IJARSCT
International Journal of Advanced Research in Science, Communication and Technology
International Open-Access, Double-Blind, Peer-Reviewed, Refereed, Multidisciplinary Online Journal
ISSN: 2581-9429
Volume 5, Issue 4, April 2025
Impact Factor: 7.67

Skin Disease Detection

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Abstract: *The human skin acts as the body's primary defense barrier and is vulnerable to a wide range of dermatological conditions including acne, eczema, psoriasis, dermatomyositis, cellulitis, candidiasis, scleroderma, ringworm, chickenpox, and melanoma. These conditions, if left undiagnosed or untreated in their early stages, can lead to serious health complications. In many developing regions, early detection remains a significant challenge due to the lack of affordable and accessible diagnostic tools.*

This project introduces a deep learning–based skin disease detection system that leverages image processing techniques and machine learning models to provide early and accurate classification of skin conditions. The proposed solution uses preprocessing techniques—such as resizing, deblurring, and noise reduction—to prepare skin images for analysis. A pre-trained MobileNetV2 model is employed to classify the images into various disease categories, which are then grouped into normal and abnormal classes to facilitate triage and early intervention.

The detection system is integrated into a user-friendly web interface, where users can upload skin images for diagnosis. After classification, the system displays the identified disease along with specific health guidance, including condition-specific Do's and Don'ts. To improve accessibility and inclusiveness, the website supports language translation (English to Hindi) and features a "Find Nearby Clinics" function that uses Google Maps and the user's geolocation to recommend the top five nearby dermatology clinics with detailed information such as address, ratings, and reviews. By combining deep learning with a practical, real-world application, this project offers an innovative, low-cost solution for skin disease detection. It is especially suited for deployment in remote and underserved regions, where early diagnosis and access to dermatological care can significantly improve patient outcomes and reduce the risk of disease progression..

Keywords: Skin, Pigmentation, Melanocytes, Melanin, UV Radiation, Skin Diseases, Acne, Candidiasis, Cellulitis, Scleroderma, Chickenpox, Ringworm, Eczema, Psoriasis, Image Segmentation, Image Processing, Pre-processing, Deblurring, Noise Reduction, Disease Detection, Melanoma, Early Intervention, Normal vs Abnormal Classification, Patient Outcomes, Dermatological Healthcare

I. INTRODUCTION

Skin diseases are common and can arise from a variety of causes, including fungal infections, bacterial infections, allergies, and viral infections. These conditions can significantly alter the appearance of the skin, changing its texture, color, and overall health. While many skin diseases are relatively mild, some can become chronic or infectious, and in more severe cases, they may progress to life-threatening conditions, including skin cancer. Early detection plays a critical role in controlling the spread and severity of these diseases, as timely treatment can often prevent further complications. However, the process of diagnosing and treating skin diseases can be complex, time-consuming, and costly, both financially and physically, for patients.

One of the major challenges faced by individuals is the lack of awareness regarding the various types of skin conditions and their stages. Some skin diseases may remain symptom-free for months, causing people to overlook early signs until the condition worsens. This general lack of medical knowledge among the public contributes to delayed diagnoses, and even experienced dermatologists can struggle to diagnose certain skin issues without the help of costly and sometimes invasive laboratory tests. These factors make it difficult for individuals to receive timely medical attention, resulting in a further progression of their conditions.

Recent advancements in laser and photonics-based medical technologies have greatly improved the speed and precision of skin disease diagnosis. While these technologies offer significant advantages in detecting and assessing dermatological conditions, they are often expensive and inaccessible to many, especially in low-resource settings. In response to these challenges, an alternative approach is being proposed that uses image processing techniques for diagnosing skin diseases. This method involves capturing high-quality digital images of affected skin areas and then applying image analysis algorithms to identify the type of skin condition present. The advantage of this approach lies in its simplicity and cost-effectiveness—it requires only a camera and a computer, making it accessible to a broader range of individuals and healthcare providers. Furthermore, it offers the potential for rapid diagnosis without the need for expensive equipment or laboratory tests. This innovative solution aims to provide a more affordable and efficient way of diagnosing skin conditions, improving access to care, and ultimately promoting better skin health outcomes for patients around the world.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Big data in dermatology offers significant potential for improving the diagnosis, treatment, and research of skin diseases. It includes data from sources like electronic medical records, patient registries, genomic information, and social media. This type of data enables both retrospective and prospective analysis, helping to create predictive models and personalized treatment plans. Nonetheless, several challenges persist, including substantial storage expenses, the requirement for sophisticated tools and skilled professionals to handle data, issues related to data accuracy and privacy, and the necessity for thorough data cleaning prior to analysis. [1]

