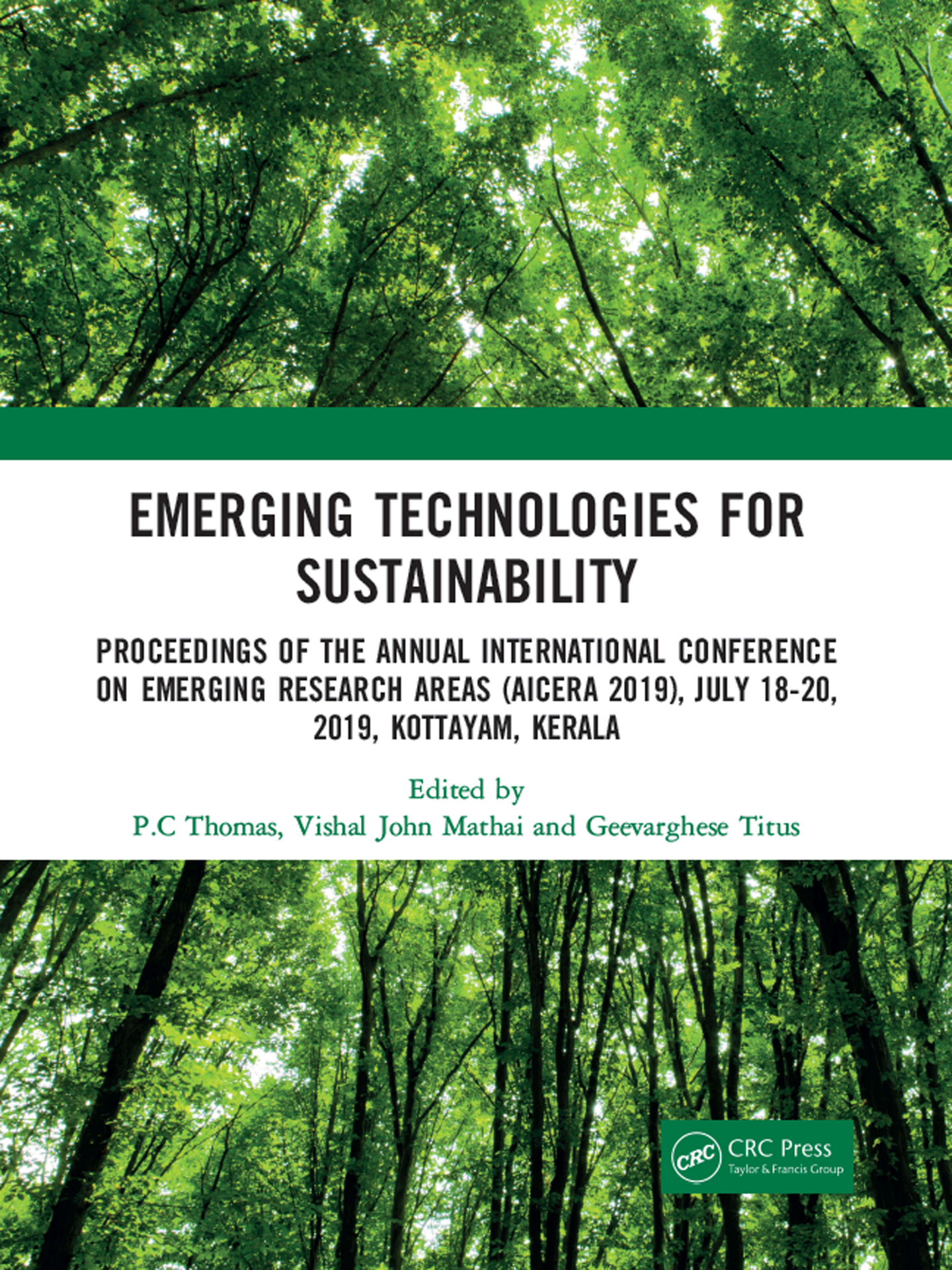




EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON EMERGING RESEARCH AREAS (AICERA 2019), JULY 18-20,
2019, KOTTAYAM, KERALA

Edited by

P.C Thomas, Vishal John Mathai and Geevarghese Titus



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Emerging Technologies for Sustainability

Proceedings of the Annual International Conference on Emerging Research Areas (AICERA 2019), July 18-20, 2019, Kottayam, Kerala

Edited by

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Table of Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
<i>List of Tables</i>	xxiii
<i>Organizing Committee</i>	xxix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xxxiii
<i>Preface</i>	xxxv
<i>Foreword</i>	xxxvii
1. Water Purification using Natural Filter Media <i>Adawn Babu Joseph, Anitta Jose, Bijilymol Babu, Anandhan Mohan and Aneeta Sam</i>	1
2. Study on the Effect of Hydrogel on Plant Growth <i>Alvin Joseph, Amitha Anna George, Anu Prakash, Ashika Gowri M. J. and Mini Mathew</i>	11
3. Experimental Analysis on the Characteristics of Geopolymer Brick using Bentonite as Additive <i>Shimol Philip, Lenin Babu and Aswani Babu</i>	19
4. Influence of Steel Fiber with Polypropylene (PP) Geo-Fabric on the Performance of Concrete <i>Sreekeshava K. S., Arunkumar A. S., Ganesh C. R., Manish S Dharek and Prashanth Sunagar</i>	33
5. Automated Pothole Sealer <i>Amal Chandra, Alen Mathew, Alfi Ann, Anagha V and Jithin Kurian</i>	43
6. Investigations on Compressive Strength, Internal Structure and Composition of Concrete Casted and Cured Using Marine Water <i>Janhavi Desai, Sreekeshava K. S., Chandana R., Jeevan G. and Bheemsen Gogi</i>	53
7. Characteristics of Green Concrete with Perlite as a Partial Replacement of Fine Aggregate <i>Basil Baby, Serin Sara Roy and Emmanuel Jose</i>	59
8. Strength and Elastic Properties of Grouted Reinforced Hollow Concrete Block Masonry Prisms <i>Manish S. Dharek, Raghunath S. and Ashwin C. P.</i>	65
9. Effect of Microcrystalline Cellulose on the Pervious Concrete Properties <i>Tessy Joseph and Mini Mathew</i>	71
10. Combined Influence of Glass Powder and Palm Oil Fuel Ash on Properties of Concrete <i>Alina K. Simon and Jiss Abraham</i>	77
11. Sustainable Bricks Using Flood Plain Soil <i>Grace Mary Abraham, Anupa Tomy, Aparna Narayanan, Bini Babu and Gopika A. V.</i>	85

Table of Contents

12. Experimental Study on ggbs and Brick Aggregate in Concrete using Packing Density Method <i>Anu Thomas and Belarmin Xavier C. S.</i>	93
13. The Effectiveness of Shrinkage Reducing Admixture and Fly Ash on Plastic Shrinkage of Concrete <i>Jerison Scariah James and Dr. Elson John</i>	101
14. Pervious Concrete Water Filter <i>Jilna Geo, Keerthy Ashok, Sankar S., Sminu Joy, Mini Mathew and Dila John</i>	109
15. Study on the Properties of Coir Fiber Reinforced Self Compacting Concrete Containing Silica Fume <i>Maria Mathew and Grace Abraham</i>	117
16. Recycled Ceramic Waste and Bottom Ash in Concrete: A Mechanical Behavior Study <i>Bennet Jose Mathew and Geno Philips Mathew</i>	123
17. Problems in a Water Distribution Network – A Case Study <i>Anitta Maria Siby, Ayana R. Nair, Diya Denny, Paul Antony, Dhileep M. and Sunith John David</i>	131
18. Simulation of Flow for the Coastal Aquifer of Pavanje River Basin using MSim Toolbox in MATLAB Environment <i>Sruthi S. Kumar, Amai Mahesha and Surajit Deb Barma</i>	139
19. Composting of Sewage Treatment Plant Sludge using Trichoderma as an Activator <i>Jonmy Merlin, Salu. P. Ramachandran, Sruthy Sunny and Mini Mathew</i>	147
20. A Comparative Study on Scour Depth Analysis Around Bridge Piers on Different Soils <i>Ahiya Elizebeth Joy, Arya Shaji, Ashish K. V., Muhammed Aslam P. S. and Sunith John David</i>	151
21. Identifying the Waste Profile and Reducing the Construction Waste Generation in a High-Rise Residential Building <i>Ron V. Roy and Deepak John Peter</i>	159
22. Barriers Affecting Adoption of Green Building <i>Taniya Thomas and Grace Mary Abraham</i>	165
23. Sensors to Ensure the Sustainability of Structures <i>Deepthi J. and Belarmin Xavier C. S.</i>	173
24. Application of QFD for Disposal of WEEE <i>Thomas P. C.</i>	183
25. Piezoelectric Performance of Lead-Free BNGN Ceramics at MPB as a Green Material for Transduction Applications <i>K. Nissamuddeen and Jacob Philip</i>	189
26. Smart Shopping Robot for Supermarkets using Dijkstra's Algorithm with user Interface <i>Stevens Johnson, Midhun V. M., Nithin Issac, Ann Mariya Mathew and Shinosh Mathew</i>	193
27. Dual Band CPW Fed Antenna with Reduced SAR Rate by Embedding Comb Shaped EBG <i>Roshni K. Rajan, Reshma V. R., Mithu Mariam Cherian, Dana Mariam Jacob and Ansal K. A.</i>	205
28. Performance Assessment of Patch Antenna Based on SAR <i>Kripa Balan, Midhun Joy and Ria Maria George</i>	213

29. Analysis of Mode Chart for the Calculation of Hakki-Coleman Parameter, α in Characteristic Equation for Dielectric Permittivity Measurement <i>Remya S. Nair, Jaimon Yohannan and Jacob Philip</i>	219
30. Speak Out: Turns Your Smartphone into a Microphone <i>Ajima Saseendran, Akshitha Lakshmi, Aleena Jose, Gouri Gopan and Shiney Thomas</i>	225
31. Development of an Inductive Wireless Charging Scheme for Dynamic Charging of Electric Vehicles <i>Joel Samuel, Alen Thomas Kurian, Mathews Philip Venattu and Daru Anna Thomas</i>	231
32. Power Management Strategy to Enhance Drive Range of Electric Bicycle <i>Anilkumar G. S., Dr. Rajeev T. and Dr. J. S. Savier</i>	241
33. Human Health Monitoring System using Internet of Wearable Things <i>Bijin Elsa Baby, Sandeep B. Kadam and Aravindhana A.</i>	253
34. A Comparative Analysis on PNN and CNN Classifiers for Retinal Disease Detection Using Fundus Images <i>Siji A. Thomas and Geevarghese Titus</i>	261
35. Waveform Length Based Reliability Analysis for the Detection of Murmur from PCG Records <i>Careena P., Mary Synthuja Jain Preetha M. and Arun P.</i>	267
36. Classification of De-noised ECG Signal to Monitor Stability of Heart <i>Therese Yamuna Mahesh, Jerin Reji, Akil K. V., Angel Paulson, Anjana N. and Arunima Lal</i>	275
37. Enhancing Power Quality with an Improved Dynamic Voltage Restorer <i>Thasneem A. and Thasneem Noohu</i>	281
38. Coordinated Control of PSS and SSSC using PSO to Improve Power System Stability <i>Bindumol E. K., Mini V. and Navami Chandran</i>	293
39. Cuckoo Search Optimization Algorithm based Small Signal Stability Improvement of a Two-Area Power System Incorporated with AVR and PSS <i>Aswathi V. S., Laly M. J., Dr. Abraham T. Mathew and Dr. Elizabeth P. Cheriyan</i>	303
40. Fabrication of Supercapacitor Electrodes using Reduced Graphene Oxide/Polyaniline Composite <i>Jakson K. Manjally, Georgekutty James, Joseph Thomas, Maria K. Shine and Divya George</i>	313
41. Advanced SOC Estimation of Lead-Acid Battery for HEM Application <i>Saira Philip, Liss Abraham Maret, Heinz Varghese Maymana, Herma Mariam Jacob, Shameer Asharaf and Rani Chacko</i>	319
42. Digital Energy Meter with DSM Capabilities <i>Sachu Philip, Ebin Mathews, Abin Dani, Reshmi V. and Renoy Xavier</i>	329
43. Energy Audit and Management of a College <i>Libina Rose Sebastian, Athul Thomas, Ajay Sasi, Joffie Jacob and Fenny Varghese</i>	337
44. Non-Isolated Three Port Converter with Single Stage Conversion for Stand-alone PV System using FPGA for ELVDC Applications <i>Alen Joseph, Justin Varghese Varkey, Anju Joseph, Akhil Sony and Arun S.</i>	347
45. Implementation of FGPA Based LVDC System using Single Switch Converter with PWM and PFM Control <i>Maria Mathew and Arun Sasi</i>	361

