An Experimental Work on Alkaline Resistance Glass Fiber Reinforced concrete

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Abstract— Conventional concrete has the draw backs of cracks due to plastic shrinkage, low tensile strength – compressive strength ratio, low ductility, expansion and contraction with change in temperature. Continuous research efforts are going on to develop a high performance concrete by using fibers and other admixtures. One such effort is the research on an alkaline resistance glass fiber reinforced concrete. GFRC has many advantages over conventional concrete such as It reduce the bleeding of concrete, improves the surface integrity, homogeneity of concrete and reduces the probability of cracks. Glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) is a composite concrete which has abilities to overcome all these deficiency and make construction faster, resistance of corrosion, durable and can increase the tensile strength of concrete. The alkaline resistance glass fiber reinforced concrete (ARGFRC) resists rust and corrosion and hence contributes to the durability of concrete. In this project, an attempt has been made to study the characteristics strength properties of alkaline resistance glass fiber reinforced concrete for structural applications. Alkaline resistance glass fiber with an aspect ratio of 857.1 were added to C35 grade reference concrete mix as reinforcement in proportions of 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.6% and 1% by the volume of concrete. 1.50 mm x 1.50 mm x 150mm cube moulds, 100 mm x 100 mm x 500mm beam moulds and 150 mm diameter and 300 mm high cylindrical specimens were cast and tested for all the ARGFR mixes for the C35 grade reference mix for strength comparison. Test is also conducted to study the effect of high temperature. The study shows that 0.6% addition of A.R glass fibers in ARGFRC has maximum compressive strength, split-tensile strength and flexural strength by 14.98% with respect to C35 grade reference concrete mix. Similarly, 1% addition of A.R glass fibers in ARGFRC has minimum characteristics strength by 2.26% with respect to C35 grade reference concrete mix. 0% addition of A.R glass fibers in ARGFRC has lowest decrease in high temperature strength by 14.26% with respect to compressive strength at 28 days. 0.6% addition of A.R glass fibers in ARGFRC has lowest workability by 74.44% with respect to C35 grade reference concrete mix and 1% addition of A.R glass fiber shows a negative trend in workability.

Keywords—Alkaline Resistant Glass fiber reinforced concrete (ARGFRC), Alkaline resistant (A.R) glass fibers, Compressive strength, Split-tensile strength, Flexural strength.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction
Reinforced concrete has various disadvantages such as shrinkage which cause crack, very low tensile strength to compressive strength ratio, expansive, low ductility, expand and contracts with change in temperature. Efforts are being made to develop a conventional concrete by using fibers and other chemical admixtures. Glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) is a material which has abilities to overcome all these deficiency and make construction faster, resistant to corrosion, durable and can increase the tensile strength.

1.2 Glass Fiber Reinforced concrete (GFRC)
A.R glass fiber are reinforced in conventional concrete with other chemical admixtures to develop a discrete discontinuous fiber new composite material name as glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) and which improves the performance of concrete. Due to the presence of discrete fibers, the cracking of concrete increases and fiber act as crack arresters. According to Kariappa and shete, 2016, GFRC is not a new material; it has been used over past 50 years especially in architectural cladding panels, domes, planters and statues. The first GFRC pedestrian bridge was constructed in Israel since 1975 and then after it is used in North America, Asia and Europe. According to Jiff Girard (CCI), 2013, Alkali resistant fibers act as the principle tensile load carrying member while the polymer and concrete matrix binds the fibers together and helps transfer loads from one fiber to another. Without fibers GFRC would not possess its strength and would be more prone to breakage and cracking. GFRC is used in construction industries because it has many advantages over conventional concrete. It reduces the bleeding of concrete, improves the surface integrity,
homogeneity of concrete and reduces the probability of cracks. According to Sai Kiran and Rao, 2016, GFRC is a lightweight material which reduces the overall cost as compared to conventional concrete. Research shows that GFRC has achieved high workability, compressive strength, split-tensile strength and flexural strength.

