
Design and Testing of Building Integrated Hybrid Vertical Axis Wind Turbine

Gwani Mohammed*, Abubakar Ibrahim, Umar Mohammed Kangiwa, Joshua Benjamin Wisdom

Department of Physics, Kebbi State University of Science and Technology, Aliero, Nigeria

Email address:

gwanimohammed@gmail.com (G. Mohammed)

*Corresponding author

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Abstract: Building integrated wind turbine are considered as part of a group of technologies that are suitable for domestic micro-energy generation. Darrieus and Savonius turbines work efficiently in the urban environment at low wind speed, the Savonius rotor is self-starting and creates high torque but has low efficiency, while the Darrieus rotor is very efficient but does not self-start easily. Thus, the combination of these rotors as hybrid system would help to improve the overall efficiency of the wind turbines. The aim of this paper was to design, fabricate and experimentally investigate the performance of hybrid Vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT) on residential buildings. A building model with gable rooftop was design and fabricated for use in testing of the hybrid VAWT. The height of the hybrid VAWT was paced at $Y = 150$ mm above the rooftop. The results obtained from the studies showed that the hybrid VAWT mounted on the building rooftop yield up to 63% more energy compared to the bare-hybrid VAWT (without building). Similar improvement in performance of the hybrid VAWT is also observed in the rotational speed, mechanical power and the coefficient of torque, where the building integrated hybrid VAWT outperformed the bare-hybrid VAWT. Thus the results indicate that urban buildings are suitable for the mounting of the hybrid VAWT.

Keywords: Hybrid VAWT, Wind Energy, Rooftop, Vaulted Building

1. Introduction

Satisfying the energy demand of the built environment, reducing the carbon foot print, and provision of decentralized energy generation are some of the potential benefit of deploying wind turbines in the urban environment [1, 2]. The energy captured from the wind is a pollution-free resource, and could help in reducing the dependence on fossil fuel [3]. Difficulties experienced in installing wind turbines on the rooftop of metropolitan building have led to overriding concern in estimating, with a certain degree of accuracy, the yield expected from a wind turbine in a particular location in the urban environment [4]. The poor performance of wind turbines in the urban settings is attributed to two reasons: designing wind turbine without taking into consideration the complex nature of the wind resource at the roof level and poor placement of wind turbine on the rooftop [5]. To overcome these difficulties, there is a need for an efficient design of a wind turbine that is cost-effective, simple to

manufacture in a variety of different sizes, and energy outputs and can operate effectively in areas with complex wind conditions. Accordingly, quite a number of recent studies have emphasized on designing wind turbines explicitly for urban applications [6-8]. In addition, accurate methods of evaluating the variability of the wind resource across wide urban areas have been also reported [9-12]. Wind energy development in the urban environment has unique challenges due to the complex wind conditions and the surrounding obstacles of the urban environment [13]. However these challenges could be overcome when wind turbines are integrated on the rooftops of urban buildings where the performance of the wind turbine is expected to improve due to the accelerating effect at the rooftop. The Savonius and the Darrieus vertical axis wind turbine (VAWT) are the two categories of vertical axis wind turbines that are mostly installed in the urban environment.

However these two distinct types of wind turbines have their merits and demerits. Both the Savonius rotor and the Darrieus rotor work efficiently in the urban environment at low wind speed. The Savonius rotor is self-starting and creates high torque but it has low efficiency, while the other hand the Darrieus rotor is very efficient but has difficulty to self-start. The combination of the Savonius rotor and H-Darrieus rotor as hybrid system can improve the overall efficiency of the wind turbines. The H-Darrieus rotor VAWTs are still more preferable for operation in a complex wind environment since the wind vector at a rooftop is not horizontal. Therefore wind turbines on a roof operate in a skew flow [14]. The aim of this study was to design and investigate the performance of the hybrid VAWT integrated on the rooftop of urban building for on-site energy generation.

