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AN EFFICIENT SOLAR-DIESEL HYBRID POWER GENERATION SYSTEM FOR CHAKARIA ISLAND OF BANGLADESH

Md. Washim Akram*, Sk. Suzauddin Yusuf and Md Redwan Islam

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Bangladesh Army University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh
washimme11ruet@gmail.com*, akash09me@gmail.com, redwanislam98@gmail.com

Abstract- *It is the international trend to promote renewable energy, as part of energy security as well as greenhouse gas emission reduction. Solar energy can be used to supplement the conventional energy sources predominantly in remote coastal localities of Bangladesh. Feasibility study of renewable resources of Chakaria, an off-grid remote island, is presented in this paper. The main purpose of this study is to design simulation and economic analysis of a stand-alone optimal mini-grid Solar-diesel hybrid power generation system in a remote island of Bangladesh to satisfy the energy demands as well as Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction in a sustainable way by HOMER ENERGY software. The optimum size of different components, electrical load with a certain random variability, fraction of renewable energy, excess electricity, the performance of its different components, environmental impacts, cost of energy (COE), net present cost (NPC), annualized cost are also analyzed in this paper. This proposed system can be a perfect long term solution to meet the energy demand in Chakaria Island. Cost of electricity found from this simulation is 0.1322 $/kWh which is acceptable.*

Keywords: Solar power, Hybrid mini-grid, Renewable energy, GHG reduction, HOMER optimizer.

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to crossing over from the list of least developed countries the electricity demand of Bangladesh is increasing day by day [1]. Till now, the amount of total population has come under electricity generation is 83% and per capita generation has increased to 433 kWh. Bangladesh Power Development Board prepared generation expansion plan to achieve generation capacity 24,000 MW by 2021 with the aim to provide quality and reliable electricity to the all people across the country for desired economic growth and social development [2]. Since Bangladesh is facing to the depletion of domestic gas supply and drastic increase of fuel price, various issues such as sustainable development harmonizing with economic optimization, improvement of power quality, and the discipline of operation and maintenance for power plants need to be addressed holistically [3]. On the other hand, the effect of greenhouse gas and global warming are the main concern of scientists all over the world [4, 5, 6]. Besides, the rapid depletion of fossil fuel is another environmental issue which has already been investigated by different public and private organizations all over the globe [7, 8]. Thus it is crying need to incorporate renewable energy for sustainable electricity generation in Bangladesh.

For St. Martin island of Bangladesh, the feasibility of solar-wind-diesel-battery hybrid power system was simulated by Habib Ullah and found that it was efficient for 100 households and 10 shops, besides sensitivity and emission analysis had been accomplished [9]. A solar-diesel hybrid power generation system for Kutubdia island of Bangladesh was designed, simulated by Yusuf et al. where it has been found that the electricity generation cost is 0.2386 $/kWh [10]. An optimal mini-grid solar-fuel cell hybrid power generation system for a remote island of Bangladesh had been designed and simulated by Yusuf et al. where it has been found that the electricity generation cost is 0.1276 $/kWh [11]. An off-grid wind-solar-diesel hybrid power system for Kutubdia island of Bangladesh had been designed and simulated by Datto using HOMER energy software. The electricity generation cost was 0.175 $/kWh [12]. An environment friendly off-grid wind-diesel hybrid power system in Kutubdia island of Bangladesh had been designed by Datto et al. which was cost effective and electricity generation cost was 0.209 $/kWh [13].

