

Aggrandizement in the Performance of Double slope Solar Still with the Incorporation of Peltier Effect in Addition To Water Depths

Vivek Natarajan. S, Vivekanandhan. B, Armstrong. M

Abstract: Because of continuous increment in the world population and pollution, the scarcity of water has been increasing constantly. Many researchers are doing research in the field of desalination to convert the impure or soar water into drinkable water. Even though many methodologies were followed, desalination using solar still is the oldest and less cost concept with higher lifetime. So research in this field is still undergoing by enhancing the distillate production by incorporating advanced technologies, by controlling the factors affecting the distillate production and introducing various designs. In this work, the double slope solar still had been used and the performance was found at 1 cm and 0.5 cm water depth. In addition to that, the introduction of Peltier module in the back side of the absorber plate had been fixed to generate the electricity during the day time due to the temperature difference in the Peltier module to charge the battery. The stored current is again used to activate the Peltier to increase the heat generation during the evening time. The performance was increased in both 1 cm water depth and 0.5 water depth by 13% and 9.1% respectively during the heating period in the evening hours.

Keywords— double slope solar still, Peltier module, distillate enhancement.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays the scarcity of water increased due to the industrialization and high population. Water scarcity not only means inadequate fresh water. But also the inefficacy of the government to supply water in a regular manner to the common people. Already more continents in the globe were affected due to water scarcity. As per the survey taken by UN, 2018 (1) and Global Water Institute, 2013 (2) maximum of 2 billion people are suffering a high water stress in a countries and 700 million people worldwide could caught high water scarcity by 2030. This might also due to the boom of modern products for higher luxury life style and industrial usage, by wasting more amount of fresh water. Since it is cheapest and easily available raw material. Hence this serious problem could be control by using an attractive (3) and cost effective method (4) to recycle the waste or saline water into fresh water is solar distillation method. This

method is environment-friendly since sunlight does not harm and it is having abundant energy. Researchers are working on the enhanced modern solar still by introducing many tools. Since the working efficiency of existing solar still model is very low. The main intension of this work is to develop a new modern technique and non-technical tool to improve the working efficiency of the solar still. So a new kind of low cost Peltier module (5) is introduced in the backside of the absorber plate to enhance the performance of the absorber plate and the solar still which would increase the efficiency of the system by increasing the distillate production. The Peltier module is a rectangular plate consists of semiconducting material with hot and cold junction. This converts the electrical energy into heat energy as a hotness and coldness in either side of the plate (10). Because of this principle, it had been used in many applications nowadays. Amine Allouhi et al (5) stated that the collective work of thermal power and electric power from the thermoelectric system in the solar applications generates improved performance in addition to the solar irradiation. Javad Abolfazli Esfahani et al (4) discussed the utilization of the new designed portable solar still with thermoelectric system for cooling the vapour had been studied. Since during the winter season, the wind velocity was high compared to summer, so as to enhance the evaporation rate, the thermoelectric generator was used and it enhances the condensation rate of evaporated vapor through cooling process. V. P. Joshi et al (6) experimented the conversion of atmospheric air into water particles through cooling process using the thermoelectric cooler. Hayder Al-Madhhachi et al (7) experimentally studied the main factors influencing the water formation using thermoelectric distillation system and had been stating that the Peltier current and its input, water temperature, and vapour volume decides the distillation of vapour. The higher water production could be attained by maintaining the lower condenser temperature through the controlled supply of thermal energy from the Peltier module as an output and current as an input. P. Pounraj et al (9) discussed that Peltier cooling and heating effect over the glass plate provided 52% thermal efficiency compared to the normal solar still and 30% while using solar photo voltaic cell. It attained 6.5 times enhanced water productivity compared to normal still. Amir Hossein Shourideh (11) discussed that the current input to the Peltier increases the cooling effect and increases the water formation was found.

In this work the Peltier modules had been placed below the absorber plate to produce the electricity during the day time due to the temperature difference between the two sides. The generated electricity is used for heating the plate during the evening hours by supplying energy from the charged battery.

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This process and setup enhanced the performance of the solar still by producing high vapour inside the solar still without much energy wastage and the performance was higher during the evening hours compared to conventional solar still.

II. METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

The experiment had been carried out in the Virudhunagar district, South Tamilnadu with the latitude of 9.5747° N, 77.6798° E. The solar still consist of flat absorber plate coated with black paint, transparent glasses, thick wooden box and thermocol for insulation, sealant, condensate channel, storage tank, Peltier module. The transparent glasses are fixed with the angle of 26° to the wooden box and faced south to absorb a maximum solar radiation into the system. The experiment was conducted in the month of March and April. The Peltier modules were attached to the bottom of the absorber plate connected to the 12V DC battery. Hot side facing the plate and cold side facing the atmosphere. The experiment had been carried out with the depth of 1 cm and 0.5 cm to check the maximum productivity rate compared to the normal solar still. The sun radiation falling inside the solar still over the flat absorber plate with the brackish water absorb the heat through the transparent glasses. Due to the temperature difference, the evaporation takes place and the evaporated vapour condensed in the inner glass plate and gets collected in the distillate collector through the condensate channel.

A. Design of the still and Specifications

TABLE 1. Technical Specifications of solar still

S.No	Design Parameters	
1.	Basin area	1 m ²
2.	Angle of glazing	26°
3.	Thickness of glass plate	0.002 m
4.	Thickness of Stainless steel	0.002 m
5.	Thickness of insulation(wood)	0.010 m
6.	Thickness of thermocol	0.02 m
7.	Emissivity of glass	0.94
8.	Emissivity of water	0.96
9.	Latent heat of vaporization	2382.9 kg/m ³
10.	Density of Stainless steel	7700 kg/m ³

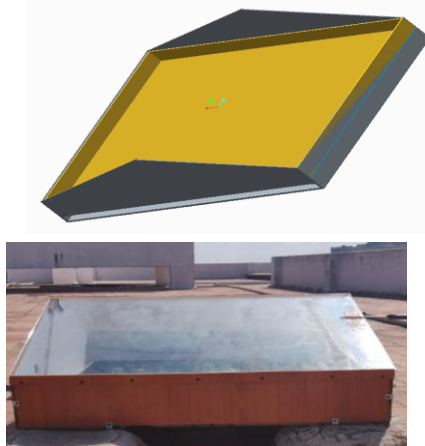


Fig. 1. 3 D and Experimental setup of a solar still

B. Instruments used to measure

S.No	Instruments used	Range
1.	Digital thermometer	-50°C - 300°C
2.	Sola power meter (TM-207)	0.1 - 2000 W/m ² / +/- 10 W/m ²
3.	Peltier module (TEC1-2706)	-30° - 70°C/12V 60W
4.	Multi meter(DT9205A)	10A/500V
5.	Battery	12V

III. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

The experimental setup of the solar still possesses brackish water settled in the black coated stainless steel basin flat plate. The setup is completely insulated by wood, thermocol and the sealant tape to reduce the heat release from the still to the surrounding. The transparent glazing had been given over the still to make the solar radiation to fall inside the basin and not to escape from the basin. It had been faced south and north to trap maximum solar radiation. The four Peltier modules had placed below the flat absorber plate to produce current in the peak days and to heat the basin during the evening hours.

The experiment had been conducted in the month of April at the location of Virudhunagar (9.5747° N, 77.6798° E). A fine weather climatic condition had been chosen for validating the experiment. The temperatures of water, two glasses, flat absorber plate and dry, wet conditions of air have been measured using digital thermometers and psychrometer respectively. The solar radiation had been measured using the solar power meter. The Peltier module is powered with the battery and the current produced is measured with the help of multimeter. The water level had been maintained with the 0.5 cm depth and 1 cm depth and the readings had been taken for a continuous week respectively. When the solar radiation fall inside the solar still heats up the plate and water by increasing the temperature and pressure inside the still and made the water to evaporate. Then the evaporated vapour reaches the glass and due to the cover it strikes and reduces its energy by giving to glasses and gets condensed over the glass and get collected in the collector through the condensate channel. The collected water is measured in the beaker. The readings have been taken from 9.00 am to 18.00 pm for a week for 0.5 cm depth and for 1 cm depth. The validation had been taken for the days where the solar radiation was taken nearer values and the results had been discussed.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Influence of solar radiation with respect to time

The solar radiation from the sun varies from day to day depends upon the moisture present in the clouds, greenhouse gases, and air velocity. Since it is of two types direct radiation and diffused radiation. The amount of distillate production is directly proportional to the solar irradiance. During experimentation process, the solar radiations were varied differently in each day. The measurements had been taken for every one hour from 9.00 am to 18.00 pm.

