

# EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF SILICA FUME AND RECYCLED COARSE AGGREGATES WITH PARTIAL REPLACEMENT OF CEMENT AND COARSE AGGREGATES IN M25 GRADE OF CONCRETE

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## ABSTRACT

*This project presents the results from an experimental investigation into the mechanical properties of M25 grade concrete, incorporating silica fume and recycled coarse aggregate as partial substitutes for cement and coarse aggregate. The increasing interest in using recycled coarse aggregates in fresh concrete as a replacement for natural aggregates stems from their potential environmental and economic advantages. The study commenced with the collection of raw materials for concrete preparation, adhering to the specified quantities derived from the concrete mix design. A series of tests were performed on the raw materials, including assessments of fineness, specific gravity, normal consistency, initial and final setting times of cement, sieve analysis for both fine and coarse aggregates. Following the mix design, the materials were combined and placed into molds in three layers, with each layer being tamped 25 times. The molded cubes were demolded the following day and submerged in a curing tank for periods of 7, 14, and 28 days. After the 7-day curing duration, the specimens underwent compression testing to ascertain the load values at which failure occurred. Similar tests were conducted on cubes cured for 14 and 28 days. The mixes were formulated using varying proportions of silica fume and recycled coarse aggregate, and the results were documented and illustrated in a bar graph. The experimental findings indicate that silica fume enhances the mechanical properties of concrete and its capacity to fill voids between cement particles. Consequently, the integration of recycled coarse aggregate and silica fume in concrete production holds promise for enhancing both the sustainability and performance of concrete.*

**Keywords:** Recycled Concrete Aggregates, Mechanical Properties, and Silica fume.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The construction industry is continuously evolving, with an increasing emphasis on sustainability and resource efficiency. One of the most promising approaches to achieving these goals is the use of industrial by-products and recycled materials in concrete production. Among these, silica fume and recycled coarse aggregates (RCA) have gained significant attention due to their potential to enhance concrete properties while addressing environmental concerns. Silica fume, a by-product of the production of silicon metal or ferrosilicon alloys, is a fine powder that is known for its pozzolanic properties. When added to concrete, silica fume can significantly improve its strength, durability, and workability. Silica fume reacts with the calcium hydroxide in the cement paste to form additional calcium silicate hydrate (C-S-H) gel, which contributes to the overall strength and reduces the permeability of the concrete. On the other hand, recycled coarse aggregates, derived from crushed concrete debris, offer an attractive alternative to natural aggregates. The use of RCA not only helps reduce the demand for virgin aggregates but also addresses the growing issue of construction and demolition waste. However, the incorporation of RCA in concrete can sometimes lead to reduced mechanical properties due to the presence of impurities or weaker bonds in the

recycled materials. The focus of this study is to investigate the mechanical properties of M25 grade concrete when cement and coarse aggregates are partially replaced with silica fume and recycled coarse aggregates.

## 1. OBJECTIVE

- According to the experiment we conclude that silica fume improves mechanical properties of concrete and fills the spaces between cement particles.
- Adding the silica fume and recycled coarse aggregate as a partial replacement of cement and coarse aggregate will improve the concrete strength, sustainability, durability and performance.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

1. Data collection
2. Literature
3. Selection of Materials
4. Properties of Materials
5. Batching of Materials
6. Casting of Concrete Specimen
7. Testing on Concrete Specimen
8. Mechanical Properties Test

## 3. MATERIALS USED

1. **Cement:** Cement is a binding material and a chemical substance used for construction that sets, hardens, and adheres to other materials to bind them together. We considered OPC 53 grade of cement.



Fig1: Cement

2. **Fine Aggregates:** Fine aggregate plays a crucial role in concrete mix design. In this project, River sand is used as it is the fundamental component that makes up the majority of the volume in the formulations for making a concrete mix.



Fig2:FineAggregate

3. **CoarseAggregates:**Naturalcoarseaggregatesusedinconcreteincludegravel,crushedstone,andcrushedrock.These are typically obtained from natural sources such as pits, riverbeds, and theseabed.Theyarewashed and cleanedbefore being supplied to customers. Gravel is a naturally occurring aggregate that is typically rounded and smooth due to erosion and water transport.



Fig3:CoarseAggregate

4. **SilicaFume:**Silicafumeisa byproductofsiliconandferrosiliconalloyproduction.Itimprovesstrength,durability,and reduces permeability. Silica fume concrete is composed of cement, silica fume, fine aggregate, coarse aggregate, and water. Fresh and hardened properties of silica fume concrete is superior to conventional concrete. For instance, it has higher compressive and flexural strength.



Fig4:Silica Fume

5. **Recycled Coarse Aggregates:** Recycled coarse aggregate (RCA) refersto the coarse aggregate obtainedfromrecycling concrete. It is produced by breaking up and crushing the concrete removed from old roads and buildings, and then separating the mortar from the rock. The use of RCA in new construction applications has gained popularity in recent years due to its potential to make construction more environmentally friendly.