1.1. Literature Review

Wind turbines have been recognized for their potentials to produce clean and inexhaustible energy since the early energy crisis in the 1970s. The dependency on fossil fuel reserves alone has renewed the interest in the development of wind energy devices which emanated from our concern of the impending world economic crisis [15, 16]. Before now the HAWT is the only proven technology for the generation of power from wind [17] because the Darrieus VAWT could not compete due to their low efficiency compared to the HAWT until the introduction of the VAWT (Giromill) with variable pitch configuration which has a coefficient of power value comparable to that of the HAWT [15]. The cost of generating power using the Darrieus VAWT was 18-39% less than the HAWT, subject to variation of turbine size and mean wind speed at the site [18]. The blades of the vertical rotor are the main reason for the low performance of the conventional VAWT. During operation, the blades experience rapid changes in the angle of attack (AOA) as the blades rotate in the upwind and downwind regions, the complex aerodynamic and cyclic torque issues is caused by the variation in the AOA during operation and these issues are not suffered by the HAWT blades [15].

1.2. Darrieus Rotor

The Darrieus rotor consists of vertical airfoils mounted on a vertical shaft at some distance or radius from the shaft. These wind turbines take advantages of the lift generated by the airfoils moving through the wind. It has advantage of higher rotational speed and high power coefficient but it has poor self-starting capabilities [19]. However, recent studies in the development of vertical axis wind energy devices have contributed to better performance and are more reliable. According to Dominy et al. [20] and Hill et al. [21] have shown that the use of fixed geometry and symmetrical airfoil will enable H-rotor VAWT to self-start by itself. Kirke [22] reported that the self-starting torque problem of the VAWTs can be overcome by using a passive variable pitch or by a combination of suitable blade airfoils. Further studies by

Takao et al. [23] has shown that the power coefficient of the VAWT can be increased by 1.5 times by placing a guide vane row upstream of the rotor, Kim and Gharib [24] and Stout et al. [25] experimentally investigated the effects of an upstream flat deflector on the power output of two counter-rotating straight-bladed Darrieus wind turbine. The Darrieus rotor is as shown in Figure 1.

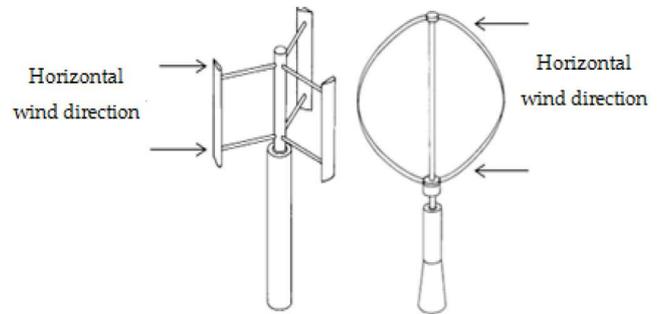


Figure 1. Darrieus rotor [1].

1.3. Savonius Rotor

Savonius rotor is a vertical axis wind turbine which accepts wind from any direction and self-starts at low cut in speeds. This is considered as one of the advantages of the Savonius rotor; however it has low efficiency compared to the Darrieus rotor. The Savonius rotor can be single stage, double stage or even triple stage and the starting torque of the Savonius rotor is never negative [26]. Sanusi et al. [27] combines the two geometries of the surface curve of Savonius bucket with the concave side being half a circle and the other side being of convex semi-circular form, their results showed that the combined blades improved the performance of the Savonius rotor. Thiyagaraj et al. [28] improved the efficiency and the torque values along the angular position of the Savonius rotor by placing additional blades in front of the concave side of the main rotor blade. Sharma and Sharma [29] asserted that using multiple quarter blades instead of single blades can significantly improve the performance of the Savonius rotor. Furthermore placing two deflectors upstream of the Savonius rotor can increase increased the power coefficient of the rotor as reported by [30]. The schematic diagram and CAD design of the Savonius rotor is shown in Figure 2.