The solar radiation started with the minimum value and then reached a maximum of 1010 W/m^2 during the peak hours. This made a high yield during the peak hours compared to the evening and morning hours. Due to the sun geometry, the transparent glass faced south got high radiation compared to the north faced transparent glass. Hence after comparison between two weeks of measurement for 0.5 cm and 1 cm depth, particular days were found nearer values and the validations were predicted. From the Fig 2, we could identify that the measurements of 17.04.19 and 25.04.19 are moreover same and the ambient temperature also measured and got the nearby values. But there were some fluctuations in the wind velocity.

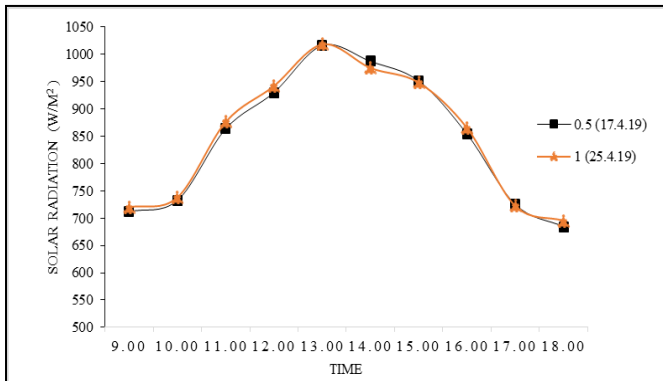


Fig. 2. Solar radiation Vs Time

B. Influence of water, basin, glass and ambient temperatures with respect to time

During experimentation, the temperatures of water (T_w), basin (T_a), glass (T_{gm}), vapour (T_v) and ambient temperatures were measured. It gradually increases from the morning hours and attain maximum in the peak hours and decreases again in the low sunlight. Here the basin temperature and water temperature influence the rate of evaporation and glass temperature influences the rate of condensation of the vapour. Hence the glass temperature had been maintained by spraying the water over the glass. This reduces the temperature of glass and increases the condensate rate. The ambient temperature and wind velocity played a significant role in the production of vapor by increasing or decreasing the temperature inside the system”.

