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Concrete Strength and Behavior with Recycled Plastic in Part

M Vidya Sagar
PG Scholar, Department of Civil Engineering, Priyadarshini Institute of Technology and Management, India.
Email: expendabale1995@gmail.com

N Prasanth Kumar
Asst.Prof., Department of Civil Engineering, Priyadarshini Institute of Technology and Management, India.
Email: civileng459@gmail.com

Beeraiah
HOD, Department of Civil Engineering, Priyadarshini Institute of Technology and Management, India.
Email: civileng459@gmail.com

***Abstract* – Due to a scarcity of room for land filling and its ever-increasing cost, waste utilisation has become a more enticing choice than disposal. Plastic is the waste material that generates the most concern in terms of environmental consequences. The utilisation of waste plastic items in concrete is now being investigation. The use of waste materials in concrete not only saves money, but it also helps to solve disposal problems. The development of novel construction materials manufactured from recycled plastics benefits both the building and plastic recycling industries. Researchers have lately grown interested in using waste and recycled plastic materials in concrete mixes as an ecologically acceptable building material, and a great number of research documenting the behaviour of waste and recycled plastic materials in concrete have been published. This document combines a comprehensive review of research papers on the use of recycled plastics in concrete, categorizing them based on whether they dealt with concrete with plastic aggregates or concrete with plastic fibers. Furthermore, the morphology of concrete with plastic components explains the influence of plastic particles and plastic fibres on the properties of concrete. The properties of concretes with virgin plastic components were also investigated to see how they compared to concrete with recycled plastic components. Over a 28-day period, concrete cubes, cylinders, and beams were cast using 0 to 25% plastic as a partial replacement for fine aggregate and tested for compressive strength, flexural strength, and split tensile strength.**

***Index Terms* – Plastic waste, strength, cement, concrete, workability.**

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1 INTRODUCTION

Scientists have been researching the use of by-products to enhance the properties of concrete for many years. In recent decades, initiatives have been made to use industrial by-products such as fly ash, silica fume, ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS), glass cullet, and other materials into civil constructions. Industrial by-products may be utilised as partial aggregate replacement or partial cement replacement in concrete depending on their chemical makeup and particle size. Because of the environmental constraints connected with their safe disposal, these components are used in concrete.

The environment, as well as natural resource conservation and waste material recycling, are attracting a lot of attention. Many enterprises manufacture a huge number of scrap metal-related products (residues). In the last 20 years, several research on the use of different kinds of municipal rubbish in the construction of building materials have been published. Many academics have been tasked with investigating new sorts of garbage in order to learn more about certain features. Aside from the environmental benefits, using trash improves the quality of completed items.

One of today's most important environmental challenges is the disposal of unwanted plastics. Plastics are increasingly employed as packaging materials and in goods such as bottles, polythene sheets, containers, packing strips, and other similar items. As a result, everyone from industrial manufacturers to everyday customers produces plastic rubbish. To avert an environmental disaster, many things are manufactured from reusable waste plastics. The use of discarded and recycled plastic components in concrete mixes as an ecologically friendly construction material has lately piqued the attention of researchers. On the other hand, the Indian construction industry is struggling due to a scarcity of building supplies. As a consequence, we'll need to find new construction materials as well as a strategy to get rid of the plastic waste. To find a solution, one of the aforementioned problems may be used to solve the other.

Plastics have gradually been used in a broad range of things during the twentieth century due to its positive properties, such as low density, high strength-to-weight ratio, high durability, ease of design and manufacture, and low cost. Polymer products are currently widely used in a variety of industries, including packaging, construction, automotive, electrical and electronics, agriculture, and many more. Recycled plastic may be used as fine aggregate in concrete. However, because of high transportation costs and their influence on total manufacturing costs, waste re-use is presently not commercially feasible. It's also important not to forget extra costs that are directly tied to the kind of garbage, such as the need to assess gas emissions during a fire or the presence of dangerous or harmful elements. In this experimental inquiry, an attempt was made to use waste plastics in concrete, and tests were conducted to focus primarily on the behaviour of flexural members with varying amounts of plastic wastes.

