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Decision making model development in increasing wind farm energy efficiency

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# 1     **DECISION MAKING MODEL DEVELOPMENT in INCREASING WIND**

## 2                     **FARM ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

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### 11     **Abstract**

12     Renewable energy is a significant input for environmental, economic and social development.  
13     The wind energy has become the quickest thriving renewable energy resource. It is worth noting  
14     that wind power has the least emissions and lowest water consumption, but it has comparatively  
15     high costs. Thus, making wind energy station planning decision requires an operation of  
16     balancing various technical, economic, ecological, and environmental aspects over time and  
17     space. This paper is constructed to choose a convenient turbine from various perspectives for  
18     developing a wind energy station. For 2 MW, the best wind turbine brands are listed based on  
19     expert interviews and literature review and they are used to establish a decision-making model  
20     with four main criteria consisting technical, economic, environmental, and customer attributes  
21     with various sub-criteria. Determining the related criteria and grouping them in main categories is  
22     the novel approach provided by this research. The constructed model can be solved by various  
23     multi-criteria decision making techniques. The selection of the best wind turbine is determined by  
24     using AHP technique. The results are significant both from engineering and economic  
25     perspective as the applied methodology is practically implementable and commercially viable.  
26     Accurate and up-to-date data are obtained from leading companies in the industry.

27  
28     **Keywords:** AHP, Wind turbine select, Renewable energy, Energy efficiency, Multi-criteria  
29     decision making.  
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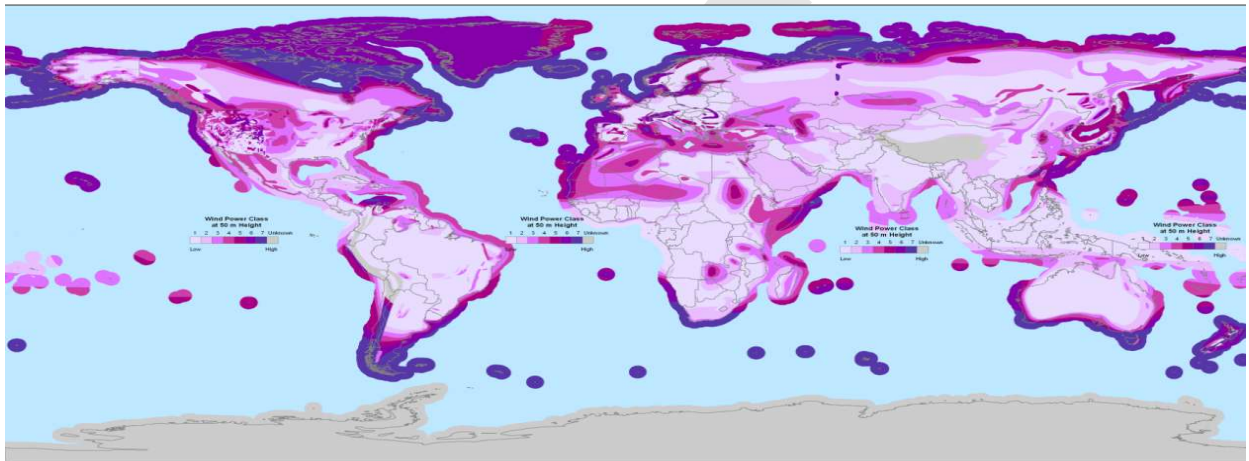
**Abreviations used:** AHP, Analytic Hierarchy Process; TOPSIS, Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution.

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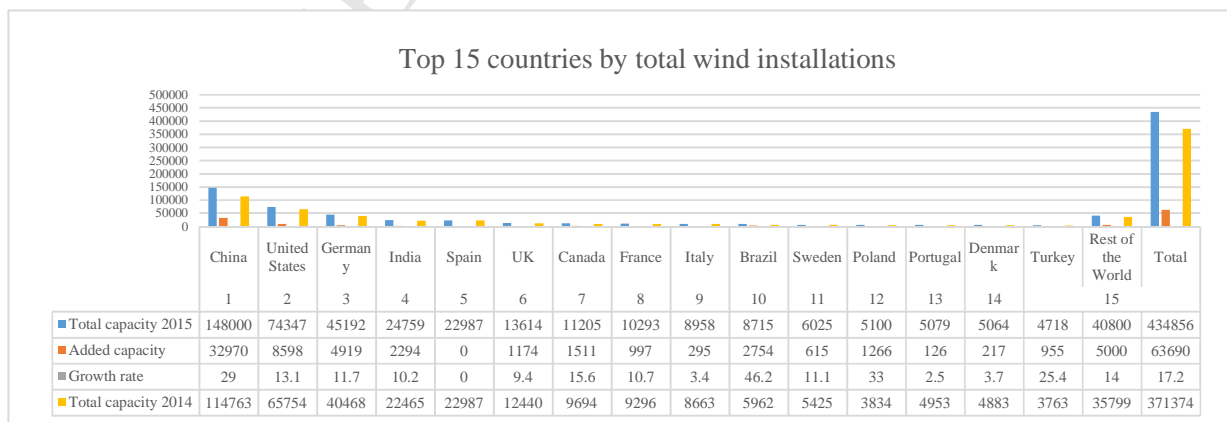
## 1. Introduction

Among renewable energy resources, wind energy is one of the most profitable, clear and powerful way to supply the applications of renewable energy [1], during the time that the generation of the wind energy has increased 32% per year in the past 10 years [2]. The potential for wind electricity generation around the World is displayed in Fig. 1 [3]. Fig. 2 shows the top 15 countries by total wind installations [4]. The wind energy station planning effort requires finding some of resources and conversion mechanisms in order to fulfill the energy demands / requirements of all the tasks in an optimum attitude [5]. The feasibility outcomes of wind energy station design works depend on the characteristic of the present meteorological report as well as on the suppositions about available space and technology [6]. These results can just ensure an approach of the all wind power potential and it can change considerably for diverse regions [7]. Using meteorological data, the wind energy output can be calculated for a wind turbine brand [8]. The distribution of the wind turbine brands worldwide is given in Fig. 3 [9]. The diverse brands of wind turbine generate diverse quantities of energy linked to the wind speed for a specific region [10].



