Utilization of Construction Waste Tiles as a Replacement for Fine Aggregates in Concrete

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Abstract—Ceramic wastes are found to be suitable for usage as substitution for fine and coarse aggregates in concrete production. This study is an investigation into the utilization of waste tiles as partial replacement for fine and coarse aggregates in concrete. The control mix and other mixes containing cement, water, granite and partial replacement for sand with crushed tiles (in 5%, 10%, 15% and 20% proportions) were cast, cubed, cured and crushed. Also, another mix containing cement, water, sand and partial replacement of granite with crushed tiles (in 25%, 50% and 75% proportions) were cast, cubed, cured and crushed. The specimens were tested for their respective compressive strengths using the Universal Testing Machine (UTM) on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th days of curing. At 28 days, the compressive strength value of 5% of fine-waste tiles replacement was 20.12 N/mm² while that of 10%, 15% and 20% were 14.24 N/mm², 11.04 N/mm² and 10.12 N/mm² respectively. Moreover, at 28 days, the compressive strength of 25% of coarse-waste tiles replacement shows an increase to 22.45 N/mm² while that of 50% and 75% were 18.4 N/mm² and 12.2 N/mm² respectively. Thus it can be concluded that fine aggregates can be substituted at 5% waste tiles while coarse aggregates can be substituted at 25% waste tiles.

Keywords: concrete; deviation; gradation; replacement; waste tiles

I. INTRODUCTION

Aggregate is one of the most important materials in use for concrete production as it profoundly influences concrete properties and performance. And not much research has been done on incorporating normal ceramic wall tiles waste as partial substitute of fine aggregates or cement, in the production of structural concrete. The current research is a bid towards exploring the possibility of incorporating wastes from ceramic wall tiles as partial substitute of fine aggregates or cement in the making of concrete. From economic point of view, cement and fine aggregates contribute a bigger portion of costs in the production of concrete, thus to have them replaced by waste material of similar characteristics is a major economic gain, while being more environment friendly. Ceramic wastes are found to be suitable for usage as substitution for fine and coarse aggregates and partial substitution in cement production. Researchers have indicated their potential for usage in both structural and non-structural concrete and even for mortars. They were found to be performing better than normal concrete, in properties such as density, durability, permeability and compressive strength [1]. The usage of waste tiles partially as a replacement for coarse aggregates will clear the wastes from construction and production site, also environmental pollution is reduced as impact of mining is reduced, natural resources are conserved and power consumption required for quarrying is minimized [2]. Compressive strength of concrete gradually increased with the increase of quantity of coarse waste ceramic tile aggregate up to certain limits i.e. 20% for water-cement ratio of 0.4, 30% for water-cement ratio of 0.5 and 40% for water-cement ratio of 0.6. The greatest compressive strength was observed for C5-10 concrete. It was noticed that the flexural strength of Optimal Waste Ceramic Concrete was 32.2% higher than flexural strength of Reference Concrete. Therefore, it can be concluded that the use of coarse waste ceramic tile content in the concrete enhanced the flexural strength considerably. Also, it can be seen that using waste ceramic tiles in concrete production causes no remarkable negative effect in the properties of concrete. The optimal case of using waste ceramic tiles as coarse aggregates is found to vary from 10 to 30 percent. In these measures, not only an increase happens in compressive strength, but also a decrease in unit weight occurs. Finally, using waste ceramic tiles in concrete is an effective measure regarding to reducing the costs of concrete and is environmentally cleaner clean along with wastage management and decreasing the use of natural raw materials [3]. In [4] it is affirmed that the increase in tiles powder leads to the increase in workability of concrete.

Tile powder behaves like admixtures, which can be used to produce Ready Mix Concrete. When crushed tiles replace coarse aggregate, compressive strength increases up to 10%, but after that it decreases. The authors in [5] further confirm that ceramic waste can be used as coarse aggregate as the properties of ceramic waste coarse aggregate are within the range of the values of concrete making aggregate according to Indian Standards. The use of Crushed Tile Aggregate (CTA) caused a 40% loss in compressive and splitting tensile strengths. CTA has negatively affected abrasion and freeze-thaw durability. According to these results, 100% replacement of CTA as a coarse aggregate is not appropriate. The use of CTA in concrete has positive effects on the environment and obtaining lower costs [6]. Tile aggregate concrete is little bit more economical as compared to conventional concrete. As an estimate for making 1m³ of concrete by substituting 20%
normal 20 mm aggregates with tile aggregates about 16% money can be saved on total amount of 20 mm aggregates. By addition of ceramic tile waste into concrete, proper effective utilization of ceramic tile waste can be achieved [7].

