

FACE BASED ATTENDANCE SYSTEM

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Article Information

Received : 25 March 2026

Revised : 26 March 2026

Accepted : 27 March 2026

Published : 29 March 2026

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Abstract - The Face-Based Attendance System is an innovative automated solution designed to simplify and modernize the process of managing attendance in educational institutions and organizations. Traditional methods of attendance marking — such as manual roll calls or ID-based systems — are often time-consuming, prone to human error, and susceptible to fraudulent practices like proxy attendance. To overcome these limitations, this project utilizes face recognition technology, which offers a contactless, efficient, and highly reliable approach to verifying individual identity and recording attendance automatically. The system functions by capturing the facial image of a student or employee using a camera in real time. The captured image is then processed through advanced image processing and facial recognition algorithms. Key facial features are extracted and compared with the stored records in the database. If a match is found, the system marks the individual as “Present” and updates the attendance record in the database automatically. In the case of an unrecognized or undetected face, the system prompts for re-capture or manual verification. This process ensures high accuracy, consistency, and security in attendance tracking.

Keywords: *Face Recognition, Automated Attendance System, Computer Vision, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Biometric Authentication, Image Processing, Feature Extraction,*

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Citation: J. R. Arun Kumar, Yashi Garg, Anshika Jain, “FACE BASED ATTENDANCE SYSTEM”, Journal of Science, Computing and Engineering Research, 9(3), March 2026.

I. INTRODUCTION

In today’s digital era, automation and artificial intelligence are transforming conventional systems into more efficient and intelligent solutions. One such area is attendance management, which plays a vital role in educational institutions and organizations. Traditional methods such as manual roll calls, ID cards, or biometric fingerprints are often time-consuming, prone to human error, and susceptible to proxy attendance. To address these challenges, the Face-Based Attendance System introduces an advanced and contactless approach using facial recognition technology.

This system utilizes computer vision and machine learning algorithms to detect and recognize individual faces accurately. By capturing real-time images through a camera, the system extracts unique facial features, compares them with pre-stored records in the database, and automatically marks the attendance of recognized individuals. This process eliminates the need for manual intervention, ensuring accuracy, transparency, and efficiency.

The primary objective of this project is to develop a secure, reliable, and user-friendly attendance management solution that saves time and reduces administrative workload. Moreover, the system enhances data security by preventing fraudulent or duplicate attendance entries. The integration of face recognition not only improves operational efficiency but also provides a modern, technology-driven solution suitable for schools, colleges, universities, and workplaces.

The system works by capturing live images of students through a camera, extracting unique facial features, and comparing them with the pre-stored records in a secure database. Once a match is found, the system automatically updates the attendance status of the individual as “present.”

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

In many educational institutions and organizations, attendance tracking remains heavily dependent on traditional methods or

using identity cards. These conventional practices present several critical challenges. Firstly, they are time-consuming, especially in large classrooms or workplaces where taking attendance manually can disrupt scheduled activities and reduce overall productivity. Secondly, manual methods are highly prone to errors, whether due to human negligence, oversight, or incorrect data entry.

Such inaccuracies can compromise the integrity of attendance records and make it difficult to maintain reliable documentation.

To address these shortcomings, there is a growing need for secure, automated, and technologically advanced attendance management system.

A face-based attendance system fulfills this requirement by using facial recognition technology to capture and analyze unique facial features of individuals through a camera and match them against pre-stored records in a database. Once the identity is authenticated, the system can automatically update attendance status—"present" or "absent"—in real time.

III. RELATED WORK

Recent advancements in deep learning have significantly improved the performance of face recognition systems used in attendance management. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have become the most widely adopted models due to their ability to automatically extract complex facial features and achieve high accuracy compared to traditional methods. Early approaches such as Local Binary Pattern Histogram (LBPH) and Haar Cascade were effective for basic detection but lacked robustness under varying lighting and pose conditions.

To overcome these limitations, modern systems employ deep learning architectures like FaceNet, VGGFace, and ResNet, which generate high-dimensional facial embeddings for precise identity matching. Many studies integrate Multi-task Cascaded Convolutional Neural Networks (MTCNN) for face detection and alignment, followed by deep feature extraction models and similarity measures such as cosine distance for recognition.

Furthermore, hybrid approaches combining deep models with classifiers like Support Vector Machines (SVM) have shown improved accuracy and real-time performance. Transfer learning techniques are also widely used to leverage pre-trained deep networks, reducing training time while maintaining high accuracy, especially when datasets are limited.

