

# An Experimental Study on Human Hair Fiber Reinforced Concrete



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Received: 📅 April 02, 2018; Published: 📅 April 16, 2018

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## Abstract

This paper presents the fresh and hardened properties of human hair fiber reinforced concrete. From ancient times many researchers and investors carried out research to enhance the physical and mechanical properties of concrete. Nowadays human hair is considered a waste material and an alternative non-degradable material available in abundance at a low cost. Present study has been undertaken to study the effect of human hair on medium grade concrete on the basis of compressive strength, crack control and environmental problem. Further, Rice Husk Ash (RHA) is a pozzolanic material used as cement replacement in concrete. Experiments were conducted on concrete on standard cube size with addition of various 0, 0.75, 1.5 and 2.25 % of human hair fiber i.e. by weight of cement and RHA with 0, 5, 10, 15 and 20% partial replacement of cement. This investigation demonstrated significant improvement in the properties of concrete by the addition of human hair as fiber reinforcement concrete.

**Keywords:** Human hair, Rice Husk ash, compressive strength of concrete, fiber reinforced concrete.

## Introduction

Fiber reinforced concrete (FRC) is a well-known construction material containing fibers which increases its structural integrity. It contains short discrete fibers that are uniformly distributed and randomly oriented [1]. Different types of fibers have been used as reinforcement, since ancient times the most economic and environment-friendly fiber is human hair fiber. Human hair has about 65% - 95% of its weight as proteins, more than 32% of water, lipid pigments and other components. Chemically about 80% of human hair is formed by a protein known as Keratin [1,2], with a high grade of sulphur coming from the amino acid cysteine -which is characteristic to distinguish it from other proteins. In general the physical properties consist of resistance to breakage is a function of the diameter of the thermal of the cortex conditions. The RHA has been used as a pozzolanic material in cement concrete, gaining several advantages such as improvement in strength, durability, and environmental aspect related to the disposal of waste material and to reduce carbon dioxide emission [3]. A review of work done by various researchers discusses the utilization of RHA with concrete and there is a general consensus that the use of RHA in cement improves the properties

of concrete. However, some other parameters also influence the properties of concrete like partial replacement of cement by rice husk ash, fineness of rice husk ash, chemical compensation of RHA, water-cement ratio, age of concrete and type of curing [3,4]. Further, there is no study taken for containing the human hair fiber in rice husk ash concrete. Literature reviews related to human hair fiber concrete also give insight for the concrete as fiber reinforced concrete. Most of the authors reported that optimum use of human hair fiber in concrete increases the energy absorption capacity, ductility etc [1,2,5-7]. The human hair fiber is also suitable and cheap, easily available construction material in seismic areas [1]. Hence the present research aims to study the effect of different percentages of RHA on human hair fiber added by weight in concrete specimens and its potential benefits in enhancing the properties and load-carrying capacity.

## Experimental Work

Rice husk ash is a product conforming to engineering requirements in terms of physical and chemical properties. In this study the effect of RHA as a partial cement-replacing material with the addition of human hair fiber was carried out. A total of 20

mixes were casted the production of controlled concrete at M 45 grade in 1: 1.07: 1.51 ratios. The list of different mixes is given in Table 1. Three cubes were casted for each mix in the laboratory. Cement is partially replaced by RHA in the ratio of 0, 5, 10 15

and 20%. Human hair fiber is added to the mixes in the ratio of 0, 0.75, 1.5 and 2.25% to the weight of cement to study the 28 days compressive strength and the parametric studies were carryout out.

**Table 1:** List the sets of cement mixture proportions.

Mixes	Cement (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	RHA (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	FA (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	CA (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Human Hair (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Water (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
M1	462.5	0	598	1115	0	185
M2	430.8	31.7	598	1115	0	185
M3	399.1	63.4	598	1115	0	185
M4	367.4	95.1	598	1115	0	185
M5	335.7	126.8	598	1115	0	185
M6	462.5	0	598	1115	4.75	185
M7	430.8	31.7	598	1115	4.75	185
M8	399.1	63.4	598	1115	4.75	185
M9	367.4	95.1	598	1115	4.75	185
M10	335.7	126.8	598	1115	4.75	185
M11	462.5	0	598	1115	9.51	185
M12	430.8	31.7	598	1115	9.51	185
M13	399.1	63.4	598	1115	9.51	185
M14	367.4	95.1	598	1115	9.51	185
M15	335.7	126.8	598	1115	9.51	185
M16	462.5	0	598	1115	14.26	185
M17	430.8	31.7	598	1115	14.26	185
M18	399.1	63.4	598	1115	14.26	185
M19	367.4	95.1	598	1115	14.26	185
M20	335.7	126.8	598	1115	14.26	185

