

Development and Performance Analysis of a Small-Scale Vertical Axis Wind Turbine

Ashok Gandhi R, Rajesh M*, Lakshmi pathi K, Anand A P.

¹Department of Mechanical Engineering, Sri Sairam Engineering College, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India.

* Corresponding author: rajesh735822@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research presents the design and development of a small-scale wind turbine intended for installation in coastal regions to utilize wind energy for electricity generation. The primary objective of the system is to ensure reliable power production even at relatively low wind velocities of 3–4 m/s. Along with energy generation, the study also focuses on minimizing operational noise, improving resistance to corrosion through suitable material selection, and implementing approaches that help protect surrounding wildlife, particularly bird species. The turbine blade structure is designed with aerodynamic considerations to limit noise generation during operation, while corrosion-resistant materials such as fiberglass are incorporated to enhance durability in saline coastal environments. Environmental responsibility forms an important part of the project, which includes careful site planning and the potential application of deterrent methods to reduce interaction with wildlife. Special attention is given to bird safety by exploring visual and acoustic deterrent strategies that can discourage birds from approaching the turbine area. Proper site positioning is also considered to maximize wind energy capture while minimizing ecological disturbance. The proposed turbine system is intended for coastal deployment where consistent winds support electricity generation. Since coastal conditions can be demanding, the turbine structure is designed to withstand salt exposure and harsh environmental factors. Scheduled maintenance procedures ensure long-term efficiency and reliable system performance.

INTRODUCTION

The growing need for sustainable energy solutions calls for creative methods to utilize renewable resources. Coastal areas present a great opportunity for wind energy production, yet current small-scale turbines often struggle with low wind speeds and their environmental effects. This project aims to design and build a new small-scale wind turbine tailored for coastal use. By integrating innovative design elements, the turbine seeks to address these issues and deliver a dependable and eco-friendly source of renewable energy. Key goals include: Efficient energy generation at low wind speeds: Making sure the turbine can produce electricity effectively even at wind speeds as low as 3-4 m/s, which are typical in coastal regions. Reducing noise pollution: Using advanced blade designs to lessen acoustic disturbances and minimize the impact on nearby communities. Improving corrosion resistance: Choosing corrosion-resistant materials like fiberglass to guarantee long-lasting performance in the challenging saltwater environment. Protecting wildlife: Adding bird-friendly features and deterrents to reduce risks to bird populations. This project employs cutting-edge design tools and a collaborative approach to create a sustainable and environmentally responsible wind energy solution for coastal settings.

WORKING PRINCIPLE

Coastal winds power the turbine, efficiently harnessing its energy. Its effective operation is guaranteed by low wind speed optimization, noise reduction, corrosion resistance and wildlife protection. A novel turbine blade design, incorporating several advanced aerodynamic principles, allows for highly efficient energy generation at low wind speeds (3-4 m/s), a feature of important importance in some coastal regions. The specific blade design considerably minimizes a large amount of turbulence. This meaningful reduction in turbulence guarantees a negligible acoustic effect on the surrounding environment. Fiberglass and similar materials are corrosion-resistant, guaranteeing durability in harsh saltwater conditions. The turbine's design incorporates bird strike reduction features. Careful site planning is an important factor and several bird-deterrent measures are also important factors. The turbine's visual effect on the surrounding landscape must be considerably deliberated and this deliberation must be thorough. A strong, expertly designed turbine generates highly efficient and supremely reliable energy, even in harsh coastal conditions.

1. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE

1.1. Scope of the Project

This project goes beyond traditional wind energy generation by concentrating on creating a small-scale wind turbine tailored for coastal use. It includes the design, construction, and assessment of a turbine capable of efficiently capturing wind energy in the demanding coastal setting while reducing environmental impact.

1.2. Objective of the Project

The main goal is to create a wind energy solution that is sustainable and environmentally friendly for coastal areas. This includes:

- * **Efficient energy generation:** Creating a turbine that can produce electricity effectively even at low wind speeds, which are typical in coastal regions.
- * **Environmental sustainability:** Reducing noise pollution and adding features that are safe for birds to lessen the turbine's environmental impact.
- * **Technological advancement:** Investigating the use of cutting-edge materials and innovative design ideas to improve turbine performance and durability in challenging coastal conditions.

