

Article

Improving Energy Efficiency by Utilizing Wetted Cellulose Pads in Passive Cooling Systems

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Abstract: The effectiveness of using wetted cellulose pads on improving the performance of two conventional passive cooling systems has been evaluated. First, an experimental design was developed to determine the impact of using a wetted cellulose pad on the temperature and velocity of the airflow. A cellulose pad (7090 model) with a cross-sectional area of $0.5 \times 0.5 \text{ m}^2$ and three different thicknesses of 10, 15, and 30 cm were selected and tested. The results indicated that using wetted cellulose pads with thicknesses ranging from 10–30 cm decreased the outlet airflow temperature from 11.3 to 13.7 °C on average. For free airflow at velocity 3.5 m/s, the outlet airflow velocity from the wetted cellulose pad decreased to 0.9, 0.7 and 0.6 m/s, respectively, for cellulose pads with thicknesses of 10, 15, and 30 cm. By applying experimental results on a psychrometric chart, the humidity ratio of outlet airflow was obtained between 40–70%. The study established airflow velocity as the critical parameter in passive cooling systems. With the novel concept of combining wetted cellulose pads for passive cooling systems (i.e., wind catchers and induced ventilation), there is good potential to reduce the energy requirements for thermal comfort in buildings in regions with a hot and arid climate.

Keywords: natural ventilation; passive cooling system; cellulose pad; wind energy; wind catcher; induced ventilation



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1. Introduction

The rising demand for cooling and thermal comfort, with consequential increases in energy consumption in the building sector, is an emerging concern. Data on energy consumption show that about 40% of total energy consumption, and up to 30% of the world's CO₂ production, is related to the building sector. In the United States, 20% of the total energy consumption, and 50% of energy consumption in buildings is related to air conditioning systems [1–3]. Studies in China have shown that energy consumption in the construction sector will reach 35% of its total energy consumption by 2020 [4,5]. Energy consumption growth and increasing CO₂ production has led to a strong research focus on identifying strategies for improving energy efficiency in buildings [6–12]. Use of passive methods offers a promising pathway to reducing energy consumption and CO₂ emissions from buildings. Among different passive ventilation methods, the utilization of wind as a passive energy source to create comfortable conditions in buildings has been a common method from ancient times. For years, in central and southern parts of Iran, wind catchers, i.e., *Badgirs*, have been used as an effective method for cooling homes. Figure 1 shows a traditional type of wind catcher that is used in central parts of Iran.



Figure 1. A view of one-sided wind catchers in Kashan city, Isfahan province, Iran.

Wind catchers are divided into four general types, reflecting their shapes and the number of entrance sections [13]:

- (i) One-sided wind catchers, which have one opening (Figure 2a). To receive maximum airflow, the opening is in front of the dominant outside air direction. Many one-sided wind catchers are used in other directions [13];
- (ii) Two-sided wind catchers, with two openings: one in the direction of the wind and the other on almost the opposite side (Figure 2b). In comparison with one-sided wind catchers, two-sided wind catchers perform better [13];
- (iii) Cylindrical wind catchers are the most advanced type, and have a better performance than the other types. Cylindrical wind catchers (Figure 2c) do not have the limitations of the other types [13];
- (iv) Four, six, or eight-sided wind catchers with varying dimensions. The height of the opening is utilized depending on the climate of the region (Figure 2d) [13].

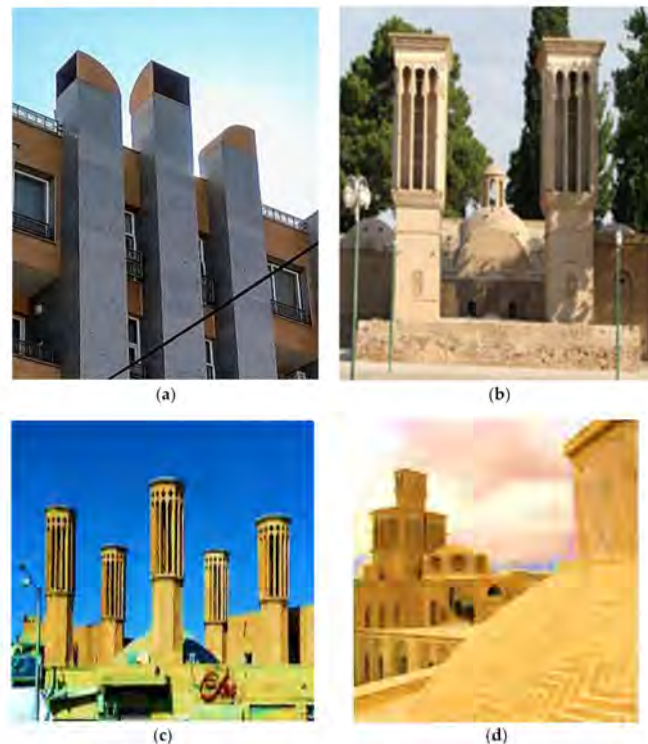


Figure 2. A view of a different types of wind catcher. (a) One-sided wind catcher, Kashan city, Esfahan province, Iran. (b) Two-sided wind catcher [14]. (c) A cylindrical wind catcher [14]. (d) A four-sided wind catcher [14].

In recent years, various parameters related to wind catchers have been evaluated analytically, numerically, and experimentally [13–35]. Montazeri and Azizian [15] exper-