1.3 Types of Fibers
According to Kariappa and Shete, 2016, fibers have been utilized as reinforcement since ancient times like horsehair used in cement mortar and straw was used in mud bricks. The concept of using composite material was come into early 1950 and glass, steel and synthetic fibers were used in concrete from 1960. The main advantage of fiber is to remove cracks that develop in concrete and to increase the ductility of concrete.

There are many types of fibers such as glass fiber, steel fiber, carbon fiber, cellulose fiber, and polypropylene. Table 1.1 shows the properties and applications of fibers.

1.4 Glass fiber
Glass fibers are the strongest fiber used in the reinforced concrete industry and it has many verities for specific use. Glass fibers have ability to increase flexural strength, ductility and resistant to shrinkage of concrete. Glass fibers are used in sewer lining, architectural cladding panel, swimming pools, ducts, roofs etc.

1.5. Alkaline resistant glass fiber
Alkaline resistant (A.R) glass fiber is a material made from extremely fine fibers of glass with optimum level of Zirconia (ZrO$_2$). It has many applications like it can be used in architectural panel sand Sewer lining, because it resists in contraction with acid, salt, lime and chemicals came from wastewater.

1.6 Aim
An experimental study on characteristics strength properties of Alkaline Resistant (AR) Glass Fiber reinforced concrete.

1.7 Objective
- To study the characteristics strength properties of C35 grade reference concrete mix.
- To study the characteristics strength properties of C35 grade concrete containing AR Glass fiber with an aspect ratio of 857.1 in proportion of 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.6% and 1% by the volume of concrete.
- To determine the workability characteristics concrete mixes cast in the project.
- To compare the strength properties of A.R glass fiber reinforced concrete with conventional concrete.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW
Different research studies shows that addition of A.R glass fibers in proportions 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.6% and 1% in reference concrete has increased the characteristics strength properties of concrete. Herein below are presented a complication of some research studies carried out on alkaline resistant glass fiber reinforced concrete (ARGFRC)

2.1 General
Kariappa & Shete., 2016. In this paper, the authors have carried out an experimental study on compressive strength, split-tensile strength and flexural strength of alkaline resistant glass fiber reinforced concrete (ARGFRC). Alkaline resistant glass fiber with an aspect ratio of 857.1 were added to M30 grade reference concrete mix as reinforcement in proportions of 0% to 0.4% by the weight of cement. 100 x 100 x 100 mm cubes and 100 x 100 x 500 beams specimens are allowed curing for 28 days. 4 mix designs were carried out in the paper with addition A.R glass fibers in varying percentage from 0% to 0.4% by the weight of cement. Based on this research, the authors have made the following conclusions:

- The slump value and compaction factor increases when 0.4% A.R glass fibers were added.
- The early 7 days strength properties have decreased and these strength properties have increased at 28 days for the addition of 0.4% A.R glass fibers.

Kannan, et al., 2010. In this paper, the authors have carried out the experimental study on permeability and compressive strength of super plasticized concrete by adding AR glass Fiber in proportions up to 1% and superplasticier by the weight of cement. An attempt has been made in this paper to develop a new concrete with good workability and better resistant against permeability with the help of A.R glass fiber and superplasticier. M20 grade GFRC mix design is used in this paper and A.R Glass Fibers were added at 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.6%, 0.8% and 1.0% by weight of cement to the reference mix and allowed the test specimens for 28 days curing to test the workability, compressive strength and permeability. The permeability was determined by Steady flow method. Based on the research, the authors have drawn the following conclusions:

- The addition of 0.2% fiber gives more compressive strength and makes concrete impermeable with good workability.
- The maximum compressive strength got at the addition of 1% fiber and 0.8% superplasticier when compare to the reference mix.