Nonmelanoma skin cancers (NMSC), such as basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), have been widely studied in Caucasian populations, showing an annual rise in incidence. However, research on NMSC in Asian populations is limited, despite its increasing occurrence in regions like Japan and Singapore. Asians tend to have lower rates of NMSC due to protective skin types with higher melanin levels, but factors like UV exposure, skin type, genetics, and cultural practices influence the risk. Challenges include underreporting due to the lack of cancer registries, delayed diagnoses in certain populations, and limited research outside of developed regions like Japan. [2]

Convolutional neural networks (CNNs) have shown promise in diagnosing skin cancers, particularly pigmented ones. This study aimed to determine if a combined CNN (cCNN) could match or surpass dermatologists in diagnosing nonpigmented skin cancers, which are harder to identify. The cCNN was trained on over 13,000 images and tested on 2,072 new ones, with results compared to 95 physicians, including dermatologists. The cCNN outperformed beginner and intermediate doctors and performed similarly to experts, especially in detecting malignant lesions. However, it struggled with benign lesions and rare conditions, and lacked the ability to incorporate patient history, making it less reliable for real-world clinical use without further training and data diversity. [3]

Skin cancer, including melanoma and non-melanoma types like basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), is common, especially among white populations. While melanoma rates are rising globally, they are starting to decrease in countries like Australia. Non-melanoma skin cancers occur more frequently but are less fatal. Key risk factors include UV exposure, age, and genetics, with prevention efforts focusing on reducing sun exposure and promoting early detection through regular skin checks. However, challenges include underreporting of non-melanoma skin cancer, potential overdiagnosis of melanoma, the high cost of treatment, and the limited effectiveness of prevention campaigns, particularly among younger populations. [4]

Deep learning, particularly convolutional neural networks (CNNs), has shown potential in classifying skin conditions, including melanoma. Research has shown that Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are capable of matching or even surpassing dermatologists in identifying melanoma as well as non-cancerous skin conditions. Recent advancements have used biopsy-verified images to train CNN models, improving accuracy by addressing diagnostic biases from earlier models. However, many previous CNN models were trained on large datasets that were not biopsy-confirmed, which may have led to errors. Although CNN-based classifiers are highly effective, they often fall short in incorporating clinical context like skin texture and palpation. Additionally, they typically depend on dermatologist supervision, as their performance may decline when applied to unfamiliar datasets. [5]

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This paper evaluates the use of a region-based convolutional neural network (R-CNN) to detect keratinocytic skin cancer in unprocessed facial images. CNNs have previously shown success in fields like ophthalmology, dermatology, and radiology, especially in distinguishing between benign and malignant lesions. The algorithm was trained on clinical photographs to automatically locate and predict the malignancy of skin lesions. The study demonstrates that R-CNN has the potential to detect skin cancer with performance comparable to dermatologists and superior to non-specialists. Nonetheless, the model has certain limitations, including training data that is predominantly sourced from hospital settings, reliance on high-resolution images, challenges in accurately analyzing facial areas such as the nose and eyes, and minimal validation on Korean populations, which may hinder its applicability across diverse racial groups. [6]

The article discusses various methods for skin disease detection using image processing and machine learning, emphasizing the effectiveness of computer vision techniques for accurate diagnoses. Techniques like k-means clustering, color gradient methods, and artificial neural networks have been widely applied for segmenting and classifying skin diseases, with accuracies ranging from 90% to 95%. Additionally, Support Vector Machines (SVM) have proven effective for classification tasks. Some studies have also focused on specific diseases like melanoma, utilizing segmentation techniques to enhance feature extraction and improve early diagnosis. However, such systems often face challenges like limited disease coverage, high computational needs, and reliance on expensive, diverse datasets for accuracy. [7]

