

An Intelligent IoT Sensor-Based Water Quality and Health Risk Monitoring Framework with Machine Learning Integration

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ABSTRACT

Ensuring safe water quality is essential for public health and environmental sustainability. Traditional monitoring methods are often time-consuming and lack real-time capabilities, limiting their effectiveness in detecting contamination. This study proposes an intelligent IoT sensor-based water quality monitoring framework integrated with machine learning techniques. The system utilizes multiple sensors to collect real-time data on key parameters such as pH, turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and total dissolved solids. Machine learning models are applied to analyze data, classify water quality, and predict potential contamination. Additionally, a health risk index is introduced to assess the safety of water for human consumption. Experimental results demonstrate high accuracy in prediction and efficient real-time performance. The proposed framework offers a scalable, cost-effective, and reliable solution for continuous water quality monitoring, enabling early detection of risks and supporting informed decision-making for improved water management and public health protection.

Keywords: Internet of Things (IoT), Water Quality Monitoring, Machine Learning, Smart Sensors, Real-Time Monitoring, Water Quality Prediction

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1. Introduction

Access to safe and clean water is a fundamental human necessity and a critical component of public health and environmental sustainability. However, rapid industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural activities have significantly degraded water resources worldwide, leading to increased contamination and associated health risks. Polluted water is a major contributor to waterborne diseases, including cholera,

dysentery, and typhoid, particularly in developing regions. Traditional water quality monitoring methods rely heavily on manual sampling and laboratory analysis, which are time-consuming, costly, and incapable of providing real-time insights. As a result, delayed detection of contaminants often exacerbates health hazards and environmental damage. Recent studies emphasize that continuous monitoring is essential to mitigate risks associated with water

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pollution and to ensure compliance with safety standards (Chinnappan et al., 2023; Özsezer & Mermer, 2024). Consequently, there is a growing need for intelligent and automated systems that can provide real-time monitoring and early warning mechanisms for water quality deterioration.

The emergence of the Internet of Things (IoT) has revolutionized environmental monitoring by enabling the deployment of interconnected sensor networks capable of collecting real-time data from water bodies. IoT-based water quality monitoring systems utilize various sensors to measure key physicochemical parameters such as pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and total dissolved solids. These systems facilitate continuous data acquisition and remote accessibility, significantly improving monitoring efficiency and scalability compared to traditional methods. Furthermore, integration with cloud computing allows for large-scale data storage and processing, enabling advanced analytics and visualization. Several studies have demonstrated that IoT-enabled systems enhance the accuracy and responsiveness of water quality assessment while reducing operational costs (Bhardwaj et al., 2022; Zulkifli et al., 2022). Despite these advancements, IoT systems alone are limited in their ability to interpret complex data patterns and predict future water quality conditions, highlighting the need for intelligent analytical techniques.

Machine learning (ML) has emerged as a powerful tool for analyzing large and complex datasets, offering capabilities such as pattern recognition, anomaly detection, and predictive modeling. When integrated with IoT-based monitoring systems, ML algorithms can significantly enhance the effectiveness of water quality management by enabling real-time prediction and decision-making. For instance, ML models such as random forests, support vector machines, and neural networks have been successfully applied to predict water quality indices and detect contamination events with high accuracy (Ahmed et al., 2019; Rahu et al., 2023). Moreover, recent research highlights the potential of combining IoT and ML to develop intelligent frameworks capable of assessing not only water quality but also associated health risks, thereby bridging the gap between environmental monitoring and public health protection (Essamlali et al., 2024; Alaka, 2025). Nevertheless, existing systems often lack a comprehensive integration of sensing, prediction, and health risk evaluation. Therefore, this study proposes an intelligent IoT sensor-based water quality monitoring framework with machine learning integration to

provide real-time analysis, predictive insights, and health risk assessment, ultimately contributing to safer and more sustainable water management practices.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Overview of Recent Research Trends

Recent advancements in water quality monitoring have increasingly focused on the integration of Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML) to enable real-time, automated, and predictive systems. Contemporary studies highlight a transition from traditional sampling-based approaches to intelligent sensor-driven frameworks capable of continuous monitoring and analysis. These systems leverage distributed sensor networks and cloud-based architectures to collect and process large volumes of environmental data efficiently. According to Dutta and Sarma (2026), the convergence of IoT and AI has significantly improved the scalability and responsiveness of water monitoring systems, allowing for dynamic decision-making and enhanced environmental sustainability. Similarly, Alaka (2025) emphasizes that ML-integrated IoT systems provide improved predictive capabilities, enabling early detection of water contamination events.

