e-ISSN:2582-7219

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Volume 7, Issue 12, December 2024

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER INDIA

Impact Factor: 7.521

© 2024 IJMRSET | Volume 7, Issue 12, December 2024| DOI: 10.15680/IJMRSET.2024.0712102

ISSN: 2582-7219 | www.ijmrset.com | Impact Factor: 7.521| ESTD Year: 2018|

International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

The Importance of Green Concrete

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ABSTRACT: The construction industry i.e. architecture, engineering, and construction industry is one of main altruist to global carbon emissions and environmental wrecking. One of the main building materials, conventional concrete has a considerable environmental footprint resulting from its high cement percentage and the energy-intensive processes used in cement manufactured. Fly ash, slag are those recycled aggregates and alternative binders' materials that may be to contribute towards sustainability of concrete but green concrete is an ingenious alternative which address the problems solving of associated with other materials. Current many papers assess the importance of green concrete in terms of declining the environmental impacts but successfully executing structural performances. It also provides an exploration into the nature making and merit of green concrete together with a method to shrink greenhouse gas emissions and for eco-friendly along with possible economic savings. Additionally, the paper explains difficulties and future possibility for the implementations of green concrete in mainstream construction experience. By involving green concrete into world construction projects, the industry can take an important step toward gain sustainable outcome goals and minimizing its carbon footprint.

In present days, all structures and creations must be ecofriendly. So that it doesn't make any harm on the environment. Green concrete is one of the best examples that made to make the balance in the terms of nature and structures.

KEYWORDS: Sustainability, Eco-friendly construction, Carbon footprint reduction, Recycled materials, Waste utilization, Environmental impact, Durability. CO_2 emissions reduction

I. INTRODUCTION

Concrete is plays significant part for the development and widely used in the construction development for the infrastructure. Its durability, strength, and versatility have made it essential for material. However, the manufacturing of ordinary Portland cement where a major component of concrete is interrelated with high levels of carbon dioxide emissions. Cement production where Carbon dioxide emissions is about 8%, making it a significant contribution to climate change of environment

Today the word green is not just limited to color, it represents the environment, which is surrounding us. "Green concrete" is a revolutionary topic in the history of concrete industry. Dr. WG was first person who was from Denmark invented the green concrete concept in the year 1998. Concrete wastes such as slag, power plant wastes, recycled concrete, mining and quarrying wastes, waste glass, incinerator residue, red mud, burnt clay, sawdust, combustor ash and foundry sand. The concept of Green Concrete is to reduce the concrete impact on environment. 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.

In order to counter this environmental challenge, green concrete has emerged as a sustainable alternative. Green concrete may include industrial by-products, recycled materials, and renewable resources in its composition and tends to minimize its ecological footprint to a minimum. While traditional concrete minimizes wastes and fumes, green concrete offers innovative solutions for the reuse of materials that otherwise would be sent to the landfill site.

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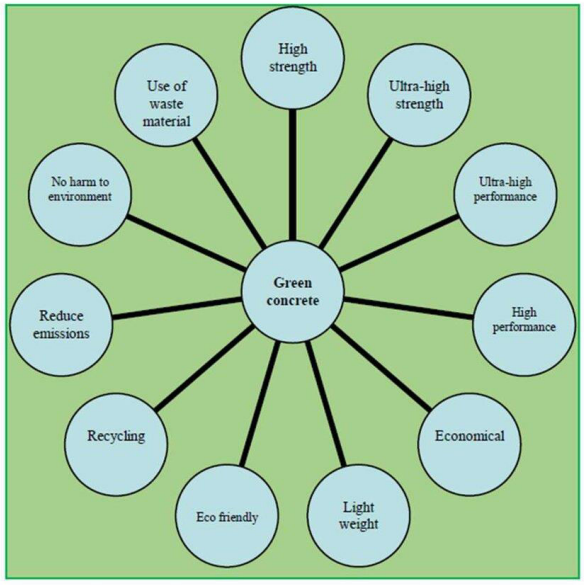

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

- **Environmental Impact of Traditional Concrete**

Regular research indicates that the building industry is one of the world's biggest consumers of raw resources. OPC used in concrete manufacturing releases approximately 900 kg of CO_2 for every ton produced. Various studies estimate that 4 billion tons of cement are produced annually, resulting in significant emissions of greenhouse gases. Additionally, sand mining disrupts natural ecosystems, and bad waste practices from building and demolition processes further lead to environmental degradation.

- **Development of Green Concrete**

The ideas have driven the development of green concrete in order to curb all those environmental impacts. Green concrete, according to, uses supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs) that include fly ash, slag, silica fume, and natural pozzolans, which are applied to decrease the usage of OPC. Recycled aggregates from C&D wastes were found to produce acceptable performance with less extractive use of natural resources. Other developments have involved the application of geopolymers as binders and carbon capture technologies that can be integrated into production.

