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Smart Classroom Automation and Face Recognition Attendance System

Kulkarni Samruddhi Sandeep[1] Kulkarni Shantanu Sanjay[2] Nikam Chinmay Chandrakant[3] Nimse Rohit Abasaheb[4] Prof. M. J. Thokale[5] Prof. N. S. Khemnar[6]
Department of Automation and Robotic Engineering[123456]
Amrutvahini College of Engineering Sangamner–422608

Abstract: *The rapid growth of automation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies has created new opportunities for improving the efficiency of educational institutions. Traditional classroom management methods, such as manual attendance recording and manual control of electrical devices, are time-consuming, less reliable, and lead to unnecessary energy consumption. To overcome these limitations, this project presents a Smart Classroom Automation and Face Recognition Attendance System that combines intelligent attendance monitoring with automated classroom power management.*

Keywords: Smart Classroom, Face Recognition, Automated Attendance System, Raspberry Pi, Arduino Mega, OpenCV, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), Power Management, Classroom Automation, Real-Time Monitoring, Energy Efficiency.

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and automation technologies has significantly transformed the education sector by improving classroom management, monitoring, and energy efficiency [1]. Educational institutions are increasingly adopting smart technologies to create intelligent learning environments that reduce manual work and improve operational accuracy [2]. Traditional classroom systems still rely heavily on manual attendance methods and manual control of electrical devices, which consume time, increase human effort, and often result in inaccurate record management [3].

Manual attendance systems such as roll calls and signature-based methods are inefficient and allow proxy attendance, leading to unreliable student records [4]. In addition, electrical appliances like lights, fans, and projectors are frequently left ON even when classrooms are empty, causing unnecessary energy wastage and increasing electricity costs [5]. These limitations highlight the need for an automated and intelligent classroom management system capable of handling both attendance and power control efficiently [6].

The proposed Smart Classroom Automation and Face Recognition Attendance System aims to overcome these issues by integrating AI-based attendance monitoring with automated power management [7]. The system uses a Raspberry Pi and camera module to capture real-time images of students and applies OpenCV and face recognition algorithms to identify students accurately [8]. Once recognized, attendance is automatically stored in a digital format along with date and time information, thereby reducing manual intervention and improving data reliability [9].

Along with attendance automation, the system also incorporates an Arduino Mega, RTC module, relay driver circuits, and LCD display for intelligent classroom power control. Classroom devices such as lights and fans are automatically switched ON or OFF according to predefined schedules, reducing electricity consumption and improving energy management [10].

The integration of attendance automation and power management into a single platform creates a smart and sustainable classroom environment. The proposed system improves efficiency, minimizes human errors, supports digital record maintenance, and contributes to the development of Smart Campus initiatives.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

In many educational institutions, classroom operations such as attendance recording and electrical device management are still performed manually, leading to several operational challenges. Traditional attendance methods, including roll calls and signature registers, consume valuable lecture time, increase the chances of human errors, and allow proxy attendance, resulting in inaccurate student records. At the same time, classroom devices such as lights, fans, and projectors are often left switched ON unnecessarily due to the absence of an automated monitoring system, causing significant energy wastage and higher electricity costs. Existing systems generally focus on either attendance management or power control separately and lack proper integration, real-time monitoring, and intelligent automation capabilities. Therefore, there is a need for a unified smart classroom system that can automatically manage attendance using face recognition technology while also controlling classroom power consumption efficiently, thereby improving accuracy, reducing manual effort, saving energy, and supporting the development of intelligent and sustainable educational environments.

III. OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an automated attendance system using face recognition technology for accurate student identification.
2. To reduce manual effort and save classroom time by automating attendance recording and report generation.
3. To eliminate proxy attendance and improve the reliability of attendance management.
4. To design an intelligent power management system that automatically controls classroom devices such as lights and fans based on schedules.
5. To create an integrated smart classroom environment that improves operational efficiency, energy conservation, and digital management.

IV. LITERATURE SURVEY

1. **Viola, P. and Jones, M. (2001)** presented a pioneering face detection technique in the paper "Rapid Object Detection using a Boosted Cascade of Simple Features." The authors introduced Haar-like features and the AdaBoost learning algorithm to achieve fast and accurate real-time face detection. Their cascade classifier approach significantly improved detection speed and became one of the most widely used methods in computer vision and attendance monitoring systems. However, the method performs best with clearly visible facial features and may show reduced accuracy under poor lighting conditions or partial face occlusion.

