



# STUDY ON THE MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF A GEO-POLYMER CONCRETE BASED ON LOW CALCIUM FLY ASH AND PAPER SLUDGE ASH AS PARTIAL REPLACEMENT

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## Abstract

The production of Portland cement is an energy-intensive process that emits a substantial quantity of CO<sub>2</sub> (about 13500 million tonnes per year). As a result, the Endeavour is centered on finding ways to substitute Portland cement with other ecologically benign cementitious materials. Another type of cementitious material has recently been created, which uses silica and alumina activated with a strong alkali solution and low heat. Geo-polymer or alkali activated Fly Ash cement is a substance that is generally made using fly ash (FA) as a raw material. The purpose of this thesis is to investigate the use of Paper Sludge Ash as a partial replacement for fly ash in geo-polymer concrete. This Fly Ash has a low calcium concentration and is widely utilized in the building industry. It may also be utilized to make high-strength geo-polymer concrete as a source material. A by-product, paper sludge, is utilized as a fuel in a mill boiler, small electricity generating plant, and other purposes. When paper sludge is burned, it has a high amount of silica, which is one of the primary ingredients in geo-polymer production. The amorphous reactive Paper Sludge ash might be created and utilized as pozzolana with correct burning and grinding. The SiO<sub>2</sub>-rich PSA can also be used to modify the geo-polymer's SiO<sub>2</sub> concentration. The impact of the Si/Al ratio on the mechanical strength and rate of response of fly ash and Paper Sludge ash based GPC is the subject of this paper. PSA was used to replace fly ash in the following proportions: 0%, 2%, 4%, 6%, 8%, 10%, 12%, 14%, and 16%.

**Keywords:** Geo-polymer, fly ash, Paper Sludge ash, sodium hydroxide, sodium silicate

## Introduction

One of the most extensively utilized construction materials is Portland cement concrete. The demand for Portland cement rises in tandem with the demand for concrete as a construction material. Cement output is expected to expand from around 1.50 billion tonnes in 1995 to 2.20 billion tonnes by 2010. (Malhotra, 1999). Climate change, on the other hand, has become a serious worry as a result of global warming. Human activities release greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere, causing global warming. CO<sub>2</sub> is the most potent greenhouse gas, accounting for around

65 percent of global warming (Mc Caffrey2002). Because the manufacture of 1 tonne of Portland cement emits about 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, the cement industry is considered liable for some of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Davidovits,1994; McCaffrey,2002). In this regard, the geo-polymer technology introduced by Davidovits(1978) offers great potential for us alternative Portland cement in the concrete industry. In terms of minimising global warming, geopolymers technology has the potential to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the cement and aggregate sectors by roughly 80%. (Davidovits,1994).

### Objective

The thesis' main goal is to construct structural grade geo-polymer concrete(GPC) using various combinations of low calcium fly ash(Class F) and paper sludge ash.

### Geo-polymer

Davidovits created the term "geopolymer" in 1978. Geopolymer is an inorganic aluminosilicate polymer made mostly of silicon and aluminium components such as fly ash, PSA, Metakaolin, and GGBS. To stimulate the silicon and aluminium atoms in the source materials (Fly ash) to dissolve and produce gel, alkaline solutions are utilised. The polymerization process can be aided by using heat and then drying it. The loose coarse and fine particles are bound together by the Geo-polymer gel to make geo-polymer concrete.

### Review of Literatures

#### Geopolymer Concrete based on fly ash. Fly ash-based concrete properties and uses. Materials Forum Volume 30-2006, by B. Vijayarangan, Djwantoro Hardjito, Steenie E. Wallah, and M.J. Sumajouw.

