

# Influence of industrial by-products in artificial lightweight aggregate concrete: An Environmental Benefit Approach

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## ABSTRACT

Lightweight aggregate concrete manufactured from cold-bonded artificial lightweight aggregates with major amount of fly ash facilitates the use of high volume fly ash in aggregate with minimal energy use. This paper examines the influence of supplementary cementitious materials from industries on the strength behavior of cold-bonded artificial lightweight aggregate concrete due to partial replacement of cement. Replacing cement with granulated blast-furnace slag, silica fume and addition of glass fibres shows higher strength due to both matrix and matrix-aggregate interfacial bond densification with lesser cement content. Artificial lightweight aggregate concrete with a cement content of 249 kg/m<sup>3</sup> develops approximately 32.1 N/mm<sup>2</sup> compressive strength.

**Key words :** Cold-bonded aggregate, Lightweight aggregate concrete, Supplementary cementitious material, Alkali Resistant glass fibre, Compressive strength.

## Introduction

The world cement production has increased dramatically over the past 15 years. This development is the most important part disturbing technological improvement and updating of cement industry manufacturing services. The requirement for cement was 5.02 billion metric tons in the year 2018. Existing technology for the manufacturing cement clinker is ecologically stressful as it needs huge energy natural resources usage and also results in pollutant emissions. Indeed, around 5% of the total carbon dioxide emitted and related with global warming is accountable for cement manufacturing. The cement industry has been recognized as one with a high potential for development. Assuming no or little substitute to portland cement clinker chemistry (Mehta *et al.*, 1976 Ramachandran *et al.*, 1981 Kolimi

*et al.*, 2019; Scrivener *et al.*, 2008 Damtoft *et al.*, 2008) and setting limits on the use of supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs), there is only option to reduce the carbon footprint, which is to increase the rates of diversity and utilization of cement clinker materials. Today, SCMs are broadly used in concrete either in mixed cements or in the concrete mixer added separately. A possible solution to partially replace Portland cement (PC) in the manufacturing of artificial lightweight aggregates (LWAs) and concrete is the use of SCMs such as ground granulated blast-furnace slag (GGBFS), a by-product from iron production, or fly ash (FA) from coal ignition (Kolimi *et al.*, 2019). The use of such materials in construction industry, where there is no additional clinkering procedure is involved, leads to a huge reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and is also a means of using by-products of industrial pro-

duction processes. In concrete, aggregate occupies 60-70% of the volume, the utilization of cold-bonded artificial lightweight aggregate promotes high volume consumption of fly ash (Swamy *et al.*, 1984; Kolimi *et al.*, 2017; Swamy *et al.*, 1985; Wegen *et al.*, 1985; Zangh *et al.*, 1991; Zangh *et al.*, 1991; Chang *et al.*, 1996; Al-Khaiat *et al.*, 1998; Kolimi *et al.*, 2016; Kayali *et al.*, 1999; Baykal *et al.*, 2000; Haque *et al.*, 2004; Kayali *et al.*, 2005; Chi *et al.*, 2003; Gesoglu *et al.*, 2004; Gesoglu *et al.*, 2006; Kolimi *et al.*, 2019).

Using major part of fly ash in the manufacturing of LWAs and GGBFS and silica fume as a partial replacement of cement can further increase in lightweight aggregate concrete (LWAC) production. A systematic investigation on cold-bonded lightweight aggregate concrete was therefore carried out by incorporating super plasticizer (S.P) (Master Glenium SKY 8233), GGBFS, silica fume with addition of alkali resistant glass fibres (G.F) such as: (i) Optimizing the super plasticizer content based on trials with different percentage in water reduction (ii) Optimizing the GGBFS content based on strength and first trial (iii) Optimizing the silica fume content based on strength and second trial (iv) Addition of glass fibres based on third trial to get desired strength. In order to understand the influ-

ence of SCMs, cold-bonded artificial aggregate and partial replacement of cement with GGBFS, silica fume with addition of glass fibres, the compressive strength characteristic for 7days and 28days of LWAC were studied.

For each mix combination, 100 mm cube specimens were casted for compressive strength determination. The specimens were cured at room temperature for 7-days and 28-days and tested through universal testing machine. Almost for all the mix combinations same trend in the compressive strength was followed in 7 and 28 days of curing, around 67% of compressive strength was achieved in 7days of normal water curing.