A Generation of Plastic Waste

The quantity of solid waste created continues to rise. The rate of growth is expected to double every 10 years. This is due to the rapid growth of both the population and the industrial sector. In a study, the National Council on Public Works Improvement identified solid waste as an area of infrastructure in need of major improvement. Environmentally and economically, the solid-waste situation is critical. The cost of solid waste disposal is rapidly growing due to the rapid depletion of landfills.

Because plastics are often non-biodegradable, they have gotten a lot of attention among solid-waste materials. India produces over 10 billion kg of plastic rubbish each year, accounting for nearly 7% of total solid waste. Plastic garbage, on the other hand, is very visible, accounting for around 30% of total solid waste volume (Kline 1989). PET, HDPE, LDPE, Polypropylene (PP), Polystyrene (PS), and other plastics are often found in municipal waste.

Packaging accounts for 41% of plastic use, followed by 20% in building and construction, 15% in distribution and major industries, 9% in electrical and electronic, 7% in automotive, 2% in agriculture, and 6% in other applications.

One of the environmental difficulties with plastics is the disposal of plastic bottles, ploy thins, and other plastic materials in household waste and landfills.

These plastic materials are not easily biodegradable, even after a long period of time. As a consequence, every year more landfill space is needed for waste disposal. Plastics, on the other hand, have a number of appealing characteristics, including adaptability, lightness, toughness, low linear dilation coefficient, and chemical resistance. It is useful for concrete manufacture and other construction-related applications because of these qualities. Furthermore, since plastics are not easily biodegradable, they might be employed as inert components in cement matrix. Concrete aggregates, in instance, may be made from plastic material particles.

B Plastic Recycling

The act of retrieving old materials from the waste stream and incorporating them into new products is known as recycling. Recycling is one of the most important concerns in today's environmentally conscious world. Recycling is important for three reasons.

1. It protects the world's most valuable natural resources.

2. It reduces the amount of time and money spent on transportation.

3. It reduces the environmental impact of waste material, as well as the need for more space.

Significant progress has been made in raising recycling rates across the world in recent years. The expansion of recycling infrastructure is an important factor in promoting recycling across the world.

The process of heating a thermoplastic to very high temperatures in order to make it flow is known as thermal reprocessing. The plastic transforms into a new product as it cools. This method has no effect on the chemical composition of the polymers. PET, for example, is a thermoplastic polyester that can be heated and reprocessed into building panels, fence posts, or carpet fibres. This method cannot be used indefinitely since repeated heat reprocessing may cause the plastic properties to degrade. Thermal reprocessing is straightforward when dealing with relatively pure thermoplastics. Thermal reprocessing gets substantially more challenging when multiple thermoplastics are mixed. One way is to separate the various polymers. Separating different plastics might be easy or challenging, depending on the source of the garbage. To reprocess mixed or commingled plastic wastes, systems/mechanisms have been developed in which lower melting point polymers act as a matrix, allowing additional plastics and contaminants to enter the mould. Compatibilizers are chemical substances that aid in the adhesion of different polymer phases.

II LITERATURE REVIEW

This section discusses the research work done on the many uses and procedures used to evaluate concrete made using recycled plastic aggregates. This chapter gives a comprehensive summary of the research that has been conducted by a number of scholars on the use of recycled plastics as a whole or partial aggregate substitute in concrete.

R. Sri Ravindra Rajah and A. J. Tuck reported the results of an experimental investigation into the properties of hardened concrete including chemically treated expanded polystyrene beads (1994). According to the results, the water to cement ratio had an influence on the strength, stiffness, and chemical resistance of polystyrene aggregate concrete of a constant density. Polystyrene concretes with 10mm coarse aggregate and a notional density of 1300kg/m3 shrank by 730 and 655 micro strains after 84 days of drying, respectively. Empirical equations were created to relate the strength and pulse velocity, as well as to derive the modulus of elasticity from its strength.