imentally evaluated the performance of a one-sided wind catcher using a wind tunnel. For different inlet air incident angles, the induced airflow and pressure coefficient were measured, and smoke was used to visualize the flow pattern in and over the wind catcher. Results showed that the performance of the wind catcher was highly dependent on the wind incident angles. The wind catcher acts like a chimney, with air entering through the windows and exiting through the wind catcher. Results also showed that for a full dimension wind catcher in an atmospheric condition, the performance of the wind catcher decreases by 50% at a zero-wind incident angle. Bekleyen and Melikoğlu [16] investigated the thermal effects of the wind catchers on the *Iwan* zone in buildings. It was found that the *Iwan* of buildings is the coolest part of the house in the day during the summer. Al-sailani et al. [19] evaluated the impacts of geometrical characteristics of the wind catchers on the ventilation effectiveness in buildings. Results showed that increasing the pressure difference between the wind catcher outlet and the window, as well as minimizing pressure losses, are among the most effective parameters on the effectiveness of wind catchers, whereas rounding inner and outer bends and sloping ceilings and side walls have a marginal effect. Bahadori et al. [28] investigated wind catchers with wetted columns and wetted surfaces experimentally and numerically, and compared their performance against conventional wind catchers. It was found that a one-sided wind catcher has good potential for improving thermal comfort in buildings. Kazemi Esfeh et al. [36] experimentally examined the impact of the wind catcher roof shape on the induced flow to the one-sided wind catcher. Three types of wind catcher roof shapes (i.e., flat, inclined, and curved) were examined. The results illustrated that roof geometry of a wind catcher has a significant effect on the flow pattern inside the wind catcher, and the wind catcher with a curved roof had a better performance than the others. Due to the limitations of traditional wind catchers, Dehghani-Sanij et al. [13] proposed a new type of wind catcher that is capable of setting itself in the maximum ambient air direction. By using a wind vane, the direction of the wind can be detected, and the head of the wind catcher can be rotated manually or electronically to set the maximum wind velocity at frontal face. Easy installation, better performance, and the ability of setting itself in front of the maximum wind speed are some of the advantages of the proposed wind catcher. Afshin et al. [37] experimentally evaluated the effects of angle and velocity of wind on a two-sided wind catcher, using a wind tunnel and smoke flow visualization. Pressure coefficient and induced air velocity were investigated for different wind incident angles. Results showed that the performance of the two-sided wind catcher was highly affected by wind incident angles, and for wind incident angles greater than 55°, the wind catcher acted as a chimney. Soltani et al. [38] numerically investigated airflow patterns in a new design of wind catcher with a wetted surface. Results showed that wind velocity has a significant role in the wind catcher performance, and wind catcher had a better performance for higher wind velocities. Khani et al. [39] experimentally and analytically investigated the effects of using a wetted surface in the inflow section of a modular wind catcher. It was found that using a wind catcher with a wetted surface can decrease the inlet air temperature by an average of 10 °C, and increase relative humidity by an average of 40%.

For centuries, people in Middle East have used wind catchers and openings on the external walls as passive methods to ventilate their houses. However, as it is known, these methods simply guide outdoor air into internal spaces and have no effect on the air properties, such as temperature and humidity—critical parameters for creating thermal comfort in buildings. A novel method to improve the performance of these methods is to combine them with an evaporative cooling system, such as a wetted surface or a wetted column, to decrease the air temperature and increase the air humidity. Using forced evaporative cooling system in buildings [40–44], especially in hot and arid regions, is a common method to create thermal comfort. Among them, cellulose pads have a high potential in evaporative cooling.

The main purpose of this research is to evaluate the performance of wind catchers using a corrugated cellulose pad (7090 model) as a wetted surface. To this aim, and due

to the lack of valid data regarding free air flow passing through the cellulose pad, an experimental design was developed. Then, using a constant ambient air velocity that was created by a centrifugal fan, the outlet airflow velocity and temperature was measured. Data for three different cellulose pad thicknesses (10, 15, and 30 cm) with five different inlet airflow temperatures were recorded. The water consumption in the process was calculated analytically, based on the inlet and outlet airflow temperature from the cellulose pad. The evaporative cooling process is illustrated on the psychrometric chart to determine the outlet airflow humidity from the wetted cellulose pad. Finally, the use of the wetted cellulose pad in the wind catchers and the induced ventilation of two passive cooling systems are evaluated.

2. Materials and Methodologies

2.1. Experiment Set-Up and Experimental Procedure

A laboratory prototype was built to carry out the tests (Figure 3a). The prototype was mainly composed of a centrifugal fan, two polyethylene ducts, an electrical heater, a water pump, a measurement sensor, a water distributor tray, and holders. The tests were performed in a laboratory with an average elevation of 1200 m from sea level (32° N, 55° E). The task of the first section that included the fan, electrical heater, and primary duct was to create a steady airflow with a steady velocity and temperature. The second part included the pads and secondary duct with a dimension equal to the pad dimension ($0.5 \times 0.5 \text{ m}^2$). The water pump recirculated water between the reservoir in the bottom and the distributor tray on the top of the cellulose pad. Pump outlet flow was divided into three equal branches and, to make the pads wetted, one branch for 10 cm, two branches for 15 cm, and three branches for 30 cm thickness were used. Free airflow created by the first section then went through the second part. The temperature and velocity of the portion of the airflow flowing through the cellulose pad was measured at the end of the secondary duct for all thicknesses and temperatures of the inlet airflow. Figure 4a shows the cellulose pad with the maximum thickness, which is used in this study. Figure 4b shows the electrical elements that were used to heating the inlet airflow to the desirable temperature. Figure 4c shows the top water distributor tray that was used to spray water on top of the cellulose pads. Three distributor trays were created with three rows of holes with 2 mm diameter on the bottom to properly spray water on the pads. Figure 4d shows the bottom water collector tray, which was used to collect extra water that was sprayed on top of the pads. Water collected in a tank and was circulated by a centrifugal pump. Figure 4e shows the measurement probe which was used to measure the airflow velocity and temperature in this study. Table 1 shows the specification of the set-up components.

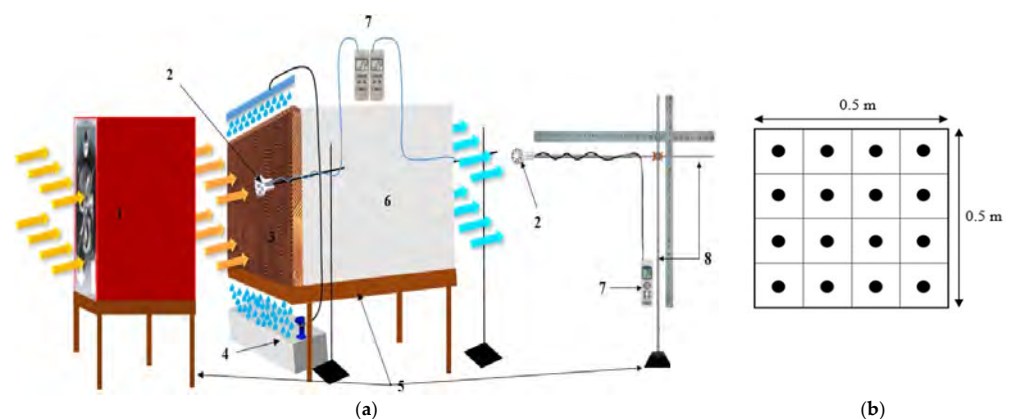


Figure 3. A schematic of (a) the laboratory prototype; (1) fan; electrical element and primary channel; (2) probe; (3) cellulose pad; (4) water storage tank with circulation pump; (5) holder; (6) secondary channel; (7) monitor; (8) calibrated rod. (b) Diagram of the sensor arrangement—measuring points—in the inlet and outlet section.