A solar-wind-diesel hybrid power system for rural areas of Bangladesh was designed and its performance as well as feasibility analyzed where it is found that the cost of energy is 0.822 $/kWh [14]. Das et al. found the cost of energy 0.161 $/kWh in a PV-wind-battery hybrid energy system in rural Bangladesh [15]. A PV-wind-diesel generator hybrid power system for a hilly region Khagrachari of Bangladesh had been designed, analyzed and performance studied [16]. A technical and economic solar-wind hybrid energy system in coastal area of Chittagong, Bangladesh was studied where the result of sensitivity analysis has showed that 20% reduction of installation cost results in nearly 9%-12% reductions in cost of per unit energy [17]. An optimal solar-wind-diesel hybrid energy system for Kuakata of Bangladesh was designed where it was found as feasible technology [18]. An optimized design of a hybrid PV-wind-diesel energy system for sustainable development of St. Martin island and Kuakata has been successfully studied where it is established that the cost of energy generation is 16% lower than the previously designed system [19]. A PV-biogas-diesel hybrid energy system for Adorsho Char island, Bangladesh was modelled where the cost of energy was 0.217 $/kWh [20].

However, from the best of the authors knowledge there is no comprehensive study that investigated the feasibility of solar-diesel hybrid power generation system on Chakaria island of Bangladesh. Only about 40% of rural households have access to grid electricity [21]. Many remote localities along with the coastal areas are not connected to grid electricity. Hybrid renewable energy systems are becoming popular as stand-alone power systems for providing electricity in remote areas due to advances in renewable energy technologies and subsequent rise in prices of petroleum products [10]. A stand-alone optimal mini-grid hybrid power generation system is designed by using HOMER ENERGY software in which fixed capacity diesel generators are added along with a feasible renewable energy technology to meet the electricity demand in a reliable and sustainable manner. Environment pollution is considerably reduced as compared to any conventional system, due to reduction of fossil fuel consumption.

2. STUDY AREA

In Bangladesh, Chakaria is an Upazila of Cox's Bazar district in the division of Chittagong. Total area of Chakaria is 643.46 km^2. Chakaria is bounded by Cox's Bazar Sadar, and Ramu Upazilas on the south, Lohagara, Banshkhali and Lama Upazilas on the north, Maheshkhali and Kutubdia Upazila on the west, Lama and Naikhongchhari Upazilas on the east. The Upazila is surrounded by Kutubdia, Bara Matamuhuri, Maheshkhali and Matamuhuri channel. The study area more often fall victim to cyclone and tidal bore. Chakaria is located at 21.7861º N and 92.0778º E. Total number of household in study area is 63671. Once there was a mangrove forest named Chakaria Shundarban. But, now it is no more. According to Bangladesh Census, Chakaria has a population of 474,321 [22, 23]. Males constituted 51.87% of the population, and females 48.13%. Adult literacy rate is 47.8%. Per capital income in the study area is 57.73 USD. In land communication strength in Chakaria is 180.71 km. The total amount of agricultural land is 27,141 hectors. Distance from the main land of Chakaria Upazila is 50 km [24].

3. ELECTRICITY DEMAND IN CHAKARIA

Based on data obtained from Ref. [24], the electrical load data of Chakaria is imported in the software with 10% day to day and 20% time step random variability. The electrical load in a year with random variability is presented in Fig. 1. Annual average electricity demand of this island is 89,640 kWh/day. The yearly average load is 3,735 kW and load factor is 0.51. Peak load 7,333 kW is found in month of August.

4. RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES IN CHAKARIA

Chakaria island is furnished with renewable energy resources mainly solar and wind energy. The potentialities and feasibilities of these available energy resources are described below.

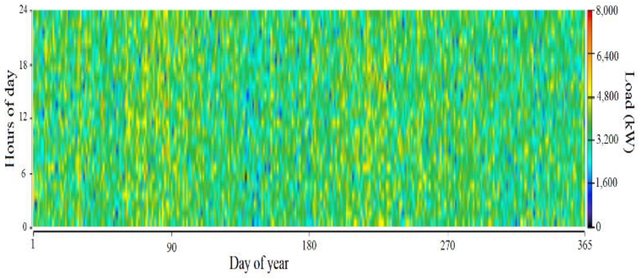

Fig. 1: Electrical load profile of Chakaria island in kW.