This paper explores the growing use of deep learning in dermatopathology, a field that relies heavily on image recognition. Digital pathology systems that enable whole-slide imaging (WSI) have improved diagnostic workflows, allowing for faster and more accurate analysis. AI algorithms have demonstrated the ability to classify skin conditions such as basal cell carcinoma (BCC), dermal nevi, and seborrheic keratosis with high accuracy, sometimes even surpassing human dermatopathologists. However, these systems are limited by their dependence on training data and the narrow scope of conditions they can effectively diagnose. [8]

Automated skin lesion detection, particularly for non-melanoma skin cancers like basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC), is an emerging area in dermatology. Studies in this field have shown diagnostic accuracies ranging from 72% to 100%, often outperforming dermatologists when compared to histopathologic diagnoses. Algorithms like artificial neural networks (ANN) and support vector machines (SVM) have proven effective in the classification of skin lesions using machine learning techniques. However, research has been limited compared to melanoma studies, and most work has been conducted using in-silico methods rather than in real clinical settings. Challenges include limited realworld testing, small or non-random datasets that may not be applicable to diverse populations, and the need for manual preprocessing steps that make the models less practical for real-time use. [9]

This study investigates the use of deep learning (DL) and sound analysis (sonification) algorithms to enhance the accuracy of skin cancer detection, particularly melanoma. Conventional skin cancer diagnosis depends on dermoscopic visual examination, which can be challenging because of the intricate visual patterns and the requirement for specialist expertise.Recent advancements in DL have shown promise, although some sensitivity issues remain. Adding a sonification layer, which converts visual data into sound, has been suggested to improve diagnostic accuracy. However, challenges include low image quality from low-cost magnifiers, small datasets, and a need for broader clinical trials to ensure more reliable results. [10]

The respected researchers Agarwal and Mishra [11] explored the use of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) for automatic detection and classification of skin lesions. Their work emphasized the accuracy and efficiency of deep learning in dermatological analysis.

The valuable contribution by Sarma and Pandey [12] shed light on the integration of AI in dermatology, demonstrating how deep learning models can significantly assist in early detection of skin cancer and improve clinical workflows.

With notable insight, Pahwa and Bansal [13] proposed a hybrid deep learning model that blends multiple techniques to enhance classification performance across various skin conditions, achieving a more robust system.

The work of Zhang and Chen [14] introduced a novel deep learning architecture tailored for lesion detection and classification, offering improvements in precision and reliability over traditional methods.

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A comparative evaluation conducted by Hassan and Ali [15] presented an in-depth study of different deep neural networks used for skin cancer detection, highlighting their respective strengths and limitations.

A valuable effort by Singh and Gupta [16] resulted in an automated skin cancer classification system using deep learning, with strong performance in recognizing different lesion types.

The respected researchers Mehta and Sharma [17] utilized CNN-based models to diagnose melanoma and other common skin diseases, confirming the clinical potential of deep learning.

An extensive review by Yu and Wang [18] summarized a range of CNN-based approaches for diagnosing skin cancer, identifying both advancements and existing research gaps.

An insightful study by Gupta and Agarwal [19] proposed a deep learning system capable of recognizing and classifying skin diseases with high accuracy, aiding in quick diagnostics.

The respected contribution of Patel and Shah [20] offered a broad survey on deep learning applications in dermatology, detailing a variety of methods, their clinical applications, and associated challenges.

A noteworthy study by Ahmmed et al. [21] employed deep transfer learning for the detection and classification of specific skin diseases such as actinic keratosis and psoriasis, demonstrating effective adaptation of pretrained models.

The innovative work of Basak, Kundu, and Sarkar [22] introduced MFSNet, a multi-focus segmentation network that improved lesion localization, thus supporting better diagnostic outcomes.

A significant framework, "Dermo-DOCTOR," was proposed by Hasan et al. [23], which used dual encoder deep networks for real-time detection and classification of skin lesions, streamlining the entire process.

The respected efforts of Ahmad et al. [24] led to a novel deep learning framework supported by explainable AI, allowing dermatologists to better understand the rationale behind model predictions.

In a systematic review, Sun et al. [25] highlighted the key roles of machine learning models in recognizing skin diseases, focusing on their growth, use cases, and technical evolution.

A compelling study by Akter et al. [26] introduced a hybrid deep learning approach using feature fusion, improving detection performance in challenging imaging conditions.