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**Fig. 1.** The potential for wind electricity generation around the world [3]



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**Fig. 2.** Top 15 countries by total wind installations [4]

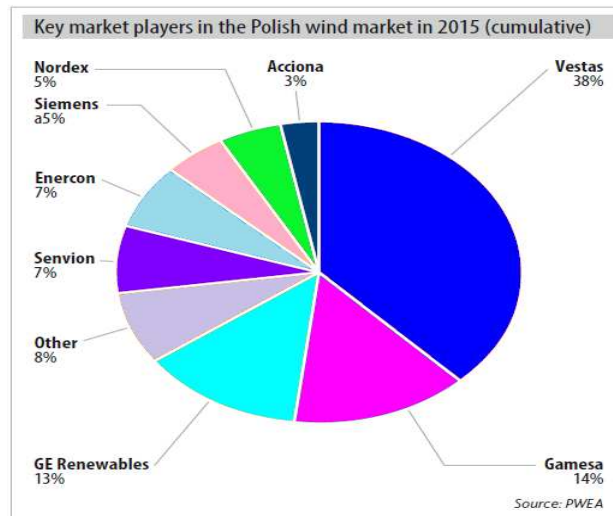


Fig. 3. Distribution of the wind turbine brands worldwide [9]

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58 For this reason, the best wind turbine selection has a significant task evidenced by a few good  
 59 investigations found in the literature. With an optimization model, Borissova and Mustakerov  
 60 evaluated twenty-four different wind turbine brands [11]. Al-Hadhrami assessed the generating  
 61 wind energy of sixteen different wind turbines in the group of 50–80 kW, 15–20 kW, 5–10 kW  
 62 and 1–3 kW rated wind energies, and the influence of the hub height on generating wind energy;  
 63 the best proportion changing in yearly energy generation efficiency acquired for a rise in the hub  
 64 height of 30 m from 10 to 20 m [12]. Alimi et al. evaluated eight different wind turbines at  
 65 diverse hub-heights for the wind energy production in Tunis [Nordex (2300 kW) N90-100,  
 66 Vestas V80, Anbonus MK III-30, V82-0.9, V39-35, GE 1500 kW, Dewind 1250 kW, and  
 67 Repower (2000 kW) MM 70-65] [13]. Filho and De Araujo Lima evaluated by using three  
 68 diverse brands of wind turbine (Bonus Mk III, Bonus Mk III and Vestas V27) in Paraiba [14].  
 69 Jowder applied a classic method to comparison five wind turbine brands [Gamesa (G58, G80)  
 70 and Nordex (N60, N70, N80)] at 60 m height, identifying that the best turbine was G58 [15]. For  
 71 the Niger region, Adaramola et al. appraised the performance of four different wind turbine  
 72 brands ranging from 500 to 35 kW [ZEUS 500, G-3120, WES-30 and P19-100], acquiring that  
 73 the wind energy output from G-3120 was the best [16]. Adaramola assessed the wind energy  
 74 generation in Ghana by using four diverse wind turbines [Garbi150/28, Polaris 15–50, CF-100,  
 75 and WES30] [17]. With an evaluative algorithm, González et al. evaluated the four wind turbines  
 76 for the optimization of wind energy station turbines [18]. Montoya et al. used a multi-objective  
 77 optimization algorithm for the best wind turbine selection by using the energy outputs of twenty-  
 78 six diverse brands of wind turbines [19]. Kolios et al. ensured a systematical methodology by the  
 79 TOPSIS for evaluation and classification of diverse present wind turbine backing structures [20].  
 80 Martin et al. used the TOPSIS method for evaluation of conception design process of wind  
 81 turbine support devices [21]. Lee et al. applied a multi criteria decision making method, with the  
 82 unification of AHP and the risks, costs, opportunities, and benefits, concept to help choose an  
 83 appropriate wind energy station project [22]. For selecting the best of wind turbine, Nahi and  
 84 Nabavi defined the network using Monte Carlo method and wind speed data in the region Manjil.  
 85 For necessary simulations, they used Random Numbers Simulation method by using the software  
 86 EXCEL and MATLAB [23]. Pohekar and Ramachandran used the multi-criteria decision making  
 87 method for renewable energy planning [24]. Fthenakis and Haaren applied different economic

88 and ecological criteria such as the precaution of economic costs to the wind energy generation  
89 [25]. Demirtas applied AHP in evaluating renewable energy technologies from environmental,  
90 technical, economical, and social perspectives [26]. Shokrzadeh analyzed the performance of  
91 parametric and non-parametric methods over four selected wind turbines using simulated data  
92 sets [27]. Somma et al. studied operation optimization of distributed energy systems. The results  
93 indicate that exergy efficiency can be improved while cost of energy reduced [28, 29].

94 The objective of this paper is to introduce a decision-making model consisting a wide-range of  
95 criteria. Although there are studies in the above-mentioned literature providing various decision-  
96 making techniques, their approach consists a limited perspective. In this paper, multi-criteria  
97 decision making method is utilized in evaluating the anticipated performance of several popular  
98 brands of wind turbines for 2 MW, and experts in wind energy stations are invited to offer their  
99 expertise in detecting the relative significance of the factors of different wind turbine brands. The  
100 wind turbine brands are evaluated based on 13 different criteria, grouped under technical,  
101 economic, environmental and customer categories. Considering each and every factor, the best  
102 wind turbine for installation is determined after the required calculations.

