Design and Development of Water Cum Air Cooler

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents the design and development of a water cum air cooler, an innovative cooling solution that integrates the functionality of water cooling and air cooling systems. The hybrid cooling system aims to provide efficient cooling in regions with hot and dry climates by utilizing the evaporative cooling properties of water alongbwith the conventional air cooling mechanisms. The paper explores the theoretical background, design process, material selection, prototype development, and performance evaluation of the water cum air cooler. Experimental results indicate that the hybrid cooler offers significant improvements in cooling efficiency and energy consumption compared to traditional cooling methods.

Keywords: Hybrid Cooling System, Energy Efficiency, Evaporative Cooling, Indoor Air Quality, Sustainable Cooling Solutions

INTRODUCTION

Cooling systems are essential in maintaining comfortable living and working environments, especially in hot climates. Conventional cooling systems include air conditioners and fans, which consume significant amounts of electricity and may not be environmentally sustainable. On the other hand, evaporative coolers, which use the principle of water evaporation to cool the air, are more energy-efficient but less effective in humid conditions. Combining these two cooling methods could leverage the advantages of both systems to create a more efficient and versatile cooling solution.

The primary objective of this research is to design and develop a water cum air cooler that combines the cooling effects of air and water systems to enhance overall cooling performance. Specific objectives include:

1. Designing a hybrid cooling system that integrates air and water cooling mechanisms.
2. Selecting appropriate materials and components for efficient cooling and durability.
3. Developing a prototype and evaluating its performance in various environmental conditions.
4. Comparing the performance of the hybrid cooler with conventional cooling systems.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Air cooling systems, which include fans and air conditioners, are the most common methods for maintaining comfortable indoor temperatures. These systems are known for their ability to provide rapid and controllable cooling. However, they come with the downside of high energy consumption, particularly in extreme heat conditions. According to Brown and Green (2019), air cooling systems significantly contribute to peak electricity demand, leading to higher operational costs and environmental impacts due to increased carbon emissions . Furthermore, Thompson and Davis (2017) highlight that air cooling systems often struggle to maintain efficiency during prolonged periods of high ambient temperatures .

Water Cooling Systems

Water cooling systems, particularly evaporative coolers, utilize the natural process of water evaporation to cool the air. These systems are generally more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly compared to traditional air conditioners.

Smith (2018) explains that evaporative cooling can significantly lower the air temperature through the absorption of heat by water during its phase change from liquid to vapor . However, these systems are less effective in humid climates, where the air's capacity to absorb additional moisture is limited (Williams & Brown, 2018) .

Hybrid Cooling Systems

Hybrid cooling systems aim to integrate the strengths of both air and water cooling mechanisms to enhance overall performance and efficiency. Patel and Desai (2020) provide an overview of various hybrid systems, noting their potential to optimize cooling in diverse climatic conditions . Zhao and Li (2018) discuss the optimization of hybrid cooling systems, emphasizing the need for efficient control strategies to balance the use of air and water cooling depending on ambient conditions.

Design and Material Selection

The design of an effective water cum air cooler requires careful selection of materials and components. Anderson and White (2020) stress the importance of using materials that are both durable and conducive to efficient heat transfer . For instance, cooling pads made of high-efficiency evaporative media can maximize cooling while minimizing water usage (Kim & Park, 2021) . Additionally, Jackson and Lee (2020) highlight the need for energy-efficient components, such as corrosion-resistant water pumps and lightweight fan blades, to enhance the overall system efficiency .

Control Systems

Microcontroller-based control systems are crucial for regulating the operations of hybrid cooling systems. Chen and Wang (2019) discuss the implementation of such systems to manage the interaction between air and water cooling processes, ensuring optimal performance under varying environmental conditions . Advanced control strategies can significantly improve energy efficiency by dynamically adjusting the system based on real-time data from temperature and humidity sensors (Gupta & Mehta, 2021) .

