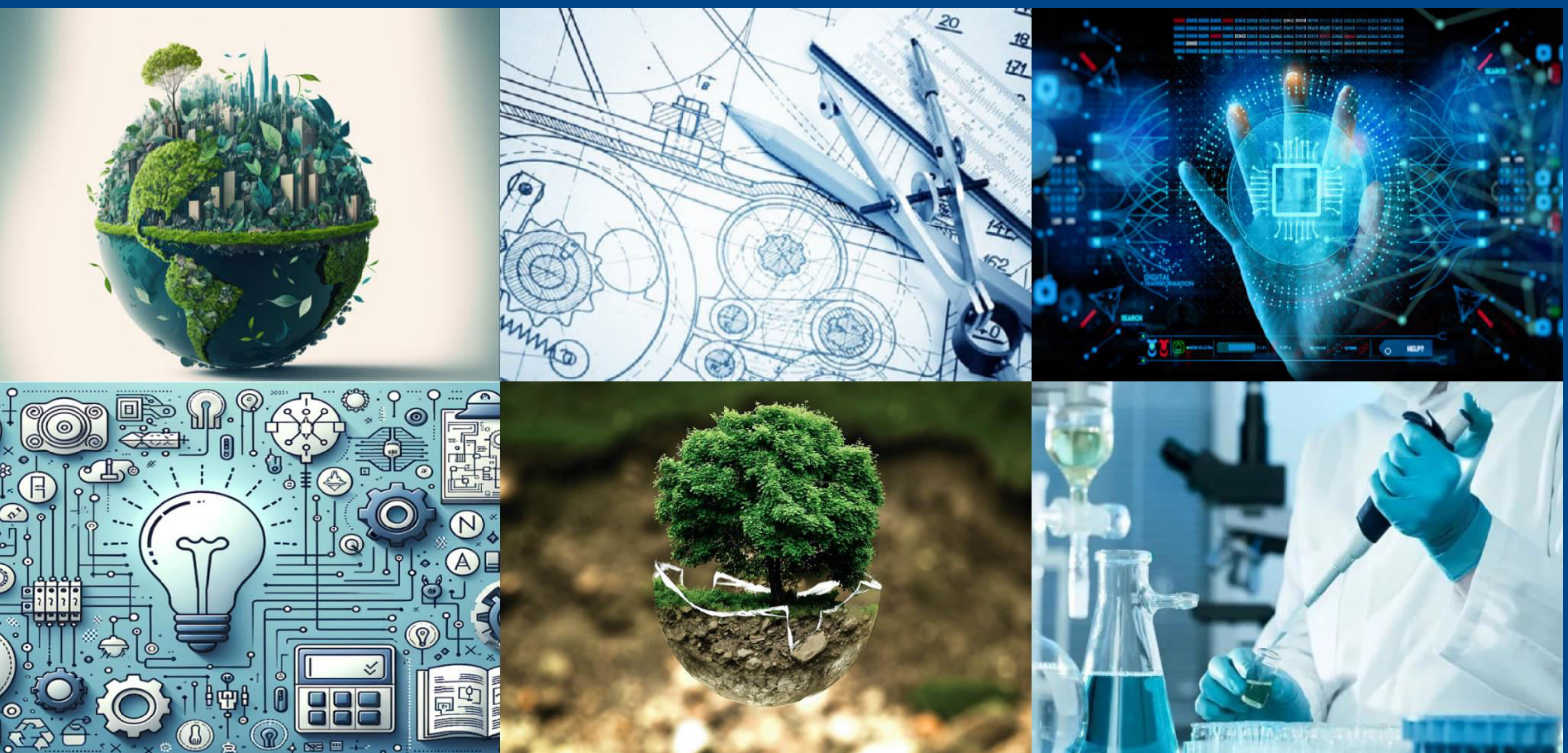
ISSN: 2582-7219

International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)