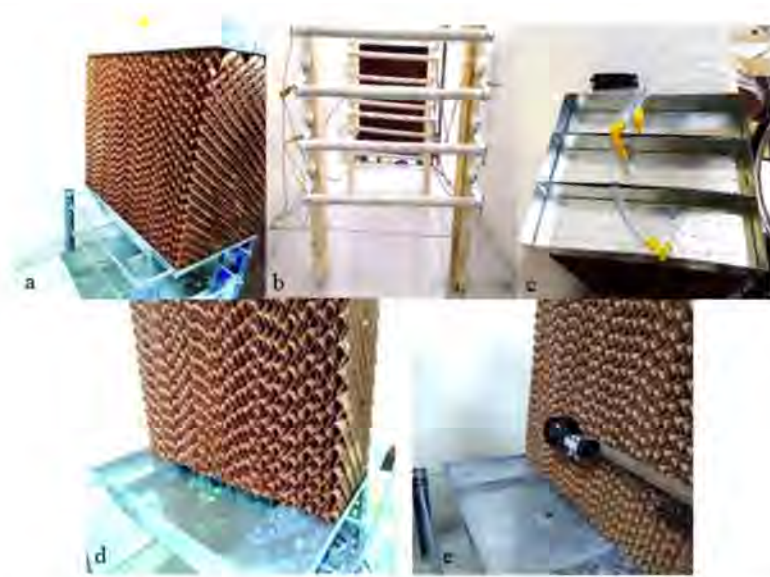


Figure 4. Different parts of the laboratory prototype of the present study; (a) pad with maximum thickness; (b) electrical elements; (c) top water distributor tray; (d) bottom water collector tray; (e) measurement probe.

Table 1. Specifications of the laboratory prototype.

	Power (w)	Dimensions/Diameter (m)			Rate (m ³ /h)	Number
		Length	Width	Height		
Electrical element	700	0.30	-	-	-	16
Fan	380		0.5		<8000	1
Water pump	<50		-		<0.66	1
Primary duct	-	1	0.6	0.6	-	1
Secondary duct	-	1	0.5	0.5	-	1
Holder	-	-	-	0.5	-	-
Water distributor tray	-	0.5	0.1	0.1	-	3
Probe holder (index)	-	1	-	1	-	-

2.2. Measurement Procedure

To perform tests, first the mean free airflow velocity and temperature at the entrance of the cellulosic pad was measured. To measure the mean values of temperature and velocity, the entrance section was divided into 16 equal parts, as shown in Figure 3b. The temperature and velocity of the center of each part was measured using a horizontal and vertical calibrated rod to place the measuring probe in the dotted point shown in Figure 3b. Then, the mean values were calculated using Equations (1) and (2). Airflow wet bulb was measured by using a thermometer. Equation (3) [40] was used to evaluate the effectiveness of cellulose pad in reducing free airflow temperature:

$$V_{av} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{16} V_i A_i}{A_t} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{16} V_i}{16} \quad (1)$$

$$T_{av} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{16} V_i A_i T_i}{V_{av} * A_t} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{16} V_i T_i}{16 * V_{av}} \quad (2)$$

A_i = Area of section (m²) (i);

A_t = Total entrance section area (m²);

V_i = Center velocity of section (m/s) (i);
 V_{av} = Mean velocity (m/s);
 T_i = Center temperature of section ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) (i);
 T_{av} = Mean temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$);
 16 = Number of divisions.

$$Effectiveness = \frac{T_{out} - T_{in}}{T_{out} - T_{wb}} \quad (3)$$

where T_{out} , T_{in} , and T_{wb} denote the mean outlet and inlet flow temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), and the free-flow wet bubble temperature, respectively.

Since water consumption in regions with hot and arid climate, is of great importance, in order to evaluate the water consumption in the process the following equation is used:

$$\dot{m}_w \times L_v = \dot{m}_a \times C_p \times \Delta T \quad (4)$$

where \dot{m}_w and L_v denote the water mass flow rate (kg/s) and water evaporation latent heat ($\frac{\text{kJ}}{\text{kg}}$), respectively. \dot{m}_a and C_p correspond to the air mass flow rate (kg/s) and air specific heat capacity ($\frac{\text{kJ}}{\text{kg}\cdot^{\circ}\text{C}}$), respectively, and ΔT ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) is related to the difference in mean temperature of the inlet and outlet airflow from the cellulose pad.

2.3. Cellulose Pad

Cellulose pads consisted of corrugated thin layers that stuck together, and were identified by a four-digit number. In this study, a 7090 model of cellulose pad was evaluated. The first digit in the 7090-pad model represented half maximum distance (mm) between the two sheets placed on each other, and the last two digits indicated the angle of the sheets on each other. Indeed, distance between sheets and angle of replacement in the cellulose pads had a significant effect on the performance of the pads [45,46]. Lower distance caused low airflow through the pad, and vice versa. A lower angle of replacement used during the cooling process was very important. The maximum distance and angle of placement of the layers have been clearly shown in Figure 5.

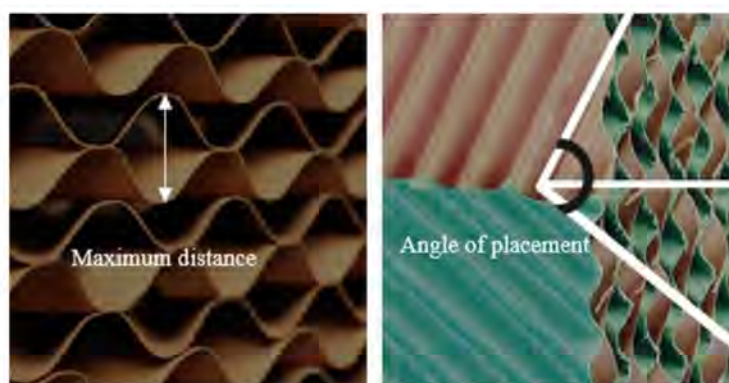


Figure 5. Maximum distance and angle of placement of the cellulose pads.

2.4. Measurement Instrument

A turbine anemometer, as shown in Figure 6, was used to measure the temperature and velocity of the airflow. It was calibrated in the factory by the manufacturer, and a mercury thermometer was used to measure the airflow wet-bulb temperature. Tables 2 and 3 show the accuracy of the measuring instruments.



