IJETIR
ISSN (Online) 2583-0554
International Journal of Emerging Technologies and Innovative Research (IJETIR)
Volume 5, Issue 12, December 2025
Impact Factor: 5.731

Smart Blind Stick for Visually Impaired Individuals: A Multi-Sensor Assistive Technology

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Abstract: *This paper presents a smart assistive device designed to aid visually impaired individuals in navigating their environment with enhanced safety and independence. The proposed Smart Blind Stick integrates multiple components including ultrasonic sensors, a microcontroller, GPS, voice output, vibration motor, light sensor, and wireless connectivity to provide real-time feedback, location tracking, and environmental awareness. The system is cost-effective, portable, and adaptable, making it suitable for real-world deployment in diverse settings. The prototype was tested under various conditions, demonstrating its effectiveness and user-friendly functionality.*

Keywords*:* Assistive devices, visually impaired, smart stick, ultrasonic sensor, GPS tracking, embedded system, haptic feedback, IoT.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health Organization, more than 285 million people worldwide are visually impaired, many of whom rely on traditional white canes for mobility. While effective in detecting immediate obstacles, white canes lack features such as environmental awareness, location tracking, and intelligent feedback. This research proposes a comprehensive, low-cost Smart Blind Stick that incorporates modern sensing and communication technologies to address these limitations and provide a safer, more efficient navigation experience for visually impaired users.

II. RELATED WORK

Several attempts have been made to enhance mobility aids using ultrasonic sensors [1], GPS [2], and voice guidance systems [3]. However, many existing solutions focus on a single sensing modality or suffer from limitations such as high cost, lack of portability, or limited user feedback. Our system extends existing solutions by combining multiple sensors and communication features into one compact and efficient device.

III. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The Smart Blind Stick system consists of the following major components:

IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND TESTING

The system was developed using off-the-shelf electronic components and programmed using the Arduino IDE. Power is provided by a rechargeable 3.7V lithium-ion battery. Integration of all components was achieved through breadboarding and later implemented on a custom PCB.
Testing was conducted in both indoor and outdoor environments.

V. ADVANTAGES AND APPLICATIONS

- Enhanced Mobility: Users receive timely feedback through audio and haptic signals.
- Location Awareness: Caregivers can track the user's movements in real time.
- Adaptability: Works efficiently in both silent and noisy environments.

- Safety at Night: Automatically turns on lighting in low-visibility conditions.
- User Friendly: The companion mobile app simplifies monitoring and usage.

VI. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE WORK

Current limitations include reduced GPS accuracy in densely built environments and limited obstacle classification. Future improvements involve integrating AI-based object recognition using cameras, expanding app functionality with voice commands, and reducing size and weight.

VII. CONCLUSION

The proposed Smart Blind Stick represents a significant advancement in assistive technology for visually impaired individuals. By combining ultrasonic detection, GPS tracking, voice output, vibration feedback, and wireless connectivity, the device enhances user safety and independence. Its modular and cost-effective design makes it accessible for large-scale deployment.

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