Furthermore, systematic and bibliometric reviews reveal a rapid increase in research output in this domain, particularly between 2023 and 2025. Muñoz-Alegría et al. (2025) identify key research trends such as the adoption of deep learning models, hybrid architectures, and real-time analytics for water quality prediction. In addition, the integration of remote sensing technologies with ML models has expanded monitoring capabilities beyond localized environments, supporting large-scale environmental assessments (Mohan et al., 2025). These developments demonstrate a paradigm shift toward intelligent, data-driven water management systems.

2.2 IoT-Based Water Quality Monitoring Systems

IoT-based water quality monitoring systems form the foundation of modern smart environmental monitoring frameworks. These systems employ a network of sensors to measure parameters such as pH, turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity. Recent studies highlight the effectiveness of IoT-enabled systems in providing continuous and real-time data acquisition. For instance, Flores-Iwasaki et al. (2025) conducted a comprehensive systematic review demonstrating that IoT sensor networks significantly enhance monitoring accuracy and reduce human intervention.

In addition, Olayinka et al. (2026) explored IoT-driven domestic water monitoring systems and emphasized

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their role in improving accessibility and affordability of water quality assessment. Their findings indicate that IoT architectures enable seamless data transmission and integration with cloud platforms for advanced analytics. Similarly, Adebayo et al. (2024) highlight the evolution from static sampling to dynamic monitoring systems, where IoT plays a central role in enabling real-time insights and decision-making.

Despite these advantages, several challenges remain, including sensor calibration issues, energy consumption, and network reliability. Vicente et al. (2025) note that the performance of IoT-based systems is highly dependent on sensor accuracy and communication efficiency, which can impact data reliability and system scalability.

2.3 Machine Learning Techniques for Water Quality Prediction

Machine learning has emerged as a critical component in enhancing the analytical capabilities of water quality monitoring systems. ML algorithms are widely used for classification, regression, and anomaly detection tasks, enabling accurate prediction of water quality indices and contamination levels. Recent research indicates that models such as support vector machines (SVM), random forests (RF), artificial neural networks (ANN), and deep learning techniques outperform traditional statistical methods in terms of accuracy and adaptability.

Shaheed et al. (2025) highlight that ML-based water quality index prediction models simplify complex environmental data into interpretable metrics, facilitating decision-making processes. Similarly, Lokman et al. (2025) emphasize the effectiveness of ML models in forecasting water quality trends and classifying pollution levels. Their study demonstrates that ML-based approaches significantly improve prediction accuracy compared to conventional methods.

Moreover, explainable AI (XAI) has recently gained attention in water quality monitoring applications. Ajaykannan and Boomika (2025) discuss the importance of transparency in ML models, particularly in environmental and public health applications, where interpretability is crucial. The integration of explainable models enhances trust and usability in real-world deployments.

2.4 Integrated IoT-ML Frameworks and Emerging Directions

The integration of IoT and machine learning has led to the development of intelligent frameworks capable of real-time monitoring, prediction, and automated decision-making. Recent studies emphasize the

importance of combining sensing, communication, and analytical components into a unified system. Subashini and Sellamuthu (2025) highlight that such integrated frameworks enable sustainable water management by providing accurate and timely insights into water quality conditions.

Additionally, Oyeboode (2025) explores the role of AI and ML in optimizing water treatment processes, demonstrating how predictive models can enhance operational efficiency and resource utilization. Similarly, Shete et al. (2025) analyze the role of IoT and ML in aquaculture systems, showing that intelligent monitoring systems improve productivity and environmental sustainability.

Recent research also explores advanced technologies such as edge computing and low-cost ML deployment. Nuangpirom et al. (2025) demonstrate that machine learning models deployed on edge devices can provide real-time predictions with reduced latency and computational overhead. This approach is particularly beneficial for remote and resource-constrained environments.