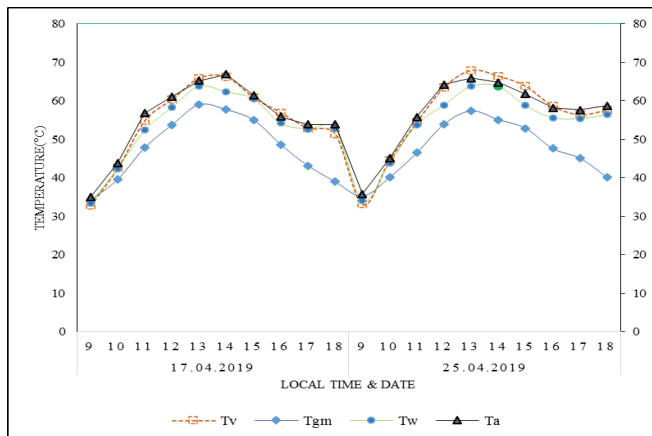


Fig. 3. Temperatures of water, glass, absorber plate and vapour vs Time

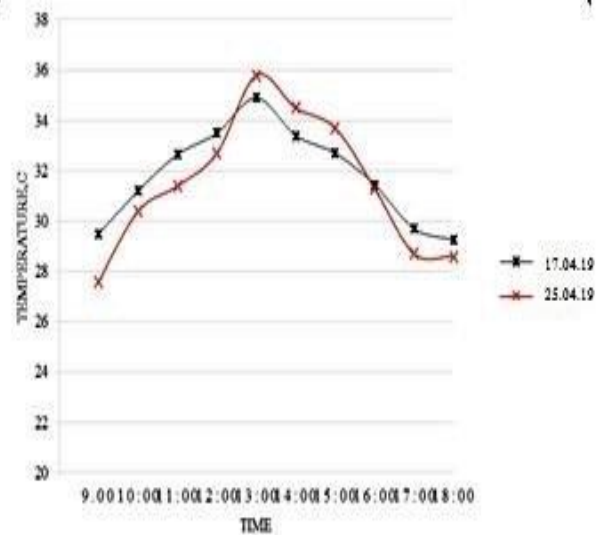


Fig. 4. Ambient Temperature Vs Time

C. Influence of Peltier effect and distillate production

As the distillate production mainly depends on the solar radiation, temperatures of the basin vapour and water. The hourly based distillate readings showed the increment and decrement based on the above said factors. Hence during low light conditions like evening hours, the Peltier module energized and heats the plate to increase the basin and water temperature which would automatically enhance the evaporation and condensate rate. This would reflect in the result which obtained during the measurement in the low light condition. There we found a increase in the distillate formation. Hence the active involvement of peltier also enhances the hourly and total production rate of the distillate. The energy for the Peltier module is given by the energy stored in the battery during the peak hours by keeping the hot surface in the heating plate and cold surface at the atmospheric conditions.

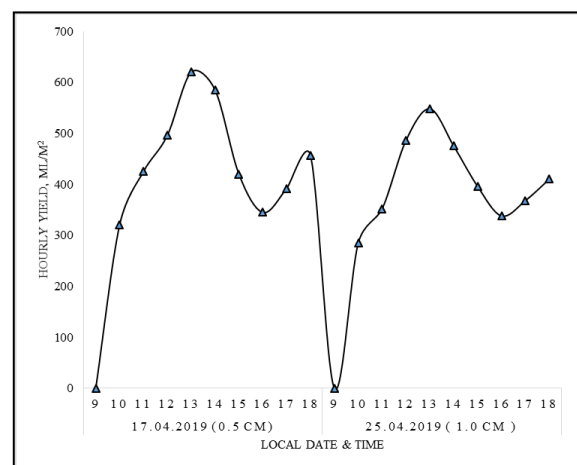


Fig. 5. Hourly productions of distillate vs Time

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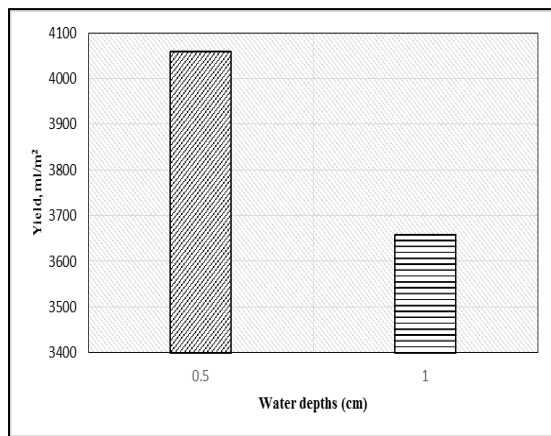


Fig. 6. Yield vs Water depth

V. CONCLUSION

In this work, the enhancement of distillate production using the double slope solar still had been experimentally studied using the Peltier module as a heating and power generating device with the different depths attained the following conclusions.

1. The experimental investigation from the results proved again that the low level water depths (0.5 cm) had higher distillate production compared to the higher depths (1 cm). But with adding Peltier effect it gave higher water production comparing to the conventional double slope solar still.

2. Peltier module generated the voltage of 3 – 5 V during the low temperature to the higher temperature difference and it as a heating module, it enhances the generation of the temperature and distillate production by 11 % in the 0.5 cm water depth and 8.5% increment in the 1 cm water depth for every hour during the heating period of 16.00 pm to 18.00 pm. These results state that usage of Peltier modules in the low water depth could give an enhanced distillate production comparing to the conventional solar stills. Nowadays these kinds of research works could pave a path way for a new idea in the production of modern and compact solar stills by designing and implementing with Peltier modules. In future, it would play a predominant role and provides a step ahead in the research field of double slope solar still fresh water conversion.

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