Continuing their work, Ahmmed et al. [27] explored deep transfer learning techniques further, optimizing detection and classification for complex skin conditions.

The research by Venu Gopal and colleagues [28] applied deep learning techniques for skin disease recognition, with an emphasis on both accuracy and computational efficiency.

The work by Jayasundari, Arumugam, and Manimuthu [29] focused on advanced deep learning models to detect skin cancer early, supporting better preventive healthcare solutions.

Finally, Muskan, Venkateshwari, and Mohan [30] developed a hierarchical deep learning architecture aimed at multi-level skin disease diagnosis, showing promising results for scalable deployment.

Based on insights from existing literature, we developed a **web-based skin disease detection system** using a MobileNetV2 deep learning model. Users can upload an image of a skin condition through the website, which is then preprocessed (resized to 128×128) and classified into one of several predefined skin disease categories. The result is shown on a dedicated result page along with condition-specific "Do's" and "Don'ts."

To improve accessibility, the website offers a Hindi translation option and a "Find Nearby Clinics" feature that uses the Google Maps API and user geolocation to display the top five local dermatology clinics with ratings and reviews. Patient data and predictions are stored in an SQLite database, accessible to admins through a secure login. This full-stack web solution addresses key gaps in accessibility, usability, and practical deployment highlighted in prior research.

III. METHODOLOGY

The proposed system for detecting skin diseases will employ a combination of image processing and machine learning techniques, using deep learning (specifically Convolutional Neural Networks, or CNN) alongside machine learning classifiers like Support Vector Machine (SVM). The overall framework is designed to process and classify skin disease images through several stages, outlined below.

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Methodology:

1. Data Collection:

- The system will collect a wide range of skin disease images from online medical resources and public datasets. This collection will cover various skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis, and melanoma to ensure diversity in the dataset.

2. Image Preprocessing:

- To ensure consistency across the dataset, each image will be resized to a fixed dimension (e.g., 227x227 pixels). This uniformity is essential for accurate feature extraction.
- Data augmentation techniques like rotation, zoom, and flipping will be applied to enhance the diversity of the training data. This process enhances the model's robustness and reduces the risk of overfitting.

3. Feature Extraction:

- The system will use a pretrained CNN model, such as AlexNet or ResNet, for feature extraction. These models are capable of automatically learning and identifying patterns in the images, such as texture, color, and shape of the skin lesions.
- Transfer learning will be utilized, which allows the system to take advantage of pre-trained knowledge from these models and apply it to new skin disease images, improving efficiency and performance.

4. Classification:

- After the features are extracted, a Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier will be applied to categorize the skin diseases based on the identified features. SVM is chosen because of its high accuracy in tasks related to skin disease classification.
- The classifier will be trained to recognize different skin conditions like eczema, psoriasis, melanoma, and other common diseases.

5. Evaluation:

- The dataset will be divided into training and validation sets. The model will be trained using the training set, and the validation set will assist in optimizing its parameters.
- The evaluation process will ensure that the system's performance is optimized for accurate classification. To measure the model’s effectiveness, metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score will be utilized.

6. Result Presentation:

- The final results will be presented through a user-friendly interface, displaying the predicted disease type, the severity of the condition, and its spread. This interface can be accessed on a computer or mobile device.
- The system will include confidence levels for each prediction, providing users with a better understanding of the diagnosis.

This methodology integrates deep learning and machine learning techniques to automatically detect and classify skin diseases, providing an efficient and accurate tool for both clinicians and non-experts. The system is designed to work on commonly available devices like smartphones and computers, making it accessible to a broad audience.

