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Smart Blind Stick Using Arduino

Preethu M R
preethugowda0603@gmail.com
Rajeev Institute of Technology, Hassan

Ruchitha H S
ruchithahs32@gmail.com
Rajeev Institute of Technology, Hassan

Lokesh Gowda M P
lokeshgowdamp505@gmail.com
Rajeev Institute of Technology, Hassan

Dr. Prakash Kuravatti
pkkuravatti@gmail.com
Rajeev Institute of Technology, Hassan

ABSTRACT

Blindness is the lack of vision caused due to physiological or neurological factors, resulting in visual disability. Blindness can be temporary or permanent, and partial or complete blindness, causing a person to become dependent on others for help. In today's world, even disabled people want to be independent and do not want to seek help from others. Smart Blind Stick is an innovative device that is an initiative to help blind people resolve the problems faced by they face in their daily life. Smart Blind Stick is a system device that incorporates several features, namely- obstacle detection, navigation, panic button, and moisture detector. The main objective of the device is to help blind people walk with complete relief and self-dependency. The blind stick is integrated with three ultrasonic sensors, a panic switch, a navigation switch, Bluetooth, and a soil moisture detector along with Arduino UNO. The Smart Blind Stick automatically detects the obstacles in front of the person by using sensors present in the system, It also incorporates moisture detection at its bottom to detect the moisture of the soil or ground so that the person will be aware if it's feasible to walk on that particular ground.

Keywords: *Smart Blind Stick, Arduino Uno, Ultra Sonic Sensor, Infrared Sensor, Soil Moisture Detector, Buzzer, GPS, Android App*

1. INTRODUCTION

The survey of WHO carried out in 2011 tells us that in world about 1% of the human population is Visually impaired and amongst them about 10% is fully blind. People find difficulties detecting obstacles in front of them, during walking in the street, which makes it dangerous. The smart stick comes as a proposed solution to enable them to identify the world around. The main problem with blind people is mobility. This project proposes a tool for visually impaired people that will provide them navigation [2]. We propose a solution, represented in a smart stick with ultrasonic sensor to detect any other obstacles in front of the user, within a range of few meters. Moreover, another sensor is placed at the bottom of the stick for the sake of avoiding puddles [1]. GSM messages (warning message), vibration motor & accelerometer are activated when any obstacle is detected. This proposed system uses the Arduino UNO, vibration motor, GSM messages (warning message), vibration motor & accelerometer [4].

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

P. Patil and M. Gaikwad, "GPS and GSM Based Smart Walking Stick for Visually Impaired People, "International Journal of Engineering Research and Technology (IJERT), vol. 8, no. 6, pp. 447-450, Jun. 2019. Such smart walking sticks typically integrate technologies like GPS and GSM modules for location tracking and emergency communication, ultrasonic sensors for obstacle detection, and microcontrollers for processing sensor data. These features aim to enhance the mobility and safety of visually impaired individuals by providing real-time feedback and assistance.

3. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Blind people can't easily recognize obstacles or stairs while using normal blind stick. No safety features on the normal blind stick Can't locate the locations of the normal blind stick user when they are having an emergency problem or lost in public area.position data, a solution is desperately needed. Enhancing situational awareness might allow for prompt reactions to medical crises, possibly saving lives. To guarantee that it doesn't impair a soldier's effectiveness, the system needs to be portable, dependable,

energy-efficient, and simple to incorporate. In this proposed system an ultrasonic sensor is arranged to detect the obstacles. RF transmitter and receiver are there in this project. The transmitter will be with the person if the caretaker presses the switch in RF transmitter, then the buzzer will ON to locate the Stick. When obstacle is near then buzzer alert will be given. The main microcontroller here is Arduino Nano.

4. PROJECT OBJETIVES

4.1 Assist Visually Impaired Individuals:

Develop a reliable and affordable walking aid that helps blind or visually impaired users navigate safely and independently.

4.2 Obstacle Detection:

Use **ultrasonic sensors** to detect nearby obstacles and alert the user through **vibrations** or **buzzers**.

4.3 GPS and GSM Integration:

Include a **GPS module** for real-time location tracking.
Use a **GSM module** to send the user's location to a caregiver or emergency contact in case of danger.

4.4 User-Friendly Design:

Create a compact, lightweight, and easy-to-handle stick suitable for daily use.

4.5 Low-Cost and Energy Efficient:

Ensure the design is **cost-effective** and consumes minimal power for longer battery life.

4.6 Real-Time Feedback:

Provide **instant alerts** when an obstacle is detected in front, left, or right directions.

4.7 Support in Various Environments:

Ensure the stick works both **indoors and outdoors**, including uneven or unfamiliar terrain.