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Materials Used for the Study

These include Ordinary Portland Cement, waste tiles (which were collected from building site in Lagos, Nigeria), Coarse aggregates (granite) and Fine aggregates (sand).

B. Experimental Procedure

The Sieve Analysis was carried out in accordance with the procedure given in BS 812 and the gradation test was performed on the samples of aggregates (sand, granite and waste tiles) in the laboratory. The batching of concrete test samples was by weight in order to eliminate errors due to variations the mix proportion adopted was 1:2:4 by weight of cement, fine and coarse aggregates and the water/cement ratio by weight of 0.6, crushed granite aggregate with maximum size of 12.7 mm was mixed with sand-cement mixture. The control mix containing cement, sand, granite and water was mixed and cast. Cubes were then made from the mix and cured for 7, 14, 21 and 28 days respectively before they were crushed using the Universal Testing Machine.

### TABLE I. WEIGHT OF CRUSHED TILE AS REPLACEMENT FOR FINE AGGREGATES

| Tile Replacement (%) | Cement (kg) | Sand (kg) | Granite (kg) | Tiles (kg) |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 0                    | 13.89       | 27.77     | 55.54        | -          |
| 5                    | 13.89       | 26.38     | 55.54        | 1.39       |
| 10                   | 13.89       | 24.99     | 55.54        | 2.78       |
| 15                   | 13.89       | 23.60     | 55.54        | 4.77       |
| 20                   | 13.89       | 22.22     | 55.54        | 5.55       |

### TABLE II. WEIGHT OF CRUSHED TILE AS REPLACEMENT FOR COARSE AGGREGATES

| Tile Replacement (%) | Cement (kg) | Sand (kg) | Granite (kg) | Tiles (kg) |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 0                    | 13.89       | 27.77     | 55.54        | -          |
| 25                   | 13.89       | 27.77     | 41.68        | 13.86      |
| 50                   | 13.89       | 27.77     | 27.77        | 27.77      |
| 75                   | 13.89       | 27.77     | 13.89        | 41.66      |

Other mixes as shown in Table I containing cement, water, granite and partial replacement for sand with crushed tiles (in 5%, 10%, 15% and 20%) were also cast, cubed, cured and crushed following the same process for the control mix. Also, another mix as shown in Table II containing cement, water, sand and partial replacement of granite with crushed tiles (in 25%, 50% and 75%) were also cast, cubed, cured and crushed using the same process above. The specimens were tested for their respective compressive strengths using the Universal Testing Machine (UTM) on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th days of curing and data for their respective compressive strengths were collated from the tests.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The sieve analysis revealed that most of the coarse waste tile materials were within the range between 2.5 mm to 19 mm in particle size diameter with a fairly good gradation pattern, and the nominal maximum particle size diameter was 12.5 mm. While for fine materials, the analysis showed that most of the fine waste tiles material was within the range between 0.2 mm to 2.5 mm in particle size diameter with a very good gradation pattern, and the nominal maximum particle size diameter was 4.75 mm, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

![Fig. 1. Grain Size Distribution Curve of Waste Tile Coarse Aggregates.](image)

![Fig. 2. Grain Size Distribution Curve of Waste Tile Fine Aggregates](image)

At 7 days, the compressive strength value of 5% of waste tiles replacement showed a considerable high compressive strength of 14.57 N/mm² as compared to the other three batches which were 12.9 N/mm², 12.6 N/mm², 8.85 N/mm² respectively while at 14 days, the compressive strength value of 5% of waste tiles replacement had increased to 14.89 N/mm² while that of 10%, 15% and 20% were 14.69 N/mm², 11.14 N/mm² and 9.39 N/mm² respectively. At 28 days, the compressive strength value of 5% of waste tiles replacement was 20.12 N/mm² while that of 10%, 15% and 20% were 14.24 N/mm², 11.04 N/mm² and 10.12 N/mm² respectively as these were evident from Figure 3. These results when compared with a grade 20 concrete which was the target, showed that 5% waste tile replacement were adequate as fine aggregate replacement.
Moreover, there were variations in the compressive strength of the concrete with partial replacement of waste tiles as coarse aggregates. At 7 days, the compressive strength of 25% of waste tiles replacement showed a considerable high compressive strength of 19.2 N/mm² as compared to the other two replacement batches which were 9.51 N/mm² and 6.52 N/mm² respectively and while at 28 days, the compressive strength of 25% of waste tiles replacement shows an increase to 22.45 N/mm² while that of 50% and 75% were 18.4 N/mm² and 12.2 N/mm² respectively. These results when compared with a grade 20 concrete which was the target, showed that 25% waste tile replacement were adequate as coarse aggregate replacement.