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IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

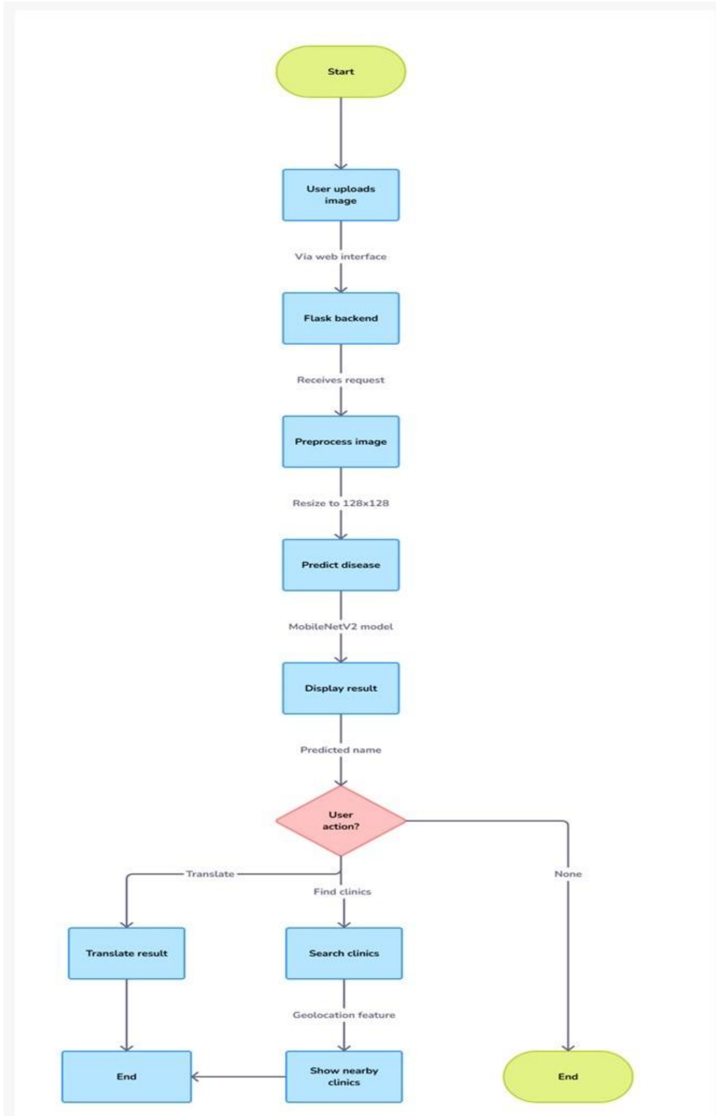

Fig.1. Use Case Diagram

Fig.1- Use Case Diagram this Diagram shows the workflow of Skin Disease Detection System using Image Analysis. Below is the detailed explanation of each component:

1. Start

- The system initialization process begins when the user accesses the platform.

2. User Uploads Image

- The user uploads a skin image using the web-based user interface.
- This image is intended for disease prediction.

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3. Flask Backend

- The image upload request is received by the Flask backend server.
- Flask acts as the bridge between the frontend interface and the model.

4. Preprocess Image

- The backend processes the image to prepare it for prediction.
- Image is resized to 128x128 pixels to match model input requirements.
- Additional preprocessing steps may include normalization or color adjustments.

5. Predict Disease

- The processed image is input into a pre-trained MobileNetV2 deep learning model.
- The model analyzes the image and predicts the type of skin disease.

6. Display Result

- The predicted disease name is displayed on the frontend.
- The output is presented in an easy-to-understand format for better interpretation.

7. User Action

- After viewing the result, the user has three options:
- Translate: View the result in another language.
- Find Clinics: Locate nearby clinics relevant to the diagnosed disease.
- None: Take no further action and end the process.
- User Action Paths

8. Translate Result

- The disease name is converted into the user's chosen language.
- After translation, the process concludes.

9. Search Clinics

- The system uses the disease type and user's location to search for clinics.
- A geolocation API may be used to fetch nearby healthcare centers.

10. Show Nearby Clinics

- The user is presented with the search results.
- The process ends after showing nearby clinics on the map or list.

11. None

- If the user takes no action, the system simply ends.

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V. RESULTS

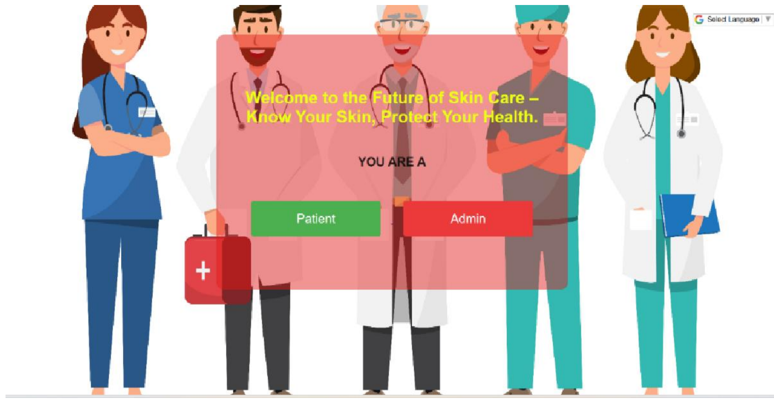

Fig.2. Home Page -User Role Selection

Fig.2 - This figure represents the welcome page of the Skin Disease Detection System, where users select their role as either a Patient or an Admin to proceed.