The Fly ash-based Geopolymer concrete has outstanding compressive strength and is acceptable for structural applications, according to this article. The most important elements affecting the characteristics of fresh and hardened concrete have been discovered. Water content, new concrete setting time, curing temperature, and curing time are all factors to consider. The fly ash-based geopolymer concrete is also resistant to sulphate attack, has a low creep rate, and has minimal drying shrinkage. On the creation of geopolymer concrete based on fly ash. ACI Materials Journal, by B. Vijayarangan, Djwantoro Hardjito, Steele E. Wallah, and M.J. Sumajouw (2004). The higher the concentration (in terms of molar) of Sodium Hydroxide solution, the higher the compressive strength of Geopolymer Concrete, according to this study. The compressive strength of Geopolymer concrete increases as the ratio of sodium silicate to sodium hydroxide liquid ratio by mass increases. The compressive strength of Geopolymer concrete improves as the curing temperature rises from 30 to 90 degrees Celsius. Geopolymer concrete with a longer curing period (between 6 and 96 hours) has a higher compressive strength. Paper Sludge Ash Concrete, Paper Mill Ash Reuse in Plaster Blends Saveria Monosi, Daniela Sani\*, and Maria Letizia Ruello contributed to this piece. The Open Vaiste Management Journal 2012 is a publication dedicated to open source management. This study investigates the use of lightweight ash from the paper mill sector in the production of plaster mixtures. During the de-inking sludge combustion process, light ash is formed. Lightweight ash is an effective element in the creation of cement mortars and/or pozzolanic mortars for use as plaster, according to studies. The efficiency of the ash as it is, as a substitute for extremely fine sand, was investigated in this study on ash valorization.

### Materials

The materials employed in this study were chosen based on their specifications, which met the criteria of suitable Indian standards as well as the research's aims. Fly ash and Paper Sludge ash were employed as starting materials in this experiment. Fly ash is a byproduct of coal combustion. Paper Sludge ash is made from burning Paper Sludge and includes a lot of silica. The material for the concrete was made out of locally accessible coarse aggregates and finer river sands. NaOH, Na<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>3</sub>, and other alkaline activators are utilised.

The chemical compositions of the fly ash and Paper Sludge ash as determined by chemical analysis are shown in Table

Chemical composition	FA%	PSA%
Silica as SiO <sub>2</sub> %	60.54	71.17
Alumina as Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	23.87	16.15
Iron as Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	9.64	0.11
Calcium as CaO	1.07	7.04
Magnesium as MgO	1.52	3.84



## Casting and Curing

Cubes of dimension 100x100x100mm and cylinders of dimension 75mm dia 150mm heights were cast immediately after casting,



**FigNo.3 sodium silicate and sodium hydroxide**



**FigNo.4 Casting**

The samples are covered to avoid the loss of water due to evaporation, after 4 hours of curing, the specimens were demoulded. The demoulded specimens were again cured in an oven at a specified temperature of 60°C for a period of 12 h. At the end of curing period the cubes, cylinders and prisms are removed from the oven. The specimens are then left to air dry at room temperature, until they are loaded in compression testing machine at the specified age.



**FigNo.5 Compression Testing Machine**



**FigNo.6 Curing Test P**

### rocedure

Concrete samples were tested for compressive and tensile strength using a compression testing equipment in accordance with IS 516. For the aforementioned mix proportions Geopolymer concrete (10Molar) for varied (percent) of replacements, 180 cubes, 180 cylinders, and 180 prisms were cast. The cubes, cylinders, and prisms were put to the test for seven days, fourteen days, and twenty-eight days.

