

# EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON PERFORMANCE OF COMPOSITE BEAMS

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## Abstract

India has done a major leap on developing the infrastructures such as express highways, power projects and industrial structures, dams etc. to meet the requirements of globalization. For the construction of civil engineering works, concrete play main role and a large quantum of concrete is being utilized. Both coarse aggregate and fine aggregate is a major constituent used for making conventional concrete, has become highly expensive and also scarce. Huge amount of rubber tyre waste is generating day by day which creates the disposal problem and has many environmental issues. As this scrap rubber waste is an elastic material having less specific gravity, energy absorbent material can be used as a replacement material for obtaining light weight concrete. In present study the aggregates in less stress concrete zone below the neutral axis are replaced by the scrap material like scrap tyre rubber aggregates (STRA) for one set and for other set fine aggregates in concrete are replaced byand steel scrap (SS). Replacement is done with varying proportion from 0% to 60% with increment of 20 %. Method of initial functions is used for finding bending stress of beams. The Method of initial functions (MIF) is an analytical method of elasticity theory.

**Key word:** Rubber scrap, steel scrap, Method of initial functions, beams.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

“Energy cannot be created, it cannot be destroyed”, it is the base of all intellectual and spiritual thoughts of human beings. Energy is always subjected to cycles. Thus nothing as such is a waste. The waste generate from one process is in fact a raw material for some other process. Waste is a material that is wrongly placed or laying unutilized. Hence there is a need to decide the suitable place where a particular waste material may be used or recycled. The present work is concerned with the reuse of scrap tyre and steel scrap waste which is as such a solid waste generated in gigantic proportions.

One of the most crucial environmental issues all around the world is the disposal of the waste materials. Accumulations of discarded waste tyres have been a major concern because the waste rubber is not easily biodegradable even after a long period landfill treatment. Thus it gets accumulated and creates variety of problems. It creates unsightly appearance. If burnt under conventional uncontrolled fashion it creates harmful vapours. If dumped in land fill sites, in rainy seasons it accumulates water and harbours mosquitoes and fly bleedings. If buried in land fill sites, it slowly decomposes under anaerobic environment and generates methane. Methane is generated by other sources also in land fill sites [1]. Adding industrial steel solid wastes obtained from lathes in concrete enhances its compressive strength [2].When rubber aggregates are increase there is decrease in mechanical properties of concrete depends on type and content of rubber used [3]. The Slump and workability was significantly increased with the introduction of recycled

rubber tires into concrete [4]. Partial replacement of crumb rubber in foamed concrete leads to reduced density of concrete found that rubberized concrete is the best solution for non-structural purpose [5]. Rubberized concrete mixtures with and without silica fume appeared to be workable to certain degree and reduction in weight by 77% by replacing 50% total aggregate volume enhances the mechanical properties [6]. Self compacting rubberized concrete required slightly higher amount of super plasticizer than self compacting concrete to reach self-compacting properties [7].

Method of initial functions is used for two dimensional elasto dynamic problems for plain stress and plain strain conditions [8]. And used for the analysis of thick circular plates. The governing equations are derived from the three dimensional elasticity equations in cylindrical polar coordinates using Maclaurin's series [9]. A 3d problem of loading a linearly elastic layer using a method of initial functions is solved. MIF has been applied for deriving higher order theories for laminated composite thick rectangular plates [10]. Mathematical foundations, the theory and application of the Method of Initial Functions (MIF) to rectangular anisotropic plates subjected to both statical and dynamical loads are discussed [11]. It is used for the analysis of composite laminated beams and the governing equations of two dimensional elasticity are derived [12]. MIF is used for analysis of flexure member for finding stresses and displacement [13].

### 1.1 Method of initial functions (MIF)

MIF was first proposed by Malieev in 1951 and further developed by Vlasov in 1955. Beams that are built of more than one material are called composite beams. It is difficult to analyze the laminated beams by the bending theory used for ordinary beams. In MIF, equations governing the flexure of composite laminated beams are derived without making any assumption regarding the physical behaviour of beams. The method of initial functions (MIF) has been used for deriving the equations. It is an analytical method of elasticity theory allows us to obtain the exact solutions for certain types of problems without use of hypotheses about the character of the stress-strain state of the structural element. In recent years the MIF has been used intensively for the analysis of various problems. For example, three-dimensional elasticity equations for circular cylindrical shells are solved by assuming Taylor series expansions for finding stresses and displacements

## 2. DETAILS OF EXPERIMENTAL WORK

The rubber aggregates are obtained by shredding the scrap tire rubber in 20mm size. Heavy vehicles tire scraps were used for preparing the rubber aggregates. On the other hand the steel scraps were obtained from the lathe machines, it is the waste produced from milling, polishing etc. The percentage of replacement is done by volume. The properties of material used are discussed below.

**Table 1: Physical properties of materials used**

Sr no	Material	Specific gravity	Bulk Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
1	Rubber aggregates	1.12	645
2	Steel scraps	3.24	1350
3	Fine aggregates	2.6	1750
4	Coarse aggregates	2.8	1710

## 2.0 Materials used

### 2.1 Concrete

M25 concrete is used by preparing a mixture consist of ordinary Portland cement, fine and coarse aggregates confirming to respective IS code were used for concrete. The mix design is done by using IS: 10262:2009.