Figure 6. Turbine anemometer.

Table 2. Specifications of the turbine anemometer for velocity.

Air Velocity Measurement	Range	Resolution	Accuracy
m/s	0.4–30.0 m/s	0.1 m/s	$\pm(2\% + 0.2 \text{ m/s})$
km/h	1.4–126.0 km/h	0.1 km/h	$\pm(2\% + 0.8 \text{ km/h})$

Table 3. Specifications of thermometer and turbine anemometer for air temperature.

	Thermometer	Turbine Anemometer
Measurement Range	$-10 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $+110 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$	$0 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $50 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
Resolution	$1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$	$0.1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
Accuracy	$\pm 1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$	$\pm 0.8 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

3. Results and Discussion

Using passive methods in building ventilation is important, but finding a way to reduce the inlet airflow temperature is even more important. The airflow velocity and temperature decrease after passing the wetted cellulose pad. Due to the importance of the airflow velocity and temperature on creating thermal comfort conditions in buildings, numerous tests were performed in this study to establish how much the airflow velocity and temperature decreased after passing throughout a wetted cellulose pad. Outlet airflow velocity and temperature were measured for three cellulose pad thicknesses with five different inlet airflow temperatures.

Figure 7 shows the experimental results for the outlet airflow velocity passing through the wetted cellulose pad with three thicknesses of 10, 15 and 30 cm. It was observed that using cellulose pad significantly reduced the airflow velocity from 3.5 m/s at the inlet to 0.9, 0.7, and 0.6 at the outlet, respectively. Results for outlet airflow velocity show the limitation of using wetted cellulose pads with higher thicknesses.

Figure 8 shows the experimental results for the outlet airflow temperature from the wetted cellulose pad for three thicknesses of 10, 15 and 30 cm with a constant free flow velocity of 3.5 m/s. It was observed that the use of the wetted cellulose pad significantly reduced the outlet flow temperature, and temperature reduction increased with increasing pad thickness. The reason was that by increasing the thickness of the cellulose pad, the thermal exchange surface area between inlet airflow and sprayed water on the cellulose pad increased. In addition, it was observed that by decreasing the inlet airflow temperature to the cellulose pad, the temperature of the outlet airflow from the pads decreased less.

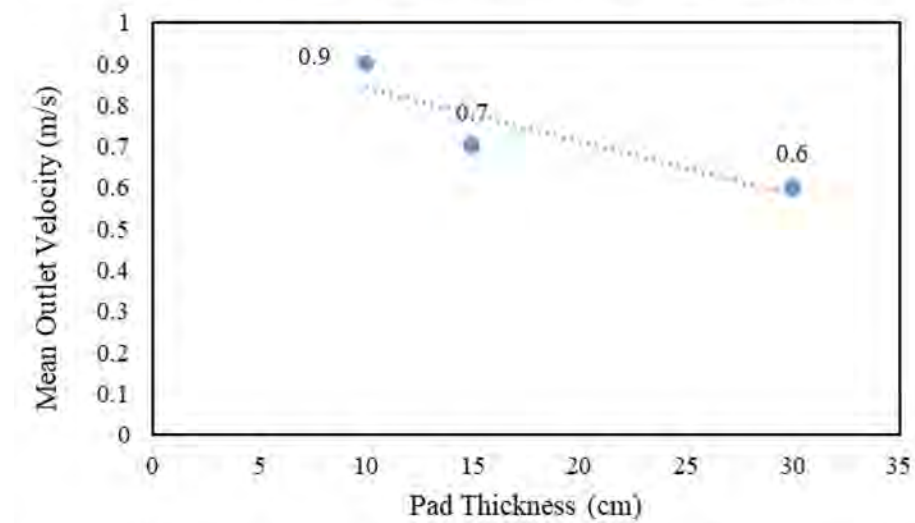


Figure 7. Experimental results for outlet airflow velocity (from 7090 cellulose pad model).

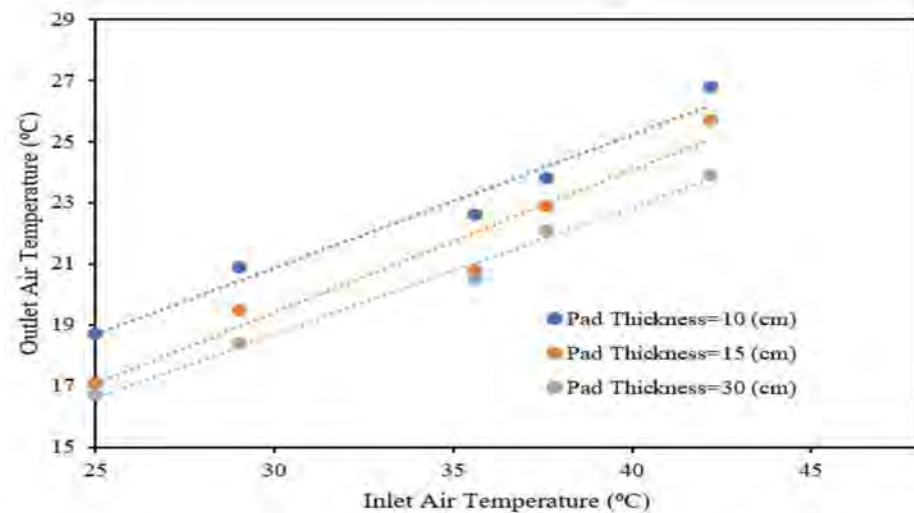


Figure 8. Experimental results for outlet air temperature (from 7090 cellulose pad model).

Figure 9 illustrates the effect of free airflow temperature and pad thickness on the wetted cellulose pad effectiveness. Effectiveness does not have a scale. It is a factor, and starts with zero, but there is no maximum amount for it. As the effectiveness factor goes up, it shows that using a wetted cellulose pad has a higher effect on the evaporative cooling process. For an effectiveness factor equal to one, this means that the wetted pad efficiency is equal to 50%. By decreasing inlet airflow temperature, effectiveness decreases. This is because the minimum temperature that can be achieved by the evaporative cooling process is the wet-bulb temperature of the inlet airflow, and as the inlet airflow temperature becomes closer to its wet-bulb temperature, the efficiency of the evaporative cooling process decreases. In addition, increasing the thickness of the cellulose pad increased the effectiveness, due to increasing the thermal exchange surface area between inlet airflow and sprayed water on the cellulose pad.

