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WATER ABSORPTION RATE OF CHATKA BRICK-A GENERAL PRACTICAL APPROACH

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1- Abstract:-The quality of brick is assessed by doing various tests on it, like size, efflorescence, compressive strength, density, water absorption and beside it, some physical observations like metallic sound, sharp edges, regular shape and color etc. But some time to know the strength of brick without measuring on machine, then indirectly by weighing and doing water absorption test may result the strength of brick.

The author authenticate this term of water absorption that 3 to 4 hours curing of brick seems enough to place in masonry work of normal category as at initial level faster absorbance occurs in a very short of time and rest absorbance for saturation stands slow to very slow, which may consider negligible. The study reveals that more weight or more density lesser the water absorption, due to lesser air voids. Also the faster rate of water absorption shows the early saturation with water. The Chatka bricks are the bricks of bearing cracks of rough category that can absorb much more water like 20% of its weight or something more. Here the result revealed that at primary level water absorption is very faster rate and slower rate on successive ensuing time till its saturation.

2- Key Words:-

Nominal, Traditional, Water Absorption, Weight, Building, Testing etc.

3- Introduction-Bricks are of nominal and traditional type, having respective size of 19cm by 9cm by 9cm and 23cm by 11.5cm by 7.5cm. Nominal bricks with 1cm thick mortar around bricks are taken as 20cm by 10cm by 10cm, which are used for estimation purpose because of its easy calculation by its volume, area and length too. Traditional bricks are normally used for civil constructions like building, slab, pavements, flooring, lintel, arches, culverts, sewer line, bunkers, and retaining wall etc, which are tested before applying them in various construction works. Within limit testing results for bricks are used in construction work. For good quality construction work, first class bricks are used.

Various types of bricks have different quality, popularly known as Avval, doyam, soyam, talsa and chatka in rural areas while in technical terms these are of first class, second class, third class and poor class.

Bricks have compositions like Silica termed as Sand as SiO2-55%, Alumina as Al_2O_3 -30%, Iron oxide as Fe₂O₃-8%,Magnesia as MgO by 5%, Lime as Cao by 1% and rest as Organic matters by 1%. The initial mixing of silica and alumina prevents the brick from cracking, warping and shrinkage.

Alumina binds the ingredients and develops plasticity while mixing with water to shape the bricks in mould. It shrinks and wraps the brick while drying and burning the brick to harden it to make it usable.

Silica mixed with clay forms alumino-silicate, which prevents the brick from shrinking, warping and cracking as well. It prevents the brick from crack formation after the final production of brick. It maintains the bricks in regular shape, sharpen the edges and strength too. It also prevents the brick to get fusion early for long temperatures. It prevents the brick for absorbance of water.

Lime in calcium oxide powdered form binds both compositions due to lowering the melting point of 1650 degree centigrade, so as to make bond with silica to alumina. The excess lime may cause the de-shape of brick. Iron oxide in very small quantity works as flux to melt the silica at lower temperature and also to provide the cherry red or terra cota color to brick. Its presence, makes the brick impermeable and indirectly strengthen the brick as well. Excess quantity may change the color in blue. Magnesia reduces shrinkage after cooling and excess magnesia may reduce strength.

The water absorption of brick occurs due to alumina, air voids in brick due to silica, presence of cracks/fissures, alkalis as hygroscopic salts like cacl2,mgcl2, Kcl, pebbles, stone nodules, gravel and organic matters like leaves, trimmings, twigs, decomposed body parts etc. The water absorption of brick in due causes of cracks and voids have better absorption as well as lesser strength. High densities bricks have better weight but lesser water absorption.

It has been a matter that water absorption rate of brick at initial stage remains faster and gradually reduced and at last the bricks get saturated with water and it quenched fully, which has no further requirement till it becomes dry by natural process or by other means.

