Indian Journal of Computer Science and Technology
Volume 5, Issue1 (January-April 2026), PP: 396-399.
www.indjcst.com
ISSN No: 2583-5300

Implementation of Smart Assistance System for Deaf and Dumb Using Flex Sensor and Arduino

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To Cite this Article: *T. Jansi Rani*1, R. Durga Lakshmi*2, S. Lakshaya*3, B. Roshni*4, "Implementation of Smart Assistance System for Deaf and Dumb Using Flex Sensor and Arduino", Indian Journal of Computer Science and Technology, Volume 05, Issue 01 (January-April 2026), PP: 396-399.*

Abstract: *Smart hand gloves help physically disabled people to communicate with normal people. Since a dumb person cannot speak, this smart glove helps convert hand gestures into text or prerecorded voice output. This helps normal people understand what the user is trying to communicate and respond accordingly. The smart glove also includes a home appliance control feature, through which a physically impaired person can become more independent in daily life. The main objective of this implemented system is to develop a reliable, easy-to-use, and lightweight smart glove system that minimizes communication barriers for disabled people.*
Communication is a major challenge for speech and hearing-impaired (deaf and dumb) individuals, as they primarily rely on hand gestures and sign language to express their thoughts. Since most people are unfamiliar with sign language, effective interaction becomes difficult. To overcome this problem, this project proposes a smart hand glove system using flex sensor technology to assist physically challenged individuals in communicating with normal people.
The proposed system integrates flex sensors into a wearable glove to detect finger movements corresponding to predefined sign language gestures. These sensor values are processed by an embedded microcontroller, which identifies the gesture and converts it into meaningful text and prerecorded voice output. The generated text is displayed on a screen, while the audio output is produced through a speaker, enabling clear and real-time communication.
The smart hand glove is lightweight, portable, and easy to use. Additionally, it supports basic home appliance control using specific hand gestures, promoting independent living. The proposed system provides a cost-effective, reliable, and efficient assistive solution that enhances communication and improves the quality of life of physically challenged individuals.
Furthermore, the proposed system is designed to operate in real-time with minimal delay, ensuring quick and accurate response to user gestures. The use of flex sensors reduces dependency on complex camera-based systems and makes the device suitable for daily use. The system can be further enhanced by increasing the number of recognizable gestures and integrating wireless features such as Bluetooth or mobile applications. Overall, this smart hand glove system represents an effective assistive technology that reduces communication barriers and supports independent living for speech and hearing-impaired individuals.

Key Words: *Smart Hand Glove, Flex Sensor, Arduino, Sign Language, Embedded System, Gesture Recognition, Assistive Technology, Wearable Device.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Communication plays a vital role in human interaction and social development. However, for individuals affected by speech and hearing impairments, communication with others remains a major challenge. People who are deaf and mute mainly rely on sign language and hand gestures to express their thoughts and needs. Unfortunately, the majority of people are not familiar with sign language, which creates a communication gap between speech and hearing-impaired individuals and the general public. This limitation often leads to misunderstandings, reduced independence, and social isolation for physically challenged individuals.

In recent years, technological advancements in embedded systems and sensor technologies have provided new opportunities to develop assistive communication devices. Various approaches such as camera-based gesture recognition and vision-based systems have been proposed to interpret hand gestures. Although these systems provide accurate results, they are often complex, expensive, and sensitive to environmental conditions such as lighting and background noise. As a result, there is a growing need for a simple, portable, cost-effective, and reliable communication system that can operate efficiently in real-time.

Wearable technology has emerged as an effective solution to address these challenges. In particular, glove-based systems using flex sensors have gained attention due to their ability to accurately detect finger bending and hand movements. Flex sensors are lightweight, flexible, and capable of measuring variations in resistance when bent, making them suitable for capturing gesture patterns. By integrating flex sensors with microcontrollers such as Arduino or ESP32, it is possible to process gesture data and convert it into meaningful outputs such as text and voice.

This paper proposes the design and implementation of a smart assistance system for deaf and dumb individuals using flex sensors and an embedded microcontroller. The proposed system detects hand gestures using flex sensors mounted on a glove and processes the sensor data to recognize predefined gestures. Once recognized, the gestures are converted into text displayed on an LCD or mobile device and corresponding voice output through a speaker. Additionally, the system supports basic home appliance control, enabling users to operate electrical devices using specific gestures, thereby promoting independent living.

