

## Study of Various Characteristic of Concrete with Rice Husk Ash As A Partial Replacement Of Cement With Natural Fibers (Coir)

Pravin V Domke<sup>1</sup>, Sandesh D Deshmukh<sup>2</sup>, Satish D kene<sup>3</sup>. R.S.Deotale<sup>4</sup>

(Research Scholar, Department of Civil Engineering, YCCE, Nagpur-10, Maharashtra, India)

### ABSTRACT

Considerable efforts has been taken worldwide to utilize local natural waste and by-products materials as supplementary cementing materials to improve the properties of cement concrete as well as the use of these materials leads to the proper disposal of natural waste results in the less impact on environment in order to reduce the loss due to improper disposal of the waste. RHA is a by-product of paddy industry obtained by controlled burning of rice husk and is a highly reactive pozzolanic material. On the other hand coir (coconut fiber) has excellent physical and mechanical properties and can be utilized more effectively in the development of composite materials. The detailed experimental investigation done to study the effect of partial replacement of cement with RHA on cement concrete as well as the addition on natural fibers too from certain percentage of RHA to overcome the decreasing strength of concrete . It is observed that though the strength of RHA concrete goes on decreasing after the 12.5% addition of RHA, the composition of 15% RHA + COIR gives maximum strength results as well as shows the potential to be used as useful material for different building materials such as wall panels, paving blocks etc.

*Keywords:* RHA Concrete, coir, compressive strength, split tensile strength ,flexural strength, deflection.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Rice Husk is an agricultural waste obtained from milling of rice. About 10<sup>8</sup> tones of rice husk is generated annually in the world. Meanwhile, the ash has been categorized under pozzolana, with about 67-70% silica and about 4.9% and 0.95% Alumina and iron oxides, respectively. The silica is substantially contained in amorphous form, which can react with the CaOH librated during the hardening of cement to

further form cementations compounds. This can be used as an industrial raw material, for example, as an insulating material , fillers in plastics , building material , for making panel boards, activated carbon etc. Nowadays, production of white ash from rice husk is gaining importance as an excellent source of high grade amorphous silica for use in the ceramics, rubber and electronics industries. Exhaustive studies have been carried out on various aspects of rice husk whereas only very limited information on its physical and thermal properties is available.

Coconut fiber is one of the natural fibers abundantly available in tropical regions, and is extracted from the husk of coconut fruit. Not only the physical, chemical and mechanical properties of coconut fibers are shown; but also properties of composites (cement pastes, mortar and/or concrete etc), in which coconut fibers are used as reinforcement, are discussed. The aim of this review is to spread awareness of coconut fibers as a construction material in civil engineering. The versatility and applications of coconut fibers in different fields is discussed in detail. Coconut fibers are reported as most ductile and energy absorbent material. It is concluded that coconut fibers have the potential to be used in composites for different purposes. Since the use of coconut fibers has given some marvelous products, there is still possibility of the invention of new products containing coconut fibers with improved results. In civil engineering, coconut fibers have been used as reinforcement in composites for non-structural components. There is a need of investigating the behavior of coconut fiber reinforced concrete to be used in main structural components like beams and columns.

**THE OBJECTIVES OF PRESENT**

TEST CONDUCTED	TEST REULT	REQUIRMENT AS PER IS:3812 PART 1-2003
Loss on Ignition	7.12	Max.5.0
Silicon Dioxide(SiO2) in percentage by Mass.	78.21	Min.35
Silicon Dioxide(SiO2)+aluminum oxide(AL2O3)+Iron Oxide(Fe2O3) in percentage by mass	82.64	SiO2+Fe2O3+AL2o3 Min.70%
Magnesium Oxide (MgO)%	4.89	5.0Max
Total Sulphur as SO3 in percentage by Mass.	0.62	Max.3.0
Calcium Oxide (CaO)%	0.99	--

**STUDY ARE.**

1. To find the optimum mix design with regards to the amount of water, coir fibers, RHA and cement ratio required.
2. To investigate the physical properties of the RHA fiber reinforced concrete – density ( lightweight), strength (bending and compression), water absorption and moisture content
3. Use of waste in a useful manner.
4. To provide economical construction material.
5. Provide safeguard to the environment by utilizing waste properly.

**EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME**

Experimental programme comprises of test on cement, RHA, COIR, cement concrete with partial replacement of cement with RHA and Coir

**MATERIALS AND MIXTURE**

**PROPORTIONS**

A .Ordinary Portland cement.

Ordinary Portland Cement confirming the requirements of IS 8112 : 1989 is used for the present experimental work.OPC 43 Grade cement is used.

B. Rice Husk Ash

Rice husk ash is prepared by burning of rice husk over 700 ° c temperatures in a power plant as a fuel. RHA collected from the YASH AGRO INDUSTRIES LTD. Chimur.

TABLE 1:PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF RHA.

TEST CONDUCTED	TEST REULT	REQUIRMENT AS PER IS:3812 PART 1-2003
CONSISTANCY %	40.0	-
SPECIFIC GRAVITY	2.139	-
SETTING TIME INITIAL(min) FINAL(min)	195 260	-
SOUNDNESS(mm) Analysis by autoclave expansion method (%)	-0.0468	Max 0.8
FINESS % by sieving(% retantion on 45 micron sieve-wet sieving)	29.3	Not more than 80% of cement at 28 days.
COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH(N/Sq.mm) 1)7Days 2)28days	15.0 27.0	-
DRYING SHRINKAGE(%)	0.0896	Min.45

TABLE 2:CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF RHA

COIR (COCONUT FIBERS):

The coconut is the fruit of the *Cocos nucifera*, a tropical plant of the *Areaceae (Palmae)* family.

TABLE3:MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF COCONUT FIBER (As per ACI 544.1R-96) Manual of concrete practice

PROPERTIES	VALUES
Fiber length(mm)	50-110
Fiber diameter(mm)	0.1-0.406
Specific Gravity	1.12-1.15
Elongation (%)	10-25
Modulus of elasticity(ksi)	2750-3770
Average tensile strength(N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	150

Coir fibers have higher tensile strength as compared to other natural fibers, as the coir does not break easily with hand. Coir has a high resistance against salt water. It also has good resistance against corrosion. Since it is a waste material and dumped here and there, so due to reaction with water and air it decomposes and due to

increase of 2.5% from 0%-20% by replacing the cement by weight. Table3 shows that the strength of RHA concrete initially does not match with the strength of control specimen at 7days and 14days but it nearly matches at 28 days and improves at 90days. The graph shows that the addition of fibers improves the compressive strength up to 15 % addition of RHA after that no considerable improvement is observed. Addition of coconut fibers shows permissible results up to 3 % addition.

MIX	COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF CUBES N/mm <sup>2</sup>			
	7 DAYS	14 DAYS	28 DAYS	90 DAYS
M20	23.55	24.88	40.0	45.5
M20+2.5%RHA	20.11	20.81	30.18	42.3
M20+5%RHA	20.8	21.2	31.25	42.8
M20+7.5%RHA	21.22	21.28	32.58	43.58
M20+10%RHA	21.33	21.88	35.8	44.98

which it produces bad smell, unhealthy air to breathe for human as well as for animals. Sometimes it is burned in atmosphere causing air pollution. Use of some of the coir fibres can reduce air pollution, and the area where extracts of coconut fruit are dumped can be maintained clean and healthy.

### TESTS ON FRESH CONCRETE

An M20 mix is designed as per guidelines in IS 10262, 1982 based on the preliminary studies conducted in the constituent materials. Tests on fresh concrete are obtained as follows:

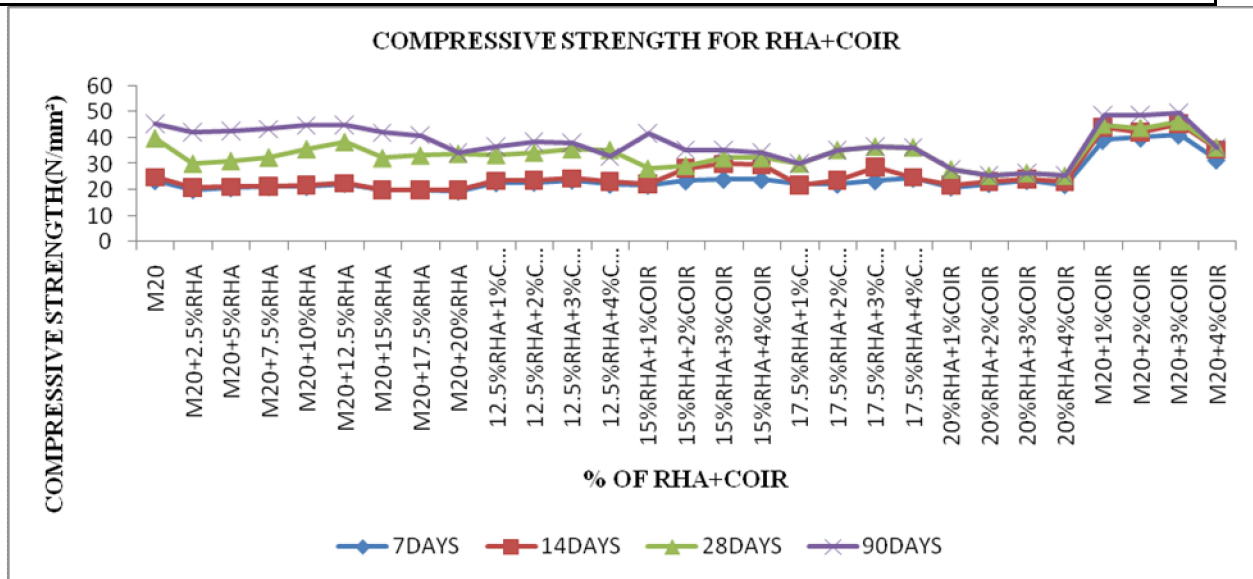
TESTS	RESULTS
Slump Test	116mm
Vee Bee Time	9 sec.
Compaction Factor Test	0.93.
Flow Test	74%.

### TESTS ON HARDENED CONCRETE

#### COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH TEST :

Three specimens for each are cast with different percentages of RHA with gradual

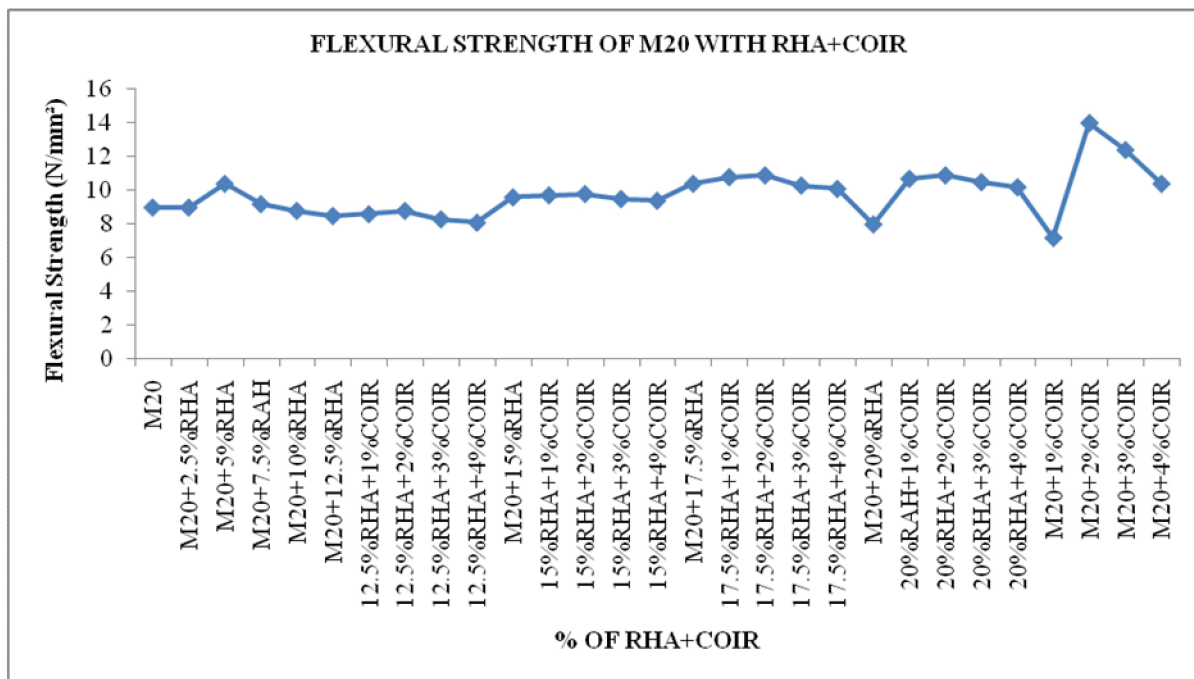
M20+12.5%RHA	22.5	22.48	38.55	45.2
M20+15%RHA	20.0	20.12	32.3	42.22
M20+17.5%RHA	19.98	19.92	33.3	41.18
M20+20%RHA	19.58	19.98	34.0	34.55
12.5%RHA+1%COIR	22.8	23.5	40.8	36.68
12.5%RHA+2%COIR	23.0	23.8	42.4	38.67
12.5%RHA+3%COIR	23.8	24.4	42.8	38.07
12.5%RHA+4%COIR	22.2	23.2	35.5	32.8
15%RHA+1%COIR	21.8	22.22	28.3	41.9
15%RHA+2%COIR	23.5	28.3	29.4	35.55
15%RHA+3%COIR	24.1	30.0	32.3	35.55
15%RHA+4%COIR	24.0	29.8	32.3	34.4
17.5%RHA+1%COIR	22.22	21.87	30.3	30.3
17.5%RHA+2%COIR	22.2	23.8	35.5	35.5
17.5%RHA+3%COIR	23.5	28.8	36.8	36.8
17.5%RHA+4%COIR	24.5	24.8	36.5	36.5
20%RHA+1%COIR	21.1	21.8	28.0	28.0
20%RHA+2%COIR	22.5	23.2	25.5	25.5
20%RHA+3%COIR	23.6	24.2	26.6	26.6
20%RHA+4%COIR	22.0	23.0	25.5	25.5
M20+1%COIR	39.11	44.0	45.33	48.88
M20+2%COIR	40.0	42.22	44.0	49.1
M20+3%COIR	41.1	45.5	46.6	49.9
M20+4%COIR	31.55	35.55	36.44	36.44