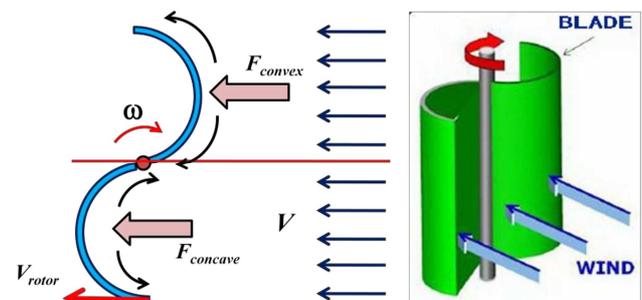


Figure 2. Schematic drawing showing the drag forces exerted on 2-blade Savonius [31].

1.4. Hybrid Vertical Axis Wind Turbine

Hybrid vertical axis wind turbine simply combines the Darrieus and Savonius rotor in order to utilize their respective advantages while overcoming their respective disadvantages. The Darrieus rotor usually has a high power coefficient and is usually more efficient compared to other types of VAWT designs but it not capable of self-starting by itself [32], while the Savonius rotor has high starting torque which enables it to self-start by it-self; however it has low rotational speed and power coefficient. To overcome these challenges, many researchers combine the Darrieus and the Savonius rotor as a compact system in order to utilize their merits while attempting to overcome their respective demerits. Many studies have been conducted on the hybrid VAWT for small scale power generation. Letcher [33] developed a small scale wind turbine optimized for low wind speed results from his studies showed that the combined rotors increases the total power of the turbine in lower wind speed. A hybrid VAWT was designed and developed by Alam and Iqbal [19]. Sahim *et al.* [34] investigated the effect of radius rotor in the combined Darrieus-Savonius wind turbine. Results obtained from their studies showed that the radius ratio has a significant influence on the turbine performance. Siddiqui *et al.* [35] experimentally investigated the performance of Hybrid vertical axis wind turbine, their results showed that the combination of the turbines in any arrangement resulted in an improved coefficient of performance and lower cut-in speed. Gwani *et al.* [36] compared the performance of hybrid and conventional H-Darrieus VAWT under four wind speed conditions ($V = 4.8$ m/s, 4.5 m/s, 4.30 m/s, and 3.90 m/s). The results obtained from the study indicated that the C_p values of the hybrid VAWT increases by 92% compared to the H-rotor VAWT at 4.8 m/s. Further results showed similar increase in the C_p values of the hybrid VAWT is also observed for other wind speed. Wekesa *et al.* [37] experimentally investigated the performance of VAWT rotors i.e. H-Darrieus and Savonius rotor. They carried out a systematic analysis on flow regime, rotor configuration and effects of number of blades. A result from the study reveals that these parameters have significant impact on the performance of the wind turbine, and that the H-Darrieus rotor has higher efficiency compared to the Savonius rotor. Hossein and Goudarzi [38] evaluated the performance of an innovative hybrid VAWT using 2 bladed modified Savonius Bach-type rotor and a 3-bladed Darrieus rotor, and compared their results with H-rotor Darrieus VAWT. The results obtained showed that the H-rotor Darrieus VAWT attained a maximum C_p value of 48.4%, but experience low starting torque while the hybrid VAWT has a highest C_p of 41.4% with a high starting torque which improve self-starting capabilities of the hybrid VAWT.

1.5. Building Integrated Wind Turbine

Integrating wind turbine in urban buildings has attracted increasing attention as part of a group of technologies that are suitable for domestic micro-generations [39]. Wind turbines

integrated onto urban building encompasses different challenges when compared to stand-alone wind energy systems and wind farms [40]. These challenges include low wind speed conditions of the urban areas, high levels of aerodynamic noise and turbulence generated by the wind turbines [41].

Roof shapes have different effects on the airflow above buildings, The shape of the roof is one of the main factors that affect the performance of roof mounted wind turbines and understanding it effects is very vital in planning for building integrated wind turbine [12, 42, 43]. Features of the built environment such as shape of the roof on the buildings, passage under elevated bottom, and between two buildings and building edges can concentrate wind flow [44]. A review of the past research indicates that the positioning relative to the prevailing wind direction and positioning (height above the roof ridge) affects the performance of wind turbine in the urban buildings [39, 45]. The wind speed experienced by a wind turbine on the rooftop is about 20% higher than the undisturbed wind speed [1, 46]. Mithranene [47] reported that rooftop wind turbines have the potential to reduce the energy and carbon intensity of New Zealand electricity by 81% and 61 % respectively. Abohela *et al.* [48] reported that integrating wind turbine on a vaulted rooftop would yield 56% more electricity than a freestanding wind turbine in the same location under the same wind conditions.

