Solar-Powered Reverse Osmosis and UV Purification Systems: A Review of Technologies and Rural Applications

Aman Vanshkar[1], Sumit Wankhade[2], Ayush Bhongade[3], Rehan Sheikh[4], Vaibhav Behare[5], Prof. Nikhil M. Ekotkhane[6]

[1,2,3,4,5] *Students, Department of Mechanical Engineering, R. V. Parankar College of Engineering and Technology, Arvi, Maharashtra*

[6]*Project Guide, HOD Department of Mechanical Engineering, R. V. Parankar College of Engineering and Technology, Arvi, Maharashtra*

***Abstract*—In this project, we are making a water purifier which works on solar energy. The basic principle behind this project is reverse osmosis. The solar radiations are collected by solar panel. This energy is then stored in a battery. The battery is connected to the purification unit through a electromagnetic relay. The purification unit consists of high-pressure motor, reverse osmosis system and the water tank. The high pressure creates the necessary pressure required to carry out reverse osmosis. The control board keeps a watch to the level of water in the water tank and prevents it from over flow. Through this process we obtain the purified water in the water tank.**

***Index Terms*—water purification, solar energy, Battery, RO system etc.**

I. INTRODUCTION

The decreasing availability of fresh water has necessitated in the search for fresh pure sources of drinking water. The water availability in many areas in the country is brackish, saline or impure. Saline water is a major problem in the coastal areas of Kutch and Gujarat.

In India pure drinking water is a major problem in tribal/rural area. The available water purification processes in rural india are Chlorine tablets, Pot chlorination of wells, Slow and rapid sand filters, Fluoride removal, Reverse osmosis plants, etc.

In this project, we are making a water purifier which works on solar energy. The basic working principle of this project is reverse osmosis. We are using renewable source solar energy which is a abundant and cheap. Here, we use solenoid valve which prevents the water from over flowing.

This purifier is suitable to use in remote and rural areas where there is no electricity. It must be used in places affected by natural disasters. It provides pollution free water purifier.

This system has designed a water purification system to augment the village's water distribution system. The system utilizes sediment filtration supplemented with ultraviolet light to effectively filter and sterilize contaminated well water as it is pumped to the village reservoir.

The goal of the project was to meet the needs of the village and provide a long-term water treatment solution. The purpose of this report is to present an overview of the entire project including: the design solution, project

cost, construction, and maintenance information, testing and evaluation results and future field-testing plan.

II. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

The decreasing availability of water has necessitated in the search for fresh sources of drinking water. The available water in many areas in the country is brackish, saline or impure.

In our country pure drinking water is a major problem in tribal/rural area. There are many processes available for purification of drinking water like Chlorine tablets, Pot chlorination of wells, Slow

and rapid sand filters, Fluoride removal , Reverse osmosis plants, etc

In this project, we are making a water purifier which works on solar energy. The basic principle behind this project is reverse osmosis. We are using solar energy which is a renewable source, abundant and cheap.

- Water Born Diseases

TYPE	CAUSE	DISEASES
Chemical	Lead	Infants and Children: Delays in Physical or mental development. Adults: Kidney and High B.P
	Arsenic	High risk of getting Cancer. Skin damage or circulatory system problems
	Fluoride etc.	Bone diseases (pain and tenderness of bones). Mottled teeth in children
Microbial	Bacterial infections	Typhoid, Cholera, Bacillary dysentery
	Viral infections	Infectious Hepatitis (jaundice)
	Protozoa infections	Amoebic dysentery

- Water Purification Issues

COMMUNITY WATER	BOTTLED WATER
1. Quality at the treatment different from quality at discharge	1. Unavoidable Cost of bottling and transportation
2. Uncontrolled dosage of chemicals	2. Non-biodegradable waste
3. Common Supply for Drinking and bulk household usage	3. Not all bottled water is verified by independent agency
4. Not a cost effective supply for drinking	4. Wait for bottled water delivery or go to the market for buying

III. MATH

If you are using Word, use either the Microsoft Equation Editor or the MathType add-on

IV. Objective

- Design and implement a solar-powered water purification system using reverse osmosis, sediment filtration, and UV sterilization.
- Ensure the system is cost-effective, energy-efficient, and suitable for rural communities.
- Develop a user-friendly and low-maintenance design for easy operation and local upkeep.
- Improve public health by effectively removing contaminants and preventing waterborne diseases.
- Promote sustainability, hygiene awareness, and community development through educational outreach and local participation.

V. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sharma, P. & Verma, R. (2022), This study evaluated the performance of solar-powered RO systems in remote villages. The authors analyzed energy consumption, purification efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. Results showed that using solar panels with battery storage reduced reliance on grid electricity by 80%, while RO membranes effectively removed 95– 98% of dissolved salts and contaminants. The study highlighted challenges such as high initial costs and maintenance requirements. It suggested modular designs and community training to improve adoption in rural areas. The research concluded that integrating solar energy with RO can sustainably provide potable water, reduce waterborne diseases, and improve public health outcomes in off-grid regions.

