

A STUDY ON STRENGTH OF STEEL SLAG INCOPORATED LOWCALCIUM FLYASH BASED GEOPOLYMER CONCRETE”

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Abstract:For the construction of any structure, Concrete is the mostly used material. Concrete usage around the world is second after water (V. M. Malhotra, 2000). The main ingredient to produce concrete is Portland cement. On the other side global warming and environmental pollution are the biggest menace to the human race on this planet today. The production of cement means the production of pollution because of the emission of CO₂ during its production (D.M. J. Sumajouw, 2007). There are two different sources of CO₂ emission during cement production. Combustion of fossil fuels to operate the rotary kiln is the largest source and other one is the chemical process of calcining limestone into lime in the cement kiln also produces CO₂. India which is the second largest cement manufacturer world wise reports almost 150 MT of CO₂ emissions in 2015 (R. M. Andrew, 2017). The cement industry contributes about 5% of total global carbon dioxide emissions. And also, the cement is manufactured by using the raw materials such as lime stone, clay and other minerals. Quarrying of these raw materials also causes environmental degradation. To produce 1 ton of cement, about 1.6 tons of raw materials are required and the time taken to form lime stone is much longer than the rate at which humans use it. But the demand of concrete is increasing day by day for its ease of preparing and fabricating in all sorts of convenient shapes. So to overcome this problem, the concrete to be used should be environmental friendly.

KEY WORDS: Geopolymer Concrete, Fly Ash, Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS), Sodium Hydroxide, Sodium Silicate Solution , Compressive Strength, Tensile Strength , Water Permeability.

I. INTRODUCTION

For the construction of any structure, Concrete is the mostly used material. Concrete usage around the world is second after water (V. M. Malhotra, 2000). The main ingredient to produce concrete is Portland cement. On the other side global warming and environmental pollution are the biggest menace to the human race on this planet today. The production of cement means the production of pollution because of the emission of CO₂ during its production (D. M. J. Sumajouw, 2007). There are two different sources of CO₂ emission during cement production. Combustion of fossil fuels to operate the rotary kiln is the largest source and other one is the chemical process of calcining limestone into lime in the cement kiln also produces CO₂. India which is the second largest cement manufacturer world wise reports almost 150 MT of CO₂ emissions in 2015 (R. M. Andrew, 2017). The cement industry contributes about 5% of total global carbon dioxide emissions. And also, the cement is manufactured by using the raw materials such as lime stone, clay and other minerals. Quarrying of these raw materials also causes environmental degradation. To produce 1 ton of cement, about 1.6 tons of raw materials are required and the time taken to form lime stone is much longer than the rate at which humans use it. But the demand of concrete is increasing day by day for its ease of preparing and fabricating in all sorts of convenient shapes. So to overcome this problem, the concrete to be used should be environmental friendly.

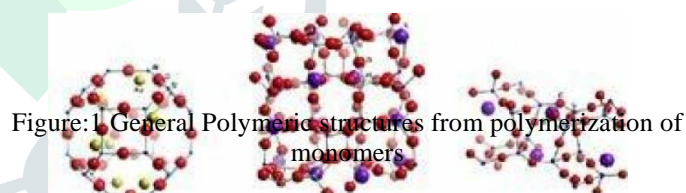


Figure: 1 General Polymeric structures from polymerization of monomers

To produce environmental friendly concrete, we have to replace the cement with some other binders which should not create any bad effect on environment. The use of industrial by products as binders can reduce the problem. In this respect, the new technology geo-polymer concrete is a promising technique. Interms of reducing the global warming, the geo-polymer technology could reduce the CO₂ emission to the atmosphere caused by cement and aggregates industries by about 80% (J. Davidovits, 1994c). And also the proper usage of industrial wastes can reduce the problem of disposing the waste products into the atmosphere.