Mounting wind turbines in urban buildings can be seen as an opportunity in harvesting wind power because the wind flow can be augmented locally due to concentration effects of the buildings [40]. Mounting position and height is very important when siting wind turbines in urban environments. Blackmore [43] and Abohela *et al.* [48] reported that the power output of a roof mounted wind turbine may be close to zero for substantial periods of time if the turbine is mounted at the wrong position. Wind turbines can be mounted on high rise buildings and generally, high rise buildings are built with a flat rooftop. Ledo *et al.* [42] asserted that the profile of the roofs determines the wind flow characteristics. The wind flow in and around high-rise buildings was analyzed by Lu and Sun [41]. They recommended that the annual wind flows over buildings should be model using an integrated method of both macro and micro aspects. Loganathan *et al.* [49] Design and study the economic feasibility of micro wind turbine for residential buildings.

In this study a hybrid VAWT was design and integrated on a building rooftop in order to take advantage of the increased wind speed at the rooftop. However, to the best of the author's knowledge, no hybrid VAWT was integrated on rooftop, most the VAWTs designs are either single Darrieus or Savonius rotor integrated on the rooftop or as stand-alone system. Also the connecting struts of the hybrid VAWT are airfoil shaped during fabrication, this helps to reduce the parasitic drag experience by conventional VAWTs, and improve the aerodynamic performance of the hybrid VAWT.

The performance of a wind turbine is mostly characterized by the coefficient of power (C_p), coefficient of torque, and the tip speed ratio. The coefficient of power, C_p which

represents the efficiency of a wind turbine can be calculated using Equation (1).

$$C_p = \frac{P}{0.5 \cdot \rho \cdot A \cdot U_\infty^3} \quad (1)$$

Where

P = the power (W);

ρ = density (1.23 kg/m^3);

A = area of the rotor (m^2); and

U_∞ = m wind speed (m/s).

The C_p is the ratio of the actual power that is extracted by the wind rotor to the theoretical power that is available in the wind. The C_p varies from different wind turbines available; a C_p value of 59.3% is the maximum theoretical value that a wind turbine can attain according to the Beltz limit. The tip speed ratio is related to the rated wind speed it is given by;

$$\lambda = \frac{wr}{U} \quad (2)$$

Where w is the angular velocity, and r is the radius of the turbine

The coefficient of torque which is the ratio of the torque developed and the theoretical torque available it is expressed as

$$C_Q = \frac{C_p}{\lambda} \quad (3)$$

Where C_Q is the coefficient of torque

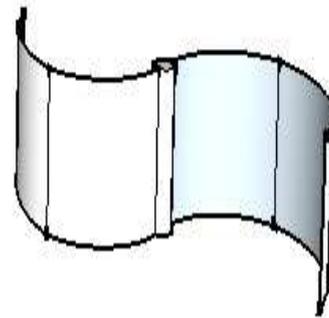
2. Materials and Method

2.1. Description of the Hybrid VAWT Design

The main design parameters of the hybrid VAWT consist of five components: blades, main link, shaft, generator and the Savonius rotor. Figure 3 a, and b show the blades of the H-Darrieus rotor and Savonius rotor. The H-Darrieus rotor consists of three main vertical blade and six supporting struts (Figure 4a). The profile for the vertical blade is symmetrical aerofoil, NACA 0015. The chord length and the height of the vertical blades are 5 cm and 40 cm, respectively, while the width and the span length of the supporting struts are 3.4 cm and 15 cm, the diameter of both the H-rotor and Savonius rotor is 35 cm and 27 cm respectively as shown in Table 1. The supporting struts of the VAWT connect the central rotating column to the blades. A double stage Savonius rotor was inserted in the middle of the H-Darrieus rotor to form the hybrid VAWT as shown in Figure 4b. The shaft which is made of steel of diameter 5 mm is located at the center of the 10 W generator. The computer aided design (CAD) of the H-Darrieus and Savonius rotor and the complete assembly of the hybrid VAWT are shown in Figure 4 a, and b and Figure 5 respectively. The lab scale model is presented in Figure 6, while the design specification of the hybrid VAWT is presented in Table 1.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3. (a) VAWT blade, (b) Savonius blade.