4.1 Solar energy

Solar Global Horizontal Irradiance (GHI) data is taken from National Renewable Energy Lab database. Figure 2 shows the solar radiation data used in this simulation in which the left vertical axis represents the daily radiation data while the right one represents the clearness index. The solar GHI in Chakaria is between 3.828 kWh/m^2/day and 5.979 kWh/m^2/day. The annual average solar radiation is 4.81 kWh/m^2/day. Solar GHI is high (above the average) from February to May (summer season), with a peak in the month of April, while solar irradiance is low in July, August, and September due to rainy season.

5. PROPOSED HYBRID SYSTEM

The proposed hybrid system consists a diesel generator, PV panels, Converters, and Batteries. This power generation system is designed for 25 years lifetime. The life span of PV panels, batteries and converter are considered as 25, 10, and 15 years respectively. On the other hand, the lifetime of diesel generator is 30.4 years. Caterpillar Company; model "CAT-12CM32 Continuous" diesel generator has been used in our experiment. The optimum size of all the components are determined by HOMER optimizer. Highly efficient Generic flat plate PV has been used in this simulation. Apart from, "Powerwall 2.0 TESLA" battery and "S&C PureWave SMS-250" converter has been used in this experiment. Figure 3 shows the schematic diagram of proposed hybrid system. In this system, one 4,910 kW diesel generator are connected to the AC bus as it produces AC output. Battery bank and PV panels are connected to the DC bus. Converter is placed between the two buses. Load is connected to the system through AC bus. The sizes of each components are shown in Table 1.

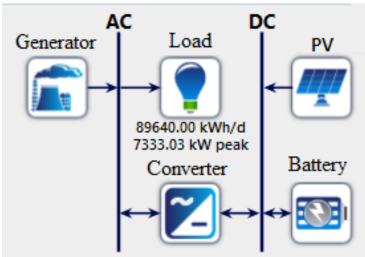

Fig. 3: Diagram of power generation system.

Table 1: System architecture.

Device	Size
Flat plate PV	15,174 kW
Diesel generator	4,910 kW
Li-ion battery	6,210 kWh
Converter	4,898 kW

6. SIMULATION RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Results of simulation is divided into electrical analysis, economic analysis and environmental impact which are described in the following articles.

Table 2: Comparative production and consumption.

Components	Energy/year (kWh/year)	Percentage (%)
Generator output	20,790,467	44.0
PV output	26,461,811	56.0
Total production	47,252,278	100
Average demand	32,716,356	70.1
Excess energy	14,137,088	29.9

6.1 Electrical analysis

Electrical analysis includes the simulation results and analysis of diesel generator and PV panel output, competitive electric production, renewable energy fraction, and performance of battery and converter. Table 2 represents energy production by different components, consumption, and excess electricity.

6.1.1 Diesel generator output

One 4,910 kW AC diesel generator is used in this proposed system. Initial capital cost of diesel generator is lower compared to others like fuel cell generator or natural gas generator. Average fuel consumed by diesel generator is 11,757 L/day and the amount of total fuel consumption is 4,290,924 Liter. Figure 4 shows the annual fuel consumption by the diesel generator.

Hours of operation of the generator in one year is 6,581. Number of starts is 898/year. Operation life is considered as 30.4 years. Capacity factor of the generator is 48.3%. Fixed and marginal generation costs of the generator are 131 $/hour and 0.0983 $/kWh respectively. Figure 5 shows the power generation profile of the generator. Electricity produced in one year is 20,790,467 kWh. Mean electrical output of the generator is 3,159 kW. On the other hand, the minimum and maximum electrical output of the generator are 1,473 kW and 4,910 kW correspondingly. Specific fuel consumption is 0.206 L/kWh, and mean electrical efficiency is 43.5%. HOMER calculates the mean electrical efficiency (η_{gen}) of the generator over the year, defined as the electrical energy output divided by fuel energy input, which is shown in the following equation:

$$\eta_{gen} = \frac{3.6 \times E_{gen}}{m_{fuel} \times LHV_{fuel}} \quad (1)$$

Where, E_{gen} is the generator's total annual electrical production (kWh/year), m_{fuel} is the generator's total annual fuel consumption (kg/year) and LHV_{fuel} is the lower heating value of the fuel (MJ/kg). The factor of 3.6 arises because 1 kWh = 3.6 MJ.

