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EFFICIENT METHOD OF MECHANICAL FOOTSTEP POWER GENERATOR

[1]Shweta Khakhkhar, [2]Tej Shah, [3]Jay Nadkarni

[1]PGT Physics, [2]Student Class 12 Science, [3]Student Class 12 Science

[1]Department of Science,

[1]Adani Vidya Mandir, Ahmedabad, India

Abstract: In a world demanding sustainable energy solutions, the Mechanical Footstep Power Generator (MFPG), leveraging human movement for electricity. Recognizing the untapped potential of urban foot traffic, we explore into mechanical energy harvesting, with the goal of turning every step into a meaningful source of renewable energy.

The MFPG relies on a sophisticated interplay of mechanical components strategically embedded beneath walkable surfaces. A rack and two pinion mechanism, and springs work in concert to convert vertical forces exerted by footsteps into rotational motion, subsequently driving a generator to produce electrical power. This innovative mechanical approach not only capitalizes on the consistent nature of human movement but also provides sustainable power generation.

The conceptualization, design, and implementation of the Mechanical Footstep Power Generator, emphasizing the engineering intricacies involved in maximizing energy extraction efficiency. Through comprehensive experimentation and analysis, we evaluate the MFPG's performance, considering factors such as mechanical efficiency, scalability, and adaptability to diverse environments. The Mechanical Footstep Power Generator project signifies a step towards a greener, more sustainable future.

Index Terms **- Rack-Two pinion, Generator, Spring, Footstep.**

I. INTRODUCTION

In the quest for sustainable energy solutions, the incorporation of cutting-edge technologies takes on heightened importance. Among the complexities of addressing rising energy needs while minimizing environmental effects, the Mechanical Footstep Power Generator stands out as a manifestation of the fusion between engineering creativity and aspirations for renewable energy.

This initiative focuses on converting the mechanical energy generated by human footsteps into a practical power source. In urban areas and public spaces, the continuous movement of people represents an untapped resource. The Mechanical Footstep Power Generator seeks to harness this latent energy, using carefully designed mechanical systems to transform it into electricity.

In our approach, we integrate mechanical components like a rack and two pinion mechanism, along with springs, positioned strategically beneath walkable surfaces. These components collaborate to convert the vertical force from footsteps into rotational motion, powering a generator to produce electricity. This method aims not only to efficiently harness energy but also to establish a sustainable and inconspicuous power generation system seamlessly integrated into our daily routines.

Our goal is to understand the technical details, challenges, and potential benefits of this new way of harvesting energy from footsteps. We'll use careful design, materials science, and mechanical engineering to make it happen. Our aim is to create a new way to generate clean and renewable energy—one step at a time.

II. Literature Review

[1] Bhavya K R, Advanced Footstep Power Generation System Using RFID for Charging, International Journal of Current Engineering and Scientific Research (IJCESR), Vol 8, 2021

It examines various energy harvesting methods and discusses the potential of RFID for wireless charging and data transmission. The review identifies challenges like power transmission efficiency and suggests areas for improvement, providing a foundation for future research in sustainable energy solutions.

[2] Sarat Kumar Sahoo, Footstep Power Generation, International Journal of Mechanical Engineering and Technology (IJMET) Vol 7, Issue 2, March-April 2016, pp. 187–190

The paper covers methodologies like piezoelectric materials, electromagnetic induction, and mechanical energy harvesting mechanisms, analyzing their efficiency, scalability, and practicality. It discusses design considerations, optimization techniques, and feasibility of integration into real-world environments, providing valuable insights into sustainable electricity generation from foot traffic.

[3] Chun Kit Ang, Development of a footstep power generator in converting kinetic energy to electricity, E3S Web of Conferences 80, 02001 (2019), REEE 2018

The study discusses the generator's design parameters, including materials selection, structural considerations, and energy conversion mechanisms. Additionally, it explores the generator's performance metrics such as power output, efficiency, and reliability, offering insights into its potential for practical implementation in renewable energy systems.

[4] Kethavath Gopal, Foot Step Power Generation for Rural Energy Application to Run A.C. And D.C. Loads, International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts (IJCRT), Vol 8, Issue 6 June 2020

The review explores existing research on harnessing footstep energy to power both AC and DC loads in rural areas. It examines various methodologies and technologies utilized for footstep power generation, analyzing their effectiveness and suitability for rural energy needs.