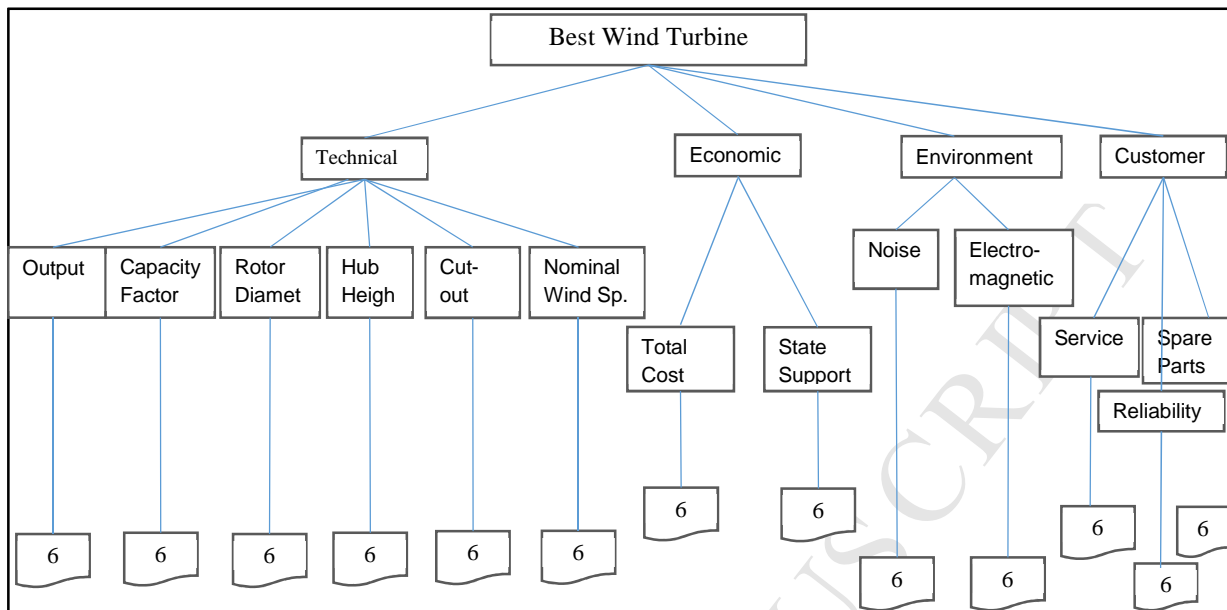
103 The obtained results can serve as reference for the new wind energy station designs in choosing  
104 the best wind turbine brand. Determining the related criteria, grouping them in main categories  
105 and determining their relative weights based on expert opinions are the main contributions of this  
106 research. The constructed model can be solved by various multi-criteria decision making  
107 techniques. The selection of the best wind turbine here is determined by using AHP technique.  
108 The obtained results are commercially feasible and applicable. Accurate and up-to-date data are  
109 obtained from leading companies in the industry.

110

## 111 **2. Multi-criteria decision making in wind turbine selection**

### 112 **2.1. Main criteria**

113 In an AHP hierarchy for choosing a wind turbine, the goal would be to choose the best turbine.  
114 Technical, economic, environmental, and customer related factors are the four main criteria that  
115 are used in majority of the related literature [21, 22] for making a decision. These criteria are  
116 often subdivided into several sub-criteria. In this study, the technical criterion is subdivided into  
117 output, capacity, rotor diameter, hub height, cut-out wind speed, and nominal wind speed. The  
118 cost criterion is subdivided into total cost and state support. The environmental criteria include  
119 noise and electromagnetic effects. Finally, the customer satisfaction is measured using service,  
120 availability of spare parts, and reliability. Six alternative 2 MW wind turbines are compared using  
121 AHP technique. The hierarchy composed of these criteria is constructed as shown in the Fig. 4.

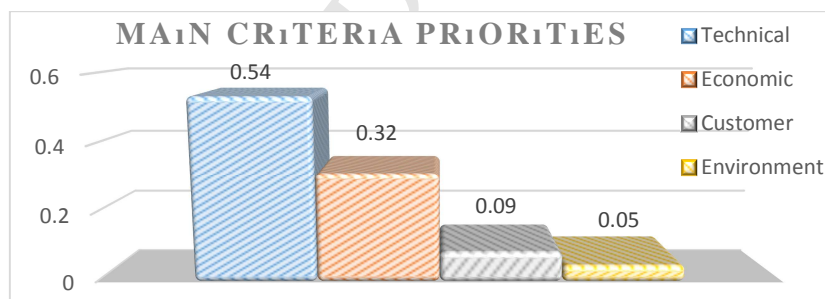


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**Fig. 4.** The network for 2 MW wind turbine selection

124 While measurements for some criteria are readily available, some others like customer  
 125 satisfaction can only be estimated with respect to other variables. As it is the case in all multi-  
 126 criteria decision making methods, the relative weights of such criteria need to be determined. In  
 127 AHP, this is accomplished by pairwise comparison of the elements, starting with the main  
 128 criteria. Fig. 5 is displayed the resulting priorities of technical, economic, environmental, and  
 129 customer related factors.



