1. Description of the Problem

Many microwaves have cluttered control panels with small, unclear buttons that make simple tasks frustrating. Users often struggle with:

* Too many buttons with vague labels (e.g., "Power Level," "Sensor Cook").
* Non-intuitive time-setting mechanisms (e.g., having to press "Time Cook" before entering a number).
* Lack of consistency across different models.
* Overuse of abbreviations or symbols that aren't self-explanatory.

Example: A common scenario is someone trying to heat food for 30 seconds but needing to press multiple buttons instead of a simple "Start" or "Quick Start."

2. Usability Critique

* Efficiency: Takes too long to start heating compared to alternatives (e.g., smartphone-controlled appliances).
* Cognitive Load: Users must remember multiple steps for a basic task.
* Learnability: First-time users struggle without reading the manual.
* Accessibility: Small text and crowded buttons make it difficult for elderly users or those with vision impairments.

3. Proposed Solution

A redesigned microwave interface with:

* Simplified Controls: Large, easy-to-read buttons for essential functions like "Start," "30 sec," "Defrost," and "Power."
* Smart Defaults: The most common actions (e.g., heating for 30 seconds) should be available with one button press.
* Better Visual Feedback: A digital display that shows clear instructions and a progress bar.
* Voice Control & App Integration: Users could say "Heat for 2 minutes" or control settings from a smartphone.
* Customizable Favorites: Buttons that allow users to save their most-used settings (e.g., "Reheat Coffee").