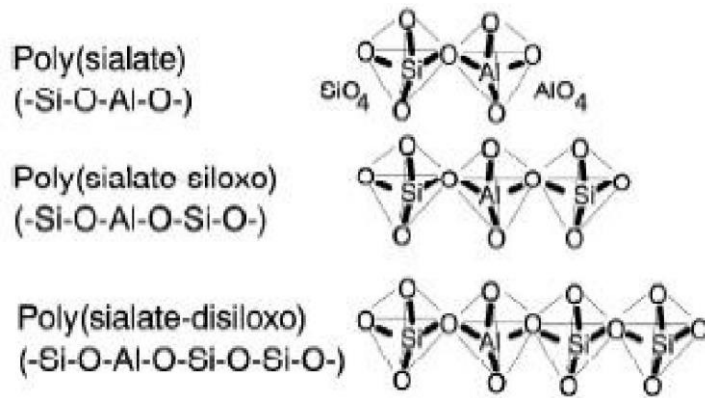


Fig no:2 Chemical Structures of Polysialates

The term geo-polymer was first coined by Davidovits in 1978 to represent a broad range of materials characterized by chains or networks of inorganic molecules. Geo-polymers are chains or networks of mineral molecules linked with co-valent bonds. Geopolymer is produced by a poly-meric reaction of alkaline liquid with source material of geological origin or by product material such as fly ash, rice husk ash, GGBS etc. Because the chemical reaction that takes place in this case is a polymerization process, Davidovits coined the term 'Geopolymer' to represent these binders. Geo-polymers have the chemical composition similar to Zeolites but they can be formed an amorphous structure. He also suggested the use of the term 'poly(sialate)' for the chemical designation of Geopolymers based on silico-aluminate. Sialate is an abbreviation for silicono-aluminate. Poly(sialates) are chain and ring polymers with Si^{4+} and Al^{3+} in IV-fold coordination with oxygen and range from amorphous to semi-crystalline with the empirical formula: $M_n(-SiO_2)_z(-AlO_2)_n \cdot nH_2O$. Where "z" is 1, 2 or 3 or higher up to 32; M is a monovalent ion such as potassium or sodium, and "n" is a degree of polycondensation (Davidovits, Palomo & van Jaarsveld, 1988, 1988b.). (Davidovits, Palomo & van Jaarsveld, 1994b, 1999) has also distinguished 3 types of polysialates, namely the Poly(sialate) type (-Si-O-Al-O), the Poly (sialate-siloxo) type (-Si-O-Al-O-Si-O) and the Poly(sialate-disiloxo) type (-Si-O-Al-O-Si-O). The structures of these polysialates can be schematized as in Figure 2.

II. MATERIALS

GROUND GRANULATED BLAST FURNACE SLAG (GGBFS):

Ground granulated blast furnace slag known as GGBS or GGBFS or Slag is a by-product from the blast furnaces used to make iron and steel. These are operated at a temperature of about $1,500^{\circ}C$ and are fed with a carefully controlled mixture of iron-ore, coke and limestone. The iron is reduced to iron and the remaining materials form a slag that floats on top of the iron. This slag is periodically tapped off as a molten liquid and it is used for manufacture of GGBFS by rapidly quenched in large volumes of water. The quenching optimizes the cementitious properties and produce granules similar to that of coarse aggregate. This granulated slag is then dried and grounded to a fine powder.

It significantly reduces the embodied CO_2 of the structure. It can replace the cement from 30% to 50%. Concrete made with GGBFS sets more quickly than concrete made with ordinary Portland cement depending on the amount of

GGBFS used in the mix and gains strength over a long period.

The physical properties of slag are given below in table

Properties	Results
Colour	Near white
Specific gravity	3.2

FLY ASH

Fly ash is an industrial coal by-product manufactured by burning coal in electrostatic precipitator. It has been widely used in cement manufacture over 100 years as it has cementitious properties which were discovered in early 19th century. It can be used as replacement of cement from 20 to 80 percentages and is supplied as separate component.

The physical properties of fly ash are given in below table

Properties	Results
Colour	Dark Grey
Specific gravity	1.6

COARSE AGGREGATE

Coarse aggregate of size 10mm and 20mm were bought from a local vendor which were used in this study. The properties of coarse aggregate were given in table

Property	Result	IS STANDARDS
Specific gravity	2.65	IS:2386-Part3,1963
Crushing value	8.7	IS:2386-Part4,1963
Impact value	15.04	IS:2386-Part4,1963
Water absorption	0.43%	IS 2386- Part 3, 1963

FINE AGGREGATE

Fine aggregate used in study According to standards IS 383:1917 it was sieved. The properties of fine aggregate used were given in

Property	Result	IS STANDARDS
Specific gravity	2.67	IS:2386-Part3,1963
Water absorption	0.98%	IS 2386- Part 3, 1963
Sieve analysis	Zone-II	IS:383-1917

SODIUM HYDROXIDE

Generally Sodium hydroxide is available in market in various forms as flakes, pellets and in powder forms. The sodium hydroxide solution used in this study was prepared by adding required amount of water to sodium hydroxide pellets of laboratory grade 97% pure bought from Loba Chemie.