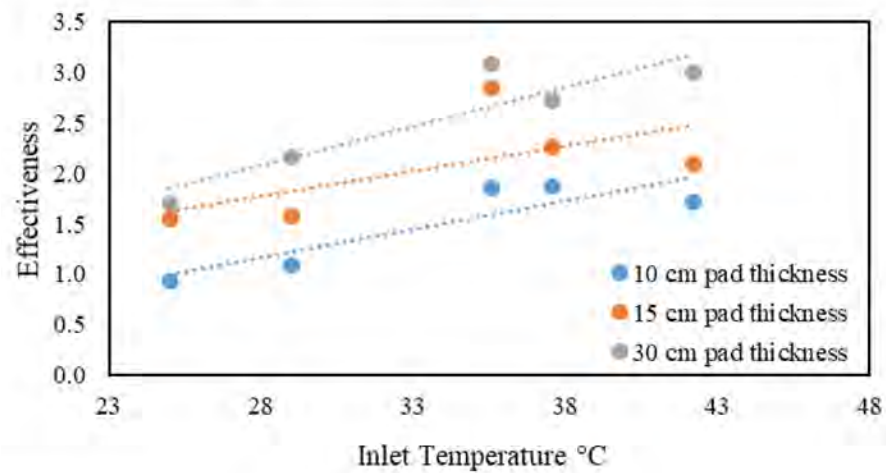


Figure 9. Effectiveness of 7090 cellulose pad model.

Figure 10 demonstrates the impacts of cellulose pad thickness and inlet airflow temperature on the amount of evaporated water that was calculated analytically, using Equation (4). By increasing cellulose pad thickness and inlet airflow temperature, the amount of evaporated water also increased. As the pad thickness and inlet airflow temperature increased, the amount of heat transferred between the water and inlet airflow increased, due to increasing the thermal exchange surface area and temperature difference.

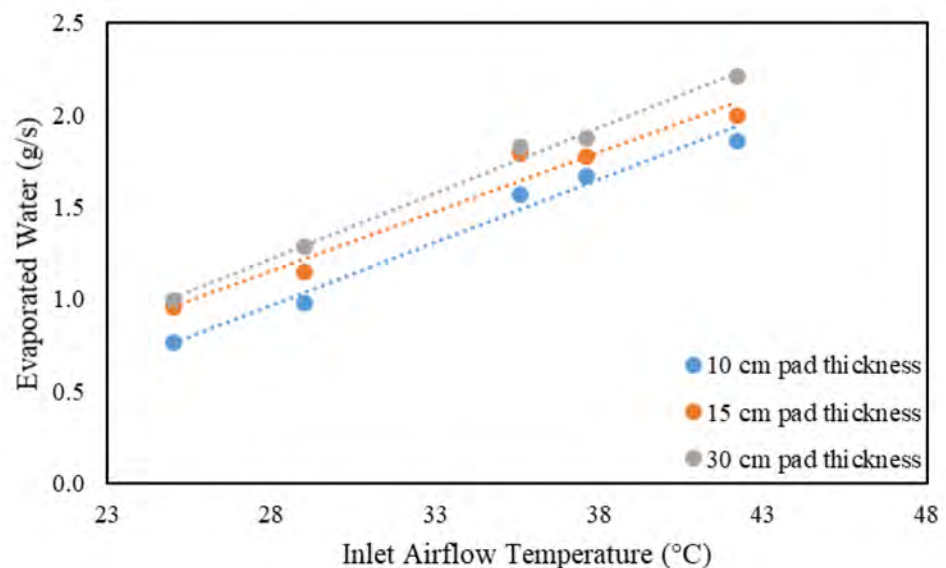
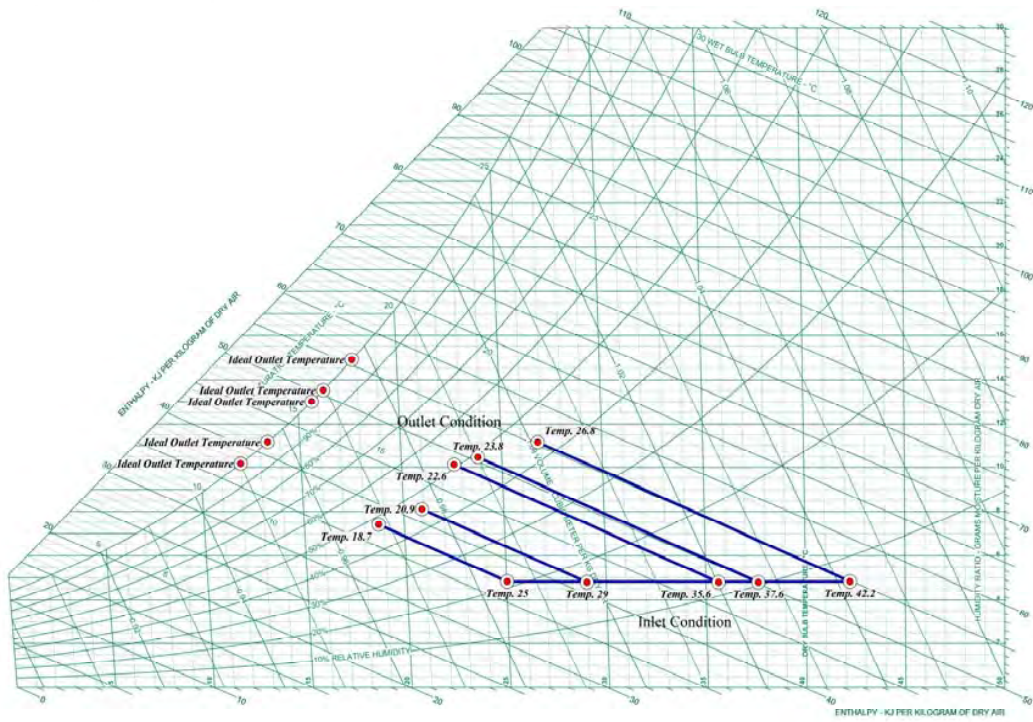
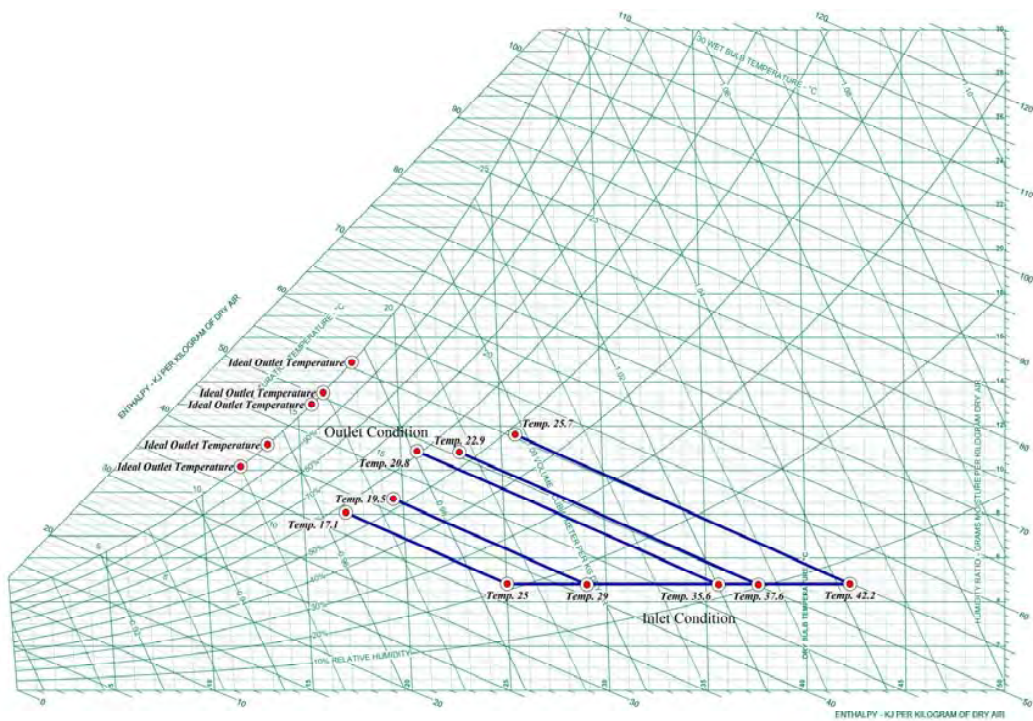