2. **Turk, M. and Pentland, A. (1991)** proposed the well-known "Eigenfaces for Recognition" method for automated face recognition. The technique uses Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to identify and recognize human faces efficiently by reducing image dimensionality. This approach laid the foundation for many modern facial recognition systems used in automated attendance applications. Although computationally efficient, the method is sensitive to variations in lighting, facial expressions, and pose changes.

3. **Ahonen, T., Hadid, A., and Pietikäinen, M. (2006)** introduced the paper "Face Description with Local Binary Patterns: Application to Face Recognition." The study demonstrated the use of Local Binary Pattern (LBP) features for robust face recognition under varying lighting conditions. The LBP-based method improved recognition performance and became popular in low-cost attendance systems using OpenCV. However, it may struggle with large pose variations and low-resolution images.

4. Zhao, W., Chellappa, R., Phillips, P. J., and Rosenfeld, A. (2003) published the survey paper "Face Recognition: A Literature Survey." The paper reviewed different face recognition techniques, including appearance-based, feature-based, and hybrid methods. It highlighted the growing importance of face recognition in security, surveillance, and automated attendance systems. The survey also discussed challenges such as illumination changes, facial expressions, and computational complexity.

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5. Bhardwaj, D., Nikita, Vernika, Aarush G., and Tanya C. (2025) developed a system in the paper "Smart Attendance System Using Face Recognition with OpenCV." The proposed system used OpenCV and facial recognition algorithms for automatic attendance marking in classrooms. The system provided a low-cost, real-time, and accurate attendance solution for educational institutions while reducing manual workload and proxy attendance problems.

Comparison Table

Author & Year	Method Used	Advantages	Limitations
Viola & Jones (2001)	Haar Cascade with AdaBoost	Fast real-time face detection	Low accuracy with occluded faces
Turk & Pentland (1991)	PCA Eigenfaces Algorithm	Simple and computationally efficient	Sensitive to lighting and pose changes
Ahonen et al. (2006)	Local Binary Pattern (LBP)	Good performance under varying lighting	Less effective for large pose variations
Zhao et al. (2003)	Face Recognition Survey Techniques	Comprehensive analysis of recognition methods	High computational complexity in some methods
Bhardwaj et al. (2025)	OpenCV Face Recognition System	Accurate and low-cost attendance system	Performance depends on camera quality

IV. WORKING OF SYSTEM

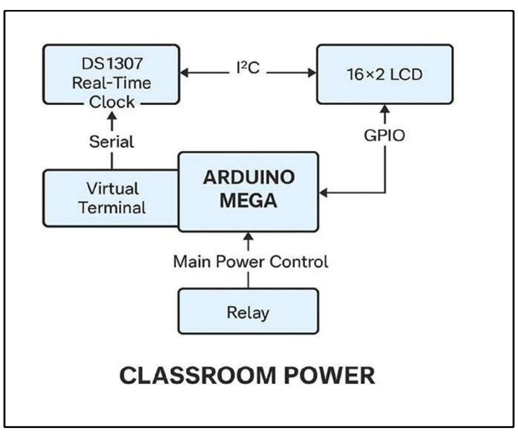

Fig 1: Design of the system for Power Management

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1. Real-Time Clock Initialization

The DS1307 Real-Time Clock (RTC) module continuously maintains the current date and time information. It provides accurate timing data to the Arduino Mega through the I²C communication protocol, ensuring proper schedule-based operation of the classroom system.

2. Time Monitoring by Arduino Mega

The Arduino Mega acts as the central controller of the system. It continuously reads time data from the RTC module and compares it with the predefined classroom schedule stored in the program memory.

3. Schedule-Based Decision Making

Based on the current time, the Arduino determines whether classroom devices such as lights and fans should remain ON or OFF. The controller automatically performs switching operations according to lecture timings and break periods.

4. Relay Control Operation

When the scheduled time matches the programmed conditions, the Arduino sends control signals to the relay module. The relay acts as an electronic switch that controls the main classroom power supply safely and efficiently.

5. Classroom Power Management

The relay module switches classroom electrical devices such as lights, fans, and projectors ON during lecture hours and OFF during non-working periods. This helps in reducing unnecessary electricity consumption and improving energy efficiency.

6. LCD Display Monitoring

The 16×2 LCD display is connected to the Arduino Mega through GPIO pins. It continuously displays important system information such as current time, power status, and relay operation, allowing easy monitoring of the system.

7. Virtual Terminal Communication

The virtual terminal provides serial communication between the user and the Arduino Mega. It is used for setting or updating time values, debugging operations, and monitoring system responses during testing and simulation.