While putting the bricks into masonry, it should not absorb the water from cement mortar, so as cement may set hard to grip the brick masonry. The title of paper has been chosen to get know that if the bricks are even not saturated with water as prescribed for 24 hours, then through the graph the minimum saturation time of bricks could be known for early construction.

4- Methodology:-A sample of two bricks of Mohan traders was collected from the nearby construction site. The physical color of brick was not cherry red, but was terra cota color and edges were sharp even the some cracks were there. Both bricks were in regular shape and size. To get the result early as well as early saturation, reading were taken at 2 minutes intervals. The water in which the bricks were dipped was at temperature 12 ° C. Total time was taken 16 minutes and accordingly the result has been revealed.

Weight of dry brick - A- 2501 GRAM

Weight of dry brick-B-2569 GRAM

TIME IN MINUTES		WEIGHT OF WET BRICK (B) GRAM.		WATER ABSORPTION GRAM		WATER ABSORPT IN %	TION	TOTAL R ON OF WA ABSORBAN IN GRAM/MII TE		TER RATE IN GRA				%WATER ABSORPT IONRATE PER MINUTE	
2		2623	3	122		4.87		122/2	=61	122		122/2=	61	2.43	
4		2660)	159		6.35		159/2 .5	=79	159-122=	=37	18.5		0.74	
6	6 2684		l	183		7.31		183/2=91 .5		24		12		0.48	
8		2706 20		205	8.19		205/2 2.5		=10	22		11		0.44	
10	10 2		2 221			8.83		221/2=11 16 0.5		16		8		0.32	
12	12		2740		239		9.55		=11	18		9		0.36	
14	14		2755		254		10.15		254/2=12 1 7		15			0.30	
16	16		2762		10.43			261/2=13 0.5		7		3.5		0.14	
TIME MINU	TIME IN MINUTES		WEIGHT OF WET BRICK (B) GRAM.		WATER ABSORPTION GRAM		WATER ABSORPTION IN %		TOTAL RATE OF WATER ABSORBANCE IN GRAM/MINU TE		ABSORPTION RATE IN GRAM		ON R IN PER	%WATER ABSORPT IONRATE PER MINUTE	
2	4		2825		256 315			256/2=12 8 315/2=15 7.5 349/2=17 4.5		256 315-256=59 349-315=34		256/2=128 29.5 17		4.98 1.15 0.66	
4															
6			3	349		13.57									
8	8		2934		365		14.19		=18	365-349=16		8		0.31	
10	10		2945		376			376/2=28 8		376-365=11		5.5		0.21	
	294		8 379		14.7		379 <i>/</i> 9.5	/2=18 379		-376=3	1.5	1.5		0.06	
	295		0 381		14.8				381	-379=2	1	0.04		ı	
	295		2 383		14.9		00 383, 1.5		383	-381=2 1		0.04		ı	

5- Conclusion:-The Study reveals that water absorption rate of brick is faster in beginning and slower by gradually passing of time. Seeing the result of water absorption for the sampled two bricks of chatka category, it has been observed that 24 hours are much more time to saturate the brick. It needs less time to get quasi saturated brick while using the brick in masonry work.

In general brick work, most of the professional contactors, usually take 3 to 4 hours to saturate the brick, while using in masonry work, so as the brick could not absorb the water from the cement mortar to get set the cement mortar duly its hydration. Usually Portland cement has its initial setting time by 30 minutes, while the final setting time is 10 hours. During the 10 hours the brick should not absorb the water from mortar to get final set of mortar.

As the brick is covered with mortar, hence evaporation of water from brick is usually reduced. So not more saturation is required where the normal work is going on. Also after 24 hours of masonry curing is always done and hence the cement mortar may get hardened duly spraying of water on it. Hence the study reveals that bricks while putting in water for curing of drenching, 3 to 4 hours minimum are required to put in the normal brick masonry, as the faster quenching occurs in beginning hours and slow to very slow in ensuing hours.

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