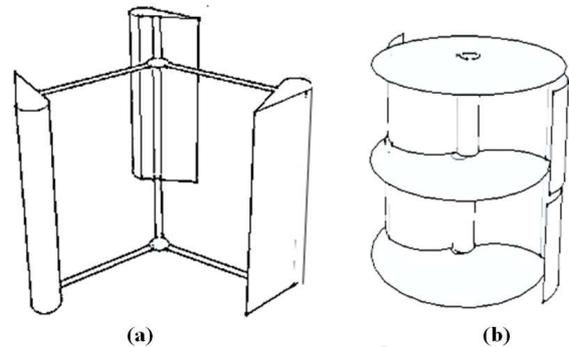


Figure 4. CAD design of the (a) H-rotor VAWT, (b) Savonius rotor.

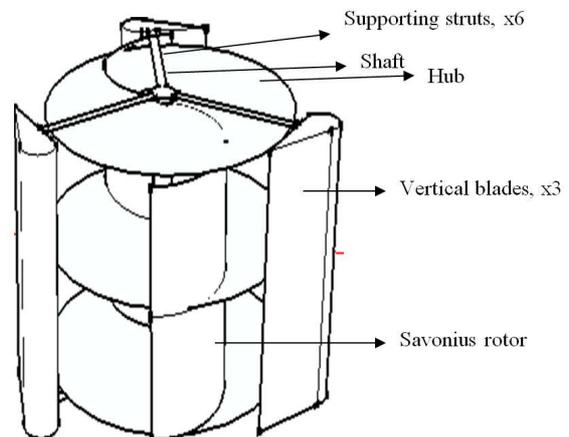


Figure 5. CAD Design for the complete assembly of the hybrid VAWT.



Figure 6. Lab scale hybrid VAWT showing various design components.

Table 1. Specification of the hybrid VAWT.

Geometry of the turbine	Dimension
Type of aerofoil	Symmetrical aerofoil
Profile of aerofoil	NACA 0015
Height of vertical blade, h (cm)	40
Diameter of Darrieus rotor d (cm)	35
Chord length of vertical blade, c_v (cm)	8
Length of supporting struts, l (cm)	15
width of supporting struts, w (cm)	3.4
Height of the Savonius rotor (cm)	18
Diameter of the Savonius rotor (cm)	27

2.2. Experimental Set-up and Procedure

A building model with vaulted roof shape was designed and fabricated in the experiment. The building model has a height, length, and width of 1480 mm x 1700 mm x 800 mm as shown in Figure 6. The hybrid VAWT was placed 150 mm from the vaulted rooftop which is equivalent to 1630 mm from the ground level. The building model with the hybrid VAWT is shown in Figure 7 while the experimental set-up and the dimensions are shown in Figure 8. An average wind speed of $4.5 \text{ m/s} \pm 0.2 \text{ m/s}$ was used for the experiments. The wind speed was measured using a Vane-type anemometer. The measurements of the wind speed were taken downstream of Industrial fans which were arranged in array to covers a cross-section of 1.0 m by 1.0 m downstream of the fan as shown in the experimental set up in Figure 8. To conform to spatial uniformity, the blower was directed orthogonal to the test section area. The rotational speed was measured continuously in seconds interval until the stabilized rotational speed of the rotor is achieved. The rotational speed, current and voltage of the hybrid VAWT were measured using a multimeter and a hand held tachometer while the coefficient of power, and torque, and tip speed ratio were calculated using the equation 1, 2 and 3.