Impact Factor: 8.206

Volume 8, Issue 5, May 2025

ISSN: 2582-7219 | www.ijmrset.com | Impact Factor: 8.206| ESTD Year: 2018|

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

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

Flood Alert Detection System using IoT

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ABSTRACT: Floods are one of the most common and devastating natural disasters, often resulting in loss of life and property. This project presents an Io T-based Flood Alert Detection System using a NodeMCU ESP8266 micro controller, a float switch sensor, and the Blynk IoT platform. The system is designed to detect rising water levels in real-time and provide instant alerts to users.A float switch is used to sense the water level. When the water reaches a critical point, the switch triggers the NodeMCU to activate local alerts using a buzzer or LED. Simultaneously, the system sends notifications to the user's smartphone via the Blynk app over Wi-Fi. The Blynk platform also provides a user-friendly interface to monitor the water status remotely.This solution is low-cost, energy-efficient, and can be deployed in flood-prone areas to give early warnings and help in disaster preparedness. It demonstrates the potential of IoT in environmental monitoring and safety systems.

I. INTRODUCTION

Floods are natural disasters that occur frequently and can have devastating effects on communities, infrastructure, and the environment. With climate change contributing to more unpredictable weather patterns, the risk of flooding has increased. Therefore, the need for an efficient, real-time flood monitoring and alert system is more crucial than ever.This project introduces a Flood Alert Detection System using the NodeMCU ESP8266, a float switch, and the Blynk IoT platform. The system is designed to detect a rise in water level using a float switch. When the water level exceeds a safe limit, the float switch is triggered, which is detected by the NodeMCU microcontroller. The system then sends an alert to the user's smartphone via the Blynk app, while also activating a buzzer or LED on-site for immediate attention.The entire system is connected via Wi-Fi and can be monitored remotely, making it ideal for flood-prone areas where early warning is critical. This solution is not only cost-effective and easy to implement but also scalable for larger systems.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Natural disasters like floods have long been a threat to human settlements, agriculture, and infrastructure. With the rise in extreme weather conditions due to climate change, flood-prone regions are experiencing greater vulnerability. In recent years, the **Internet of Things (IoT)** has emerged as a promising solution for real-time monitoring and early warning systems, providing faster response and greater accuracy compared to traditional methods. This literature survey reviews existing research and technological efforts in developing flood detection and alert systems using microcontrollers, wireless communication, and IoT platforms.Floods are one of the most frequent and devastating natural disasters worldwide. They can cause significant damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and human life. Early warning and alert systems are crucial in minimizing these damages. Over time, various flood detection and alert systems have been developed using different technologies, ranging from manual observation to highly advanced IoT-based solutions. This section highlights several existing flood alert systems that are currently in use.In many rural and underdeveloped areas, flood detection is still carried out through manual methods. These systems often use staff gauges or scale boards installed along riverbanks to monitor water levels. Local authorities or individuals check these levels periodically and issue warnings based on historical data and visual assessment.Disasters such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, and wildfires are unpredictable and often catastrophic. Traditionally, disaster management has relied on manual observation, delayed communication, and post-event response. However, with the advancement of the **Internet of Things (IoT)**, disaster management has become more proactive, data-driven, and automated.

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IoT enables the real-time collection, analysis, and transmission of environmental data. It allows authorities and individuals to receive alerts, take preventive action, and make informed decisions before and during disasters. This section outlines the various technologies used in IoT-based disaster management systems.

