*IOSR Journal of Mechanical and Civil Engineering (IOSR-JMCE)*
*e-ISSN: 2278-1684, p-ISSN: 2320-334X*
*PP 61-64*
*www.iosrjournals.org*

# Coconut Shell as Partial Replacement of Coarse Aggregate in Concrete

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*Abstract: The rising cost of construction material is a matter of concern. The reason for increase in cost is high demand of concrete and scarcity of raw material. Hence the concrete technologists must search for some economical alternative to the coarse aggregate. In this study, M 20 grade of concrete was produced by replacing granite by coconut shell. Forty five cubes were casted and their compressive strength and workability were evaluated at 7, 14 and 28 days. The compressive strength of concrete reduced as the percentage replacement increased. Concrete produced by 2.5%, 5%, 7.5%, 10% replacement attained 28 days compressive strength of 19.71,19.53,19.08,18.91 respectively. These results showed that Coconut shell concrete can be used in reinforced concrete construction. Its utilization is cost effective and eco friendly.*
***Keywords:*** *Coarse Aggregate, Coconut Shell, Compressive Strength, Density, Waste Utilization*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Concrete is world's most widely used construction material. The utilization of concrete is increasing at a higher rate due to development in infrastructure and construction activities all around the world [1].However there are some negative impacts of more production of concrete like continuous extensive extraction of aggregate from natural resources will lead to its depletion and ecological imbalance [2]. Researchers are in search of replacing coarse aggregate to make concrete less expensive and to lead sustainable development [3]. This environmental reason has generated a lot of concern in the construction world. The use of sugarcane bagasse, wooden chips, plastic waste, textile waste, polyethylene, rice husk ash, rubber tyres, vegetable fibers, paper and pulp industry waste, groundnut shell, waste glass, broken bricks are some examples of replacing aggregates in concrete[4]. Coconut shell is categorized as light weight aggregate. The coconut shell when dried contains cellulose, lignin, pentosans and ash in varying percentage [5]. In Asia, the construction industry is yet to realize the advantages of light weight concrete in high rise buildings [6]. Coconut shells are not commonly used in construction industry and are often dumped as agricultural waste. The aim of this research is to spread awareness of using coconut shell as partial replacement of coarse aggregate in concrete and determining its compressive strength and density. Until now, Industrial by products and domestic wastes has been utilized in concrete, but the use of agricultural waste in concrete is in its infancy stage. Coconut shell is an agricultural waste. The materials are proportioned by their weights. The water cement ratio is obtained by conducting various workability tests. The obtained results are compared with that of conventional mix. Tests are as per the specified procedure of Indian Standard Codes.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHOD

The raw materials used in this experimentation were locally available and these included Ordinary Portland Cement (O.P.C) as binding agent, river sand as fine aggregate, crushed granite and coconut shell as coarse aggregate. Potable tap water was used for mixing and curing throughout the entire investigation. The permissible and tolerance limits of water were checked as per the I.S 456-2000[14].

Cement: Ordinary Portland cement grade 53, conforming to I.S 12269-1987[12] was used. Cement must develop appropriate strength. It must represent the appropriate rheological behavior.

| S. No | Physical Property | Test Results |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | Standard Consistency | 29.2% |
| 02 | Fineness of Cement (%) | 7.4% |
| 03 | Specific Gravity | 3.14 |
| 04 | Initial Setting Time | 45 mins. |
| 05 | Final Setting Time | 260 mins. |

Fine Aggregates: River sand was used as the fine aggregate, conforming to Zone-II as per I.S 383-1970[13].The sand was air dried and sieved to remove any foreign material, prior to mixing.

| S. No | Physical Property | Test Results |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | Specific Gravity | 2.6 |
| 02 | Fineness Modulus | 2.83 |
| 03 | Bulk Density(kg/m$^3$) | 1600 |

Coarse Aggregates: Coarse aggregate consists of 50% of self weight of concrete and 70% of volume of concrete.

| S. No | Physical Property | Test Results |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | Specific Gravity | 2.7 |
| 02 | Fineness Modulus | 2.73 |
| 03 | Bulk Modulus(kg/m$^3$) | 1650 |
| 04 | Water Absorption | 0.25 |

Coconut Shell: Coconut shells were collected from temples to analyze the properties of coconut shell. The physical properties of Coconut shell are shown below.

| S. No | Physical Property | Test Results |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | Specific Gravity | 1.33 |
| 02 | Water Absorption (%) | 24 |
| 03 | Bulk Density(kg/m$^3$) | 800 |
| 04 | Shell Thickness | (2-7)mm |

## III. PREPARATION OF SPECIMENS

Concrete Mix Design: M-20 grade of concrete was designed by I.S 10262-1982[11] method. The natural coarse aggregates were replaced as 0%, 2.5%, 5%.7.5%, 10%.The test results were analyzed and compared with theoretical values, obtained from various codes. Due to high water absorption of coconut shell, they were pre soaked in water for 24 hours, prior to mixing.