Fig.3. Home Page -User Role Selection (Hindi)

Fig.3 - This figure shows the Hindi version of the welcome page for the Skin Disease Detection System, allowing users to choose between Patient or Admin roles.

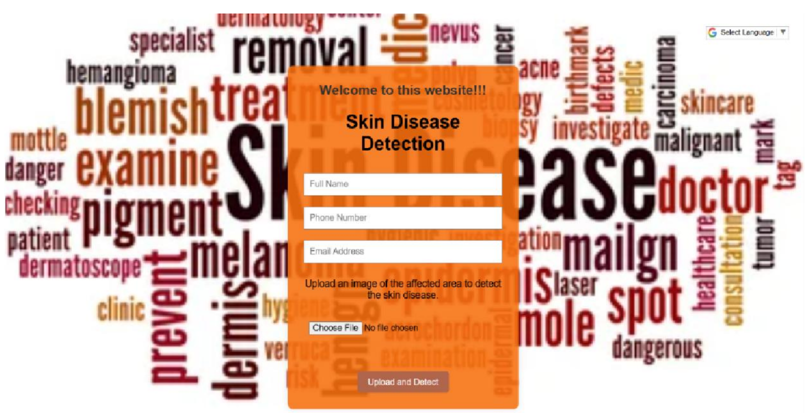

Fig.4. Login Page for Patients

Fig.4 - This figure shows the image upload interface of the Skin Disease Detection System, where users enter their details and upload an affected skin image for diagnosis.

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Fig.5.Login Page for Patients (Hindi)

Fig.5 - This figure shows the Hindi version of the image upload interface in the Skin Disease Detection System, where users provide personal details and upload a skin image for diagnosis.

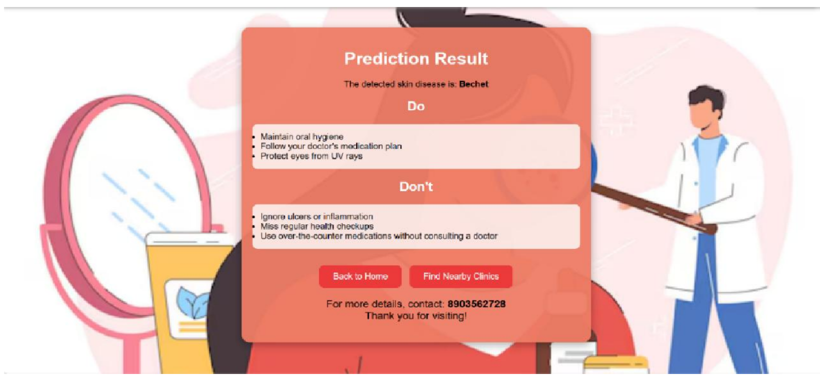

Fig.6. Result page

Fig.6 - This figure displays the prediction result page of the Skin Disease Detection System, showing the diagnosed condition (Bechet) along with Do’s and Don’ts, and options to return home or find nearby clinics.

Fig.7. Result page

Fig.7 - This figure shows the Hindi version of the prediction result page in the Skin Disease Detection System, displaying the diagnosed condition , with Do’s and Don’ts, and options to go home or find nearby clinics.

