

Review Article

A Review on Compressive and Tensile Strength of Concrete Containing Rice Husk Ash and Coir Fiber

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Abstract: Cement manufacturing industry is one of the carbon dioxide emitting sources besides deforestation and burning of fossil fuels. The global warming is caused by the emission of green house gases, such as CO₂, to the atmosphere. Among the greenhouse gases, CO₂ contributes about 65% of global warming. The global cement industry contributes about 7% of greenhouse gas emission to the earth's atmosphere. In order to address environmental effects associated with cement manufacturing, there is a need to develop alternative binders to make concrete. Consequently extensive research is on going into the use of cement replacements, using many waste materials and industrial by products. To reduce the impact on the environment due to industrial and agricultural waste products such as Rice Husk Ash (RHA) and coconut fibers (COIR) which are the waste products of paddy and agricultural industry. Use of these materials in concrete not only improves the strength of concrete but also leads to the proper disposal of these materials, resulting in reducing the impact of these materials on environment. It is found that the rice husk ash is obtained by burning of rice husk in a controlled way, which is highly reactive pozzolonic material and the coir having excellent mechanical and physical properties to be utilized in effective way in development of composite materials. This paper describes about the results obtained from various research done on the partial replacement of cement with RHA and COIR in concrete.

Keywords: Rice husk ash, coconut fiber, Global Warming, Green house gas, Carbon Dioxide

INTRODUCTION

Due to fast growth in population, the amount and type of waste materials have increased accordingly. Many of the non-decaying waste materials will remain in the environment for hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. The non-decaying waste materials cause a waste disposal crisis, thereby contributing to the environmental problems. The environmental impact can be reduced by making more sustainable use of this waste. This is known as the waste hierarchy shown in Fig.1. The aim is to reduce, reuse, or recycle waste, the latter being the preferred option of waste disposal.



Fig-1: waste hierarchy

With the increase in growth of population in country, the need to provide a decent and affordable accommodation to the people as part of the national economic strategy, i.e, eradication of poverty and improving the living quality of the people is seriously looked into. However, in the building of houses (low-cost), the availability of building material which is cheap and abundant is of paramount importance. To overcome this problem, the development of new construction materials, which must be inexpensive and require very little energy to produce, must be researched [17]. Considerable efforts has been taken worldwide to utilize local natural waste and by-products materials as supplementary cementing materials to improve the properties of cement concrete as well as the use of these materials leads to the proper disposal of natural waste results in the less impact on environment in order to reduce the loss due to improper disposal of the waste [1]. Concrete is a widely used construction material for various types of structures due to its structural stability and strength. All the materials required producing such huge quantities of concrete come from the earth's crust. Thus, it depletes its

resources every year creating ecological strains. On the other hand, human activities on the Earth produce solid waste in considerable quantities of over 2500/MT per year, including industrial wastes, agricultural wastes and wastes from rural and urban societies. Recent technological development has shown that these materials are valuable as inorganic and organic resources and can produce various useful products. Amongst the solid wastes, the most prominent ones are fly ash, blast furnace slag, rice husk, coir fiber and demolished construction materials. The use of by-products is an environmental friendly method of disposal of large quantities of materials that would otherwise pollute land, water and air. Most of the increase in cement demand will be met by the use of supplementary cementing materials. Rice milling generates a by-product known as husk as shown in Fig.2. This surrounds the paddy grain. During the milling of paddy about 78 % of weight is received as rice, broken rice and bran. The rest 22 % of the weight of paddy is received as husk. This husk is used as fuel in the rice mills to generate steam for the parboiling process. This husk contains about 75 % organic volatile matter which burns up and the balance 25 % of the weight of this husk is converted into ash during the firing process, which is known as rice husk ash (RHA). The burning temperature is within the range of 600 to 850 degrees. The ash obtained is ground in a ball mill for 30 minutes. This RHA in turn contains around 85%-90% amorphous silica. So for every 1000 kg of paddy milled, about 220 kg (22%) of husk is produced, and when this husk is burnt in the boilers, about 55 kg (25%) of RHA is generated. India is a major rice producing country, and the husk generated during milling is mostly used as a fuel in the boilers for processing paddy, producing energy through direct combustion and / or by gasification. About 20 million tons of RHA is produced annually. This RHA is a great environment threat causing damage to the land and the surrounding area in which it is dumped. Lots of ways are being thought of for disposing it by making commercial use of this RHA.[19] Coconut fibre shown in Fig.3 is extracted from the outer shell of a coconut. The common name, scientific name and plant family of coconut fibre is Coir, *Cocos nucifera* and Arecaceae (Palm), respectively. There are two types of coconut fibres, brown fibre extracted from matured coconuts and white fibres extracted from immature coconuts. Brown fibres are thick, strong and have high abrasion resistance. White fibres are smoother and finer, but also weaker. Coconut fibres are commercial available in three forms, namely bristle (long fibres), mattress (relatively short) and decorticated (mixed fibres). These different types of fibres have different uses depending upon the requirement. In engineering, brown fibres are mostly used According to official website of International Year for Natural Fibres 2009, approximately, 500 000 tonnes of coconut fibres are produced annually worldwide, mainly in India and Sri