[5] A. Captanprabakaran, Foot Step Power Generator, International Journal of Innovative Research in Technology (IJIRT), Vol 8, May 2022

This included methodologies, technologies, and applications related to harnessing the kinetic energy generated by human footsteps to produce electricity. The review might also examine the efficiency, scalability, and practical considerations of footstep power generation systems.

[6] Mohammed Saleh Aljohani, Faisal Alonazi, Mechanical Footstep power generator, Central Washington University, Spring 2020

It discussed the principles of mechanical energy harvesting, such as piezoelectric materials or electromagnetic induction, and their effectiveness in converting footstep energy into electricity.

III. Footstep Arrangement

The utilization of footstep energy is enhanced in this project through a combination of innovative mechanisms: The Spring Mechanism, Rack-Pinion, and Gear Generator. These components work synergistically to convert the force exerted during footsteps into electrical energy. The Spring Mechanism provides flexibility, the Rack-Pinion system ensures efficient force transfer, and the Gear Generator contributes to the overall energy conversion process. This comprehensive arrangement optimizes the harnessing of footstep energy, making it a promising solution for sustainable power generation.

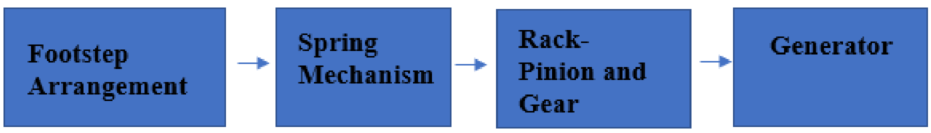

Fig 1. Footstep Arrangement

IV. MATERIAL USED

4.1 Springs

A spring is characterized as a versatile body, whose capacity is to twist when stacked and to recuperate its unique shape when burden is expelled. There are many types of springs but here we used a helical compression spring as our requirement.

Fig 2: Springs

4.2 Rack and Pinion

The gear of a shaft meshes externally and internally with gear in a straight line. Such type of gear is called rack and pinion gear. The straight-line gear is called a rack and the circular wheel is called pinion.

Fig 3: Rack and Pinions

4.3 DC Generator

Here we are using a 12V DC generator to generate electrical power. Rated speed of the motor is 1000rpm. If we could apply the force such that the rotation of motor reaches its rated speed, then the efficiency of generation will be higher. Since the generator is Permanent Magnet type, the field excitation is not necessary d.c generator.

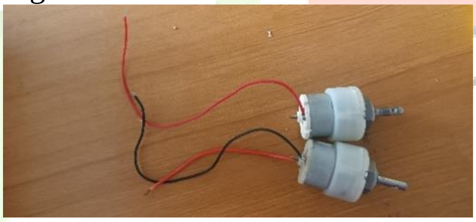

Fig 4: DC Generator

4.4 DC Bulb

DC light bulbs are good for remote and self-standing power supplies, such as DC batteries, LEDs.

Fig 5: DC Bulb, LED

V. WORKING PRINCIPLE

Operationally, when an individual walks or steps onto the upper surface or plate, force is applied to the springs affixed at four points around the plate. The downward motion of the plate causes the connected rack to descend. This movement, in turn, causes the rotation of the attached pinion. The pinion is further linked to a gearbox, which is connected to the generator's axle. Consequently, the coil within the generator rotates, inducing the generation of electrical current in the circuit.

The energy output of the footstep energy generation system is contingent upon several factors, including the work performed by the setup, the weight of the person walking, and the frequency of footsteps. Generally, individuals with greater weight and more frequent footsteps contribute to a higher energy yield.

To enhance electricity production, a rack and two pinion sets are incorporated into a single footstep base. This configuration has the capacity to generate twice the amount of electricity compared to a singular setup. This design optimization underscores the system's efficiency in capitalizing on footstep-generated energy.