Expanded polystyrene is a low-density foam with discrete air spaces embedded in a durable polymer matrix. Polystyrene beads may easily be mixed into mortar or concrete to make lightweight concrete of various densities. Polystyrene concrete uses include curtain walls, cladding panels, tilt-up panels, and composite flooring systems. Polystyrene concrete was used to create load-bearing concrete blocks for use as a pavement sub-base material 3 and as a building material for floating marine structures.

The specimens may be tested to determine the qualities of the concrete. Among the properties are compressive strength, in-direct tensile strength, static modulus of elasticity, chemical resistance, pulse velocity, and drying shrinkage. Cast, cured, and tested specimens in the forms of cylinders, cubes, and prisms.

The following findings were made as a consequence of the experiments: When the water-cement ratio is lowered, the compressive strength of polystyrene concrete increases. The water to cement ratio of polystyrene concrete should be kept as low as possible to provide the optimum strength. The tensile strength of polystyrene aggregate concrete decreased as the water to cement ratio increased.

The polystyrene concrete with the lowest water to cement ratio of 0.35 had a static modulus of elasticity of 11.9 GPA. Polystyrene concrete is expected to shrink more than ordinary weight concrete due to the poor rigidity of the polystyrene beads, which provides minimal limit to cement paste shrinkage.

Ben Sabaa and Rasiah Sri Ravindrarajah published Engineering Properties of Lightweight Concrete Containing Crushed Expanded Polystyrene Waste in 1997. The polystyrene aggregate concrete was prepared by partially replacing coarse aggregate in the reference (normal weight) concrete mixes with an equal quantity of chemically coated crushed polystyrene granules. This paper presents the results of an experimental investigation into the engineering properties of polystyrene aggregate concrete with varying density, such as compressive strength, modulus of elasticity, drying shrinkage, and creep. One of the study's main objectives is to determine the effect of density and cement paste concentration on the aforementioned characteristics.

The following findings were made as a consequence of the experiments: The workability of concrete mixes was reduced when coarse aggregate was replaced with polystyrene aggregate due to the increased surface area of the particles. Super plasticizer is necessary to make practical solutions with increasing volumes of polystyrene aggregate, as this study's experience has revealed. The compressive strength and modulus of elasticity of polystyrene concrete decrease at a quicker pace than its density. Concrete shrinkage increased gradually and at a decreasing rate as the drying rate decreased over time. When normal weight coarse aggregate particles were partially substituted with lightweight low modulus polystyrene aggregate, the drying shrinkage of concrete was increased. Because the ultimate creep coefficient for polystyrene aggregate concrete ranged from 1.90 to 3.04, which is similar to the range (2.00 to 5.00) for regular weight concrete, ultimate creep for polystyrene aggregate concrete is comparable to that of regular weight concrete.

Okan Karahan and Cengiz Duran Atis published a paper on the durability properties of polypropylene fibre reinforced fly ash concrete (2010). This article contains a comprehensive examination of the durability properties of concrete using polypropylene fibre and fly ash. Fresh concrete's compressive strength, modulus of elasticity, porosity, water absorption, sorptivity coefficient, drying shrinkage, and freeze–thaw resistance were investigated, as well as hardened concrete's compressive strength, modulus of elasticity, porosity, water absorption, sorptivity coefficient, drying shrinkage, and freeze–thaw resistance.

The inclusion of polypropylene fibre and fly ash reduces the unit weight. While adding fly ash to concrete improves its workability, adding polypropylene fibre decreases it. The compressive strength of the combination was lowered due to the presence of fly ash. Polypropylene fibre has been shown to have no effect on compressive strength or elastic modulus. Increases in fly ash and fibre content enhanced porosity, water absorption, and sorptivity coefficient values in all concrete combinations. The sorptivity coefficient of concrete is affected more by the addition of fly ash than by the inclusion of polypropylene fibres. Drying shrinkage is reduced when polypropylene fibre and fly ash are present in concrete, either separately or in combination. Fibrous concrete with fly ash exhibits the lowest drying shrinkage due to the favourable interactions between polypropylene fibres and fly ash. The freeze–thaw resistance of polypropylene fibre concrete was found to be somewhat greater when compared to concrete without fibres. Fly ash also outperformed polypropylene fibres in terms of freeze–thaw resilience. As the fly ash content increased, the freeze–thaw resistance of fiber-reinforced concrete improved.