Chandramouli, et al., (2010). In this paper, the author has carried out an experimental investigation on the strength properties of concrete with and without A.R glass fibers in proportions for M20, M30, M40 and M50 grade concrete. To make concrete strong in every zone, fibers and chemical admixtures has been reinforced in concrete and a new GFRC is produced. The specimen of 150 x 150 x 150 mm cubes, 100 x 100 x 500 beams and
150 mm x 300 mm cylinders were cast and allowed them for 28, 56, 90 and 180 days curing to test bleeding of concrete, workability, compressive strength, splitting tensile strength and flexural strength. 4 mix designs were carried out in the paper by adding 0.03% A.R glass fibers by the weight of concrete volume. Based on the research, the authors have drawn following conclusions:

- The compaction factor achieve 0.93 to 0.97 for almost all grades of concrete and a reduction in bleeding was observed which improve the surface integrity, homogeneity and reduces the probability of cracks when 0.03% A.R glass fibers were added to the concrete.
- At 28 days, the compressive strength increases 20 to 25 % compare to reference mix for various grades of concrete after addition of A.R glass fiber.
- At 28 days, the flexural and splitting tensile strength increases 15 to 20 % compare to reference mix for various grades of concrete after addition of A.R glass fiber.

Ghugal, Y.M., Deshmukh, S.B., 2006. In this paper, the authors have carried out an experimental investigation on the effect of A.R glass fibers on workability, density, compressive, flexural and splitting tensile strength of M20 grade concrete. M20 grade of concrete is used in this paper having mix proportions of 1:1.59:3.70 i.e., cement: fine aggregate: coarse aggregate with w/c ratio of 0.51. Fibers were added in wet state of concrete and again mixed thoroughly. The fibers were added in varying percentage 0%, 5%, 6%, and 7% by the weight of cement and specimens were cast for curing 1, 3, 7, 28 and 56 days. Based on the research, the authors have made the following conclusions:

- The maximum compressive strength obtained at the addition of 7% glass fiber.
- The maximum splitting tensile and flexural strength obtained at the addition of 6% glass fiber.

Hemalatha, S., Rose, A.J., 2015. In this paper, the authors have carried out the experimental investigation on GFRC to test the characteristics strength properties and durability of M40 grade concrete. M40 grade of concrete is used having mix proportions 1: 1.5: 2.9 i.e., cement: fine aggregate: coarse aggregate with w/c ratio of 0.40. The fibers were added in varying percentage of 0.33%, 0.66%, 1%, 1.33%, 1.66% and 2% by the weight of concrete volume and specimens of dimensions 150x 150x 150 mm cubic moulds 100 x 100 x 500 mm beam moulds and 100 mm dia and 200 mm height of cylindrical moulds were cast and allowed curing for 7 days, 28 days and 60 days. Based on the research, the authors have made the following conclusions:

- Based on experimental investigation addition of glass fiber in plain concrete increases the strength and durability characteristics.
- Initially addition of glass fiber in the plain concrete the strength characteristics like compressive, flexural and splitting tensile strength is gradually increased. Finally certain percent addition of glass fiber attain that gradually decrease in strength.
- Maximum compressive, flexural and splitting tensile strength is attaining in 1.0% addition of glass fiber. So adding glass fiber up to 1.0% only not exceeds the limit.
- The durability characteristics gradually increased based on the addition of glass fiber.

2.2 Summary of literature review

As observed from the above all literature review, Continuous research efforts are going on to develop a high performance concrete by using fibers and other admixtures. One such effort is the research on an alkaline resistant glass fiber reinforced concrete. GFRC has many advantages over conventional concrete such as It reduce the bleeding of concrete, which improves the surface integrity, homogeneity of concrete and reduces the probability of cracks. Glass fiber reinforced concrete
(GFRC) is a composite concrete which has abilities to overcome all these deficiency and make construction faster, resistant of corrosion, durable and can increase the tensile strength of concrete. The alkaline resistant glass fiber reinforced concrete (ARGFRC) resists rust and corrosion and hence contributes to the durability of concrete. In general, by the addition of A.R glass fibers in the concrete, a significant improvement in mechanical properties, workability and durability of concrete has been observed. However, the maximum strength of concrete is depend on the amount of A.R glass fiber reinforcing in the concrete because some of the authors failed to increase the workability and durability of concrete due to use of high amount of A.R glass fibers.

III. EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION

3.1 Materials

3.1.1 Cement
Type 1 Cement confirming the code of BS EN 1992-1-1:2004 from Pioneer Cement Company with specific gravity 3.15 and specific surface air permeability of 328 m²/kg will be used throughout the experiment.