Table of Contents

46. Skin Cancer Detection using Imagery Techniques <i>Jose J. Edathala and Vishnupriya Mohanan</i>	373
47. High Security for Bank Locker using Facial Recognition <i>Dr. Therese Yamuna Mahesh, Diya Achu Pradeep, Renuka Pradeep, Silpa K. S., and Sreyas Dileep</i>	379
48. Automatic Detection of Brain Tumor using NSR Filter and K-means Clustering <i>Athira P. and Therese Yamuna Mahesh</i>	387
49. Face Cybernetics <i>Athira K. M. and Darsana P.</i>	395
50. Performance Evaluation of Single Layer and Multi Layer Graphene Sheet Transistors <i>Babitha Babu and Dr. Godwinraj D.</i>	403
51. Traffic Sign Detection and Vehicle Monitoring <i>Abel Simon, Aiswarya Mary Babu and Ananthakrishnan S.</i>	411
52. Continuous Authentication of Smartphone by Swiping <i>Praveen Prasannan and Christy James Jose</i>	419
53. Cost-Benefit Analysis of Sn-0.5Cu-3Bi-1Ag and Sn-1Cu-1Ni-1Ag Lead Free Solder Alloys Considering Elemental Cost, Hardness, Contact Angle and Melting Temperatures <i>Jayesh S., Jacob Elias and Asif S.</i>	427
54. Bullwhip Effect Quantification in a Supply Chain under Periodic Review Inventory Policies <i>Dr. Joby George and Dr. Madhusudanan Pillai V.</i>	433
55. Feed Rate Based Classification of Machined Parts using Convolutional Neural Network <i>Surej Kulangara Abraham, Jaimon Cletus and Sreelekshmi Soman G.</i>	441
56. Quality Prediction of Friction Welded Joint by Machine Vision System Based Approach <i>Sreelekshmi Soman G., Baiju Sasidharan and Surej Kulangara Abraham</i>	447
57. Trajectory Planning in Autonomous Vehicles using GPS and Digital Compass <i>Sidharth Prasanna Kumar</i>	453
58. Intra Coding of Plenoptic Images in HEVC <i>Ashlin George Mathew and Anu Abraham Mathew</i>	459
59. Strengthening Effect of SiC and Al ₂ O ₃ Particles Addition to AA 2900 and AA 2024 MMC's Synthesized Through Microwave Sintering <i>Anthony Xavier M. and Ashwath P.</i>	467
60. Instability Analysis of Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Subjected to the In-Plane Loading <i>Prashant Sunagar, Aravind Bhashyam, Manishh S. Dharek, Sreeleshava K. S. and Rakshiith K.</i>	473
61. Machinability Analysis and Optimization of A l7075 based B4C, Graphene and CNT Hybrid Composites <i>Ajithkumar J. P. and Anthony Xavier M.</i>	477
62. Effect of Equal Channel Angular Pressing (ECAP) on the Microstructure and Hardness of Aluminum 7075 Alloy <i>Harikrishnan S., Emil Baby, Abu Sakkir Hussain, Ansif K. Nazar and George Sebastian</i>	487

63. State of the Art in the Die Sinking EDM Processes of Electrically Conductive Ceramics	493
<i>Mathew J. Joseph, Uthayakumar M., Alvin Skaria Sajan, Amal Thomas, Arun Benny and Ashwin T. S.</i>	
64. Fabrication and Experimentation of a Bio Inspired Armor Plate Subjected to High Velocity Ballistic Impact	497
<i>Kevin Cyrus Vincent, Nithin Philip, Tonymon K. Tomy, Varghese Alex A., Tenny Thomas and George Raphel</i>	
65. Vibration Investigation on Drilling GFRP Through Recurrence Quantification Analysis	505
<i>Jessy K. and Sreerag V.</i>	
66. Investigation of 3D Printed Objects by Varying Process Timing	511
<i>Emil Joy, Donnie Simon, Alen Koshy Thomas, Azhar Ali and Dr. Jessy K.</i>	
67. Dissimilar Metal Inert Gas Welding Characterization of Aluminum and Copper using Zinc Interlayer	519
<i>Sherin Thampi, Alan K. Joy, Albin Varghese, Anoop Raj, Alen Mathew, Merrin John Varkey and Krishna P. Yagati</i>	
68. Optimization of TIG Welding Influenced by Nb+Ta Based Filler Wire for Ferritic Stainless Steel	525
<i>Paresh Mandal, Asutosh K. S., Joyal James and Harikrisnan M. S.</i>	
69. Gas Metal Arc Weld-Brazing of Aluminum to Copper using Tin Interlayer	533
<i>Merrin Varkey, Josme Maria Jose, Steffi Sebi Joseph, Abin Antony, Charles Baburaj, Sherin Thampi and Krishna Priya Yagati</i>	
70. Corrosion Inhibition in Maraging Steel: A Review	539
<i>Betsy Devasia, Rose J. Mattathil and Sreekumar K.</i>	
71. A Review on Internally Cooled Smart Cutting Tools	545
<i>Nixon Poullose</i>	
72. Mathematical Modeling of Cutting Force and Surface Roughness Analysis During Cutting Operation of Al 7075 Based Hybrid Composites	557
<i>Sreeram Hariharan and Ajithkumar J. P.</i>	
73. A Review on Performance, Vibration, Wear and Effect on Soil of Tillage Implements	561
<i>Rejosh Cherian Philip, Richin K. Philip and Sreerag V.</i>	
74. Design and Development of Gender Friendly Pepper Plucker Cum Berry Separator	569
<i>Sreerag V., Richin K. Philip and Rejosh Cherian Philip</i>	
75. Study on Mobility Pattern of Older People: A Case Study of Chennai	573
<i>Vignesh Dhurai and Lakshimi S.</i>	
76. Design and Fabrication of a Fully Automated Solar Panel Cleaning Module with Microfiber Brush	579
<i>Rahul R., Ronald Raphel, Ignasious C. P., Joel Ignatius and Richu Zachariah</i>	
77. Air Purifier for Hospital Wards	587
<i>Bibin Saji, Jerri Jolly K., Bharath S. K., George Sebastian and Mathew J. Joseph</i>	
78. An Experimental Investigation of Aquatic Propulsion using Undulating Fins	591
<i>Albin Sunny, Allen Issac, Alfred Biju, Jerry Babu and George Sebastian</i>	

Table of Contents

79. Design and Development of Rope & Net Assisted Papaya Plucker <i>Abi Varghese and Jippu Jacob</i>	599
80. Design and Fabrication of Modified Black Soldier Fly Compost Bin <i>Kiran George, Kevin John Kuruville, Rahul George Rajeev, Nandu Jayan and Richu Zachariah</i>	605
81. Analysis of Speed, Yaw Angle and Angle of Attack on a Vehicle using Wind Tunnel Testing <i>Abhiram Vinaya Suresh babu</i>	613
82. Recent Developments in Flax Fiber Reinforced Composites and its Applications <i>M. A. Joseph, Vishnu Prasad and Muhammed Hunize C. V.</i>	623
83. Property Evaluation of Hybrid Metal Matrix Composite <i>Venkatesan S. and Anthony Xavior M.</i>	631
84. Recycled HDPE Composites <i>Abhijith B., Abin John, Abin Manichan Aloysious, George Joseph and Rakesh Jose</i>	637
85. Development and Evaluation of Pulp Based Board from Water Hyacinth <i>Tony Varghese, Niveditha Prabhu, Meera Madhusudhan, Susmi Maria, Reema Thomas and Jiss Abraham</i>	643
86. Investigations on Characteristics of Composites Reinforced with Plantain Fibers <i>Muhammad Naseef, Umeshkumar P.V., Tom Jose, Vipin Kumar and Vishal Mathai</i>	651
87. Investigation on the Effect of Flexural, Flammability and Acoustic Properties on Human Hair Reinforced Epoxy Composites <i>Jintu Thomas, Joel James, John Bosco Gomes, Tharun Thomas, Jessy K. and Vishal John Mathai</i>	657
88. Improving Efficiency of Solar Panel by Titanium Dioxide Coating <i>Akhil A. Nair, Aravind R. Pillai, Alen Mathew Paul, Jerin James and Jayakrishnan R.</i>	663
89. Development and Validation of a Code for Heat Flux Estimation using Inverse Heat Transfer Technique and Conjugate Gradient Method <i>Abhiram R. Nair and Asok Kumar S.</i>	671
90. Solar Peltier Refrigeration System <i>Ashokan K. P., Amal Kuriyan, Stephin Thankachan, Thomaskutty P.J. and Rakesh Jose</i>	677

List of Figures

1.1	Graph of dissolved oxygen versus depth	2
1.2	Graph of turbidity versus depth	3
1.3	Prototype filter	3
1.4	Tanks in filtration system	4
1.5	Filtration system setup in an apartment	4
1.6	Map of locality of 31 st mile in mundakayam	5
1.7	Percentage removal of various parameter	8
2.1	Comparison of mean height of lady's finger for normal and hydrogel plants	13
2.2	Comparison of mean fruit weight of lady's finger for both normal and hydrogel plants	14
2.3	Comparison of mean height of chilly both for hydrogel incorporated and normal	14
2.4	Comparison of mean fruit weight of chilly.	15
2.5	Root growth of normal lady's finger plants	16
2.6	Root growth of hydrogel lady's finger plants	16
3.1	Co ₂ emission by industries	20
3.2	Fly ash	22
3.3	Foundry sand	23
3.4	Bentonite	23
3.5	Sodium hydroxide and sodium silicate	24
3.6	Methodology block diagram	24
3.7	Brick mould	25
3.8	Mixing of materials	25
3.9	Casting of bricks	26
3.10	Oven drying	26
3.11	Demoulded bricks	27
3.12	Compressive strength testing machine	27
3.13	Water absorption test	28
3.14	Compressive strength graph	29
3.15	Efflorescence on the surface of brick	30
4.1	Steel fiber and polypropylene (PP) geo-fabric	35
4.2	Testing specimen and testing arrangement of PP geo-fabric	35
4.3	Testing specimens	37
4.4	Compressive strength test arrangement.	37
4.5	Compressive strength at 7 and 28 days.	38
4.6	Split tensile test arrangement	38
4.7	Split tensile strength at 7 and 28 days.	39
4.8	Flexure test arrangement.	40
4.9	Flexural strength at 7 and 28 days.	40
5.1	Futuristic model of APS	48
5.2	Maximum stress distribution on chassis	49