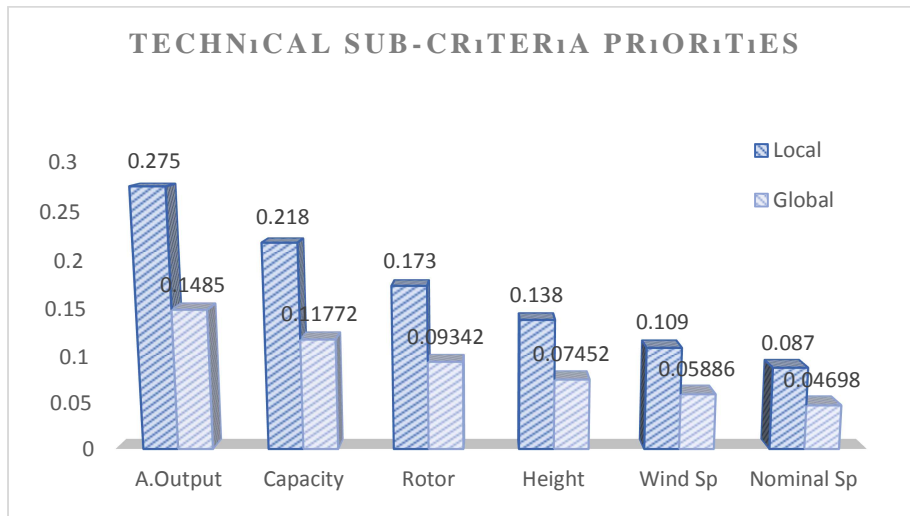
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**Fig. 5.** Main criteria priorities

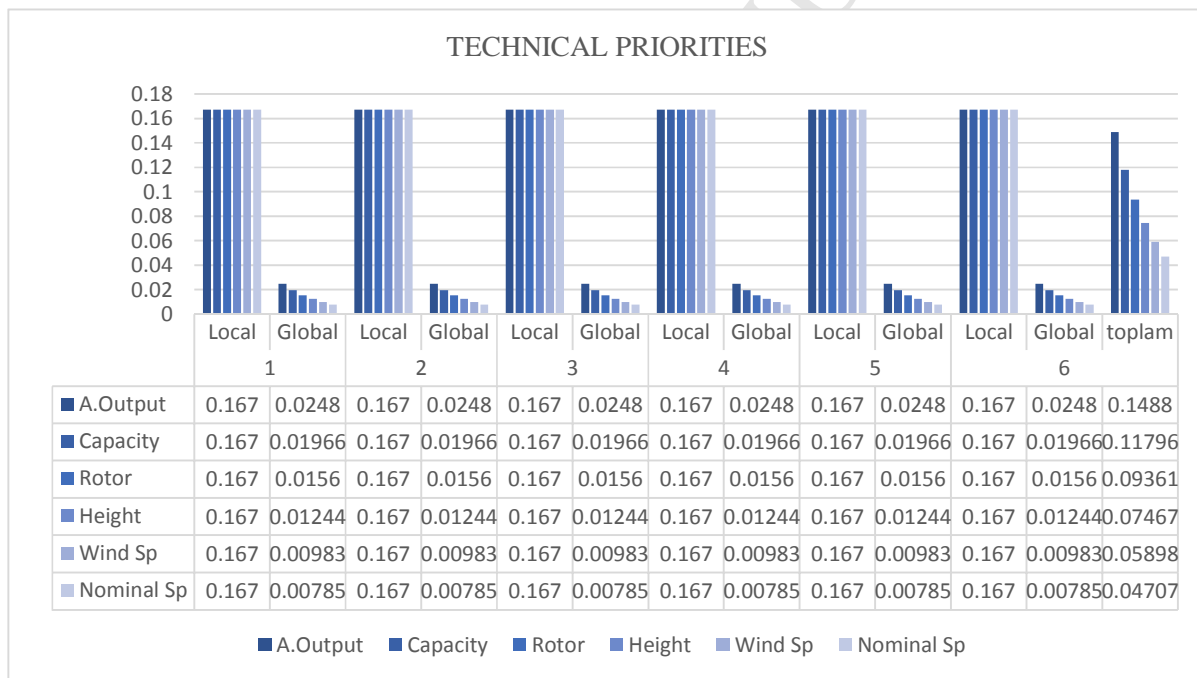
## 132 2.2. Sub-criteria

133 At this point, the comparison for technical criterion has been made, and the AHP method has  
 134 derived the local priorities for this group (Fig. 6). These priorities reflect on how much it  
 135 contributes to the priority of its parent, thus we need to calculate the global priority of each sub-  
 136 criterion. That will show us the priority of each sub-criterion with respect to the overall goal. The  
 137 global priorities throughout the hierarchy should add up to one. The global priorities of each  
 138 technical sub-criterion are calculated by multiplying their local priorities with the priority of  
 139 technical criterion.



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141  
142

(a)



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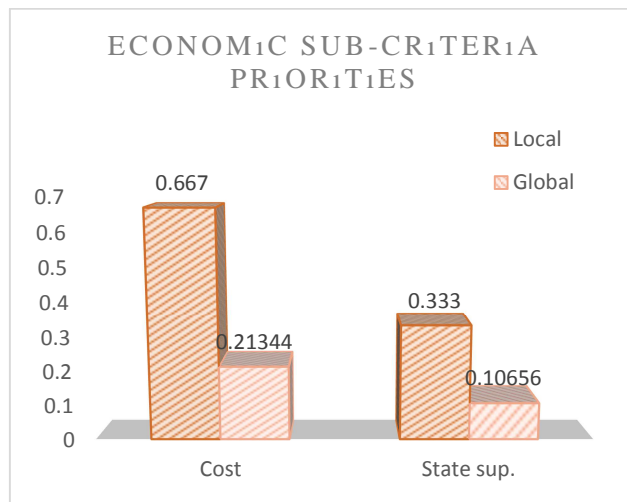
(b)

