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.2026.80048

www.ijraset.com

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 14 Issue IV Apr 2026- Available at www.ijraset.com

Vision-Driven Robot for Worker Monitoring in Industrial Environments

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Abstract: ***Industrial workplaces are dynamic and pose significant safety risks due to heavy machinery, complex workflows, and human errors. This work presents a vision-driven robotic system for real-time monitoring of workers to enhance workplace safety and support proactive risk management. The system combines navigation, computer vision, and edge-based computing to detect unsafe behaviors, posture deviations, and PPE compliance violations. High-resolution cameras and depth sensors capture visual data, processed using deep learning algorithms for human detection, pose estimation, and activity recognition. By performing inference on edge devices, the system ensures low-latency alerting while reducing dependency on network connectivity. The robot navigates complex workspaces, monitors multiple workers, and provides supervisors with contextual alerts and analytics. This approach offers a scalable and efficient solution for industrial safety monitoring, reducing workplace accidents and improving operational efficiency. Experimental evaluations demonstrate robust detection accuracy, reliable performance under varying lighting and environmental conditions, and superior coverage compared to static monitoring systems. This integrated approach provides a scalable, adaptable, and efficient solution for industrial safety monitoring, contributing to reduced workplace accidents, improved operational efficiency, and data-driven decision-making.***
Keywords: Worker Monitoring , ESP32 Camera , ESP32 Microcontroller, YOLO.

I. INTRODUCTION

In modern industrial environments, monitoring worker activity is important to ensure productivity, safety, and proper utilization of time. In many workplaces, such as factories, warehouses, and offices, it is difficult for supervisors to continuously observe whether workers are actively engaged in their tasks or not. Manual supervision may lead to errors, lack of consistency, and inefficient monitoring. The project titled Vision Driven Robot for Worker Monitoring is developed to automatically detect whether a person is working or idle. The system uses a camera along with embedded processing to monitor human activity in real time. By analyzing movements and behavior, the system can identify if the worker is performing the assigned task or not. This project combines computer vision techniques with automation to create a simple and effective monitoring system. It helps in reducing manual effort and provides a more reliable way to track worker activity.

II. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The proposed system is a vision-based industrial worker monitoring system designed to detect worker presence, analyze activity, and identify unsafe or inactive conditions in real time. The architecture integrates sensing, processing, decision-making, and actuation modules to ensure continuous monitoring and intelligent response.

At the core of the system is the ESP32 microcontroller, which acts as the central processing and control unit. It interfaces with multiple sensors and peripherals, processes incoming data, and controls system outputs. The system is designed to operate in real time with minimal latency using embedded processing.

A. Data Acquisition and Sensing System

This layer is responsible for collecting real-time environmental and operational data using multiple sensors integrated with the ESP32.

The system includes an ultrasonic sensor to detect the presence and distance of workers or objects, an IR sensor for motion detection and interruption sensing, a DHT11 sensor to monitor temperature and humidity conditions, and a smoke sensor to identify hazardous gases or fire-related risks. These sensors continuously transmit data to the ESP32, enabling real-time monitoring of workplace conditions and ensuring safety awareness.

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B. Vision-Based Monitoring and Processing Unit

The system incorporates an ESP32-CAM module to capture live images and video streams of the working environment. This vision-based approach enables detection of worker presence, monitoring of activity status (working or idle), and basic behavioral analysis. The ESP32 acts as the central processing unit, integrating inputs from both sensors and the camera module. Based on predefined logic, it determines worker activity, identifies abnormal or hazardous conditions, and makes intelligent decisions. This unit ensures coordinated functioning of sensing, analysis, and control mechanisms within the system.

C. Actuation, Output, and Power Management System

The actuation layer consists of an L298N motor driver and DC motors that allow the robotic platform to move across different areas for dynamic monitoring. The system responds to processed data by controlling movement and performing necessary actions. A 16×2 LCD display is used to provide real-time feedback, including worker detection status, activity condition, and hazard alerts, enhancing user awareness. The entire system is powered by a regulated power supply, delivering 5V for the ESP32, sensors, and display, and 12V for the motor driver and DC motors, ensuring stable and efficient operation.

III. WORKING PRINCIPLE

The working principle of the Vision-Driven Robot is based on image capture, processing, and intelligent decision-making. Initially, power is supplied to the system, and all components such as the camera, sensors, and processing unit are initialized. The camera continuously captures real-time video of the industrial environment. The captured data is processed by the onboard system using computer vision algorithms. The AI model detects human presence and analyzes worker posture and activities. If any unsafe behavior or violation is detected, the system generates an alert immediately. The robot moves to monitor different areas and ensure complete coverage. After completing the monitoring process, the system continues scanning for the next cycle.

IV. HARDWARE COMPONENTS

The primary hardware components used in the system includes:

1) ESP32 Microcontroller
2) ESP32 Camera – Vision Module
3) L298N Motor Driver and DC motor for Robot Movement
4) DHT11 for environmental temperature Monitoring
5) Smoke Sensor for detecting fire in the environment
6) IR and Ultrasonic for obstacle detection
7) LCD Display for showing worker status

Each Component is selected based on efficiency, cost, and availability to ensure practical implantation

V. ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

1) It reduces the need for manual monitoring
2) It improves workplace safety
3) It provides real-time surveillance
4) It is cost-effective and suitable for academic projects
5) It uses easily available components
6) It demonstrates the use of computer vision and robotics
7) It can be further enhanced with AI and advanced analytics

VI. APPLICATIONS

1) Worker safety monitoring in factories and warehouses.
2) Surveillance in construction sites or industrial zones.
3) Automated detection of worker presence or absence in monitored areas.
4) Automated inspection of restricted or hazardous areas.
5) Dynamic coverage in areas where fixed cameras cannot reach.
6) Integration with industrial IoT systems for real-time alerts.

