing the average repair time for tilted, damaged, or displaced covers.

The aforementioned approach enables minute-by-minute tracking and monitoring of variables, ensuring comprehensive electronic surveillance of gases, sewage pollutants, and discharge through gutters. This robust system contributes to efficient sanitation management, addressing the shortcomings of previous solutions.





ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538

Volume 11 Issue V May 2023- Available at www.ijraset.com

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the existing literature, several smart drainage systems have been proposed. For instance, V. Vani [5] introduced an IoT and Zigbee WSN based system that utilizes ultrasonic and flow sensors to detect drainage leakage and overflow. One of the advantages of this system is its ability to detect water clogging in pipes in advance, thereby preventing public issues and reducing revenue loss for the government. Notably, this system does not require human labor for clog detection.

Another model discussed in Ref. [6] addresses the problem of diseases caused by obstructed drains in various locations in Bangladesh. The proposed system utilizes both GSM and WiFi modules, and the threshold values can be adjusted based on the size and water flowing capacity of the manhole system in different areas.

In Ref. [7], a model focuses on accurately locating manholes by utilizing a GPS system and GSM module for alert messages through the cellular network. The system employs an ARM7 microcontroller and various sensors.

Ref. [8] proposes a model that continuously monitors environmental parameters within the drainage system. When sensor values exceed the threshold limit, an alarm is triggered to indicate unsafe working conditions for the workers. The collected data is also transmitted through a communication channel, significantly reducing the threat to the lives of sewage workers.

According to Muragesh SK and Santhosha Rao [9], sensors and networks are critical components of IoT systems, and they are implemented in underground engineering drafting and manhole monitoring systems (UDMS) used in IoT applications.

Ref. [10] presents a model for monitoring smart cities to enhance management and development. The system comprises sensors that collect various types of data, which are then transferred to the Raspberry Pi3 controller. The output from the controller is sent to the control room via email and displayed on a personal computer.

In Ref. [11], different methods for monitoring and managing underground drainage and manhole systems are proposed. Real-time monitoring and updates of parameters such as temperature, toxic gases, flow, and water level are achieved using the Internet of Things.

Ref. [12] introduces a method for localizing and monitoring all manholes using 3D surveillance with the help of traffic cameras.

A system based on IoT for sewage blockage detection is proposed in Ref. [13]. This system continuously monitors the water level of sewage using ultrasonic sensors and also measures the level of H2S gas with an alert threshold of 100 ppm. Data from the system's microprocessor is transmitted to the host using LoRa.

In the project titled "Web-Based Realtime Underground Drainage or Sewage Monitoring System Using Wireless Sensor Networks" [14], the focus is on implementing a system that gathers data on temperature, gaseous concentration, and the condition of manhole lids.

Ref. [15] presents a model that monitors ownerless manhole covers through RFID, tracking their tilt and other aspects. This approach aims to mitigate the increasing theft of manhole covers by transmitting the location of manholes through the nearest communication tower, thereby ensuring constant confirmation of their whereabouts.

The detection and monitoring of clogged pipelines using an acoustic analysis method is proposed in Ref. [16]. The frequency response of the pipeline is analyzed using common techniques like Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) to extract relevant features. This approach provides highly accurate data by filtering out irrelevant information.

In Ref. [17], a machine learning method is proposed to specifically address the challenge of lid opening detection in manholes and its monitoring.

References Limitations Advantages The system has high electricity [1] Detection of Human presence near open demand, which make it less manhole helps in prevention of desirable in developing accident countries. [2] Response time is much higher In built replaceable battery with than the prior versions up to 3-5 years, Self-Perceptive **RFID**

Table 1: Summary of Literature Literatures



International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)

ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538 Volume 11 Issue V May 2023- Available at www.ijraset.com