Figure 7. Building model integrated with hybrid VAWT.

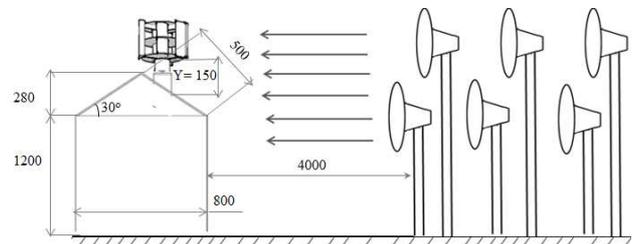


Figure 8. Dimensions of a building model integrated with a hybrid VAWT and dimension of the Industrial fans (all dimensions in mm).

3. Results and Discussion

For this work, a hybrid VAWT turbine integrated on a building rooftop was designed and tested in an experiment in order to investigate its performance on a building rooftop. The hybrid VAWT was mounted at a height of $Y = 150 \text{ mm}$ above the rooftop, and on this position, experiments were conducted in two configurations; the first configuration investigates the performance of the bare-hybrid VAWT (without the building), while the second configuration investigates the performance of the hybrid VAWT integrated onto a building with a vaulted rooftop. The results obtained from these studies are presented as follows;

Figure 9 presents the rotational speed of the bare-hybrid VAWT and the building integrated hybrid VAWT against the time. As depicted in the figure, the trends of the rotational speed (RPM) continue to increase with time, and stabilized after reaching a steady state. The result further shows the contribution of the hybrid VAWTs both as bare-VAWTs and as building integrated hybrid VAWT. Firstly, the hybrid VAWT was tested without integrating on the building (bare-hybrid VAWT). The results obtained showed that the bare-hybrid VAWT can attain a maximum RPM of 335 rpm at 222 seconds. However, when the hybrid VAWT was integrated onto the building rooftop under similar experimental conditions, the results shows that maximum RPM of 444 rpm was obtained at 69 seconds. The results indicate that integrating the hybrid VAWT on a building rooftop increases the rpm by 33% compared to the bare-hybrid VAWT.

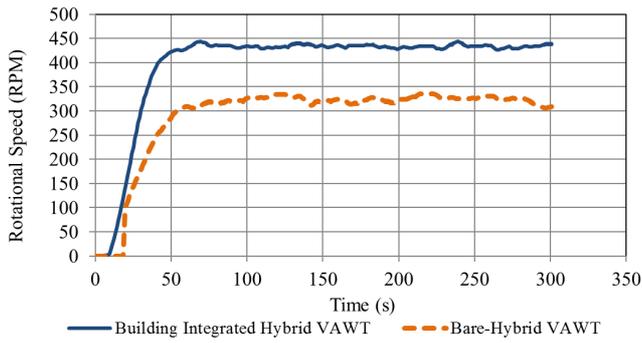


Figure 9. Rotational speed against time for building integrated hybrid VAWT and Bare-hybrid VAWT.

Figure 10 presents the coefficient of power, C_p values against the tip speed ratio, TSR (λ) for both the bare VAWT-hybrid, and the building integrated hybrid VAWT. From the figures, it can be seen that the C_p values increases with TSR, and attain peak value at a certain TSR before decreasing with increase in TSR. It can be observed from the figure that the bare-hybrid VAWT attain a maximum C_p value of 0.112 at TSR (λ) of 1.15. However, under similar experimental condition the hybrid VAWT was integrated on the building rooftop and tested, the results showed that the building integrated hybrid VAWT attain a maximum C_p of 0.182 at TSR, (λ) of 1.32, indicating an increment of 63% in C_p value compared to the bare-hybrid VAWT.