5.3	Maximum deflection on chassis	49
5.4	Maximum stress distribution on roller	49
5.5	Maximum deflection on roller	50
5.6	Prototype of APS	50
5.7	Dimensions of APS	51
6.1	Slump of 14.5 cm for marine water concrete	55
6.2	Slump for fresh water concrete	55
6.3	SEM image of morphology of FF sample for 28 days curing period.	56
6.4	SEM image of morphology of SF sample for 28 days curing period.	57
6.5	SEM image of morphology of SS sample for 28 days curing period	57
7.1	Analysis of the strength results	62
8.1	(a) Test set up; (b) Splitting failure of prism	67
8.2	Stress strain plot of unreinforced block masonry prisms	67
8.3	Stress strain plot of grouted reinforced block masonry prisms	68
8.4	(a) Vertical crack in wythe portion; (b) Splitting failure of prism	68
8.5	(a) Flexure load set up; (b) Typical tensile crack at the bottom	69
8.6	Crushing of blocks in reinforced concrete block masonry beam with yielding of tension steel	69
8.7	Moment curvature plot for reinforced concrete block masonry beams	70
9.1	Particle size distribution of coarse aggregate	73
9.2	Mixing of mcc into water by magnetic stirring	73
9.3	Compressive strength of pervious concrete	74
9.4	Tensile strength of pervious concrete	75
9.5	Flexural strength of pervious concrete	75
10.1	Palm oil fuel ash and glass powder	79
10.2	Slump variation of concrete	81
10.3	Compressive strength of concrete	82
10.4	Splitting tensile strength of concrete	82
10.5	Flexural strength of concrete	83
11.1	Compressive strength for the brick specimen	87
11.2	Water absorption for the brick specimen	87
11.3	Apparent porosity for the brick specimen	88
11.4	Experimental setup for thermal performance	89
11.5	Thermal conductivity of brick specimens	89
12.1	Test setup for aggregate packing density	97
13.1	ASTM C1579 based mould.	103
13.2	Workability of different concrete mixes.	104
13.3	Compressive strength of concrete with varying dosage of shrinkage reducing admixtures.	104
13.4	Compressive strength of concrete with varying percentage of fly ash.	104
13.5	Full length crack evolution of specimen in ASTM C1579 based mould.	105
14.1	Pervious concrete filter	111
14.2	Removal efficiency of fly ash pervious concrete filter	111
14.3	Removal efficiency of calcium bentonite pervious concrete filter	112
14.4	Comparison of turbidity removal efficiency of different filters	112
14.5	Comparison of DO improving efficiency of different filters	112
14.6	Comparison of nitrate removal efficiency of different filters	113
14.7	Comparison of nitrite removal efficiency of different filters	113

14.8 Comparison of phosphorus removal efficiency of different filters	113
14.9 Comparison of iron removal efficiency of different filters	114
14.10 Comparison of COD removal efficiency of different filters	114
14.11 Comparison of BOD removal efficiency of different filters	114
15.1 Relation between slump flow and T50 slump flow	119
15.2 Relation between slump flow and L-box ratio	119
15.3 Compressive strength	120
15.4 Percentage reduction in compressive strength	121
16.1 Bottom ash	124
16.2 Variation of slump value	126
16.3 Variation of 7 th and 28 th day compressive strength of NC and BCC.	126
16.4 Variation of 7 th and 28 th day split tensile strength of NC and BCC.	127
16.5 Variation of 28 th day density of concrete variation curve of NC and BCC.	127
16.6 Variation of water absorption curve of NC and BCC.	128
17.1 Vadavucode-puthencruz panchayat	132
17.2 Network with points of negative pressure	133
18.1 Study area	140
18.2 Monthly rainfall at surathkal for the period of 2005–2008 (Department of applied mechanics and hydraulics)	141
18.3 2D mesh generated by mSim	142
18.4 (a) Boundary condition during no river flow	143
18.4 (b) Boundary condition when river has flow.	143
18.5 Renumbering algorithms	144
18.6 Simulated hydraulic head value above msl for each observation well for a period of 2005–2006	144
18.7 Groundwater flow model efficiency values after calibration during 2005–2007	145
18.8 Groundwater flow model efficiency values after validation during 2007–2008	145
19.1 Temperature variations of trichoderma amended compost	149
20.1 Experimental setup in the laboratory	153
20.2 Cross section of the flume with movable bed (cylindrical pier)	153
20.3 Cross section of the flume with movable bed (chamfered pier)	154
20.4 Longitudinal, transverse and boundary directions of study (cylindrical pier)	154
20.5 Longitudinal, transverse and boundary directions of study (chamfered pier)	155
20.6 Comparison of maximum scour depths in different pier shapes	155
22.1 Economic barriers	167
22.2 Management and government related barriers	168
22.3 Information, knowledge and awareness related barriers	168
22.4 Attitude and market related barriers	168
22.5 Technology and training barriers	169
23.1 Classification of FOS	176
24.1 House of quality template	184
24.2 Modified house of quality – WEEE context	185
25.1 XRD patterns of BNGN, with varying x.	192
25.2 Piezoelectric figures of merit of BNGN	192
26.1 Sharp sensor characteristics	194
26.2 Flowchart of the system	195
26.3 Simulation arena in V-REP PRO EDU	196

26.4	Power and control circuit developed in Proteus	197
26.5	Traction system implementation	197
26.6	Robotic arm implementation	198
26.7	(a) Screenshot of screen 1; (b) Screenshot of screen 2; (c) Screenshot of screen 3; (d) Screenshot of screen 4	199
26.8	Arena for the traversal of the robot	200
26.9	Pie chart representation of present energy consumption	201
26.10	Pie chart representation of energy consumption after implementation	202
27.1	Antenna design without EBG structure with dimensions, $L=34.5\text{mm}$, $W=25\text{mm}$, $S=1\text{mm}$, $L1=18\text{mm}$, $W1=13.5$	206
27.2	Antenna design with EBG structure with dimensions, $L=34.5\text{mm}$, $W=25\text{mm}$, $S=1\text{mm}$, $L1=18\text{mm}$, $W1=13.5$	207
27.3	Backside view of antenna design with EBG structure with $L2=25\text{mm}$ and $W2=5\text{mm}$	207
27.4	Return loss plot for antenna	208
27.5	Radiation pattern for antenna without EBG at $f=2.4\text{GHz}$	208
27.6	Radiation pattern for antenna with EBG at $f=2.4\text{GHz}$	209
27.7	3D polar plot for antenna without EBG at $f=2.4\text{GHz}$	209
27.8	3D polar plot for antenna with EBG at $f=2.4\text{GHz}$	209
27.9	SAR for antenna without EBG	210
27.10	SAR for antenna with EBG	210
28.1	Simulated MSP antenna	214
28.2	S parameter vs frequency plot	215
28.3	Radiation pattern	215
28.4	SAR field distribution	216
29.1	TiO_2 dielectric resonators	219
29.2	Mode chart of Hakki-Coleman for $n = 1$	220
29.3	Dielectric resonator placed between two infinitely parallel straight conducting plates	221
29.4	Experimental set up for Hakki-Coleman measurement	221
29.5	Mode chart for resonant frequency of 1GHz	222
29.6	Mode chart for resonant frequency of 2GHz	223
29.7	Mode chart for resonant frequency of 3GHz	223
29.8	Mode chart for resonant frequency of 4GHz	223
29.9	Mode chart for resonant frequency of 2GHz and thickness 40mm for the dielectric resonator	224
30.1	(a) Login and registration; (b) Client user interface	227
30.2	(a) User window; (b) Presenter window	228
30.3	(a) Discovery window; (b) Speak window	229
31.1	Global greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector [25]	232
31.2	Typical closed-loop WPT charging systems [10]	233
31.3	Physical representation of archimedean spiral [17]	234
31.4	Conceptual model of the proposed system	236
31.5	Schematic block representation of dynamic wireless charging system [24]	236
31.6	Input voltage at the transmitter coils	237
31.7	Output voltage at the receiver coil	237
32.1	Electric bicycle drive system	242
32.2	Block diagram representation of drive system	243
32.3	Equivalent circuit of a super capacitor	244

32.4	Schematic diagram of a boost converter	246
32.5	Schematic diagram of the power-sharing system	247
32.6	Flow chart of the power-sharing system.	248
32.7	Speed output of BLDCM	248
32.8	Output torque of BLDCM	249
32.9	Output of boost converter	249
32.10	Control signals for power management circuit	250
32.11	UC characteristics during drive operation	250
32.12	Hardware set up for UCPDS	251
32.13	Ultra-capacitor charge discharge cycle	251
33.1	Block diagram of human health monitoring system.	254
33.2	Graphical representation of temperature in thing speak	257
33.3	Graphical representation of acceleration at X-axis in thing speak	257
33.4	Graphical representation of acceleration at Y-axis in thing speak	258
33.5	Graphical representation of acceleration at Z-axis in thing speak	258
33.6	Graphical representation of heart beats per minute in thing speak	258
33.7	Graphical representation of SpO_2 in thing speak	259
34.1	Normal, DR. and AMD affected retinas	261
34.2	Block diagram for PNN simulation	262
34.3	Block diagram for CNN simulation	264
35.1	Schematic of the experimental design	268
35.2	Wave shape of normal heart sound and murmur (a) Normal heart sound (dataset 1); (b) Normal heart sound (dataset 2); (c) murmur (dataset 1); (d) murmur (dataset 2)	270
35.3	Wave shape of normal heart sound and murmur (a) Normal heart sound (dataset 1); (b) Normal heart sound (dataset 2); (c) murmur (dataset 1); (d) murmur (dataset 2)	270
35.4	Wave shape of pre-processed heart signal (a) Normal (dataset 1); (b) Normal (dataset 2); (c) murmur (dataset 1); (d) murmur (dataset 2)	271
35.5	The histogram of waveform length of normal heart sound and murmur; (a) For dataset 1; (b) For dataset 2.	273
36.1	ECG signal representation	276
36.2	Block diagram of the proposed system	276
36.3	Filter bank implementation of DWT	277
36.4	De-noising using DWT	278
36.5	Architecture of neural network	279
36.6	Performance plot of DWT	279
36.7	Testing and all confusion matrix of different signals	280
37.1	Schematic diagram of basic DVR	282
37.2	Block diagram showing the circuit of multi-functional DVR	283
37.3	Phasor diagram of pre-sag compensation	284
37.4	Solar PV equivalent circuit	284
37.5	MPPT tracking using P&O algorithm	285
37.6	P&O Algorithm for maximum power point tracking	285
37.7	Schematic diagram of bi-directional DC-DC converter	286
37.8	The buck and boost mode of bi-directional DC-DC converter.	286
37.9	Control logic of energy conservation mode of DVR	287
37.10	Control logic of compensation and UPS mode of DVR	287
37.11	Battery output voltage, current and SOC while charging	288

