

## Influence of Mineral Admixture (Alcofine-1203) On the Properties of Hybrid Fiber Reinforced Concrete

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**ABSTRACT:** The contribution of mineral admixture i.e. Alcofine-1203 to the mechanical properties of hybrid fiber reinforced concrete with high strength and workability is investigated. It reduces thermal, shrinkage cracks and increases strength as compared to conventional concrete. Fiber volume fraction (VF) 1.5% by volume of concrete was added with Alcofine-1203 contribution of 5%, 7.5% and 10% by weight of cement. Hybrid fibers contribute to increase the flexural strength while the Alcofine-1203 boosts the compressive strength of concrete.

**Keywords:** Mineral admixture, Alcofine-1203, Compressive strength, Flexural strength, Hybrid fiber reinforced concrete

### I. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that concrete is a brittle material under tensile loading. The mechanical properties of concrete can be improved by randomly oriented discrete fibers, which prevent or control initiation, propagation, or coalescence of cracks [6]. The conventional concrete consisting of hardened cement paste and aggregates has micro cracks and porosity. These are among the intrinsic factors, which can be overcome by using fiber reinforcement. According to Bentur and Mindess [2], the attractive advantage of hybrid fiber system, which consists of both variety of stiffer and flexible fibers. Stronger and stiffer fibers improve the first crack stress and ultimate strength while flexible and ductile fibers lead to improve toughness and strain capacity in the post-cracking. Incorporating the hybridization of two or three different types of fibers in a cement system, results in a composite behavior with higher engineering performance and better mechanical properties [3].

The objective of this study was to evaluate the mechanical properties of fiber reinforced concrete, containing hybrid fibers mixture of steel fibers and non-metallic polypropylene fibers. The total dosage of fibers maintained as 1.5% by volume of concrete with Alcofine-1203 contribution of 5%, 7.5% and 10% by weight of cement to provide good workability as recommended in literature review [3]. A comparative evaluation of various hybrid fiber concrete was made based on hardened concrete properties – compressive strength and flexural strength.

### II. MATERIALS AND MIX DESIGN

Several experimental works were carried out to achieve the objective of the current study along with various mechanical properties such as compressive strength and flexural strength. High strength concrete (M60 – Cube strength of 60 MPa) is normally prepared for longer service life and less maintenance. Hybrid fibers (steel fibers and polypropylene fibers) were used to increase the ductility, strength and make crack resistance while the mineral admixture (Alcofine-1203) was used to boost compressive strength [9]. ACI method was used to prepare high strength concrete mixture [1].

Ordinary Portland cement 53 grade was used for the concrete mixtures. Alcofine-1203 obtained from Ambuja cement, India and used for the high strength concrete mixtures [9]. River sand conforming to zone I with a specific gravity of 2.6 was used as the fine aggregate, while crushed aggregate of specific gravity 2.7 was used as coarse aggregate [8]. A super plasticizer was added to obtain the desired workability. Dramix glued hooked steel fibers and Strongcrete polypropylene fibers were used as hybrid fibers.

Trial mixtures were prepared to obtain compressive strength of 60 MPa at 28 days, along with a workability of 50–75 mm. In order to obtain the desired workability, super plasticizer was added. The detailed mixture proportions for the study are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Concrete mixture proportions used in the study

| Cementitious material (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Alccofine-1203 (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Fine aggregate (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Coarse aggregate (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |      | Water (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Superplasticizer (kg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|  |                                     |                                     | 10mm                                  | 20mm |                            |                                       |
| 575  | 28.75 (5%)                          | 655                                 | 392                                   | 588  | 190                        | 3.45                                  |
|  | 43.125 (7.5%)                       |                                     |                                       |      |                            |                                       |
|  | 57.5 (10%)                          |                                     |                                       |      |                            |                                       |

### III. EXPERIMENTAL WORK

**3.1 Test for compressive strength of concrete (IS: 516-1959):** Out of many tests conducted, this is the utmost important which gives an idea about all the characteristics of concrete. For this test 150mm x150mm x150mm size specimens were used. The concrete cubes were tested on compression testing machine of capacity 2000kN. The load was applied to opposite sides of specimen. The load at which concrete cube was failed, considered as ultimate load and noted. The compressive strength was obtained by  $\text{Compressive strength} = P/A$

Where,

P = Cube compressive load causing failure in N (Newton),

A = Cross sectional area of cube in mm.

The average of no. of specimen strength is calculated and it was taken as compressive strength of one set [7].

**3.2 Test for flexural strength of concrete (IS: 516-1959):** Flexural strength also known as modulus of rupture, a mechanical parameter for brittle material is defined as a material ability to resist deformation under load. The flexural strength represents the highest stress experienced within the material at its moment of rupture. For this test 100mm x100mm x500mm size specimens were used. The specimens were tested by using universal testing machine. The load at which control specimen ultimately fails is noted. The flexural strength is calculated by  $\text{Flexural strength} = pl/bd^2$  (MPa)

Where, P= maximum load in N,

l=Length between the support in mm, d= Depth of specimen in mm, b = Width of specimen in mm [7].