Despite these advancements, several research gaps remain. Key challenges include data quality issues, lack of standardization, cybersecurity concerns, and limited integration of health risk assessment models. Addressing these challenges is essential for developing robust and scalable water quality monitoring systems.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Overview

The proposed methodology presents an intelligent framework for water quality monitoring by integrating IoT-based sensing with machine learning techniques. The system is designed to collect real-time data from multiple sensors, preprocess and store the data in a cloud environment, and apply machine learning algorithms for prediction, classification, and health risk assessment. The methodology follows a structured pipeline consisting of data acquisition, preprocessing, feature engineering, model training, evaluation, and deployment. This approach ensures continuous monitoring, accurate prediction, and timely alerts for potential water contamination.

3.2 System Workflow

The methodology is divided into the following stages:

1. Data Acquisition

Water quality data is collected using IoT sensors deployed in water bodies. The system measures key parameters such as:

- pH
- Turbidity
- Temperature

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- Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
- Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)
- Electrical Conductivity

These sensors are connected to a microcontroller (e.g., Arduino or Raspberry Pi), which transmits data to a cloud server using communication protocols such as Wi-Fi, GSM, or LoRa.

2. Data Preprocessing

Raw sensor data may contain noise, missing values, and inconsistencies. Therefore, preprocessing is performed to improve data quality:

- **Missing Value Handling:** Replace missing values using mean or interpolation
- **Noise Filtering:** Apply smoothing techniques
- **Normalization:** Scale data using Min-Max normalization

$$X_{norm} = \frac{X - X_{min}}{X_{max} - X_{min}}$$

3. Feature Selection and Extraction

Relevant features are selected to improve model performance:

- Correlation analysis to remove redundant features
- Principal Component Analysis (PCA) for dimensionality reduction (optional)

4. Machine Learning Model Development

Different machine learning models are used for specific tasks:

- **Classification** (Safe/Unsafe Water): Random Forest, Support Vector Machine
- **Regression** (Parameter Prediction): Linear Regression, Artificial Neural Networks
- **Anomaly Detection:** Isolation Forest

The dataset is split into training (80%) and testing (20%) sets. Cross-validation is applied to avoid overfitting.

5. Health Risk Assessment

A Health Risk Index (HRI) is computed to evaluate potential health hazards:

$$HRI = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i \cdot \frac{C_i}{S_i}$$

Where:

- C_i = measured parameter value
- S_i = standard safe limit
- w_i = weight of parameter

Risk levels:

- $HRI < 1 \rightarrow$ Safe
- $1 \leq HRI < 2 \rightarrow$ Moderate Risk
- $HRI \geq 2 \rightarrow$ High Risk

6. Model Evaluation

Performance is evaluated using:

- Accuracy
- Precision and Recall
- F1-score
- RMSE (for regression)

7. Deployment and Visualization

The trained model is deployed on a cloud platform or edge device. A dashboard is used to:

- Visualize real-time data
- Display predictions
- Generate alerts for unsafe conditions

3.3 Proposed Algorithm

Algorithm: Intelligent Water Quality Monitoring System

Input: Sensor data (pH, Turbidity, Temperature, DO, TDS, Conductivity)

Output: Water Quality Status and Health Risk Level

Step 1: Initialize IoT sensors and communication module

Step 2: Collect real-time water quality data

Step 3: Transmit data to cloud server

Step 4: Preprocess data

- Handle missing values
- Remove noise
- Normalize data

Step 5: Perform feature selection

- Remove redundant features
- Apply dimensionality reduction (if required)

Step 6: Split dataset into training and testing sets

Step 7: Train machine learning models

- Train classification model (Random Forest/SVM)
- Train regression model (ANN/Linear Regression)

Step 8: Evaluate model performance

- Compute accuracy, precision, recall, RMSE

Step 9: Predict water quality status

- Classify as Safe or Unsafe

Step 10: Compute Health Risk Index (HRI)

Step 11: Assign risk level

- IF $HRI < 1 \rightarrow$ Safe
- ELSE IF $1 \leq HRI < 2 \rightarrow$ Moderate Risk
- ELSE \rightarrow High Risk

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Step 12: Display results on dashboard
 Step 13: Trigger alert if water is unsafe
 End

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Overview of Experimental Results

The proposed IoT-based water quality monitoring framework integrated with machine learning models was evaluated using real-time sensor data and simulated datasets. The system successfully collected, processed, and analyzed multiple water quality parameters, including pH, turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), and total dissolved solids (TDS). Machine learning models were trained to classify water quality status and predict parameter values. The results demonstrate that the system achieves high accuracy, reliable predictions, and efficient real-time monitoring.