6.1.2 PV output

Flat plate PV panel is considered in this proposed system to harness solar energy. Efficiency at standard test conditions is 13% and nominal operating cell temperature is 47^0C. By using Homer optimizer, the size of flat plate PV panel is found 15,174 kW. PV panels produce 26,461,811 kWh/year and 72,498 kWh/day, and its capacity factor is 19.9%. Annual power output of PV panel is shown in Fig. 6. Maximum and mean output is 13,347 kW and 3,021 kW respectively. Hours of operation in one year is 4,371 and PV penetration is 80.9%. Levelized cost is 0.0165 $/kWh. HOMER uses the following equation to calculate the output (P_{pv}) of the PV array.

$$P_{PV} = Y_{PV} f_{PV} \left(\frac{\overline{G}_T}{\overline{G}_{T,STC}} \right) \left[1 + \alpha_P \left(T_C - T_{C,STC} \right) \right] \quad (2)$$

Here, Y_{PV} is the rated capacity of the PV array under standard test conditions (kW), f_{PV} is the PV radiating factor (%), $\overline{G}_T$ is the solar radiation incident on the PV array in the current time step (kW/m^2), $\overline{G}_{T,STC}$ is the incident radiation at standard test conditions (1 kW/m), α_P is the temperature coefficient of power (%/°C), T_C is the PV cell temperature in the current time step (°C), $T_{C,STC}$ is the PV cell temperature under standard test conditions (25^0C).

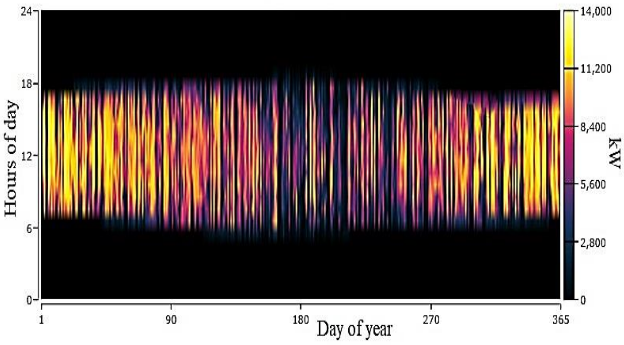

Fig. 6: Annual power output by PV panels.

6.1.3 Performance of battery and converter

Batteries are used to store excess electricity and utilized this energy during shortage. Annual throughput of 6,210 kWh Li-ion batteries is 797,934 kWh/year and expected life time is 10 years. Minimum state of charge is set to 40% and bus voltage is 220 V. State of charge of the batteries used in the proposed system is shown in Fig. 7 throughout the year with hours of the day. The input and output energies of the batteries are 845,808 kWh/year and 752,769 kWh/year respectively.

A converter is used in this proposed project to convert DC power to AC as all loads are AC type. Size of converter is 4,898 kW with capacity factor 27.8%. Maximum and mean output is found 4,898 kW and 1,361 kW respectively. The converter output in a year is shown in Fig. 8. Hours of operation in one year is 4,936. Input and output energies of the converter in one year are 12,231,729 kWh and 11,925,935 kWh respectively. The relative capacity and efficiency of the converter are 100% and 97.50% correspondingly.