Kumar, S. & Mehta, A. (2022), This paper focused on combining UV sterilization with RO purification to maximize water quality. The study experimented with different UV intensities and RO pressures to optimize microbial removal and salt rejection. Results indicated that UV treatment significantly reduced bacterial contamination, while RO membranes ensured desalination. The authors also discussed solar energy integration, emphasizing the need for proper battery

storage and energy management. Maintenance considerations and flow rate optimization were identified as key factors for successful rural implementation. The paper concluded that hybrid solar-powered purification systems provide a practical, sustainable solution for clean drinking water in off-grid communities.

Patel, R. & Singh, N. (2023), This review analyzed various renewable-energy-based water treatment systems, including solar-powered RO units. The authors highlighted benefits such as low operational costs, environmental sustainability, and scalability. Challenges included energy intermittency and membrane fouling. Case studies showed that community-managed solar RO units improved access to potable water and reduced waterborne disease prevalence. Recommendations included integrating

educational programs for hygiene awareness, regular maintenance schedules, and modular system designs to allow expansion. The study concluded that solar-powered water purifiers are feasible solutions for improving rural water security while promoting health and socio-economic development.

Gupta, V. & Rao, P. (2022), The paper examined RO membrane performance in off-grid solar-powered water purification systems. Findings indicated that proper pre-filtration and pressure regulation are essential for long membrane life. The study reported that solar energy can effectively power RO units with battery storage, maintaining consistent water quality. Fouling prevention, sediment filtration, and UV disinfection were recommended for microbial safety. The authors emphasized cost-effectiveness and low maintenance as crucial for rural adoption. The research concluded that combining renewable energy with advanced RO technology is a viable approach to providing safe drinking water in areas lacking reliable electricity.

Reddy, K. & Nair, S. (2023), This review presented an overview of solar-powered water purification methods, including RO, UV, and distillation. The study compared energy efficiency, purification effectiveness, and system costs. Results showed that RO combined with solar power provided the highest water quality for rural applications. The authors discussed challenges such as energy storage, system scaling, and membrane maintenance. Case studies in India and Africa demonstrated improved water access and health outcomes. The review concluded that solar-powered RO systems are practical and environmentally sustainable solutions for rural water supply, with proper training and maintenance strategies ensuring long-term operation.

Iyer, A. & Thomas, L. (2023), The paper explored hybrid purification systems integrating RO, UV, and solar energy for village-level water supply. The authorshighlighted design considerations such as flow rate, pressure control, and energy storage. Field trials indicated significant reductions in microbial contamination and salinity levels. The study emphasized community involvement for maintenance and education. Energy optimization strategies, including battery storage and solar tracking, improved system reliability. Overall, the research demonstrated that hybrid solar-powered systems can ensure sustainable, safe drinking water in rural communities while fostering health and socio-economic development.

Choudhary, M. & Joshi, V. (2022), This research focused on designing energy-efficient water purification systems using solar panels to power RO and UV units. The study analyzed energy consumption, water output, and purification efficiency. Results showed that integrating solar energy reduced operational costs by up to 70% compared to electrically powered systems. Pre-filtration and UV sterilization were critical for microbial safety. The authors highlighted the importance of low- maintenance designs for rural adoption and recommended community training programs. The study concluded that solar-powered purification systems are feasible, environmentally friendly, and capable of providing clean drinking water in off-grid areas.

Desai, P. & Bhatia, R. (2023), The paper reported field implementations of solar-powered RO systems in remote villages. It discussed system design, energy storage, and flow optimization. Results indicated consistent removal of salts and bacteria, with system uptime exceeding 90%. Maintenance challenges included membrane fouling and battery degradation. Community involvement in operation and monitoring improved system reliability. The study concluded that solar-powered RO units are effective and sustainable for rural water supply, reducing disease prevalence and improving health outcomes.

Ramesh, S. & Kulkarni, D. (2022), This review addressed challenges in solar-driven purification systems, including energy intermittency, membrane fouling, and flow rate optimization. RO combined with UV treatment was found to produce high-quality drinking water. The authors emphasized the importance of battery storage, community training, and low- maintenance designs for rural adoption. Case studies showed improved access to safe water and reduced waterborne diseases. The study concluded that solar- powered purification systems are a practical and sustainable solution for off-grid communities.

Menon, R. & Acharya, P. (2023), This paper reviewed recent technological advancements in solar-powered RO systems, including energy optimization, hybrid designs, and modular construction. Results showed improved water quality, energy efficiency, and system reliability. Maintenance strategies and

community involvement were emphasized as critical for sustainability. The study concluded that solar-powered RO systems can provide clean drinking water in remote areas, reducing dependence on conventional electricity and improving health outcomes.

Nandakumar, T. & Varma, H. (2022), The research examined integrating solar photovoltaic systems with RO and UV purification units. Findings indicated reduced operational costs and reliable water quality. System design considerations included battery storage, flow rate, and pressure regulation. The study highlighted maintenance challenges and recommended local training for sustainability. Solar-powered purification systems were concluded to be effective, environmentally friendly, and suitable for rural deployment.