## Experimental Programme

### Materials and Mix proportions

Table 1 presents the physical and chemical properties of materials like fly ash, GGBFS, hydrated lime, cement, silica fume and Master Glenium SKY 8233 super plasticizer (specific gravity: 1.08) was chosen in manufacturing of LWAC and added viz., 0.1%, 0.2% and 0.3% with different percentage in water reduction based on strength. Local river sand (spe-

**Table 1.** Chemical and physical properties of different binder materials utilized in this study

| Observations                               | FA (F) | C    | HL    | SF    | GGBFS     |
|--|--------|------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Chemical Characteristics                   |        |      |       |       |           |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>                           | 39.4   | 22.3 | 0.3   | 99.88 | 35        |
| Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>             | 18.54  | 3    | 0.23  | 0.040 | 0.95      |
| Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>             | 17.9   | 6.93 | 0.42  | 0.043 | 17.7      |
| CaO  | 17.45  | 63.5 | 69    | 0.001 | 41        |
| MgO  | 2.88   | 2.54 | 0.5   | -     | 11.3      |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>                           | 0.95   | -    | -     | 0.001 | -         |
| Na <sub>2</sub> O                          | 0.28   | -    | -     | 0.003 | 0.2       |
| K <sub>2</sub> O                           | 1.78   | -    | -     | 0.001 | -         |
| Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub>                        | -      | -    | 91    | -     | -         |
| MnO <sub>2</sub>                           | 0.15   | -    | -     | -     | 2.7       |
| SO <sub>3</sub>                            | 1.70   | 1.72 | -a    | -     | -         |
| CaCO <sub>3</sub>                          | -      | -    | -     | -     | 10        |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>              | 0.45   | -    | -     | -     | 0.65      |
| Glass content                              | -      | -    | -     | -     | 92        |
| Physical Characteristics                   |        |      |       |       |           |
| Specific gravity                           | 2.12   | 3.12 | 2.24  | 2.63  | 2.85      |
| Appearance (powder)                        | Grey   | Grey | White | White | Off-white |
| Specific surface area (m <sup>2</sup> /kg) | 407    | 290  | -     | 819   | 409       |
| Loss on ignition                           | 1.76   | 0.84 | -     | 0.015 | 0.26      |
| pH Value                                   | -      | 6.3  | 12.4  | 6.90  | -         |
| Moisture (%)                               | 0.5    | -    | -     | 0.058 | 0.10      |

FA (F): Fly ash (F-Type); C: Cement; HL: Hydrated lime; SF: Silica fume; GGBFS: Ground granulated blast furnace slag

cific gravity: 2.54, water absorption: 1 %) was used as a fine aggregate and GGBFS and silica fume was used to replace cement with addition of glass fibres.

### Manufacturing of cold-bonded artificial aggregate

Cold-bonded artificial coarse aggregate was manufactured using 80% Class-F fly ash, 10% GGBFS, 10% hydrated lime and 0.17% glass fibres by pelletization method. The disc pelletizer was fabricated with a diameter of 0.5m and 0.25m depth as shown in Fig. 1. The aggregates were pelletized for 17 min in order to achieve maximum pelletization efficiency, maximum strength and minimum water ab-

sorption, based on different trials the pelletizer speed and angle were maintained at 55 rpm and  $36^\circ$  respectively along with a 28% water content (by total weight of material added at the time of pelletization). The cold-bonded coarse aggregate size fraction passing 16 mm and retained in 4.75 mm sieve was water cured (Cold-bonded) for 28 days at room temperature as shown in Fig. 3. The physical and mechanical characteristics of cold-bonded coarse aggregate is tested as per IS: 2386 – 1963 which satisfies the structural demand as per IS: 9142 (part 2) – 2018 are given in Table 3 and Table 4. To achieve workability artificial aggregate was presoaked for 30 min before it mixed in to concrete.

