International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

FACIALFLEX – A Secure Facial Recognition-Based Attendance System Using LBPH and Histogram Equalization with AI Chatbot Support

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1.ABSTRACT

FacialFlex is a smart facial recognition-based attendance system designed to streamline and automate attendance tracking using image processing and machine learning. Built upon the LBPH algorithm, the system integrates preprocessing techniques such as histogram equalization and face cropping to enhance recognition accuracy. The software features a user-friendly interface built with Python's Tkinter, a secure login system for authentication, and a chatbot that can query attendance records, generate reports, and send automated emails to absentees. A MySQL database is used for managing student and attendance data in separate tables. Additionally, the system provides real-time voice feedback using a text-to-speech engine whenever a significant action like attendance marking or model training is completed. This project demonstrates an efficient combination of classical techniques and modern automation to provide a robust attendance management solution.

Key Words: facial recognition, attendance system, MySQL database, chatbot, LBPH, automation, histogram equalization, Automation in email sending.

2. INTRODUCTION

A. **Background Information** Automated attendance systems have emerged as vital components in educational institutions to streamline and digitize attendance processes. Traditional manual attendance systems are time-consuming and prone to errors or manipulation. With the rise of artificial intelligence and computer vision, facial recognition systems offer a secure, efficient, and contactless method to mark attendance.

B. **Research Problem or Question** How can we develop an accurate, efficient, and secure facial recognition-based attendance system using deep learning and integrate it with features like email notifications, chatbot support, and report generation?

C. **Significance of the Research** This research contributes to real-time automation in educational and professional environments, ensuring reliable attendance tracking, reducing human intervention, and utilizing deep learning models to improve facial recognition.

3.OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this project is to design and implement an intelligent, real-time facial recognition attendance system—**FacialFlex**—that enhances traditional attendance tracking methods using computer vision and automation. This system aims to:

a) **Automate the Attendance Process** using the LBPH (Local Binary Pattern Histogram) facial recognition algorithm, enhanced with histogram equalization and cropped image preprocessing for improved accuracy.

b) **Store and Manage Attendance Data** securely using a structured MySQL database, maintaining separate tables for student information and attendance records to allow efficient tracking and querying.

c) **Prevent Redundant Marking** by validating attendance per student per day, and ensuring that the system does not duplicate attendance or repeat audio prompts.

d) **Integrate a Voice Feedback System** using the pyttsx3 library to audibly confirm status updates like successful data capture, training completion, and attendance marking.

e) **Enhance Interaction with a Chatbot Interface**, allowing users to:
   - Request real-time attendance summaries.
   - Automatically send email notifications to students marked absent.
   - Download attendance reports in CSV format.

f) **Restrict Unauthorized Access** via a secure login interface, ensuring only verified users (such as faculty or administrators) can access system functionalities.