145 **Fig. 6. a. Technical sub-criteria priorities      b. Local and global priorities**

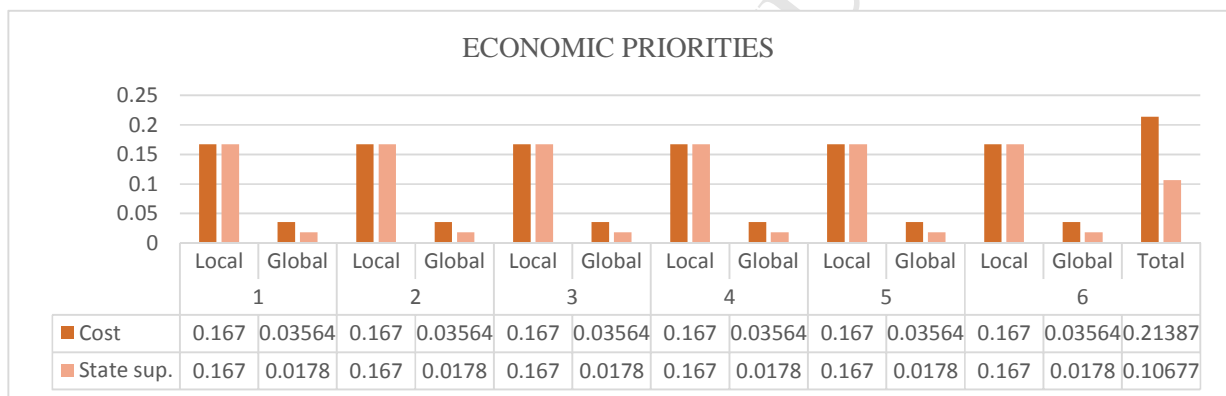
146 In the economic subgroup, there is only one pair of sub-criteria, namely total cost of investment  
147 and state support available. These elements are compared as to how important they are with  
148 respect to the economic criterion. Fig. 7 is showed the economic sub-criteria priorities.

149





(a)



(b)

**Fig. 7. a.** Economic sub-criteria priorities **b.** Local and global priorities

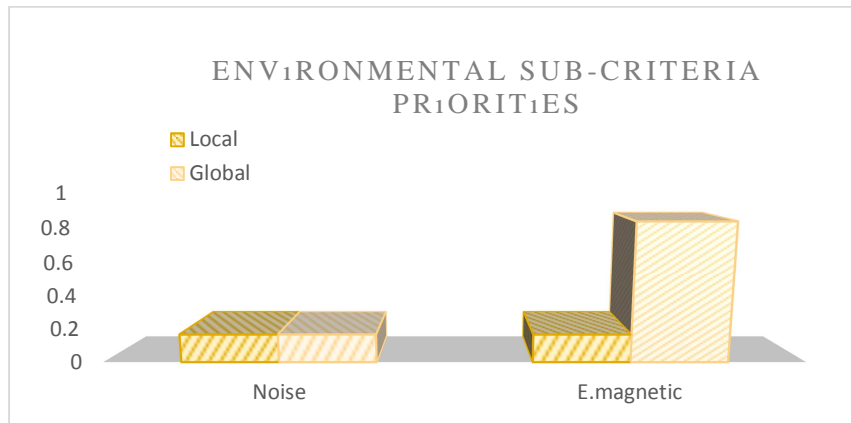
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157 Environmental factors considered are noise and electromagnetic effects. Comparison of these  
 158 elements with respect to the environmental considerations leads to the resulting weights. The  
 159 environment sub-criteria priorities are shown Fig. 8.

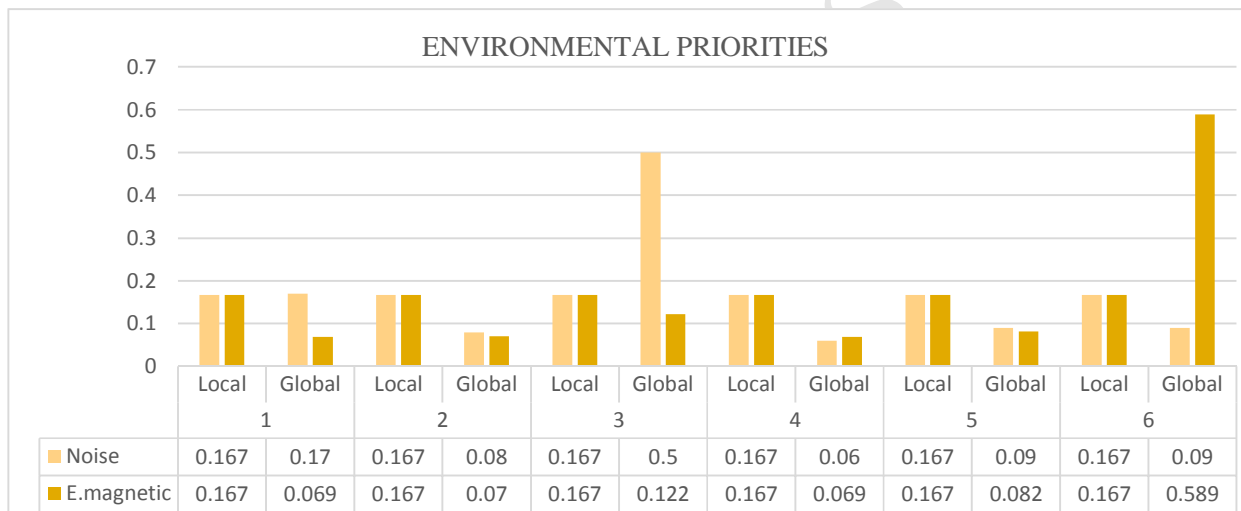
160 Finally, there are three sub criteria in the customer satisfaction subgroup, namely service, spare  
 161 parts, and reliability. These elements are compared as to how they add value towards the  
 162 customer satisfaction. These are the resulting weights based on the pairwise comparisons. Fig. 9  
 163 is displayed the customer sub-criteria priorities.