T.R. Naik, S.S. Singh, C.O. Huber, and B.S. Brodersen reported on the use of post-consumer waste plastics in cement-based composites (1996). They described an innovative use of HDPE plastic from post-consumer waste as a soft filler in concrete. Although plastic particles/fibers should improve concrete's fracture resistance, they may have a negative impact on compressive strength and creep behaviour. It's vital to develop technology that permits significant amounts of waste plastic to be mixed with Portland cement concrete without affecting its performance in certain applications. The purpose of this study was to come up with a way to use HDPE plastic as a flexible particulate tiller (reinforcement) in concrete. According to the results, chemical treatment has a significant influence on the performance of the plastic tiller in concrete.

Chemical treatment of plastic particles had a significant influence on concrete compressive strengths at a plastic content of 4.5 percent. Out of the three treatments used, the plastic exhibited the highest compressive strength when treated with alkaline bleach and the lowest when treated with bleach alone (water, bleach, and alkaline bleach). As expected, compressive strength decreased as the amount of plastic in concrete rose, particularly at 0.5 percent plastic addition. To maintain a given compressive strength level, the plastic component of concrete must be regulated. The amount of plastic supplied might be greatly increased if particles are further treated to improve their bond area and stress transmission capabilities.

III MATERIALS USED AND ITS PROPERTIES

Cement is a fine grey powder that may be made into a paste by mixing it with water. Concrete is formed by combining sand, gravel, and crushed stone with water and other materials. The cement and water in the concrete will link the other materials together when it hardens. The two primary elements in ordinary cement are argillaceous and calcareous. In argillaceous materials, clay predominates, while calcium carbonate predominates in calcareous materials. The fundamental component of cement is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 : Composition limits of Portland cement

Ingredient	% Content
CaO(Lime)	60-67
SiO2 (Silica)	17-25
Al2 O3(Alumina)	3-8
Fe2 O3 (Iron Oxide)	0.5-6
MgO(Magnesia)	0.1-4
Alkalies	0.4-1.3
Sulphur	1-3

53rd class To cast cubes and cylinders, Ultra Tech cement was used in all concrete combinations. There were no hard lumps in the cement, which was a constant grey with a subtle green colour. Table 2 summarises the findings of the various cement tests undertaken.

Table 2: Properties of cement

S.No.	Characteristics	Values obtained	Standard values
1	Normal Consistency	33%	-
2	Initial Setting time	48 min	> 30 minutes
3	Final Setting time	240 min	< 600 minutes
4	Fineness	4.8 %	<10
5	Specific gravity	3.09	3.15

A Fine Aggregates

The experiment's sand was purchased locally and fulfilled Indian Standard Specifications IS: 383-1970. To remove any bigger particles, the sand was sieved using a 4.75 mm sieve, then washed to remove the dust. The parameters of the fine aggregate used in the experiment are listed in Table 3.

Table 3 : Properties of fine aggregates

S. No.	Characteristics	Value
1.	Type	Uncrushed (natural)
2.	Specific gravity	2.68
3.	Total water absorption	1.02 %
4.	Fineness modulus	2.507
5.	Grading zone	1. III
6	Bulking of sand	16.092 %

B Coarse aggregates

Coarse aggregate is the material that is retained on BIS test sieve no. 480. In most cases, fractured stone is utilised as a coarse aggregate. The coarse aggregate's maximum size is determined by the type of the operation. In this study, we utilised locally available coarse aggregate with a maximum size of 20 mm. The aggregates were cleaned and dried to a surface dry state after being washed to remove dust and grime. Indian Standard Specifications IS: 383-1970 were used to test the aggregates. Table 4 lists the properties of the fine aggregate utilised in the experiments..