Recent research also focuses on enhancing robustness through data augmentation, large-scale datasets, and advanced architectures to handle variations in pose, illumination, and occlusion. Overall, deep learning-based models have proven to be highly effective, making them the preferred choice for developing reliable and scalable face-based attendance systems.

These models utilize deep neural architectures to generate high-dimensional embeddings that uniquely

maximizing the distance between dissimilar ones, enabling highly accurate recognition. Similarly, VGGFace leverages very deep CNN architectures to capture intricate facial patterns, while ResNet introduces residual connections that allow training of extremely deep networks without degradation problems, thereby improving performance in complex scenarios.

In such systems, CNNs are used for feature extraction, while SVM acts as a classifier to improve decision boundaries, resulting in better accuracy and efficiency.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

A. Data Acquisition Layer

This layer is responsible for capturing real-time facial data using a camera or imaging device. It collects raw images or video frames of students or employees as they enter the system. The quality of input data at this stage is crucial, as it directly affects the performance of subsequent layers.

B. Processing Layer

In this layer, the captured images are refined and prepared for analysis. Face detection is performed to locate and isolate the facial region from the background. Additional operations such as image resizing, normalization, and noise reduction are applied to standardize the input.

C. Feature Extraction Layer

This is the core layer where meaningful facial features are extracted from the processed images. Deep learning models such as FaceNet, VGGFace, and ResNet are used to convert facial images into numerical vectors known as embeddings. These embeddings uniquely represent each individual's face.

D. Database Layer

The database layer is responsible for storing and managing all relevant information, including user details, facial embeddings, and attendance records. It ensures efficient retrieval and updating of data during the recognition process. This layer also plays a key role in maintaining data security, consistency, and long-term storage of attendance history.

E. Recognition and Matching Layer

In this layer, the extracted facial embeddings are compared with the stored embeddings in the database to identify the individual. Similarity measures such as cosine similarity or Euclidean distance are used to calculate the closeness between vectors.

F. Application Layer

This is the topmost layer that interacts with the user and presents the final output. Once the system successfully recognizes an individual, it automatically marks attendance as "Present" and updates the database in real time.

V. METHODOLOGY

The proposed Face-Based Attendance System follows a structured methodology that integrates image processing and deep learning techniques to ensure accurate and automated

of facial data, where images of individuals are captured using a camera under different conditions such as lighting, angles, and expressions. These images are then stored and used to build a dataset for training and recognition purposes.

During the recognition phase, real-time facial images are captured and processed in the same manner. The extracted embeddings are compared with the stored embeddings using similarity measures such as cosine similarity or Euclidean distance. If the similarity score exceeds a predefined threshold, the identity of the individual is verified successfully. Invalid Report Handling and Data Quality.

Once the individual is recognized, the system automatically marks attendance and updates the database with the corresponding date and time. In cases where no match is found, the system may prompt for re-capture or manual verification. Additionally, the system provides an interface for administrators to view attendance records, generate reports, and manage user data

I. *Data Collection*

Facial images of students or employees are captured using a camera under different conditions such as varying lighting, angles, and facial expressions. This collected data forms the initial dataset, which is essential for training and testing the face recognition system. A diverse dataset helps improve the accuracy and robustness of the model.

II. *Data Preprocessing*

The captured images are processed to enhance their quality and prepare them for analysis. This includes detecting the face region, cropping unnecessary background, resizing images to a standard size, and normalizing pixel values. Techniques like Multi-task Cascaded Convolutional Neural Network or Haar Cascade are used for accurate face detection and alignment.

III. *Dataset Preparation*

In this step, the processed images are labeled according to the identity of each individual. The dataset is then divided into training and testing sets to evaluate the performance of the model. Data augmentation techniques may also be applied to increase dataset size and improve model generalization.

IV. *Model Training*

Deep learning models such as FaceNet, VGGFace, or ResNet are trained using the prepared dataset. These models learn to extract unique facial features and convert them into numerical embeddings, which are stored in the database for future comparison.

During attendance marking, the system captures live facial images using a camera. These images act as input for the recognition process and are processed in real time to ensure quick and efficient performance.

V. *Feature Extraction (Testing Phase)*

The captured real-time image is passed through the trained model to extract its facial features.