List of Figures

37.12	Simulink block diagram of the proposed multi-functional DVR	289
37.13	Grid voltage, load voltage and injected voltage at 50% sag compensation using proposed DVR	289
37.14	Grid voltage, load voltage and injected voltage at 50% voltage swell compensation using proposed DVR	290
37.15	THD analysis of load voltages after compensation by proposed method	290
37.16	Grid voltage, load voltage and injected voltage at harmonic compensation by DVR	290
37.17	Grid voltage, load voltage and injected voltage illustrating energy conservation and UPS mode of DVR	291
38.1	Test system	294
38.2	Structure of power system stabilizer	294
38.3	Structure SSSC damping controller	295
38.4a	Local mode oscillation without any controller	296
38.4b	Inter-area oscillation without any controller	297
38.4c	Speed of each machine without any controller	297
38.5a	Local mode oscillations with PSS	298
38.5b	Inter-area oscillations with PSS	298
38.5c	Speed of each machine with PSS	298
38.6a	Local mode oscillation with SSSC	299
38.6b	Inter-area oscillation with SSSC	299
38.6c	Speed of each machine with SSSC	300
38.7a	Local mode oscillation with both controllers	301
38.7b	Inter-area oscillation with both controllers	301
38.7c	Speed of each machine with both controllers	301
39.1	Kundur two area system-PSAT model	304
39.2	Eigen value plot of two area system without AVR and PSS	307
39.3	Eigenvalue plot of two area system with tuned AVR and PSS at normal loading condition	309
39.4	Plot for rotor angles for two area system with tuned AVR and PSS at normal loading condition	309
39.5	Eigenvalue plot of two area system with tuned AVR and PSS at heavy loading condition	310
39.6	Plot for rotor angles for two area system with tuned AVR and PSS at heavy loading condition	310
40.1	Basic arrangement of an EDLC cell	314
40.2	Supercapacitor arrangement	316
40.3	XRD patterns of GO, rGO, PANI and rGO/PANI.	316
40.4	FTIR patterns of GO, rGO, PANI and PANI/rGO.	317
40.5	Raman spectroscopy of GO, rGO, PANI and rGO/PANI	317
41.1	Thevenin battery model [17]	321
41.2	Block diagram of the experimental setup for thevenin model parameter determination	322
41.3	Experimental setup for thevenin model parameter determination of four 12V 7Ah battery	322
41.4	Continuous discharge waveform for four 12V, 7Ah batteries	323
41.5	Discontinuous discharge waveform cycles (enlarged view)	323
41.6	Continuous line is measured R_d . The dashed line is the linear regression line fitted to R_d data, with a correlation coefficient R^2 of 0.9027	324

41.7	Continuous line is measured R_p . The dashed line is the linear regression line fitted to R_p data, with a correlation coefficient R^2 of 0.9674	324
41.8	Continuous line is calculated SOC with Voc. The dashed line is the linear regression line fitted to VOC data	324
41.9	Flowchart of proposed SOC estimation	325
41.10	Block diagram of continuous discharge test for SOC estimation	326
41.11	Graph obtained using proposed SOC estimation	326
42.1	Main control unit	331
42.2	HLW8012 power module	332
42.3	1 Channel 5V module	333
42.4	NRF24L01 trans-receiver module	334
42.5	Main node system	334
42.6	Proposed system	335
42.7	Result obtained on the LCD display	335
43.1	Classification of energy	338
43.2	Single line diagram of the electrical distribution of the college	339
43.3	Electrical load	340
43.4	Power curve plotted for resource block	340
43.5	Power curve plotted for college campus	341
43.6	Process diagram of laundry	341
43.7	Power curve plotted for laundry	342
43.8	Power curve plotted for STP	342
43.9	Connected load of STP	343
43.10	Process diagram of STP	343
43.11	Power curve plotted for kitchen	344
43.12	Process diagram for dish washer	345
44.1	Block diagram of a three port converter [1]	348
44.2	Block diagram of the proposed system	349
44.3	Converter topology of proposed system [20]	349
44.4	Mode selection of converter topology [20]	350
44.5	Waveform governing the control and modulation [20]	351
44.6	Waveforms of PV output in DO mode	352
44.7	Waveforms of battery output in DO mode	352
44.8	Waveforms of output voltage in DO mode	353
44.9	Waveforms of voltage ripple in DO mode	353
44.10	Waveforms of PV output in DI mode when $D1 < D3$	354
44.11	Battery voltage and current in DI mode when $D1 < D3$	354
44.12	Output voltage in DI mode when $D1 < D3$	355
44.13	Voltage ripple in DI mode when $D1 < D3$	355
44.14	Waveform output of PV in DI mode when $D1 > D3$	356
44.15	Output of battery in DI mode when $D1 > D3$	356
44.16	Output voltage in DI mode when $D1 > D3$	356
44.17	Voltage ripple in DI mode when $D1 > D3$	357
44.18	Waveform output of PV in SISO mode	357
44.19	Waveform output of battery in SISO mode	358
44.20	Output voltage in SISO mode	358
44.21	Voltage ripple in SISO mode	359

45.1	Block diagram of the proposed system	362
45.2	Equivalent circuit of solar PV cell [2]	362
45.3	Proposed PFM and PWM based algorithm	363
45.4	Single switch converter	364
45.5	Proposed hybrid control strategy	364
45.6	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}) and Input Current (I_s) in simulink	366
45.7	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}), Inductor Current (I_{L1}) and Inductor Current (I_{L2}) in simulink	366
45.8	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}), Diode Current (I_{D1}) and Diode Current (I_{D2}) in simulink	367
45.9	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}), Diode Current (I_{D3}) and Diode Current (I_{D4}) in simulink	367
45.10	Waveforms of Output Voltage (v_0) and Output Voltage ripple	367
45.11	Waveforms of Output Current (I_0) and Output Current ripple	368
45.12	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}) and Input Current (I_s) in simulink	368
45.13	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}), Inductor Current (I_{L1}) and Inductor Current (I_{L2}) in simulink.	369
45.14	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}), Inductor Current (I_{L1}) and Inductor Current (I_{L2}) in simulink.	369
45.15	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}), Diode Current (I_{D3}) and Diode Current (I_{D4}) in simulink	369
45.16	Waveforms of Output Voltage (v_0) and Output Voltage ripple	370
45.17	Waveforms of Output Current (I_0) and Output Current ripple	370
45.18	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}) and Input Current (I_s) in simulink	371
45.19	Waveforms of Gate-Source Voltage (V_{gs}), Inductor Current (I_{L1}) and Inductor Current (I_{L2}) in simulink.	371
45.20	Waveforms of Output Voltage (v_0) and Output Voltage ripple	371
45.21	Waveforms of Output Current (I_0) and Output Current ripple	371
46.1	(a) Normal mole; (b) Cancerous mole	373
46.2	Pre-processing stage	375
46.3	Pre-processing stage	375
46.4	Segmentation stage	375
46.5	K means clustering	376
46.6	SVM mechanism	377
47.1	Block diagram	380
47.2	Database of customers	382
47.3	Detected face	382
47.4	Cropped image	383
47.5	Graph of matched figure	383
47.6	Matched figure	383
47.7	Not matched figure	384
47.8	Minimum distance plotted for unmatched customer	384
48.1	General block diagram of proposed method	389
48.2	Original MRI image	389
48.3	Output of the NSR filter.	390
48.4	Flowchart of K-Means clustering	391
48.5	Tumor region after segmentation	391

48.6 Tumorless region after segmentation.	392
48.7 Extracted tumor region using ROI	392
49.1 Block diagram of the proposed system	396
49.2 Hardware part of the system	397
49.3 Home screen	398
49.4 User choice	398
49.5 Adding user data	398
49.6 Capturing image	398
49.7 Training section	399
49.8 Recognizing section	399
49.9 (a) Recognizing using image; (b) Recognizing the real-time picture	399
49.10 Device-control section	400
49.11 Operational log	400
50.1 Band structure of graphene	405
50.2 Band structure of bilayer graphene with 0V	405
50.3 Band structure of bilayer graphene with 10V	405
50.4 Band structure of bilayer graphene with 20V	406
50.5 Band structure of undoped armchair nanoribbon	406
50.6 Band structure of undoped zigzag nanoribbon	407
50.7 Band structure of N-doped armchair nanoribbon	407
50.8 Band structure of P-doped armchair nanoribbon	407
50.9 Band structure of S-doped armchair nanoribbon	408
50.10 Comparison of current-voltage variations of undoped, N-doped, S-doped and P-doped GNRFET	408
50.11 Comparison of current to voltage variations on undoped, N-doped and dual gate GNRFET	409
50.12 Comparison of current-voltage variations on dual gate and bilayer graphene FET	409
51.1 Firebase database	414
51.2 Database logging	414
51.3 Traffic sign detection	416
52.1 Confusion matrix of dataset A using KNN	422
52.2 Confusion matrix of dataset B using KNN	423
52.3 Confusion matrix of dataset A using SVM	423
52.4 Confusion matrix of dataset B using SVM	424
52.5 Confusion matrix of dataset A using deep learning	424
52.6 Confusion matrix of dataset B using deep learning	425
53.1 Comparison of 21 lead free solder alloys and Sn-Pb alloy with price and melting points.	430
53.2 Comparison of melting temperature and cost	430
53.3 Comparison of hardness and cost	431
53.4 Comparison of contact angle and cost	431
54.1 Serial supply chain structure for the study	434
54.2 Order rate variance ratio for supply chain under different customer demand models	437
55.1 Image of the surface at: (a) 0.05 mm/rev as feed; (b) 0.35 mm/rev as feed rate.	443
55.2 Model summary	444
55.3 Training and testing losses	444
55.4 Training and testing accuracies	445
56.1 Variation of tensile strength with speed of rotating specimen	448