Table 4 Properties of Coarse aggregates

S .No.	Characteristics	Value
1.	Type	Crushed
2.	Maximum size	20 mm
3.	Specific gravity (20 mm)	2.825
4.	Total water absorption (20 mm)	3.645 %
5..	Fineness modulus (20 mm)	7.68

C Water

Water that is appropriate for drinking is generally OK for use in concrete. Water from lakes and streams with marine life is typically appropriate as well. No sample is required when water is acquired from the above-mentioned sources. When water is suspected of containing sewage, mine water, or waste from industrial facilities or canneries, it should not be used in concrete until testing show it is safe.

Water from these sources should be avoided because the quality of the water may fluctuate owing to low water levels or the occasional release of hazardous pollutants into the stream. Casting is done using potable tap water in the current experiment.

IV RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

A Compressive Strength

At the completion of the 28-day experiment, the compressive strength of plastic-added concrete and control concrete with the same water-to-cement ratio were measured using compressive strength testing equipment, and the results were compared. Making two cubes for each percent of fine aggregate replacement with plastic aggregate and calculating the average result for each percent of replacement allows us to assess whether or not our conclusions are right.

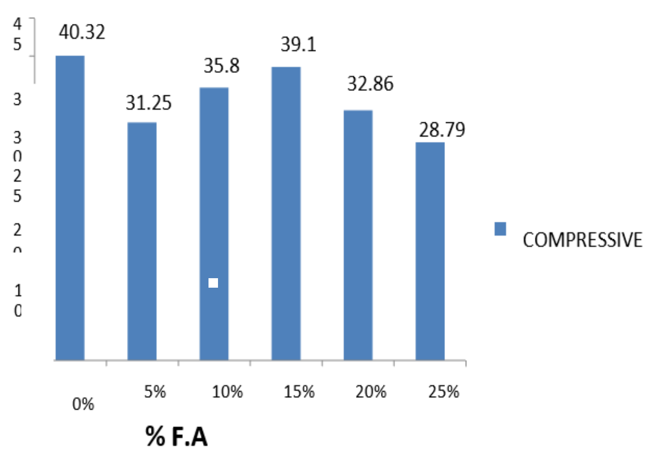

Figure 1: Graph between percentage of fine aggregate replacement and respective compressive strength of the plastic replaced concrete

It is clear from the illustration that the introduction of plastics in concrete reduces the compressive strength of the concrete. A reduction in adhesive strength between the plastic aggregates and the cement paste, according to the manufacturer, is responsible for this loss in compressive strength. Using recycled plastic aggregates in lieu of fine

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particles, the compressive strength of the concrete is almost comparable at 10 percent and 15 percent replacement, respectively, and then starts to decline beyond that. Following as a consequence of the investigation's findings, the best percentage for merging the plastic aggregates was determined to be 15 percent.

B Flexure Strength

Plastic-added concrete and control concrete had their flexure strengths measured after 28 days using compressive strength testing equipment under two-point loading in the same water-cement ratio as the plastic-added concrete. The results were compared to those obtained with the plastic-added concrete. The accuracy of the results is established by casting two beams without reinforcement for each percent of fine aggregate replacement with plastic aggregate, and calculating the accuracy of the findings by taking the average of the test results from these two beams without reinforcement.

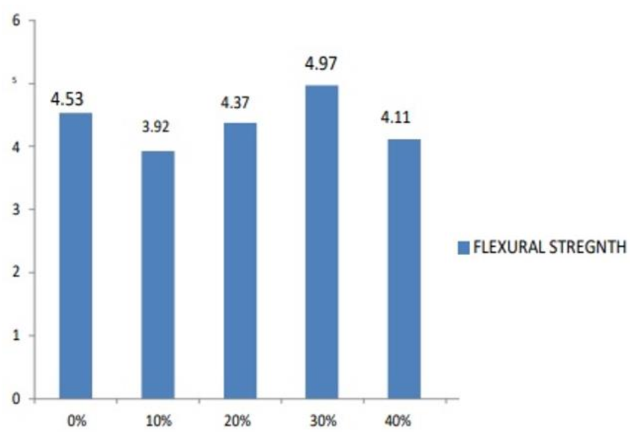

Figure 2: Graph between percentage of fine aggregate replacement and respective Flexural strength of the plastic replaced concrete

According to the figure, concrete's flexural strength decreases with an increase in the amount of plastic aggregates used in the concrete mixture, which is not surprising. Therefore, when the quantity of plastic component in the concrete grows, the modulus of rupture of the concrete decreases as a consequence. Fine aggregate is replaced with plastic aggregate by 5%, and subsequently the fraction of plastic aggregate is increased by 10%. Flexural strength diminishes linearly as the proportion of plastic aggregates rises.