This project seeks to support the development of clean and sustainable energy options for coastal communities.

2. CURRENT RESEARCH

Recent advancements in small-scale wind energy technology have concentrated on overcoming the challenges of capturing energy efficiently in low wind speed areas, reducing environmental impact, and improving durability in harsh coastal conditions.

- * **Low Wind Speed Performance:** Researchers have been looking into innovative blade designs, including those with vortex generators or flexible structures, to enhance energy capture at low wind speeds (3-4 m/s), which are common in coastal regions.
- * **Noise Reduction:** A significant amount of research has been dedicated to creating quieter turbine designs, utilizing advanced airfoil shapes, noise-reducing materials, and optimized blade geometries to lessen acoustic disturbances and minimize noise pollution.
- * **Corrosion Resistance:** Investigations are underway into advanced materials, such as corrosion-resistant composites and coatings, to boost turbine durability and lifespan in challenging saltwater environments.
- * **Wildlife Protection:** Extensive studies are being carried out on bird-friendly design features, including bird-deterrent systems and strategic turbine placement, to reduce the risk of bird collisions and other impacts on wildlife.

These ongoing research initiatives are vital for the development of small-scale wind turbines that are both efficient and environmentally responsible for coastal applications.

3. DESIGN

The design process concentrated on enhancing the turbine for effective performance in the demanding coastal setting.

Blade Design:

3D modeling software, like SolidWorks, was employed to create the turbine blades, applying aerodynamic principles to optimize energy capture at low wind speeds (3-4 m/s). The focus was on refining blade geometry, including airfoil shapes and twist distributions, to reduce noise and boost overall efficiency.

Structural Analysis:

Finite Element Analysis (FEA) methods were used to evaluate the structural integrity of the turbine under various loading scenarios, such as strong winds, severe weather conditions, and the corrosive impact of the saltwater environment.

Material Selection:

Corrosion-resistant materials, including fiberglass composites, were chosen for essential components to guarantee long-lasting durability and performance in the tough coastal environment. This iterative design approach, which combined computational analysis with thoughtful material selection, aimed to develop a sturdy and efficient turbine capable of effectively capturing wind energy in the challenging coastal landscape while minimizing environmental impact.

4. FABRICATION

The fabrication process focused on producing high-quality, durable components. Blade Manufacturing:

Accurate 3D models of the blades, created in SolidWorks, were utilized to produce molds through CNC machining. We chose fiberglass reinforced polymer (FRP) composites for the blade construction, as they provide an ideal mix of strength, stiffness, and corrosion resistance, which is essential for coastal environments. A careful layering technique was implemented to guarantee even material distribution within the mold, followed by a controlled curing process to achieve the best mechanical properties.

This detailed fabrication process resulted in the creation of strong and efficient blades capable of enduring the challenging conditions of coastal deployment.

Figure 1 Die for blade manufacturing

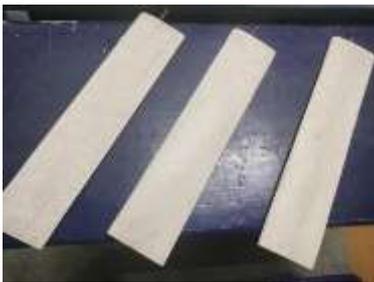


Figure 2 Base for Turbine

**5. ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS**

The electrical system of the hybrid turbine was designed to efficiently convert mechanical energy into electrical energy. Key components include:

1. **Permanent Magnet Generator (PMG):** Converts rotational energy into electricity with high efficiency.[19]
2. **Rectifiers:** Transform AC to DC and regulate voltage levels for optimal storage and usage.
3. **Energy Storage Units:** Batteries store the generated power, ensuring availability during non- operational periods.
4. **Control Systems:** Monitor and regulate the turbine's performance, ensuring safe and efficient operation.

The integration of these components ensures seamless energy conversion and distribution. The electrical system also includes a user-friendly interface, allowing farmers to monitor energy production and consumption in real-time [20].