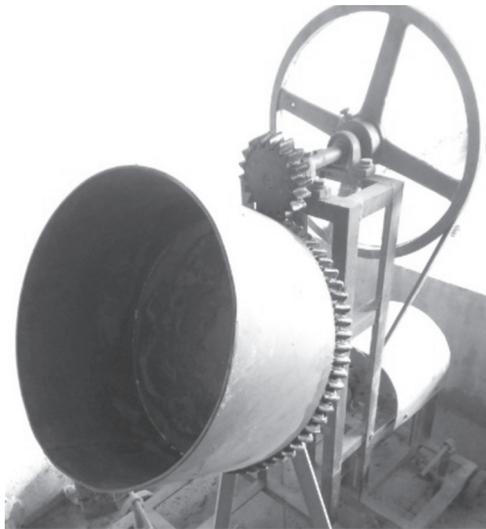


Fig 1. Disc Pelletizer

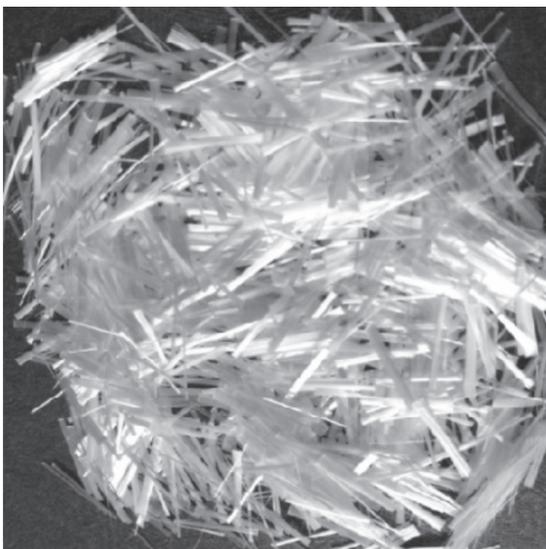


Fig 2. Glass fibres

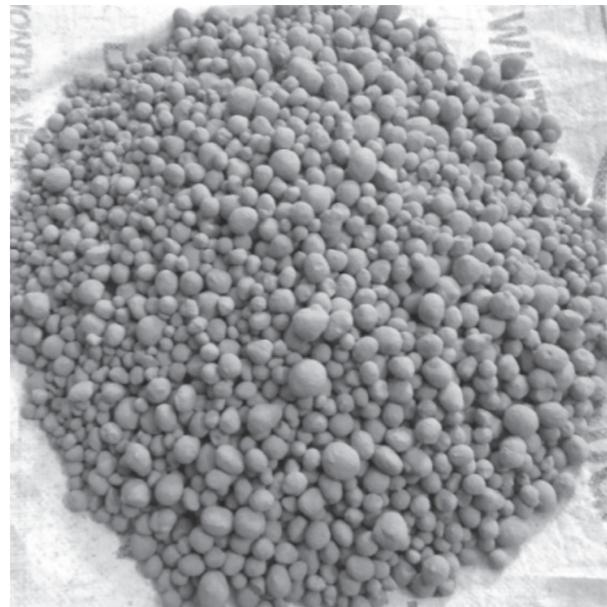


Fig 3. Cold-bonded aggregate

### Alkali Resistant glass fibre

Alkali Resistant glass fibres were added to the manufacturing of lightweight aggregates and characteristics are given in Table 2 which is evaluated as per ASTM C1579-13.

### Cement replacement with GGBFS and Silica fume

Lightweight concrete manufactured with cement content of  $438\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$  was selected as control mix. Based on the first trial five levels of cement replacement with GGBFS viz., 10%, 20%, 30%, 40% and 50% by weight of cement were selected and noted as second trial. In third trial optimum mix in second trial was chosen and four levels of cement replacement with silica fume viz., 2.5%, 5%, 7.5% and 10%

by weight of cement were adopted. In fourth trial, the optimum mix in third trial was selected and added Alkali resistant glass fibres viz., 0.1%, 0.2% and 0.3% by total volume of concrete to achieve compressive strength. The different trial mix combinations of LWAC were calculated by absolute volume method with slump values is presented in Table 5-8.