Figure 10. The rate of evaporated water for 7090 cellulose pad model.

Figure 11a–c shows the evaporative cooling process performed during each experiment on a psychrometric chart for different pad thicknesses. The inlet and outlet air conditions, with the ideal outlet air condition to evaluate the performance of the cellulose pad, have been illustrated on Figure 11a–c. Using the wetted cellulose pad significantly increased outlet airflow humidity, and by increasing cellulosic pad thickness, outlet airflow humidity increased further. As seen, using cellulosic pads with different thicknesses increased the outlet airflow relative humidity about 30–50%.

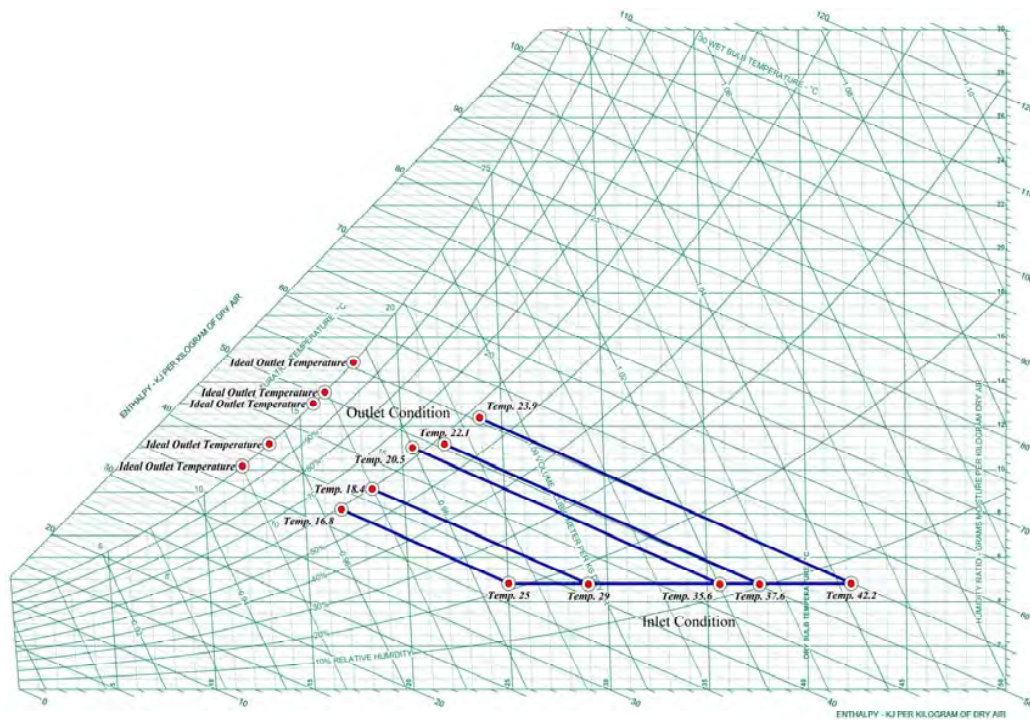


(a)



(b)

Figure 11. Cont.



(c)

Figure 11. Evaporative cooling process for different pad thicknesses. (a) 10 cm. (b) 15 cm. (c) 30 cm.

In Figures 7–11, the experimental results of using wetted cellulose pads as a wetted surface are illustrated, regarding an ambient airflow velocity of 3.5 m/s. According to Iran’s wind mean speed map [47], it is shown that Iran has a great potential to use wind as a power source. Central regions of Iran have a hot and arid climate, and using wind catchers to ventilate houses has been a common method for these regions since ancient times. The early wind catchers only directed outside air into the houses, and had no effect on the incoming air temperature, so they were not able to create comfortable thermal conditions. Over time, various methods have been used to reduce the inlet air temperature, among them using wetted surfaces. As it has been seen, outlet airflow temperature from wetted cellulose pads significantly decreases, and it is an effective idea to use wetted cellulose pads in the inlet section of the wind catchers. A schematic of using cellulose pads in the inflow section of a wind catcher is shown in Figure 12. It was found that the thicker cellulose pad had better performance, but (as demonstrated in Figure 10) by increasing thickness, water consumption also increased, and outlet airflow velocity decreased significantly, both of which are very important in regions with hot and arid climates. To optimize water consumption, we suggest using a wind vane to turn off the pump when the ambient airflow velocity is very low.