164





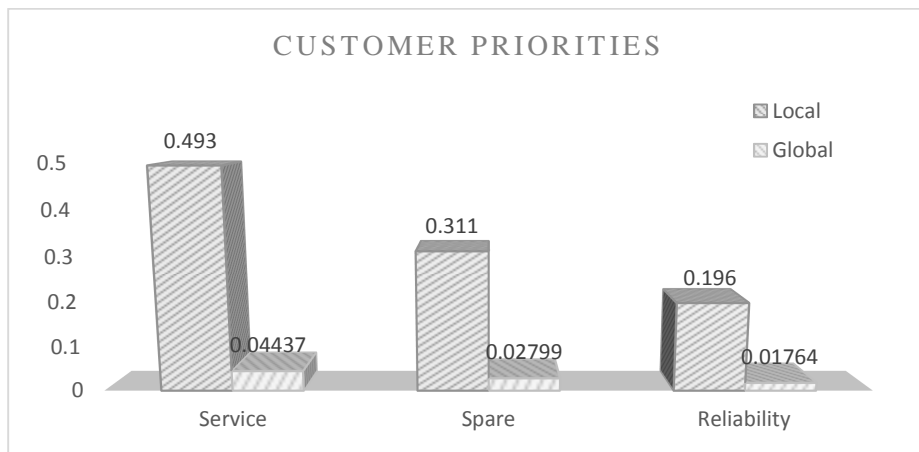
(a)



(b)

**Fig. 8. a.** Environment sub-criteria priorities

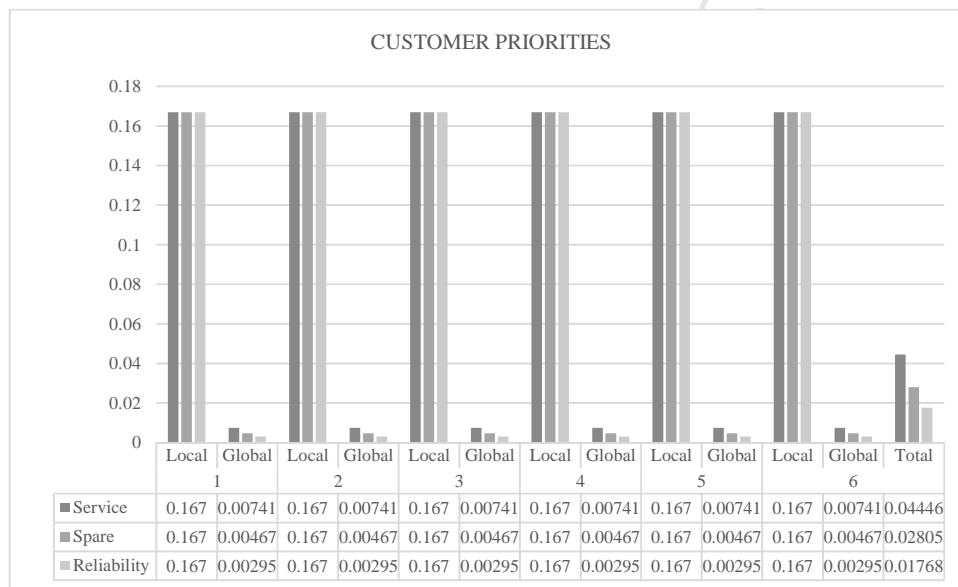
**b.** Local and global priorities



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(a)



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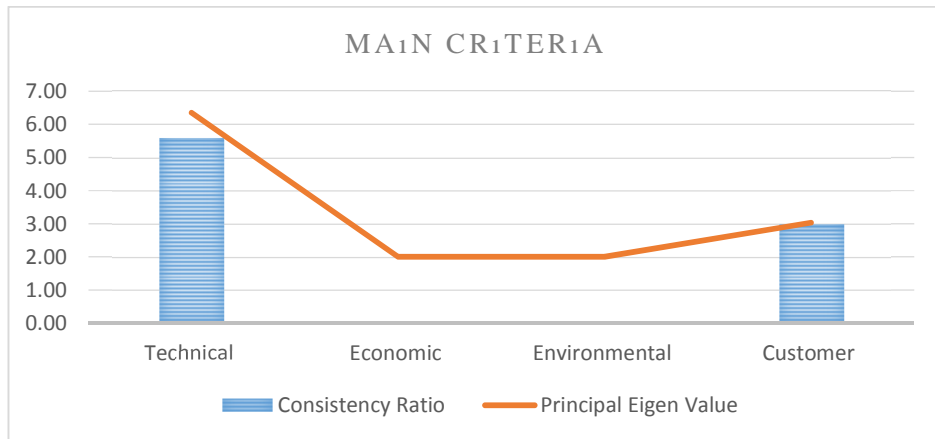
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(b)

176 **Fig. 9. a.** Customer sub-criteria priorities **b.** Local and global priorities

