Improving Hand Washing Behaviour Using Social Robots For Rural School Children

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Motivation: Existing hand hygiene interventions in developing countries are resource intensive, complex to measure/monitor compliance at scale and they rarely are sustainable over long-term. Social robots have barely been explored with rural populations in developing countries.

Goals: Develop and deploy a social robot to encourage handwashing behaviour and measure its impact by systematic empirical studies in rural schools in India.

Outcomes: The project will contribute toward informing the design of future social robots, both for the challenges of the developing world and also broader applications for effecting positive behaviour change.
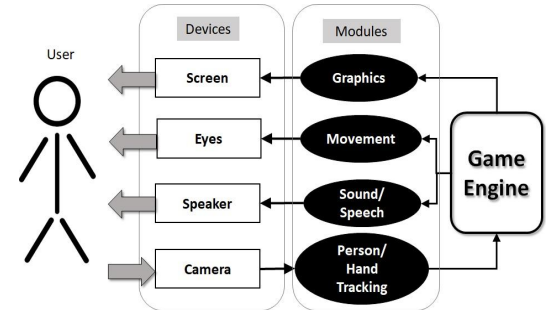

Fig. 1: Pilot Deployment and Prototype robot design

Fig. 2: System Architecture