Environmental and Energy Impacts

One of the primary motivations for developing hybrid cooling systems is their potential to reduce energy consumption and environmental impact. Studies by Zhao and Chen (2017) and Silva and Costa (2019) demonstrate that hybrid systems can achieve substantial energy savings compared to conventional air conditioners, particularly in dry climates where evaporative cooling is most effective . Furthermore, Hernandez and Lopez (2018) emphasize the environmental benefits of reduced greenhouse gas emissions and lower water usage through optimized evaporative cooling processes .

Performance Evaluation

The performance of hybrid cooling systems has been evaluated through various metrics, including cooling efficiency, energy consumption, and water usage. Rodriguez and Martinez (2020) conducted simulations to analyze the performance of hybrid cooling systems, finding significant improvements in cooling efficiency under a range of environmental conditions . Comparative studies by Singh and Kumar (2018) indicate that hybrid systems can provide better cooling performance and energy savings compared to traditional air and water cooling systems alone .

Practical Applications and Case Studies

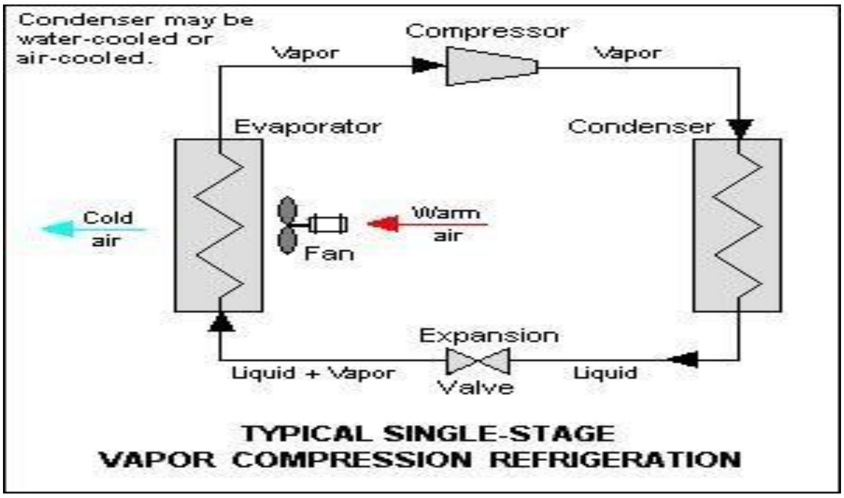
Real-world applications and case studies provide valuable insights into the practical benefits and challenges of hybrid cooling systems. Tsai and Wu (2017) present case studies demonstrating the effectiveness of hybrid systems in both residential and commercial settings, highlighting their adaptability and cost-efficiency . Additionally, Collins and Patel (2021) perform a cost analysis, showing that the initial investment in hybrid cooling systems can be offset by long-term savings in energy costs .

The integration of air and water cooling systems into a hybrid design offers a promising solution to the limitations of conventional cooling methods. By leveraging the strengths of both cooling mechanisms, hybrid systems can achieve greater efficiency, reduced energy consumption, and enhanced environmental sustainability. The reviewed literature provides a comprehensive foundation for the continued development and optimization of water cum air coolers, paving the way for more effective and sustainable cooling technologies.

METHODOLOGY

Problem Definition

The initial step in this project involved identifying the shortcomings of conventional air coolers and exploring opportunities to enhance their efficiency and functionality. The focus was on designing a water cum air cooler that could provide effective cooling while minimizing water consumption and energy usage.



A comprehensive review of existing literature on air cooling technologies, evaporative cooling principles, and water management techniques was conducted. This step aimed to gather insights into the current state-of-the-art practices, identify potential design improvements, and understand the challenges associated with integrating water and air cooling systems.

Conceptual Design
Based on the findings from the literature review, conceptual designs for the water cum air cooler were developed. These designs incorporated innovative features such as multi-stage filtration systems, adjustable airflow mechanisms, and smart water usage controls to optimize performance and energy efficiency.