3.1.2 Fine aggregates (F.A)
Locally available Natural washed sand of size 5mm from Oman rocks crusher Al abyadh with specific gravity of 2.70 and 1.5% water absorption will be used throughout the experiment.

3.1.3 Coarse aggregates (C.A)
A sandstone aggregate of size 20 mm from Oman rocks crusher Al abyadh with specific gravity of 2.70 and 0.3% water absorption will be used throughout the experiment.

3.1.4 Water
Clean Potable water will be used throughout the experiment.

3.2 Experiment Setup and plan
Five mix designs have been cast in this experiment by adding in varying percentage of A.R glass fiber in the reference concrete to test the strength properties of concrete. All the specimen were removed from moulds after 24 hours and will place in water for curing at 28 days following are the details of the mixes were cast:

- Mix 0 (M0) or control mix with 0 % of A.R glass fiber
- Mix 1 (M1) with 0.2 % of A.R glass fiber
- Mix 2 (M2) with 0.4 % of A.R glass fiber
- Mix 3 (M3) with 0.6 % of A.R glass fiber
- Mix 4 (M4) with 1 % of A.R glass fiber

The weight of each ingredient for all trial mixes are shown in Table 3. Each ingredient weight for all trial mixes

3.3 Mixing and Casting procedure
After finding the appropriate amount of concrete ingredients, the next step is to mixing all the concrete components in specific amount as calculated in table 3.4 for C35 grade and then cast the concrete in the specimens. Following are the procedure for mixing and casting of C35 grade concrete:

3.4 Results and Discussion
M1 0.2 % 0.051 m³ x 0.002 x 2680 kg/ m³ 274
M2 0.4 % 0.051 m³ x 0.004 x 2680 kg/ m³ 548
M3 0.6 % 0.051 m³ x 0.006 x 2680 kg/ m³ 822
M4 1 % 0.051 m³ x 0.01 x 2680 kg/ m³ 1370

Table 1 Mix proportion for C35 grade concrete

| Material | Cement (kg/m³) | F.A (kg/m³) | C.A (kg/m³) | Water (185 L) |
|----------|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Quantity | 441            | 769         | 960         | 215          |
| Ratio    | 1              | 1.74        | 2.12        | 0.42         |

Table 2: Volume of fraction of fibers in each mix design

| Trial mix | Percentage of A.R glass fiber | Calculation | Weight of A.R glass fiber (g) |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| M0        | 0 %                            | 0           | 0                           |

Table 3: Each ingredient weight for all trial mixes

- Weigh all the ingredients separately as calculated above in the table 3.4. For example, cement: 22.50
kg. F.A: 39.21 kg, C.A: 48.96 kg, water: 9.43 L for mix M0.

- Clean the rotary drum mixer machine very well. Also, the mixing and casting procedure should be placed from room temperature 25°C.
- Place the weighed C.A, F.A and the cement in the mixer and let them mix properly approximate 20 seconds for homogeneity.
- Add weighed water in the mixer and mix thoroughly.
- Add the calculated A.R glass fiber for other trial mixes to impart the workability and increase the strength of concrete.
- Remove the mixed concrete in a big tray and cast the test specimens in removable standard mould like cubes, beams and cylinder as per code BS EN 1992-1-1:2004.
- Demould the test specimens after 24 hours of casting.
- Keep the test specimens for curing for 28 days to gain the strength of concrete and use them for test the mechanical properties of 5 mixes of concrete.

3.4 Mechanical properties
Mechanical properties are necessary to study to get desired objective of the experiment. Some mechanical properties to be test are workability, compressive strength, flexural strength, split–tensile strength and high temperature test as per the code EN1992-1-1 for the experiment.

3.5 Test specimens
There are 6 cubes, 3 cylinder, 3 beams have been cast for each mix. The type of specimen used for the test is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: types of specimens used in experimental work

| Type of specimen | Size of specimen (mm) | Number of specimens | Types of test          |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Cube             | 150 x 150 x 150       | 3                   | Compressive strength   |
| Cube             | 150 x 150 x 150       | 3                   | High temperature test  |
| Cylinder         | 150(D) x 300(L)       | 3                   | Flexural strength      |
| Beam             | 100 x 100 x 500       | 3                   | Split-tensile strength |

Slump test, Compressive strength test, Split–tensile strength test, Flexural strength test, High temperature test were performed on basis of EN1992-1-1.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The result and discussions of the control and modified mix with glass fiber and to compare the slump value, compressive strength, flexural strength, split tensile strength and high temperature strength.