SODIUM SILICATE SOLUTION

Sodium silicate solution used in this study is bought from local vendor. We used direct sodium silicate solution having density 1.6 and we diluted that solution with density 1.3 by adding appropriate water to the solution. The chemical properties of the solution used in this study were discussed below table

Na_2O/SiO_2	63.5% to 67.5%
Water	2.3 to 2.5
Na_2O	7.5% to 8.5%
SiO_2	17.25% to 21.25%

WATER

Water used in this study was portable water which is free from alkaline salts and organic matter.

OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF STUDY

General steel slag and fly ash as complete replacement of cement entails economical, technical and energy saving benefits. To ascertain its technical feasibility to incorporate in

concrete production, a study on its strength is needed.

Objective

The objective of the present study is

- To study the usage of steel slag and fly ash as replacement of cement
- To study the boarder usage of alkaline liquid as replacement of water.
- To study the possibility of usage of sodium silicate solution and sodium hydroxide as alkaline liquid.
- To investigate the strength and durability of Geopolymer concrete by conducting Compressive, flexural strength tests and water penetration test.

Scope of the study

This project aims mainly to study the strength properties and durability of steel slag incorporated fly ash based Geopolymer concrete by conducting compressive strength test, flexural strength test and water permeability test for M40 grade by following conventional concrete mix design methods with proper modifications.

III.EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

MIX DESIGN

The mix design in case of geo-polymer concrete is based on conventional method of conventional cement concrete with proper modifications. In case of conventional concrete the material proportion can be found out for the required strength by using (IS:10262:2009 BIS, 2009) and(IS:456:2000 BIS, 2005). But for geo-polymer concrete there is no design method or codal provisions. Hence by trial and error mixes were prepared. The mix design given in the code (IS:10262:2009 BIS, 2009)for conventional M40grade cement concrete was taken as design method for geopolymer concrete with modifications given byLloyd & Rangan, 2010was taken as reference for same grade of Geopolymer concrete by changing the percentage levels of GGBFS. The geopolymer concrete is wet-mixed for four minutes and cured under ambient temperature. In this manner without changing the quantities mentioned above and by taking the ratio of Na2SiO3 to NaOH as 1:2 and alkaline liquid to cementitious material ratio as 0.8 and by changing the mo-larity of NaOH solution from 8M to 16M final mixes were prepared. All the quantities mentioned above are determined for 1m3 concrete. Quantities required for specific specimen size are calculated and used for casting the respective specimens.Mix design is done for M40grade geo-polymer concrete using code IS 10262:2009 and code IS 456with proper modifications

1) Target Mean Strength of geopolymer concrete:

From IS: 10262-2009, the target mean strength for the specified characteristic cube

Strength is

$$F_{ck} = f_{ck} + 1.65 \times S$$

$$\text{Then } F_{ck} = 40 + (5 \times 1.65) = 48.25 \text{ N/mm}^2$$

('s' is standard deviation N/mm² s =5, from table 1 IS 10262:2009)

2) Selection of Water-Cement Ratio

The free Water Cement ratio required for the target mean strength of 48.25 N/mm² is

$$W/C = 0.40.$$

3) Selection of water content

For 20mm aggregate maximum water content =186 L (25mm to 50mm slump)

Designing for 100mm slump

So for every 25mm increase in slump 3% in water should be increased

$$\text{Water content} = 200 \text{ kg/m}^3 = \text{alkaline liquid content}$$

4) Determination of cementitious material content

$$\text{Water/cementitious} = 0.4$$

$$\text{Cementitious content} = 500 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{Fly ash: slag} = 70:30$$

$$\text{Volume of fly ash} = 350 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{Volume of slag (GGBS)} = 150 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

5) Determination of proportion of coarse aggregate and fine aggregate content

In table 3 from IS 10262:2009 for 20mm coarse aggregate and zone-II fine aggregate,

Coarse aggregate = 0.64% and fine aggregate = 0.36%, of the total aggregate volume respectively