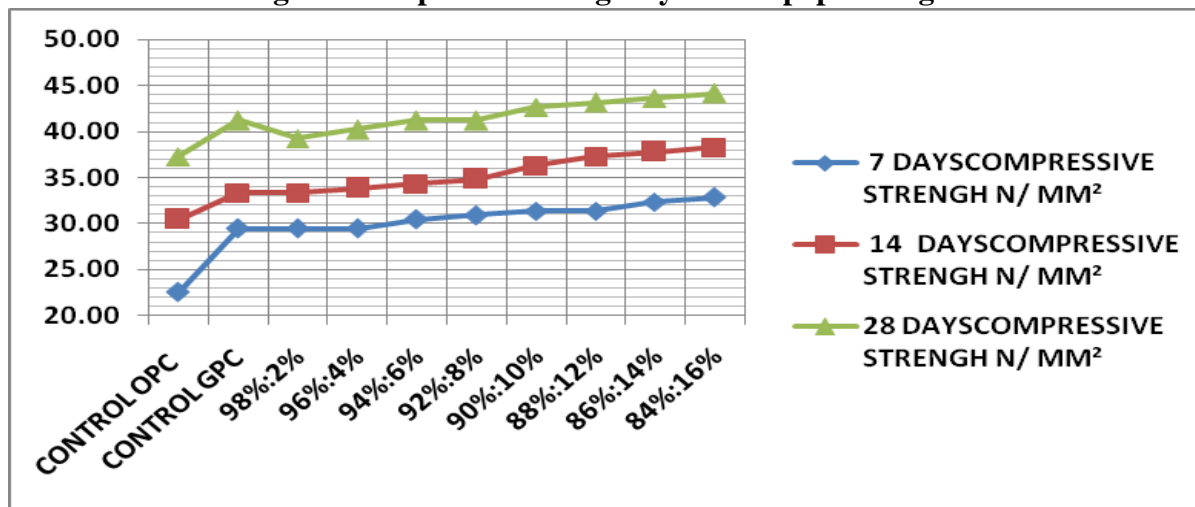
### Compressive Strength

Flyash: paper sludge ash	Compressive strength N/mm <sup>2</sup> (7days)	Compressive strength N/mm <sup>2</sup> (14days)	Compressive strength N/mm <sup>2</sup> (28days)
control op concrete	22.56	30.41	37.28
control gpc 100% : 0%	29.43	33.35	41.20
98% : 2%	29.43	33.35	39.24
96% : 4%	29.43	33.84	40.22
94% : 6%	30.41	34.34	41.20
92% : 8%	30.90	34.83	41.20
90% : 10%	31.39	36.30	42.67

88%:12%	31.39	37.28	43.16
86%:14%	32.37	37.77	43.65
84%:16%	32.86	38.26	44.15

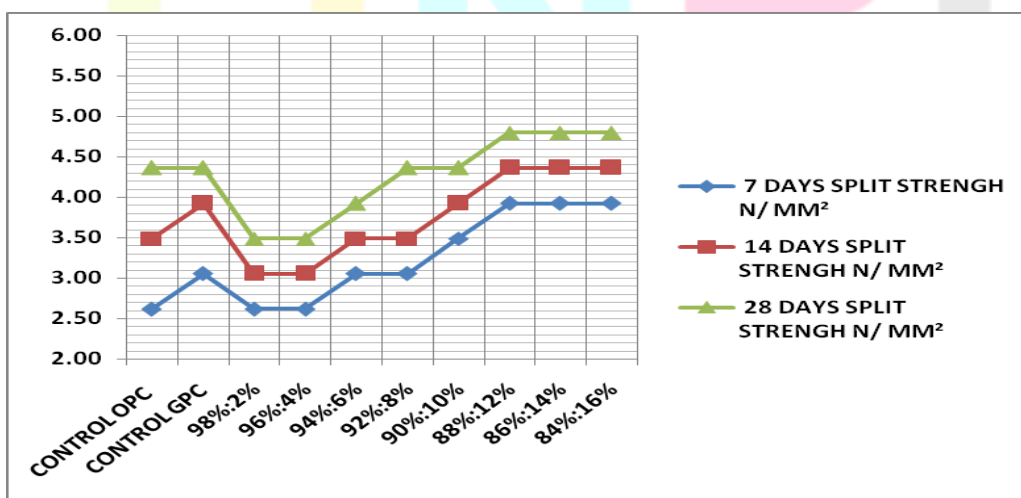
**TABLE NO.1 Compressive Strength fly ash with paper sludge**

