International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology (IRJET) e-ISSN: 2395-0056
Volume: 13 Issue: 04 | Apr 2026 www.irjet.net p-ISSN: 2395-0072

ZeroX Waste: A Smart Waste Management System

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Abstract - *The high rate of urbanization has greatly raised the amount of waste collected by the municipalities posing serious challenges in collecting, monitoring and disposing of waste. The conventional complaint-based waste management systems do not have real-time tracking, transparency and intelligent task allocation systems. In this paper, the author introduces the case of ZeroX Waste, an intelligent web-based waste management program that has been created based on the MERN stack (MongoDB, Express.js, React.js and Node.js) and integrated with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and geolocation services. The system allows its citizens to post pictures of waste and automatic GPS positioning. AI-based image classification is performed using Groq's LLaMA-4-Scout model, and sentiment analysis using LLaMA-3.1-8B. The system automatically assigns tasks via a real-time dashboard, while Leaflet API with OpenStreetMap enables interactive location visualization and tracking. The experimental implementation demonstrates structured digital workflow and around 35-40% efficiency of complaint tracking in comparison to manual systems. The suggested system can help in smart city projects and facilitate digital transformation in city sanitation.*

Key Words: **Smart Waste Management, MERN Stack, AI-Based Image Classification, Urban Sanitation, Complaint Tracking System, Leaflet API, OpenStreetMap, Groq AI, LLaMA Models, React.js, Node.js, MongoDB.**

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the key challenges facing the fast-developing cities is efficient waste management. The growth in population, urbanization, and shifting consumption behaviors have contributed to a dramatic increase in the quantity of waste in urban areas. The local government in most cases is not able to control waste effectively as a result of inefficient monitoring of the waste, slow response mechanisms to complaints and ineffective coordination between residents and sanitation employees. The possible impacts of improper waste disposal include environmental pollution, health hazards, and worsening of the sanitation situation in the area.

Conventional waste disposal systems tend to be based on handwritten reporting and fixed garbage collection times. These methods do not normally help to solve the real-time waste issues as they lack the ability to give proper location details or effective tracking systems. Consequently, complaints of waste can take a long time to be addressed thus becoming inconvenient to the citizens and influencing the urban cleanliness.

The development of digital technologies and smart city programs has opened a new possibility to enhance the waste management in cities with the help of intelligent and automated systems. These web-based solutions can enable citizens to report waste promptly and can give the government real time monitoring opportunities. The use o f technologies, including cloud databases, geolocation services, and artificial intelligence, could be an important addition to the process of waste reporting, tracking, and task management.

ZeroX Waste, a smart web-based waste management system, is suggested to enhance the efficiency and transparency of waste complaint management in this research. The system is built on the MERN stack (MongoDB, Express.js, React.js, and Node.js) and incorporates the geolocation service to accurately report the complaints. Waste pictures and a place of location can be uploaded by citizens and the administrators can track complaints and delegate work to sanitation employees via a centralized dashboard. The suggested system will target effective waste management procedures and provide to cleaner and more sustainable urban surroundings.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

A number of research projects have investigated how digital technologies can be used to improve waste management systems. The main traditional methods of municipal waste management are based on manual surveillance and predetermined garbage collection timetables, which commonly result in ineffective garbage management and slow response to complaints. In order to

address these shortcomings, different technological remedies have been suggested, which include mobile-based reporting, Internet of Things (IoT) enabled smart bins, and sensor-based monitoring systems.

The latest innovations have been revolving around development of smart waste management systems whereby citizens can report on waste related problems via web and mobile applications. The purpose o f these platforms is to enhance communication between citizens and municipal authorities and real-time monitoring of waste complaints. There are even systems that are fitted with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to effectively monitor the locations of waste and the route of garbage collection. Moreover, machine learning and computer vision algorithms have been applied in various researches to automatize the waste classification and enhance the processing efficiency.

Even with these developments, most of the current systems continue to experience major problems including absence of real-time tracking of complaints, poor transparency in resolving complaints and poor integration between reporting systems and administrative systems. Additionally, some of these solutions rely on costly hardware infrastructure, e.g. IoT sensors and smart bins, and therefore are less viable to scale to large-scale operation in developing areas.

