

PHANTOM LOAD: IN THE MA



ABSTRACT:

Phantom energy refers to the electricity consumed by electronic devices even when they are switched off but still plugged into a power source. Common appliances like phone chargers, televisions, computers, and microwaves continue to draw small amounts of power in standby mode. Although each device uses only a little energy, the total phantom load in households and institutions leads to significant electricity wastage, higher bills, and unnecessary environmental impact. This project aims to identify appliances that consume phantom energy and measure their standby power usage. By comparing energy consumption in plugged-in versus unplugged conditions, the study highlights how much electricity can be saved by reducing standby power. The results show that simple actions—such as unplugging devices or using power strips—can effectively reduce energy loss. This project demonstrates the importance of energy conservation and raises awareness about hidden electricity consumption in daily life.

1. Energy Conservation Awareness

Helps students and households understand how much electricity is wasted through standby power.

Encourages responsible energy usage.

2. Reduction of Electricity Bills

By identifying and reducing phantom loads, families can save a significant amount on monthly electricity consumption.

3. Environmental Protection

Lower electricity usage directly reduces carbon emissions.

Promotes sustainable living.

INTRODUCTION :

The project investigated the hidden electricity consumption known as phantom energy or vampire power. Measurements were taken for common electronic devices such as TV, chargers, and microwaves using a power meter. Results showed that several devices consumed measurable electricity even when turned off but still plugged in. This study emphasizes the importance of unplugging devices when not in use to conserve energy, reduce electricity bills, and promote sustainable living.

Phantom energy refers to the small amount of electricity used by electronic devices even when they are switched off but still plugged in. Devices like televisions, chargers, and gaming consoles often draw power continuously to keep internal circuits, clocks, or standby lights active. The project aims to measure and analyze phantom energy in various devices, increase awareness, and suggest practical ways to reduce unnecessary power loss.

In homes and schools, many devices remain plugged in even when turned off. These devices continue consuming electricity, leading to unnecessary energy waste and higher bills. This project identifies which devices consume the most phantom energy and suggests ways to minimize this hidden energy loss

1. Some electronic devices consume electricity even when turned off but plugged in.
2. Devices with display screens or standby lights will consume more phantom energy.
3. Chargers and entertainment devices will have higher phantom loads than kitchen appliances.

METHODS

Design of Study

Variable Type

Description

Independent Variable

Type of electronic device tested (TV, charger, microwave, etc.)

