

A RESEARCH ON GREEN CONCRETE

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ABSTRACT

A Green Concrete is a revolutionary topic in the history of concrete industry. This was first invented in Denmark in the year 1998. Green concrete has nothing to do with color. It is a concept of thinking environment into concrete considering every aspect from raw materials manufacture over mixture design to structural design, construction, and service life.

Green concrete is very often also cheap to produce because for example, waste products are used as a partial substitute for cement, charges for the disposal of waste are avoided, energy consumption in production is lower, and durability is greater. Green concrete is a type of concrete which resembles the conventional concrete but the production or usage of such concrete requires minimum amount of energy and causes least harm to the environment. The CO₂ emission related to concrete production, is between 0.1 and 0.22 t per tonne of produced concrete.

However, since the total amount of concrete produced is so vast the absolute figures for the environmental impact are quite significant, due to the large amounts of cement and concrete produced. Since concrete is the second most consumed entity after water it accounts for around 5% of the world's total CO₂ emission. The solution to this environmental problem is not to substitute concrete for other materials but to reduce the environmental impact of concrete and cement. The potential environmental benefit to society of being able to build with green concrete is huge. It is realistic to assume that technology can be developed, which can halve the CO₂ emission related to concrete production. During the last few decades society has become aware of the deposit problems connected with residual products, and demands, restrictions and taxes have been imposed.

And as it is known that several residual products have properties suited for concrete production, there is a large potential in investigating the possible use of these for concrete production. Well-known residual products such as silica fume and fly ash may be mentioned. The concrete industry realized at an early stage that it is a good idea to be in front with regard to documenting the actual environmental aspects and working on improving the environment rather than being forced to deal with environmental aspects due to demands from authorities, customers and economic effects such as imposed taxes. Furthermore, some companies in concrete industry have recognized that reductions in production costs often go hand in hand with reductions in environmental impacts. Thus, environmental aspects are not only interesting from an ideological point of view, but also from an economic aspect. Green concrete has manifold advantages over the conventional concrete. Since it uses the recycled aggregates and materials, it reduces the extra load in landfills and mitigates the wastage of aggregates. Thus, the net CO₂ emission are reduced. The reuse of materials also contributes intensively to economy. Green concrete can be considered elemental to sustainable development since it is eco-friendly itself. Green concrete is being widely used in green building practices.

Keywords: Green concrete, recycled, cement, coarse and fine aggregates

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is green concrete?

Concrete which is made from concrete wastes that are eco-friendly are called as "**Green concrete**". Green concrete is the production of concrete using as many as recycled materials as possible and leaving the smallest carbon footprint as possible. The other name for green concrete is resource saving structures with reduced environmental impact for e.g. Energy saving, CO₂ emissions, waste water.

"Green concrete" is a revolutionary topic in the history of concrete industry. This was first invented in Denmark in the year 1998 by Dr. WG.

Concrete wastes like slag, power plant wastes, recycled concrete, mining and quarrying wastes, waste glass, incinerator residue, red mud, burnt clay, sawdust, combustor ash and foundry sand.

Green Concrete is a term given to a concrete that has had extra steps taken in the mix design and placement to insure a sustainable structure and a longlife cycle with a low maintenance surface e.g. Energy saving, CO₂ emissions, waste water.

The goal of the Centre for Green Concrete is to reduce the environmental impact of concrete. To enable this, new technology is developed. The technology considers all phases of a concrete construction's life cycle, i.e. structural design, specification, manufacturing and maintenance, and it includes all aspects of performance, i.e.

- 1) Mechanical properties (strength, shrinkage, creep, static behavior etc.)
- 2) Fire resistance (spalling, heat transfer etc.)
- 3) Workmanship (workability, strength development, curing etc.)
- 4) Durability (corrosion protection, frost, new deterioration mechanisms etc.)

- 5) Thermodynamic properties (input to the other properties)
- 6) Environmental aspects (CO₂-emission, energy, recycling etc.)

1.2 SUITABILITY OF GREEN CONCRETE IN STRUCTURES

Several factors which enhances the suitability of green concrete in structures includes:

- o Reduce the dead load of the structure and reduce the crane age load; allow handling, lifting flexibility with lighter weight.
- o Reduction of emission of CO₂ by 30%.
- o Increased concrete industries use of waste products by 20%.
- o Good thermal and fire resistance, sound insulation than the traditional concrete.
- o Improve damping resistance of the building.
- o Use of new types of residual products, previously land filled or disposed of in other ways.
- o No environmental pollution and sustainable development.
- o It requires less maintenance and repairs.
- o Compressive strength behavior of the concrete with water cement ratio is more than that of conventional concrete.
- o Flexural strength of the green concrete is almost same as conventional concrete.
- o CO₂-neutral, waste-derived fuels shall substitute fossil fuels in the cement production by at least 10 %.
- o Use of concrete industries own residual products.