56.2	Variation of tensile strength with axial pressure	449
56.3	The different steps involved in the pre-processing of the weld image	450
56.4	CI values for each experiments	451
56.5	Variation of ultimate tensile strength with coefficient based indicator	451
57.1	Graph representation of coordinates in degrees	456
58.1	Representation of a ray in 4D light field space	460
58.2	Architecture of a standard plenoptic camera.	461
58.3	Proposed HEVC compression method	461
58.4	HEVC intra frame prediction flowchart	462
58.5	Preprocessing of light field images using light field toolbox	464
58.6	Intra frame prediction in HEVC	465
59.1	Effect of relative density on rockwell hardness of microwave sintered samples	469
59.2	Stress-strain relation for samples AA 2024 and AA 2900 reinforced with Al_2O_3 and SiC particulates	470
59.3	SEM micrographs of (a) AA 2900 and (b) AA 2024 MMC's reinforced with 6% Al_2O_3 compressive tested	470
59.4	Effect of compressive extension of different aluminum alloys in relation with the maximum compressive load.	471
60.1	Critical buckling load for loading edge simply supported and unloaded edge simply supported	475
60.2	Critical buckling load for laminated plate simply supported on all three faces with $t=10$ mm, aspect ratio=1	476
61.1	(a), (b) shows the variation in flank wear and crater wear for different cutting speeds at a constant feed rate of 0.3 mm/rev and depth of cut of 1.5 mm using DLC-coated carbide tool	480
61.2	(a),(b) shows the influence of cutting speed on cutting force and surface roughness at a constant feed rate of 0.3 mm/rev and depth of cut of 1.5 mm using DLC coated carbide tool.	481
61.3	Main effects plot for grey relational grade	484
62.1	Graphical variation of hardness across the surface	489
62.2	Initial microstructure (100 μ m)	489
62.3	Microstructure evolution (100 μ m)	490
64.1	Vacuum bagging	498
64.2	Waterjet cutting	499
64.3	Tensile test specimen	499
64.4	Steps involved in analysis	500
64.5	Stress vs. Strain graph of Kevlar 29 –Vinyl ester composite	501
64.6	Stress vs. Strain graph of Kevlar 29 – Epoxy composite	502
64.7	Directional deformation of Kevlar 29 – Epoxy composite	502
64.8	Directional deformation of Kevlar 29 – Epoxy – Rubber – Al – Composite	503
65.1	(a) Vertical milling machine with drill tool dynamometer; (b) Uncoated drill bit for drilling GFRP	507
65.2	Recurrence plots of drill bit for constant feed 5 mm/min and varying speed	508
66.1	Air gap between layers	512
66.2	Variation of tensile strength with printing angle.	512
66.3	ASTMD638 standard CAD drawing	513
66.4	ASTMD638 standard specimens.	513
66.5	Variation of tensile strength with layer thickness	514

66.6	Variation of elongation with layer thickness.	515
67.1	Lap configuration of the joint	520
67.2	Lap shear specimen according to ASTM D1002 standard.	521
67.3	Microstructure and corresponding EDS of specimen 1,2 and 3 respectively	522
68.1	(a) Schematic sketch of the TIG welded joint (all dimensions of mm); (b) The FSS plate (250×50×6 mm ³) was TIG welded using Ar gas and ER409Nb filler wire; (c) The TIG welded pieces.	527
68.2	(a) The Fe-Cr-C ternary equilibrium diagram for C content>0.01%; (b) The influence of C and N to the diagram.	528
68.3	Illustration of optical micrographs of FSS after solution treated at 860°C for 1.5h then immediately immersed into different quenching mediums (200X): (a) As-received base metal; (b) After oil quenched (OQ); (c) After air cooled (AC), (d) After water quenched (WQ); and subsequently aged at 500°C for 5h at different temperatures (200X); (e) 300°C; (f) 400°C.	528
68.4	Illustration of optical microstructures of different welded zones of FSS (without PWHT) (a-c) and after PWHT at 700°C for 2h (d-f) (200X): (a) Base metal; (b) WZ; (c) HAZ.	529
68.5	Illustration of SEM micrographs with EDAX analysis at different magnifications of welded surface morphology for PWHT at 700°C for 2h: (a) At low magnification (5000X); (b) At high magnification (10000X); (c) EDAX analysis.	529
68.6	Illustration of stress-strain curve of FSS: (a) as-received condition; (b) After PWHT at 700°C for 2h.	530
69.1	Schematic of brazing assembly	534
69.2	Schematic of the lap shear test specimen	535
69.3	Macro images at 10x magnification using tin interlayer	535
69.4	SEM magnification at 200x with tin interlayer	536
69.5	(a,b) Shows magnification at 500x with clear tin interlayer.	536
69.6	EDS layered image of tin interlayered weld joint	536
70.1	Microstructure of maraging steel 250 grade	540
70.2	SEM image of maraging steel 250 grade	541
70.3	A schematic diagram of the experimental setup	542
71.1	Factors influencing machining performance	547
71.2	Smartness of a cutting tool	549
71.3	Tool wear regions	552
71.4	Simplification of the orthogonal cutting mechanism	553
71.5	Schematic illustration of heat generation during orthogonal machining	553
72.1	Main effects plot for cutting force	559
72.2	Main effects plot of the surface roughness	560
73.1	Some examples of tillage tools: (a) Disc Harrow; (b) Mold boaed plow; (c) Field cultivator; (d) Chisel plow [15]	562
73.2	Tiller blades hardfaced with 5HCr, 8HCr, 12HCr, 7.5HCr: (a) Before grinding; (b) After grinding [9]	566
74.1	Field evaluation: (a) Plucking pepper from a tall tree; (b) Pepper berries being collected through the hollow pipe	571
74.2	Design of head	571
75.1	Reason for staying in the location	576
75.2	Trip purpose	577

List of Figures

75.3	Mode of travel	577
76.1	Fabricated model	580
76.2	Circuit diagram	581
76.3	Experimental setup	581
76.4	Cleaning unit	583
76.5	Stand	583
76.6	Comparison of PV diagrams	584
76.7	Comparison of IV diagrams	584
77.1	Design of the purifier	589
78.1	(a) Slider spring assembly; (b) Restriction of degree of freedom using rails	592
78.2	(a) Movement of fork along spring cross section; (b) Prototype B	593
78.3	Prototype C	593
78.4	Prototype D	594
78.5	Mechanism of prototype E	594
78.6	Fin material moulding	595
78.7	Variation in cross-section	595
78.8	Force vectors in (a) Prototype D; (b) Prototype E	596
79.1	Schematic diagram of Rope & Net assisted papaya plucker	600
79.2	Harvested knife with guards	601
79.3	Tree harness	601
79.5	Pulley and rope system with a netted basket	602
79.6	Hand-lever with a tree harness.	602
80.1	Conventional BSF bin	606
80.2	Effect of light	607
80.3	Modified BSF bin	609
80.4	Internal heating system	610
81.1	Wind tunnel	614
81.2	Nozzle and collector	614
81.3	TARF model	614
81.4	Drag coe vs. yaw angle	615
81.5	Side coeff vs. yaw angle	616
81.6	Drag coeff vs. yaw angle	616
81.7	Yaw coeff vs. yaw angle	616
81.8	Roll coeff vs. yaw angle	617
81.9	Lift coeff vs. yaw angle	617
81.10	Pressure coeff vs. pressure taps	617
81.11	Force coeff vs. wing angle	618
81.12	Moment coeff vs. wing angle	619
81.13	Drag coeff vs. reynolds number	619
81.14	Pitch coeff vs. reynolds number	620
81.15	Lift coeff vs. reynolds number	620
81.16	Roll coeff vs. reynolds number	620
81.17	Side coeff vs. reynolds number	621
81.18	Yaw coeff vs. reynolds number	621
83.1	Microstructure of 5% SiC and hybrid composite of 5% SiC + 2% F.A	633
83.2	Microstructure of 10% SiC and hybrid composite of 10% SiC + 4% F.A	633
83.3	Microstructure of 15% SiC and hybrid composite of 15% SiC + 6% F.A	634

84.1 Hakke mixer	639
84.2 Compression moulder	639
84.3 Universal testing machine	640
84.4 Shore hardness tester	640
84.5 Variation of tensile strength with composition.	640
84.6 Variation of yield strength with composition	641
84.7 Variation of hardness with composition	641
85.1 Sample boards	645
85.2 Graph showing water absorption of 2 hour and 24 hour	646
85.3 Graph showing density of various boards	647
85.4 Graph showing moisture content	648
86.1 Effect of variation of resin–fiber proportion on (a) Flexural and (b) Tensile strength	652
86.2 Composite panels prepared with Resin–Fiber proportion as (a) 50–50, (b) 70–30, (c) 50–50 with 10% cow dung powder by weight of resin	653
86.3 Effect of variation of resin–fiber proportion on (a) Flexural and (b) Tensile strength	654
86.4 TGA results for plantain fiber reinforced composites with resin mixed with 10% cow dung powder	655
86.5 Sound absorption coefficient observed under different frequencies of sound	655
87.1 Human hair epoxy composite	658
87.2 Vertical flammability tester	659
87.3 Sound absorption apparatus	659
87.4 Stress–strain curves of human hair epoxy composites	660
87.5 Variation of flexural strength of composites with fiber length	660
87.6 Variation of after flame time with fiber length	661
88.1 Titanium sol	664
88.2 Pre-heating the glass slides in oven	665
88.3 Pressurized sprayer	665
88.4 Annealing in furnace	666
88.5 Water contact angle	666
88.6 Transmittance	667
88.7 SEM image 100 nm	667
88.8 SEM image 200 nm	667
88.9 Plot of voltage and current for plain glass	669
88.10 Plot of voltage and current for coated glass	670
89.1 Flowchart of the proposed code	673
89.2 Comparison of input and estimated heat flux	675
89.3 Comparison of input and estimated heat flux	675
90.1 Basic model	679
90.2 Operational concept	681



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List of Tables

1.1	Water quality analysis of raw and filtered water sample through prototype	4
1.2	Water quality analysis of water through filtration system	4
1.3	Water quality analysis of sewage water through activated charcoal	5
1.4	Water quality analysis of sewage water through bamboo charcoal	6
1.5	Water quality analysis of sewage water through chitosan	6
1.6	Water quality analysis of sewage water through combination of filter medias	7
2.1	Height of lady's finger for normal and hydrogel soil	12
2.2	Yield of lady's finger for normal and hydrogel plants	13
2.3	Height of chilly for normal and hydrogel incorporated plants	14
2.4	Weight of chilly both for hydrogel incorporated and normal	15
3.1	Compressive strength for developed bricks	29
4.1	Properties of coarse aggregates	34
4.2	Properties of fine aggregates	34
4.3	Properties of PP geo-fabrics	35
4.4	Details of cube specimens	36
4.5	Details of cylinder specimens	36
4.6	Details of prism specimens	36
5.1	Minimum total Mc-800 content by weight mix	47
5.2	Cutback bitumen specifications	51
5.3	Aggregate grade specifications	52
6.1	Strength in compression of concrete cubes of various combinations of casting and curing	56
6.2	Internal composition of various elements for FF SF and SS combinations	56
7.1	Survey results obtained from houses	61
7.2	Material quantity for specimens	61
7.3	Slump values	62
7.4	Strength results obtained	62
8.1	Properties of hollow concrete blocks	66
8.2	Properties of mortar (CM-1:6)	66
9.1	Material properties	72
9.2	PC mixture design used in the study	73
10.1	Physical properties of fine, coarse aggregate and cement	78
10.2	Chemical composition of glass powder and palm oil fuel ash	80
10.3	Mix design composition	80
10.4	Hardened concrete properties	81
11.1	Mixture properties	86
12.1	Physical properties of GGBS	94
12.2	Chemical properties of GGBS	94
12.3	Physical properties of brick	95
12.4	Mix design	95