Cement is a mixture of calcareous siliceous, aluminum substances and crushing the clinker of a fine powder. The oxide contains are as follows. Cao, ranges 60 to 67%, Sio<sub>2</sub> range from 17 to 25%, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, were 3 to 8%, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> equal to 0.5 to 0.6, and MgO equal to 0.1 to 0.4%. The ordinary Portland cement of 43 grade was used, the initial and final setting time 45 and 225 minutes respectively, the report specific gravity was 3.15 and normal consistency was 32. The fine aggraded used for this investigation was locally procured and confirmed to grading zone II. The fine aggregate was sieved first through 4.75 mm sieve to remove any lumps or particles greater than 4.75 mm and was then washed to remove dust. The specific gravity 2.45 and fineness modulus 2.55 are used. The coarse aggregate are free from dust before being used in concrete and the specific gravity was 2.63 and fineness modulus 6.42 and the size of aggregate 20 mm down and retained on IS sieve No. 4.75 mm. Waste: Waste used in the study is confirmed to IS 456 -2000 for mixing as well as curing of concrete cubes. Human Hair fiber were the different sizes ranges from 10 to 70 mm which was easily available from the local source. Some of the properties of human hair are given in Table 2. Rich Husk Ash: The RHA was obtained from local source the physical and chemical properties of RHA are as follows in Table 3 & 4 respectively.

**Table 2:** Properties of human hair.

Properties	Value
Length of hair fiber	10 to 70 mm
Diameter of hair	90 to 120µm
Aspect ratio(length of fiber/Diameter of fiber)	111 to 700
Tensile strength	290N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Strain	46%

**Table 3:** Physical properties of RHA.

Particulars	Properties
Color	Grey
Shape texture	Irregular
Musicology	Non crystalline
Particle size	< 45 micron
Appearance	Very fine

**Table 4:** Chemical composition of RHA (%).

Particulars	Properties
SiO <sub>2</sub>	93.8
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.12

Loi	3.37
CaO	0.89
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.28
MgO	0.32
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.3
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.1

The concrete mix was designed as per IS 10262-2009 to achieve a target compression strength of 45 MPa. The human hair fiber were added at percentage variation of 0, 0.75% 1.5% and 2.25% by weight of cement and different percentage of RHA at variation of 0,5,10,15 and 20% by weight in M 45 grade concrete and the result was compared to medium grade controlled concrete .Casting and testing of cubical specimen of size 150mm x 150mm x 150mm for compressive strength was done as per IS 516:1959 specification. Compressive strength test was performed on cube

test at 28 days with their specimen in each case and cured in water tank completely immersed at ambient temperature until the age of testing. All the cube specimen were casted and de-molded after 24 hours of casting. The total numbers of specimen were 60 casted and tested for the average of three results.

**Results and discussion**

**Workability test for fresh concrete**

Slump test were carried out as per specification provided in IS- 1199: 1959 to study the workability of fresh concrete. From the Figure 1 it has been observed that the workability of concrete has been reduced constantly with the increase in the percentage of human hair in concrete. The reduction was slightly till 1.5 %age of hair fibers but dropped suddenly, therefore 1.5 is the maximum percentage of human hair fiber was found to be provided a good workable concrete. The slump for the mixes was in the range of 92 to 145 mm in this study.

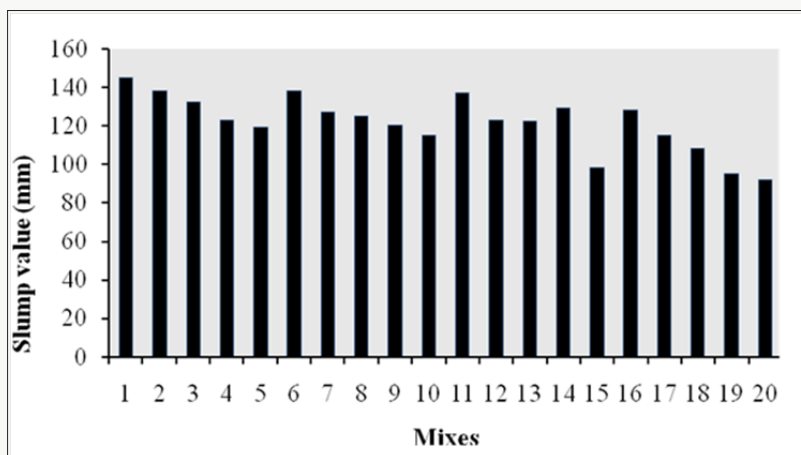


Figure 1: Graphical representation of the slump values of all the mixes.