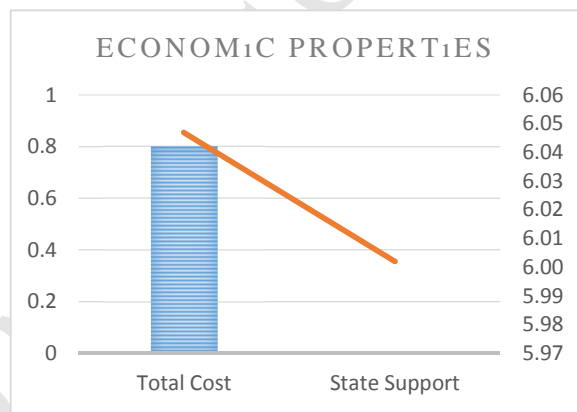
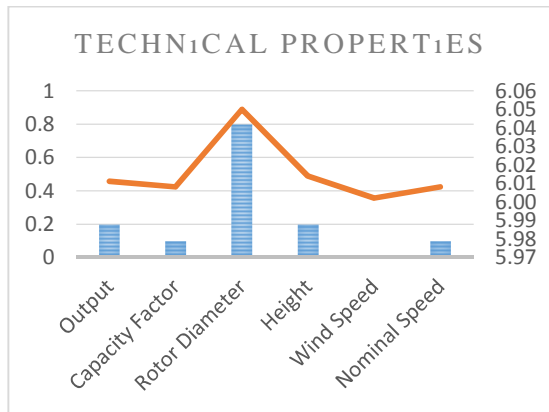
### 177 2.3. Pairwise Comparison of the Alternatives with Respect to the Criteria

178 As seen in Fig.10 below, the resulting weights are based on the principal eigenvector of the  
 179 decision matrix. After determining the priorities of each criterion with respect to the overall goal  
 180 of selecting the best wind turbine and priorities of sub-criteria with respect to their associated  
 181 main criteria, the turbine alternatives need to be compared two by two with respect to each sub-  
 182 criterion.



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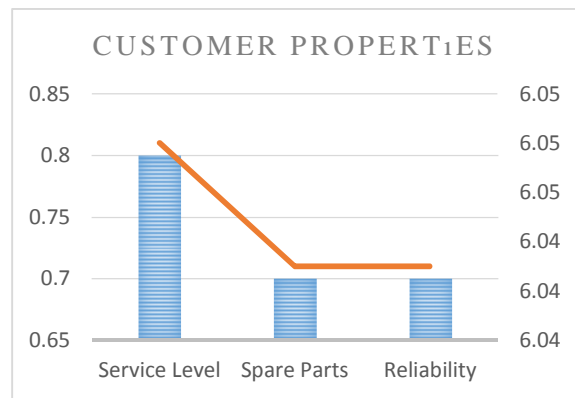
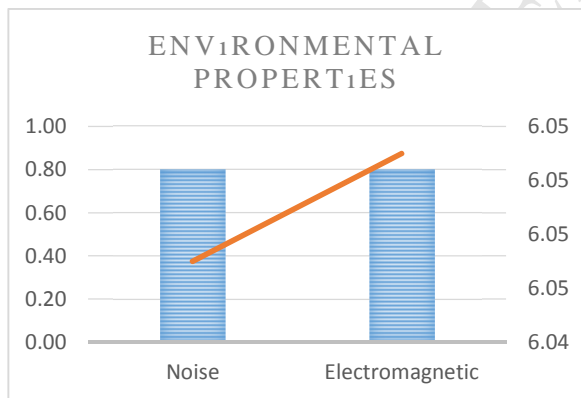
(a)



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(b.1)

(b.2)



187  
188

(b.3)

(b.4)

189 **Fig. 10.** The resulting weights      **a-** main-criteria      **b-** sub-criteria

190

191 The technical properties of the selected 2 MW wind turbines are presented in Table 1. Cut-In  
192 Wind Speed, Turbine Output, and Frequency values for all turbines are kept constant while the  
193 remaining values are used to compare the alternatives.

194

**Table 1.** Technical Properties [30]

Turbine Name	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6
Cut-In Wind Speed	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Turbine Output (V)	690	690	690	690	690	690
Frequency (Hz)	50, 60	50, 60	50 (60E)	50/60	50	50/60
Annual Output (8 m/s) in KWh	9 269 000	9 327 000	8 498 000	9 074 000	8 825 000	8 676 000
Capacity Factor	32.4	32.9	30.2	32.0	31.1	30.7
Nominal Rotor Diameter (m)	114	116	103.0	110	98	92.5
Hub Height (m)	80/ 93/125	80/94	80/ 90	80/ 95	60/80/98	64/80/100
Cut-Out Wind Speed (m/s)	25.0	25.0	22.0	20.0	25.0	24.0
Nominal Wind speed (8 m/s)	12.0	10.0	10.0	11.5-12	15	12.5

195

196 The economic properties of the alternatives are presented in Table 2.

197

**Table 2.** Economic Properties [30]

Turbine Name	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6
Total Cost (million\$)	4.00	3.89	3.45	3.82	4.25	3.67
Support of Government	0.330	0.316	0.315	0.440	0.450	0.300

198

199 Table 3 shows the environmental effects of the turbines. Noise level and the electromagnetic  
 200 effects are chosen as the differentiating elements among different turbine alternatives.

201

**Table 3.** Environmental Properties [30]

Turbine Name	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6
Max. sound power (dB)	101,6	105	98.6	107.6	103.5	102.9
Electromagnetic effects*	8-19	9-18	7-16	8-19	8-17	7-13

202 \* Range of variation

203 In order to measure the customer satisfactions towards the wind turbines, three sub-criteria are  
 204 defined: customer service, spare parts available, and the reliability of the company. Service is  
 205 evaluated to be positively related to the number of branches available for each company. Spare  
 206 parts are measured by the inventory levels of the companies while the reliability is measured by  
 207 their market shares and sales. The companies are ranked from 1 to 6 to be able to generate a  
 208 medium of comparison. Table 4 is summarized Customer Service properties.