List of Tables

12.5	Cement versus GGBS packing density	96
12.6	Proportions of aggregates with corresponding packing density	98
12.7	Compressive strength test	98
12.8	Split tensile strength test	99
12.9	Flexural strength test	99
12.10	Modulus of elasticity test	99
12.11	Water absorption test	100
13.1	Properties of shrinkage reducing admixture	102
13.2	Mix constituents and proportion	102
13.3	Time of occurrence of center line initial crack and time for crack propagation of mixes with varying percentage of shrinkage reducing admixture.	105
14.1	Material properties	110
14.2	Test results for heavy metals	115
15.1	Properties of cement	118
15.2	Properties of fine aggregate and coarse aggregate	118
15.3	Fresh properties	119
15.4	Flexural strength test results	120
15.5	Water absorption test results	121
16.1	Physical properties of aggregates	124
16.2	Chemical properties of bottom ash	125
16.3	Mix Proportion of NC and BCC	125
16.4	Rate calculation of concrete in 1m ³	128
17.1	Water quantity estimation for projected population	133
17.2	Results of the analysis of the pipe distribution network	133
17.3	Analysis results at junctions	135
19.1	Physical properties of sludge	148
19.2	Physical properties of compost	149
19.3	Chemical properties of compost	150
20.1	Scale ratios for geometrical parameter	152
20.2	Scale ratios for flow parameter	152
20.3	Comparison of maximum scour depths values for different pier shapes	155
21.1	Classification of materials based on ABC analysis	161
21.2	Measures that contribute to the waste minimization	162
21.3	Percentage of waste in terms of material cost	163
24.1	WEEE customer base	185
24.2	WEEE characteristics	185
24.3	WEEE disposal strategies	186
24.4	House of quality	186
24.5	Analysis of strategies	187
26.1	Present energy audit details	201
26.2	Energy audit details after implementation	201
28.1	SAR analysis	216
29.1	List of α and β values corresponding to 1 GHz resonant frequency and 35 mm thickness for the resonator	222
32.1	BLDCM parameters	249
32.2	Switching sequence for power management	250
33.1	Calibration of ESP 32 ADC	255

33.2	ESP32 ADC Attenuation	255
33.3	Calibration of LM35	255
33.4	Sensitivity at X,Y and Z axis of ADXL335	256
33.5	Zero G Table V. Zero G Bias Level of ADXL 335	256
33.6	Calibration of ADXL335	256
33.7	Threshold values of heart rate	257
33.8	Threshold values of SpO_2	257
34.1	Performance rate of PNN and CNN	264
35.1	Numerical values and range of the feature normal heart sound and murmur	272
35.2	Kolmogorov-Smirnov test-‘H’ and ‘P’ values of waveform length of heart signal corresponding to normal and murmur	272
36.1	Measurement parameters after de-noising with DWT	279
36.2	FFBP result using DWT	279
37.1	System parameters	288
38.1	Optimized values for case 2	297
38.2	Values of optimized parameters	300
38.3	Observations from the results	302
39.1	Eigenvalue analysis of two area system without AVR and PSS	308
39.2	Optimized parameters for AVR through cuckoo search at normal loading condition	308
39.3	Optimized parameters for PSS through cuckoo search at normal loading condition	308
39.4	Optimized parameters for AVR through cuckoo search at heavy loading condition	309
39.5	Optimized parameters for PSS through cuckoo search at heavy loading condition	310
39.6	System loading conditions	311
41.1	Battery parameters obtained using thevenin model	322
41.2	SOC values estimated	327
44.1	Parameters used for simulation	351
45.1	Design parameters for buck converter	365
45.2	Design parameters for buck-boost converter	365
45.3	Design parameters for 250W output power at 1000 W/m^2	365
45.4	Design parameters for 250W output power at 700 W/m^2	368
45.5	Design parameters for 125W output power at 1000 W/m^2	370
46.1	Experimental results	377
46.2	Comparison of various segmentation methods	378
46.3	Comparison with other existing methods	378
49.1	Test results	400
52.1	Comparison of performance of the classifiers for dataset A.	425
52.2	Comparisons of performance of the classifiers for dataset B.	425
53.1	List of the solder alloys selected	428
53.2	Element prices as of february 2019	429
53.3	Price of the solder alloy calculated	429
53.4	Hardness, contact angle and melting point of the alloys	431
54.1	Bullwhip slope under different customer demand models	437
54.2	The z-test parameters and z-critical value for bullwhip slope under OUT and SPC-based policies	439
54.3	Percentage decrease in mean value of bullwhip slope of out policy with SPC-based policy	439
55.1	Experiment chart	442

List of Tables

56.1	Design matrix	448
59.1	Chemical composition of aluminum alloy 2900 and 2024 in weight%	468
60.1	Properties of laminated plates	475
60.2	Bending stiffness matrix for +15/-15 orientation	475
60.3	Buckling load for laminated plate	475
61.1	Cutting parameters and their levels	478
61.2	Experimental parameters with L18 orthogonal array and corresponding results	479
61.3	Performance characteristics after normalization	482
61.4	Performance characteristics after deviation	483
61.5	Evaluated grey relational coefficients for each turning experiment	483
61.6	Evaluated grey relational grade for each turning experiment	484
61.7	Mean response for the grey relational grade	484
62.1	Output conditions of specimen after ECAP	489
62.2	Chemical composition (wt.%) of Al 7075	491
64.1	Properties of high performance fibers [8]	498
64.2	Tensile test results	499
64.3	Mechanical properties of Kevlar - 29 [5]	500
64.4	Failure properties of Kevlar - 29 [5]	500
65.1	Levels of cutting condition	507
65.2	Experimental conditions for spindle speed and feed rate values for drilling	507
65.3	Maximum thrust force and torque values	508
66.1	Variation of time with layer thickness.	513
66.2	Tensile test results for 0.15 mm layer thickness.	514
66.3	Tensile test results for 0.2 mm layer thickness.	514
66.4	Tensile test results for 0.3 mm layer thickness.	514
66.5	Variation of hardness with layer thickness.	515
66.6	Variation of surface roughness with layer thickness.	516
66.7	Various test results	516
67.1	Chemical composition	520
67.2	Bead geometry	521
67.3	Eds result	523
67.4	Lap shear result	523
68.1	Chemical composition of the base material and filler wire (Wt%).	526
68.2	Tig welding parameters.	527
69.1	Final welding parameters	534
69.2	Lap shear test results	537
70.1	Nominal chemical composition of 18Ni 8Co 1800 Mpa maraging steel	539
70.2	Mechanical properties for solution annealed 18Ni 8Co 1800 Mpa maraging steel	540
70.3	Mechanical properties for solution annealed and aged 18Ni 8Co 1800 Mpa maraging steel	540
72.1	Parameter values for different levels	558
72.2	Matrix of order with experimental results	558
72.3	Analysis of variance-cutting force	559
72.4	Analysis of variance-surface roughness	559
73.1	ASABE estimated draft values [15]	564
74.1	Field evaluation data	572

75.1	Study area population	574
75.2	Age distribution by gender (%)	576
75.3	Employment status by age group (%)	576
75.4	Mode of travel (%)	577
75.5	Distance traveled (%)	577
76.1	Panel details	581
76.2	Roller motor specification	582
76.3	Chain and frame motor specification	582
77.1	Results	589
80.1	Effect of heat	607
80.2	Effect of sound	608
80.3	Effect of state of the waste	608
83.1	Composite properties	634
84.1	Formulation and composition of samples formed.	638
85.1	Various compositions tried for multipurpose board	645
85.2	Surface hardness test	648
87.1	Flexural properties of fibers	660
87.2	Flammability characteristics	661
87.3	Sound absorption characteristics	661
88.1	Real-time experimentation data for plane glass 1	668
88.2	Real-time experimentation data for TiO ₂ coated glass	668
88.3	Real-time experimentation data for Plane glass 2	668
90.1	Compartment dimension: 30×30×50 cm	681



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Preface

Amal Jyothi College of Engg., Kanjirappally, Kerala (www.ajce.in) has been organizing a series of International Conferences AICERA (International Conference on Emerging Research Areas) since inception in 2011. Specific Conferences have been held under the parent AICERA umbrella, the theme varying every year. The 2019 edition, being organized jointly by the Departments of Automobile, Civil, Electronics, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering on 18th and 19th of July 2019 has evolved into the International Conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainability (IcETS). The Conference explored the myriad aspects of diverse Sustainable Technologies.

The Conference theme “Emerging Technologies for Sustainability” sought to raise the standard of living without draining limited resources. Sustainable issues are compounded by the splurge in manufacturing, automobiles, electronic accessories, captive power plants and their attendant problems. The Conference explored long-term development solutions that combine economic growth with environmental protection and energy efficiency while enabling us to meet social needs.

The two-day Conference featured various technical areas, which figured in the research findings of around 120 participating researchers, including faculty, scholars and industry specialists. The Conference acted as a platform for researchers to share knowledge, showcase their research findings and propose new solutions in policy formulation, green material selection and manufacturing, thereby contributing to the creation of a more sustainable world. The Conference also featured invited talks and paper presentations.

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Foreword

ICETS, the 8thAICERA edition, focused on topical technologies related to sustainability. The 2019 edition was organized jointly by the Departments of Automobile, Civil, Electronics, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. It facilitated interaction among academicians, engineers and research scholars. The multifarious specialties covered the broad spectrum of current technologies related to Sustainable Engineering.

The Conference hosted several invited lectures on topical research areas by eminent academicians. The sessions provided a vibrant learning platform to all the participants.

- 3 plenary talks and 90 academic presentations on a range of topics including: Sustainable issues, Splurge in automobiles and electronic accessories, Captive power plants and attendant problems
- International speakers:
 - Dr. Bastien Seantier (Research Institute Depuy De Lome, France)
 - Dr. Mona Jani (Yachay Tech University, Ecuador)
 - Prof. Kyun Tae Kim (Hannam University, Daejon, South Korea)
- Discussions on the sidelines led by 6 Industry specialists on related topics in vogue

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1. Water Purification using Natural Filter Media

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ABSTRACT: India is one of the leading countries in drinking water scarcity issue. Even though India is abundant in natural water bodies and precipitation, most of this water is unsuitable for human consumption. The drinking water scarcity of any locality can be solved using cheap and readily available materials. This paper deals with solving the drinking water scarcity of 31st mile in Mundakayam by creating slow sand filter. The slow sand filtration system is modified with activated coconut shell charcoal, activated bamboo charcoal and chitosan as filter media. Water filtration system with different media is a cost-effective method to improve household water quality without using electricity or wastage of water.

I. INTRODUCTION

India has a high number of people suffering from drinking water scarcity. Scarcity of drinking water has been a major issue in the locality of 31st mile near Mundakayam. Turbidity, taste, color, odor, etc are the physical problems of the water in the locality. The water samples from the locality showed yellow color and decayed smell. Water consumption has continuously caused health issues for the residents. The filter was constructed using activated coconut shell charcoal, activated bamboo charcoal and chitosan. These filter materials are natural and easily available so that common people can use it. The waste water from a sewage treatment plant was also analyzed.

Slow sand filtration has been recognized as an appropriate technology for drinking water treatment in rural areas, and is recognized as a suitable filtration technology for removing water borne pathogens and reducing turbidity. It is capable of improving the physical, chemical, and microbiological quality of water in a single treatment process without the addition of chemicals. Slow sand filtration process provides treatment through physical filtration of particles and biological removal of pathogens and organics in the upper biologically active layer of the sand bed known as biofilm. Slow sand filtration is a sustainable technology for rural water treatment because it is low cost and simple to operate.

