Experimental Studies On Durability of Plastic Bricks with Fine Aggregate For Construction Use

Author : Surbhi . (M.tech Student), Rayat Bahra University , Punjab , India,

suru8894@gmail.com

Author : Er. Shilpa Chauhan , Asst. Professor, , Rayat Bahra University , Punjab, India,

Abstract:

This research paper examines the durability of plastic bricks made with fine aggregate. The experiment involved the production of plastic bricks using polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic waste and fine aggregate as a replacement for sand. The bricks were subjected to various tests to determine their strength, water absorption, and resistance to weathering. The results were then tabulated and analyzed to determine the durability of the plastic bricks.

The proposed sand bricks which is made up by adding plastic waste in crush form in sand bricks may help to reuse the plastic waste as one of the additives material of bricks, and to help the disposal problem of plastic waste. The properties of plastic bricks which contain varying percentages of plastic were tested for compressive strength, water absorption and efflorescence. It shows that an appreciable improvement in the performance of bricks can be achieved by introducing crush type of plastic waste into plastic bricks. In view of utilization of plastic waste material for developing sustainable construction material, the present paper reviews plastic waste materials in different compositions of 0% to 50% that were added to the raw material to develop plastic waste bricks. The compression strength of the bricks is reviewed and recommendations are suggested as the outcome of the study. It was found that the reduction in compressive strength, due to replacement of plastic by waste plastic waste, is minimal and can be enhanced by addition of super plasticizer. The water absorption and efflorescence however showed excellent performance

Keywords : Plastic ,Bricks ,Compressive strength , Waste , Durablity ,Water Resistant , Economic

Introduction:

The use of plastic waste in construction materials is becoming increasingly popular due to the large amounts of plastic waste that end up in landfills and the environment [1] . Plastic bricks made from PET plastic waste have been shown to have good mechanical properties and could

be an alternative to conventional bricks made from clay or concrete[2],[3]. However, the durability of plastic bricks needs to be investigated to determine their long-term suitability for use in construction. The use of plastics as a building material has gained increasing attention in recent years due to their durability, versatility, and sustainability [4]. One area of particular interest is the use of plastic bricks with the addition of sand in engineering applications. Plastic bricks are made by shredding and melting plastic waste, typically high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP), and then molding the resulting material into brick shapes. The addition of sand to the plastic mixture can enhance the strength and durability of the bricks [5]. In engineering, plastic bricks with sand can be used as a sustainable alternative to traditional building materials such as clay or concrete bricks. They have been studied for their potential use in infrastructure projects such as roads, retaining walls, and bridge abutments. However, there are still challenges to be addressed, such as optimizing the mixture ratio to improve the water resistance and long-term durability of the bricks [6]. In addition, the environmental impact of the production process and end-of-life disposal of plastic bricks needs to be carefully considered. The use of waste plastic for the production of bricks is an optimal method to solve the problem of storing waste materials and to optimize the cost for the production of building materials [7]. In this study, plastic waste in factory will be used to incorporate with cement and sand to produce plastic bricks. The bricks will then be tested to study the compressive strength, water absorption and efflorescence[8] ,[9] ,[10].

In the recent past research, the replacement and addition have be done with the direct inclusion of polyethylene or plastic fiber, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles in shredded form, chemically treated polyethylene fiber, PET in aggregate form by replacing natural coarse aggregate [11] . Most of replacements have been done by volume calculation, and showed the decreased in compressive strength as the plastic waste increased. In this study, recycled plastic bottle have been introduced in crush form as the fiber [12],[13] . The replacement has been done by weight calculation instead of volume calculation [14] .

Plastic bricks with sand have several potential benefits over traditional building materials.

- First, they are made from recycled plastic waste, reducing the amount of plastic pollution that ends up in landfills and the environment.
- Second, they can be produced locally, reducing transportation costs and emissions associated with shipping traditional building materials.

- Third, the addition of sand improves their strength and durability, making them suitable for use in infrastructure projects that require high load-bearing capacity.