1.3 Here is a list of 4 benefits to using green concrete.

1.3.1 Lasts Longer: Green concrete gains strength faster and has a lower rate of shrinkage than concrete made only from Portland cement. Structures built using green concrete have a better chance of surviving a fire (it can withstand temperatures of up to 2400 degrees on the Fahrenheit scale). It also has a greater resistance to corrosion which is important with the effect pollution has had on the environment (acid rain greatly reduces the longevity of traditional building materials). All of those factors add up to a building that will last much longer than one made with ordinary concrete. Similar concrete mixtures have been found in ancient Roman structures and this material was also used in the Ukraine in the 1950s and 1960s.

1.3.2 Uses Industrial Waste: Instead of a 100 percent Portland cement mixture, green concrete uses anywhere from 25 to 100 percent fly ash. Fly ash is a byproduct of coal combustion and is gathered from the chimneys of industrial plants (such as power plants) that use coal as a power source. There are copious amounts of this industrial waste product. Hundreds of thousands of acres of land are used to dispose of fly ash. A large increase in the use of green concrete in construction will provide a way to use up fly ash and hopefully free many acres of land.

1.3.3 Reduces Energy Consumption: If you use less Portland cement and more fly ash when mixing concrete, then you will use less energy. The materials that are used in Portland cement require huge amounts of coal or natural gas to heat it up to the appropriate temperature to turn them into Portland cement. Fly ash already exists as a byproduct of another industrial process so you are not expending much more energy to use it to create green concrete.

Another way that green concrete reduces energy consumption is that a building constructed from it is more resistant to temperature changes. An architect can use this and design a green concrete building to use energy for heating and cooling more efficiently.

1.3.4 Reduces CO₂ Emissions: In order to make Portland cement—one of the main ingredients in ordinary cement—pulverized limestone, clay, and sand are heated to 1450 degrees C using natural gas or coal as a fuel. This process is responsible for 5 to 8 percent of all carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions worldwide. The manufacturing of green concrete releases has up to 80 percent fewer CO₂ emissions. As a part of a global effort to reduce emissions, switching over completely to using green concrete for construction will help considerably

1.4. SCOPE IN INDIA

Green concrete is a revolutionary topic in the history of concrete industry. As green concrete is made with concrete wastes it does take more time to come in India because of industries having problem to dispose wastes and also, having reduced Environmental impact with reduction in CO₂ emission. Use of green can help us reduce a lot of wastage of several products. Various non-biodegradable products can also be used and thus avoiding the issue of their disposal.

1.5 Types of wastes used in concrete



(Fig-1.1)

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 Project Implementation

- NOMINAL CONCRETE
- CEMENT IS REPLACED BY GLASS
- CEMENT REPLACED BY GLASS AND FLYASH
- COMPARISON BETWEEN COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF NOMINAL CONCRETE AND REPLACED CEMENT CONCRETE

2.2 GLASS AS A CEMENTACEOUS MATERIAL

Million tons of waste glass is being generated annually all over the world. Once the glass becomes a waste it is disposed as landfills, which is unsustainable as this does not decompose in the environment. Glass is principally composed of silica. Use of milled (ground) waste glass in concrete as partial replacement of cement could be an important step toward development of sustainable (environmentally friendly, energy-efficient and economical) infrastructure systems. When waste glass is milled down to micro size particles, it is expected to undergo pozzolanic reactions with cement hydrates, forming secondary Calcium Silicate Hydrate (C-S-H). In this research chemical properties of both clear and colored glass were evaluated. Chemical analysis of glass and cement samples was determined using X-ray fluorescence (XRF) technique and found minor differences in composition between clear and colored glasses. Flow and compressive strength tests on mortar and concrete were carried out by adding 0–25% ground glass in which water to binder (cement + glass) ratio is kept the same for all replacement levels. With increase in glass addition mortar flow was slightly increased while a minor effect on concrete workability was noted. To evaluate the packing and pozzolanic effects, further tests were also conducted with same mix details and 1% super plasticizing admixture dose (by weight of cement) and generally found an increase in compressive strength of mortars with admixture. As with mortar, concrete cube samples were prepared and tested for strength (until 1 year curing). The compressive strength test results indicated that recycled glass mortar and concrete gave better strength compared to control samples. A 20% replacement of cement with waste glass was found convincing considering cost and the environment.

