Chandigarh Engineering College Jhanjeri
Mohali-140307
Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering

ADAPTABLE WALKING AID DEVICE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSON

Team Details:

S. No.	Name of the Student	University Roll No.	Student's Signature
1	Prince	2129812	
2	Ankur Singh	2129787	
3	Anurag Sharma	2129789	
4	Om Vinod Jha	2129810	

Name of the Guide: Dr. Shivani Goyal	**Designation:** Assistant Professor
Department: Electronics and Communication Engg.	**E-mail-ID:** shivani.j2587@cgc.ac.in

Approved/Modification/Rejected

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HOD Signature **PAQIC Members signature** **Subject Teacher Signature**

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Abstract:

This paper proposes an efficient electronic system for guidance of a blind person. It is based on the design and developments of a smart stick for visually impaired people to provide them with ease, confidence and to gain independence in an efficient and cost-effective way.

The system covers obstacle detection, light sensing, water detection, location detection and emergency messaging. The device is based on a small circuit mounted on the white cane and a small circuit serving as a control unit. A microcontroller-based circuit is used to handle the entire system functioning. The detection of obstacles is based on ultrasonic sensors giving a beeping sound, light sensing system detects the darkness and light in the surrounding to alert the user, the water sensor detects ground water to alert the user.

In addition, a GPS with GSM connection sends the approximate location of the stick to the caretaker phone. The system aims to provide visually impaired people with artificial vision by giving them information on the surrounding environment.

Introduction:

The Ultrasonic Blind Stick with GPS, SOS (an emergency alarm) and Water Sensor integration represents a cutting-edge advancement in assistive technology aimed at enhancing the safety and independence of visually impaired individuals navigating outdoor environments. This innovative device combines a range of hardware components and features to provide comprehensive support, addressing various challenges faced by users during mobility.

Traditional white canes have long served as essential aids for visually impaired individuals, offering basic obstacle detection through physical contact. However, the Ultrasonic Blind Stick takes assistance to a new level by incorporating advanced sensors and connectivity options.

By integrating ultrasonic sensors, the blind stick detects obstacles in the user's path, providing real-time feedback to help navigate safely. The addition of a GPS module offers precise location tracking and navigation assistance, empowering users to explore unfamiliar areas with confidence. Moreover, the SOS functionality ensures rapid response in emergencies, enabling users to alert designated contacts or emergency services with their precise location.

One of the standout features of this device is the inclusion of a water sensor, which detects water hazards in the environment. This critical addition addresses a common safety concern for visually impaired individuals, alerting users to potential water-related obstacles or hazards and allowing them to navigate around them effectively.

In this project, we will delve into the hardware specifications, design considerations, and functionality of the Ultrasonic Blind Stick with GPS, SOS (an emergency alarm) and Water Sensor integration. Through careful planning and implementation, we aim to create a reliable and user-friendly solution that significantly improves the mobility and quality of life for visually impaired individuals.

With its multifaceted capabilities and user-centric design, the Ultrasonic Blind Stick represents a significant step forward in assistive technology, offering greater safety, independence, and peace of mind for individuals with visual impairments.

Keywords:

GPS-Enabled, Blind Stick, Ultrasonic Technology, visually challenged.

Gap:

A Ultrasonic blind sticks with GPS tracking have emerged as valuable tools for visually impaired individuals, offering obstacle detection and location tracking for increased independence and safety. However, several research gaps remain that present opportunities for further development and improvement.

Obstacle Detection:

- Limited Range: Current ultrasonic sensors often have limited detection ranges, potentially missing overhead obstacles or those further away. Research on long-range, multi-directional sensors with improved accuracy and sensitivity is needed.
- Material Dependency: Ultrasonic waves can be reflected differently by various materials, impacting accuracy. Research on material recognition or alternative obstacle detection methods like LiDAR could enhance reliability.
- Complex Environments: Current systems struggle in cluttered environments with many obstacles or sound reflections. Research on filtering algorithms and advanced signal processing is crucial for accurate navigation in complex settings.
- Indoor Navigation: GPS signals are often weak or unavailable indoors, limiting usability in buildings. Research on alternative indoor positioning systems like Bluetooth beacons or ultra-wideband (UWB) technology is needed for seamless indoor navigation.