5. METHODOLOGY

The flowchart represents (figure no:1) the operational logic of a Smart Blind Stick designed using an Arduino microcontroller. The system begins by switching on and immediately starts reading input from its sensors. The first condition it checks is whether an obstacle is detected in the path using sensors like an ultrasonic sensor. If an obstacle is present, the system activates both a buzzer and a vibrator to alert the user through sound and vibration. If no obstacle is detected, the system then checks for the presence of water on the ground using a moisture or water sensor. If water is detected, the buzzer and vibrator are again turned on to warn the user of a potentially slippery surface. If neither an obstacle nor water is detected, the system continues to monitor the surroundings without triggering any alerts. This logical flow helps visually impaired users navigate their environment more safely by providing real-time feedback about potential hazards**.** Once activated, the Arduino continuously reads data from the attached sensors. The first check performed is for obstacles using an ultrasonic sensor. If an obstacle is detected, the system immediately activates a buzzer and a vibrator to alert the user of the nearby obstruction. If no obstacle is found, the system then checks for the presence of water on the ground using a water sensor. If water is detected, the buzzer and vibrator are again activated to warn the user of a potentially slippery or dangerous surface. If neither an obstacle nor water is detected, the system remains in monitoring mode, continuously reading sensor values. This process ensures that the user is alerted in real-time about immediate hazards in their path, enhancing safety and mobility. The **Smart Blind Stick** is a technological aid specifically designed to help visually impaired individuals navigate their environment safely and independently. The flowchart outlines the logic that governs how this device functions in real time. Once the stick is powered on, it begins to operate in a continuous loop where it reads input from multiple sensors. The core idea is to simulate a kind of "smart vision" using sensors and immediate feedback systems.
The first function of the stick is obstacle detection, typically achieved using an ultrasonic sensor. This sensor sends out sound waves and measures the time it takes for the echo to return, allowing it to calculate the distance of objects in front of the user. If an object is detected within a certain range (e.g., 1 meter), the stick immediately activates both a buzzer and a vibration motor.

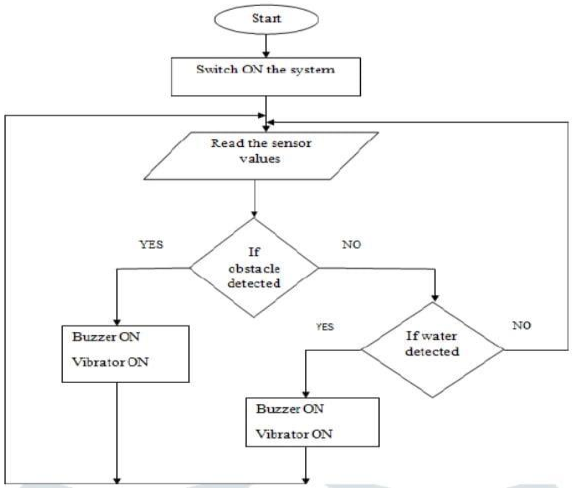

Figure 1: Flow chart of Smart Blind Stick

6. BLOCK DIAGRAM

We here propose an advanced blind stick that allows visually challenged people to navigate with ease using advanced technology. The blind stick is integrated with ultrasonic sensor along with light and water sensing. Our proposed project first uses ultrasonic sensors to detect obstacles ahead using ultrasonic waves. On sensing obstacles, the sensor passes this data to the Arduino Uno. The Arduino uno then processes this data and calculates if the obstacle is close enough. If the obstacle is not that close the circuit does nothing. If the obstacle is close the Arduino Uno sends a warning in the form of voice. It also detects and sounds a different buzzer if it detects water and alerts the blind. The stick also includes the vibrator. If the obstacle is close the Arduino uno sends a warning through vibration. Water detection is done by water sensor. One more feature is that it allows the blind to detect if there is light or darkness in the room. The system has one more advanced feature integrated to help the blind find their stick if they forget where they kept it. A wireless RF based remote is used for this purpose. Pressing the remote button sounds a buzzer on the stick which helps the blind.

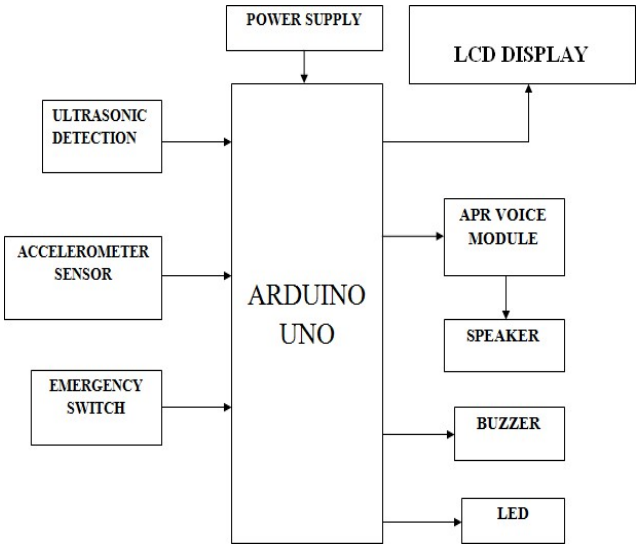

Figure 2: Block Diagram of Smart Blind Stick

7. IMPLEMENTATION

The ESP8266 Wi-Fi module is a critical component of the project, facilitating wireless communication between the stick and the Telegram bot. The module connects to a Wi-Fi network and communicates with Telegram servers using the Universal Telegram Bot library. The Telegram bot displays predefined messages such as “Obstacle Detected,” “Moisture Detected,” or “Person Fallen,” providing real-time updates on the user’s safety. In emergency situations, the system also shares the user’s location, enabling caregivers to provide timely assistance.