8. Automatic System Operation

The entire system works automatically without continuous human intervention. By integrating the RTC, Arduino Mega, LCD, and relay module, the system ensures efficient classroom power automation with reliable and accurate performance.

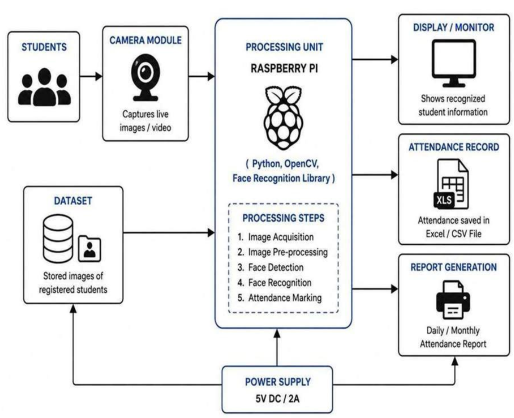

Fig 2: Design of the system for Attendance

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The system works by capturing images of students using a camera and processing them using computer vision algorithms. The faces are detected and matched with a pre-trained dataset. Once identified, attendance is marked automatically and stored in a database or Excel file.

V. SYSTEM DESIGN

1. System Overview

The proposed Smart Classroom Automation and Face Recognition Attendance System is designed to automate classroom attendance and power management using Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and computer vision technologies. The system captures real-time student images through a camera module and uses face recognition algorithms to identify students automatically. Simultaneously, the system controls classroom electrical devices such as lights and fans according to predefined schedules using a microcontroller and relay circuits. The integration of attendance monitoring and power automation creates an intelligent, energy-efficient, and fully automated classroom environment.

2. Image Capture Module

This module is responsible for capturing real-time images and video streams using a Raspberry Pi camera or USB camera. The camera continuously monitors the classroom entrance or seating area and provides image data to the processing unit for face detection and recognition.

• Functions:
• Captures student images in real time
• Provides video frames for processing
• Ensures continuous classroom monitoring

3. Face Detection Module

The face detection module identifies human faces from the captured video frames using OpenCV algorithms such as Haar Cascade classifiers. It detects facial regions before sending them to the recognition module.

• Functions:
• Detects faces from live video
• Separates facial regions from background
• Improves processing accuracy

4. Face Recognition Module

This module compares detected faces with pre-trained datasets stored in the system using AI and machine learning techniques. The system identifies students based on facial features and encodings.

• Functions:
• Recognizes registered students
• Matches faces with stored datasets
• Prevents proxy attendance

5. Attendance Management Module

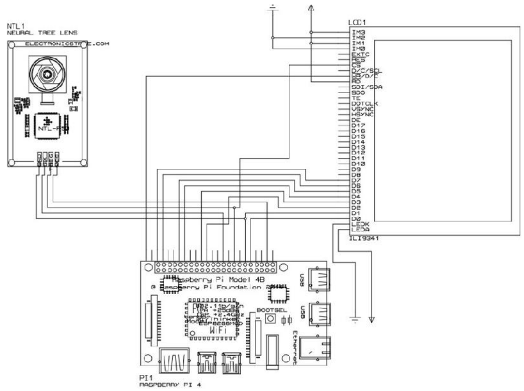

Fig.2.Attendance Management Module

Once the student is identified, the attendance module automatically records attendance details such as student name, date, and time into an Excel sheet or database.

• **Functions:**
• Marks attendance automatically
• Stores digital attendance records
• Generates accurate reports

6. RTC Time Management Module

The DS1307 Real-Time Clock (RTC) module maintains accurate date and time information for classroom scheduling and automation tasks.

• Functions:
• Maintains real-time clock data
• Supports timetable-based automation
• Provides accurate timing reference

7. Power Management Module

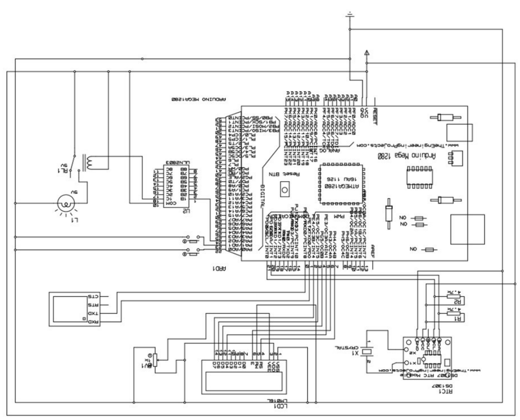

Fig.3.Power Management Module

This module controls classroom electrical devices such as lights, fans, and projectors using Arduino Mega, relay circuits, and scheduling logic. Devices are automatically switched ON or OFF according to class timings.