### 2.2 Steel

Thermo Mechanically Treated (TMT) steel bars is used for reinforcement confirmed to IS: 432-1982.

### 2.3 Rubber aggregates (20mm)

These were obtained by shredding the heavy vehicle tyres into small pieces as shown below.



**Fig 1. Rubber Aggregates (20mm)**

### 2.3 Steel scraps

Is a waste produced from milling process. For this research the material is obtained from the Ratna gears industry, Hadapsar pune.



**Fig 2. Steel Scraps**

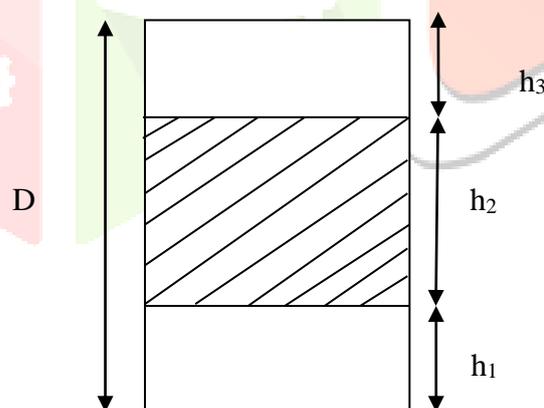
**Table no 2: Mix proportion (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)**

Designation	Cement	Water	Fine aggregates	Coarse aggregates	Rubber aggregates	Steel scraps

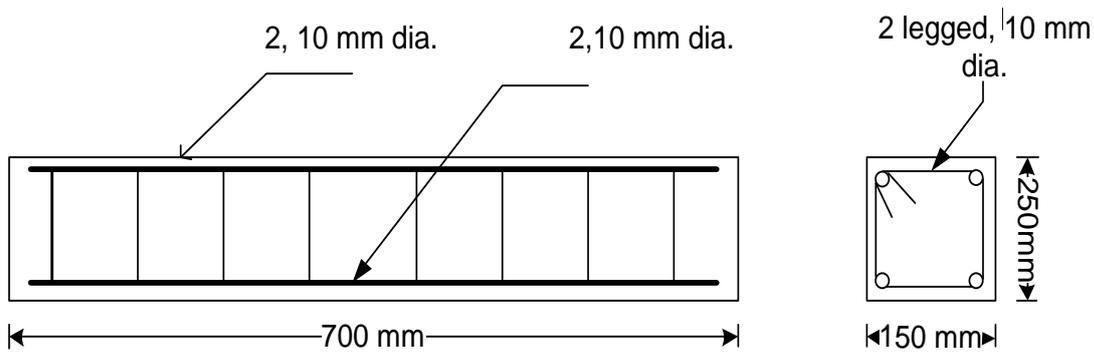
CB-0%	354.78	191.58	741.94	1182.65	---	---
LB-R-20%	354.78	191.58	741.94	946.12	89.21	---
LB-R-40%	354.78	191.58	741.94	709.59	178.43	---
LB-R-60%	354.78	191.58	741.94	473.06	267.65	---
LB-SS-20%	354.78	191.58	593.55	1182.65	---	111.07
LB-SS-40%	354.78	191.58	445.16	1182.65	---	222.15
LB-SS-60%	354.78	191.58	296.776	1182.65	---	333.23

### 2.3 Specimen Preparation:

The beams are casted by concreting it in three layers. In first layer of thickness  $h_1$ , M 25 concrete is used. Second layer of thickness  $h_2$  is by aggregates replaced concrete, and remaining height  $h_3$  is again filled by M25 concrete. 21 RC beams of size 150 x 250 x 700 mm were casted. The selected beam size is a normal beam as effective span to depth ratio is more than 2 (IS 456-2000). Thermo Mechanically Treated (TMT) bars of 10mm  $\phi$  were used for the longitudinal reinforcement also for stirrups. The arrangements of reinforcements used on compression and tension face are 2-10  $\Phi$  for all specimens. Shear reinforcement in the form of 2 legged stirrups were provided by 10  $\Phi$  @ 125 mm c/c.



**Figure 3** concrete filled in layers



**Figure 4** Typical reinforcement detailing of beam

## 2.4 Selection of replacement zone

To replace the material below neutral axis the formula for depth of neutral axis according to IS 456:2000 is as follows

$$X_u = (0.87 f_y \cdot A_{st}) / (0.36 f_{ck} \cdot b)$$

Where,

$f_y$  = Characteristic strength of reinforcement in N/mm<sup>2</sup>

$A_{st}$  = area of tension reinforcement

$f_{ck}$  = characteristics compressive strength of concrete in N/mm<sup>2</sup>

$b$  = breadth of beam

$$x_u = \frac{0.87 \times 500 \times 157.07}{0.36 \times 25 \times 150}$$

$$x_u = 50.61 \approx 50 \text{ mm}$$

To fill the beam in layers the bottom thickness  $h_1$  is assumed to be 2 x cover + diameter of bar [14]. where,  $h_1$  is the thickness of concrete layer available to maintain bond between steel and concrete. It is assumed the provision of thickness of concrete not less than the cover provided on each side of the tension reinforcement will satisfy the bond requirement.