In order to meet these issues, the ZeroX Waste system is proposed, and it is a web-based solution with image-based reporting, geolocation tracking, and centralized administration monitoring. The system offers a scalable, efficient, and inexpensive approach to enhance the management of waste in cities by utilizing the latest web technologies and AI driven image processing.

3. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The conventional waste disposal systems have several shortcomings that impact on their effectiveness and dependability. Such systems mostly use manual recording of complaints and this may cause delays and mismanagement of data. Also, it has no real-time monitoring so that the authorities can easily keep track of the state of waste collection activities. The current systems lack the use of AI-driven waste recognition, leading to the inefficient classification and treatment of waste. Moreover, inadequate coordination between the users and sanitation workers causes delay in responding and executing the tasks. The absence of the appropriate data analytics tools is another significant weakness, which inhibits efficient decision-making and planning. All these issues, in turn, lead to the slow collection of garbage, wasteful use of resources, and dissatisfaction of people.

4. PROPOSED SYSTEM

ZeroX Waste is a web-based application that is a full stack used to improve urban waste management incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and geo location tracking. The proposed system is meant to offer an efficient, transparent and real-time solution to reporting, monitoring, and managing waste-related matters in smart cities. It integrates the latest web technologies with smart data processing to eliminate the shortcomings of the traditional waste management systems. The proposed system comprises various interrelated modules that collaborate to automate the whole workflow. The user module enables the citizens to create their accounts and log in safely, upload their waste photos, and automatically identify their GPS position. Complains can be made and the status of the complaints can be traced real time, and this is transparent and user engaging. With the aid of the admin module, there is a centralized dashboard, where the number of total, pending, in-progress, and resolved complaints is displayed. It allows administrators to classify waste reports, delegate tasks to sanitation workers and track system performance with analytical insights. The worker module will help the sanitation workers to handle the given tasks effectively. Employees have access to the information on complaints, can navigate to the place of waste with the help of embedded maps, and change the state to complete the work. This gives a seamless integration among users, workers and administrators.

Moreover, the system performs waste classification using AI-based image processing powered by Groq's LLaMA-4-Scout vision model, enabling accurate identification of different waste categories. The module assists in recognizing various types of waste like organic, plastic, and so on, thus enhancing decision-making and prioritizing duties. Using Leaflet API with OpenStreetMap allows locating the position and planning the route accurately and efficiently. Altogether, the suggested system offers a scaled solution, a cost-efficient and intelligent system that enhances waste reporting, monitoring and management and supports smart city projects and facilitates a digital shift in urban sanitation systems.

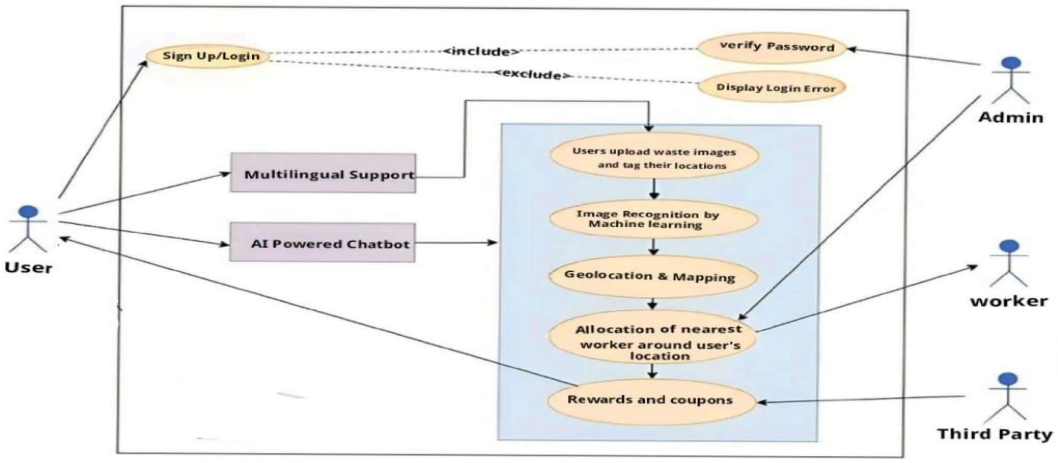

Fig- 1: Workflow of ZeroX Waste System with User, Admin, and Worker Interaction

Fig-1 shows the entire process of ZeroX Waste system. It starts by user authentication at the sign-up/login module. Once a user is successfully logged in, he/she is able to post waste images as well as location tagging. The system is able to process the uploaded data through machine learning methods of waste recognition and categorization. The precise site of the waste is determined with geolocation and mapping facilities. The system uses this information to allocate the closest sanitation worker to effectively collect waste. The entire process, verification, and assignment of tasks are monitored and managed by the admin. Other benefits like multilingualism and an AI-based chatbot improve the interaction and accessibility of users. The system can also give rewards and incentives to motivate the citizens to participate. This process will guarantee effective coordination, a reduction in reaction time, and a better overall waste management.

5. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The system is based on a three level architecture to promote scalability, efficiency and maintainability. React.js is used to develop the presentation layer, which offers real-time updates and responsive user interface to enhance user interaction. It is based on the Node.js runtime environment and the Express.js framework to build the application layer to take care of the operations of the backend based on the RESTful API, and to provide secure communication based on the JWT-based authentication. Data layer: It uses MongoDB as the database to store the details of complaints, users and workers, and the records of the tasks. The integration layer also includes external services, including the Leaflet API to provide geolocation and mapping services, and microservices based on AI to classify waste intelligently. This stratified architecture facilitates easy communication among the components and boosts performance and stability of the system.

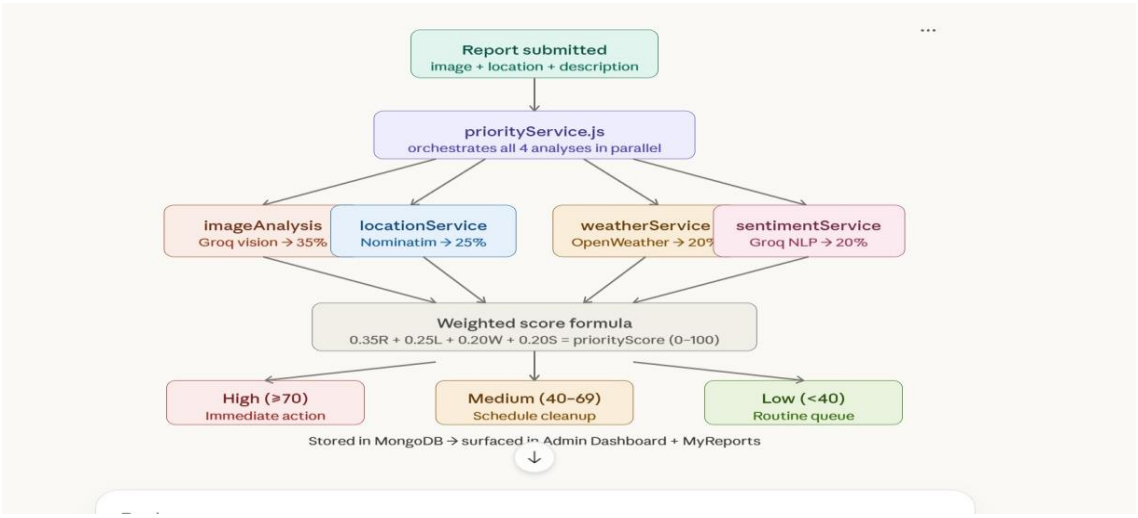

Fig- 2: Priority-Based Waste Processing and Task Allocation Workflow in ZeroX Waste System

Fig-2 shows the priority-based waste process workflow of the ZeroX Waste system. When a user post a waste report that includes an image, location and description, the request is handled by the priority Service module, which coordinates a series of analyses in parallel. Those analyses consist of image analysis in order to discover a type of waste, location analysis with the help of geolocation services, analysis of weather conditions, and sentiment analysis through user feedback. The score obtained after each component is measured and the value is given weighted by a pre-determined formula and the value of such a formula defines the level of priority of the complaint. The computed score is then used to classify the complaint as high, medium, or low priority. High priority cases get immediate response, medium priority cases are cleaned up and low priority cases are processed as part of regular processing. The processed information is stored in the database and presented on the administrative dashboard to monitor and control tasks effectively.

6. TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES USED

The implementation of the ZeroX Waste system is based on the application of the latest frontend, backend, database, and AI technologies to achieve high performance and scalability. React.js with HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript and Bootstrap are used to develop the front end in order to offer a responsive and user-friendly interface. The server-side programming language is based on the Node.js platform combined with the Express.js framework that serves to process server-side code and API interactions. MongoDB is a NoSQL database that stores user information, complaints and task tracking details. For AI and machine learning capabilities, the system utilizes vision-based AI models for image classification and processing, which are integrated using Python-based microservices to ensure modularity and scalability. The system also includes Leaflet API of location tracking and visualization, and REST APIs of smooth communication among various components. Visual Studio Code, Postman to test the API, and Git and GitHub to version and collaborate are some of the tools used in development and testing.

The general workflow of the ZeroX Waste system starts with user authentication whereby users post pictures of waste with location tagging. The back end takes the data on the complaints and makes it available in the database in the system, which can be seen on the administrative dashboard. Using the reported location, the system uses the closest available sanitation worker to undertake the task. The employee is able to see the complaint assigned, go to the site and change the status after completion. This well-organized workflow will guarantee the high efficiency and promptness of communication, waste management activities.

7. METHODOLOGY

The ZeroX Waste system is developed according to Agile methodology that allows to implement iterative development, constant testing and enhancement of the project at every stage. First, the analysis of requirements was conducted to determine the system needs, roles of users and general project goals. During the system design stage, the user interface layouts and data structure were ready to establish the system structure and workflow. The backend development stage was to develop RESTful APIs to authenticate users, accept complaints, and assign tasks based on Node.js and Express. During the AI integration phase, an image classification model based on vision-based AI techniques was implemented to facilitate accurate categorization of waste. The testing stage involved unit testing and integration testing to check the reliability and functionality of all modules. The last stage was the deployment, which included putting the application on a cloud-based platform that would be accessible to users and allow the system to run in real-time.

8. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

ZeroX Waste system has been developed successfully until the essential functional modules such as user complaint submission, tracking of complaints, administrative monitoring dashboard, and map based visualization are in place. The system was simulated to test the functional performance and workflow efficiency.

8.1 System Interface and Implementation

8.1.1 ZeroX Waste Home Interface

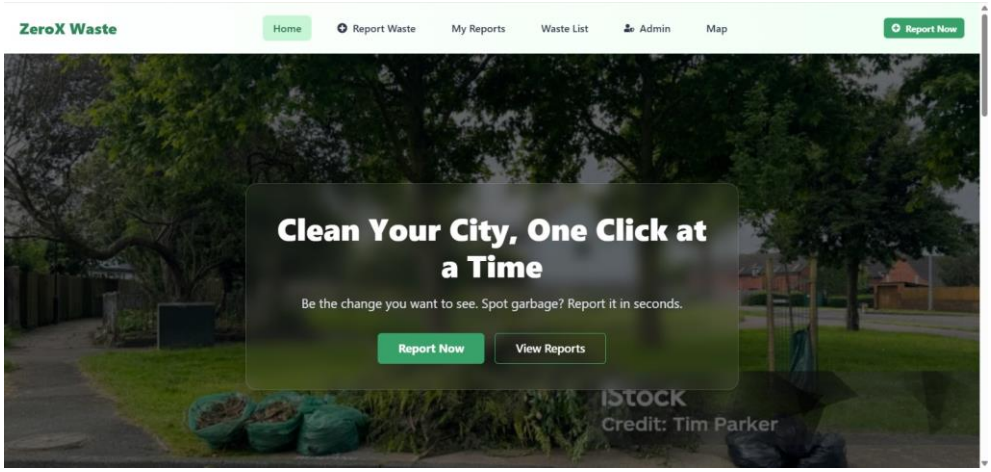

Fig- 3: ZeroX Waste Home Interface

The user experience of the home interface of the ZeroX Waste is clean and responsive and built with React.js. It enables the user to easily access waste reporting and complaint tracking options. The design is also made accessible and easy to route between various components of the system.