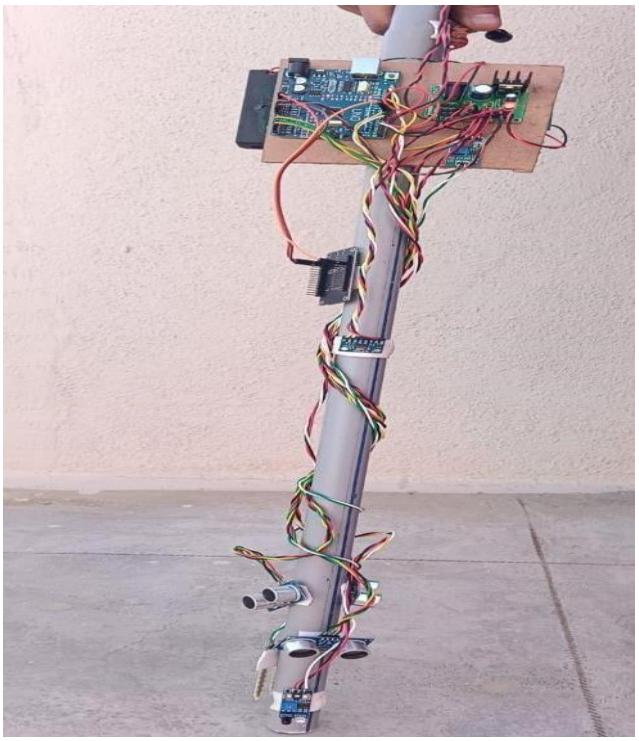

Figure 3: The Model of Smart Blind Stick

The software for the project is developed using Arduino IDE, with libraries for each sensor and the Telegram bot integrated into the code. The Arduino continuously monitors inputs from all sensors and processes this data to determine the necessary actions. For example, when an ultrasonic sensor detects an obstacle within its range, the system calculates the distance and sends a corresponding alert. The system's ability to detect obstacles, stairs, wet surfaces, and falls, combined with real-time notifications through Telegram, makes it a practical and reliable assistive device. Overall, the smart blind stick is a testament to the power of innovation in addressing real world challenges.

Figure 4: Receiving Notification through stick

8. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Smart Blind Stick system is an intelligent assistive device that incorporates various sensors, a microcontroller, and wireless communication to enhance the mobility and safety of visually impaired individuals. It is designed to tackle essential challenges such as detecting obstacles, identifying stairs or sudden drops, sensing wet surfaces, and responding to emergencies like falls. With a well-structured hardware configuration and efficient software integration, the system delivers real-time feedback to both the user and caregivers through a buzzer and a Telegram bot, thereby significantly improving the usability and reliability of the device.

At the core of the system is the Arduino Uno microcontroller, which functions as the central processing unit. It handles all sensor inputs and controls output mechanisms such as the buzzer and Wi-Fi module used for wireless communication. Ultrasonic sensors are strategically positioned on the stick to detect obstacles in the front, left, and right directions. This arrangement ensures that users receive immediate alerts about any potential hazards in their path, enabling them to navigate safely and independently.

9. CONCLUSION

The Smart Blind Stick project demonstrates how technology can significantly enhance mobility and independence for visually impaired individuals. By utilizing the Arduino platform, the system remains cost-effective, customizable, and accessible for further development and innovation. Sensors such as ultrasonic modules are integrated to detect obstacles, ensuring safer and more confident navigation. Real-time feedback is provided to the user through a buzzer or vibration mechanism, allowing for immediate awareness of surrounding hazards. The addition of features like GPS and voice assistance can further improve usability and functionality, making the device even more supportive in real-world scenarios. Overall, the project highlights the importance of developing affordable and inclusive assistive devices, representing a meaningful step toward a more supportive and accessible society.

10. FUTURE SCOPE

The future scope of a smart blind stick using Arduino is vast and promising. It can be enhanced with GPS and IoT technologies to provide real-time location tracking and send emergency alerts to caregivers or family members. Incorporating AI-based object recognition can significantly improve obstacle detection by identifying specific objects in the user's path. Voice assistance and smartphone integration can make navigation more intuitive and user-friendly. Additionally, solar-powered systems can increase energy efficiency and reduce the need for frequent charging. With further miniaturization and ergonomic design, the device can become more comfortable, discreet, and practical for daily use.

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