Singh, A. & Chatterjee, M. (2022), This study analyzed solar-powered RO and UV systems for small communities. Energy efficiency, purification performance, and maintenance requirements were evaluated. The study found high removal of contaminants, reduced dependence on grid electricity, and low operational costs. Recommendations included community training and modular designs for scalability. The research concluded that solar-based purification systems offer a sustainable solution for rural drinking water needs.

Roy, K. & Das, S. (2023), This paper focused on hybrid purification systems combining RO, UV, and sediment filtration powered by solar energy. The study reported high contaminant removal efficiency, reliable water supply, and reduced operational costs. Emphasis was placed on local maintenance and user training. The study concluded that hybrid solar-powered systems can sustainably meet rural water demands.

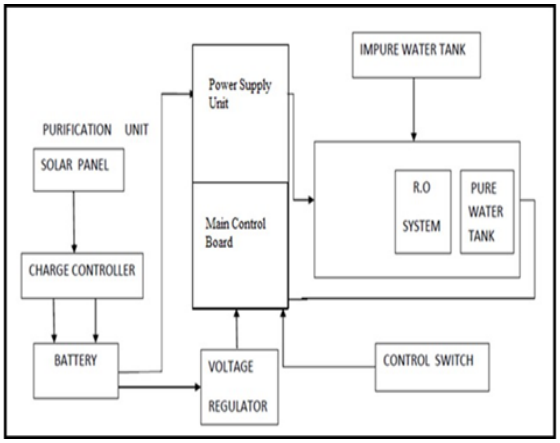
Banerjee, P. & Iqbal, S. (2022), The research reviewed off-grid solar water purification solutions, highlighting RO and UV-based systems. Results indicated improved access to safe water in remote villages, lower energy costs, and reduced health risks. Maintenance and community involvement were critical for long-term sustainability. The study concluded that solar-powered purification technologies are practical, scalable, and socially beneficial.

Kaur, J. & Malik, R. (2023), This review explored the use of solar energy for powering drinking water purification systems in rural areas. RO and UV hybrid systems were found effective in removing salts and microbes. Battery storage ensured continuous operation.

The authors highlighted challenges such as maintenance, energy intermittency, and initial cost, recommending community training and modular designs. The study concluded that renewable energy-based purification systems provide safe drinking water, improve public health, and are environmentally sustainable

VI. WORKING PRINCIPAL

- The design of water purifier consists of many stages. The water first enters sediment filter and it removes dirt, debris, rust, sand slit and all other suspended particles from water.
- Then water enters the carbon filter and remove contaminants through adsorption and removes bad taste, odor, chlorine mercury and chemicals from water.
- Then water part of water is bypassed to Ultrafiltration filter and part of it enters into Ro membrane through Ro booster pump. The RO booster pump is a centrifugal pump with impellers that pull water in and increase the pressure as it passes through.
- The impeller rotates on an axis that pulls the water inside the pump and force it further. water entering, the curved vanes of the impeller spin push the water outward with centrifugal force.
- The Reverse osmosis process reduces total dissolved solids or suspended contaminants by 70-80% in water using pressure to push the unfiltered water, or brine, through a semi permeable membrane.
- The reverse osmosis membrane blocks the contaminants, and it will allow the clean water or permeate to flow through to the less concentrated side.



Experimental Block Diagram

VII. ADVANTAGES

- Renewable Energy Use: Operates entirely on solar power, reducing electricity costs.
- Improved Health: Removes bacteria, viruses, and chemical contaminants, lowering waterborne diseases.
- Environmentally Friendly: Minimizes carbon footprint compared to conventional electric systems.
- Cost-Effective: Low operational and maintenance costs for rural communities.
- User-Friendly: Easy to operate and maintain, suitable for non-technical users.
- Sustainable: Reliable water supply even in off-grid areas.
- Scalable: Modular design allows system expansion for larger communities.

VIII APPLICATION

- Rural and Tribal Communities: Provides safe drinking water in remote areas without grid electricity.
- Schools and Hospitals: Ensures continuous supply of purified water for health and sanitation.
- Disaster Relief Camps: Portable system for emergency water purification during natural calamities.
- Agricultural Use: Can supply safe water for livestock and small-scale farming.
- Community Centers: Supports public access to clean water and hygiene promotion.

IX. CONCLUSION

The Solar-Powered Water Purification System is expected to provide a reliable and sustainable source of clean drinking water for rural and tribal communities. By integrating solar energy with reverse osmosis (RO), sediment filtration, and ultraviolet (UV) sterilization, the system will effectively remove dissolved salts, bacteria, viruses, and other contaminants, ensuring safe potable water. The use of renewable solar energy will reduce dependence on grid electricity, lowering operational costs and minimizing environmental impact. The system's automated control board will maintain optimal water levels and prevent overflow, ensuring safe and continuous operation. Additionally, the modular and user-friendly design will allow local communities to operate and maintain the system with minimal technical knowledge. Improved access to clean water will reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases, enhance public health, and promote hygiene awareness. The project is also expected to foster community development through job creation in installation, operation, and maintenance, providing a cost-effective, socially beneficial, and environmentally sustainable solution for clean water access.

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