8.1.2 Waste Complaint Submission with Geolocation Detection

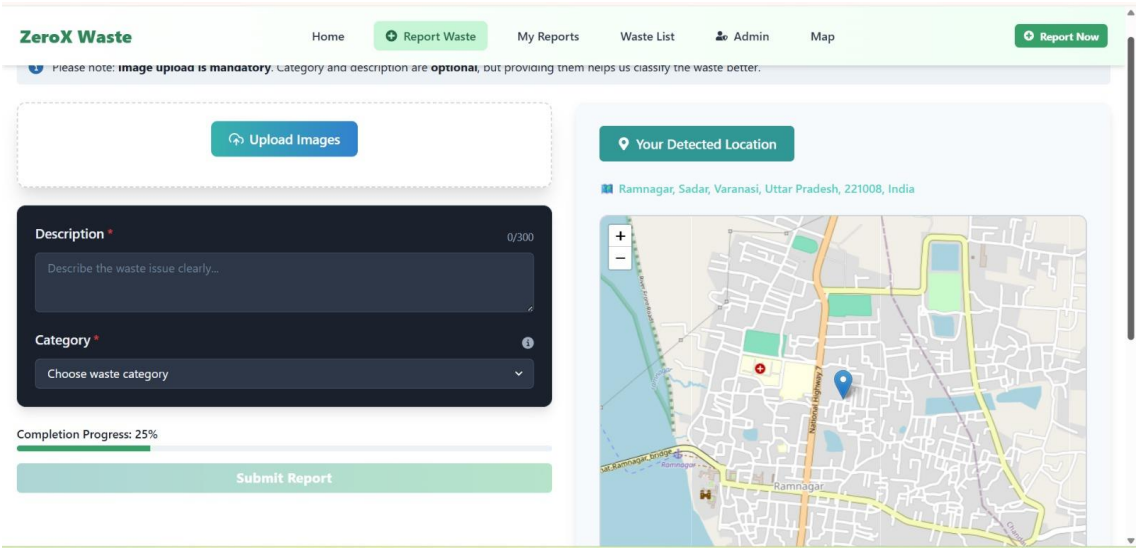

Fig- 4: Waste Complaint Submission with Geolocation Detection

The complaint submission form enables the user to post pictures of waste and to make some description about the problem. The system incorporates Leaflet API that automatically identifies and shows the geographical position of the user. This aspect guarantees proper location tagging and enhances the effectiveness of responding. RESTful APIs send the complaint data to the backend server and safely store under the MongoDB database to be processed by an administrator.

8.1.3 User Complaint Tracking Dashboard

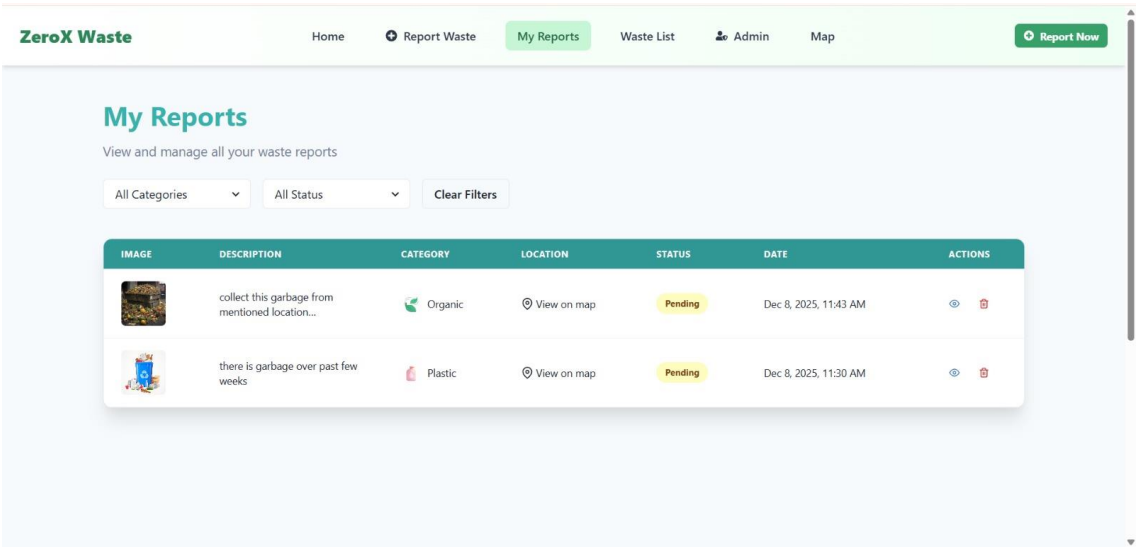

Fig- 5: User Complaint Tracking Dashboard

The dashboard of complaint tracking allows the user to access and process all the waste reports submitted. It presents vital data such as the type of waste, position, date submitted and the status quo of an object like Pending or Resolved. This module makes it transparent and allows tracking the progress of complaints in real-time. Backend APIs written in Node.js and Express.js are used to dynamically fetch the data in the MongoDB database.