III. METHODOLOGY

To explore the potential of green concrete, a multi-method approach was adopted:

1. **Material Composition Analysis**:

Different tests were conducted to examine the execution of green concrete incorporating varying percentages of fly ash and recycled aggregates.

2. **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)**: Comparative LCA was conducted to measure the environmental impact of green concrete.
3. **Industry survey**:

Construction professionals were surveyed to assess their knowledge, acceptance, and perceived barriers to adopting green concrete.

IV. MANUFACTURING MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR GREEN CONCRETE

- Recycled waste aggregate
- Recycled concrete aggregate
- Blast furnaces slag

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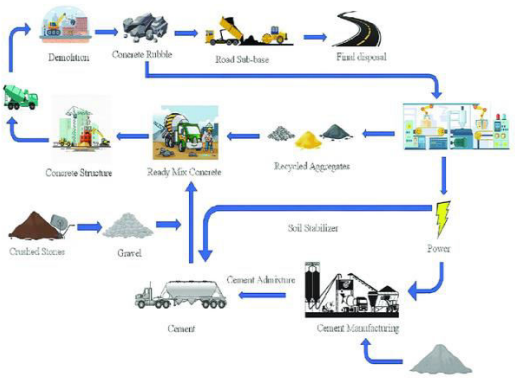
- Manufacturing sand
- Fly ash
- Glass aggregate
- Manufacturing process



V. COMPOISTION OF GREEN CONCRETE

- 40% of Portland cement
- 25% of ultra-fine ash
- 25% of ultra-fine slag
- 10% of silica flume
- 4% volume of steel fiber

- **Fly Ash:** A byproduct of coal combustion in power plants, fly ash replaces a portion of Portland cement in the mix.
- **Slag:** Extracted from iron and steel manufacturing, slag supplements cement in green concrete, enhancing its strength.
- **Recycled Aggregates:** These are obtained from demolished concrete structures, reducing the need for quarrying fresh aggregates.

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The activator dissolves out aluminum and silicon molecules from slag and ash. These molecules then link together forming much longer molecules forming the geopolymers. When geopolymers link themselves together they create a vast three-dimensional network, which gives cement the strength it needs, and the production of CO_2 is stopped.

VI. PROPERTIES OF GREEN CONCRETE

Green concrete possesses several unique properties that differ from traditional concrete. These include:

- Higher durability
- Improved workability
- Lower heat of hydration
- Reduced permeability

VII. APPLICATION OF GREEN CONCRETE

- In Nepal, the emission of CO_2 is rapidly growing during 2016. It has been 45% more than in 2015. So, the use of this concrete can reduce the emission of CO2.
- The industrial cementitious waste can be reused, decrease industrial waste, and save money. This can be very helpful for low economic countries like Nepal.
- For the developing country like Nepal, this concrete can be very profitable as it is very sustainable, have high strength for using in structure, and reduces pollution.

VIII. ADVANTAGES

- It uses less energy in its production and produces less carbon dioxide than normal concrete.
- It gets early strength as compared to normal strength.
- It has a low rate of shrinkage.
- Reduces environmental pollution and is sustainable.
- The industrial waste can be reused.
- The structure can resist the temperature change as this concrete reduce energy consumption.
- Have more workability and less maintenance is required.

IX. RESULTS

- **Material Performance**

Green concrete containing 30% of fly ash replacement had strength similar to conventional concrete, and it was more resistant to chemical attacks. The strength of recycled aggregates is slightly reduced, but some modifications like the addition of superplasticizers compensate for this effect.

- **Environmental Impact**

The LCA results showed that green concrete, compared to traditional concrete, had a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of up to 40% and energy consumption of up to 25%. The use of waste materials reduced dependency on virgin resources by approximately 50%.

- **Industry Survey Findings**

While over 70% of respondents accepted the green concrete environmental merits, most pointed to reasons of cost and lack of technical knowledge for not utilizing it. Incentives through policy and education have been commonly suggested to enact change.

X. DICUSSION

The results confirm that green concrete is one of the feasible solutions for sustainable construction. Although environmental and economic benefits are apparent, the widespread application of green concrete faces various

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challenges related to standardization, cost-effectiveness, and awareness. Policies promoting the use of green materials, along with technological advancements, may play a very important role in mainstreaming green concrete.

XI. CONCLUSION

Green concrete is a sea change in the way the building industry approaches the notion of sustainability. Reducing CO_2 emissions, utilizing wastes, and preserving natural resources make green concrete align with global efforts on climate change and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, its success is dependent on collaborative efforts of governments, industries, and researchers for addressing challenges and promoting its adaption. Green concrete thus is not an option but a necessity for a sustainable future.

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