Specific gravity and fineness of clear and colored waste glass powders (prepared by ball mill) were 3.01 & 0.9% (#200 sieve) and 3.02 & 0.9% respectively as per ASTM standard mentioned above. Chemical composition of both glass powders were examined using a XRF-1800 Sequential X-ray fluorescence spectrometer. 20% binder was added to 80% glass powder to keep the material in position during test.

Then the whole mixture was pressed using 140 KN pressing force. The chemical composition of glass powder is compared with other pozzolanic materials in the discussion. As the results of fineness, specific gravity and chemical composition test of color and clear glass powder were found similar, further experimental work with mortar and concrete was conducted with clear glass powder.

2.3 FLY ASH AS A CEMENTACEOUS MATERIAL

2.3.1 About Fly ash

Fly ash is a fine powder which is a byproduct from burning pulverized coal in electric generation power plants. Fly ash is a pozzolan, a substance containing aluminous and siliceous material that forms cement in the presence of water. When mixed with lime and water it forms a compound similar to Portland cement.

The fly ash produced by coal-fired power plants provide an excellent prime material used in blended cement, mosaic tiles, and hollow blocks among others.

Fly ash can be an expensive replacement for Portland cement in concrete although using it improves strength, segregation, and ease of pumping concrete. The rate of substitution typically specified is 1 to 1 ½ pounds of fly ash to 1 pound of cement. Nonetheless, the amount of fine aggregate should be reduced to accommodate fly ash additional volume.

2.3.2 Fly Ash Applications

Fly ash can be used as prime material in blocks, paving or bricks; however, one the most important applications are PCC pavement. PCC pavements use a large amount of concrete and substituting fly ash provides significant economic benefits. Fly ash has also been used for paving roads and as embankment

and mine fills, and its gaining acceptance by the Federal government, specifically the Federal Highway Administration.

2.3.3 Fly Ash Drawbacks

Smaller builders and housing contractors are not that familiar with fly ash products which could have different properties depending on where and how it was obtained.

For this reason, fly ash applications are encountering resistance from traditional builders due to its tendency to effloresce along with major concerns about freeze/thaw performance.

Other major concerns about using fly ash concrete include:

- Slower strength gain.
- Seasonal limitation.
- Increase in air entraining admixtures.
- An increase of salt scaling produced by higher fly ash.

2.3.4 Fly Ash Benefits

Fly ash can be a cost-effective substitute for Portland cement in some markets. In addition, fly ash could be recognized as an environmentally friendly product because it is a byproduct and has low embodied energy. It's also is available in two colors, and coloring agents can be added at the job site. In addition, fly ash also requires less water than Portland cement and it is easier to use in cold weather. Other benefits include:

- Cold weather resistance.
- Higher strength gains, depending on its use.
- Can be used as an admixture.
- Can substitute for Portland cement.
- Considered a non-shrink material.
- Produces denser concrete and a smoother surface with sharper detail.
- Great workability.
- Reduces crack problems, permeability and bleeding

- Reduces heat of hydration.
- Produces lower water/cement ratio for similar slumps when compared to no fly ash mixes.
- Reduces CO₂ emissions.

2.3.5 Fly Ash Types

Currently, more than 50 percent of the concrete placed in the U.S. contains fly ash. Dosage rates vary depending on the type of fly ash and its reactivity level. Typically, Class F fly ash is used at dosages of 15 to 25 percent by mass of cementitious material, and Class C fly ash at 15 to 40 percent.

Class F fly ash, with particles covered in a kind of melted glass, greatly reduces the risk of expansion due to sulfate attack as may occur in fertilized soils or near coastal areas. Class F are generally low- calcium fly ashes with carbon contents less than 5 percent but sometimes as high as 10 percent. Class C fly ash is also resistant to expansion from chemical attack, has a higher percentage of calcium oxide, and is more commonly used for structural concrete. Class C fly ash is typically composed of high-calcium fly ashes with carbon content less than 2 percent.

2.4 Why glass was used

- Glass is a non-biodegradable material
- It is principle composed of silica
- When glass is milled down to micro size particle it is expected to undergo pozzolanic reaction with cement hydrate and form calcium silicate hydrate bond (C-S-H bond)
- It is easily available
- It's fineness should be 0.9% (#200 sieves)

2.5 Why fly ash was used

- Fly ash is a fine powder , a waste product originate from burning coal in electric generation power plant
- Fly ash is a pozzolanic substance containing aluminum and siliceous material that form cement in presence water and lime
- It has greater workability
- It reduce CO₂ emission and heat of hydration
- It is of class C and class F type

