

**DEVELOPMENT OF AN INSULATION PLASTER FOR
FIBER REINFORCED POLYMER (FRP) CONCRETE
COMPOSITES USING CEMENTITIOUS MATERIAL**

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Degree of Master of Science

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

January 2021

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of
Science in Civil Engineering

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other university or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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The above candidate has carried out the research for Masters under my supervision

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research addresses one of the main concerns of the civil engineering industry when it comes to Fibre Reinforced Polymer Composites. The knowledge I gained through my undergraduate work and postgraduate studies has been a great influence in completing this project up to the standards.

There are many individuals to whom I owe this success to. Foremost, I would like to acknowledge my research supervisors, **Dr.(Mrs.) J.C.P.H. Gamage**. Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, and **Dr. G.I.P. De Silva**. Senior Lecturer, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa. Neither of these would be possible without their guidance.

Next, I would like to thank **Dr.(Mrs.) H.L.D.M.A. Judith**. Chairman, Research and Development Division, Road Development Authority, Chairperson of my Research Assessment Panel, and **Prof. A.A.D.J. Perera**. Senior Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa. Research coordinator (Nominee) for evaluating and guiding throughout the research progress presentations.

I would like to appreciate the financial support of the project from the National Research Council, Sri Lanka, and Airow Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd. (Grant No. PPP18-01). Especially, **Mrs. Naduni Wanniarachchi**. Scientific Officer, National Research Council, and **Mr. Vajira Attanayake**. General Manager, Airow Solutions (Pvt.) LA. for their assistance.

Moreover, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. **D.M.N.L. Dissanayaka** of Structural Testing Laboratory and **Mr. H.T.R.M. Thanthirige** of Building Materials Laboratory, University of Moratuwa for their support, throughout the experimental works. Last but not least, I want to thank my parents and family for believing in me and encouraging me throughout these years.

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11.01.2021

ABSTRACT

The energy used to maintain the thermal comfort of building greatly contributes the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and global warming. This study developed a sustainable cost-effective rice husk ash (RHA) based mortar for the wall plaster to improve the thermal insulation, reduce the operational energy and enable the thermal comfort. RHA was partially replaced the sand in the conventional mortar to produce the RHA based plaster. Compressive strength and thermal conductivity tests were conducted, and the results highlight that the RHA can be replaced up to 30% of sand in the conventional mortar to produce a wall plaster with improved thermal insulation with adequate compressive strength. Further, this study investigates the thermal performance of the RHA-based plaster through measured the heat transfer rate under full open weather conditions. Two identical prototype model houses were constructed with RHA-based plaster and conventional plaster, and internal and external wall surface temperatures were measured for 3-days cycles. The results highlighted that on average peak heat flux reduction formed by the RHA-based plaster mortar was 10%. The average daily heat transfer reduction across the wall with RHA-based plaster was 26%. Further, results show that RHA-based plaster can reduce the energy that required to enable the thermal comfort by about 9% than the conventional mortar. The environmental impact analysis was also conducted to assess the sustainable performance of RHA-based mortar. The assessment highlights that RHA-based mortar has less environmental impact than the conventional mortar. Further, the CO₂ emission produced by the production of RHA-based mortar is about 14% less than that of from conventional mortar. At last stage the developed plaster was applied with CFRP specimens and checked for the thermal test and bond test using single shear test. 70% to 73% fire resistance can be achieved respect to the commercially available material (Vermiculite-cement).

Keywords: Plaster; Rice Husk Ash; Thermal properties; Life cycle Assessment; Compressive strength; Heat transfer analysis; Heat flux

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

International Journals

1. Development of innovative Rice Husk Ash based insulated mortar to enhance thermal performance in buildings– construction and building materials– Under review
2. Utilization of crushed tile coarse aggregate (CTCA) and rice husk ash (RHA) as partial replacements of natural coarse aggregate and binding material in concrete– Advances in Civil Engineering – Under review
3. Behaviour of CFRP strengthened concrete curved beam subject to out of plane bending -Engineering Structures– Under review

International Conferences

1. Thermal Performance of Rice Husk Ash mixed mortar in Concrete and Masonry Buildings - 10th International Conference on Advanced Models and New Concepts in Concrete and Masonry Structures, Poland, Lublin -Indexed conference- journal “Budownictwo i Architektura” (Civil Engineering and Architecture) <https://doi.org/10.35784/bud-arch.2121>
2. An investigation into the flexural behaviour of horizontally curved beams strengthened with NSM CFRP LAMINATES- International Conference on Civil Engineering and Application, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka - Published

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