Dependent Variable

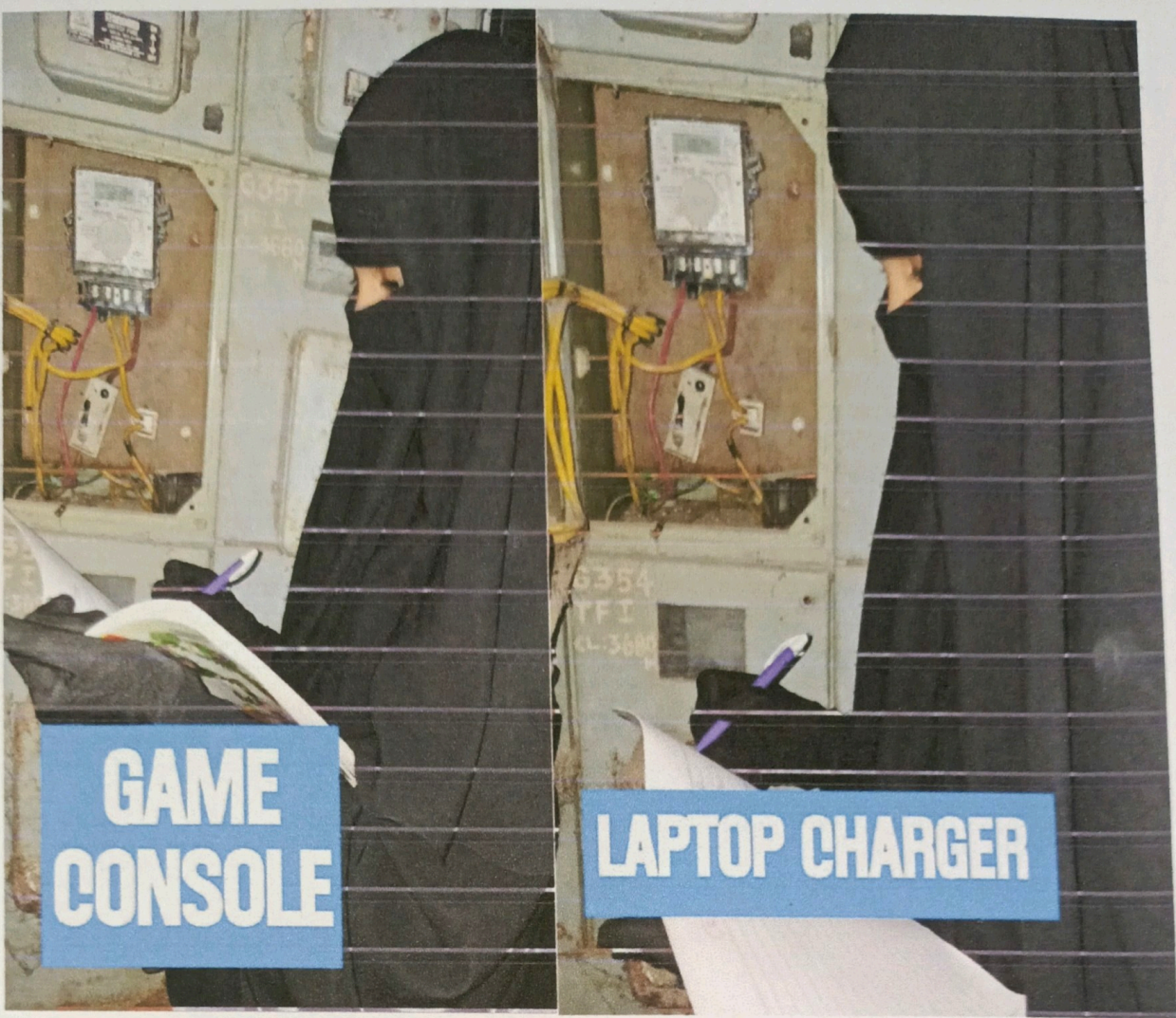
Power consumed in standby mode (watts)

Controlled Variables

Measurement duration, room temperature, and voltage conditions

Procedure :