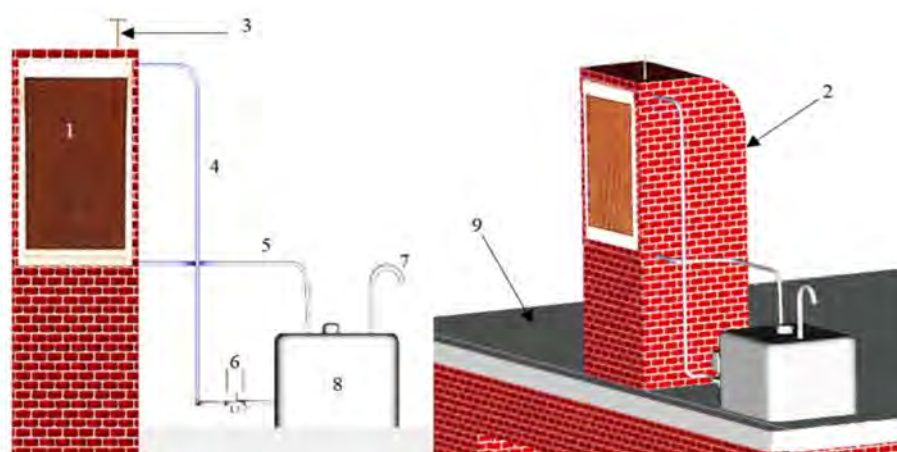


Figure 12. A schematic of using wetted cellulose pad in the inflow section of the wind catcher: (1) cellulose pad; (2) wind catcher; (3) wind vane; (4) feed water pipe; (5) return pipe; (6) water circulation pump; (7) vent; (8) water reservoir tank; and (9) roof.

In the past centuries, it was easy and economical to build wind catchers in houses due to the low height of the buildings, but with high-rise buildings, using traditional wind catchers is not possible due to the number of building floors. On the other hand, based on the literature [47], mean wind speed increases with increasing altitude from the earth surface. For these types of buildings, combining a wetted cellulose pad with induced ventilation as a passive ventilation method is a practical way to create comfortable thermal conditions, as demonstrated in Figure 13a,b. Induced ventilation is an excellent concept for providing thermal comfort in high-rise buildings, with the potential for a substantial reduction of energy demand for cooling services. In this method, openings are created on the external walls of buildings, and a duct is created all over the building, from the first floor to the top, to vent the internal airflow. In today's buildings, this duct is usually already created, and the only task that needs to be performed is the creation of an opening covered with a motorized damper on the duct. The motorized damper should be interlocked with the water pump, to prevent the airflow from the duct to the living rooms when the passive cooling process is not in use. In this method, pads are put in the entrance of the openings, and water is sprayed on the pads by using a water pump. To reduce water consumption and minimize the pump size, water is sprayed only on those pads which are in front of the maximum ambient wind velocity direction. To this aim, the ambient air direction must be detected by a wind vane; then, the wind vane sends a signal to a solenoid valve on the inlet water pipe of pads, which is normally closed. Figure 13c,d demonstrate a schematic of the process. If the direction of the dominant wind speed is known, it is not necessary to create an opening in all directions. An anemometer can be used to set the on/off time of the pump due to the ambient air velocity. The main problem in induce ventilation is the outlet airflow rate from cellulose pads, due to the effect on the ventilation process. As it was found, increasing the pads' thickness decreased the outlet airflow velocity from the pads. On the other hand, increasing the pads' thickness decreased the outlet airflow temperature more. So, to calculate total pads cross-section area, the effects of these two parameters should be regarded at the same time.