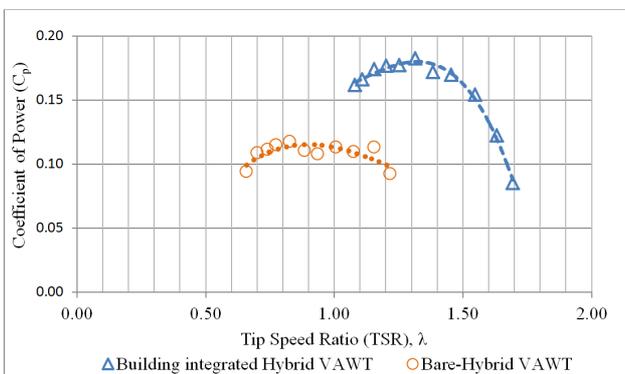


Figure 10. Coefficient of power against tip speed ratio for building integrated hybrid VAWT and Bare-hybrid VAWT.

The increment in the C_p and rpm values by the building integrated hybrid VAWT is due to the increase in wind speed experience by the hybrid VAWT on the building rooftop since the energy yields by wind turbine is directly proportional to the cube of the wind speed, this implies that any slight increment in the wind speed can lead to substantial increment in the power output hence the reason why the hybrid VAWT mounted on the rooftop of the building performs better than the bare-hybrid VAWT. Therefore mounting hybrid VAWT on the building yield 63% more power compared to bare-hybrid VAWT (without the building). This result is in agreement with Abohela et al. [50]. Similar studies by Puspitasari et al. [51] shows that they were able to achieved a C_p value of 0.20 which indicates 48% increase in the power coefficient. The power coefficient is slightly higher because the operating

condition is not the same and the wind speed is 10 m/s as regard to the 4.5 m/s used in this study. Furthermore, Hosseini and Goudarzi [38] achieved 40% increment in the power coefficient of the hybrid VAWT although the operating conditions are not the same.

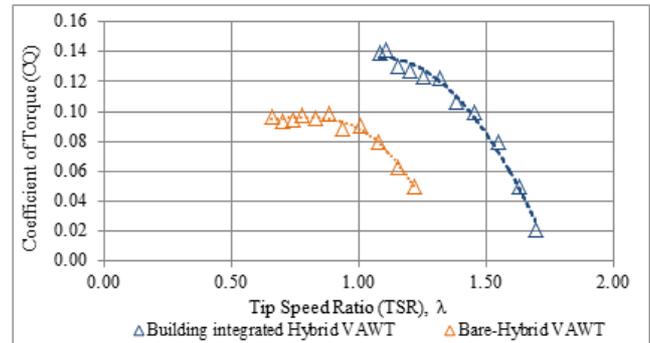


Figure 11. Coefficient of Torque versus tip speed ratio for building integrated hybrid VAWT and bare-hybrid VAWT.

Figure 11 presents the C_Q - λ curves for the building integrated hybrid VAWT and the bare-hybrid VAWT. The figures indicates that the C_Q values for both configurations decreases gradually with increase in the tip speed ratio (λ). For the bare- hybrid VAWT, a maximum C_Q value of 0.098 was obtained at λ of 0.88, however when the hybrid VAWT was integrated onto the building rooftop, the C_Q values increases from a value of 0.098 to 0.141 at λ of 1.11. that the C_Q values of the building integrated hybrid VAWTs increases by 44% which indicate that the building integrated hybrid VAWT has greater torque coefficient compared to the bare-hybrid VAWT. However, similar studies by Puspitasari et al. [51] showed that they are able to achieve a C_Q value of 0.129 which indicates 29% increase in the power coefficient.

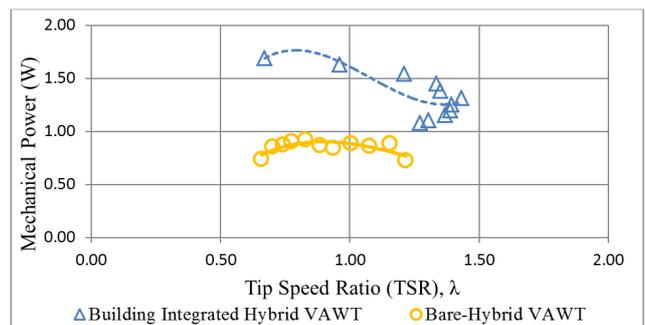


Figure 12. Power against Tip speed ratio (TSR) for Building integrated Hybrid VAWT and bare-hybrid VAWT.