6) Mix calculations

$$\text{Volume of concrete} = 1 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Volume of material} = (\text{volume of material/specific gravity}) \times 1/1000$$

$$\text{Volume of fly ash} = (350/1.6) \times 1/1000 = 0.219 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Volume of slag} = (150/3.2) \times 1/1000 = 0.046 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Volume of water} = (200/1) \times 1/1000 = 0.2 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Remaining volume of the mix} = (a-(c+d)-e) = 0.535 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Volume of coarse aggregate} = 0.64 \times 0.535 \times 2.65 \times 1000 = 907.36 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{Volume of fine aggregate} = 0.36 \times 0.535 \times 2.67 \times 1000 = 514.24 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{Na}_2\text{SiO}_3 : \text{NaOH} = 2:1$$

$$\text{Volume of Na}_2\text{SiO}_3 = 133.33 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{Volume of NaOH} = 66.67 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

Quantity of geo polymer concrete for 1m³

$$\text{Coarse aggregate} = 907.36 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{Fine aggregate} = 514.24 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{Fly ash} = 350 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{Slag} = 150 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{Na}_2\text{SiO}_3 \text{ solution} = 266.66 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$\text{NaOH solution} = 133.34 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

The final mix proportions are shown in the tables 3.1 and 3.2 below

Name of the mix	Coarse aggregate (kg/m ³)	Fine aggregates (kg/m ³)	Fly ash (kg/m ³)	Slag(GGBS) (kg/m ³)	Sodium silicate solution (kg/m ³)	Sodium hydroxide solution (kg/m ³)	Alkaline solution to (Fly ash + GGBS) ratio
GP 1	907.36	514.24	350	150	266.66	133.34 (16M)	0.8
GP 2	907.36	514.24	350	150	266.66	133.34 (14M)	0.8
GP 3	907.36	514.24	350	150	266.66	133.34 (12M)	0.8
GP 4	907.36	514.24	350	150	266.66	133.34 (10M)	0.8
GP 5	907.36	514.24	350	150	266.66	133.34 (8M)	0.8

Table 3.1 Mixing proportions of the Geo-polymer concrete (GP) with 30% Slag addition

Table 3.2 Mixing proportions of Geopolymer concrete (GP) with 20% Slag addition

Name of the mix	Coarse aggregate (kg/m ³)	Fine aggregates (kg/m ³)	Fly ash (kg/m ³)	Slag(GGBS) (kg/m ³)	Sodium silicate solution (kg/m ³)	Sodium hydroxide solution (kg/m ³)	Alkaline solution to (Fly ash + GGBS) ratio
GP 6	907.36	514.24	400	100	266.66	133.34 (16M)	0.8
GP 7	907.36	514.24	400	100	266.66	133.34 (14M)	0.8
GP 8	907.36	514.24	400	100	266.66	133.34 (12M)	0.8
GP 9	907.36	514.24	400	100	266.66	133.34 (10M)	0.8
GP 10	907.36	514.24	400	100	266.66	133.34 (8M)	0.8

PREPARATION OF ALKALINE LIQUIDS

Note: Molarity = moles of solute / litre of solution

In this project the compressive strength and flexural strength of geo polymer concrete was examined for the mixes of varying molarities 8M, 10M, 12M, 14M and 16M. The molecular weight of sodium hydroxide solution is 40. So 1M solution contains 40 grams of NaOH. To prepare 16M sodium hydroxide solution 640 grams of sodium hydroxide pellets were weighed and were dissolved in distilled water to form 1 litre of solution. So weights to be added to get required molarity for 1 litre of solution are given in below table

Required molarity	Weight of sodium hydroxide pellets (grams)
16M	640
14M	560
12M	480
10M	400
8M	320
6M	240
4M	160

MANUFACTURING & CASTING OF GEOPOLYMER CONCRETE

The conventional method used in making conventional cement concrete was adopted to prepare geo-polymer concrete. Firstly, coarse aggregate, fine aggregate, fly ash and slag are mixed in in the pan mixture for 3 to 4 minutes in dry condition. Later alkaline liquid which is a combination of sodium hydroxide and sodium silicate solutions is added to the dry mix. The mixing is done for about 5 to 8 minutes for proper bonding of all material. All the mixes from GP1 to GP 10 were casted by giving proper compaction. The compaction was done by adding concrete into moulds in three layers by giving 25 blows with tampering rod for each layer and at the end moulds are placed on vibrator for 15 seconds. After preparation of mix moulding, demoulding and curing are done to the specimens to acquire good strength.