**Compressive Strength test on harden concrete**

The test was conduct as per IS 516-1959 and the specimen were placed on the bearing surface of CTM of capacity 2000 KN.

A uniform rate of loading was applied till the failure of the cube. The maximum load was noticed and the compressive strength was determined and average of the three results was reported.

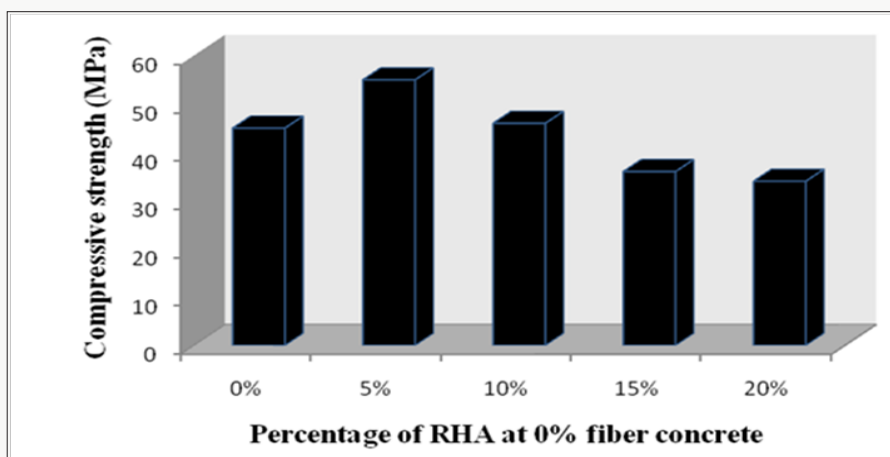


Figure 2: Effect of RHA at 0% human hair fiber.

**Effect of different % of RHA on human hair fiber concrete**

From the Figures 2-5 it is observed that after addition of different percentage of RHA in the controlled concrete at zero percentage of human hair, there is a gain in compressive strength about 22% at 5% of RHA and slightly higher at 10% in addition of RHA as compared to controlled concrete, further its decreases to the original value of compressive strength of control concrete at the percentage rice husk ash replacement level increases with

cement. From fig. 2 it may be noted that the 5% Rice husk ash mix is greater than the control mix by 22.2% but for Rice husk ash at 10, 15 and 20% replacement level the compressive strength decreases by 19.5, 52.72 and 61.76% with 5% RHA. In Figure 3 the compressive strength is greater at 5% RHA by 28.9% at 0% Rice husk ash strength with 0.7% human hair fiber. Similarly for the next two series in Figure 4 & 5 the compressive strength increases at 5% Rice husk ash content by 25.6 and 18.9% than that of 0% RHA.

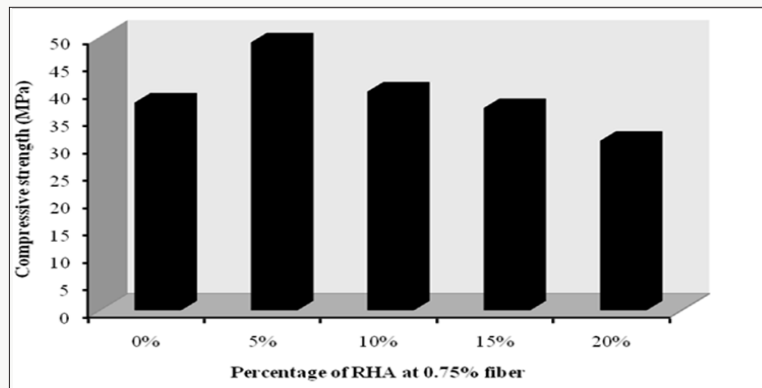


Figure 3: Effect of RHA at 0.75% human hair fiber.

