Experimental Study on Light Weight Concrete by Using Aluminum Powder and Quarry Dust

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Nishith M. Mehta

Research scholar Civil Engineering Department Sal Institute Of Technology and Engineering Research nmehta.93@gmail.com

Abstract: The compressive and tensile strengths of lightweight concrete (LWC) of density 1700 kg/m3 to 1800 kg/m3 with different aluminum powder content were investigated using cube and cylinder specimens. Based on an earlier investigation of the first two authors, cement to combined aggregate ratios of 1:6, 1:8, and 1:10 have been selected. Both sand and quarry dust have been tried as fine aggregate. Aluminum powder was added at 0.2% to 0.8% by weight of cement. For that the ultimate strength of LWC is of the range between 3N/mm2 –10.5N/mm2 for different aluminum powder content. Addition of more than 0.2% of aluminum powder reduces the compressive strength drastically.

Keywords: Aluminium powder, Fly ash, Lightweight concrete, water/cement ratio.

I. INTRODUCTION

A) Light weight concrete:

Lightweight concrete can be defined as a type of concrete which includes an expanding agent in it that increases the volume of the mixture while reducing the dead weight. It is lighter than the conventional concrete with a dry density of 300 kg/m3 to 1840 kg/m3. The main specialties of lightweight concrete are its low density and low thermal conductivity. There are many types of lightweight concrete which can be produced either by using lightweight aggregate or by using an air entraining agent. In this project, aluminum powder has been used as an air entraining agent of concrete. The fine powder of Aluminum to the slurry reacts with the calcium hydroxide producing hydrogen gas. This hydrogen gas in the slurry mix gives the cellular structure and makes the concrete lighter than the conventional concrete.

B) Objective and Scope:

The objective of this investigation is to develop the most economical light weight concrete building blocks with satisfactory amount of compressive strength.

II. MATERIALS

All the materials used in this research work were tested as per relevant Indian standards.

A) Cement:

Cement is the most important ingredient of concrete which acts as a binding agent between the aggregates and enhances the strength. In this investigation Ordinary Portland Cement

Utsav D. Patel

Assistant professor
Civil Engineering Department
Sal college of Engineering
udpatel.casad@gmail.com

(OPC) is used.

B) Fine Aggregate:

In this investigation two types of fine aggregates, namely river sand and quarry dust were used.

C) Coarse Aggregate:

The coarse aggregate is the strongest and least porous component of concrete. As per requirements of IS 383-1970, angular coarse aggregate of maximum size 6mm was used in this investigation.

D) Aluminum Powder:

The aluminum powder of grade con-85 was used in this project. It had a density of 0.55 g/cc. The aluminum powder confirmed to IS: 438 –2006.

E) Fly ash:

In this investigation Class C fly ash was used. Class C fly ash normally comes from coals which may produce an ash with higher lime content –generally more than 15 % often as high as 30%.

III. OBSERVATIONS

A) Mix proportions adopted:

	Table 1. Mix Proportions	
S.NO.	MIX PROPORTIONS	W/C RATIO
1	Mix 1:6, 55%QD* + 45% CA*	0.65
2	Mix 1:8, 60 %QD* + 40% CA*	0.45
3	Mix 1:10, 55%QD* + 45% CA*	0.55
4	Mix 1:6, 55% FA* + 45% CA* (20% fly ash)	0.50
5	Mix 1:8, 50% FA* + 50% CA*	0.50
6	Mix 1:10, 50%FA* + 50% CA*	0.50

B) Casting of Specimens:

The cubes of size 150mm X 150mm X 150 mm and cylinders of 150 mm diameter were cast. The concrete was compacted

in three layers by using vibrator on each layer. The use of aluminum powder caused the expansion of concrete which led to irregular shapes and dimensions. The expanded layers were cut to form the required shape and size.



Fig. 1. Expansion of concrete

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this investigation, the strength related tests were carried out on hardened cement concrete at the age of 7 days and 28 days. These results are tabulated and compared.

		W/C			
NO	MIX	Ratio	AL.	ULTIMATE STRENGTH	
			POWDER	N/mm2	
			%		
				7-DAYS	28-DAYS
			0	19.69	28.48
			0.2	6.23	6.72
	1.6	0.65	0.4	4.45	106
1	1:6	0.65	0.4	4.45	4.96
			0.6	3.38	4.62
			0.8	2.61	3.32
			0	16.86	20.24
			0.2	5.56	5.94
2	1:8	0.45	0.4	4.36	4.36
			0.6	2.90	4.08
			0.8	2.05	3.28
			0	15.40	19.21
			0.2	5.12	5.53
3	1:10	0.55	0.4	3.77	4.04
3	1.10	0.55			
			0.6	2.62	4.07
			0.8	2.03	3.09

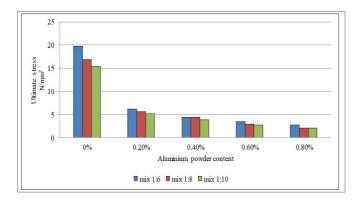


Fig. 2. Strength Comparison of Specimens for 7-Days (Quarry Dust)

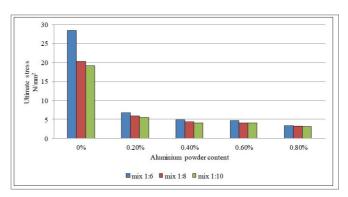


Fig. 3. Strength Comparison of Specimens for 28-Days (Quarry Dust)

V. CONCLUSION

The following could be concluded from the test results obtained in this investigation.

- 1:6 mix proportions gives more compressive strength than the other two mix proportions in both the cases with quarry dust and sand.
- Compressive strength decreases as aluminum powder is increased.
- The use of aluminum powder decreases the dead weight and the strength of the concrete as compared to normal concrete.
- The ultimate strength of LWC is of the range between 3N/mm2 -10.5N/mm2 for sand mixes and 3N/mm2 -7N/mm2 for quarry dust mixes with different aluminum content.

Compared with quarry dust mixes, sand mixes gives more strength.

4.0 Critical Observations:

Even 3 days after curing of pecimens was stopped, large amount of moisture was present inside the specimens as revealed by the broken pieces after the test.

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