[2]	C	G	
[3]	Correct scene state of manhole	Communication distance of	
	covers can be estimated by	the system was very less.	
	MCIMT algorithm and		
	the response time is quicker		
	(under 3s)		
[4]	Assisting sewage employees to	Sensor's life was	
	check blockage through camera	exponentially decreased due to	
	attached to	continuous exposure to	
	Raspberry PI	corrosive nature of sewage.	
[5]	Clogs in drainage pipes can be		
	detected as soon as its formed.		
[6]	Harmful gases, Drainage		
	overflow were monitored with		
	website which can be accesed by		
	local people also to avoid		
	corruption		
[7]	Cost effective for sewer pipeline	It focus only on sewer pipeline	
[[/]	maintenance	damage and not on	
		other problems of smart	
		monitoring system	
[8]	Monitoring system is OCR and	It doesn't focuses on manhole	
[6]	pysttsx3 based which is made	cover monitoring	
	considering blind people	cover monitoring	
[0]		Due to widening variety of	
[9]	Addresses all phases of the		
	practical development of an	applications, it is difficult to	
	underground Drainage and	define common requirements	
5107	Manhole System (UDMS)	for the WSN modes	
[10]	Multiple usages in smart city		
	perspectives like garbage level		
	detection, water distribution		
	supply		
[11]	System also consists of GPS	System uses only GSM	
	sensor which help in locating the	Module, there is no Wi-Fi	
	accurate manhole	module it means there must	
		always be network	
		connectivity	
[12]		Only mapping was proposed	
F101	H CLD / D D	M 1/2 1	
[13]	Use of LoRa(Long Ranged)	Multiple gateway of	
	protocol which can have range	communication using LoRa	
	upto 100km	can cause interferenc	
[14]	Low Power Usage and effective	Light Sensor is used for layout	
[]	algorithm is used	of manhole, is of no use during	
		night time	
[15]	Ownerless Manhole covers to be	High maintenance cost.	
[10]	constantly monitored via real	Taga mamenanee cost.	
	time pictures and alarm to know		
	whenever a manhole disappeared		
	or removed.		
	or removed.		

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[16]	FFT technique was used to	Only covered the concern of
	extract features from the	clogged pipelines and not
	frequency response of the	others issues.
	pipeline. Data was highly	
	accurate and inconsiderable data	
	were removed.	
[17]	Recurrent Neural Network	High setup and maintenance
	(RNN) is implemented which has	cost for small scale
	high accuracy rate of 98% and	implementation.
	high false negative detection.	

III. PROPOSED M

The IOT-based system mainly records four values (as shown in Fig. 1): Tilt value, temperature values, gas detection, and finally water level. The system uses an ultrasonic sensor to detect the water level, a gas sensor (MQ9) to detect the concentration of the harmful gas carbon monoxide, a temperature sensor (DHT 11) to detect the humidity and temperature, and an accelerometer to monitor the tilt values.

A circuit diagram (as shown in Fig. 4) is created to check the working of IOT based model. The connections are made as per the real hardware model to check for its working. The data collected by the sensors is sent wirelessly to the central control system using two technologies: GSM and WiFi using a GSM module and an Esp 8266 WiFi module (as shown in Fig. 3).

WiFi is used for continuous monitoring and control of data. Data is sent from the sensors over a WiFi network to a local device, which can be a cell phone or a server. For the proposed system, we have used Blynk IOT server.

When the WiFi module is connected to the Internet, it can send data to the Blynk IOT server by using a special set of rules called Blynk API. The module uses the API to communicate with the server and sends data in small pieces called packets, so sometimes there is a delay in the information. However, in our proposed system, this delay is carefully reduced to a minimum. The Blynk server fetches the data and sends it to the relevant authority in the form of both an app and a website. This means that monitoring is possible anywhere if an internet connection is available.

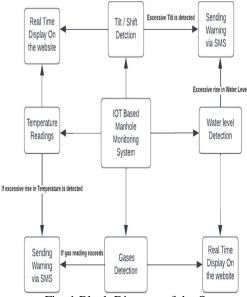


Fig. 1 Block Diagram of the System

The GSM module is used to transmit data via a mobile network. Data is first collected by the microcontroller unit (MCU) and then sent to the GSM module through a serial communication interface. In the proposed system, the GSM module is only used to display warning messages when the values set for each sensor exceed their limit. The exceeding of the sensor values also triggers a buzzer so that the cleaners working nearby can take the necessary actions themselves. The data is also displayed on LCD connected to the main unit, which makes it easier for workers to monitor it.

ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538

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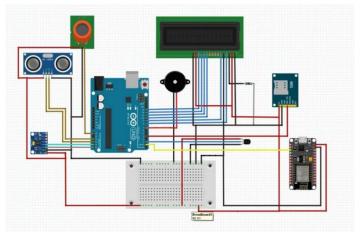


Fig. 2 Circuit Diagram of the System

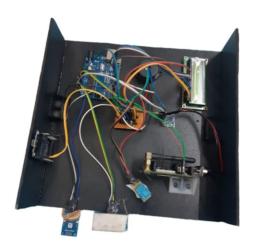


Fig. 3 IOT based Manhole System

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Once the system is connected to the power supply, LCD immediately begins to display the various values of the environment. There are four parameters displayed on LCD (temperature, humidity, gas concentration and water level value) (see Fig. 4).



Fig. 4 LCD display shownig various readings

Whenever a threshold is reached for a particular parameter, we receive a warning SMS (as shown in Fig. 5). The tilt sensor operates between -5 degrees and +5 degrees without warning, and the overflow warning is detected when the water level exceeds 50%.



ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538 Volume 11 Issue V May 2023- Available at www.ijraset.com

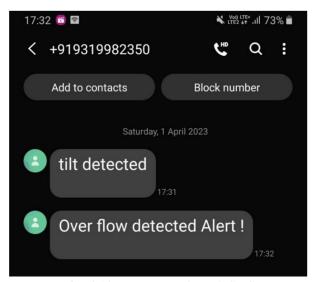


Fig. 5 Alert Messages through SMS

Whatever the changes, they are also displayed via the Blynk IOT app with very little delay (as shown in Fig. 6 and Fig. 7). In both images, one from LCD and the other from the Blynk IOT app, exactly the same values are displayed.



Fig. 6 LCD display shownig various readings

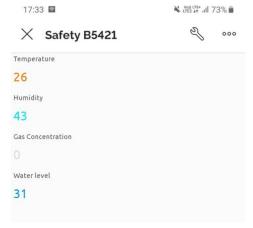


Fig. 7 Realtime Values over Blynk IOT app



International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)

ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538 Volume 11 Issue V May 2023- Available at www.ijraset.com

V. DATA TABLE

Table 2: Datasets for GAS concentration

GAS LEVEL	SMS
0 < value <= 100	No
100 < value <= 300	No
Value > 500	Yes

If the level of gas changes, then value will be changed in real-time over the Blynk App and if the less than 700 its normal, GSM will not send any SMS. But if the level is more than 700(as shown in Table 2), then GSM will send SMS to the authority.

Table 3: Datasets for Water level

Water Level(in %)	SMS	
value = 0	No	
0 < value <=50	No	
Value > 50	Yes	

If the sewage water level is zero, GSM will not send any SMS and it will show the zero level at the Blynk server. The distance is calculated in cms. If the water level exceeds the 50% mark(as shown in Table 3) it will trigger the buzzer and also will send a SMS to the concerned authority via GSM module.

VI. CONCLUSION

Our developed IOT-based manhole monitoring and detection system has the potential to bring about revolutionary changes to both the environment and people's daily lives. In many areas, the existing sewage system poses a significant hygiene problem and contains numerous harmful gases, including CO, CH4, NH3, and others. To address this issue, we have designed and implemented a device that effectively controls and reports sewage overflow incidents. By detecting and addressing situations where dirty water spills out from drains and pollutes the surrounding areas, this device plays a crucial role in mitigating human suffering. Additionally, we have integrated a Wi-Fi component into the system, enabling nearby authorities to receive daily updates regarding any rise in sewage levels. Furthermore, we have implemented stringent access controls to ensure that only authorized personnel have control over the system.

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