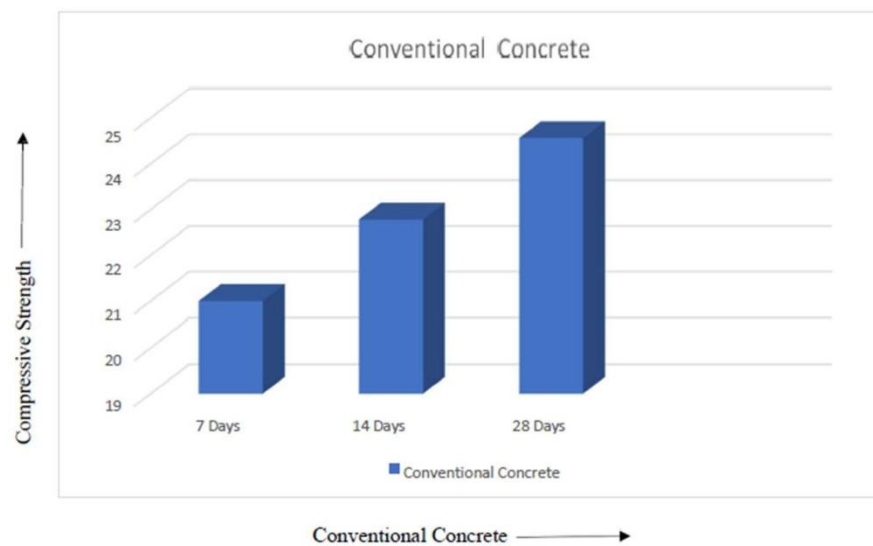


Fig5:RCA

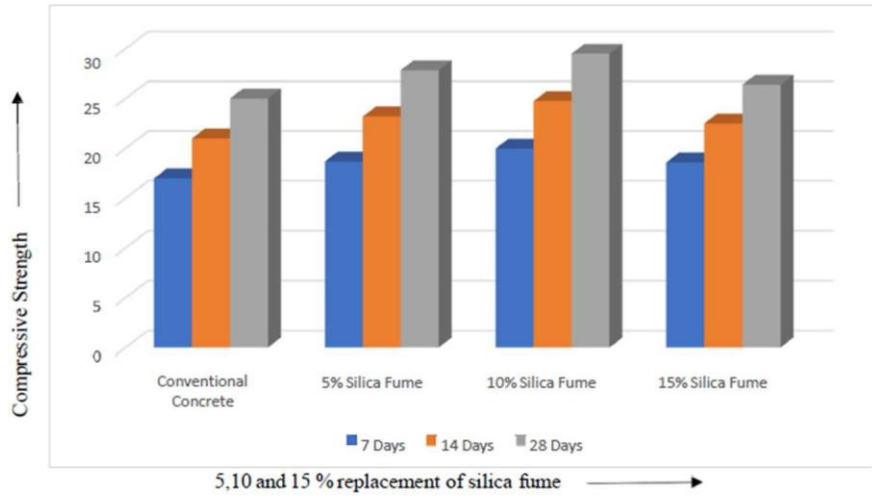
- Water:** As water is added to cement as it creates a paste that glues all of the aggregates together. The cement paste then undergoes a chemical process known as hydration, this chemical reaction is what allows the concrete to harden and become strong and solid. Potable water is used for mixing and curing. It was free from the suspended solids and organic material, which might have affected the properties of the fresh and hardened concrete.

#### 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

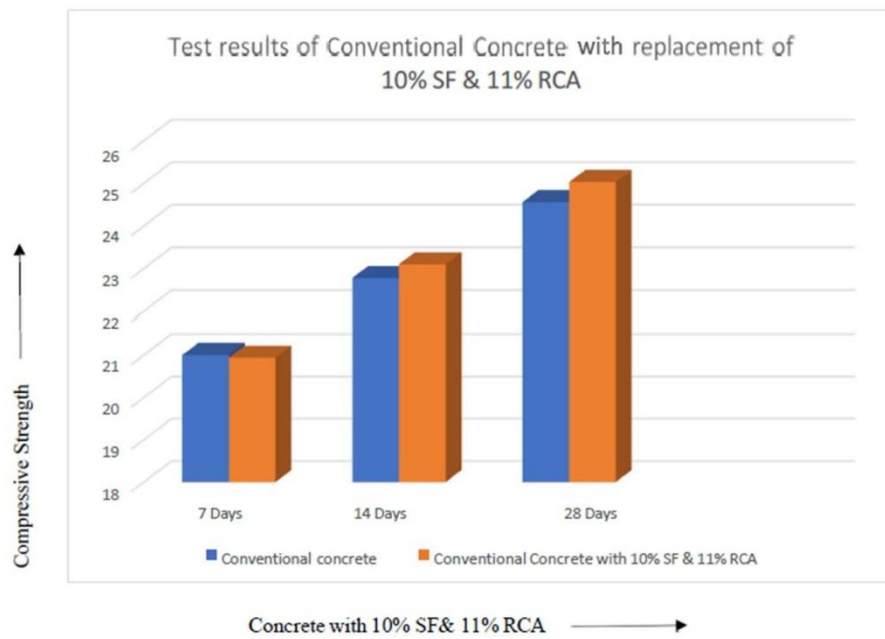
In this section, we present the results of experimental work. The results are displayed in graph format.



Graph1 Test results of Conventional Concrete for 7, 14, 28 Days



Graph2Compressivestrengthtestforconcretewithreplacementofsilicafumefor7, 14, 28 Days



Graph3Compressivestrengthtestforconcretewithreplacementof10%SF&11% RCA

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the experimental investigation carried out on concrete by using various percentages of silica fume i.e., 5%, 10%, 15% and replacement of 11% RCA.

- The results showed that adding 10% silica fume yielded the highest compressive strength when compared to using 5% and 15% silica fume. We noticed that 5% and 15% silica fume concrete strength was slightly lower than 10% silica fume due to its pozzolanic activity.
- When compared to conventional concrete, the M25 grade of concrete containing RCA 11% and 10% silica fume achieves its maximum strength after 28 days.

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