**FLEXURAL STRENGTH :**

Maximum flexural strength observed at 17.5%RHA+COIR and 20%RHA +COIR. The increase in flexural strength is observed up to 21.11%.The chart shows the detail results of flexural strength test. It is also observed though

the beam specimens fails to take further load but it does not break because of fibers . The fibers kept them intact and wont allow to fail easily.



SR NO	MIX	FLEXURAL STRENGTH N/mm <sup>2</sup>
1	M20	9
2	M20+2.5% RHA	9
3	M20+5% RHA	10.4
4	M20+7.5% RHA	9.2
5	M20+10% RHA	8.8
6	M20+12.5% RHA	8.5
7	M20+15% RHA	9.6
8	M20+17.5% RHA	10.4
9	M20+20% RHA	8
10	12.5% RHA+1% COIR	8.6
11	12.5% RHA+2% COIR	8.8
12	12.5% RHA+3% COIR	8.3
13	12.5% RHA+4% COIR	8.1
14	15% RHA+1% COIR	9.72
15	15% RHA+2% COIR	9.8

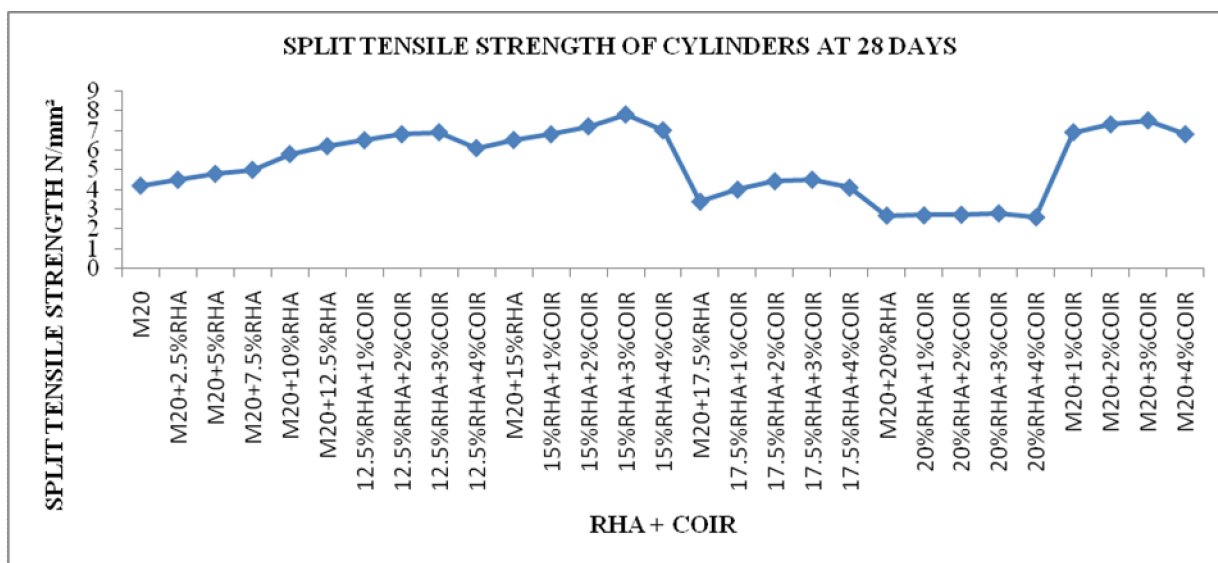
16	15%RHA+3%COIR	9.5
17	15%RHA+4%COIR	9.4
18	17.5%RHA +1%COIR	10.8
19	17.5% RHA +2%COIR	10.9
20	17.5% RHA +3%COIR	10.3
21	17.5% RHA +4%COIR	10.1
22	20%RHA+1%COIR	10.7
23	20%RHA+2%COIR	10.9
24	20%RHA+3%COIR	10.5
25	20%RHA+4%COIR	10.2