## Results and Discussion

### Fresh concrete properties

#### Super plasticizer dosage with different percentage in water reduction

The dosage of super plasticizer required to maintain a constant workability increases with percentage decrease in water reduction, which is connected to

**Table 2.** Physical characteristics of Alkali resistant glass fibre

| Characteristics                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Specific gravity                  | 2.68 |
| Density                           | 2.7  |
| Elastic modulus (Gpa)             | 72   |
| Tensile strength (Mpa)            | 1700 |
| Fibre filament diameter (microns) | 14   |
| Length (mm)                       | 12   |

**Table 3.** Sieve analysis of cold-bonded artificial aggregate

| Size of aggregate (mm) | Percentage of aggregates produced |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 16                     | 5.1                               |
| 12.5                   | 35.6                              |
| 10                     | 45.1                              |
| 4.75                   | 14.2                              |

**Table 4.** Physical and Mechanical Properties of cold-bonded artificial aggregate

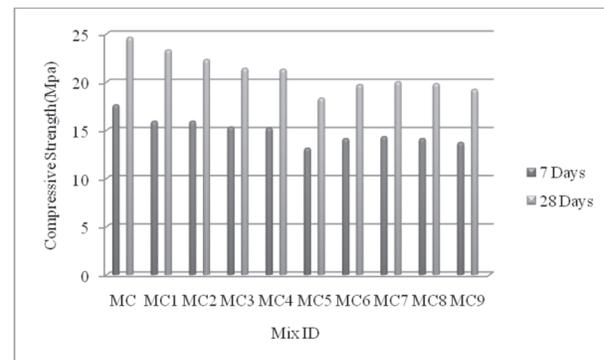
| Properties             | Units             | Value |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Fineness modulus       | -                 | 6.44  |
| Production efficiency  | %                 | 95.5  |
| Specific gravity       | -                 | 2.48  |
| Water absorption (24h) | %                 | 16.3  |
| Loose bulk density     | Kg/m <sup>3</sup> | 855   |
| Rodded bulk density    | Kg/m <sup>3</sup> | 898   |
| Impact strength        | %                 | 16    |

Individual aggregate compressive strength N/mm<sup>2</sup> 16 mm: 44.212.5mm: 47.810mm: 52.34mm: 58.1

the increase in the mix's specific surface. For the reduction of cement content super plasticizer was used and to fix the exact dosage of super plasticizer based on strength with different percentage in water reduction. Table 4 shows that the increase in workability of concrete as the increasing in dosage of super plasticizer. As the water reduction increases workability getting decreased even if increase in dosage of super plasticizer.

### Cement replacement with GGBFS and Silica fume

The increase in workability of lightweight concrete with an increase in GGBFS alone and the combination of GGBFS and silica fume as well is associated to the lower specific surface area (SSA) of GGBFS, silica fume as compared to cement is presented in Table 5 and 6. For binder content, due to the circular shape of cold-bonded artificial aggregate, the workability increases significantly with cold-bonded aggregate content. With the increase in percentage addition of glass fibres the workability decreases which is more than control concrete.



**Fig 4.** Compressive strength values for Trial-1



**Fig 5.** Universal Testing Machine

### Compressive strength

#### Super plasticizer dosage with different percentage in water reduction

The compressive strength test was conducted in universal testing machine as shown in Fig. 5. As the percentage increase in water reduction compressive strength decreases, irrespective in increasing in dosage of super plasticizer. The highest compressive strength of 24.6 N/mm<sup>2</sup> was achieved without super plasticizer (MC) as shown in Fig. 4 and failure pattern of specimen in Fig. 6. An average of 16.3% of strength was decreased with dosage of super plasticizer with different percentage in water reduction. The optimum dosage of super plasticizer was fixed after different trials based on strength and cement replacement with GGBFS in second trial.

#### Cement replacement with GGBFS

The cold-bonded aggregate concrete compressive

strength for different percentage of cement replacement with GGBFS is represented in Fig. 7 as second trial. The optimum mix in first trial (MC and MC1) was taken and cement replacement levels from 10% to 50% with GGBFS was done. The highest compressive strength of 29.3 N/mm<sup>2</sup> was achieved at 40% cement replacement with GGBFS without super plasticizer (MCG4) which is 19.1% more than control mix and failure pattern of specimen is shown in Fig. 9. Similarly compressive strength of 28.4 N/mm<sup>2</sup> was attained at 20% cement replacement with GGBFS with 0.1% super plasticizer (MCG7) which is 15.5% more than control mix. At any replacement level of GGBFS, the compressive strength of concrete was higher than that of the corresponding control mix due to more CaO but significantly less Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> which forms pozzolanic reaction. The optimum mix combination in second trial was chosen and further replaced cement with silica fume in third trial.