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 2:** Compressive strength test results for cube specimens

| Sr. no | Specimen no. | Alccofine-1203 (%) by wt. of cement | Total fiber Volume Fraction (%) | Steel fibers (%) | Polypropylene fibers (%) | Compressive strength (MPa) | Average compressive strength (MPa) |
|--------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1      | 5C6          | 5                                   | 1.5                             | 100              | 0                        | 69, 67, 65                 | 67                                 |
| 2      | 5C7          |                                     |                                 | 90               | 10                       | 65, 63, 62                 | 63.33                              |
| 3      | 5C8          |                                     |                                 | 80               | 20                       | 63, 62, 66                 | 63.67                              |
| 4      | 5C9          |                                     |                                 | 70               | 30                       | 61, 59, 60                 | 60                                 |
| 5      | 5C10         |                                     |                                 | 60               | 40                       | 55, 54, 56                 | 55                                 |
| 6      | 7.5C1        | 7.5                                 | 1.5                             | 100              | 0                        | 70, 68, 70                 | 69.33                              |
| 7      | 7.5C2        |                                     |                                 | 90               | 10                       | 69, 66, 64                 | 66.33                              |
| 8      | 7.5C3        |                                     |                                 | 80               | 20                       | 68, 72, 71                 | 70.33                              |
| 9      | 7.5C4        |                                     |                                 | 70               | 30                       | 61, 63, 67                 | 63.67                              |
| 10     | 7.5C5        |                                     |                                 | 60               | 40                       | 67, 63, 61                 | 63.67                              |
| 11     | 10C21        | 10                                  | 1.5                             | 100              | 0                        | 69, 70, 65                 | 68.33                              |
| 12     | 10C22        |                                     |                                 | 90               | 10                       | 69, 70, 66                 | 68.33                              |
| 13     | 10C23        |                                     |                                 | 80               | 20                       | 69, 72, 70                 | 70.33                              |
| 14     | 10C24        |                                     |                                 | 70               | 30                       | 63, 66, 64                 | 64.33                              |
| 15     | 10C25        |                                     |                                 | 60               | 40                       | 66, 70, 68                 | 68                                 |

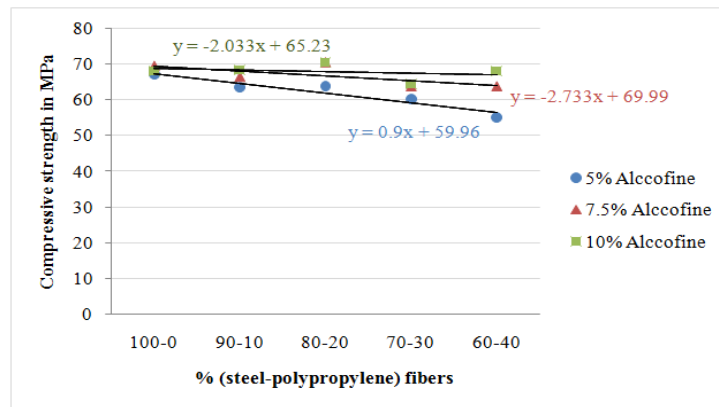
**Table 3:** Flexural strength test results for beam specimen

| Sr no. | Specimen no | Alccofine (%) by weight of cement | Total fiber volume fraction (%) | Steel fiber (%) | Polypropylene fiber (%) | Flexural strength (MPa) | Average flexural strength (MPa) |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1      | 5B6         | 5                                 | 1.5                             | 100             | 0                       | 8.5, 8.6, 8.5           | 8.53                            |
| 2      | 5B7         |                                   |                                 | 90              | 10                      | 8.2, 8.1                | 8.15                            |
| 3      | 5B8         |                                   |                                 | 80              | 20                      | 7.90, 7.22, 7.4         | 7.51                            |
| 4      | 5B9         |                                   |                                 | 70              | 30                      | 7.1, 7.6, 7.8           | 7.5                             |
| 5      | 5B10        |                                   |                                 | 60              | 40                      | 7.6, 7.2, 7.38          | 7.39                            |
| 6      | 10B21       | 7.5                               | 1.5                             | 100             | 0                       | 8.42, 8.23, 8.3         | 8.31                            |
| 7      | 10B22       |                                   |                                 | 90              | 10                      | 7.96, 7.2, 7.6          | 7.59                            |
| 8      | 10B23       |                                   |                                 | 80              | 20                      | 8.4, 8.6, 8.91          | 8.64                            |
| 9      | 10B24       |                                   |                                 | 70              | 30                      | 7.26, 7.13, 6.8         | 7.06                            |
| 10     | 10B25       |                                   |                                 | 60              | 40                      | 6.72, 6.1, 6.2          | 6.34                            |
| 11     | 10B26       | 10                                | 1.5                             | 100             | 0                       | 6.9, 7.5, 7.32          | 7.24                            |