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ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 14 Issue IV Apr 2026- Available at www.ijraset.com

VII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed vision-driven robot performed reliably across a range of industrial conditions, including challenging lighting and dynamic environments. It was able to accurately detect and track multiple workers in real time, enabling quick and effective alerts. The system also identified unsafe postures and risky behaviors while monitoring safety compliance such as the use of protective equipment. Its autonomous navigation allowed smooth movement through industrial spaces while avoiding obstacles. With onboard processing, the robot delivered fast responses without heavy reliance on network connectivity. Overall, it proved to be robust, adaptable, and more effective than traditional static or wearable systems by providing better coverage, faster response, and improved scalability.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This work presents a vision-driven robotic system for real-time monitoring of workers in industrial environments, designed to enhance workplace safety, ensure compliance with safety protocols, and support proactive risk management. The system integrates autonomous navigation, computer vision based human detection, posture analysis, and PPE compliance monitoring with edge-based processing to provide immediate alerts. Experimental evaluation demonstrates that the proposed system achieves high detection accuracy, low latency, and reliable performance under diverse environmental conditions, outperforming conventional fixed-camera and wearable-based monitoring systems.

IX. FUTURE SCOPE

The system can be further enhanced with advanced technologies to improve its performance and functionality. Integration of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning can help in detecting complex worker behaviors and identifying unsafe conditions more accurately . Wireless communication methods such as IoT and cloud integration can be used for real-time data monitoring and remote access. Features like safety gear detection, alert notifications, and live video streaming can be added for better monitoring. Additionally, improvements in robot design, battery performance, and movement control can make the system more efficient and suitable for real-time industrial use.

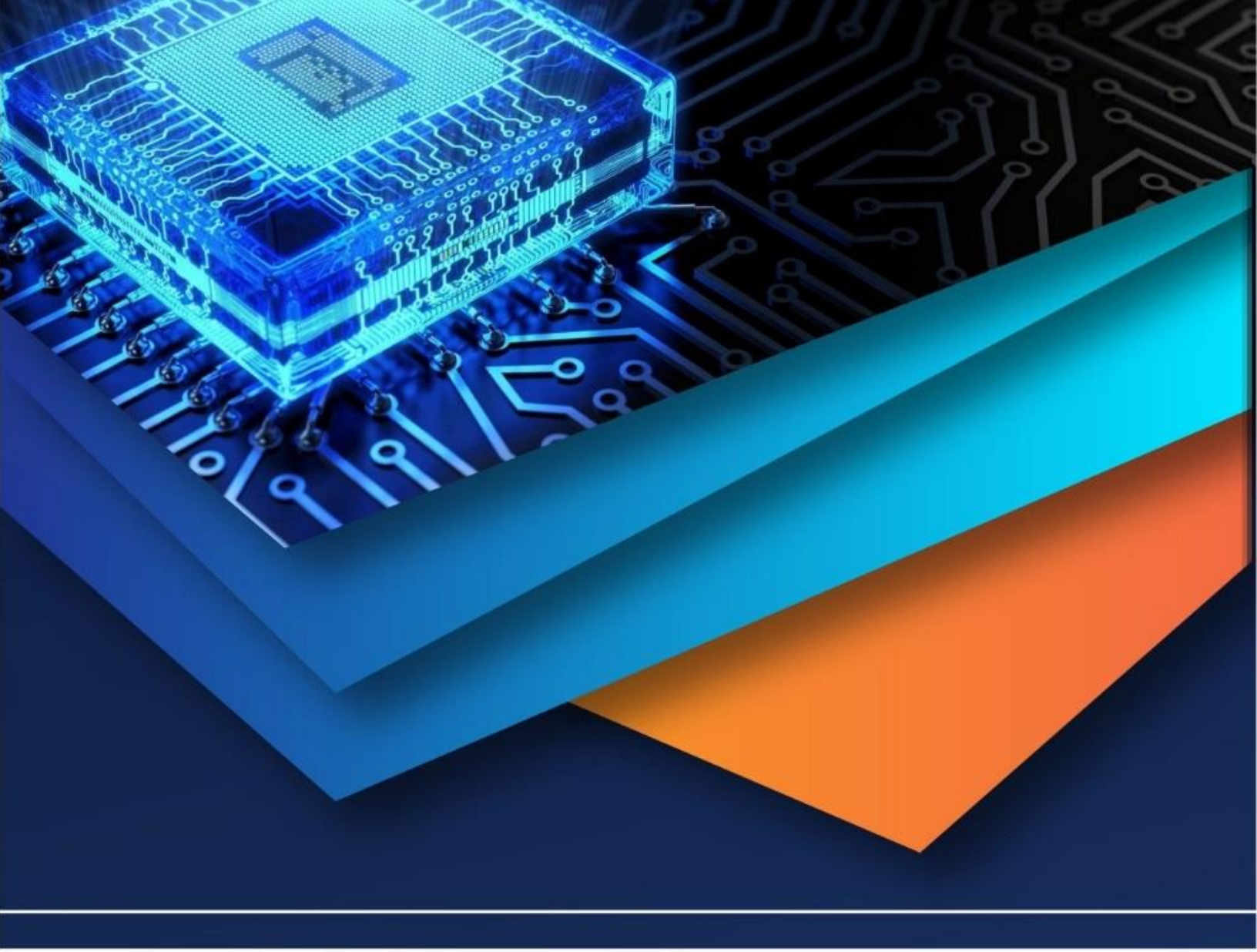
X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors express sincere gratitude to the faculty members and institution for their guidance and support in completing this project successfully.

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