The extracted embeddings are compared with the stored embeddings in the database using similarity measures such as cosine similarity or Euclidean distance. If the similarity score meets the predefined threshold, the identity of the individual is successfully verified.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental results show that the system achieved a high recognition accuracy of approximately 95–98% under controlled conditions, where lighting and positioning were optimal. In real-world scenarios with moderate variations, the accuracy ranged between 90–95%, demonstrating the system's robustness. The integration of Multi-task Cascaded Convolutional Neural Network for face detection and alignment further enhanced the system's ability to correctly identify faces even with slight pose variations.

Despite its strong performance, some limitations were observed. The system requires a good quality camera and sufficient lighting for optimal performance. Additionally, initial dataset preparation and model training can be time-consuming. Future improvements may include incorporating advanced models for masked face recognition, improving low-light performance, and deploying the system on edge devices for enhanced scalability.

The system was tested using a dataset consisting of multiple facial images of individuals captured under varying lighting conditions, angles, and facial expressions. The use of deep learning models like FaceNet and ResNet significantly improved the recognition accuracy compared to traditional methods.

The system also demonstrated strong resistance to common issues such as minor occlusions (e.g., spectacles or partial face covering) and background noise. However, significant occlusions like masks covering most facial features or extreme lighting conditions still posed challenges, leading to occasional misclassification or failure to detect faces.

From a usability perspective, the automated attendance marking reduced manual effort and eliminated proxy attendance, thereby improving reliability and transparency. The database management system ensured accurate storage and retrieval of attendance records, while the user interface provided easy access to reports and analytics.

The proposed Face-Based Attendance System was evaluated based on key performance metrics such as accuracy, recognition speed, and robustness under different environmental conditions.

Overall, the results indicate that the proposed system is efficient, accurate, and reliable for real-time attendance management, making it a practical solution for educational institutions and organizations.