Therefore,

$$h_1 = 2 \times 20 + 10$$

$$h_1 = 50 \text{ mm.}$$

As depth of beam  $D = 250$ , assume  $h_1 = h_3 = x_u = 50 \text{ mm}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, Replacement zone } (h_2) &= \text{depth of beam} - (h_1 + h_3) \\ &= 250 - (50 + 50) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Replacement zone } (h_2) = 150 \text{ mm.}$$

## 3. TESTING OF BEAMS

All specimens are tested under flexural loading on universal testing machine (UTM). The deflection at center of beams are recorded for each specimen. The observed deflections are used for finding modulus of elasticity of each specimens. It is observed that all the specimens are fail in shear.



**Figure 5** Shows failure of beam with flexural crack at centre



**Figure 6** Shows shear crack at supports and flexural cracks at center

## 4. ANALYSIS OF FLEXURE MEMBER BY MIF

### 4.1 Procedure for Analysis of Flexural Member

Following steps are followed for analysis

- Select size of beam  $D$  and  $l$ .
- Define material properties ( $E$ ,  $G$ ,  $\mu$ )
- Apply boundary conditions for simply supported beam as  $X = Y = v = 0$  at  $x = 0$  and  $x = l$ .
- Select the auxiliary function to satisfy the the boundary conditions.
- Apply the loading conditions at top of the beam. For beam subjected to two point loading the equation in sine series is given by

$$P(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{l} \left[ p_1 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x_1}{l}\right) + p_2 \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x_2}{l}\right) \right] \sin\left(\frac{n\pi x}{l}\right) \dots\dots\dots (4.31)$$

- Apply load  $P$  in Newton.

### 4.2 Beam dimensions

The following values of beam dimensions are chosen for the particular problem,

Effective length ( $l$ ) = 600mm.

Effective depth ( $d$ ) = 225 mm

The boundary condition of simply supported edges is  $X=Y=v=0$ , at  $x=0$  and  $x=l$ .

**Table 4. Elastic properties for analysis**

Material	% of replacement	E (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	G (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	$\mu$
Rubber aggregates	0	26191.01	$11.38 \times 10^3$	0.15
	20	21483.05	$9.345 \times 10^3$	0.15
	40	17050	$7.41 \times 10^3$	0.15
	60	13620.39	$5.921 \times 10^3$	0.15
Steel scraps	20	26090.94	$11.34 \times 10^3$	0.15
	40	26672.87	$11.594 \times 10^3$	0.15
	60	27487.13	$11.96 \times 10^3$	0.15

## 5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Results

Following are the comparative results of bending stress determined experimentally by using (IS 516:1959) and by MIF.

**Table 5** Comparative results of bending stress

Sr no	Specimen	Load (KN)	Bending stress Experimentally (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	Bending stress MIF (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )
1	CB	208.68	15.82	14.76
2	R-20	198.4	14.85	14.77
3	R-40	190.76	14.70	14.33
4	R-60	172.36	12.76	12.76
5	SS-20	210.34	15.61	15.61
6	SS-40	213.23	15.98	16.23
7	SS-60	218.03	17.08	16.67

### 5.2 Discussion

The comparison results from above table shows that the experimentally calculated bending stress by using IS 516-1959 and bending calculated by MIF are having value nearly equal with difference less than 0% to 10%. MIF is an analytical method based on elasticity theory is giving the exact solutions of bending stress with considering any assumptions regarding physical behaviour of beam.

From experimental results of bending stress, it is observed that when coarse aggregates in concrete below neutral axis in tension zone are replaced with rubber aggregates the flexural strength decreases. For 20% replacement the strength decreases by 6.3% for 40% decreases by 7.07% and decreases to 16.18% for 60% replacement.

When F.A are replaced by steel scraps the flexural strength increases as the percentage replacement increases. When fine aggregates are replaced with steel scraps in less stress zone concrete there is less variation in flexural strength of concrete for 20% %, 40% but for 60% it increases to 7.37 % . The maximum increase in strength is for 60% for ultimate load 218.03 KN.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The following conclusions are made based on the above experimental work and analysis by MIF

- a. Experimentally it is seen that flexural strength of the concrete decreases when coarse aggregates are replaced by rubber aggregates.
- b. The rubber aggregates can be effectively replaced up to 40% below neutral axis in tension zone.
- c. It is recommend that, as for 60% replacement of rubber the strength decreases by 19% it cannot be used ,where high strength of concrete is required, but for non structural components it can be used upto 60%. industry these can be can be used upto 60% non structural components
- d. As the replacement is in less stress zone the strength is not too increase or decrease. All the experimental results are within 20% increase or decrease in strength.
- e. As analytical results are near to the experimental results it shows that the method can be effectively used for the analysis of composite laminated beams.

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