Figure 3 PERMANENT MAGNET GENERATOR (PMG)



Figure 4 WATTMETER



Figure 5 RECTIFIER



Figure 6 BATTERY

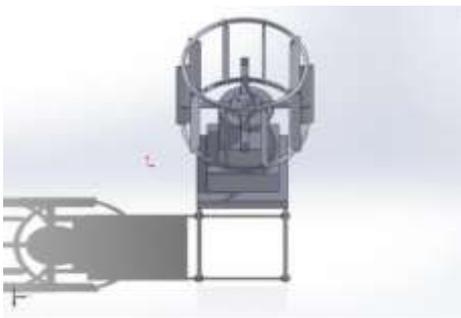


Figure 7. TURBINE MODEL



TURBINE

6. FUTURE SCOPE AND CONCLUSION

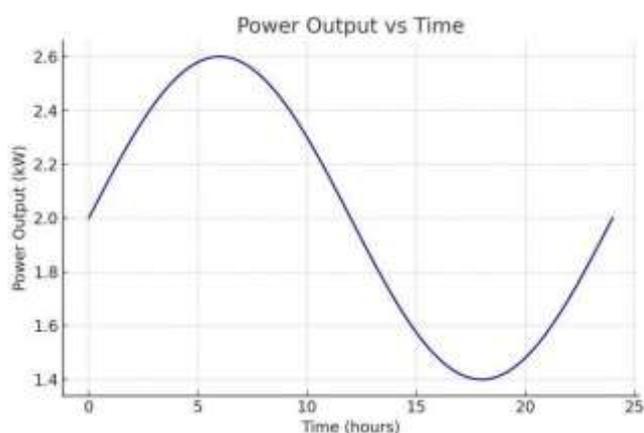
Future Scope

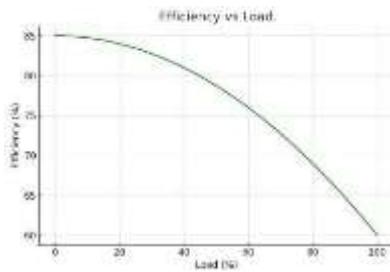
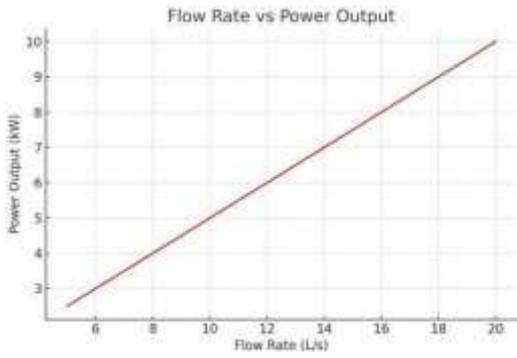
This project represents an important initial step in the development of efficient and environmentally friendly small-scale wind turbines designed for coastal use. Future research and development could concentrate on several critical areas: **Advanced Blade Designs:** Investigating innovative blade designs, including those that use flexible materials or active control systems, to enhance energy capture at low wind speeds and boost overall efficiency. **Smart Grid Integration:** Connecting the turbine with smart grid technologies to optimize energy storage, support grid stabilization, and enable demand-side management. **Environmental Monitoring:** Adding environmental sensors to track wind conditions, bird activity, and other environmental factors in real-time, which would allow for adaptive control strategies and better environmental oversight. **Life-Cycle Assessment:** Performing a thorough life-cycle assessment to analyze the environmental and economic impacts of the turbine throughout its entire lifecycle, from manufacturing and installation to operation and decommissioning.

6.1 CONCLUSION

This project has effectively shown that it is possible to design and build a small-scale wind turbine tailored for coastal use. By integrating innovative design elements, including strategies to reduce noise and considerations for wildlife, the project seeks to support the creation of sustainable and environmentally friendly wind energy solutions for coastal areas. The results of this project offer important insights into the challenges and opportunities involved in developing and implementing small-scale wind turbines in coastal settings. Ongoing research and development in these fields will be essential for promoting the use of clean and sustainable energy solutions for coastal communities and helping to create a more sustainable future.

7. Experimental Results





Total Power Output vs Time

| Time (hours) | Power Output (kW) |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 0.0 | 0.5 |
| 6.0 | 1.0 |
| 12.0 | 2.0 |
| 18.0 | 1.5 |
| 24.0 | 0.7 |

Efficiency vs Load

| Load (%) | Efficiency (%) |
|----------|----------------|
| 20 | 60 |
| 40 | 70 |
| 60 | 80 |
| 80 | 85 |
| 100 | 90 |

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