In addition, it is able to produce excellent effluent quality without the use of treatment chemical. Filter Gravel is an extremely effective filter media because of its ability to hold back precipitates containing impurities. Sand can remove color, odor, turbidity, microorganisms and nitrogenous wof pathogens in the water. Activated carbon works via a process called adsorption, whereby pollutant molecules in the fluid to be treated are trapped inside the pore structure of the carbon substrate.

II. MATERIALS

Gravel and sand

Filter Gravel of size 10 mm and fine sand of 300 micron and 600 micron each were used in creation of slow sand filter.

Activated coconut shell charcoal

It is prepared by superheating coconut shell above 100°C. Then the charcoal is chemically treated with argon and nitrogen, followed by a second round of superheating with the addition of oxygen and steam to create a porous structure. Size of charcoal used was 2mm.

Activated bamboo charcoal

Activated Bamboo charcoal comes from pieces of bamboo plants, harvested after at least five years, and burned in oven at temperatures ranging from 800°C to 1200°C.

Chitosan

Chitosan is a polysaccharide formed by treating shrimp shells in an alkaline media. Chitosan powder of size 300 micron was used.

III. SPECIMEN PREPARATION AND TESTING

Prototype filter and filtration system

A prototype slow sand filter was designed using broken brick, fine sand of different grades, activated coconut shell charcoal and gravel. The prototype was designed in a PVC pipe of length 1.5 m and diameter of 6 inches. The layers and their depths are as follows:

- Broken brick (30 cm depth)
- 600-micron size fine sand (20 cm depth)
- 300-micron size fine sand (20 cm depth)
- Additional media (appropriate depth)
- 600-micron size fine sand (20 cm depth)
- 10 mm size Gravel (30 cm depth)

To determine the depth of additional media, parameters such as turbidity and dissolved oxygen were analyzed for water through each of the 3 medias. The depths from 5 cm to 50 cm were tested. It was found that the depth of 25–35 cm was economical for the increase of DO. Beyond the depth of 40 cm, the increase of DO was not significant. For turbidity removal, 40 cm depth was appropriate. The depth of charcoal media was chosen as 20–30 cm for feasibility. Chitosan showed increased turbidity beyond 10 cm. Therefore, the depth of chitosan for efficient turbidity removal was chosen as 10 cm.

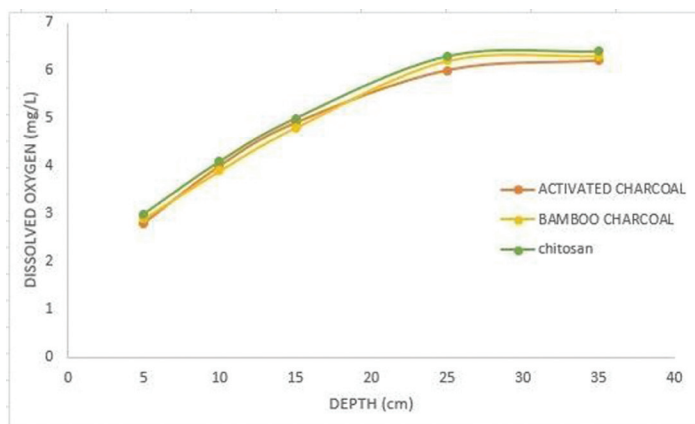


Figure 1.1 Graph of dissolved oxygen versus depth

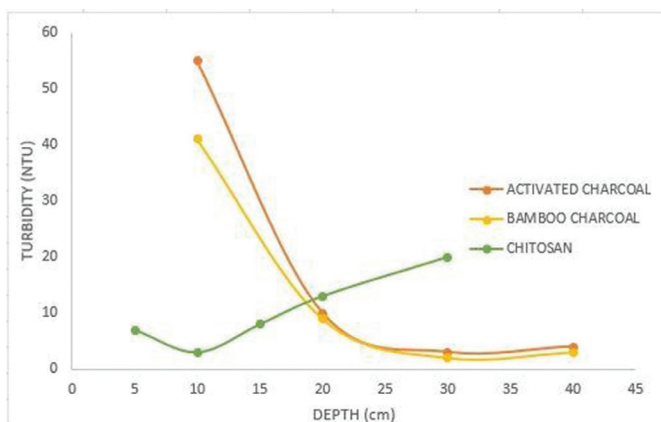


Figure 1.2 Graph of turbidity versus depth

Water quality analysis was conducted on this prototype filter by replacing the additional media by 2mm activated coconut shell charcoal. The analysis was conducted as per procedures in IS 3025.



Figure 1.3 Prototype filter

The locality of 31st mile in Mundakayam has been under severe drinking water shortage for a long time. The region is located beneath a valley. Analysis of water samples from 50 residential apartments followed by preliminary survey of the region showed that the wells contained polluted water which was unsuitable for drinking purposes. The contamination level in the wells in various houses varied and the cause of contamination was unknown to local residents. The residents relied on bottled water for their daily requirements. Water quality analysis of samples collected from various wells in the locality showed various parameters not conforming to permissible standards. The most

polluted water sample was passed through activated charcoal containing slow sand filter. The results are tabulated in Table 1.1.

It was observed that the water quality significantly improved by passing through the prototype filter. Therefore, the filter was built in a residential apartment in 31st mile in Mundakayam and analyzed. The filtration system consists of a raw water storage tank, filtration tank and a filtered water tank. Each tank was 1.5 m deep with a capacity of 500 L. The depth and arrangement of filter media was similar to that of prototype filter. The water was passed and filtered through the system and then analyzed.

Table 1.1 Water quality analysis of raw and filtered water sample through prototype

Sl. No	Parameter	Raw Water	Filtered Value
1.	Turbidity	101 NTU	38 NTU
2.	pH	6.45	6.45
3.	DO	4 mg/L	8.76 mg/L
5.	COD	120 mg/L	24 mg/L
6.	Total Hardness	47.5 mg/L	37.5 mg/L
7.	Calcium Hardness	25 mg/L	12.5 mg/L
8.	Magnesium Hardness	22.5 mg/L	25 mg/L
9.	Chloride	74.97 mg/L	29.99 mg/L



Figure 1.4 Tanks in filtration system



Figure 1.5 Filtration system setup in an apartment

Table 1.2 Water quality analysis of water through filtration system

Sl. No	Parameter	Initial Value	Final Value	Efficiency
1.	Turbidity	72 NTU	2 NTU	97.22
2.	Ph	6.75	6.86	1.6%

3.	DO	5.32 mg/L	8.07 mg/L	34.07%
4.	COD	390 mg/L	242 mg/L	37.94%
5.	Total Hardness	50 mg/L	50 mg/L	0%
6.	BOD	0.86 mg/L	0.39 mg/L	54.65%
7.	Sulphate	204 mg/L	172 mg/L	15.68%
8.	Iron	3.56 mg/L	0.501 mg/L	85.92%
9.	Nitrate	0.714 mg/L	0.357 mg/L	50%

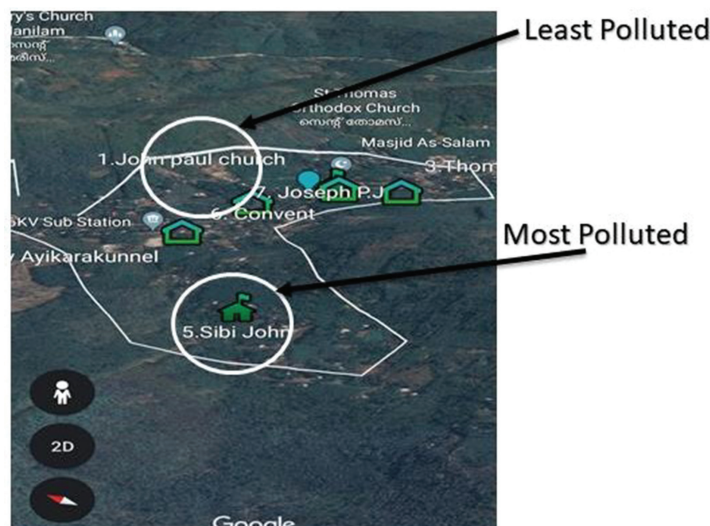


Figure 1.6 Map of locality of 31st mile in mundakayam

Analysis of sewage samples

Raw sewage samples collected from sewage treatment plant in Amal Jyothi College of Engineering, Kanjirappally were also analyzed. The samples were filtered through prototype filter by replacing the additional media with activated coconut shell charcoal, activated bamboo charcoal and chitosan media respectively. The water quality analysis for the combined filter employing all three additional media in slow sand filter was also conducted. The results are tabulated as follows.

Table 1.3 Water quality analysis of sewage water through activated charcoal

Sl. No	Parameter	Sewage Water	Filtered Water	Removal Efficiency
1.	Turbidity	135 NTU	4 NTU	97.03%
2.	pH	6.87	7.75	11.35%
3.	DO	1.18 mg/L	6.89 mg/L	82.87%
4.	COD	280 mg/L	104 mg/L	62.85%
5.	Total Hardness	40 mg/L	35 mg/L	12.5%
6.	Calcium Hardness	15 mg/L	15 mg/L	0%
7.	Magnesium Hardness	25 mg/L	20 mg/L	20%
8.	Chloride	69.99 mg/L	49.98 mg/L	28.49%
9.	Nitrite	6.75 mg/L	0.51 mg/L	92.44%

10.	Nitrate	36.78 mg/L	32.87 mg/L	10.63%
11.	Iron	19.125 mg/L	2.31 mg/L	87.92%
12.	Phosphorous	0.249 mg/L	0.061 mg/L	75.50%
13.	BOD	1.17 mg/L	0.19 mg/L	83.76%
14.	Lead	0.2 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	75%
15.	Aluminum	0.404 mg/L	0.31 mg/L	23.26%
16.	E.coli	3271 MPN/100 ML	3 MPN/ 100 mL	99.90%

Table 1.4 Water quality analysis of sewage water through bamboo charcoal

Sl. No	Parameter	Sewage Water	Filtered Water	Removal Efficiency
1.	Turbidity	115 NTU	7 NTU	93.91%
2.	pH	6.87	7.24	22.22%
3.	DO	0.98 mg/L	7.48 mg/L	86.89%
4.	COD	280 mg/L	27 mg/L	91.42%
5.	Total Hardness	45 mg/L	35 mg/L	29.73%
6.	Calcium Hardness	20 mg/L	15 mg/L	6.07%
7.	Magnesium Hardness	25 mg/L	20 mg/L	20%
8.	Chloride	92.47 mg/L	64.47 mg/L	25%
9.	Nitrite	6.75 mg/L	3.567 mg/L	47.15%
10.	Nitrate	36.78 mg/L	14.41 mg/L	60.82%
11.	Iron	19.125 mg/L	1.875 mg/L	90.19%
12.	Phosphorous	0.249 mg/L	0.04 mg/L	83.93%
13.	BOD	1.17 mg/L	0.17 mg/L	85.47%
14.	Lead	0.214 mg/L	0.001 mg/L	99.53%
15.	Aluminum	0.404 mg/L	0.25 mg/L	38.11%
16.	E.coli	3271 MPN/100 mL	2 MPN/100 mL	99.93%