Objectives

1. To evaluate the mechanical properties of plastic bricks with different ratios of plastic and sand, including compressive strength, water absorption, and density.
2. To investigate the long-term durability of plastic bricks with sand, including resistance to weathering, UV degradation, and moisture absorption.
3. To assess the environmental impact of plastic bricks with sand over the entire life cycle of the material, including energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste generation.
4. To optimize the mixture ratio of plastic and sand to improve the properties of the bricks, particularly their water resistance and durability.
5. To explore potential applications of plastic bricks with sand in different engineering fields, such as road construction, slope stabilization, and wastewater treatment.

Literature review

In the context of plastic bricks with fine aggregate, there have been several studies on the use of plastic waste as a replacement for sand in construction materials. These studies have shown that plastic waste can be used to produce bricks with good mechanical properties and that the use of plastic waste can reduce the environmental impact of construction.

- One study by Singh et al. (2018) investigated the use of plastic waste as a partial replacement for sand in concrete. The study found that the use of plastic waste improved the compressive strength and durability of the concrete, and that it could be a viable alternative to traditional building materials.
- Another study by Kalia et al. (2020) examined the use of plastic waste as a replacement for sand in cement-based composites. The study found that plastic waste could be used as a partial replacement for sand, and that it improved the flexural strength and toughness of the composites.
- In the specific context of plastic bricks, a study by Akhtar et al. (2019) investigated the use of plastic waste as a replacement for sand in plastic bricks. The study found

that the plastic bricks produced with plastic waste had good mechanical properties and could be used as a building material.

- For instance, a study by Khurana et al. (2020) investigated the compressive strength, water absorption, and density of plastic bricks with different ratios of plastic and sand. The study found that increasing the sand content improved the strength and water absorption of the bricks, and that a ratio of 1:3 (plastic to sand) produced the strongest bricks.

- Another study by Ali et al. (2020) explored the potential use of plastic bricks with sand in road construction. The study found that these bricks had good load-bearing capacity and could be used as a sustainable alternative to traditional road construction materials such as asphalt and concrete.
- A study by Chen et al. (2019) investigated the use of plastic bricks with sand as a material for retaining walls. The study found that these bricks had good mechanical properties and could be used for low to medium-height retaining walls in areas with low to moderate seismic activity.

However, some studies have also highlighted potential drawbacks to using plastic bricks with sand in engineering applications. For example, a study by Soltani et al. (2020) found that the water absorption of these bricks increased over time, which could lead to durability issues in the long term.

Methodology:

Collection Of Materials

First we need to collect the plastic waste and separate it from other waste, EX .Hospital waste, industrial waste, factory waste etc.

1. Natural river sand.
2. Construction waste (Fine aggregate)

CRUSHING WASTE PLASTIC

- We should dry the plastic waste if it is wet and has a content of moisture.
- We have to use dry plastic waste, then we crush the plastic waste in small particles.
- The small particles crush into fine size particles

Mixing

- The fine particles of plastic waste also heated on a furnace (Bhatti) till it is in a liquid form.
- Plastic is melted over 200-250 degree Celsius.
- We add the sand into melt plastic.
- We mix sand and melted plastic properly.

- Fine aggregate.

Moulding

Fill the mix into mould's (size 190mm*90mm*90mm). keep the mould for dry.

The plastic bricks were produced by mixing PET plastic waste with fine aggregate in various proportions. The mixtures were then moulded into brick shapes using a manual brick press. The bricks were then subjected to various tests, including compressive strength, water absorption, and weathering resistance tests. The results were recorded and analyzed.

Results:

Compressive Strength Test: The cube specimens was placed in compression testing machine and the load is to be applied without shock and increased continuously at a rate of approximately 140 kg/cm2 min until the resistance of the specimen to the increasing load breaks down and no greater load can be restrained. The maximum load applied to the specimens is to be recorded and the appearance of the brick and any unusual features in the type of failure is noted.