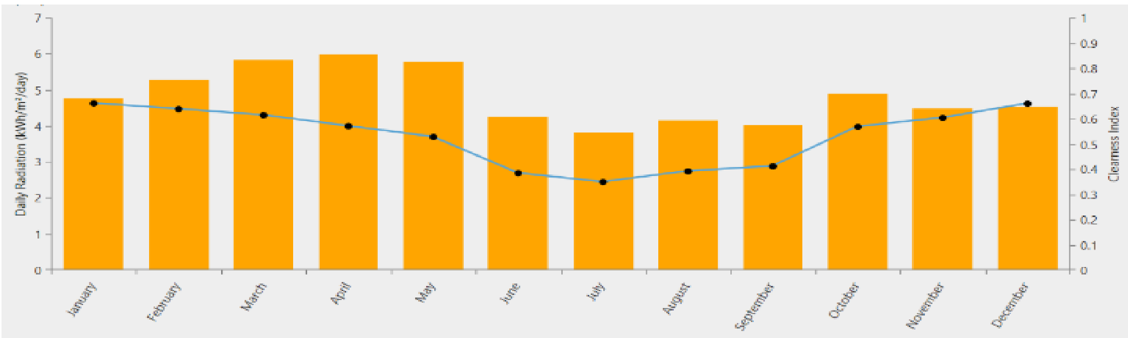

Fig. 2: Monthly average solar global horizontal irradiance (National Renewable Energy Lab database).

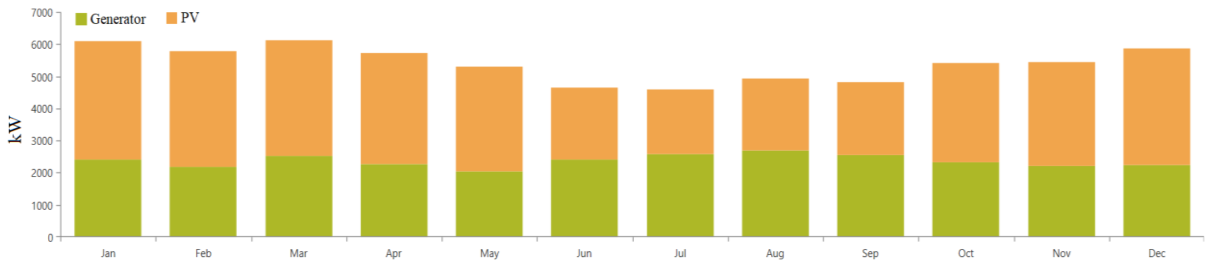

Fig. 9: Monthly average electricity production by generator and PV panel.

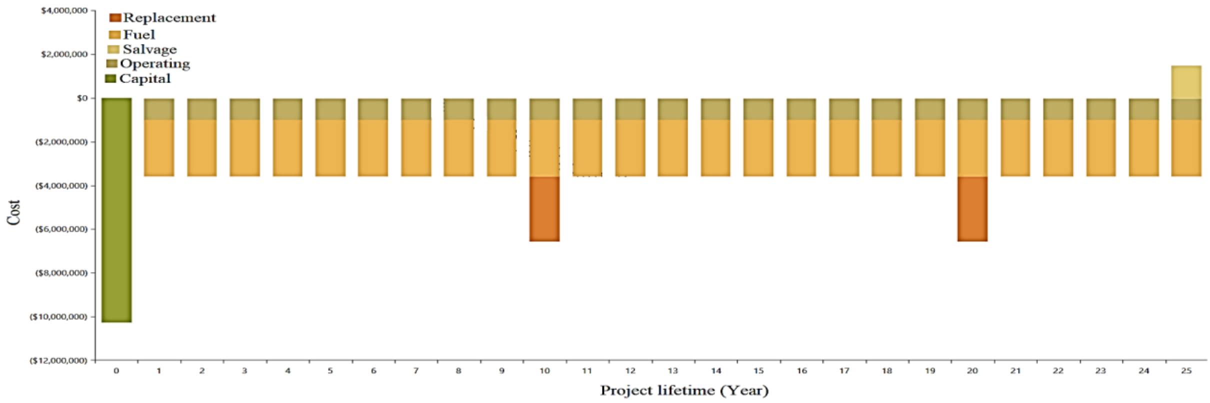

Fig. 10: Cash flow in 25 years by cost type.