**Table 5.** Mixture compositions with super plasticizer content with water reduction (TRIAL-1)

| Mix ID | Mix Combinations | Cement (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Water (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Sand (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Cold-bonded aggregate (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Super plasticizer (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Slump (mm) |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|------------|
| MC     | 0%S.P Control    | 438                         | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 105        |
| MC1    | 0.1%S.P(16%WR)   | 369                         | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 110        |
| MC2    | 0.2%S.P(16%WR)   | 369                         | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.738                                  | 110        |
| MC3    | 0.3%S.P(16%WR)   | 369                         | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 1.107                                  | 112        |
| MC4    | 0.1%S.P(19%WR)   | 356                         | 160                        | 701                       | 1179                                       | 0.356                                  | 105        |
| MC5    | 0.2%S.P(19%WR)   | 356                         | 160                        | 701                       | 1179                                       | 0.712                                  | 110        |
| MC6    | 0.3%S.P(19%WR)   | 356                         | 160                        | 701                       | 1179                                       | 1.068                                  | 110        |
| MC7    | 0.1%S.P(21%WR)   | 346                         | 156                        | 707                       | 1191                                       | 0.346                                  | 100        |
| MC8    | 0.2%S.P(21%WR)   | 346                         | 156                        | 707                       | 1191                                       | 0.692                                  | 107        |
| MC9    | 0.3%S.P(21%WR)   | 346                         | 156                        | 707                       | 1191                                       | 1.038                                  | 109        |

**Table 6.** Mixture compositions with GGBFS as cement replacement (TRIAL-2)

| Mix ID | Mix Combinations       | Cement (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | GGBFS (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Water (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Sand (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Cold-bonded aggregate (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Super plasticizer (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Slump (mm) |
|--------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|------------|
| MCG1   | 0%S.P+90C+10G          | 394.2                       | 43.8                       | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 105        |
| MCG2   | 0%S.P+80C+20G          | 350.4                       | 87.6                       | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 107        |
| MCG3   | 0%S.P+70C+30G          | 306.6                       | 131.4                      | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 110        |
| MCG4   | 0%S.P+60C+40G          | 262.8                       | 175.2                      | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 110        |
| MCG5   | 0%S.P+50C+50G          | 219                         | 219                        | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 120        |
| MCG6   | 0.1%S.P+90C+10G(16%WR) | 332.1                       | 36.9                       | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 115        |
| MCG7   | 0.1%S.P+80C+20G(16%WR) | 295.2                       | 73.8                       | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 115        |
| MCG8   | 0.1%S.P+70C+30G(16%WR) | 258.3                       | 110.7                      | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 121        |
| MCG9   | 0.1%S.P+60C+40G(16%WR) | 221.4                       | 147.6                      | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 125        |
| MCG10  | 0.1%S.P+50C+50G(16%WR) | 184.5                       | 184.5                      | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 129        |