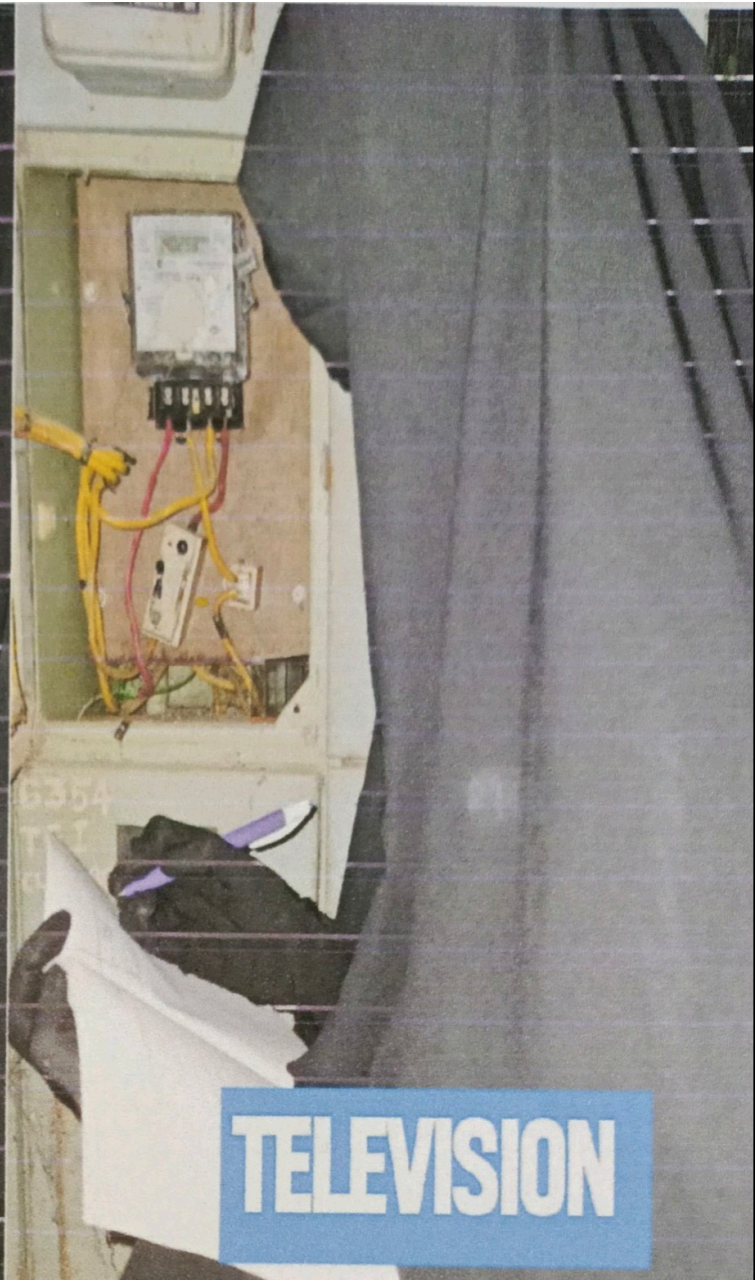
1. The wattmeter was connected to a power socket.
2. Each device was plugged into the wattmeter one by one.
3. Power readings were recorded when the device was:
 - Turned on
 - Turned off but still plugged in
 - Unplugged
4. Standby power readings were noted in watts.
5. The daily energy consumption in standby mode was calculated using: $\text{Energy (Wh)} = \text{Power (W)} \times \text{Hours per day}$.
6. Yearly energy use was estimated using: $\text{Yearly Energy (kWh)} = \text{Daily Energy} \times 365 \div 1000$.
7. Data were analyzed and represented using bar graphs.



**GAME
CONSOLE**

LAPTOP CHARGER

MICROWAVE



TELEVISION

RESULT:

Table 1: Awareness Survey

Participant	Unplug Devices When Not in Use	Knows About Phantom Energy
Person 1	Yes	No
Person 2	No	No
Person 3	Yes	Yes
Person 4	No	No
Person 5	Yes	Yes
Person 6	No	No
Person 7	Yes	No
Person 8	Yes	Yes
Person 9	No	No
Person 10	Yes	Yes