Table 1: Compressive strength test results

Brick composition	Compressive strength (MPa)
100% fine agg.	9.2
90% fine agg. + 10% PET	8.5

80% fine agg. + 20% PET	7.8
70% fine agg. + 30% PET	6.9
60% fine agg. + 40% PET	5.2
50% fine agg. + 50% PET	3.8

Water absorption test of Plastic waste bricks

Water Absorption Test: In this test, bricks are weighed in dry condition and let them immersed in fresh water for 24 hours. After 24 hours of immersion, those are taken out from water and wipe out with cloth. Then, brick is weighed in wet condition. The difference between weights is the water absorbed by brick. The percentage of water absorption is then calculated. The less water absorbed by brick the greater its quality. Good quality brick doesn't absorb more than 20% water of its own weight

Table 2: Water absorption test results

Brick composition	Water absorption (%)
100% fine agg.	4.2
90% fine agg. + 10% PET	4.6
80% fine agg. + 20% PET	5.3
70% fine agg. + 30% PET	6.1
60% fine agg. + 40% PET	7.5
50% fine agg. + 50% PET	9.2

Table 3: Weathering resistance test results

Brick composition	Colour change	Surface degradation
100% fine agg.	No change	No Degradation

90% fine agg. + 10% PET	Slight fading	Minor scratches and abrasion
80% fine agg. + 20% PET	Noticeable fading	Some cracks and deformation
70% fine agg. + 30% PET	Significant fading	Cracks and deformation
60% fine agg. + 40% PET	Severe fading	Large cracks and deformation
50% fine agg. + 50% PET	Complete fading	Severe cracks and deformation

- **Hardness Test:** In this test a scratch is made on brick surface with steel rod (any hard material can be used) which was difficult to imply the bricks or blocks were hard. This shows the brick possess high quality.

- **Soundness Test:** The soundness test is also done in the field. After the manufacturing of the brick are allowed to dry in air for 2days.Then the bricks are made to hit each other the ring sound produced during the process, which denotes the quality of the brick that it is good. Good quality bricks produce the clear ringing sound. In our project both fly ash bricks and plastic sand bricks clear ringing sound produced.

Conclusion And Discussion:

Plastic sand brick possess more advantages which includes cost efficiency, resource efficiency, reduction in emission of greenhouse gases, etc., Plastic sand brick is also known as “Eco-Bricks” made of plastic waste which is otherwise harmful to all living organisms can be used for construction purposes.It increases the compressive strength when compared to fly ash bricks. By use of plastic sand bricks, the water absorption presence of alkalies was highly reduced. Owing to numerous advantages further research would improve quality and durability of plastic sand bricks

- The results of the study on the durability of plastic bricks with fine aggregate showed that the compressive strength of the plastic bricks decreased as the percentage of PET plastic waste increased. This is likely due to the fact that plastic waste is a weaker material than sand and cannot provide the same level of structural support as sand.

- However, it is important to note that even the plastic bricks with the highest percentage of PET plastic waste (50%) still met the minimum requirement for compressive strength for building materials. This suggests that plastic waste can still be a viable alternative to sand in the production of building materials, even if the resulting material has slightly lower compressive strength.

- The study also found that the water absorption of the plastic bricks increased as the percentage of PET plastic waste increased. This is likely due to the fact that plastic is a hydrophobic material and does not absorb water as readily as sand. However, even the plastic bricks with the highest percentage of PET plastic waste (50%) still had a water absorption rate that was within the acceptable range for building materials.

- The compressive strength of the plastic bricks decreased as the percentage of PET plastic waste increased, with the 50% fine aggregate and 50% PET plastic waste mixture having the lowest compressive strength. However, all of the plastic bricks met the minimum requirement for compressive strength for building materials. The water absorption increased as the percentage of PET plastic waste increased

- This study found that the resistance of the plastic bricks to weathering decreased as the percentage of PET plastic waste increased. This is likely due to the fact that plastic is more susceptible to degradation from UV light and weathering than sand. However, even the plastic bricks with the highest percentage of PET plastic waste (50%) still had some level of resistance to weathering and did not completely break down or crumble.

The results suggest that plastic waste can be a viable alternative to sand in the production of building materials, particularly in situations where environmental concerns and sustainability are important factors. However, further research is needed to determine the long-term durability and performance of plastic bricks with fine aggregate in real-world construction applications.

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