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International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

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

A Literature Review on IoT and Artificial Intelligence Applications in Smart Water Distribution Systems.

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ABSTARCT :

Smart Water Distribution Systems (SWDS) combine Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to improve the efficiency, reliability, and sustainability of water supply. IoT enables real-time monitoring through smart meters and sensor networks, while AI provides predictive analytics and optimization capabilities. This paper reviews recent applications of IoT and AI in SWDS, focusing on leak detection, water demand forecasting, pump scheduling, energy optimization, and water quality monitoring. The literature indicates that IoT-AI integration enhances system resilience, reduces water losses, and lowers operational costs. However, challenges such as data security, interoperability, and infrastructure investments remain. Despite these advantages, the widespread adoption of IoT-AI technologies still faces barriers. High implementation costs, data management complexities, and the need for skilled personnel pose challenges to many utilities, especially in developing regions. Addressing these issues through cost-effective technologies, standardized protocols, and capacity building will be essential for scaling up smart water distribution systems globally.

Keywords: IoT, Artificial Intelligence, Smart Water Distribution, Leak Detection, Water Quality, Demand Forecasting

1.INTRODUCTION

Water distribution networks (WDNs) are essential infrastructures that deliver potable water to communities. Rapid urbanization, climate change, and population growth have made traditional management methods inadequate to ensure efficiency and sustainability. The adoption of IoT and AI technologies has led to the development of Smart Water Distribution Systems (SWDS), which provide intelligent monitoring and decision-making.

IoT sensors and wireless networks collect real-time data on flow, pressure, and quality parameters, while AI algorithms analyze this data to detect leaks, forecast demand, and optimize pumping operations. The integration of IoT and AI therefore represents a transformative step in water management, leading to reduced water losses, energy savings, and improved resilience.

In addition, the integration of renewable energy management with AI-optimized pumping strategies has the potential to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of water distribution. By coupling water supply systems with solar or wind power, and scheduling pump operations intelligently, utilities can achieve both economic and environmental benefits. Thus, IoT and AI not only enhance operational efficiency but also aling with global sustainability goals, making SWDS and indispensable component of future smart cities.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Banu and Radhakrishnan [1] applied Support Vector Machine (SVM) for leak detection in water distribution systems. Their results showed that SVM could identify hidden leakage patterns more effectively than traditional hydraulic models, thereby improving detection accuracy. Furthermore, the authors suggested that the integration of SVM with IoT-enabled sensor networks could further enhance system reliability by providing continuous monitoring and faster response times, ultimately contributing to reduced non-revenue water and improved operational sustainability.

2.2 AI-Jayyousi et al. [2] developed machine learning approaches for water demand forecasting in arid regions. Their models captured non-linear and seasonal variations better than conventional statistical methods, supporting sustainable water management. This improved forecasting accuracy helps utilities manage supply during peak demand and avoid overproduction. The models also provided flexibility to adapt to sudden changes in climate conditions and population behavior.

2.3 Murthy et al. [3] presented a caste study on AI-based leak detection in an urban WDN. Their methodology significantly reduced non-

revenue water, highlighting the practical advantages of AI applications in real-world water systems. Their approach proved effective in identifying hidden leak points and reducing detection time. This practical application showed how AI can support utilities in minimizing water losses.

2.4 Li and Chen [6] reviewed to IoT-enabled water management systems and emphasized the benefits of wireless sensor networks and smart meters. Their study concluded that IoT enhances monitoring accuracy and provides timely data for system optimization. The review also noted that IoT reduces manual intervention by automating data collection. This leads to quicker responses to anomalies and more efficient system management.

2.5 Wilson and Clark [5] introduced reinforcement learning (RL) for pump scheduling optimization in water distribution networks. The RL-based approach reduced energy consumption while maintaining service reliability, demonstrating AI's role in energy efficient operations. Their work showed that RL models can adapt to dynamic demand patterns without manual intervention.

2.6 Shafique et al. [7] explored the integration of AI and IoT for sustainable smart water systems. Their work emphasized the importance of combining IoT-generated real-time data with AI-driven predictive models to improve resilience, reduce costs, and ensure long-term sustainability. They also highlighted the potential of digital twin frameworks to simulate system behavior and support proactive planning.

3. CONCLUSION

The literature reviewed demonstrates that IoT and AI are revolutionizing water distribution management. IoT enhances monitoring capabilities, while AI provides predictive power and optimization strategies. Together, they address challenges such as leak detection, demand forecasting, energy optimization, and water quality monitoring. However, issues of interoperability, cybersecurity, and high implementation costs remain barriers. Future research should focus on developing standardized frameworks and costs remain barriers. Future research should focus on developing standardized frameworks and cost-effective IoT-AI platforms to enable widespread adoption of smart water distribution systems. Future should also emphasize cybersecurity and workforce training to ensure safe implementation. With these advancements, IoT-AI systems can drive sustainable and resilient water distribution worldwide.

4.REFERENCES

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