8.1.4 Waste Reports Gallery and Categorization View

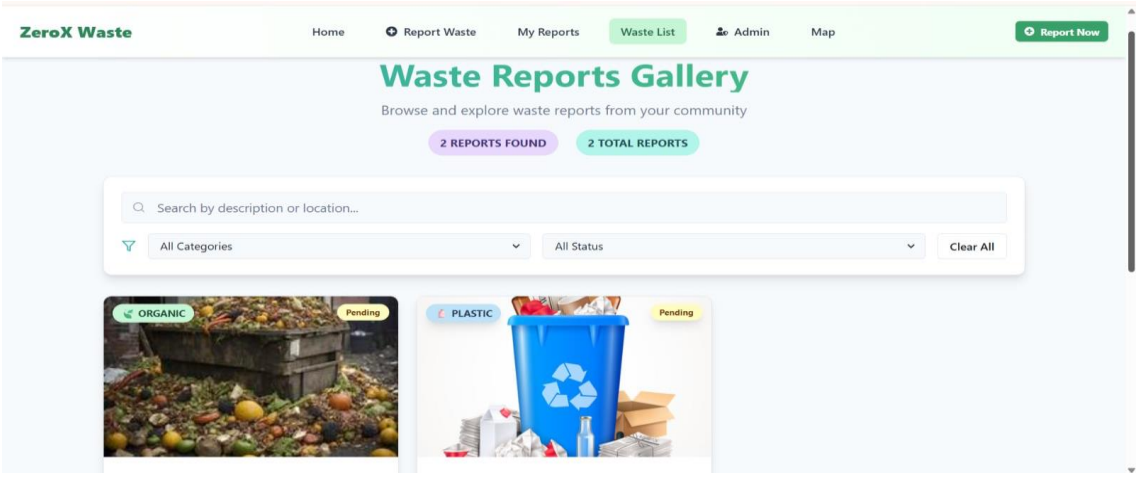

Fig- 6: Waste Reports Gallery and Categorization View

The waste reports gallery gives a pictorial display of all the complaints made in the system. The predefined types of waste include Organic and Plastic, which increases the level of clarity and order. The search and filtering option is very useful as it enables the user to easily access a certain complaint. This module supports transparency and centralized data visualization.

8.1.5 Administrative Dashboard for Complaint Monitoring

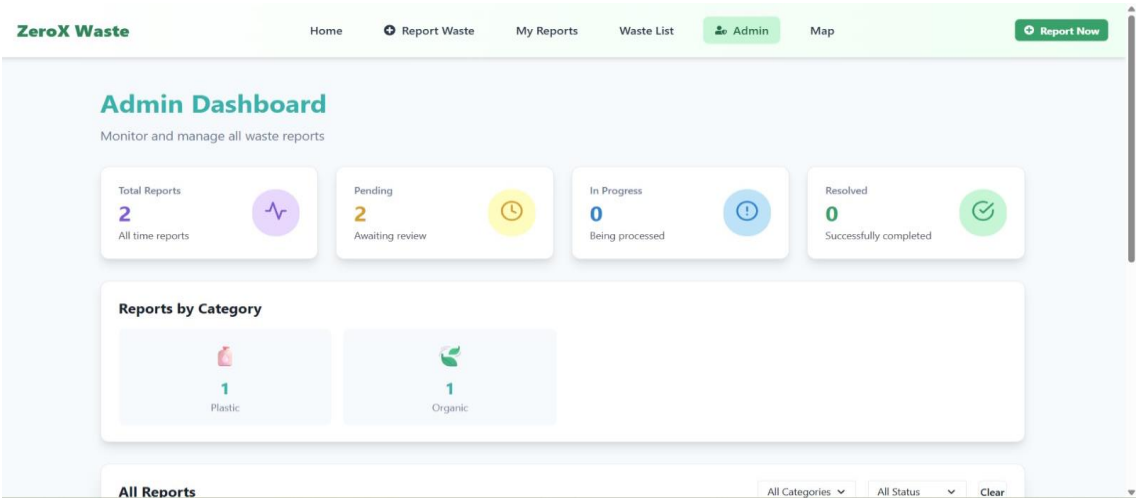

Fig- 7: Administrative Dashboard for Complaint Monitoring

The Administrative Dashboard is an interface that is centralized to monitor and manage all the complaints that are being reported. It shows real-time statistics such as the total reports, pending cases, reports in progress, and resolved complaints. The visualization by category makes the analysis more analytical and assists administrators with prioritization of tasks effectively. The module enhances visibility, digital record management and organized workflow implementation.