6.1.4 Comparative electrical production

Monthly average electricity produces by solar-diesel power generation system is shown in Fig. 9. Green color indicates electricity production by the generator. Orange color indicates electricity production by PV panels. The amount of total electricity production in one year is 47,252,278 kWh where generator produces 44%. The rest portion of electricity is produced by PV panels. So, renewable energy fraction is 36.5%. Since, the amount of total primary load is 32,716,356 kWh/year thus the excess electricity is 29.9% of total generation.

6.2 Economic analysis

Project life time is expected as 25 years. Cash flow in 25 years by cost type is presented in Fig. 10. On the other hand, net present cost by component is presented in Table 3. Price of diesel fuel in Bangladesh is 0.80 $/L and annual inflation rate is 6.15% [10]. Fuel cost of diesel generator is 48,149,432.02 $/year. From this simulation, the operating and net present cost is 3,776,233.00 $/year and 80,888,500.00 $/year respectively and cost of electricity is found 0.1322 $/kWh. This indicates a feasible system. HOMER finds the optimal system by determining the lowest possible initial capital costs, operating costs, net present costs, and cost of per unit electricity.

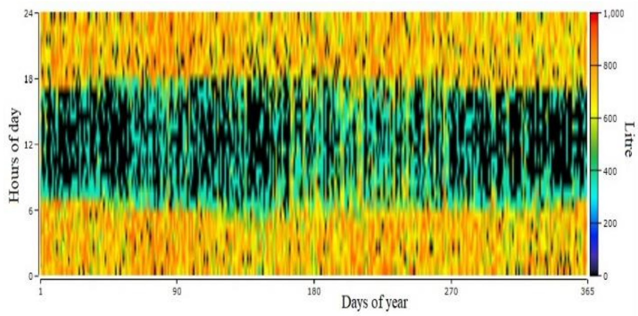

Fig. 4: Fuel consumption by diesel generator in a year.

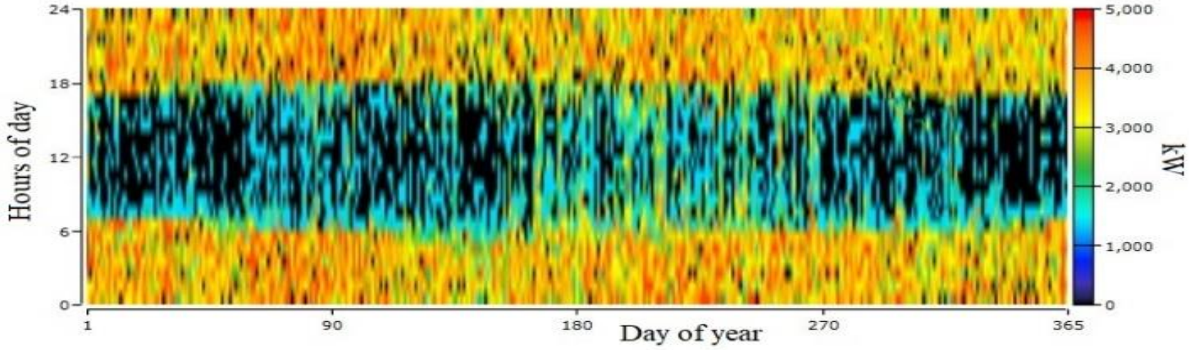

Fig. 5: Annual power generation by generator.

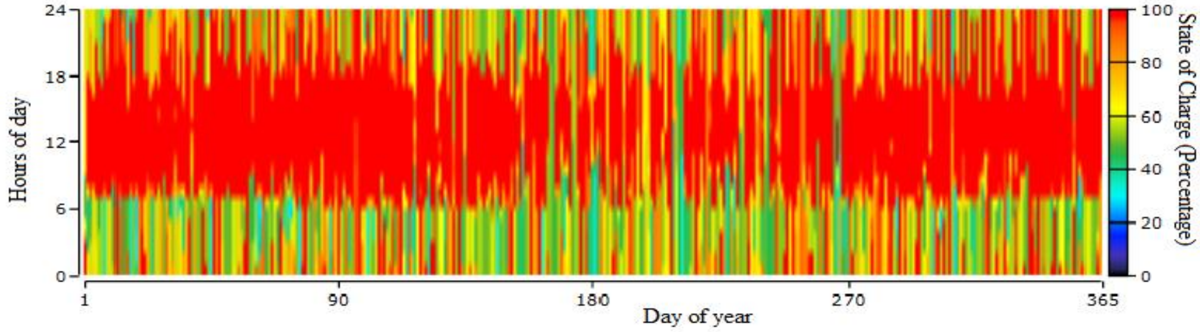

Fig. 7: State of charge of battery in a year.