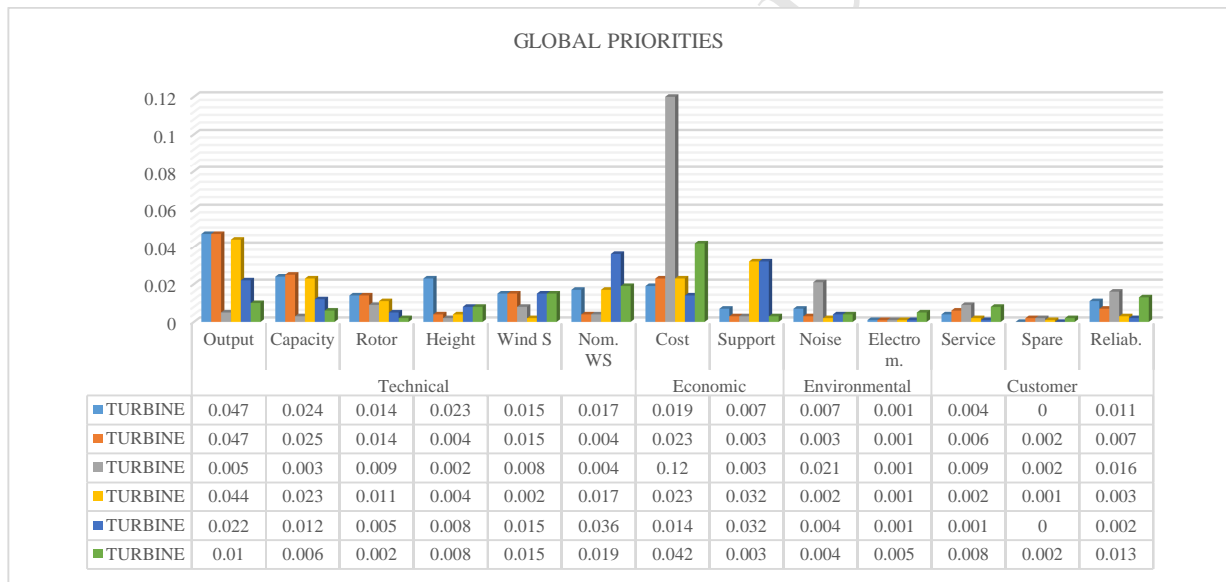
209 The next step in applying the AHP technique is two by two comparisons of the turbine  
 210 alternatives with respect to each sub-criterion. In order to design an objective scheme for this  
 211 purpose, the maximum and minimum values of the alternatives for each sub-criterion are  
 212 determined. This range is divided into nine even classes since AHP requires pairwise

213 comparisons on a scale from 1 to 9. Finally, each alternative is placed in one of these classes  
 214 based on their values to compare them with each other. Remainder of this section presents the  
 215 priorities obtained under each subcategory using this scheme.

216 **Table 4.** Customer Service Properties [30]

Turbine Name	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6
Service support	3	4	6	2	1	5
Spare part	2	4	5	3	1	6
Reliability	4	3	6	2	1	5

217  
 218 **3. Results and Discussion**  
 219 **3.1. Making the Decision**  
 220 Based on the calculations above, the relative priorities corresponding to the attractiveness of each  
 221 wind turbine about all factors of technical, economic, environmental and customer satisfaction  
 222 are presented Fig. 11.



223  
 224 **Fig. 11.** Global Priorities

## 225 4. Conclusions

226 Wind energy systems have proven their benefits for the last ten years, one way or the other, wind  
 227 technology has been commercialized for energy generation purposes in more than 30 countries  
 228 including both the developing and the developed ones. In this study, we demonstrated that it is  
 229 possible to utilize AHP as the multi-criteria decision making method for the selection of the best  
 230 wind turbine. Consistency ratios calculated throughout the analysis are in acceptable limits,  
 231 showing the legitimacy of the results. Below conclusions can be drawn from the analysis in the  
 232 present paper:  
 233

234 1-The six wind turbine brands as the result of the exhaustive study were investigated through four  
235 main criteria; technical, economic, environmental impact and customer satisfaction.

236 2-With the ultimate purpose of optimizing the output and trying to determine the optimum wind  
237 turbine of commercially present “Wind turbine brands”, all the criteria are examined by AHP.

238 3- Within the first stage of the wind turbine brands, alternatives and utilities were put to the essay  
239 of “priority” and evaluated, important results were obtained, the technically optimum wind  
240 turbine was observed to be T1.

241 4- T3 is the most significant turbine considering the economical properties of wind turbine  
242 brands.

243 5- From the perspective of environmental effects, the best wind turbine was observed to be the T3  
244 as well.

245 6- The fourth stage was searching to find out customer satisfaction effects of wind turbine brands.  
246 Once again, T3 brand withstood the expert opinions and completely exhaustive of criteria arose  
247 from the application among the all wind turbine brands.

248 For 2MW, the best wind turbine brands are listed based on interviews with experts and literature  
249 review and they are used to establish a decision-making model with four main criteria. Although  
250 2MW turbines are used to apply in this study, a robust model is developed so it can be applied for  
251 all cases. Determining the related criteria and grouping them in main categories is another  
252 contribution provided by this research. The selection of the best wind turbine here is determined  
253 by using AHP technique. The results are significant both from engineering and economic  
254 perspective as the applied methodology is practically implementable and commercially viable.

255

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**Research Highlights**

1. Proposing a novel approach to select of the best wind turbine.
2. Developing this approach for determining the criteria as well.
3. Including analysis of the proposed multi-criteria decision making method
4. Developing this concept from the feasible and applicable points of view.
5. The selection of the best wind turbine brand except that conventional methods.