26	1%COIR	7.2
27	2%COIR	14
28	3%COIR	12.4
29	4%COIR	10.4

**SPLIT TENSILE STRENGTH OF CYLINDERS :**

Cylinders are tested after 28 days of curing for Split Tensile Strength. The maximum strength is given by the mix of 15%RHA+3%COIR. It is observed that the addition of RHA and COIR fibers increases the Split Tensile Strength of concrete by 46%, and Coir alone increases the strength up to 44%. It is also observed that at failure load the cylinders of the control specimens are split or crush very easily but the cylinders of the mix containing fibers still kept intact even after failure.

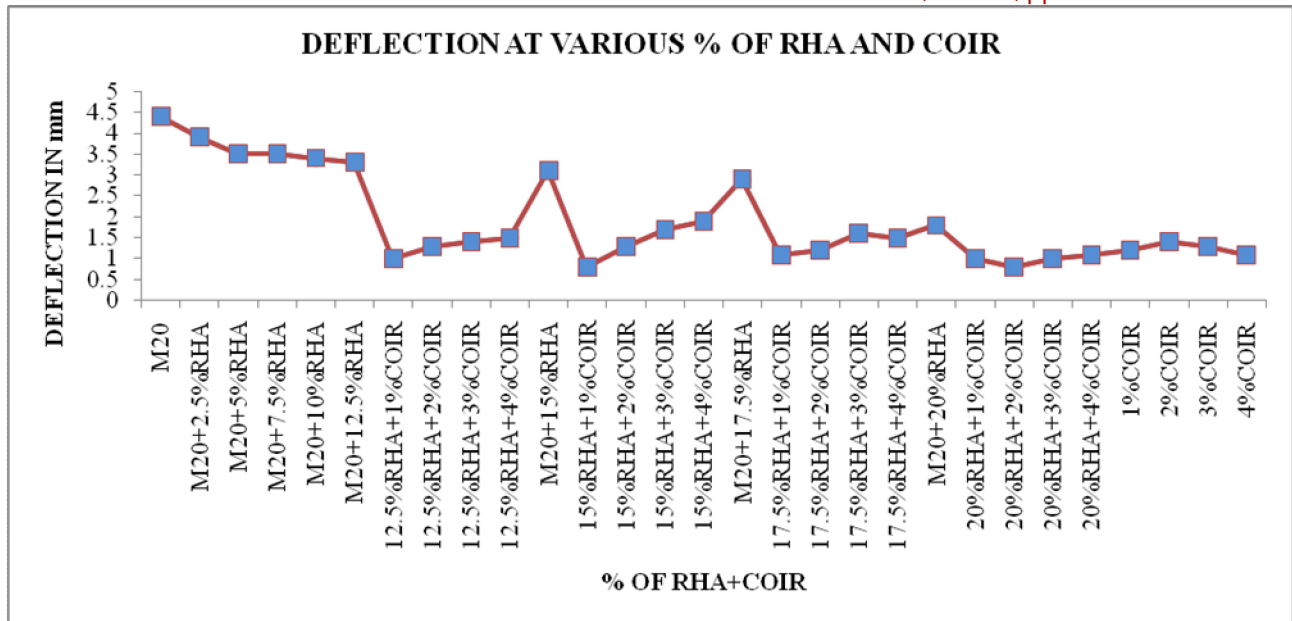
MIX	SPLIT TENSILE STRENGTH OF CYLINDERS N/mm <sup>2</sup>
M20	4.2
M20+2.5%RHA	4.5
M20+5%RHA	4.8
M20+7.5%RHA	5.0
M20+10%RHA	5.8
M20+12.5%RHA	6.2
M20+15%RHA	6.51
M20+17.5%RHA	3.39
M20+20%RHA	2.69
12.5%RHA+1%COIR	6.5
12.5%RHA+2%COIR	6.8
12.5%RHA+3%COIR	6.9
12.5%RHA+4%COIR	6.1
15%RHA+1%COIR	6.8
15%RHA+2%COIR	7.2
15%RHA+3%COIR	7.8
15%RHA+4%COIR	7.0
17.5%RHA +1%COIR	4.0
17.5% RHA +2%COIR	4.42