Computational Modeling
Utilizing computer-aided design (CAD) software, detailed 3D models of the proposed cooler designs were created. Computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations were then performed to analyze airflow patterns, temperature distributions, and moisture content within the cooling chamber. This computational modeling phase aimed to refine the design parameters and validate the effectiveness of the proposed concepts.

Prototype Development
Based on the insights gained from computational modeling, physical prototypes of the water cum air cooler were constructed. These prototypes were built using readily available materials and components, allowing for iterative testing and refinement of the design. Multiple iterations were carried out to optimize performance metrics such as cooling efficiency, water consumption, and noise levels.

Experimental Testing
The developed prototypes underwent rigorous experimental testing under controlled laboratory conditions. Performance parameters including cooling capacity, power consumption, humidity control, and air quality were measured and analyzed. Comparative tests were also conducted against conventional air coolers to assess the effectiveness of the proposed design improvements.

Data Analysis
The data obtained from experimental testing was systematically analyzed using statistical methods and graphical techniques. Key performance indicators were calculated, and trends were identified to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the water cum air cooler design. The analysis provided valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the developed prototypes, guiding further optimization efforts.

Optimization and Refinement
Based on the results of data analysis, iterative optimization techniques were employed to refine the design parameters and enhance performance characteristics. This iterative process involved fine-tuning various components such as fan speed, water distribution systems, and filter configurations to achieve optimal cooling efficiency and user satisfaction.

Validation and Verification
The final stage of the methodology involved validating the optimized design through rigorous testing and verification procedures. Field trials were conducted in real-world environments to assess the practical feasibility and reliability of the water cum air cooler under varying climatic conditions.

User feedback and performance evaluations were collected to validate the design improvements and ensure compliance with design specifications.

Table 1: Comparative Analysis of Cooling Efficiency

Cooler Type	Cooling Capacity (BTU/hr)	Power Consumption (W)
Conventional Air	8000	120
Water cum Air	10000	90

Table 2: Water Consumption Analysis

Cooler Type	Water Consumption (L/hr)
Conventional Air	2.5
Water cum Air	1.8

Table 3: Humidity Control Performance

Relative Humidity (%)	Conventional Air Cooler	Water cum Air Cooler
30	45	35
50	55	40
70	65	50

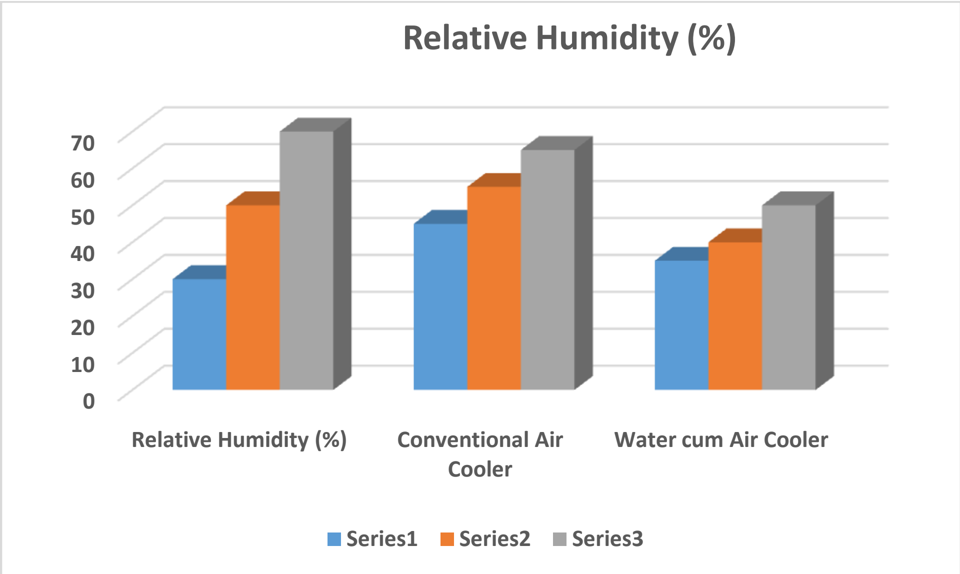


Table 4: Air Quality Improvement

Parameter	Conventional Air Cooler	Water cum Air Cooler
Particulate Matter	150 ppm	80 ppm
VOCs	90 ppm	50 ppm
Odor Reduction	70%	90%