4.LITERATURE REVIEW

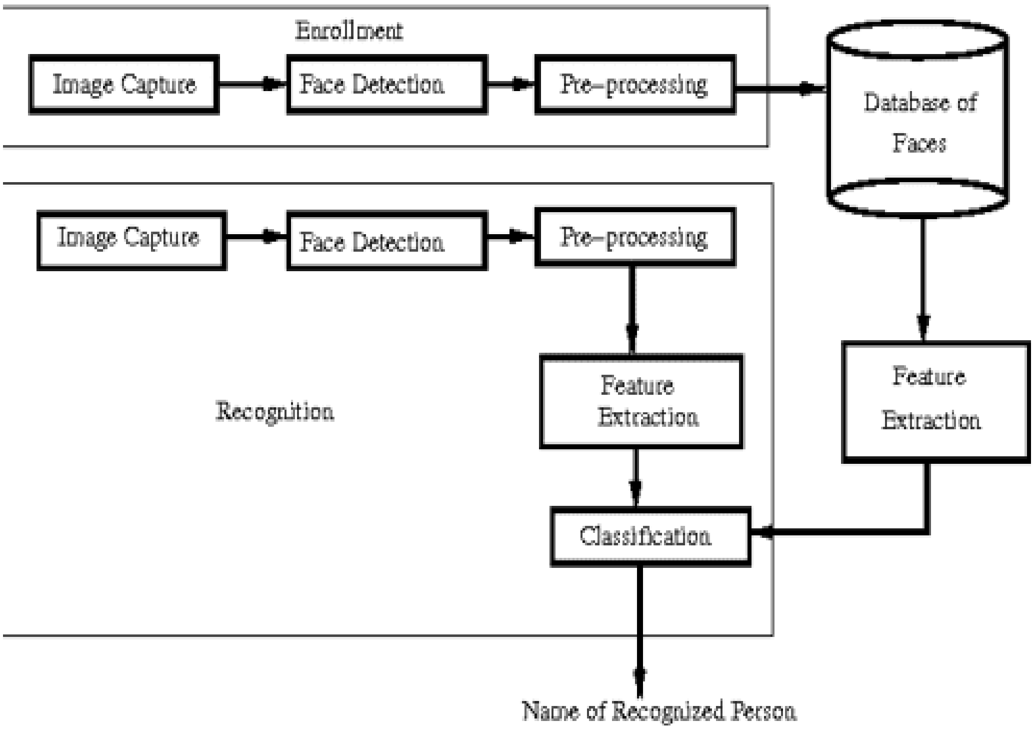
A.**Overview of Relevant Literature** Previous work in attendance systems used RFID, QR codes, or fingerprint scanners. These systems, while useful, still required user interaction. Deep learning-based facial recognition provides a passive and efficient alternative. LBPH (Local Binary Patterns Histogram) is a well-known facial recognition algorithm recognized for its simplicity and efficiency.

B. **Key Theories or Concepts** LBPH converts face images into histograms and compares them for matching. Histogram Equalization enhances contrast in the grayscale image, improving the performance of LBPH. Concepts from computer vision such as Haar cascades and CNNs form the core of detection and recognition.

C. **Gaps or Controversies in the Literature** Many existing systems either use simple rule-based logic or suffer from limited accuracy in varied lighting and pose conditions. Integrating chatbot and email features with facial recognition is also largely unexplored.

5. SYSTEM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

The system is developed in Python using OpenCV and Tkinter for GUI. The student image dataset is captured with grayscale cropped photos to improve consistency. The LBPH algorithm was selected for its robustness and speed in real-time recognition scenarios. Histogram equalization enhances facial feature clarity, improving matching accuracy. Attendance is stored in a MySQL database with the date and time, and duplicate entries are prevented by verifying if attendance has already been marked that day. A structured MySQL database is used to manage student details and attendance records in separate tables, allowing for accurate tracking, updating, and querying.



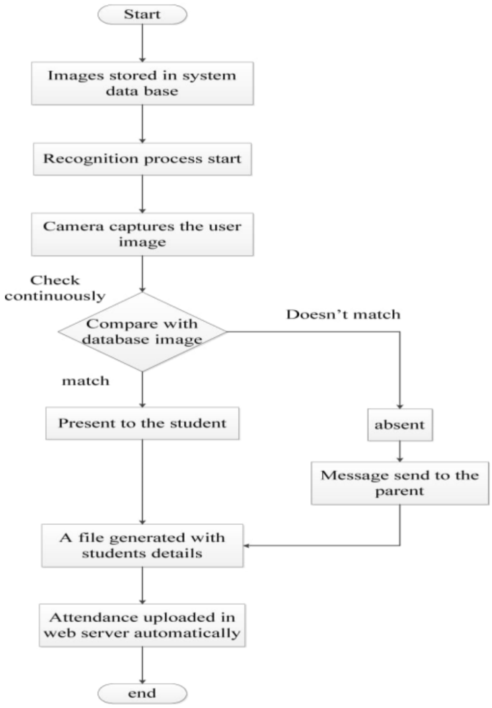
6.METHODOLOGY

A. **Research Design** The project was designed as a GUI-based application using Python, OpenCV, and Tkinter. The system includes modules for image capturing, training, recognition, attendance logging, email notifications, chatbot integration, and database management.

B. **Data Collection Methods** Facial images were collected using a custom capture function where grayscale cropped images of size 450x450 were taken. Each student had 100 images captured using Haar Cascade classifiers for face detection.