Lanka. Its total value is estimated at \$100 million. India and Sri Lanka are also the main exporters, followed by Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia. Around half of the coconut fibres produced is exported in the form of raw fibre [4]. Fig.4 shows the longitudinal cross section of coconut fibres.



Fig-2 :Rice-husk ash



Fig-3: Coconut tree, coconut, coconut fiber

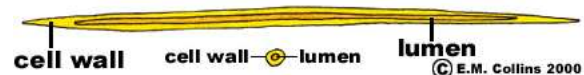


Fig-4: Longitudnal cross-section of coconut fiber.

Summary of previous research

Pravin.V.Domke [1], In his experimental work replaced cement by 15% RHA and adding 3% coir in M_{20} grade concrete gave tensile strength = 7.8 N/mm^2 Compared to 4.2 N/mm^2 of ordinary mix concrete. Further adding 17.5% RHA +4% Coir Fiber gave optimum compressive strength 24.5 N/mm^2 compared to 23.55 N/mm^2 normal concrete at 7th day. Pravin.V.Domke [1], In his experimental work replaced cement by 3% coir fiber in M_{20} grade concrete and got tensile strength 7.5 N/mm^2 and compressive strength $41.1 \text{ N/mm}^2, 46.6 \text{ N/mm}^2$ at 7th and 28th day. Compared to 4.2 N/mm^2 tensile strength and $23.55 \text{ N/mm}^2, 40 \text{ N/mm}^2$ compressive strength of ordinary mix concrete.

Pravin.V.Domke, et.al [2] In their experiment replaced cement by 15% rice husk ash and got tensile strength 6.51 N/mm^2 compared to 4.2 N/mm^2 tensile strength of ordinary mix concrete of grade M_{20} . Further, replacing cement by RHA in various percentage showed a decrease in compressive strength.

Satish D. Kene., et.al [3] In their experimental work replaced cement by 30% rice husk ash and got tensile strength 2.26 N/mm² and compressive strength 18.33 N/mm² at 7th day as compared to 6.5 N/mm² tensile strength and 24.56 N/mm² compressive strength of normal concrete of M₂₅ grade.

Majid Ali, [4] In his experimental work replaced cement by 2% coir fibre and got tensile strength 3.54 N/mm² and compressive strength 24.35 N/mm² compared to normal concrete with tensile strength 2.88 N/mm² and compressive strength 21.42 N/mm².

Sandesh. D.Deshmukh, et.al [5], In their experimental work replaced cement by 2.5%, 5%, 7.5%, 10%, 12.5%, 15%, 17.5%, 20% and got reduction in tensile strength at 28 day for M₂₀ and M₃₀ grade concrete.

Khusbu Rajhans, et.al [6], In their experimental work replaced cement by rice husk ash in various percentage of 6,12,18,24 showed same tensile strength of concrete. An increase in compressive strength was observed compared to normal concrete by adding 12% rice husk ash, and further adding RHA, compressive and tensile strength decreased.

M. Sivaraja, et.al [7], In their experimental work replaced cement by 1.5% Rice Husk and tensile strength 3.48 N/mm² and compressive strength 27.98 N/mm² compared to 2.86 N/mm² tensile strength and 27 N/mm² compressive strength of normal concrete.

Guilherme chagas cordeiro, et.al, [8], In their experimental work replaced cement by 10%,15%,20% rice husk ash gives tensile strength 5.9 N/mm²,5.7 N/mm², 5.8 N/mm² compared to 5.5 N/mm² normal concrete.

Felicity Aku, et.al, [9], In their experiment made mortar with 10% cement, 89.8% sand and 0.2% coir fibre gave tensile strength 3.46 N/mm² and compressive strength 625 psi compared to 2.34 N/mm² tensile strength and 516 psi of normal concrete.

Al- Abdaly, et.al,[10], In their experimental work replaced cement by rice husk ash (RHA) in two percentages (5, 7.5)% and found that the addition of RHA to concrete caused a deficiency by about (16-34) % for compressive strength , (11-16)% for splitting tensile strength , (4-11) % for modulus of elasticity and (7-43) % for drying shrinkage.