• Functions:
• Controls classroom power automatically
• Reduces electricity wastage
• Improves energy efficiency

8. Relay Control Module

The relay module acts as an electronic switching interface between the low-power controller and high-power classroom devices.
• Functions:
• Receives control signals from Arduino
• Safely switches electrical loads
• Provides electrical isolation

9. Display and Monitoring Module

The LCD display module shows system status information such as current time, attendance operation, and power control status for easy monitoring.
• Functions:
• Displays system information
• Shows relay and timing status
• Helps during testing and monitoring

10. Database and Report Generation Module

This module stores attendance data digitally and generates attendance reports automatically for teachers and administrators.
• Functions:
• Maintains attendance database
• Generates daily attendance reports
• Simplifies record management

11. Integrated Smart Classroom Operation

All modules work together to create a unified smart classroom system. The attendance system and power management module operate simultaneously to improve classroom efficiency, reduce manual work, and support smart campus development.

VI. RESULTS

The proposed Smart Classroom Automation and Face Recognition Attendance System was successfully designed and tested for automated attendance management and classroom power control. The system effectively captured student images in real time using a camera module and accurately identified registered students through face recognition algorithms developed using Python and OpenCV. Attendance was automatically recorded with date and time information in a digital Excel/CSV file, eliminating manual effort and reducing the possibility of proxy attendance.

The face recognition module demonstrated reliable performance under normal classroom lighting conditions and was capable of detecting multiple students within the camera frame. The generated attendance records were properly stored and could be used for daily and monthly report generation. The real-time monitoring capability improved the efficiency and transparency of attendance management.

The classroom power management module also operated successfully according to the predefined timetable. Using the Arduino Mega, RTC module, relay driver circuit, and relay module, classroom electrical devices such as lights and fans were automatically switched ON and OFF based on lecture schedules. This helped in minimizing unnecessary electricity consumption and improving energy efficiency within the classroom environment.

The integration of both attendance automation and power management modules created a fully functional smart classroom system. Testing results showed that the system reduced manual workload, improved operational accuracy, and provided reliable automated control. Overall, the proposed system achieved the project objectives and proved to be an effective, low-cost, and scalable solution for smart educational environments.

VII. CONCLUSION

The Smart Classroom Automation and Face Recognition Attendance System successfully combines artificial intelligence, computer vision, and automation technologies to improve classroom management and operational efficiency. The developed system automates student attendance using real-time face recognition techniques and eliminates the limitations of traditional manual attendance methods such as time consumption, human errors, and proxy attendance. By using Raspberry Pi, OpenCV, and Python programming, the system provides accurate and reliable attendance monitoring with digital record storage and automated report generation.

In addition to attendance management, the system also implements intelligent classroom power control using Arduino Mega, RTC module, relay circuits, and scheduling logic. The automated switching of classroom devices such as lights and fans helps reduce unnecessary energy consumption and promotes efficient power utilization. The integration of attendance automation and power management creates a unified smart classroom environment that enhances productivity, reduces manual workload, and supports sustainable energy practices.

Overall, the proposed system provides a cost-effective, scalable, and efficient solution for modern educational institutions. The project supports the concept of Smart Campus development by encouraging automation, digital transformation, and intelligent resource management in educational environments.

VIII. FUTURE SCOPE

The proposed Smart Classroom Automation and Face Recognition Attendance System can be further enhanced with advanced technologies to improve performance, scalability, and user convenience. In the future, cloud-based storage can be integrated to securely store attendance records and provide remote access to teachers and administrators from anywhere. Mobile application support can also be developed to allow real-time monitoring of attendance, classroom status, and power consumption through smartphones.

The system can be upgraded using advanced deep learning and Artificial Intelligence algorithms to improve face recognition accuracy under varying lighting conditions, facial expressions, and partial face visibility. Integration with biometric systems, RFID technology, or voice recognition can further strengthen security and authentication. Future versions may also support automatic student performance analysis and predictive analytics based on attendance data.

The power management module can be enhanced using IoT-based sensors such as motion sensors, temperature sensors, and occupancy detection systems for fully intelligent classroom control. Integration with renewable energy monitoring and smart energy optimization techniques can help institutions reduce electricity consumption more effectively.

Additionally, the system can be expanded to support multiple classrooms and centralized campus-wide monitoring through a cloud server or ERP integration. This would help educational institutions move toward fully automated Smart Campus environments with improved efficiency, sustainability, and digital management.

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