**ashFigNo.7 Comparison Strength fly ash with paper sludge ash**



**Split Tensile Strength**

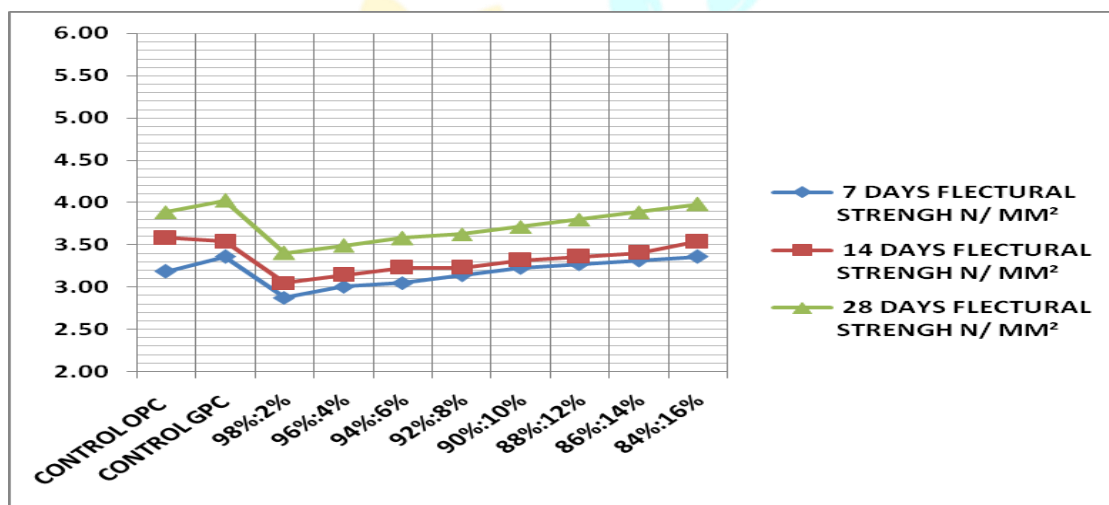
Fly ash: Paper sludge ash	Split tensile strength N/mm² (3 days)	Split tensile strength N/mm² (7 days)	Split tensile strength N/mm² (28 days)
control OPC concrete	2.62	3.49	4.36
control GPC 100%:0%	3.05	3.92	4.36
98%:2%	2.62	3.05	3.49
96%:4%	2.62	3.05	3.49
94%:6%	3.05	3.49	3.92
92%:8%	3.05	3.49	4.36
90%:10%	3.49	3.92	4.36
88%:12%	3.92	4.36	4.80
86%:14%	3.92	4.36	4.80
84%:16%	3.92	4.36	4.80



**FigNo.8 Split Tensile Strength fly ash with paper sludge ash**

**Flexural Strength**

Fly ash:Paper sludge ash	Flexural strength N/mm <sup>2</sup> (7days)	Flexural strength N/mm <sup>2</sup> (14days)	Flexural strength N/mm <sup>2</sup> (28days)
Control OPC concrete	3.18	3.58	3.89
Control GPC 100%:0%	3.36	3.54	4.02
98%:2%	2.87	3.05	3.40
96%:4%	3.00	3.14	3.49
94%:6%	3.05	3.23	3.58
92%:8%	3.14	3.23	3.62
90%:10%	3.23	3.31	3.71
88%:12%	3.27	3.36	3.80
86%:14%	3.31	3.40	3.89
84%:16%	3.36	3.54	3.98



**FigNo.8 Flexural Strength fly ash with paper sludge ash**

### Results And Discussions

The findings of the compressive strength tests in the figure are for oven curing, followed by ambient curing. When 16 percent of the fly ash is replaced with Paper Sludge ash, the peak strength of 44 Mpa is achieved after 28 days. A replacement study is now underway.

### Conclusions

On the basis of the findings and discussions, the following conclusions are reached. Paper sludge ash is a novel substance that may be used to substitute cement in building projects, allowing construction companies to save money while maintaining environmental quality. Fly ash and Paper Sludge ash, in combination with NaOH and Na<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>3</sub>, can be used as a cement substitute. The compressive strength of geo-polymer concrete diminishes as the mass ratio of water to geo-polymer particles rises. The government can take the necessary procedures to extract NaOH, Na<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>3</sub> Solution from waste materials generated by chemical businesses, lowering the cost of the geo-polymer solution. High performance and green materials can save money in terms of raw material usage, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and global warming potential, according to environmental calculations. According to research, fly ash may securely substitute 16 percent of paper sludge ash in geo-polymer concrete. GPC has 1.18, 1.01, and 1.02 times the compressive, split, and flexural strength of controlled concrete, respectively.

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