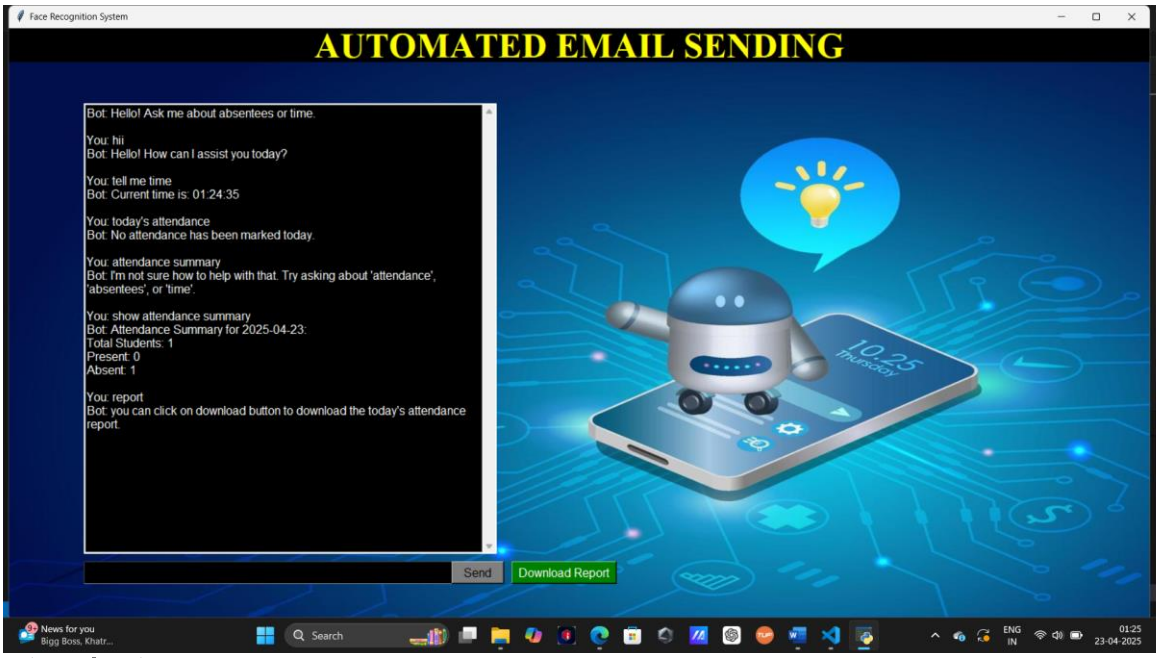
C. **Sample Selection** The dataset was generated using enrolled students' faces captured in a consistent indoor lighting condition to maintain dataset uniformity and improve accuracy.

D. **Data Analysis Techniques** Facial recognition was performed using LBPH. Histogram equalization was applied to enhance the visibility of facial features. Matching faces were validated using a confidence score and filtered to avoid multiple identifications in a single session.



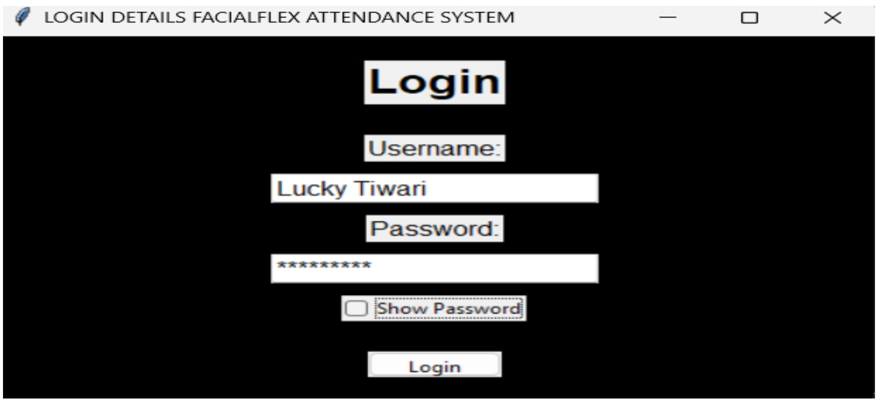
(a) Chatbot And Email Integration

A built-in chatbot using Tkinter interfaces with the MySQL database to respond to queries like 'Send email to absentees' and 'Show today's attendance'. The system automatically sends emails to absentees by checking for students who were not marked present on the current date. Emails are sent using SMTP, and error handling ensures the process is reliable. A CSV export feature is also included for report generation



(b) Security And Login System

To restrict unauthorized access, a login system is implemented at startup. It requires valid user credentials to access the main application. This ensures that only authorized faculty members or administrators can record or view attendance, send emails, or access system settings.