C Split Tensile Strength

Compressive strength testing equipment was used to determine the split tensile strength of plastic-added concrete and standard concrete at the conclusion of 28 days of testing. Neither kind of concrete had a different water cement ratio than the other. Making two cubes for each percent of fine aggregate replacement with plastic aggregate and calculating the average result for each percent of replacement allows us to assess whether or not our conclusions are right.

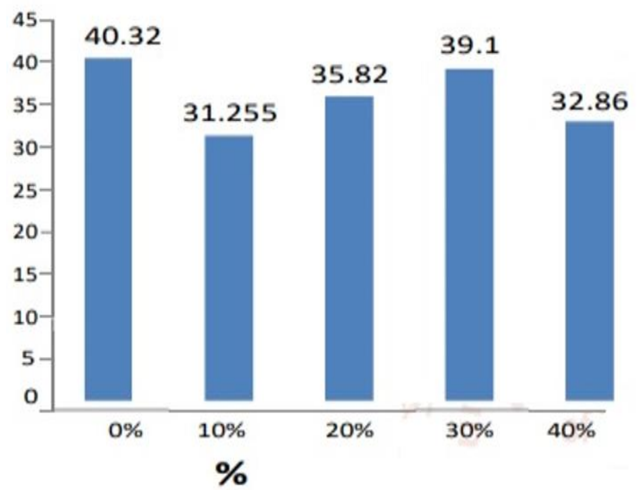

Figure 3: Graph between percentage of fine aggregate replacement and respective Split Tensile strength of the plastic replaced concrete

Based on the data, it is clear that the Split tensile Strength of a concrete decreases with an increase in the fraction of Plastic particles used to replace fine aggregate in the concrete. On closer inspection, it can be seen that the failure pattern of plastic concrete does not emerge in the plastic itself, but rather in the area around the granular plastic. It also seems that the binding strength between the cement paste and plastic particles is inadequate to keep the building together. The breakdown of the control concrete happened all the way through the aggregates, demonstrating a stronger bond between the cement paste and the coarse particles than that of the experimental concrete. The Split Tensile Strength of the replacement concrete is somewhat greater than that of the usual concrete at 5 percent replacement, but it is significantly lower at 15 percent replacement and steadily declines as the percentage of replacement rises. As shown in the accompanying table, when all factors are taken into consideration, split tensile strength decreases with increasing percentage replacement of plastic particles.

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V CONCLUSIONS

A lot more study has to be done before recycled plastics can be utilised as a building material in concrete construction. The use of recycled plastics in concrete is a relatively recent discovery in the field of concrete technology. The use of plastics in concrete has resulted in a reduction in the strength of the resulting concrete; as a consequence, research should be directed toward ternary systems that may assist in overcoming this disadvantage of the use of plastics in concrete.

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AUTHORS PROFILE

Mr.M.Vidya sagari is pursuing MTech (SE) In Priyadarshini Institute Of Technology Management, Guntur. He obtained B.Tech (CIVIL) from Loyola institute of technology and management in 2016

Mr.Prasanth kumar is working as an associate professor In the department of CIVIL, Priyadarshini Institute of Technology and Management Guntur, He obtained M.Tech (SE) degree from Priyadarshini Institute Of Technology, Pilladigunta in 2018.

Mr.Beeraiah is working as an associate professor and hod in the department of CIVIL, Priyadarshini Institute of Technology and Management Guntur, He obtained M.Tech (SE) degree from Chinthalapudi Engineering College in 2014 and 2016.