![Compressive Strength of Concrete with Waste Tiles as Fine Aggregates](image)

It can be deduced that 5% fine-waste-tiles-concrete samples showed a small deviation in compressive strength of about 11.37% from the control sample at 28 days, thus it can be concluded that fine aggregates can be substituted at 5% waste tiles.

The compressive strength of 25% coarse-waste-tiles concrete showed a minimal deviation of 18.66% from the strength of the control sample at 28 days, thus it can that concluded that coarse aggregates can be substituted at 25% waste tiles.

Fine-waste-tile concrete 15% and 20% shows 51.37% and 55.42% reduction in the concrete strength to values of 11.04 N/mm² and 10.12 N/mm², values which were below the target grade 20 concrete. Thus, it cannot be recommended to substitute fine aggregates in concrete with these percentage replacements.

Coarse-waste-tile concrete of 50% and 75% showed 33.3% and 55.8% reduction in the concrete strength to values of 18.4 N/mm² and 12.2 N/mm², values which were below the target grade 20 concrete. Thus, it cannot be recommended to substitute coarse aggregates in concrete with these percentage replacements.

Adequate replacement of fine aggregate with waste tiles has been found to be 5%. Beyond this limit, the concrete cube strengths did not meet code requirements for grade 20 concrete strength as per BS 1881 Part 4 (1997).

Adequate replacement of coarse aggregate with waste tiles has been found to be 25%. Beyond this limit, the concrete cube strengths did not meet code requirements for grade 20 concrete strength as per BS 1881 Part 4 (1997).

With 5% and 25% waste-tile substitution of fine and coarse aggregate respectively, a cost reduction of 2.3% was achieved for every cubic meter of concrete produced.

Further study is recommended to extend this research to a wider perspective in order to be able to consider more parameters governing the effect on the behavior and engineering properties of fresh and hardened concrete containing different types and sizes of waste tile materials.

### TABLE III. DEVIATION OF THE FINE-WASTE-TILE-CONCRETE FROM THE CONTROL SAMPLE

| Fine-Waste-Tile-Content (% | % Reduction in Compressive Strength |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5                         | 11.37                             |
| 10                        | 37.27                             |
| 15                        | 51.37                             |
| 20                        | 55.42                             |

### TABLE IV. DEVIATION OF THE COARSE-WASTE-TILE-CONCRETE FROM THE CONTROL SAMPLE

| Coarse-Waste-Tiles Content (%) | % Reduction in Compressive Strength |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 25                            | 18.66%                            |
| 50                            | 33.3%                             |
| 75                            | 55.8%                             |

### IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The suitability of ceramic waste as substitution of concrete aggregate elements varies and depends on the material being substituted and the percentage composition of the new mixture. From the experimental results, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The compressive strength of 5% fine-waste-tiles concrete showed a minimal deviation of 11.37% from the strength of the control sample at 28 days, thus it can be concluded that fine aggregates can be substituted at 5% waste tiles.
- The compressive strength of 25% coarse-waste-tiles concrete showed a minimal deviation of 18.66% from the strength of the control sample at 28 days, thus it can that concluded that coarse aggregates can be substituted at 25% waste tiles.
- Fine-waste-tile concrete 15% and 20% shows 51.37% and 55.42% reduction in the concrete strength to values of 11.04 N/mm² and 10.12 N/mm², values which were below the target grade 20 concrete. Thus, it cannot be recommended to substitute fine aggregates in concrete with these percentage replacements.
- Coarse-waste-tile concrete of 50% and 75% showed 33.3% and 55.8% reduction in the concrete strength to values of 18.4 N/mm² and 12.2 N/mm², values which were below the target grade 20 concrete. Thus, it cannot be recommended to substitute coarse aggregates in concrete with these percentage replacements.
- Adequate replacement of fine aggregate with waste tiles has been found to be 5%. Beyond this limit, the concrete cube strengths did not meet code requirements for grade 20 concrete strength as per BS 1881 Part 4 (1997).
- Adequate replacement of coarse aggregate with waste tiles has been found to be 25%. Beyond this limit, the concrete cube strengths did not meet code requirements for grade 20 concrete strength as per BS 1881 Part 4 (1997).
- With 5% and 25% waste-tile substitution of fine and coarse aggregate respectively, a cost reduction of 2.3% was achieved for every cubic meter of concrete produced.

Further study is recommended to extend this research to a wider perspective in order to be able to consider more parameters governing the effect on the behavior and engineering properties of fresh and hardened concrete containing different types and sizes of waste tile materials.

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