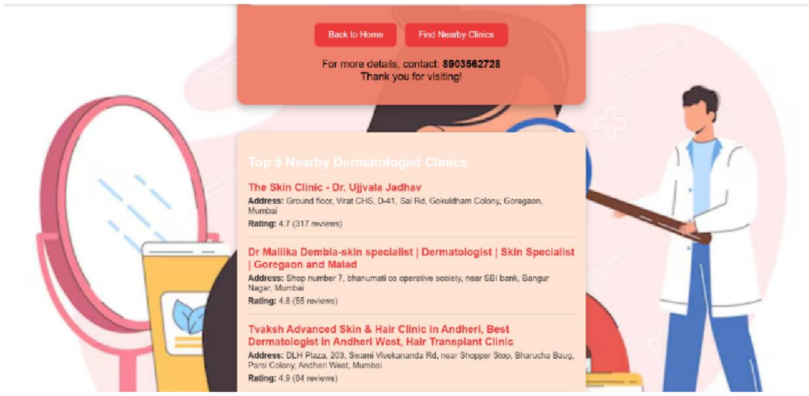

Fig.8. Recommended Nearby Dermatologist Clinics

Fig.8 - This figure displays a list of the top 5 nearby dermatologist clinics with their addresses, ratings, and reviews to help users seek expert treatment after diagnosis.

Fig.9. Recommended Nearby Dermatologist Clinics (Hindi)

Fig.9 - This figure shows the Hindi version of the top 5 nearby dermatologist clinics, listing their names, addresses, and ratings to guide users toward professional consultation.

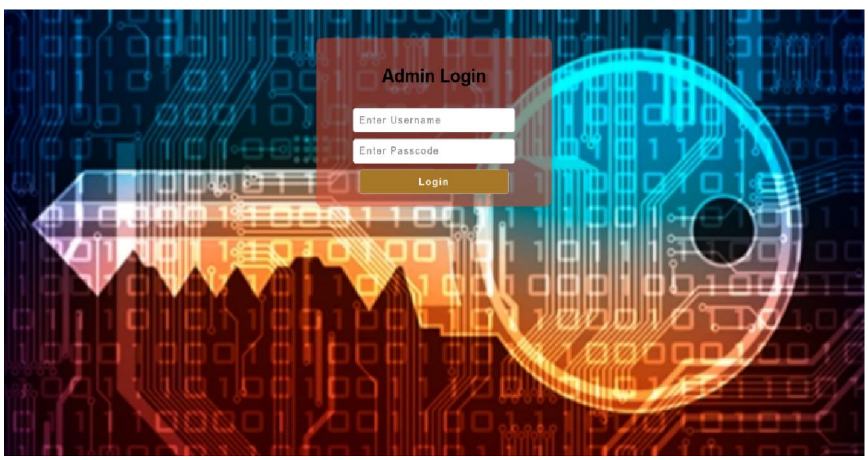

Fig.10. Admin Authentication Interface

Fig.10 - This figure shows the graphical interface for an admin login screen in a secure system.

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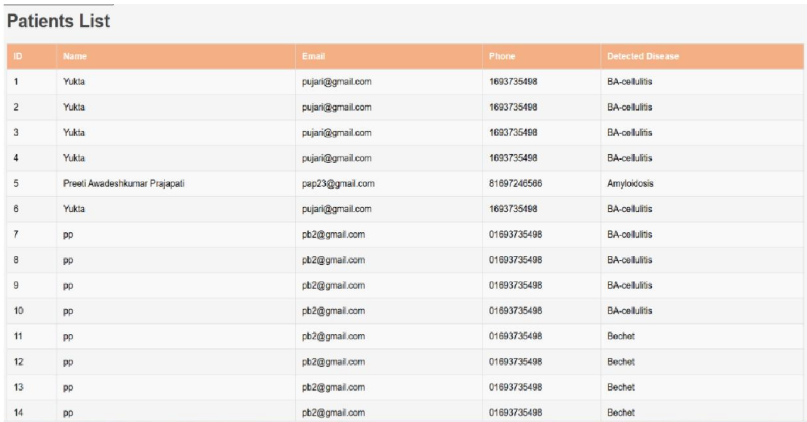