FACE BASED ATTENDANCE SYSTEM

Available at <https://jscer.org>

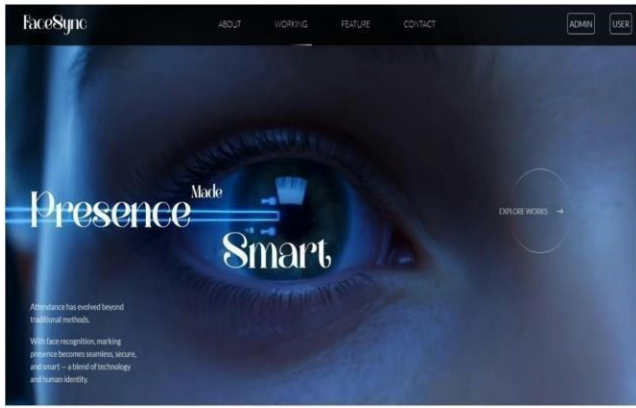


Fig. 1. Home Page

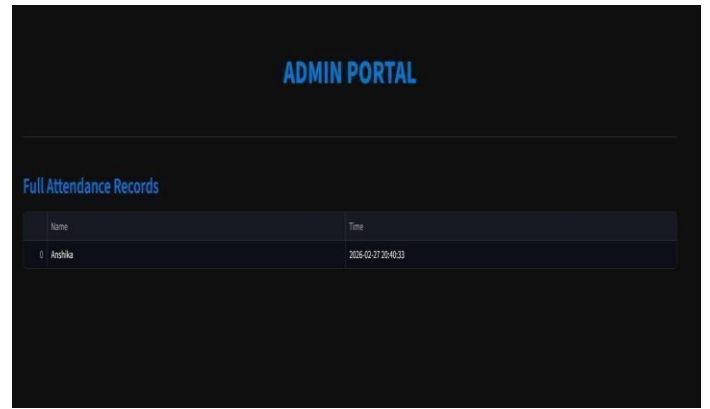


Fig. 5. Admin Page

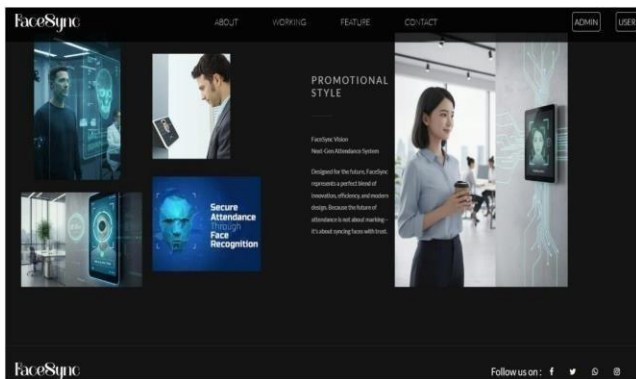


Fig. 2. About Section

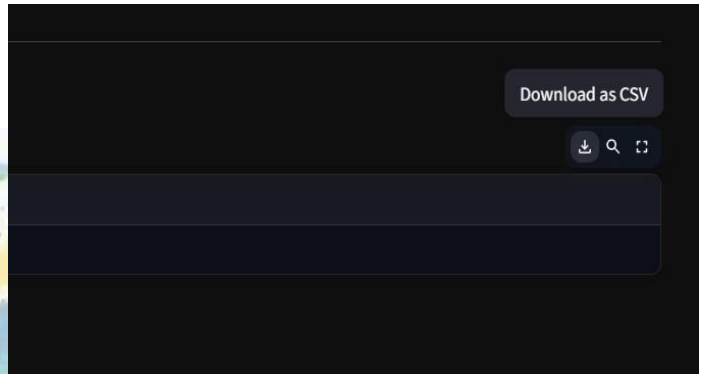


Fig. 6. Attendance Report Download Option

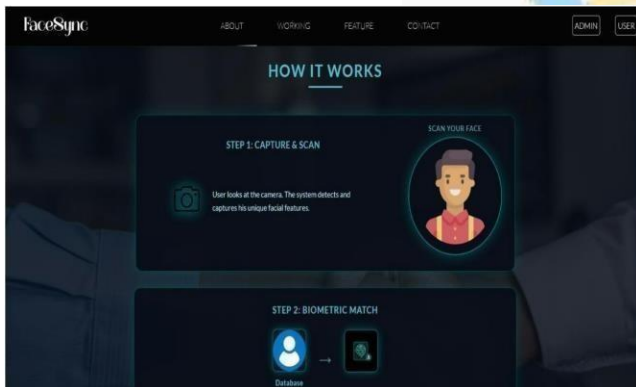


Fig. 3. Working Section

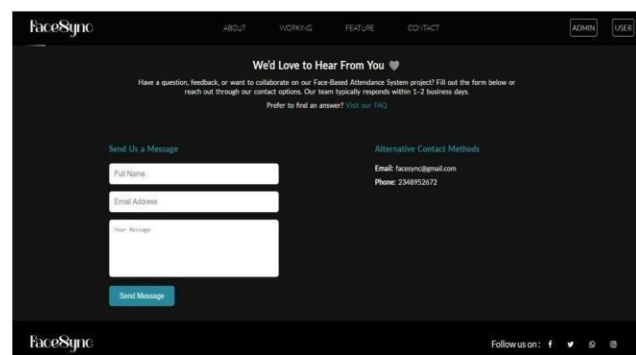


Fig. 4. Contact Page

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

Modern approaches leverage convolutional neural networks and facial embeddings to achieve high accuracy, scalability, and robustness across diverse environments. Studies consistently emphasize that successful implementation depends not only on algorithmic accuracy but also on practical aspects — such as reliable face detection and alignment, real-time performance, privacy protection, and liveness verification to prevent spoofing.

Despite impressive progress, challenges remain in adapting systems to real-world institutional settings where lighting, crowding, and camera quality vary significantly. Moreover, ethical considerations — including data privacy, consent, and bias mitigation — are increasingly central to design and deployment. Current research trends point toward lightweight edge-based models, multimodal verification, and privacy-preserving machine learning as promising directions.

In conclusion, an effective face-based attendance system should integrate robust deep-learning recognition techniques with secure, user-centered, and context-aware design principles. By addressing practical deployment issues — such as incremental enrollment, cost-effective liveness detection, and privacy-by-design architecture — the proposed project can contribute meaningfully to advancing reliable, efficient, and ethical automated attendance solutions.

Several enhancements are planned for future development:

- [1] Mobile Application Development:

Create a mobile app for students and administrators to view attendance reports

- [2] Improved Accuracy with Deep Learning:
Implement advanced deep learning models like CNNs to enhance recognition accuracy under different lighting and facial conditions.
- [3] Liveness and Mask Detection:
Add features to detect real human faces and recognize individuals even when wearing masks, ensuring system security and adaptability.
- [4] Automated Notifications and Analytics:
Integrate AI-based analytics to monitor attendance trends and send automated alerts for absences or irregularities.
- [5] Real-Time Notifications:
Send automatic SMS/Email alerts to students and parents for attendance updates.

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