Fig no: 3 Geopolymer concrete mixes

PREPARATION OF CUBES AND BEAMS

Concrete mix of M40 is prepared by adding different proportions of fly ash and slag, coarse aggregate, fine aggregate and alkaline solution. Moulds of size 150 x 150 x 150, 500 x 100 x 100 were taken and greased. Now the Geopolymer concrete mix was placed in moulds in 3 layers and to each layer 25 blows were tempered by using tampering rod and allowed to dry for 24 hours. Then these cubes are demoulded and kept aside for 30 minutes and were placed in curing for 3, 7 and 28 days.



Fig no: 4 Geopolymer concrete cubes with different molarity of NaOH solution

CURING PROCESS

All the concrete specimens were cured in atmospheric temperature condition where the specimens are left at the atmospheric condition after demoulding which was done after 24 hours of casting and left for the entire period till testing. During this process the cubes were exposed to a huge temperature variation of almost 16⁰ to 18⁰ centigrade for every single day during the test conduction.

TESTS OF SPECIMENS

The following tests were conducted to determine the strength of Geopolymer concrete.

COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH TEST

For each proportion nine cubes were casted and the surfaces of the cubes are allowed to dry for 24 hours in saturated condition. Curing of the cubes was done for 3, 7, and 28 days. A gradual load is applied on the surface of the cube to obtain maximum compressive load. Compressive strength is defined as the maximum compressive stress that under a gradually applied load, a given solid material can sustain without fracture.

$$F_{ck} = P / A$$

Where,

P = Applied load in N

A = Area in mm²

FLEXURAL STRENGTH TEST

For each mix proportion nine beams were casted and curing was done. Samples were allowed to dry at ambient temperature. Testing of samples at different stages means for 3, 7 and 28 days were done and readings were noted. Flexural strength is a measure of the tensile strength of concrete beams or slabs. It identifies the amount of stress and force of an

S.NO	Name of the mix	Compressive strength of specimens (N/mm ²)		
		3 days	7 days	28 days
1	GP 6	12.88	31.11	38
2	GP 7	11	28.44	33
3	GP 8	10	17.77	23.33
4	GP 9	7.77	13.33	18
5	GP 10	5.33	8	12.33

unreinforced concrete slab, beam or the structure can withstand, such that it resists any bending failures.

$$R = PL / bd^2$$

Where

R = Modulus of rupture

P = Applied load(N)

L = Length (mm)

B = Breadth (mm)

D = Diameter (mm)

WATER PERMEABILITY TEST

The equipment used in this investigation meets the requirements of IS 3085:1965 which is used for determination of permeability of ordinary concrete. The standard test pressure of 3.5 kg/cm² is applied till the flow reaches the steady state and test is further continued three days

The permeability was defined by Darcy's Law as follows:

$$K = QL/AH$$

Where

K = Permeability coefficients (m/s)

Q = Flow rate (m³/s)

L = Depth of specimen (m)

H = Head of water

A = Area of the cube

IV.RESULTS&DISCUSSIONS

Based on experimental investigation, the results of cube are mentioned below.

COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH TEST

Compressive strength of specimens cured by 3, 7 and 28 days with 30% GGBFS addition

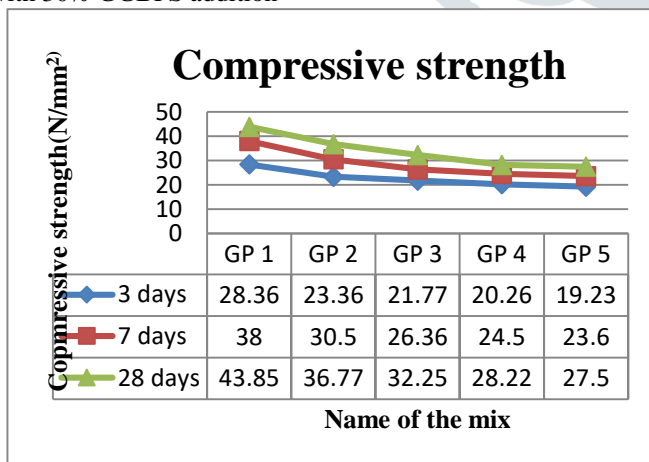


Fig no: 1 Compressive strength graph of geopolymer concrete with 30% slag addition.