8.2 Observed Improvements

The introduction of the ZeroX Waste system has led to a number of major advantages compared to the old methods of waste management. The system facilitates a 35-40 percent quicker processing of complaints because of the automated processes and real-time data processing. It guarantees the maintenance of 100% digital records without manual documentation and minimizing errors. The platform further offers real-time visibility of status, where users and administrators can easily monitor the complaints. Automated assignment of tasks also enhances the coordination of workers so that it is possible to have waste collected in time and the use of resources optimized. All these improvements are leading to a more efficient, transparent and reliable waste management system.

8.3 Performance Metrics

Table 1: Performance Comparison between Traditional System and ZeroX Waste System

Parameter	Traditional System	ZeroX Waste
Complaint Tracking	Manual	Real-Time
Worker Assignment	Manual	Automated
Transparency	Low	High
Data Analytics	Not Available	Available

The system successfully demonstrated structured digital workflow and improved monitoring efficiency.

8.4 Discussion

The modules implemented show that a smart waste management platform is possible with the MERN stack. The system offers digital complaint management, centralization, and enhanced transparency as opposed to the manual systems. Additional improvements will be made with the complete AI integration and scalability testing.

9. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The creation of the ZeroX Waste system had a number of practical and technical difficulties. The frontend, backend and database modules needed to be integrated with care to structure the API and do a lot of testing to make sure that the communication between different components was seamless. The accuracy of real-time location detection was reliant on device GPS and browser permissions, which may at times influence accuracy. Image uploads also needed to be handled by appropriate validation to make sure that they have a tolerable size and format. Also, the alignment between user complaints and the administrative dashboard needed proper use of state to ensure consistency throughout the system. Another major challenge was to design a responsive user interface that could be used in both the desktop and the mobile platform.

Despite the successful implementation of core functional modules in the system, there are still some limitations. The system is still in a test simulated environment and has not been scaled to a large municipality yet. Automated worker allocation is not AI-driven yet and is a rule-based approach to worker assignment. The system also needs to have a consistent internet connection to submit and track complaints in real time. Moreover, the usage of multilingual support has not been introduced, and this aspect can restrict the availability of diverse users. High traffic performance testing at large scale is also pending and this is needed to test system scale and strength.

10. FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

A number of improvements are suggested to increase the functionality and scalability of the ZeroX Waste system. Further development will involve incorporation of new methods of waste classification using advanced AI-based methods to better identify types of waste on pictures uploaded. The intelligent pathfinding algorithms can be used to implement automated worker route optimization to enhance efficiency and response time. It is also planned to deploy on cloud infrastructure to improve scalability, reliability, and accessibility of the system. Also, the introduction of the push notification feature and SMS notifications can be implemented to deliver real-time updates to both users and administrators. Another essential enhancement is the creation of a mobile application, which will guarantee a higher accessibility rate and convenience of use on various platforms.

11. CONCLUSION

The ZeroX Waste system is an organized and digital solution to waste management in cities in terms of complaints. The platform is able to bring together user complaint filing, real-time monitoring, administrative monitoring and map based visualization into a single web application.

The system developed substitutes the manual system of handling complaints by an automated transparent workflow. Users have the ability to tag waste location and administrators can view, classify and handle complaints using a centralized dashboard. The system enhances efficiency of operations, transparency and improved coordination between the citizens and authorities.
Simulated condition testing showed enhanced efficiency in complaint tracking, structured digital records and real-time status visibility. The deployment emphasizes the usefulness of current web technologies in meeting the real-world civic issues.

To summarize, ZeroX Waste offers a scalable baseline to smart city waste management systems, and has potential to considerably enhance the delivery of municipal services when implemented on a large scale.

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