In addition, Figure 12 presents the power generated by the building integrated hybrid VAWT and the bare-hybrid VAWT. The mechanical power extracted was plotted against the tip speed ratio (TSR), λ . It can be seen from the figure that the maximum power produce by the bare-hybrid VAWT is 0.922 W at TSR of 0.78, however, when the hybrid VAWT was integrated on the building rooftop, the maximum power produced by the hybrid VAWTs increases from 0.922 W to 1.431 W under similar experimental conditions. The Figure

indicates that mounting the hybrid VAWT on building rooftop produces higher power compared to the bare-hybrid VAWT. The maximum power produced by the building integrated hybrid VAWT increases by 55% compared to the bare-VAWT. The results are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of experimental result.

Parameter	Building integrated hybrid VAWT	Bare-hybrid VAWT	Increment (%)
RPM	444	335	33
$C_{p, \max}$	0.182	0.0112	63
TSR (λ)	1.32	1.15	-
$C_{Q \max}$	0.141	0.098	44
TSR (λ)	1.11	0.88	-
$P_{\text{mech, max}}$	1.431	0.922	55
TSR (λ)	1.32	0.78	-

The improved performance of hybrid VAWT on the rooftop is attributed to the increased wind speed at the rooftop which translate into more power compared to the bare-hybrid VAWT. Furthermore, Abohela et al. [50] asserted that installation of wind turbine on the buildings allows the turbine to take advantage of the local increment of the unperturbed wind speed due to the well-known "hill effect" which states that up to 20% of the unperturbed wind speed (depending on both the incoming wind direction and the orientation of the building) can be utilized by the wind turbine. The building rooftop serves as an augmentation device that further increases the wind speed due to the speed up effect at the rooftop. Moreover, the rooftop deflect and direct the deflected airflow to a certain angle known as the skewed angle. Better performance is expected to be achieved at high skewed angle. According to Chong et al. [1] and Degrassi, et al. [52], when the skewed angle is high, the swept area of the turbine is increased due to the contribution of the downwind zone which counteracts the decrease of the projected frontal area with an overall increase of the available surface area to intercept the wind. The region of interaction of the downwind blade passage with the upwind generated wake is modified by the skewed flow; this has helped to increase therefore increasing the performance of hybrid VAWT on the rooftop compared to the bare-hybrid VAWT. When the skewed angle is increased, the area of the downwind blade passage which is operating outside the upwind generated wake will also increase thus experiencing an incoming flow with larger energy content [53].

The rooftop takes the advantage of the "roof effect" whereby the wind impacts the surface of the sloped face of the roof and deflects the airflow upwards towards the ridge, thus directing the wind stream at a better angle of attack of the vertical wind. Furthermore, the rooftop wind turbine experience more turbulence compared to the free standing wind turbine (without roof). Based on previous researches, turbulence intensity actually improves the performance of wind turbines [54-56], also Lubitz. [57] Asserted that the power extraction is proportional to the square of the relative velocity at the blade which increases with increase in turbulence.

4. Conclusion

Wind turbines in the built environment have the potential to provide an on-site energy generation for buildings, which will minimize both cost and loss of energy due to transmission when it is mounted outside the built environment. In this work, a hybrid vertical axis wind turbine was designed and tested in an experiment, the performance of the building integrated hybrid VAWT was investigated and compared to the bare-hybrid VAWT (without the building). The results obtained from the study indicate that the hybrid VAWT mounted on the building can potentially displace a stand-alone (bare-hybrid) VAWT and provide on-site energy generation for the building. Results from the study show that hybrid VAWTs integrated on a building with gable rooftop would yield up to 63% more energy compared to the bare-hybrid VAWT under similar experimental conditions. This shows that that the building rooftop can significantly increase the performance of wind turbines when integrated on top of the building and thus has positive effects on the performance of the hybrid VAWT. Future work will include testing the hybrid VAWT using different wind speed, wind direction, and simulation of the airflow and turbulence intensity using computational fluid dynamics.

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