GPS Tracking:

- Privacy Concerns: Sharing GPS location raises privacy concerns. Research on secure data transmission, user-controlled access, and anonymous location tracking methods is essential.
- Emergency Response: Current systems might not provide real-time emergency alerts or integrate with emergency response services. Research on integrating fall detection, panic buttons, and direct communication with emergency responders could improve safety.

Additional Features and Usability:

- Sensory Feedback: While beeps are common, alternative haptic or auditory feedback options tailored to user preferences could improve obstacle perception and spatial awareness.
- Integration with Other Assistive Technologies: Integration with smartphones, smart home systems, or other assistive technologies could offer additional functionalities and improve user experience.
- Cost and Accessibility: Current systems can be expensive, limiting accessibility for many users. Research on cost-effective designs and production methods is crucial for wider adoption.

Ethical Considerations:

- User Acceptance and Training: Research on user acceptance, training methods, and the psychological impact of using such technologies is crucial for successful implementation.
- Bias and Discrimination: Potential biases in obstacle detection algorithms or exclusion of specific user groups must be addressed to ensure inclusivity and fair access.

By addressing these research gaps, ultrasonic blind sticks with GPS tracking can become even more effective, reliable, and accessible, empowering visually impaired individuals to navigate their surroundings with greater confidence and independence.

Objective:

Ultrasonic blind stick with GPS tracking is to provide visually impaired individuals with an advanced mobility aid that incorporates ultrasonic sensors to detect obstacles in their path, along with GPS tracking to help them navigate unfamiliar environments more independently. The key objectives of this innovative device include:

Alert users to potential hazards: The water sensor provides real-time alerts to users, allowing them to detect and avoid water-related obstacles or hazards in their path.

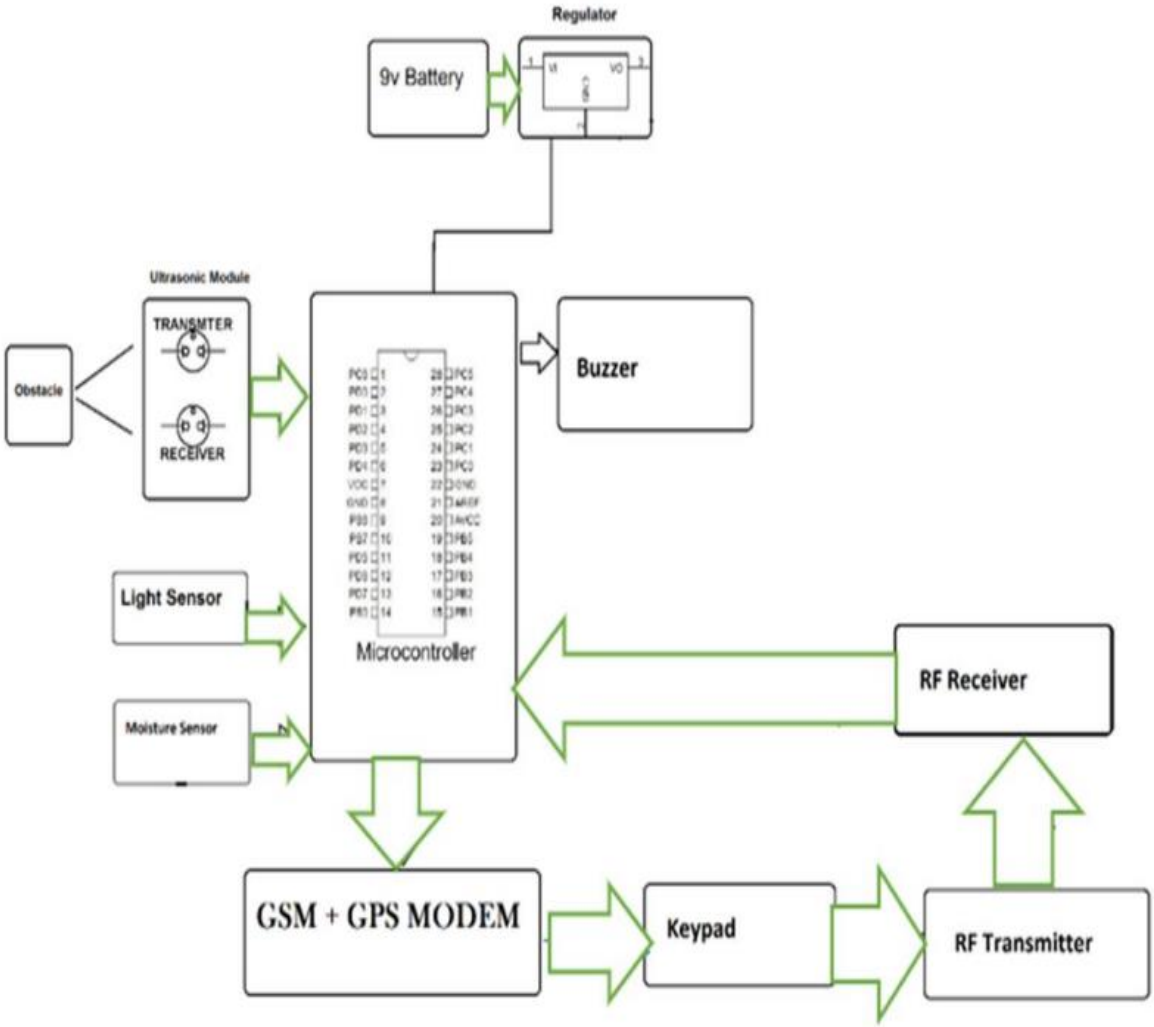
Facilitate safer navigation: By integrating with GPS technology, the device can adjust navigation routes to avoid water hazards, ensuring users reach their destinations safely and efficiently.