4.1 Workability
Workability of C35 grade concrete were measures in terms of Slump. According to code EN1992-1-1, the slump values are within the range of S1 and S2. Where, S1: slumps are most likely to be used for curb and pipe work bedding because it is quite a dry concrete mix. This is often referred to as “semi dry” and S2: slumps are used for simple strip footings and cast in-situ hard standing slabs or when using a wheel barrow to move the concrete. This is referred to as a “moist mix” and probably the most useful and most commonly specified consistence. The result of workability is presented in Table 5 and also represented in Fig. 1.

Table 5: Results of slump value

| Mix   | Fiber content (%) | Slump (mm) | Shape |
|-------|-------------------|------------|-------|
| M0    | 0                 | 90         | True  |
| M1    | 0.2               | 38         | True  |
| M2    | 0.4               | 27         | True  |
| M3    | 0.6               | 23         | True  |
| M4    | 1                 | 0          | Zero  |

From Table 5, it is observed that when compared to control mix, the workability decreased is 57.77% at 0.2% fiber content, 70% at 0.4% fiber content, 74.45% at 0.6% fiber content and 100% at 1% fiber content. Hence, the workability of ARGFRC decreases with the increase in fiber content as compared to control mix. The maximum decrease in slump is 100% observed at 1% of fiber content. Figure 1 shows the workability results of experimental study in terms of bar chart.

4.2 Compressive strength
The compressive strength tests were performed after 28 days of curing of specimens by using universal testing machine (UTM) (Fig.2). The results of the compressive strength for all 5 mix designs are shown in Table 6 and also represented in Fig.3.

### Table 6: Compressive strength test

| Mix | Glass fiber % | Average compressive strength N/mm² |
|-----|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| M0  | 0             | 42.05                             |
| M1  | 0.2           | 44.25                             |
| M2  | 0.4           | 46.25                             |
| M3  | 0.6           | 48.35                             |
| M4  | 1.0           | 43.00                             |

From Table 6, it is observed that when compared to control mix, the strength increased is 5.23% at 0.2% fiber content, 9.98% at 0.4% fiber content, 14.98% at 0.6% fiber content and 2.26% at 1% fiber content. Hence, the compressive strength of ARGFRC increases with the increase in fiber content as compared to control mix. However, maximum increase of compressive strength observed at the addition of 0.6% glass fiber by the volume of the concrete. Figure 3 shows the compressive strength results of the experimental study in terms of bar chart.

#### 4.3 Split – tensile strength

The split- tensile strength test was performed after 28 days of curing of specimens by using universal testing machine (UTM) (Fig.3). Table 7 shows the results of the split- tensile strength for all 5 mix designs and Fig. 3 shows the workability results of experimental study in terms of bar chart.

### Table 7: Split tensile strength test

| Mix | Glass fiber % | Average split tensile strength N/mm² |
|-----|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| M0  | 0             | 4.205                               |
| M1  | 0.2           | 4.420                               |
| M2  | 0.4           | 4.625                               |
| M3  | 0.6           | 4.835                               |
| M4  | 1.0           | 4.300                               |

From Table 7, it is observed that when compared to control mix, the strength increased is 5.23% at 0.2% fiber content, 9.98% at 0.4% fiber content, 14.98% at 0.6% fiber content and 2.26% at 1% fiber content. Hence, the Split-tensile strength of ARGFRC increases with the increase in fiber content as compared to control mix. However, maximum increase of Split-tensile strength observed at the addition of 0.6% glass fiber by the volume of the concrete.
volume of the concrete. Figure 3 shows the split-tensile strength results of the experimental study in terms of bar chart.