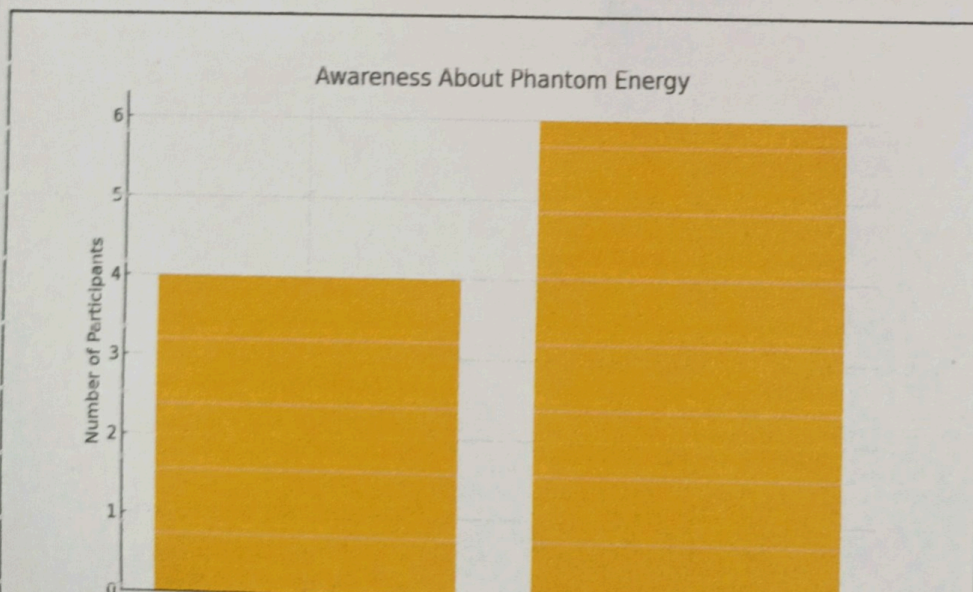
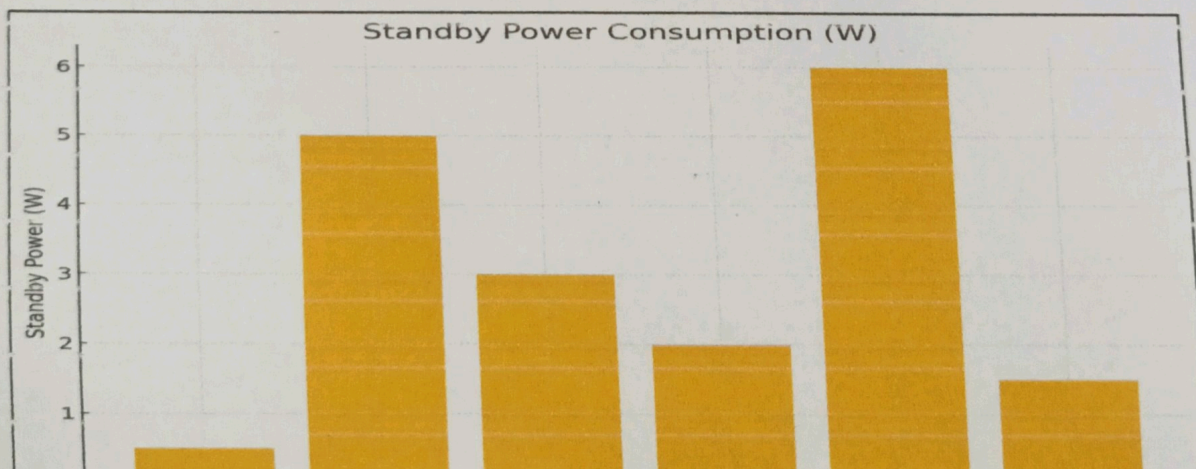


Table 2: Phantom Power Measurement

S.No	Device Name	Power When in Use (W)	Standby Power (W)	Hours in Standby per Day	Daily Energy Use (Wh)	Yearly Energy (kWh)
1	Phone Charger	6	0.5	20	10	3.65
2	TV	120	5	18	90	32.85
3	Microwave	1000	3	24	72	26.28
4	Laptop Charger	65	2	20	40	14.6
5	Game Console	150	6	18	108	39.42
6	Speaker System	50	1.5	20	30	10.95



Discussion:

The results showed that all devices tested consumed some amount of phantom power even when switched off. Entertainment devices such as TVs and game consoles had the highest standby consumption due to internal memory and sensors. Simpler devices like chargers and speakers consumed less. The total energy waste per year can add up significantly, showing the importance of unplugging devices when not in use.

Conclusion

The experiment proved that phantom energy is real and contributes to energy wastage. Awareness and small behavioral changes—like unplugging chargers and switching off power strips—can reduce this waste. The application of this study promotes energy conservation, cost savings, and environmental protection.

Future Enhancement

1. Conduct measurements for a larger number of devices across different brands.
2. Test energy-efficient or smart plugs designed to reduce standby power.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has played a role in the completion of this project. Their support and guidance have been invaluable, contributing significantly to the success of this endeavor.

Firstly, I extend my heartfelt thanks to my school, K.H.Mat.Girls Hr. Sec. School, Melvisharam. For providing me with the opportunity and resources to pursue this project. The encouragement from my teachers and the school administration has been instrumental in shaping this research.

I am deeply thankful to all the science teachers for their contribution, guidance and support. Their expertise and insights have greatly enriched the content and quality of this project.

I Would also like to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of my peers and fellow students who provided valuable feedback and encouragement throughout the research process

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation to my family and friends for their unwavering support, understanding and motivation. Their encouragement has been the driving force behind the completion of this project.

In conclusion, I am grateful to everyone who has been a part of this journey. Your contributions have made this project a rewarding and enriching experience.