The above graph shows 3, 7 and 28 days compressive strengths of Geopolymer concrete mixes with 30% slag and 70% fly ash. From the above graph we clearly observed that the strength of Geopolymer mix increases with increase in molarity of sodium hydroxide solution. Maximum strength was obtained at early age due to

polymerization of alkaline liquids. More than 50% of total strength is achieved during 3 days of curing; this is due to higher amount of GGBS(Saha & Rajasekaran, 2017).

Compressive strength of specimens cured by 3, 7 and 28 days with 20% GGBFS addition.

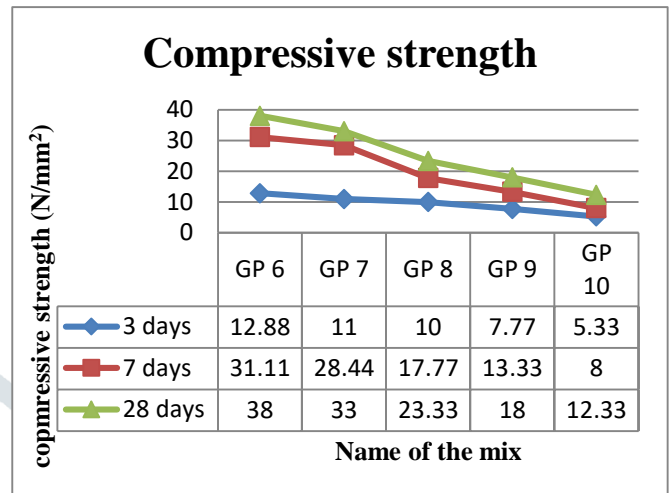


Fig no: 2 Compressive strength graph of geopolymer concrete with 20% slag addition

The above graph shows 3, 7 and 28 days compressive strength of Geopolymer concrete mixes with 20% slag and 80% fly ash. We observed that the compressive strength increases with increase in molarity of sodium hydroxide solution. We can see that the early age strength is not significant due to increase in initial setting time because of lower amount of slag percentage(Saha & Rajasekaran, 2017).

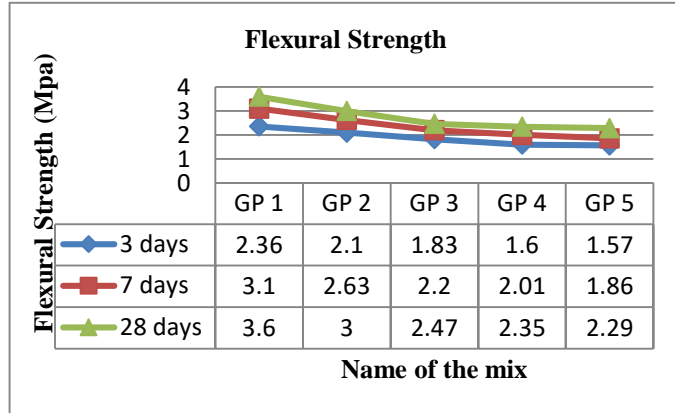
S.NO	Name of the mix	Compressive strength of specimens (N/mm ²)		
		3 Days	7 Days	28 Days
1	GP 1	28.36	38	43.85
2	GP 2	23.36	30.5	36.77
3	GP 3	21.77	26.36	32.55
4	GP 4	20.26	24.5	28.2
5	GP 5	19.23	23.6	27.5

FLEXURAL STRENGTH TEST

Flexural strength of specimens cured by 3, 7 and 28 days with 30% GGBFS addition.

S.NO	Name of the mix	Flexural strength of specimens cured by (N/mm ²)		
		3 Days	7 Days	28 Days
1	GP 1	2.36	3.1	3.6
2	GP 2	2.1	2.63	3
3	GP 3	1.83	2.2	2.47
4	GP 4	1.6	2.01	2.35
5	GP 5	1.57	1.86	2.29

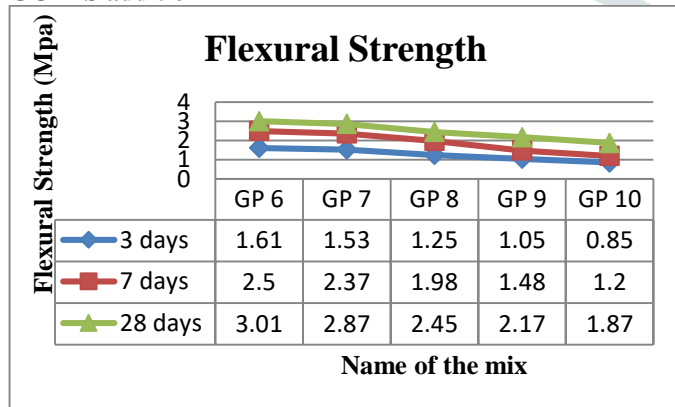
Flexural strength graph of geopolymer concrete with 30% GGBFS addition