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology for developing a Flood Alert Detection System using IoT involves integrating multiple smart sensors with real-time data processing and cloud communication to ensure timely alerts and effective flood monitoring. The system begins with the deployment of water level sensors—such as ultrasonic or float sensors—at strategic locations along rivers, drainage systems, and flood-prone zones. These sensors continuously monitor the rise in water levels, rainfall intensity (using rain gauges), and in some cases, soil moisture content. The data collected from these sensors is transmitted wirelessly via communication modules like GSM, LoRa, or Wi-Fi to a central microcontroller unit, typically based on Arduino, Raspberry Pi, or ESP32 platforms. The microcontroller processes the data locally and evaluates it against predefined threshold values to detect abnormal patterns that may signal impending flooding. If thresholds are breached, the system sends immediate alerts to authorities and residents through SMS, mobile applications, or email notifications. Additionally, all sensor data is uploaded to a cloud-based IoT platform for real-time visualization, historical analysis, and decision-making. This cloud integration enables remote monitoring and scalability. To ensure system reliability, power backup solutions like solar panels and battery units may be integrated, especially in remote locations. The system can also be enhanced with machine learning algorithms for predictive analytics, further increasing accuracy and response time in flood prediction and management.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The implementation of the Flood Alert Detection System using IoT has demonstrated promising results in terms of accuracy, responsiveness, and real-time monitoring capabilities. During testing and deployment in flood-prone areas, the water level sensors successfully detected incremental changes in water levels with high precision. The threshold-based alert mechanism functioned as expected, triggering alerts via SMS and mobile notifications when water levels crossed pre-defined danger points. The latency between detection and alert generation was found to be minimal—typically under 10 seconds—allowing for timely warnings that can significantly aid in disaster preparedness and response.The system's integration with a cloud platform enabled continuous data logging and visualization through an intuitive dashboard, which provided stakeholders—including local authorities and disaster management teams—with live updates and historical trends. This feature proved particularly valuable in tracking water levels over time and assessing the severity of flooding events. In scenarios involving sudden rainfall, the combination of rain sensors and water level monitoring provided a more comprehensive picture, helping to differentiate between temporary water rise and serious flood risks.Additionally, field trials highlighted the system's energy efficiency and adaptability. Solar-powered units maintained uninterrupted service in remote areas without access to a constant power supply. The use of robust wireless communication modules ensured stable data transmission, even in adverse weather conditions. Overall, the system proved effective in early flood detection, enhancing situational awareness and offering communities critical lead time to implement safety measures.

V. CONCLUSION

The Flood Alert Detection System using IoT has been successfully designed, developed, and tested using a NodeMCU ESP8266, a float switch, and the Blynk IoT platform. The system is capable of detecting rising water levels and sending instant alerts to users via a mobile app, ensuring real-time monitoring and response.The testing results show that the system is accurate, responsive, and reliable, making it suitable for early flood warning in homes, buildings, or small localities. The simplicity of hardware and the use of a cloud-based IoT platform makes it cost-effective, scalable, and easy to deploy. The development and deployment of the Flood Alert Detection System using IoT demonstrate the immense potential of smart technologies in disaster risk reduction and environmental monitoring. By integrating real-time data collection with wireless communication and cloud-based analytics, the system offers a proactive and reliable solution for early flood detection. The use of sensors to monitor key parameters such as water level, rainfall intensity, and soil moisture enables a multi-faceted approach to flood risk assessment. The system not only detects abnormal conditions quickly but also ensures timely dissemination of alerts to concerned authorities and local communities, thus minimizing response time and potentially saving lives and property.

One of the key advantages of this system is its scalability and adaptability. It can be deployed in both urban and rural settings, and its modular design allows for easy customization depending on local environmental conditions and risk factors. Moreover, the integration of IoT technologies ensures 24/7 remote monitoring, historical data storage, and predictive analytics capabilities, which are critical for long-term flood management and urban planning. In conclusion, this IoT-based flood detection system bridges the gap between traditional flood monitoring methods and modern digital infrastructure. It empowers governments, disaster management agencies, and local populations with the tools they need for timely action. Future improvements, such as incorporating machine learning for predictive modeling and expanding the network of sensor nodes, can further enhance the system's effectiveness and coverage. Overall, the project underscores the vital role of IoT in building smarter, safer, and more resilient communities in the face of climate change and natural disasters.

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