The proposed system aims to provide an efficient, portable, and user-friendly assistive solution that reduces communication barriers and improves the quality of life for speech and hearing-impaired individuals. By combining wearable sensor technology with embedded processing, the system ensures reliable gesture recognition with minimal delay and improved usability in real-world environments.

In addition to improving communication, the proposed system also focuses on enhancing user comfort and system reliability. The wearable glove is designed to be lightweight and flexible, allowing users to perform gestures without difficulty during daily activities. The integration of predefined gesture patterns ensures consistent performance and reduces errors during communication. Moreover, the modular design of the system allows future expansion, such as adding more gesture commands, improving processing speed, and integrating wireless communication technologies. These enhancements make the proposed smart glove system adaptable for future developments and suitable for real-world applications.

II.LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature Review (Last 5 Years)

Year	Study Title	Key Idea	Limitation
2021	Smart Glove for Sign Language Translation	Flex sensors for text output	Limited gestures only
2022	IoT-Based Assistive System for Deaf & Dumb	Sensors & Arduino for real-time	Internet dependency
2023	Hand Gesture Recognition using ML	Camera with ML model	High cost, lighting issues
2024	Wearable Smart Glove with Voice Output	Flex sensors with voice output	Accuracy & calibration
2025	Real-Time Gesture System with Embedded	Embedded system for fast response	Complex & costly

The literature survey highlights various research works related to smart glove and gesture recognition systems for deaf and dumb individuals. Most existing systems focus on either gesture recognition or text/voice output individually and suffer from limitations such as high cost, limited gesture support, and calibration issues. There is limited research on developing a simple and portable system that integrates gesture recognition with both text output.

III.METHODOLOGY

The proposed system is developed using a wearable glove-based approach that integrates flex sensor technology, microcontroller processing, and output generation modules. The system allows users to communicate using hand gesture input detected through flex sensors mounted on the glove.

Flex Sensor Input Module

The flex sensor input module detects finger bending movements using flex sensors placed on each finger of the glove. Flex sensors operate based on the principle of variable resistance, where resistance changes when the sensor bends. The change in resistance produces different voltage values corresponding to specific hand gestures. These signals are sent to the microcontroller for further processing.

Microcontroller Processing Module

The processing module consists of an Arduino microcontroller that reads the analog signals generated by the flex sensors. The inbuilt Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC) converts the analog signals into digital values. These values are compared with predefined gesture patterns stored in the system memory. Once the values match a stored pattern, the system identifies the corresponding gesture.