Enable quick response in emergencies: In situations where users encounter water hazards or require assistance, the SOS feature can be activated, notifying designated contacts or emergency services with the user's precise location. Also there is an emergency helping button which splits the sound of emergency buzzer in nearby surrounding so that nearby people aware about it helping the visually impaired person.

Enhance durability and reliability: The inclusion of a water sensor reinforces the device's durability and resilience to outdoor elements, ensuring reliable performance in various weather conditions.

By combining these objectives, the ultrasonic blind stick with GPS tracking seeks to offer an innovative solution that addresses the unique needs of visually impaired individuals, ultimately improving their mobility, safety, and overall quality of life.

Block Diagram:



Components and supplies:

Hardware Specifications:-

- 9v Battery
- Regulator
- Buzzer
- Microcontroller (Node MCU & Ardiuno nano)
- Ultrasonic module
- obstacle
- Light Sensor
- Water sensor
- GSM+GPS Modem
- Push Button
- Resistors
- Capacitors
- Diodes
- SOS button
- “HELP” sound buzzer

Software Specifications:-

- Arduino ide
- MC Programming Language: C
- IFTTT application.

Conclusion:

The "Ultrasonic Blind Stick with GPS Tracking System" proposes an efficient electronic system for guidance of a blind person. The system is based on the design and developments of a smart stick for visually impaired people to provide them with ease, confidence and to gain independence in an efficient and cost-effective way.

Integrating a water sensor into an ultrasonic blind stick equipped with GPS and SOS functionality represents a significant advancement with an emergency alarm in assistive technology for visually impaired individuals which help them to take helps from surrounding in critical condition. By combining these features, the device enhances safety and independence during outdoor navigation.

The water sensor provides real-time alerts about water hazards, enabling users to detect and avoid potential obstacles in their surroundings. This proactive approach to hazard detection significantly reduces the risk of accidents and improves overall safety.

Furthermore, the integration with GPS technology allows for dynamic route adjustments to circumvent water hazards, ensuring users reach their destinations efficiently and without unnecessary risks.

In emergencies, the SOS feature becomes invaluable, enabling users to quickly summon assistance by sending out distress signals along with precise location information to designated contacts or emergency services.

In essence, the incorporation of a water sensor into the blind stick not only enhances safety but also promotes greater confidence and independence for visually impaired individuals, empowering them to navigate outdoor environments with ease and peace of mind.

Reference:

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