Patients List

ID	Name	Email	Phone	Detected Disease
1	Yukta	pujari@gmail.com	1693735498	BA-cellulitis
2	Yukta	pujari@gmail.com	1693735498	BA-cellulitis
3	Yukta	pujari@gmail.com	1693735498	BA-cellulitis
4	Yukta	pujari@gmail.com	1693735498	BA-cellulitis
5	Preeti Awadeshkumar Prajapati	pap23@gmail.com	81697246566	Amyloidosis
6	Yukta	pujari@gmail.com	1693735498	BA-cellulitis
7	pp	pb2@gmail.com	01693735498	BA-cellulitis
8	pp	pb2@gmail.com	01693735498	BA-cellulitis
9	pp	pb2@gmail.com	01693735498	BA-cellulitis
10	pp	pb2@gmail.com	01693735498	BA-cellulitis
11	pp	pb2@gmail.com	01693735498	Bechet
12	pp	pb2@gmail.com	01693735498	Bechet
13	pp	pb2@gmail.com	01693735498	Bechet
14	pp	pb2@gmail.com	01693735498	Bechet

Fig.11. Patient Diagnosis Report Table

Fig.11 - This figure displays a tabulated list of patients along with their contact details and detected diseases in the system.

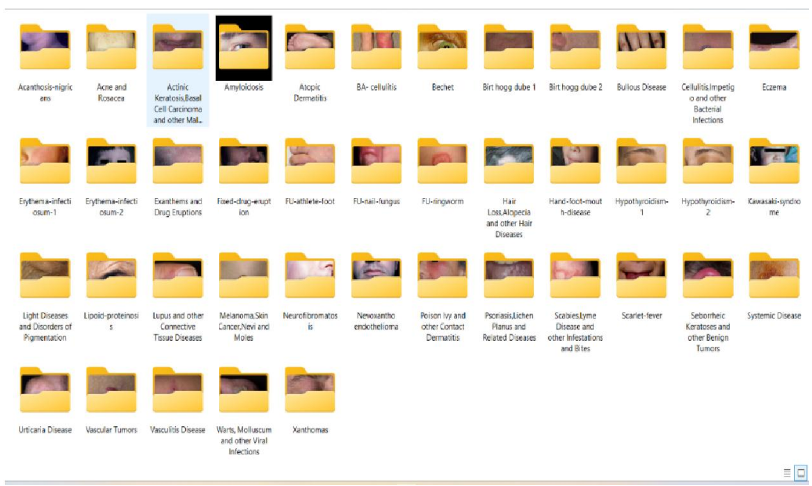

Fig.12. Skin Disease Image Dataset Folders

Fig.12 - This figure shows categorized folders containing image datasets of various skin diseases used for training or testing in a medical diagnostic system.

Fig.13. Sample Images of Skin Diseases

Fig.13 - This figure presents a collection of sample images representing various skin conditions, likely used for analysis or model training in a dermatological diagnosis system.

VI. CONCLUSION

This project demonstrates the practical potential of combining deep learning and image processing for the early and accurate detection of a wide range of skin diseases. By leveraging a pretrained MobileNetV2 model along with advanced preprocessing techniques, the system ensures robust feature extraction and efficient disease classification. The integration of a Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier further enhances classification precision, especially when handling diverse image inputs across multiple skin conditions.

Beyond technical accuracy, the system emphasizes **real-world applicability and accessibility**. It has been successfully deployed as a responsive and intuitive **web application**, enabling users to upload images for diagnosis and instantly receive predictions along with tailored health guidelines (Do's and Don'ts) for each identified condition. To improve **inclusivity and ease of use**, the platform supports **multilingual translation**, particularly English to Hindi, making it more accessible to native-language users in India and other regions.

A standout feature of this system is its integration with the **Google Maps and Places APIs**, which empowers users to find the **top five nearby dermatology clinics** based on their real-time location. This bridges the gap between diagnosis and care, especially for individuals living in **remote or medically underserved areas** who may otherwise struggle to find nearby treatment options.

Looking ahead, the system can be further strengthened by expanding the image dataset to include more demographic and ethnic diversity, incorporating **clinical parameters** such as patient history or symptom severity, and undergoing **real-world validation through clinical trials or field testing**. Additionally, embedding the model into **mobile health (mHealth) applications** and **telemedicine platforms** could significantly increase its reach and utility, particularly in regions with limited access to dermatologists.

With continuous advancements in artificial intelligence, deep learning, and medical imaging, this project serves as a powerful step toward democratizing dermatological diagnostics. It offers not only a reliable second-opinion system for healthcare professionals but also an empowering, accessible tool for individuals seeking early intervention. Ultimately, it contributes to reducing misdiagnosis, enabling timely treatment, and improving long-term patient outcomes.

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