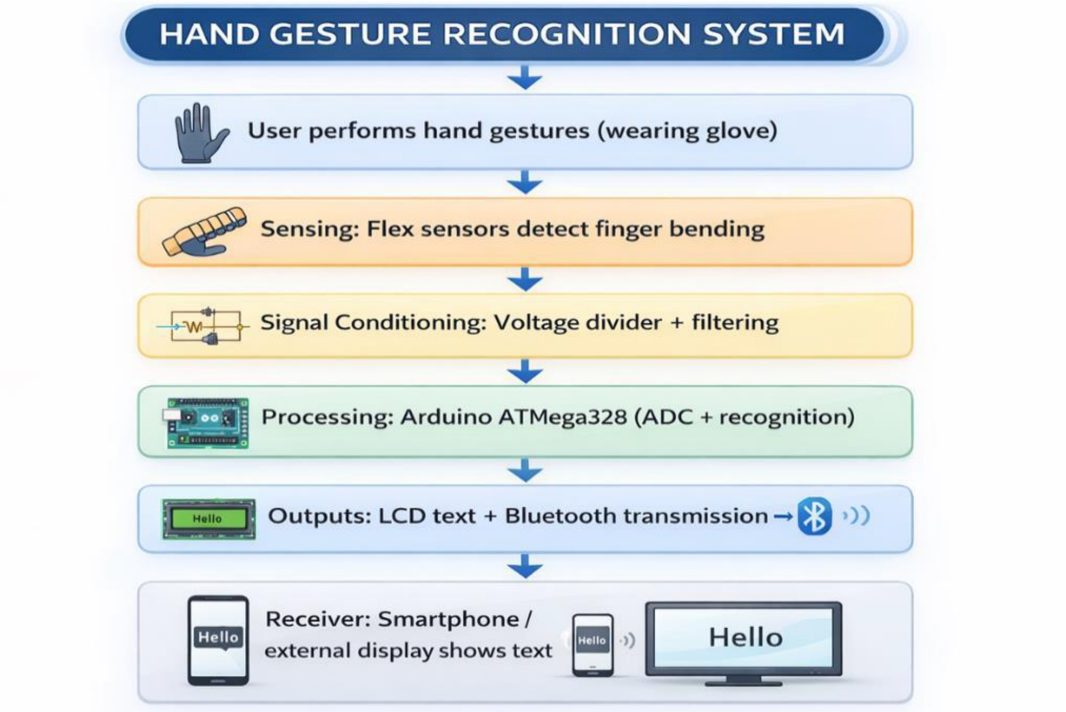
Calibration and Gesture Mapping Module

The calibration and gesture mapping module is used to improve the accuracy of gesture recognition. During this stage, initial sensor readings are collected for different finger positions to determine the minimum and maximum bending values of each flex sensor. These values are analyzed to define threshold ranges corresponding to specific hand gestures. Each gesture is then mapped to a predefined text message and voice output stored in the microcontroller memory. This calibration process reduces errors caused by sensor variations and ensures reliable detection of gestures during real-time operation.

Output and Appliance Control Module

The output module converts the recognized gesture into text and prerecorded voice output. The text is displayed on an LCD screen, while the voice output is generated through a speaker module. Additionally, specific gestures are assigned to control home appliances such as lights and fans using relay modules. This functionality enables independent operation of devices by physically challenged users.

IV.MODELING AND ANALYSIS



The architecture diagram illustrates the working process of a Hand Gesture Recognition System that converts hand movements into readable text. When the user performs gestures wearing a glove, flex sensors detect finger bending and generate electrical signals, which are refined through signal conditioning circuits for accurate data processing.

The conditioned signals are processed by the Arduino ATmega328 microcontroller, where gesture recognition takes place using ADC and programmed logic. The recognized output is then displayed as text on an LCD and transmitted via Bluetooth to a smartphone or external display for real-time communication.

V.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed Smart Assistance System for Deaf and Dumb was successfully implemented using flex sensors, an Arduino microcontroller, and output modules such as LCD and speaker. The system detects finger bending movements through flex sensors and converts them into text and voice output to enable effective communication for speech and hearing-impaired individuals. The developed system provides a simple and user-friendly method for recognizing predefined gestures and generating outputs in real time.

Smart Glove Input System

The smart glove prototype was designed by placing flex sensors on the fingers to detect bending movements. When the user performs a gesture, the sensors produce varying resistance values that are transmitted to the Arduino microcontroller. This setup enables accurate detection of hand gestures and ensures reliable input collection for further processing.

Text Output Display

The system uses an LCD display to show text output. Once the gesture is recognized by the microcontroller, the corresponding text message is displayed on the LCD screen. This feature helps normal users understand the message conveyed by the deaf and dumb individual clearly and effectively.

Voice Output System

A speaker module is used to generate voice output. After gesture recognition, a prerecorded voice message corresponding to the detected gesture is played through the speaker. This allows the system to communicate messages audibly, improving interaction with others.

Home Appliance Control

The system also includes appliance control functionality. Specific gestures are assigned to control electrical devices such as lights and fans using relay modules. When a control gesture is detected, the corresponding appliance is turned ON or OFF, enabling independent operation for physically challenged users.

The experimental results demonstrate that the proposed system provides reliable gesture recognition with minimal delay. The system successfully converts hand gestures into both text and voice output, improving communication efficiency. Additionally, the appliance control feature enhances the independence of users in performing daily activities.

VI.CONCLUSION

The proposed Smart Assistance System for Deaf and Dumb provides an effective solution to reduce communication barriers faced by speech and hearing-impaired individuals. By using flex sensors and an Arduino microcontroller, the system converts hand gestures into text and voice output, enabling easy communication and supporting independent living through appliance control features.

The system uses embedded and sensor technologies to perform real-time gesture recognition with reliable performance. Future improvements may include adding more gesture patterns, improving accuracy, and integrating mobile or IoT-based features to enhance system functionality.

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