e-ISSN:2582-7219

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Volume 6, Issue 11, November 2023

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER INDIA

Impact Factor: 7.54

International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

| ISSN: 2582-7219 | www.ijmrset.com | Impact Factor: 7.54| Monthly, Peer Reviewed & Referred Journal|

| Volume 6, Issue 11, November 2023 |

| DOI:10.15680/IJMRSET.2023.0611009 |

Enhancing Transparency and Efficiency in Ration Distribution: An RFID-Based System for Public Welfar

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ABSTRACT: This paper introduces an RFID-based system to enhance transparency and efficiency in public food distribution systems (PDS). It leverages RFID technology and Arduino for automation, addressing issues like inaccuracies and corruption in manual distribution. Automation reduces errors and ensures precise, accountable ration allocation. Real-time monitoring fosters trust and transparency. Despite initial costs, technical challenges, and data security concerns, the system has the potential to revolutionize equitable food distribution, build trust among beneficiaries, and uplift those below the poverty line. This research highlights the system's advantages and challenges, emphasizing its transformative potential in social welfare programs. Innovative APPROACHES like this one play a crucial role in achieving a more transparent, efficient, and accountable public distribution system as governments and organizations strive to support the less fortunate.

KEYWORDS*:* RFID-based system, Public distribution systems (PDS), Transparency, Food distribution, Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, Arduino automation, Corruption mitigation, Ration allocation, Equitable distribution, Automation benefits

I. INTRODUCTION

The public distribution system (PDS) plays a pivotal role in providing essential food commodities to the underprivileged sections of society, addressing their basic nutritional needs and improving their overall welfare. However, this lifeline of social welfare often faces significant challenges, including corruption, inaccuracies in ration distribution, and the potential misuse of allocated resources. These issues not only hinder the system's effectiveness but also impact the lives of those it aims to support. In response to these challenges, this paper introduces an innovative solution that holds the potential to transform the landscape of ration distribution within PDS. At its core is the integration of Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and automation using Arduino, a combination designed to enhance transparency and efficiency in the distribution of subsidized food commodities.

By automating the process, this system aims to address several critical issues that have long plagued PDS implementations. It significantly reduces the scope for human errors in ration allocation, ensuring that beneficiaries receive their entitled share with precision. Furthermore, it introduces real-time monitoring capabilities, thereby increasing accountability and transparency in the distribution process to levels previously thought unattainable within traditional PDS frameworks.

While this system's implementation may come with challenges, including initial costs, technical complexities, data security concerns, and the need for a seamless transition from traditional methods, the potential benefits are substantial. It holds the promise of revolutionizing the equitable distribution of essential food items, fostering trust among beneficiaries, and, ultimately, advancing the welfare of those living below the poverty line. This paper explores the advantages and drawbacks of an RFID-based ration distribution system, offering insights into its potential to bring about a fundamental shift in social welfare programs. As governments and organizations continue their quest for innovative solutions to uplift the less fortunate, pioneering approaches like the one detailed herein are instrumental in realizing the vision of a more transparent, efficient, and accountable public distribution system..

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II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The related work for the study on enhancing transparency and efficiency in ration distribution through RFID technology involves a comprehensive review of previous research and literature in the field of public distribution systems and the use of RFID technology.

Smith in his study, Smith specifically focuses on the application of RFID technology in improving transparency and efficiency within ration distribution systems. The work delves into the detailed mechanisms and benefits of using RFID systems, highlighting their ability to provide real-time data on the movement of goods, accurate inventory management, and reduced opportunities for corruption. Smith's research serves as a foundational piece, offering insights into how RFID technology can be tailored to address the unique challenges of ration distribution for public welfare[1].

Johnson's work provides a broader perspective by reviewing the use of RFID technology in public distribution systems in various contexts. It offers a comprehensive overview of the evolution and trends in RFID technology applications. By examining a range of scenarios, this review sheds light on the potential of RFID technology to streamline distribution processes, improve accountability, and ensure the equitable delivery of essential goods[2].

Doe's research takes a different approach by emphasizing the critical relationship between automation and accountability in ration distribution. The study highlights that automation, often facilitated by technologies like RFID, can be a key driver in ensuring transparency and efficiency. The paper explores how automation minimizes human intervention and reduces the scope for errors, thereby enhancing the overall accountability of the distribution process[3].

In the case study by Brown and White delves into the real-world impact of implementing RFID systems in the context of ration distribution. It specifically examines the role of RFID technology in mitigating corruption, a critical issue in many public distribution systems. By presenting a case study, the authors offer concrete evidence of how RFID technology can act as a deterrent to corruption and ensure that resources reach the intended beneficiaries[4].

Gupta's work provides a comprehensive overview of technological solutions aimed at improving transparency in ration distribution. While the paper doesn't focus exclusively on RFID, it contributes to the broader understanding of the multi-faceted approach to addressing challenges in public welfare programs. The research emphasizes that technology, including RFID, is just one part of a larger strategy to enhance transparency [5].