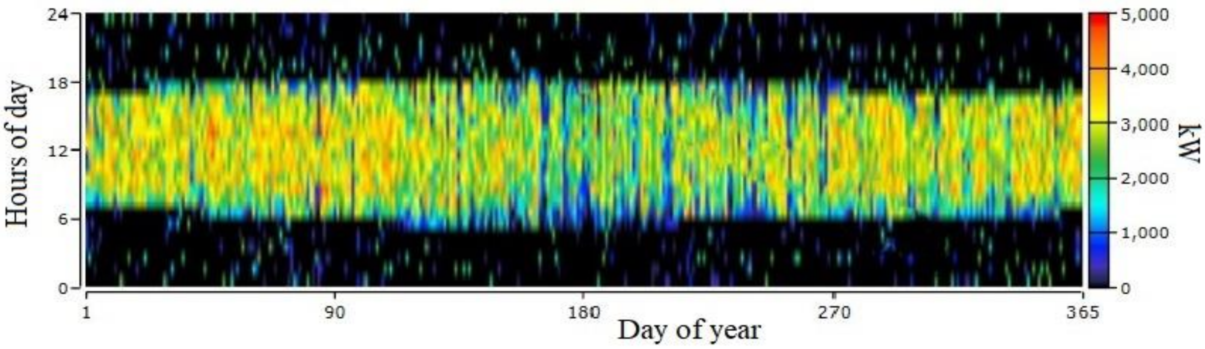

Fig. 8: Converter output in a year.

Table 3: Net Present Costs by components.

Component	Capital ($)	Replacement ($)	O&M ($)	Fuel ($)	Salvage ($)	Total ($)
Generator	250,000.00	0.00	6,153,908.14	48,149,432.02	0.00	54,553,340.16
PV	5,310,762.37	0.00	2,837,774.87	0.00	0.00	8,148,537.24
Battery	2,990,000.00	4,237,431.08	0.00	0.00	832,451.22	6,394,979.85
Converter	1,714,453.13	0.00	10,077,188.22	0.00	0.00	11,791,641.35
System	10,265,215.49	4,237,431.08	19,068,871.24	48,149,432.02	832,451.22	80,888,498.61

6.3 Environmental impact

This hybrid system reduces notable amount of emissions due to use of significant fraction of renewable energy technology. It decreases the consumption of fossil fuel. So, it is more environment friendly power generation system. The emission of different gases is determined by simulation which shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Emission of different pollutants.

Pollutant	Emissions (kg/year)
Carbon Dioxide	12,973,154
Carbon Monoxide	7,380
Unburned Hydrocarbons	687
Particulate Matter	601
Sulfur Dioxide	31,485
Nitrogen Oxides	56,949

7. CONCLUSION

Hybrid power generation systems are attractive, cost competitive, and a common solution of energy demand in remote off grid areas. To meet ever increasing per capita electricity demand of Bangladesh, integration of renewable energy technology is essential. In order to utilize renewable energy resources efficiently and economically with a reliable conventional energy source, an optimal mini-grid solar-diesel hybrid power generation system is developed with the help of HOMER ENERGY software. This proposed system can be a perfect long term solution to meet the energy demand in many remote localities like Chakaria island. Cost of electricity found from this simulation is 0.1322 $/kWh which is acceptable. Performance of different components in this system, electrical demand, fuel summary, emissions, and economic aspects are also analyzed in this simulation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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