

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF CANDIDATE AND SUPERVISOR

About the candidate (Vijaykumar Pundlik Sonawane)

Vijaykumar Pundlik Sonawane, Chief Operating Officer /Deputy Managing Director of Kano Electricity Distribution Company, Kano State, Nigeria. He has 35 years of experience in Power Distribution Sector. He is a member of the Board of Studies in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere Maharashtra for B Tech IT. He is self-made and started earning from the age of 12 years. He graduated with B.S. Power Engineering from BITS Pilani in 2009 and completed M.S. in Quality Management from BITS Pilani in 2012. He is complimented by MBA (Finance Marketing), PGD HRM, and Advance certificate course in Power Distribution Management from IGNOU.



He has served as the catalyst for successful Planning & Maintenance Operations, Projects, Quality Control, Process Enhancements, and Man Management. He has served in various positions as Director Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Skill Development Centre, KCE Society's College of Engineering and Information Technology, Jalgaon, between 2016 and 2018. Director Academics, Godavari Foundation, Godavari College of Engg, Jalgaon between 2015 and 2016. During this period, he was Advisor and Consultant to Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC, Calcutta) in tendering process for Dhaka Power Project and Nepal Power Project funded by World Bank. Director iEnergy 2015. Also served as Vice President, Operations Essel Utilities Distribution Company Ltd, Mumbai. Heading Operations, Projects of Distribution Franchisee of Nagpur, Mujjaffarpur, Sagar, Ujjain, and Gwalior. CEO, Bhagalpur Electricity Distribution Company Pvt Ltd, Bhagalpur 2014. He equally served as the Unit Head at Crompton Greaves Ltd, Power Distribution Franchisee, Jalgaon, between 2011 and 2014. North Delhi Power Ltd. – a joint venture of Tata Power Ltd & Delhi Govt. as Head of Group – Distribution, District Manager Pitampura between 2003 and 2011. BES&T Undertaking, Mumbai as Electrical Engineer between 1988 to 2003, M/s Kanti Cables, Dhule as Works Manager cum Electrical Engineer between 1987 and 1988. M/s Vimal Electro Plast P ltd., Jalgaon as Trainee Electrical Engineer between 1986 and 1987. Dhule Textile Mills Dhule, (NTC Mill) as Apprentice Engineer between 1985 and 1986.

He has been awarded Silver medal (2008) and Gold Medal (2010) for Tata Business Excellence Model, Business Excellence Leadership program by Tata Quality Management Services, Pune. During his doctoral research, he has published a conference paper “Optimization of Rooftop Solar Installations for Industrial Buildings for Demand Side Management - A Case Study” in International Conference, Spain. He has presented a paper on Rooftop Solar Installations for Demand Side Management, A Case Study in GLAU International Conference and Workshop. This paper is accepted and shall be published in the IOP Conference Proceeding (Scopus Indexed) and prepared various research papers, which will be published soon in international conferences and journals. His research area includes Techno-Economic and Environmental assessment of Some Electrical Demand Side management options, Renewable Energy sources e.g., Rooftop Solar Technologies, Time of Use, Energy Efficient Technology with CDM approach.

About the Supervisor (Dr. Manoj Kumar Soni)

Dr. Manoj Kumar Soni, is an Associate professor in the Mechanical Engineering department at BITS Pilani. He is B.E. in Mechanical Engineering, M.E. in Thermal Power Engineering, Ph.D. in the area of Energy Efficiency. He has total 25+ years of teaching and research experience. He rendered his services as a faculty in VNIT Nagpur (NIT, Nagpur) for seven years (1995-2002). He joined BITS Pilani in 2002. He is also the coordinator of the Centre for Renewable Energy and Environment Development (CREED) at BITS, Pilani.



His research interest includes solar thermal, thermal engineering, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. He has 50+ publications in high-impact factor international journals and international conferences and one patent in his name. He has delivered keynote addresses at various national conferences and workshops. He has conducted faculty development workshops also.

As a research team member, he has visited PT Indo Bharat Rayon, Indonesia, an Aditya Birla Group unit in 2011, and in 2015 he was awarded a Summer Scholarship under the university immersion scheme of BITS Pilani, and he visited the University of South Florida, Tampa and Columbia University, New York.

He is the recipient of prestigious Dr. Shirin Gadhia Sustainability Award 2019 from Eco Center ICNEER, Vadodara. He also received Stifterverband Scholarship by Institut für Werkzeugmaschinen und Fertigungstechnik, Technische Universität, Braunschweig, Germany, 2019 for visiting TU Braunschweig for one week for his research work.

He has a special interest in spirituality, and he has mixed the philosophies of spirituality and thermodynamics. Based on it, he has delivered special lectures on *Thermodynamics- A philosophy of life* and *A date with entropy* at various institutes. The students, academicians, and industries very well appreciate his coveted lecture on Spiritual thermodynamics. He delivered his Spiritual Thermodynamics talk at the University of South Florida, Tampa, USA; University of Baleric Island, Spain; and Universidade do Algarve, Campus da Penha, Faro, Portugal. Out of his six Ph.D. students in the field of solar and solar thermal, two have successfully completed. He has guided over 50 M. Tech and first-degree thesis. He has experimented with a lot of pedagogical innovations, like team-based and game-based learnings in his various courses.

At BITS, he is actively involved in industrial collaborations in Work Integrated Programs Division as a coordinator of various collaborative programs: BS and B. Tech Power Eng. (Aditya Birla Group, NTPC, NDPL, THDC, ESSAR Power, Tata Power, JSW Energy), BS and B. Tech Process Eng. (Aditya Birla Group Cement Business UltraTech, Hindalco Industries, Birla Cellulosic, Indogulf Fertilizers, Vedanta Aluminium), BS Engg Design (L&T iES, Vadodara), MS Engineering Management (Mahindra & Mahindra), MS Embedded Systems (L&TiES), MS Pharmaceutical Operations & Management (Wockhardt), MS Manufacturing Management (Vedanta Aluminium), and MS Automotive Eng. Programs (Tata Technologies).

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers, a Life Member of the International Solar Energy Society (Gold Member), Indian Society for Heat and Mass Transfer (ISHMT), and Energy and Fuels Users Association of India (ENFUSE). He is an associate member, Solar Cookers International, USA, and a Senior Member, Universal Association of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineers (UAMAE).

His web page is <http://universe.bits-pilani.ac.in/pilani/mssoni/profile>