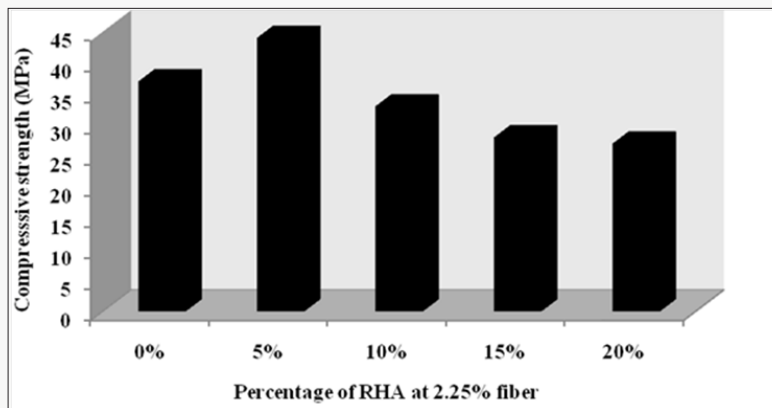


Figure 4: Effect of RHA at 1.5% human hair fiber

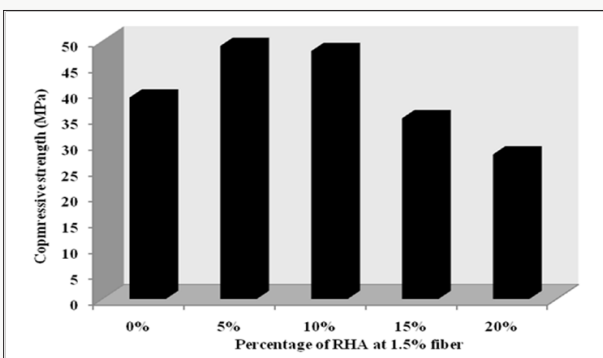


Figure 5: Effect of RHA at 2.25% fiber.

**Effect of different percentages of human hair fiber on RHA mixes**

The different ratios of human hair fiber used are 0, 0.75, 1.5 and 2.25 % and compared with the controlled concrete. In compression

to controlled concrete compressive strength is increased after addition of human hair fibers. It is observed that at 0% RHA the control mix have highest compressive strength than the mixes at 0.75, 1.5 and 2.25% human hair fiber by 18.42, 15.3 and 21.6%. The compressive strength with 5% RHA at 0% human hair fiber is more than that of 0.75, 1.5 and 2.25% human hair by 12.24, 12.24 and 25%. Further the compressive strength with 10% RHA at 1.5% human hair fiber is more than that of 0% human hair fiber by 4.34% and the compressive strength with 15% RHA at 0.75% human hair fiber is more than that of 0% fiber by 2.85%. Therefore Human hair fiber can be added up to 1.5% in the concrete as after this the compressive strength starts decreasing. The optimum replacement for Rice husk ash is 10% while for human hair it is 1.5% by weight of cement. During the compressive testing of human hair fiber reinforced concrete cubes specimens it is also noticed that crack formation and propagation of cracks are very much reduces and only hairs line cracks were found in the specimens. As the rice husk

ash and human hair fibers is a waste material there for its reduces the cost of construction and effectively managed to be utilised in fiber reinforced construction [8-13].

## Conclusion

Based on experimental test result on concrete the following conclusions are as follows.

- The workability of concrete decreases as the replacement of cement by rice husk ash increase. Further during the mixing of human hair fiber in the concrete to achieve the good workability, there is a balling and lumps of hair fibers were notice at and above 1.5% of human hair fibers were used .
- In replacement range of 0-20% rice husk ash, the compressive strength of concrete increases at 5% Rice husk ash for the second mix with 0, 0.75 & 1.5% human hair fiber. It increases by 22.2, 28.9 & 25.64% respectively than 0% Rice husk ash content.
- There is a remarkable increment in the addition of 1.5 % human hair fiber in compressive strength in all the mixes. The compressive strength of concrete increases with 0.75 and 1.5% of human hair fiber at 10 and 15% Rice husk ash content by 4.34 & 2.85%.
- There has been a gradual increase in the compressive strength up to 1.5 % of human hair fiber and the optimum replacement level of Rice Husk Ash is found to be to 10% for M45 grade of concrete after which the strength starts decreasing.

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DOI: [10.32474/TCEIA.2018.02.000126](https://doi.org/10.32474/TCEIA.2018.02.000126)



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