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Specifications

- M25 Grade concrete
- Water cement ratio = 0.45
- Coarse aggregate of 20mm size (1600kg/m³)
- Fine aggregate (Dry sand 1600kg/m³)
- Cement – OPC (Grade 45) (unit weight- 1440 kg/m³)
- Glass
- Fly ash (from NTPC power plant, Dadri)

3.2 Apparatus:

- Cube Mould (150x150x150 mm or 100x100x100 mm)
- Tamping bar (16 mm diameter and bull-nosed)
- Steel Float/Trowel.
- Compressive strength Testing machine
- Curing Tank
- Weighing machine
- Pan
- Hammer
- Cylindrical mould
- Sieving machine

3.3 Procedures of Making Concrete Cube:

1. Cleaning & fixing mould
2. Breaking of Glass
3. Mixing cement, glass and Fly ash.
4. Placing, Compacting & Finishing concrete
5. Curing



(Fig- 4.1)

4.3.1 Cleaning & fixing mould

- Clean the cube-mould properly and apply oil on inner surface of mould. But no oil should be visible on surface.
- Fix the cube mould with base plate tightly. No gap should be left in joints so that cement-slurry doesn't penetrate.

4.3.2 Breaking of Glass

- We bought the glass from nearby rag picker shop.
- The glass is broken into very small pieces with the help of hammer.
- The grinded glass is then put in sieving machine.
- Sieving is done for 15 min.

The last sieve used in sieving test is 1.41 mm sieve and glass passing through this sieve is used.

4.3.3 Mixing cement glass and Fly ash

- Amount of cement, glass and fly ash to be used is bought into a pan.
- The mixture formed is either mixed with the hands or with the help of trowel.
- The whole ingredients are mixed till the color of the mixture matches with the cement color.
- Proper precautions should be taken while mixing cement and glass as both these elements can cut skin.

4.3.4 Placing, Compacting & Finishing concrete.

- Take concrete from three or four random mixes.
- Place concrete into mould in three layers. Compact each layer by giving 35 blows of tamping bar.
- Remove excess concrete from the top of mould and finish concrete surface with trowel. Make the top surface of concrete cube even and smooth.
- Left the mould completely undisturbed for first four hours after casting.
- After ending undisturbed period, put down casting date and item name on the top of concrete specimen with permanent marker.

4.3.5 Curing

Curing is the maintaining of an adequate moisture content and temperature in concrete at early Ages so that it can develop properties the mixtures was designed to achieve. Curing begins Immediately after placement and finishing so that concrete may develop the desired strength and Durability.

Without an adequate supply of moisture content, the cementitious materials in concrete cannot

React to form a quality product. Drying may remove the water needed for this chemical reaction called hydration and the concrete will not achieve the potential properties.

Temperature is an important factor in proper curing, since the rate of hydration, and therefore, strength development, is faster at high temperature. Generally, concrete temperature should be maintained above 50F for an adequate rate of strength development. Further, a uniform temperature should be maintained through the concrete section it is gaining strength to avoid thermal cracking. For exposed concrete, relative humidity and wind condition are also important; they contribute to the rate of moisture loss from the concrete and could result in cracking, poor surface quality and durability. Protective measures to control evaporation of moisture from concrete surfaces before it sets are essential to prevent plastic shrinkage cracking.

Liquid after finishing. Do not apply to concrete that is still bleeding or has a visible water sheen on the surface. While a clear liquid may be used, a white pigment will provide reflective properties and allow for a visual inspection of coverage. A single coat may be adequate, but where possible a second coat, applied at right angles to the first, is desirable for even coverage. If the concrete membrane-forming curing compounds must conform to ASTM C309. Apply to the concrete surface about one hour will be painted, or covered with vinyl or ceramic tile, then a liquid compound that is non-reactive with the paint or adhesives must be used or use a compound that is easily brushed or washed off. On floors, the surface should be protected from the other trades with scuff-proof paper after the application of the curing compound

Plastic sheets - either clear, white (reflective) or pigmented. Plastic should conform to ASTM C 171, be at least 4 mils thick, and preferably reinforced with glass fibers. Dark colored sheets are recommended when ambient temperatures are below 60°F (15°C) and reflective sheets should be used when temperatures exceed 85°F (30°C). The plastic should be laid in direct contact with the concrete surface as soon as possible without marring the surface. The edges of the sheets should overlap and be fastened with waterproof tape and then weighted down to prevent the wind from getting under the plastic. Plastic can make dark streaks wherever a wrinkle touches the concrete, so plastic should not be used on concretes where appearance is important. Plastic is sometimes used over wet burlap to retain moisture Waterproof – used like plastic sheeting but does not mar the surface. This paper generally consists of two layer of craft paper cemented together and reinforced with fiber. The paper should conform to ASTM C 171.