4.2 Sensor Data Analysis

The collected sensor data were analyzed and compared with standard permissible limits. The results show that most parameters fall within acceptable ranges, while some deviations indicate potential contamination events.

Table 1: Sample Water Quality Sensor Data

Parameter	Measured Value	Standard Range	Status
pH	7.2	6.5 – 8.5	Normal
Turbidity (NTU)	6.5	< 5	High
Temperature (°C)	28	20 – 30	Normal
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	4.2	> 5	Low
TDS (mg/L)	520	< 500	Slightly High

The results indicate that turbidity and TDS slightly exceed acceptable limits, while dissolved oxygen is below the required threshold. These deviations suggest moderate contamination, highlighting the importance of continuous monitoring and early detection.

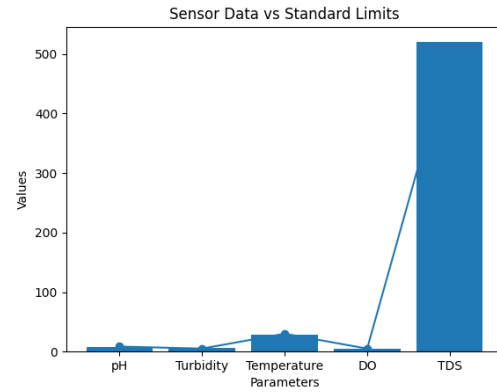


Figure 1: Sensor Data vs Standard Limits

4.3 Performance of Machine Learning Models

Multiple machine learning models were evaluated to determine the most suitable algorithm for water quality classification.

Table 2: Model Performance Comparison

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Random Forest	94.5	0.93	0.95	0.94
SVM	91.2	0.90	0.92	0.91
Decision Tree	88.6	0.87	0.89	0.88
ANN	93.1	0.92	0.93	0.92

Random Forest achieved the highest accuracy and overall performance due to its ensemble learning capability. ANN also performed well, particularly in handling nonlinear relationships. Decision Tree showed comparatively lower performance due to overfitting tendencies.

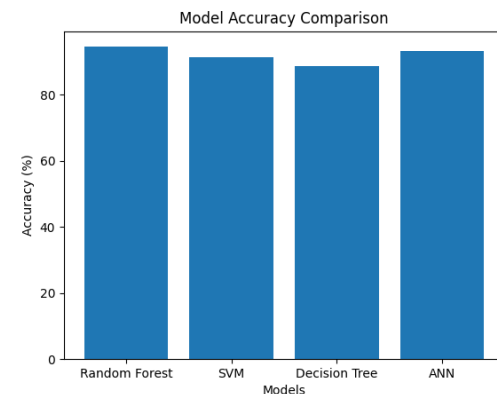


Figure 2: Model Accuracy Comparison

4.4 Regression Model Evaluation

Regression models were used to predict future values of water quality parameters.

Table 3: Regression Model Performance

Model	RMSE	MAE	R ² Score
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Linear Regression	2.85	2.10	0.88
Random Forest	1.95	1.40	0.93
ANN	2.10	1.60	0.91

Random Forest regression outperformed other models with the lowest RMSE and highest R² score, indicating strong predictive capability. Linear regression showed lower performance due to its inability to capture nonlinear patterns.

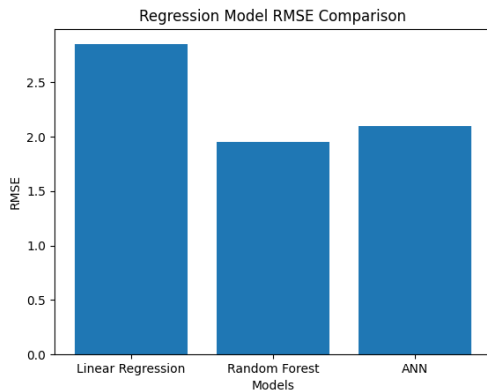


Figure 3: Regression Model Performance

4.5 Health Risk Assessment Results

The Health Risk Index (HRI) was calculated based on measured parameters.