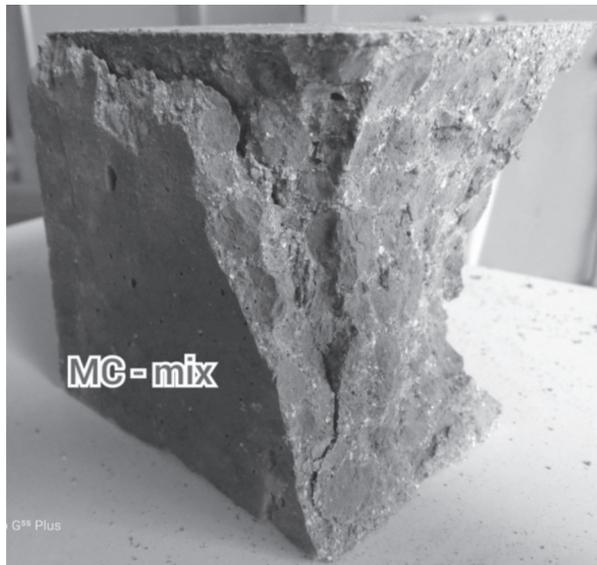


Fig 6. MC – Tested Specimen

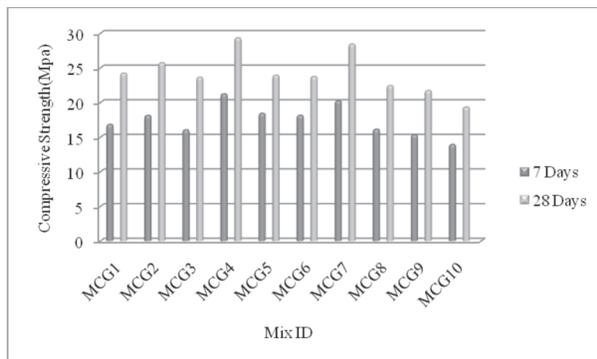


Fig 7. Compressive strength values for Trial-2

### 7 Cement replacement with Silica fume

The Lightweight aggregate concrete compressive strength for different levels of cement replacement with silica fume is given in Fig. 8 as third trial. The best mix in second trial (MCG4 and MCG7) was taken and cements replacement levels from 2.5% to 10% with silica fume. The highest compressive strength of 30.7 N/mm<sup>2</sup> was achieved at 40% cement replacement with GGBFS and 5% cement replacement with silica fume, without super plasticizer (MCGS2) which is around 25% more than control mix and failure pattern of specimen is shown in Fig.10. Silica fume have totally very fine particles size of silicon dioxide which is relatively high pozzolanic nature which is responsible for high strength in concrete. The optimum mix combination in third trial was selected and further added with

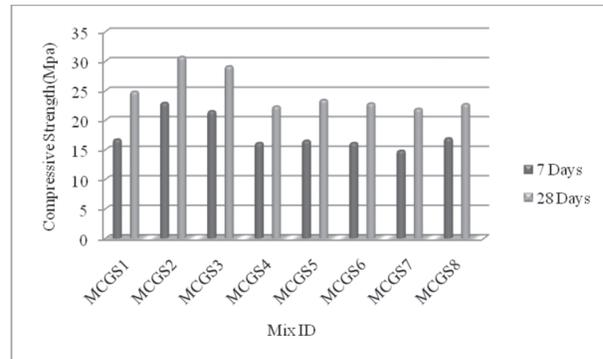


Fig 8. Compressive strength values for Trial-3



Fig. 9. MCG4 – Tested Specimen

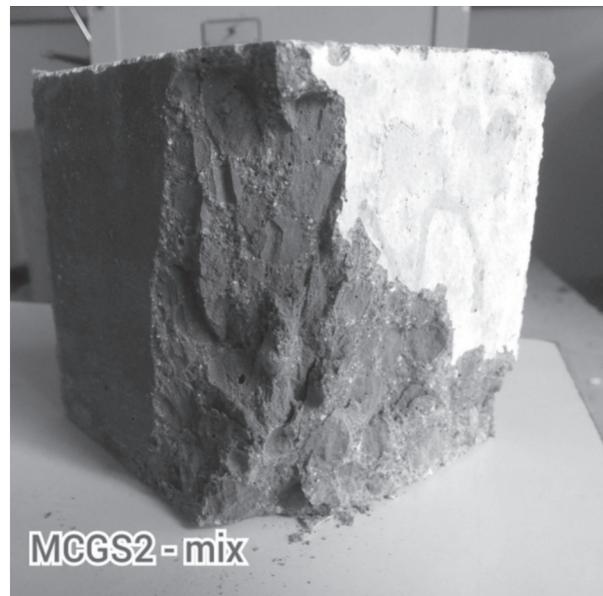


Fig 10. MCGS2 – Tested Specimen

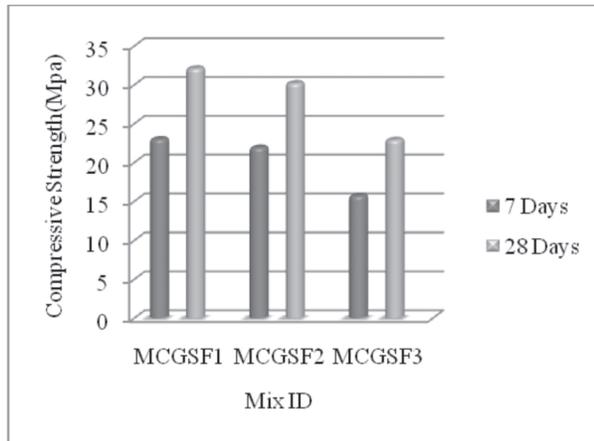


Fig 11. Compressive strength values for Trial-4

glass fibres on total volume basis in fourth trial.