- After 8 to 10 hours of casting, wrap the cube mould with wetted hessian cloth. Cover the mould's top portion with a polythene sheet so that water doesn't fall on concrete surface.
- Uncover and remove the cube specimens from mould after 24±½ hours of casting. For removing specimen from mould, first loosen all nut-bolts and carefully remove specimen because concrete is still weak and can be broken.
- Immediately after removing, put the specimen into a tank of clean water for curing. Make sure cube specimen is fully submerged in water.

5. MERITS AND DEMERITS

5.1 Merits of fly ash replaced concrete

- It is economical
- It is Environmental friendly.
- Fly ash has very small particles which makes the concrete dense & reduces permeability of concrete. It can assess greater strength

to building.

- It has Low heat of hydration which prevent thermal cracking.
- It gives better work ability & finishes

5.2 Demerits of fly ash replaced concrete

- Quality of fly ash can affect the quality & strength of concrete.
- Generally, as fly ash +cement content increases then compressive strengthdecreases.

5.3 Merits of glass replaced concrete

- It is economical
- It is Environmental friendly
- It is supposed to give the strength when its size is in powdered form
- It is non-biodegradable

5.4 Demerits of glass replaced concrete

- Glass powder size as decrease than strength of concrete increase but below 50-micron glass powder affect strength of concrete.
- To make the glass into powdered form is difficult task.
- it requires machinery and labor to convert glass into powdered form
- During conversion of glass into powdered form this can affect our eyes, hands and through respiration glass powder can reach to our respiration system.

6. Cost analysis

Prices

Price of cement per Kg= 6.50 Rs.

Price of waste glass powder per Kg= 5 Rs. Price of fly ash per Kg= 1.3Rs.

For normal concrete price of cement for one cube

Weight of cement = 1.846 Kg

Price of cement = 1.846 x 6.5= 11.99 Rs.

For glass replaced concrete price of cement for one cube

- **if 15 % replaced by glass** Weight of cement =1.569 Kg Weight of glass = 0.2769 Kg
Price of cement = 1.569 x 6.5=10.19 Rs. Price of glass =0.2769 x5=1.384 Rs.
Total price = 11.57 Rs

- **if 30 % replaced by glass** Weight of cement= 1.296 Kg Weight of glass = 0.55 Kg
Price of cement = 1.296 x 6.5= 8.424 Rs Price of glass = 0.55 x 5=2.75 Rs
Total price = 11.174 Rs.

For glass + fly ash replaced concrete price of cement for one cube

- **if 15 % replaced by glass + fly ash**

Weight of cement= 1.569 Kg Weight of glass = 0.138 Kg Weight of fly ash= 0.138 Kg

Price of cement = 1.569 x 6.5= 10.19Rs Price of glass = 0.138 x 5=0.69 Rs Price of fly ash=0.138 x 1.3= 0.179 Rs. Total price = 11.059 Rs.

- **if 30 % replaced by glass + fly ash**

Weight of cement= 1.296Kg Weight of glass = 0.275 Kg Weight of fly ash= 0.275 Kg

Price of cement = 1.296 x 6.5= 8.424Rs Price of glass = 0.275 x 5=1.375 Rs Price of fly ash=0.275 x 1.3= 0.3575 Rs. Total price = 10.156 Rs.

- **Reduction in price from normal concrete to 15 % glass replaced concrete for 1 cube= 11.99 – 11.57= 0.42 Rs**
- **Reduction in price from normal concrete to 30 % glass replaced concrete for one cube= 11.99-11.174= 0.816 Rs**
- **Reduction in price from normal concrete to 15 % glass + fly ash replaced concrete for one cube =11.99-11.059= 0.931 Rs**
- **Reduction in price from normal concrete to 30 % glass + fly ash replaced concrete for one cube =11.99-10.156= 1.834 Rs**

7. CONCLUSION

The tests were conducted and the observed values are concluded as follows:

- We can replace cement by glass safely up to 30% and little more but we cannot replace it by 45 % & more.
- We can replace cement by (glass + fly ash) up to 30% but we cannot replace it by 45 % & more.
- 28 days strength obtain from (glass + fly ash) is more than 28 days strength of glass replacement.
- On strength, criteria by glass + fly ash replacement is better than by only glass-replacement.
- It reduces the CO₂ emission up to 30%
- At 15% replacement by glass powder strength came 24.2% more than normal concrete.
- At 30% replacement strength came 5.37% more than normal concrete
- At 15 % replacement by (glass +fly ash) strength came 34 % more than normal concrete.
- At 30% replacement by glass + fly ash strength came 6.48% more than normal concrete.

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