Batching and Mixing: Weigh Batching was practiced with the help of electronic weigh balance. Batching was done as per the mix proportions. Mixing was done in tilting mixer. It was mixed for 2-3 minutes, after addition of water.

Placing and Compaction: Cubes are cleaned and oiled to prevent the formation of bond between concrete and moulds. Place the fresh concrete in cubes in 3 layers, tamping each layer 25 times. The entrapped air in concrete is removed by table vibrator. Anything kept on the table gets vibrated.

Demoulding: After placing fresh concrete in moulds, it was allowed to set for 24 hours. It was marked with some permanent identification mark i.e. A1, A2, A3, etc. Concrete cubes are now kept in curing tank for 7, 14 and 28 days. After 28 days, concrete cubes were removed from curing tank to conduct tests on hardened concrete.

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Compressive Strength:**

Compressive strength is defined as resistance of concrete to axial loading. Cubes were placed in Universal Testing Machine (U.T.M), and load was applied. The readings on dial gauge were recorded and compressive strength was calculated. The results of Compressive strength are shown in Table 01.

Calculations: Compressive Strength = Maximum load/Cross Sectional Area

=P/A

Table 01. Compressive Strength of Coconut Shell Concrete ($N/mm^2$)

| Curing Days | 0% | 2.5% | 5% | 7.5% | 10% |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 07 | 15.09 | 14.93 | 14.79 | 14.58 | 14.40 |
| 14 | 18.63 | 18.51 | 18.32 | 18.06 | 17.40 |
| 28 | 20.27 | 19.71 | 19.53 | 19.08 | 18.91 |

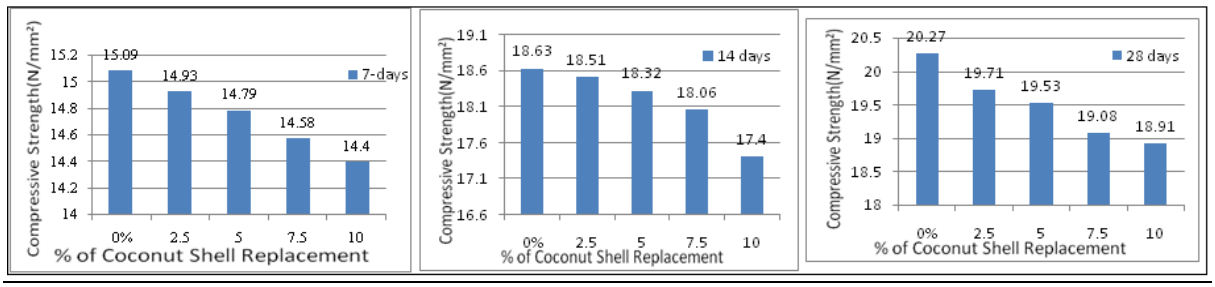
The maximum compressive strength of 20.27 $N/mm^2$ was attained at 0% replacement, while the minimum strength of 18.91 $N/mm^2$ was attained at 100% replacement. At 10% replacement, concrete attained 18.91 $N/mm^2$ marginally less than 20 $N/mm^{2,}$ the minimum recommended for use as structural concrete according to the requirements of [7].The strength decreased as the percentage replacement increased. As the coconut shell increased, the surface area increased, thus requiring more cement for proper bonding. Since cement content was constant, there was no extra bonding and strength reduced [8].

Workability of Concrete: The results of workability of concrete are shown in table 02.There is 30% cost reduction for concrete produced using coconut shell [8].

Table 02.Workability of Coconut Shell Concrete

| Workability | 0% | 2.5% | 5% | 7.5% | 10% |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Slump (mm) | 85 | 61 | 67 | 73 | 79 |
| Compaction Factor Value | 0.910 | 0.910 | 0.917 | 0.920 | 0.924 |

Bar Charts: The bar charts are drawn for compressive strength results. These are drawn between compressive strength and percentage replacement of coconut shell concrete at 7, 14 and 28 days to observe the variation of results.




## V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that

Increase in percentage replacement by coconut shell reduces compressive strength of concrete.

Increase in percentage replacement by coconut shell increases workability of concrete.

Coconut Shell can be used as partial replacement of coarse aggregate in R.C.C concrete.

The following recommendations are made at the end of the study.

Effect of different admixtures can be studied on Coconut Shell Concrete(C.S.C)

Evaluating Bond Strength of Coconut Shell Concrete(C.S.C)

Coconut Shell- Cement compatibility

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