Flexural strength of specimens cured by 3, 7 and 28 days with 20% slag addition

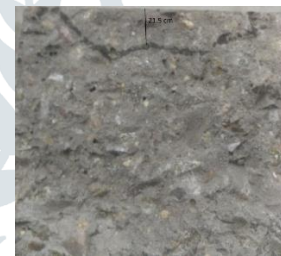
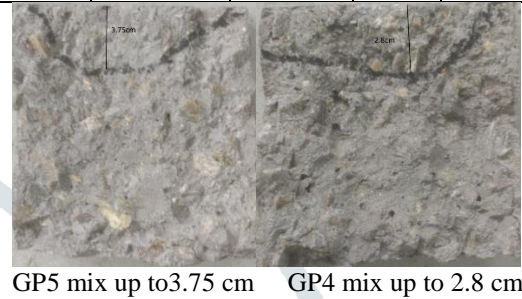
S.NO	Name of the mix	Flexural strength of specimens cured by (N/mm ²)		
		3 Days	7 Days	28 Days
1	GP 6	1.61	2.5	3.01
2	GP 7	1.53	2.37	2.87
3	GP 8	1.25	1.98	2.45
4	GP 9	1.05	1.48	2.17
5	GP 10	0.85	1.2	1.87

Flexural strength graph of geopolymer concrete with 30% GGBFS addition



Test results of water permeability of geopolymer concrete with 30% slag addition

Name of the mix	Length of water penetrated (mm)	Pressure applied (kg/cm ²)	Head of water (mm)	Time (hrs)	Coefficient of permeability (K), (m/s)
GP 1	110	3.5	460	72	2.06 x 10 ⁻⁹
GP2	114	3.5	460	72	2.13 x 10 ⁻⁹
GP 3	120	3.5	460	72	2.24 x 10 ⁻⁹
GP 4	125.5	3.5	460	72	2.35 x 10 ⁻⁹
GP 5	129	3.5	460	72	2.41 x 10 ⁻⁹



Vertical penetrations of water

V.CONCLUSION

Based on the experimental work reported in this study, following conclusions were drawn.

- Higher concentration in terms of molarity of sodium hydroxide solution results in the higher compressive strength of fly ash and GGBFS based geopolymer concrete.
- The fresh flyash-based geo-polymer concrete is easily handled up to 60 minutes without any sign of setting and without any degradation in the compressive strength.
- The mixes GP1 and GP6 gives higher compressive strength as it has high molarity of so-dium hydroxide solution with 30% and 20% slag addition respectively.
- The mixes GP1 and GP6 gives higher Flexural strengths as it as high molarity of sodium hydroxide solution with 30% and 20% slag addition respectively
- We observe that both compressive strength and flexural strength are increased with the increase in the molarity of the sodium hydroxide.
- By increasing the amount of GGBS the initial and final setting time of geopolymer con-crete decreases which

results in attaining high early strength.

- With the incorporation of steel slag, fly ash based Geopolymer concrete can be cured in the atmospheric temperature and be able to get good compressive and flexural strength.

- When a comparison was done in strength between the different replacements of slag for the same molarity, the variation observed was only marginal. But when same slag re-placements of different molarities were considered, the increase in strength was high.

- Depth of penetration of water is inversely proportional to the Molarity of NaOH solution due to with increase in molarity of NaOH solution there is excellent bonding between geopolymer binders and aggregates. As geo-polymer concrete technology is a new one, there is lot of scope to work in this topic. In the present study we used fly ash and GGBFS as a binder instead of cement and alkaline liquids to bind the materials. We recommend extending this topic by using by-products like rice husk ash, pulverized fuel ash etc. And also, investigation of Long term properties like durability, creep, drying shrinkage may also give the suitability of geo-polymer concrete in the field. By implementing such methods the durability can be increased and strength of the material can also be increased.

To provide Economical Concrete:

- It should be easily adopted in field.
- It should reduce the cost of construction.
- It should promote low cost housing for the people.
- It should make the maximum usage of locally available materials.
- It should be environmental friendly.

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