

MECHANICAL BEHAVIOR OF FIBER-REINFORCED LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE

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Abstract: The primary aim of this research is to examine the mechanical behavior of fiber-reinforced lightweight concrete. To evaluate the effectiveness of fiber type in lightweight concrete the compressive strength were performed at 28 days. The results showed that using fibers in lightweight concrete improved the compressive strength.

Keywords: fiber-reinforced lightweight concrete; lightweight aggregate; PVA fiber; steel fiber; compressive strength

The utilization of lightweight concrete is widespread in the construction field. This type of concrete offers advantages such as dead-load reduction, better fire resistance, and lower thermal conductivity. Lightweight aggregate concrete is usually fabricated using different types of lightweight aggregate materials such as expanded clay and shale, slate, pumice, and lytag. Lightweight aggregate is an important component in the production of lightweight concrete. The unit weight and strength of lightweight concrete is sufficiently lower than normal weight concrete, due to cellular structure of lightweight aggregates. The application of different types of aggregate affects the strength of concrete in various ways, and it was found that the properties and volume fraction of the aggregate affect the compressive strength of concrete. Elsewhere, it was highlighted that for some lightweight aggregates, the compressive strength was decided with the type of aggregate and increases as the density increase. The most widely used lightweight aggregate, however, is expanded clay. It was found that the addition of

fibers in pumice lightweight concrete did not affect the compressive strength, while it was increased by 30% after mixing in the expanded clay aggregate [3-41].

Despite its benefits, the brittleness of lightweight concrete is greater than that of normal-weight concrete, thus limiting its broader use in the construction industry. Different types of fibers can be utilized to improve the mechanical properties of lightweight concrete, and in different amounts. For example, the incorporation of fibers into an expanded clay mixture essentially improves the compressive strength of concrete. It was concluded that steel fiber-reinforced lightweight aggregate concrete possesses numerous advantages, including such as good heat-insulating property, anti-seismic performance, and fire resistance. Furthermore, the use of fibers affects the properties of concrete positively (impact strength and toughness), as well as increasing the durability and decreasing the susceptibility of early age cracks. It could provide the full transformation from brittle to more ductile material. It has been proven that the incorporation of fibers in lightweight concrete enhances the long-lasting serviceability of the concrete and that fiber-reinforced lightweight concrete offers many benefits to the construction industry. It was concluded that the use of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) fiber with concrete has many advantages, including a high aspect ratio, high tensile strength, good water affinity, good adaptability with cement, and good bond formation within the cement matrix. Additionally, researches highlighted that PVA fiber can extend and distribute the applied load over the cement matrix. Moreover, found that PVA fiber is superior for stopping cracks, has high elastic modulus, and possesses excellent tensile and molecular bond strength as well [1-10].

Fiber-reinforced concrete demonstrates better durability in service than concrete without fibers, and the type and volume fraction of the fibers has a significant effect on the properties of the fiber-reinforced concrete. It has been reported that the addition of steel fiber in the amount of 1-1.5% by volume can increase tensile strength by up to 100%, flexural strength from 1 to 1.8 times, and compressive strength by 10-25% .

It can be concluded that, the addition of fibers shows a significant effect on the mechanical properties of lightweight concrete. The workability of fiber-reinforced

concrete usually decreases with increasing the volume fraction of fibers. Moreover, by increasing the dosage of fiber the density of lightweight concrete usually increases respectively, while steel fiber shows the highest density. The compressive and splitting tensile strength of fiber-reinforced lightweight concrete usually increases with increasing the volume fraction of fibers[7-41].

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