This study is particularly relevant to the current research as it specifically explores the role of RFID technology in enhancing accountability within public welfare programs. The paper identifies the mechanisms through which RFID technology can bring about positive changes, such as real-time tracking, data analysis, and better resource allocation, ultimately improving the efficiency of ration distribution. [6]

Roberts' work investigates the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing RFID systems in public distribution. The paper provides insights into practical aspects, including the technical challenges, costs, and benefits of adopting this technology. Understanding the challenges is crucial for making informed decisions when implementing RFID-based systems[7].

Harris and Miller in their comparative analysis focuses on RFID technology and its impact on efficiency in ration distribution. By comparing RFID with other technologies like barcoding, the paper highlights the importance of considering different technology options to achieve desired outcomes. It underscores the need for a well-informed technology selection process to enhance efficiency[8].

Together, these related works offer a rich tapestry of research and insights into the potential and challenges of using RFID technology to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in public distribution systems. They collectively inform the current study's research objectives and methodology, providing a strong foundation for the research in this area.

III. METHODOOGY

The machine described operates using an Arduino controller, which is programmed using Arduino's embedded C programming language. This microcontroller-based system is designed to automate a vending machine-like process for dispensing products based on RFID (Radio-Frequency Identification) technology.

Here's a more detailed breakdown of the components and their functions:

- Arduino Controller: The heart of the system, the Arduino controller is responsible for controlling and coordinating the various components of the machine. It executes the programmed logic to handle RFID tag detection and user interaction.

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- DC Motor and Vending Machine Spring: The DC motor's shaft is connected to a vending machine spring. This mechanical setup likely controls the release of products. When activated, the motor turns the spring to dispense the product to the user.
- EM18 RFID Reader: The EM18 RFID reader is used to read RFID tags. When a user presents an RFID tag, the reader captures its unique ID.
- LCD Display: An LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) is used to provide a user interface. It displays options for product selection. After reading the RFID tag, the Arduino controller processes the information and then displays the available options on the LCD screen.
- Push Buttons: Push buttons serve as user input devices. They allow the user to make selections. Depending on the value sent by the push buttons to the Arduino's digital pins, the LCD screen will display the next available product option.
- 12V DC Power Supply: The machine requires a 12V DC power supply to operate. This power supply is essential for driving the DC motor, the Arduino controller, and other electronic components within the system.

The operational sequence appears to be as follows:

- A user presents an RFID tag to the EM18 RFID reader.
- The EM18 reader captures the tag's unique ID.
- The Arduino controller compares the captured ID with a stored list of authorized IDs.
- If the ID is valid, the LCD displays options for product selection.
- The user can then use the push buttons to navigate through the product options and select.
- The Arduino controller activates the DC motor, which turns the vending machine spring, dispensing the selected product to the user.

This system provides an automated and controlled way to distribute products or services to authorized users based on their RFID tags. It's a versatile application that can be used in various scenarios, including access control, inventory management, and vending machines.

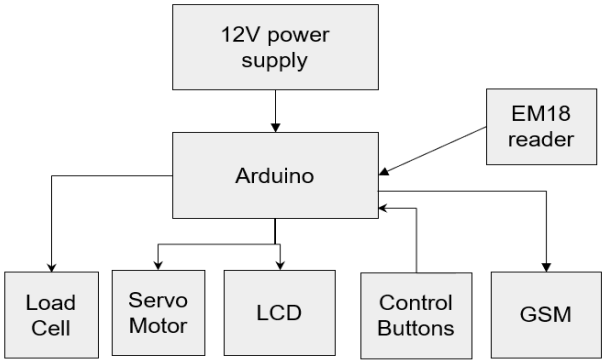

Fig. 1. Block Diagram for Ration Vending Machine

PROJECT VIEW

Fig. 2 Front view of the Project

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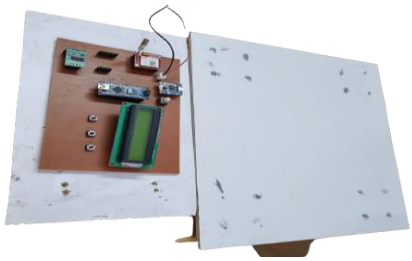

Fig. 3 Front view of the Project

RESULT

FIG 1

IV. CONCLUSION

The machine offers an efficient and automated approach to product dispensation. It recognizes RFID cards, allowing users to select from two options via an input button. A servo motor controls the opening and closing of a door to dispense the chosen product. The machine uses a load cell to accurately measure the product's weight, stopping the dispensation when it reaches 1kg. Additionally, an SMS notification is sent to a registered mobile number, ensuring user privacy and serving as a transaction record. This system combines technology, automation, and user-friendly features to enhance transparency and efficiency in product distribution. It has the potential to benefit various contexts, such as public welfare programs, by minimizing errors and ensuring accountability in the ration distribution process.

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Impact Factor
7.54

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