#### Cement replacement with GGBFS and Silica fume with Glass fibres

Fibre reinforced cold-bonded aggregate concrete compressive strength for cement replacement with GGBFS and silica fume with addition of glass fibres as shown in Fig.11 as fourth trial. The optimum mix in third trial (MCGS2) was chosen and added with 0.1%, 0.2% and 0.3% of glass fibres by total volume of concrete. The highest compressive strength of 32.1 N/mm<sup>2</sup> was achieved at 40% and 5% cement



Fig 12. MCGSF1 – Tested Specimen

replacement with GGBFS and silica fume with addition of 0.1% glass fibres (MCGSF1) which is 35.1% more than control mix combination and failure pattern of specimen is shown in Fig.12. From all the four trials, compressive strength results suggested

Table 7. Mixture compositions with GGBFS and silica fume as cement replacement (TRIAL-3)

| Mix ID | Mix Combinations        | Cement (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | GGBFS (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Silica fume (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Water (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Sand (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Cold-bonded aggregate (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Super plasticizer (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Slump (mm) |
|--------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|------------|
| MCGS1  | 0%S.P+57.5C+40G+2.5SF   | 256.23                      | 175.2                      | 6.57                             | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 110        |
| MCGS2  | 0%S.P+55C+40G+5SF       | 249.66                      | 175.2                      | 13.14                            | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 113        |
| MCGS3  | 0%S.P+52.5C+40G+7.5SF   | 243.09                      | 175.2                      | 19.71                            | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 120        |
| MCGS4  | 0%S.P+50C+40G+10SF      | 236.52                      | 175.2                      | 26.28                            | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | -                                      | 125        |
| MCGS5  | 0.1%S.P+77.5C+20G+2.5SF | 287.82                      | 73.8                       | 7.38                             | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 117        |
| MCGS6  | 0.1%S.P+75C+20G+5SF     | 280.44                      | 73.8                       | 14.76                            | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 120        |
| MCGS7  | 0.1%S.P+72.5C+20G+7.5SF | 273.06                      | 73.8                       | 22.14                            | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 120        |
| MCGS8  | 0.1%S.P+70C+20G+10SF    | 265.68                      | 73.8                       | 29.52                            | 166                        | 690                       | 1161                                       | 0.369                                  | 127        |

Table 8. Mixture compositions with GGBFS and silica fume as cement replacement with glass fibres (TRIAL-4)

| Mix ID | Mix Combinations        | Cement (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | GGBFS (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Silica fume (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Water (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Sand (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Cold-bonded aggregate (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Glass fibre (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Slump (mm) |
|--------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------|
| MCGSF1 | 0%S.P+55C+40G+5SF+0.1GF | 249.66                      | 175.2                      | 13.14                            | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | 2.35                             | 110        |
| MCGSF2 | 0%S.P+55C+40G+5SF+0.2GF | 249.66                      | 175.2                      | 13.14                            | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | 4.7                              | 100        |
| MCGSF3 | 0%S.P+55C+40G+5SF+0.3GF | 249.66                      | 175.2                      | 13.14                            | 197.2                      | 640                       | 1077                                       | 7.06                             | 95         |

that the cement replacement percentage can be controlled based on the target strength.

## Conclusion

The conclusions drawn from the present investigation on cold-bonded artificial lightweight aggregate concrete are summarized below:

1. The mix combination of well-researched mineral admixtures such as fly ash, GGBFS and silica fume does not only manufacture concrete but also improve fresh and hardened properties with economic efficiency.
2. Workability of cold-bonded artificial aggregate concrete increases with increasing in dosage of super plasticizer, irrespective of water reduction content.
3. By partial replacement of cement with GGBFS, the workability of cold-bonded artificial aggregate concrete increased, while it again increased when cement was partially replaced with silica fume and decreased with the addition of glass fibres.
4. From all the trial mix combinations, it is noticed that compressive strength results suggested that the cement replacement percentage can be controlled based on the target strength.
5. The compressive strength for 28-days, cement replacement mixes with GGBFS and silica fume was higher than the corresponding control mix. The strength enhancement was higher with lower cement content as 249 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

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