<b>17.5% RHA +3% COIR</b>	4.5
<b>17.5% RHA +4% COIR</b>	4.1
<b>20%RHA+1% COIR</b>	2.7
<b>20%RHA+2% COIR</b>	2.73
<b>20%RHA+3% COIR</b>	2.8
<b>20%RHA+4% COIR</b>	2.6
<b>1% COIR</b>	6.9
<b>2% COIR</b>	7.3
<b>3% COIR</b>	7.5
<b>4% COIR</b>	6.8



**DEFLECTION TEST:**

The deflection is tested while testing the flexural strength of the beam specimens. The calibrated scale is attached to the machine and the metal pointer is attached at the center of the testing specimen. The load is kept constant for testing the deflection of each specimen which is the breaking load of the control mix, it is done to show that that the addition of fibers will increase the flexural strength of the concrete and therefore at the breaking load of the control mix of the mix containing fibers and RHA the load carrying capacity is increased and the deflection is limited.



#### REDUCTION IN WEIGHT OF THE CONCRETE:

It is observed that the RHA and COIR fibers has some property by which after adding it in the concrete it will reduces the weight of the concrete. RHA when added in the concrete reduces the weight of the concrete, as well as the addition of COIR fibers further reduces the weight of the concrete. Is observed during experiment Up to 25% reduction in weight. The chart shows the reduction in weight.

#### RESULTS:

1. It is observed that 12.5%RHA+2%COIR gives maximum compressive strength.
2. Maximum split tensile strength and minimum deflection is also observed for the same mix.
3. Flexural strength shows maximum improvement at 20%RHA+COIR.
4. Rate analysis shows that as the percentage of RHA and COIR increases the cost goes on decreases.
5. Addition of super plasticizer improves the workability of mix.

6. Rate Analysis shows that 16% reduction in cost can be achieved.
7. Weight reduced up to 20% is observed.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

1. Compressive strength increases with the increase in the percentage of Rice Husk Ash up to addition of 12.5% by weight of cement
2. Concrete requires approximate increase in water cement ratio due to increase in percentage of RHA. Because RHA is highly porous material.
3. The workability of RHA concrete has been found to decrease with increase in RHA replacement.
4. It was found that rice husk when burned produced amount of silica (more than 80%). For this reason it provides excellent thermal insulation.
5. Rice husk ash contains more silica, and hence we prefer rice husk ash use in concrete to increase the strength.
6. Though Rice husk ash is harmful for environment, but the cost of rice husk ash is zero and thus we prefer RHA use in concrete as compared to silica fumes.
7. Higher compressive strength obtained at the mix proportion of 12.5%Rha+2%COIR.



8. At 2% and 3% COIR fiber gives maximum compressive strength.
9. After addition of COIR fibers compressive strength increased up to 3%-4%.
10. Compressive strength of composite material is increased up to 28%.
11. Flexural strength shows improvement after addition of COIR.
12. Split Tensile Strength increased up to 55%.
13. Balling effect of COIR can be reduced by keep the fibers immersed in the solution of super plasticizer for 5-10mins.
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