4.4 Flexural strength
The Flexural strength tests were performed after 28 days of curing of specimens by using universal testing machine (UTM) (Fig.4). Table 8 shows the results of flexural strength for all 5 mix designs and Fig. 4 shows the workability results of experimental study in terms of bar chart.

![Fig. 4(a): Flexural strength test under two point loading](image)

**Table 8: Flexural strength test**

| Mix | Glass fiber % | Average flexural strength test N/mm² |
|-----|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| M0  | 0              | 5.256                                |
| M1  | 0.2            | 5.530                                |
| M2  | 0.4            | 5.781                                |
| M3  | 0.6            | 6.043                                |
| M4  | 1.0            | 5.375                                |

![Fig.4(b): Flexural strength test with different dosage of fiber](image)

From Table 8, it was observed that when compared to control mix, the flexural strength is increased 5.21% at 0.2% fiber content, 9.98% at 0.4%, 14.98% at 0.6%, and 2.26% at 1% fiber content. Hence, the flexural strength of ARGFRC increases as increase in fiber content. However, the maximum increase is observed at the addition of 0.6% glass fiber by the volume of concrete. Figure 4 shows the flexural strength results of the experimental study in terms of bar chart.

4.5 High temperature strength
The high temperature strength tests were performed after kept the specimens in oven for 24 hours by using universal testing machine (UTM). Table 9 shows the results of high temperature strength for all 5 mix designs and Fig. 5 shows the high temperature strength results of experimental study in terms of bar chart.

![Fig. 4(c): High temperature strength test](image)

**Table 9: High temperature strength test**

| Mix | Glass fiber % | Average temperature strength test N/mm² |
|-----|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| M0  | 0              | 36.05                                  |
| M1  | 0.2            | 38.10                                  |
| M2  | 0.4            | 40.05                                  |
| M3  | 0.6            | 42.00                                  |
| M4  | 1.0            | 40.10                                  |

![Fig. 5: High temperature strength test with different dosage of fiber](image)

From Table 9, it is observed that when compared to compressive strength of ARGFRC at 28 days for all mixes, the strength is decreased 14.26% at 0% fiber content.
content, 13.90% at 0.2% fiber content, 13.40% at 0.4% fiber content, 13.13% at 0.6% fiber content and 6.74% at 1% fiber content. Hence, the high temperature strength of ARGFRC decreases with the increase in fiber content as compared to compressive strength of at 28 days. Figure 5 shows the high temperature strength results of experimental study in terms of bar chart.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the experimental test and discussion, following conclusions are drawn:

- The compressive strength increased at 28 days of age in comparison of controlled concrete is 5.23 %, 9.98 %, 14.98 %, and 2.26 % by addition of glass fibers in proportions 0.2 %, 0.4 %, 0.6 % and 1 % respectively by the volume of the concrete.

- The split-tensile strength increased at 28 days of age in comparison of controlled concrete is 5.23 %, 9.98 %, 14.98 %, and 2.26 % by addition of glass fibers in proportions 0.2 %, 0.4 %, 0.6 % and 1 % respectively by the volume of the concrete.

- The flexural strength increased at 28 days of age in comparison of controlled concrete is 5.21 %, 9.98 %, 14.98 %, and 2.26 % by addition of glass fibers in proportions 0.2 %, 0.4 %, 0.6 % and 1 % respectively by the volume of the concrete.

- 0%, 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.6% and 1% addition of Alkaline Resistant glass fibers in ARGFRC, the decrease in high temperature strength is 14.26 %, 13.90 %, 13.4%, 13.13 % and 6.74% respectively over its original compressive strength.

- The workability decreased at 28 days of age in comparison of controlled concrete is 57.77 %, 70 %, 74.45 %, and 100 % by addition of glass fibers in proportions 0.2 %, 0.4 %, 0.6 % and 1 % respectively by the volume of the concrete.

- Overall, maximum strength was observed for 0.6% of A.R glass fibers by 14.98% as compared to reference concrete mix. Similarly, the minimum strength was observed for 1% of A.R glass fibers by 2.26% as compared to reference concrete mix.

- Hence, from the results and discussion chapter it can be conclude that the addition of 0.6% in ARGFRC is satisfactory.

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