Anju Mary Ealias, et.al, [11], In their experimental work replaced cement by 3% coir fibre and adding 10% coconut shell by weight of aggregate in M₃₀ grade concrete gave tensile strength 1.23 N/mm²,1.91 N/mm², & 2.1 N/mm² and compressive

strength 11.34 N/mm²,18.38 N/mm²,20.47 N/mm² at 7th,14th,& 28th day compared to 1.93 N/mm²,2.51 N/mm², & 3.71 N/mm² tensile strength and 28.45 N/mm²,31.62 N/mm²,36.06 N/mm² compressive strength at 7th,14th, & 28th day normal concrete.

G.A. Habeeb, et.al,[12],In their experimental work replaced cement by 20% RHA in concrete of different grade f1,f2,f3 i.e, 180, 270 and 360 minutes grinding gave tensile strength 2.9 N/mm²,3.2 N/mm², 3.2 N/mm² and compressive strength 40.6 N/mm², 41 N/mm², 41.7 N/mm² compared to tensile strength 2.6 N/mm² and compressive strength 39.6 N/mm² of normal Concrete at 28th day.

Alireza Naji Givi, et.al,[20], In their experimental work replaced cement by 20% RHA in concrete of different particle size f1,f2,f3 i.e, 31.3, 18.3, 11.5 mm gave tensile strength 2.9 N/mm², 3.2 N/mm², 3.2 N/mm² compared to 2.6 N/mm² of normal concrete at 28th day.

C. Mathiraja, [13],In his experimental work replaced cement by 20% bottom ash and 75% manufactured sand in place of natural sand, (1) Adding 1% coir fiber gave tensile strength 4.1 N/mm² (2) Adding 0.5% coir & 1.25% steel fiber gave 5.11n/mm² tensile strength compared to 2.02 N/mm² tensile strength of normal concrete.

Dr.M.Sivaraja, et.al, [14], In their experimental work added 1% coir fibre with aspect ratio 90 in concrete and got tensile strength 3.98 N/mm² compared to 2.86 N/mm² of normal concrete. They also added 1.5% coir fibre with aspect ratio 90 in concrete and got compressive strength 29.76 N/mm² compared to 27.33 N/mm² of normal concrete.

A. A., Ramezaniapour, et.al,[15], In their experimental work added 15% RHA in place of cement in concrete and got tensile strength 2.95 N/mm², 4.39 N/mm², 5.62 N/mm² and compressive strength 34.2 N/mm², 46.9 N/mm², 63.2 N/mm² at 7th, 28th, 90th day, compared to 2.65 N/mm², 3.87 N/mm², 4.56 N/mm² tensile strength and 30.2 N/mm², 40.3 N/mm², 50.3 N/mm² compressive strength of normal concrete at same days.

A. E. Abalaka, [16], In his experimental work replaced cement by rice husk ash with different % and different water/cement ratio. (1) replacing cement by 5% RHA and w/b ratio 0.35 gave tensile strength 3.812 N/mm² compared to 3.709 N/mm² normal concrete. (2) replacing cement by 5% RHA and w/b ratio 0.4 gave tensile strength 4.097 N/mm² compared to 3.553 N/mm² normal concrete. (3) replacing cement by 5% RHA and w/b ratio 0.45 gave tensile strength 3.591 N/mm² compared to 3.517 N/mm² normal concrete. (4) replacing cement by 15% RHA and w/b ratio 0.5 gave

tensile strength 3.694 N/mm² compared to 2.618 N/mm² normal concrete (5) replacing cement by 10% RHA gave tensile strength 3.834 N/mm² compared to 3.297 N/mm² normal concrete. On further increase of rha % decreased the tensile strength of concrete.

Kartini, et.al, [17], In their experimental work replaced cement by 20% RHA in M₃₀ grade concrete and got reduction in tensile strength at 7th day, but it became equal at 28th & 90th day. Similarly, replacing cement by 20%,30% RHA in M₃₀ grade concrete showed reduction in compressive strength at 7th and 28th day.

Sandesh D. Deshmukh, et.al,[18], In their experimental work replaced cement by 2.5 %, 5 %, 7.5 %, 10 %, 12.5 %,15 %, 17.5 % & 20 % RHA and got reduction in tensile and compressive strength of concrete compared to normal concrete.

CONCLUSION

Rice husk ash and coir fiber can be considered as a suitable replacement of cement in concrete

- Making concrete stronger in compression and tension.
- Making concrete more economical.
- Proper utilization of agricultural waste, reducing the impact on environment.

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