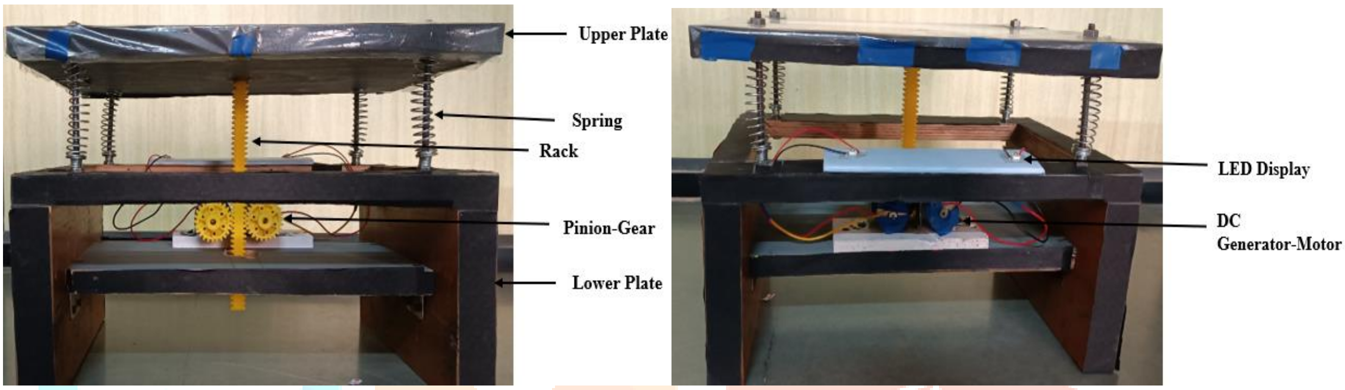

Fig 6: Mechanism of Footstep Power Generation

VI. RESULTS

We will now find the power of our footstep power generator

$P = F.v$

$F = mg$

$v = \text{Displacement}/\text{Time}$

Here we assume,

Mass of a normal man m= 60 kgs

Acceleration due to gravity g = 10 m/s^2

Spring displacement= 5 cm

Time t= 1 min

$P = 60 \times 10 \times 0.05 / 60$

$P = 0.5$ watt

But there are 2 generators

So, P = 1 Watt

VII. APPLICATIONS

This model can be installed at Children play area and community parks and later it can be implemented at religious footsteps, pedestal areas and sports grounds and this can benefit a lot for producing the electricity. It can be installed at a certain distance not on a continuous manner but in a discrete manner.

This produced electricity can be utilized:

Indoor lighting: Footstep energy generators can be used to power lights in buildings, such as schools, offices, and homes. This can help to reduce the reliance on traditional energy sources, such as fossil fuels.

Street lighting: Footstep energy generators can also be used to power street lights. This can be especially useful in areas where there is no access to the electrical grid, such as rural areas.

Emergency power: Footstep energy generators can be used to provide emergency power in the event of a power outage. This can be a lifesaver in areas where power outages are common, such as during storms or natural disasters.

Personal devices: Footstep energy generators can also be used to power personal devices, such as mobile phones and tablets.

VIII. MERITS AND DEMERITS

8.1 Merits

1.Renewable Energy Source: The footstep energy generation system taps into a renewable energy source by converting the kinetic energy from human footsteps into electrical power, contributing to sustainable energy solutions.

2.Innovative Mechanism: The incorporation of the spring mechanism, rack and pinion, and gear system reflects an innovative design, optimizing the conversion of force into rotational motion for efficient electricity generation.

3.Scalability: The inclusion of rack and two pinion sets in a single base demonstrates scalability, allowing for increased electricity production by accommodating varying conditions such as the weight and frequency of footsteps.

4.Low Maintenance: The system's simplicity, particularly in terms of mechanical components, suggests potentially lower maintenance requirements compared to more complex energy generation systems.

8.2 Demerits

1.Dependency on Human Activity: The system relies on human activity (footsteps) for energy generation, making it less reliable in scenarios with low foot traffic or during periods of inactivity.

2.Variable Energy Output: The amount of energy generated is contingent on factors such as the weight and frequency of footsteps, leading to variable energy output that may not be consistent.

3.Limited Energy Generation: The overall energy production may be limited compared to larger-scale renewable energy systems, posing challenges for meeting high-demand energy requirements.

4.Initial Cost: While the system may have lower operational costs, the initial setup cost could be a consideration, especially if specialized materials or components are required.

IX. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the described footstep energy generation system presents an innovative and practical approach to harnessing kinetic energy from human footsteps. The utilization of springs, rack and pinion, and gear mechanisms effectively translates the force exerted by walking into rotational motion, ultimately generating electrical current through the connected generator. The efficiency of the system is influenced by various factors, including the work done by the setup, the weight of the person walking, and the frequency of footsteps. It is evident that individuals with higher weight and more frequent footsteps contribute to increased energy production.

The incorporation of rack and two pinion sets within a single footstep base demonstrates a strategic design choice, resulting in a substantial boost in electricity generation. This approach highlights the scalability and adaptability of the system to accommodate varying conditions and requirements.

Overall, the footstep energy generation system not only provides a sustainable and renewable source of electricity but also showcases the potential for innovation in harnessing human motion for practical energy solutions. As we address the global challenge of power supply, such systems contribute to the broader conversation on integrating renewable energy sources into our daily lives.

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