7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. **Presentation of Findings** The system was able to recognize student faces with high accuracy under standard lighting conditions. It marked attendance in a MySQL database with timestamps and prevented duplicate entries.

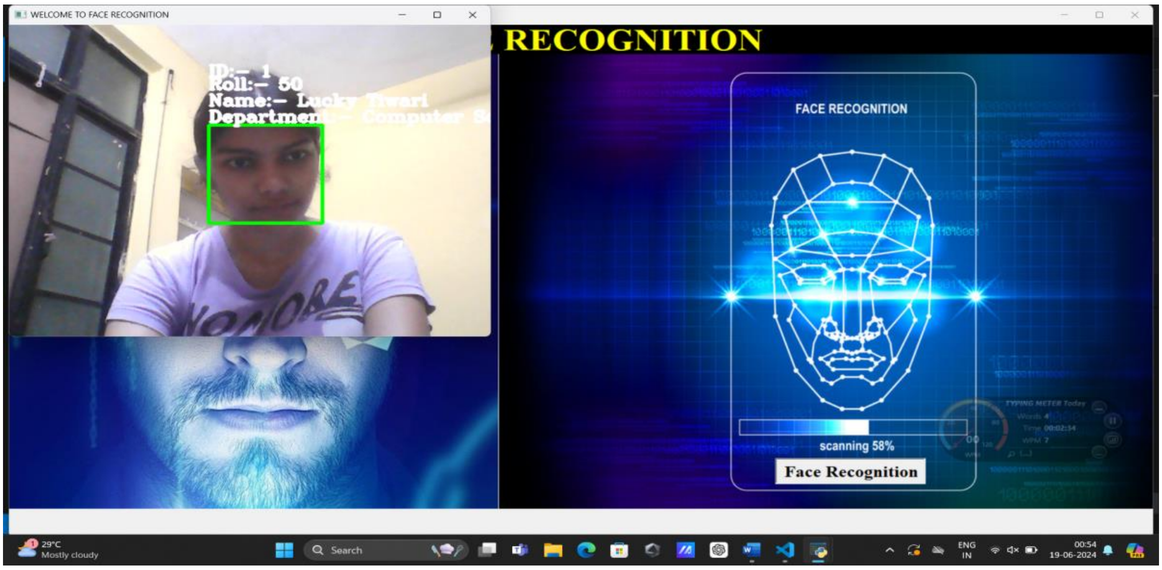
B. **Data Analysis and Interpretation** Using histogram-equalized grayscale images helped in better feature extraction with LBPH, reducing recognition errors. The model's recognition rate was significantly improved through image preprocessing.

C. **Support for Research Question or Hypothesis** The integration of deep learning concepts with traditional LBPH techniques provided a fast and accurate solution for facial recognition-based attendance.

D. **Interpretation of Results** The system fulfilled the objective of building a robust and efficient facial recognition attendance system. The performance improved due to preprocessing techniques and proper data handling.

E. **Comparison with Existing Literature** Compared to other systems relying on QR codes or fingerprint biometrics, this system was more secure, user-friendly, and contactless.

F. **Implications and Limitations of the Study** While the system performs well under controlled lighting, it may still struggle with low light or occluded faces. Future improvements may include incorporating deep CNN models or InsightFace for better accuracy.



8. CONCLUSION

A. **Summary of Key Findings** FacialFlex successfully implements a real-time attendance system using LBPH enhanced with histogram equalization. It can mark multiple students at once and prevents repeated announcements.

B. **Contributions to the Field** The project provides a hybrid system combining traditional LBPH with modern GUI, chatbot interaction, and email automation, paving the way for further research in hybrid deep learning systems.

C. **Recommendations for Future Research** Integrating advanced models like FaceNet or InsightFace and improving low-light performance can further boost accuracy. Deploying the system on a cloud platform for scalability is also recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my project guide, Prof. Aakanksha Choubey, for her invaluable guidance and support throughout the development of this project. Her insights and encouragement were instrumental in the successful completion of this work.

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