|    |       |  |  |    |    |              |      |
|----|-------|--|--|----|----|--------------|------|
| 12 | 10B27 |  |  | 90 | 10 | 7.2,5.8,6.7  | 6.56 |
| 13 | 10B28 |  |  | 80 | 20 | 7.1,5.9,6.3  | 6.43 |
| 14 | 10B29 |  |  | 70 | 30 | 5.78,5.9,5.7 | 5.79 |
| 15 | 10B30 |  |  | 60 | 40 | 5.4,5.2,5.24 | 5.28 |

**Table 4:** Average compressive strength test results for 1.5% hybrid fibers

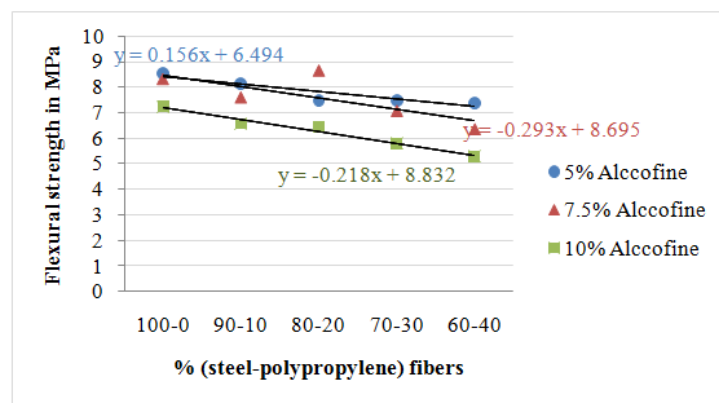
| For 1.5% hybrid fibers |                       | Avg. compressive strength in MPa |                     |                    |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Mix number             | % fibers contribution | 5% Alccofine-1203                | 7.5% Alccofine-1203 | 10% Alccofine-1203 |
| 1                      | 100-0                 | 67                               | 69.33               | 68.33              |
| 2                      | 90-10                 | 63.33                            | 66.33               | 68.33              |
| 3                      | 80-20                 | 63.67                            | 70.33               | 70.33              |
| 4                      | 70-30                 | 60                               | 63.67               | 64.33              |
| 5                      | 60-40                 | 55                               | 63.67               | 68                 |



**Fig 1:** Variation of compressive strength for 1.5% hybrid fibers

**Table 5:** Average flexural strength test results for 1.5% hybrid fibers

| For 1.5% hybrid fibers |          | Avg. flexural strength in MPa |                     |                    |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Mix number             | % fibers | 5% Alccofine-1203             | 7.5% Alccofine-1203 | 10% Alccofine-1203 |
| 1                      | 100-0    | 8.53                          | 8.31                | 7.24               |
| 2                      | 90-10    | 8.15                          | 7.59                | 6.56               |
| 3                      | 80-20    | 7.51                          | 8.64                | 6.43               |
| 4                      | 70-30    | 7.5                           | 7.06                | 5.79               |
| 5                      | 60-40    | 7.39                          | 6.34                | 5.28               |



**Fig 2:** Variation of flexural strength for 1.5% hybrid fibers

The primary objective of this study was to evaluate the action of hybrid fibers at different volume fractions to obtain a good post-peak behavior of high strength concrete. Results from the study indicate following observations:

- Compressive strength was found to be increased with increase in percentage of mineral admixture alccofine-1203 and noted maximum in case of 10%.
- Flexural strength of concrete was found maximum when we used 1.5% of fiber volume fraction (80% steel fiber and 20% polypropylene fiber) by weight of cement.

## V. CONCLUSION

This paper presents influence of mineral admixture (Alccofine-1203) on mechanical properties of hybrid fiber reinforced concrete. The mechanical properties of the concrete mixtures were evaluated based on compressive and flexural strength. The following conclusions were drawn from the study:

- Experiments with M60 grade of concrete suggest that 7.5% replacement of cement with Alccofine-1203 and 1.5% hybrid fibers (80% steel fiber and 20% polypropylene fiber) resulted in best concrete compressive strength. Compressive strength was increased with increase in percentage of Alccofine-1203.
- The flexural strength of concrete with 7.5% replacement of cement with Alccofine-1203 and 1.5% hybrid fibers (80% steel fiber and 20% polypropylene fiber) resulted in maximum.
- It is recommended to use Alccofine-1203 in concrete as replacement for cement is possible.
- The results indicated that the use of hybrid fibers with Alccofine-1203 enhance the mechanical properties of concrete.

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