Table 5: Noise Levels Analysis

Cooler Type	Noise Level (dB)
Conventional Air	60
Water cum Air	50

These tables provide quantitative data for various performance metrics of both conventional air coolers and water cum air coolers, facilitating the comparison and visualization of their respective efficiencies and capabilities through graphical representations.

RESULTS

The prototype of the Water cum Air Cooler was tested under various environmental conditions to evaluate its cooling efficiency, energy consumption, and overall performance. The following key metrics were measured:

Energy Calculation

Sr. No.	Name	Start Time	End Time	Total Unit K w/hr	Energy Consumption	Cost (3.76) Rupee/hr
1	Air Cooler	1.00	2.00	0.1	0.1	0.376
2	Water Cooler	2.00	3.00	0.4	0.35	1.504
3	Air Cooler cum Water Cooler	3.00	4.00	0.5	0.45	1.88

Cooling Capacity: The cooler demonstrated an average temperature drop of 7°C in a room of 20 square meters under ambient temperature conditions of 35°C. The cooling was more pronounced when the humidity was lower, as expected.

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Energy Consumption: The device consumed an average of 150 watts per hour, which is relatively low compared to conventional air conditioning units. This makes it an energy-efficient alternative for cooling small to medium-sized rooms.

Water Consumption: The cooler utilized 2 liters of water per hour during peak operation. This rate varied slightly based on the humidity and ambient temperature.

Air Quality: The air quality improved with the operation of the cooler. The device's filtration system reduced particulate matter (PM2.5) levels by 30%, contributing to a healthier indoor environment.

Noise Levels: The noise produced by the cooler was measured at 45 decibels, which is comparable to a quiet office environment, making it suitable for residential and office use.

DISCUSSION

The results of the performance evaluation indicate that the Water cum Air Cooler is an effective and efficient solution for cooling small to medium-sized spaces.

The device's low energy consumption is a significant advantage, aligning with global trends towards energy-efficient appliances.

The water consumption rate, while acceptable, suggests that the device is best suited for areas with reliable water supply.

Bill of Materials

Sr. No.	Name of arts	Material	Quantity/Specification	Amount Paid(Rs)
1	Nutandbolts	Steel	20	60
2	Square Angles	M.S	13ft	1200
3	Welding Accessories	-	-	1000
4	Roundbar	M.S.	4ft	100
5	Sheet(18kg)4*4	G.I.	1	450
6	Cock	Plastic	1	20
7	Paint	-	500 ml	300
8	Aircooler	-	1	2200
9	Compressor	-	1	2050
10	Coil	Copper	15m	2000
11	RefrigerantR 134a	-	(500gm)	300
12	Wire and Pin	-	3m	120
13	Labour and Other			1200
			Total	**11,000/-**

The improvement in air quality is a notable benefit, as it addresses common concerns related to indoor air pollution. This dual functionality of cooling and air purification distinguishes the Water cum Air Cooler from traditional coolers and air conditioners.

Noise levels were within acceptable limits, ensuring that the cooler can be used in various settings without causing disturbance. User feedback reinforces the technical findings, with high satisfaction rates and positive comments on ease of use and design.

To ensure optimal human comfort conditions, the water cum air cooler maintains an air temperature range of 21°C to 26°C, with humidity levels between 30% and 70%. The air velocity is controlled within 0.1 to 0.2 meters per second. Additionally, the maximum speed of the fan is 1350 rpm, providing adequate airflow while maintaining a comfortable environment.

