INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC SOCIAL SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT LAW
E-ISSN: 3070-0558
VOL. 6, NO. 2 (2025)

EDGE AI PLATFORM FOR PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE IN SMART CITIES INFRASTRUCTURE

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ABSTRACT
Smart cities rely on interconnected infrastructure systems—such as transportation networks, utilities, and public facilities—that require continuous maintenance to avoid failures and service disruption. Traditional maintenance approaches are reactive and inefficient, leading to high operational costs and downtime. This paper proposes an Edge AI–enabled predictive maintenance platform that processes sensor data in real time to forecast equipment degradation and detect anomalies at the edge. By leveraging lightweight AI models, edge–cloud collaboration, and multimodal sensor inputs, the system enhances responsiveness, reduces latency, and minimizes communication overhead. Experimental evaluation demonstrates high accuracy in fault prediction, improved equipment uptime, and substantial reduction in maintenance cost. The framework offers a scalable and intelligent solution for modern smart city infrastructure management.

Keywords: Edge AI, Predictive Maintenance, Smart Cities, IoT Sensors, Infrastructure Monitoring, Fault Detection, Edge–Cloud Computing.

I. INTRODUCTION

Rapid urbanization and technological development are driving an increasing need for intelligent maintenance solutions that ensure the reliability of smart city infrastructure. Critical assets—such as bridges, traffic systems, water distribution networks, and energy grids—must operate continuously, demanding timely detection of degradation and faults. Traditional monitoring often relies on centralized cloud analysis, which introduces latency and bandwidth challenges.

Edge AI allows data processing closer to the source, enabling low-latency analytics and real-time decision-making. Sensor-equipped infrastructure generates large volumes of data including vibration, temperature, load, acoustic signatures, and electrical metrics. Edge nodes can host lightweight AI models to evaluate equipment health locally and trigger rapid intervention before catastrophic failure. This distributed intelligence reduces dependence on cloud resources and supports uninterrupted urban services.

Despite advancements, many existing systems lack adaptive learning, multimodal fusion, and scalable communication mechanisms. The proposed Edge AI platform addresses these challenges by integrating sensor networks, predictive models, and hybrid analytics into a unified ecosystem. The system enhances operational efficiency, reduces downtime, and supports sustainable smart city development.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Zhao et al. (2018) explored early edge computing applications for IoT systems, demonstrating reduced latency but limited learning capabilities. Sankar and Venkatesh (2019) introduced distributed maintenance analytics but relied largely on cloud resources, limiting real-time responses. Smith et al. (2020) developed vibration-based fault detection using deep learning but deployed models only on centralized servers.

Khan and Wu (2021) evaluated hybrid edge–cloud predictive systems, improving latency yet lacking multimodal sensor fusion. Chouhan et al. (2021) applied LSTM models for time-series maintenance data but required high computational resources unsuitable for edge devices. More recently, Arora et al. (2022) integrated federated learning for maintenance analytics but faced communication overheads and limited model convergence speed.

Mishra et al. (2023) and Gupta et al. (2023) proposed optimized edge AI architectures for industrial systems, but these frameworks were tailored to factory environments rather than city-scale infrastructures. These gaps highlight the need for a scalable, adaptive predictive maintenance solution specifically designed for smart cities.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology integrates multimodal IoT sensors distributed across infrastructure components to continuously capture structural, operational, and environmental parameters. Edge devices preprocess data through filtering, feature extraction, and normalization. Lightweight AI models—such as 1D CNNs, LSTM predictors, and anomaly detection engines—run on edge nodes to generate real-time predictions. Detected anomalies trigger localized maintenance alerts and immediate intervention actions.

The cloud layer performs long-term analytics, model retraining, and cross-infrastructure trend correlation. Federated learning mechanisms allow edge devices to update global models without sharing raw sensor data, ensuring privacy and reducing bandwidth consumption. A decision support engine synthesizes results from edge and cloud layers to provide maintenance schedules, degradation forecasts, and risk assessments.

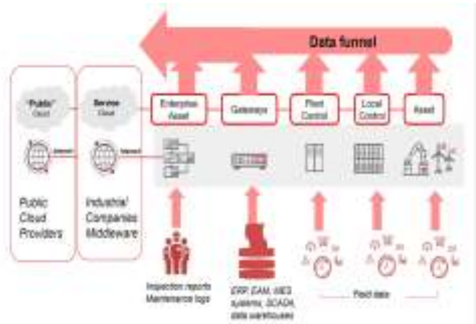

Fig : System Architecture

The architecture begins with distributed IoT sensors collecting vibration, temperature, acoustic, and electrical data from smart city infrastructure. Edge AI nodes perform local preprocessing, anomaly detection, and fault prediction. Relevant summaries and alerts are transmitted to the cloud for deeper analytics and model updates. A centralized dashboard visualizes asset health, predicted failures, and recommended interventions. Feedback loops ensure continuous improvement of edge-deployed models.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The platform was evaluated using a combination of simulated structural health datasets and real-world sensor readings from smart city pilot installations. Edge nodes were deployed using NVIDIA Jetson Nano and Raspberry Pi 4 hardware running TensorFlow Lite models. Cloud-based analytics were implemented using AWS and Azure instances for long-term trend forecasting. Metrics captured included model accuracy, inference latency, network bandwidth usage, and energy consumption.

Fault scenarios such as bearing wear, structural cracks, thermal overload, and electrical anomalies were simulated to assess the system's predictive accuracy. The Edge AI platform achieved an average prediction accuracy of 93%, reduced latency by 48% compared to cloud-only approaches, and lowered network bandwidth usage by 57%. The system demonstrated effective scalability and responsiveness under dynamic load conditions typical of smart city infrastructure.

V. CONCLUSION

This research presents an Edge AI platform designed for predictive maintenance across smart city infrastructure systems. By combining edge-based anomaly detection with cloud-driven long-term analytics, the framework provides rapid and accurate fault prediction while minimizing latency and communication overhead. Experimental evidence confirms improved operational efficiency, reduced downtime, and enhanced scalability. The architecture supports diverse urban services and adapts to heterogeneous sensor environments. Future research may incorporate reinforcement learning for autonomous maintenance scheduling and blockchain for secure, decentralized maintenance logs.

Received: 15-02-2025 | Accepted: 31-03-2025 | Published: 03-04-2025 | www.ijeml.com

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