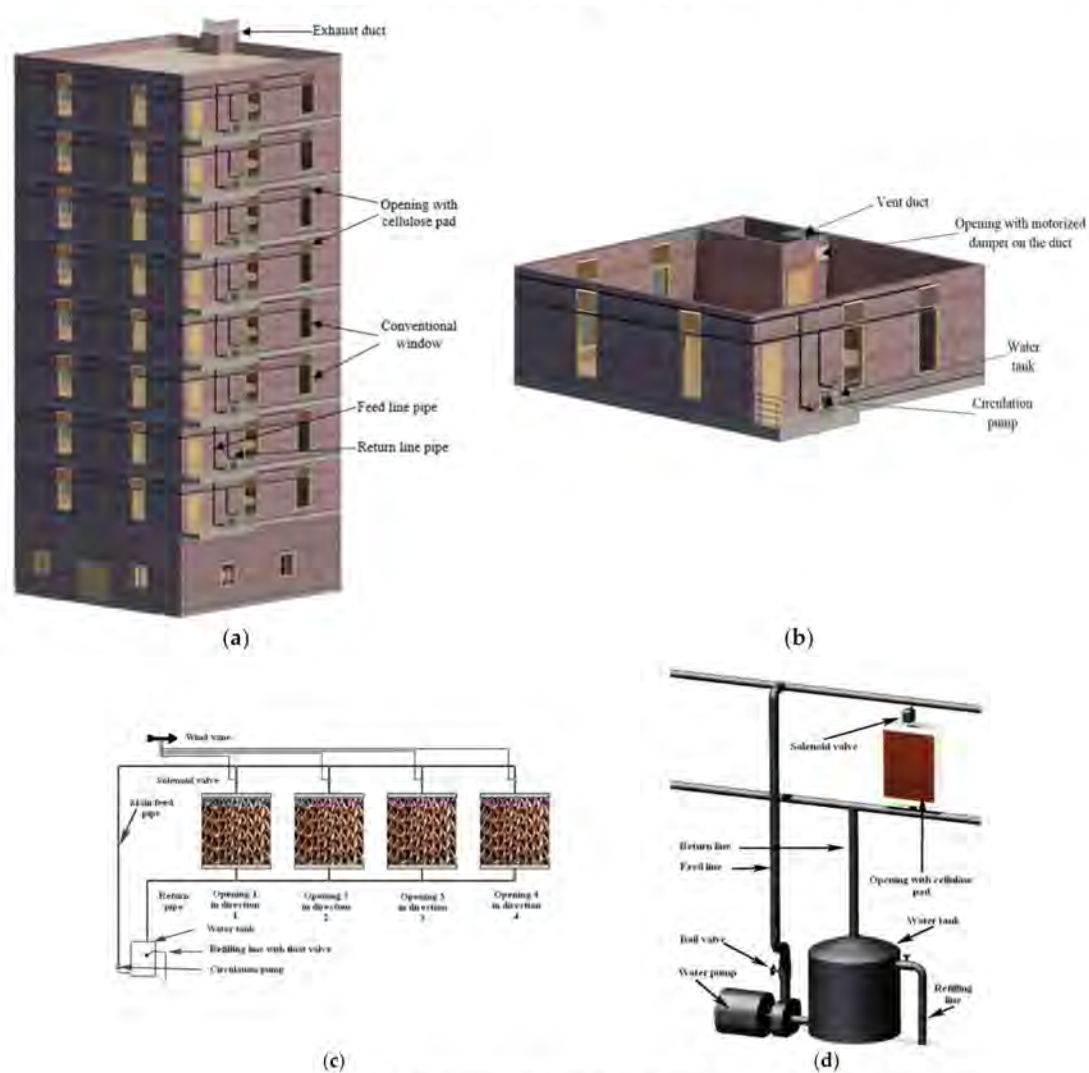


Figure 13. A schematic of (a) a high-rise tower with induced ventilation as a passive cooling method; (b) a floor of a high-rise tower with induced ventilation as a passive cooling method; (c) whole passive cooling process; and (d) an opening with cellulose pad and piping lines.

In this study, using a wetted cellulose pad as a wetted surface in two practical passive ventilation methods was evaluated. As mentioned before, increasing cellulose pad thickness decreased the outlet airflow temperature. For example, with a free airflow temperature of 42.2 °C, the outlet airflow temperature with a 30 cm thick pad was about 19% lower than that of the 10 cm thick pad. On the other hand, the outlet airflow velocity from 30 cm thick pad was about 33% lower than that of the 10 cm thick pad. A simple calculation showed that to create an equal evaporative cooling load with a cellulose pad thickness of 30 cm, the cross-section of the 10 cm cellulose pad thickness must be increased by 25%. As tests were performed on a laboratory prototype, and there was no real installation, the results are an estimation of the real process, and may be different with the outlet airflow temperature and velocity.

To evaluate the accuracy of the measurements, an error analysis was developed: the averaging equations and accuracy of the devices mentioned in Sections 2.3 and 2.4, respectively. To combine all errors, following calculations were performed:

$$E_{arss} = \sqrt{\sum_1^{16} \left(\Delta x_i \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \right)^2} \quad (5)$$

in which E_{arss} [48] is absolute residual sum of squares, x_i is for T_i ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) and V_i (m/s), Δx_i is device accuracy, and f is for T_{av} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) and V_{av} (m/s) in which T_{av} and V_{av} are the average outlet temperature and velocity. Tables 4 and 5 show the data for velocity and temperature measurements and probable errors. Data for velocity and temperature measurements illustrate probable errors in the range of 5.8 to 8.7% and 6.2 to 6.45%, respectively, which shows the acceptable accuracy of the tests.

Table 4. Data for velocity measurements and probable errors.

Pad Thickness (cm)	Average Outlet Velocity (m/s)	Error_ E_{arss} (%)
10	0.9	5.80
15	0.7	7.55
30	0.6	8.70

Table 5. Data for temperature measurements and probable errors.

Pad Thickness (cm)	Average Outlet Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Error_ E_{arss} (%)
10	26.8	6.33
	23.8	6.32
	22.6	6.36
	20.9	6.37
	18.7	6.39
15	25.7	6.30
	22.9	6.20
	20.8	6.39
	19.5	6.34
	17.1	6.36
30	23.9	6.35
	22.1	6.38
	20.5	6.38
	18.4	6.40
	16.7	6.45

4. Conclusions

Using passive cooling methods, such as wind catchers, is an efficient way to reduce energy consumption and CO_2 production in buildings. The main aim of the present study was to assess the performance of a wind catcher using a corrugated cellulose pad as a wet surface at its inlet. For this purpose, an experimental design was developed, and the outlet air flow velocity and temperature were measured. The most important findings are as follows:

1. Experimental results showed that the use of the wetted cellulose pad with 10, 15, and 30 cm thicknesses at the inlet section of the wind catchers and openings of the high-rise buildings reduced the temperature of the inlet airflow by an average of 11.3, 12.7, and 13.7 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, respectively, in regions with hot and arid climates;
2. It was observed that a 50% increase in the wetted cellulose pad thickness (10 cm thickness to 15 cm) caused a 12% increase in the mean outlet airflow temperature reduction, whereas a 100% increase in the wetted cellulose pad thickness (15 cm thickness to 30 cm) caused an 8% increase in the mean outlet airflow temperature reduction;

3. Airflow velocity was an important parameter in passive cooling. Although increasing cellulose pad thickness increased the effectiveness, it reduced outlet airflow velocity and increased water consumption. Additionally, a larger thickness required a larger water distribution tray, more space for installation and more investment, which all are significant limitations that should be considered when increasing the thickness of the cellulose pad;
4. Another important parameter in creating thermal comfort is relative humidity. It was observed that using a wetted cellulose pad increased the outlet airflow relative humidity and, as it was shown on the psychrometric chart, relative humidity of the outlet airflow was between 40–70%, which was placed in the thermal comfort zone;
5. Combining wind catchers or induced ventilation with the wetted cellulose pad is a novel idea in order to make passive cooling methods more efficient for creating thermal comfort in buildings, especially in regions with hot and arid climates;
6. Using wetted cellulose pads at the opening inlet section of buildings and wind catchers reduced outlet velocity significantly—this is not desirable. So, a balance between these two parameters should be created in order to optimize the required pad area, and consequently the opening cross-section area;
7. In this study, due to some of the limitations, the ambient velocity was set to a constant amount of 3.5 m/s. It is well known that by increasing the altitude, the ambient air velocity increases. It is suggested this issue be investigated by other researchers, in order to evaluate the effect of the ambient air velocity on the passive cooling process, especially in the induced ventilation;
8. Due to the limitations of using a thicker cellulose pad, we recommend using wetted cellulose pads with a maximum thickness of 15 cm, in order to place the cellulose pad inside the walls. This thickness is more accessible, and smaller than almost all exterior wall thicknesses in buildings.

As the ambient airflow velocity plays a significant role in passive ventilation, we propose that other researchers investigate the effects of the different ambient airflow velocities on the efficiency of wetted cellulose pads. In addition, relative humidity is another effective parameter of passive ventilation with wetted surfaces that should be recommended. We also suggest doing the tests of the current study in a real condition, with different pad models and ambient airflow velocities. Moreover, the numerical simulation of the current study in order to analyze different parameters could be an interesting future work. The last recommendation is the analysis of wetted pads for different types of wind catchers, both numerically and experimentally.

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