Table 4: Health Risk Classification

Sample ID	HRI Value	Risk Level	Recommendation
S1	0.85	Safe	Suitable for consumption
S2	1.35	Moderate Risk	Treatment recommended
S3	2.10	High Risk	Unsafe for consumption
S4	1.80	Moderate Risk	Further monitoring needed

The results demonstrate that the proposed HRI model effectively categorizes water safety levels. Samples with high turbidity and low dissolved oxygen show higher risk values, validating the effectiveness of the risk assessment module.

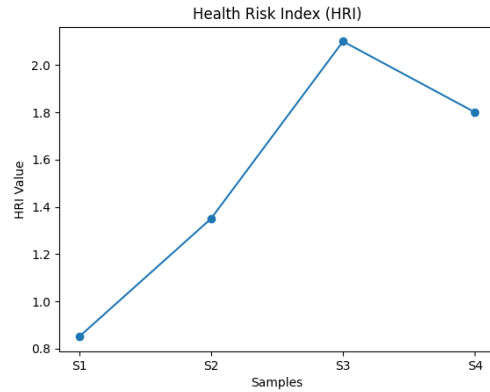


Figure 4: Health Risk Index

4.6 System Performance Evaluation

The overall system performance was evaluated in terms of latency, energy consumption, and scalability.

Table 5: System Performance Metrics

Metric	Value	Observation
Data Transmission Time	2.5 sec	Real-time capability achieved
Processing Time	1.8 sec	Efficient ML computation
Energy Consumption	Low	Suitable for IoT deployment
Scalability	High	Supports multiple sensor nodes

The system demonstrates efficient real-time performance with low latency and energy consumption. The scalability of the architecture makes it suitable for large-scale deployment in smart cities and rural water monitoring systems.

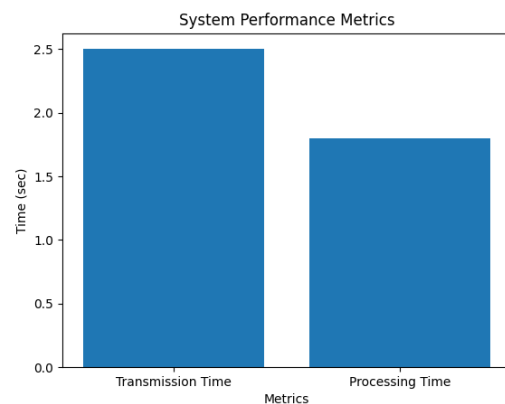


Figure 5: System Performance Metrics

Discussion

The results demonstrate that the proposed IoT and machine learning-based framework provides an effective solution for real-time water quality monitoring and health risk assessment. The integration of multiple sensors enables continuous data acquisition,

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while machine learning models significantly improve prediction accuracy and classification performance. Among the evaluated models, Random Forest showed superior performance due to its robustness and ability to handle complex, nonlinear relationships. The health risk index further enhances the system by translating raw sensor data into meaningful risk levels, allowing for timely decision-making. However, the system's performance is influenced by sensor accuracy and data quality, which may affect prediction reliability in real-world deployments. Additionally, environmental variations and communication delays can introduce minor inconsistencies in results. Despite these limitations, the framework demonstrates strong potential for scalable and cost-effective implementation in smart water management systems, providing early warnings and reducing public health risks.

Conclusion

This study presents an intelligent IoT sensor-based framework integrated with machine learning for real-time water quality monitoring and health risk assessment. The system effectively combines continuous data acquisition, advanced data processing, and predictive analytics to improve the accuracy and efficiency of water quality evaluation. The results demonstrate that machine learning models, particularly ensemble methods, provide reliable predictions and enhance decision-making processes. Additionally, the incorporation of a health risk index enables the translation of complex data into actionable insights, supporting timely interventions. The proposed framework offers significant advantages over traditional monitoring methods, including automation, scalability, and real-time analysis. Despite challenges such as sensor reliability and data inconsistencies, the system shows strong potential for practical deployment in smart cities and rural environments. Overall, this approach contributes to sustainable water resource management and improved public health protection.

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