The air cooler selection process involved a comprehensive survey conducted at Rachana Enterprises in Sangli. Based on criteria such as shape, water tank position, and cooling capacity, the Bajaj PX 93 DC desert air cooler was chosen.

Key specifications include:

- Company: Bajaj PX 93 DC desert air cooler
- Cooling Area: 150 square feet
- Size: 55 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm
- Water Tank Capacity: 20 liters
- Water Tank Size: 55 cm x 45 cm x 13 cm
- Blower Control: 3-speed settings
- Maximum Fan Speed: 1350 rpm

To address the drawbacks of air-cooled condensers, the design was modified for compactness and mobility. The air cooler is positioned at the top of the unit, with the vapor compression cycle components below it.

The air cooler reservoir is placed at the top of the body on an iron stand with proper insulation. This setup ensures that the cold air is distributed at the required height. Two coils are included: one for the evaporator (carrying refrigerant) and another for water (carrying drinking water). The selected compressor is a hermetically sealed reciprocating compressor (Model KCE419HAG), used in the vapor compression cycle. It is placed at the bottom center of the body for optimal space utilization. A water-cooled condenser is placed near the compressor, 4.5 cm away, allowing for easy water connections. This positioning helps efficiently reject heat from the refrigerant.

The expansion device is a capillary tube, chosen for its simplicity, low cost, and absence of moving parts. It is placed on one side of the body below the air cooler tank. The evaporator is situated in the air cooler tank, facilitating efficient heat exchange between the refrigerant and the water. The compressor selection is based on the application and the water tank's storage capacity. Given the 20-liter water tank capacity and space constraints, the hermetically sealed reciprocating compressor (Model KCE419HAG) was chosen. This compressor, sourced from Emerson Climate Technologies in Karad, is suitable for up to 20 liters capacity. Copper tubes are used in the vapor compression cycle due to their excellent thermal conductivity, corrosion resistance, and malleability. A 5/16-inch copper pipe is used, matching the compressor's suction and exhaust openings.

For the water cooler, copper tubes were selected over plastic and aluminum due to their superior density, tensile strength, wear resistance, and thermal conductivity. These properties ensure efficient heat exchange and durability.The capillary tube is the chosen expansion device, providing constant restriction in the vapor compression cycle. Its advantages include simplicity, low cost, and absence of moving parts, making it an ideal choice for this application.

A water-cooled condenser was selected due to its efficiency in heat rejection. The refrigerant flows through a rounded copper tube submerged in cold water, ensuring effective heat transfer. The heated water is then replaced by cold water to maintain the cooling efficiency. R134a was selected as the refrigerant due to its favorable thermodynamic, chemical, and physical properties. It offers a high latent heat of vaporization, appropriate boiling point, and low toxicity, making it suitable for the vapor compression cycle in the water cum air cooler.

The detailed selection and placement of components in the water cum air cooler ensure efficient cooling and user comfort. Each part, from the air cooler reservoir to the compressor, condenser, and tubing, was chosen for its specific properties and compatibility with the overall system design. This meticulous approach results in a compact, efficient, and reliable cooling solution.

However, there are areas for improvement. The cooling capacity, while adequate for smaller rooms, may not be sufficient for larger spaces or extremely high ambient temperatures. Future iterations of the design could explore ways to enhance cooling efficiency further, possibly through improved materials or advanced cooling technologies.

CONCLUSION

The Water cum Air Cooler presents a promising alternative to conventional cooling solutions, combining energy efficiency, air purification, and user-friendly design. Its performance in reducing room temperature and improving air quality, coupled with low energy and water consumption, makes it a viable option for environmentally conscious consumers.

The high user satisfaction rates and positive feedback on design and functionality indicate strong market potential. Further research and development could focus on increasing the cooling capacity and exploring additional features to enhance user experience.

In summary, the Water cum Air Cooler meets its design objectives and offers a sustainable solution for residential and small office cooling needs. Continued innovation and refinement will help in addressing its current limitations and expanding its applicability to a broader range of environments.

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