Table 1.5 Water quality analysis of sewage water through chitosan

Sl. No	Parameter	Sewage Water	Filtered Water	Removal Efficiency
1.	Turbidity	90 NTU	3 NTU	96.66%
2.	pH	6.50	7.68	15.36%
3.	DO	1.12 mg/L	7 mg/L	84%
4.	COD	328 mg/L	280 mg/L	14.63%
5.	Total Hardness	95 mg/L	80 mg/L	15.78%
6.	Calcium Hardness	65 mg/L	55 mg/L	18%
7.	Magnesium Hardness	30 mg/L	25 mg/L	20%
8.	Chloride	94.97 mg/L	57.48 mg/L	39.47%
9.	Nitrite	20.43 mg/L	0.003 mg/L	99.9%
10.	Nitrate	0.675 mg/L	0.002 mg/L	99.7%
11.	Iron	4.06 mg/L	3.12 mg/L	11.89%
12.	Phosphorous	0.34 mg/L	0.004 mg/L	23.15%

13.	BOD	1.17 mg/L	0.97 mg/L	17.09%
14.	Lead	0.214 mg/L	0 mg/L	100%
15.	Aluminum	0.404 mg/L	0.211 mg/L	47.77%
16.	E.coli	3271 MPN/100 mL	1 MPN/ 100 mL	99.96%

Table 1.6 Water quality analysis of sewage water through combination of filter medias

Sl. No	Parameter	Sewage Water	Filtered Water	Removal Efficiency
1.	Turbidity	130 NTU	2 NTU	98.46%
2.	pH	6.86	7.28	5.76%
3.	Dissolved Oxygen	0.57 mg/L	7.48 mg/L	92.11%
4.	COD	328 mg/L	48 mg/L	85.36%
5.	Total hardness	47.5 mg/L	32.5 mg/L	31.57%
6.	Chloride	49.98 mg/L	10.96 mg/L	78.07%
7.	Nitrite	22.43 mg/L	0.002 mg/L	99.9%
8.	Nitrate	0.744 mg/L	0.002 mg/L	99.74%
9.	Iron	6.07 mg/L	1.31 mg/L	78.41%
10.	Phosphorous	0.61 mg/L	0.005 mg/L	99.18%
11.	BOD	1.81 mg/L	0.51 mg/L	71.82%
12.	Lead	0.214 mg/L	0 mg/L	100%
13.	Aluminum	0.404 mg/L	0.201 mg/L	50.24%
14.	E.coli	3271 MPN/100 mL	1 MPN/100 mL	99.96%

Comparison of removal efficiency of different media

Turbidity: Coconut Shell charcoal showed highest removal of Turbidity with 97.03%. The activated charcoal has slightly high specific surface area and porosity, which could enhance sedimentation and other filtration processes such as adsorption. Activated charcoal traps toxins and chemicals in the gut and by absorption. The pore size of activated charcoal ranges with 2-50 nm. The combined filter was excellent in removal of turbidity with 98.46% removal efficiency.

DO: Bamboo charcoal has property to replenish dissolved oxygen in water by 86.89%. Dissolved oxygen levels are increased by supplementing wind and wave action caused by the turbulence of motion of wastewater through the filter. The small particle size of bamboo charcoal cause large turbulence and increase in DO. The combined media filter proved to be most effective in increasing DO with efficiency of 92.11%.

BOD: The reduction of BOD was maximum for Bamboo charcoal filter which was due to its adsorptive capability. It showed an efficiency of 85.47%. The combined media filter was less efficient than charcoal filters but was more efficient than chitosan filter.

COD: Removal of COD was maximum in Bamboo charcoal filters with an efficiency of 91.42%. The removal of combined filter was less than that of bamboo charcoal filter.

Total Hardness: Hardness was most effectively removed by bamboo charcoal with an efficiency of 29.73%. Greater availability of exchangeable sites on the surface of bamboo charcoal is the reason for efficient removal of hardness. Combined media filter was more efficient than individual media filters as it had 31.57% efficiency.

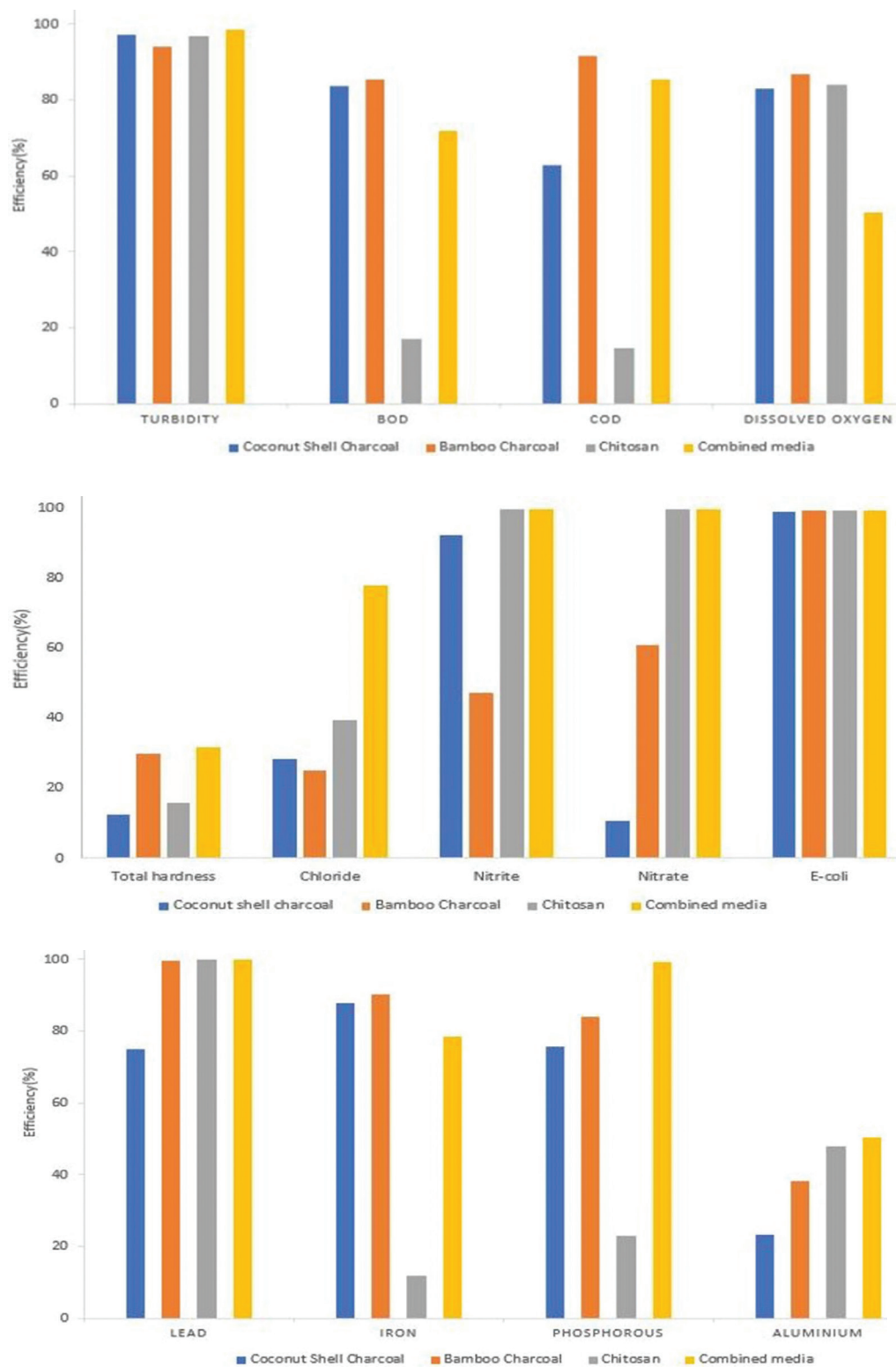


Figure 1.7 Percentage removal of various parameter

Iron: Activated Bamboo Charcoal was effective in treating iron content with removal efficiency of 90.19%. The contaminant-carbon surface interaction occurs through Van der waal forces and induced dipole interactions. The combined filter was more efficient than charcoal filters as it had efficiency of only 78.41%.

Chlorides: The removal of chloride is maximum for chitosan media filter due to its smaller voids between the chitosan particles. It had an efficiency of 39.47%. The combined media filter was more efficient than individual media filters with 78.07%.

E.coli: All the medias showed about equal efficiency in removing E.coli. The removal of E.coli was maximum for chitosan media filter with 99.6% efficiency. Chitosan removes E.coli by interparticle bridging and charge neutralization. The combined filter media was equally efficient as chitosan in E.coli removal.

Nitrate and Nitrite: Chitosan was most effective in removal of nitrate and nitrite with 99.70% and 99.9% efficiency. Particle diffusion in the adsorption process is the controlling step for nitrate and nitrite uptake by chitosan. The efficiency of combined filter in removing nitrate and nitrite was similar to that of chitosan media.

Phosphorous: Maximum removal of phosphorous was achieved by activated bamboo charcoal filter due to adsorption. It had 83.93% efficiency. The charcoal porous texture has negative electric charges during activation thereby attract opposite charged particles. The high zeta potential of bamboo charcoal causes the impurities to be trapped in the microspores of the charcoal. The combined media filter was better than individual media filters with 99.18% efficiency.

Lead and Aluminum: Maximum removal of heavy metals such as lead and aluminum was obtained by chitosan with 100% and 48% efficiency by ion-exchange and chelating mechanisms. The combined filter was overall better in removing heavy metals due to combined action of bamboo charcoal and chitosan. It had 100% and 50.24% efficiency in removal of lead and aluminum respectively.

IV. CONCLUSION

Coconut shell activated charcoal and activated bamboo charcoal remove contaminants by adsorption of minerals and by trapping pollutants within the void spaces between the particles. Bamboo Charcoal is more efficient in removing contaminants due to its high zeta potential and surface porosity. Activated Bamboo Charcoal was the most efficient media in treating COD, DO, total hardness, iron and phosphorous with a percentage removal of 91.42%, 86.89%, 29.73%, 90.19% and 83.93% respectively. The slow sand filter with chitosan media was proved to be the most efficient in treating nitrate and nitrite with a removal efficiency of 99.9% and 99.7% respectively. It removed heavy metals such as lead and aluminum by removal efficiency of 100% and 47.77%. Chitosan showed excellent efficiency in removing E.coli with a removal of about 99.96%. Activated coconut shell charcoal was suitable for removal of turbidity and chloride with a removal efficiency of 97.03% and 28.49% respectively. The filter combining the above media was effective in treating water. The combined filter was proved to be most efficient in removing parameters such as turbidity DO, nitrite, nitrate, lead and E.coli than the individual layers. The removal efficiency of the above parameters was 98.49%, 92.11%, 99.9%, 99.74%, 100% and 99.96% respectively. The excellent efficiency of the combined media filter for certain parameters was attributed by each media coherently contributing their characteristic removal properties

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2. Study on the Effect of Hydrogel on Plant Growth

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ABSTRACT: In order to avoid water scarcity issues and to promote kitchen gardening, hydrogel a super absorbent polymer is incorporated in soil for planting vegetables both chilly and ladies finger in agro bags. The main objective of this study is to identify the effect of hydrogel on growth and yield of both chilly and ladies finger. The various properties of the plant like the height of the plant, the number of leaves, yield, root structure etc. were analyzed for 0.2% of hydrogel by weight of soil. Study showed that hydrogel improves the vegetative growth of plants by retaining more moisture and nutrients within the soil. It modifies the plant-soil interaction resulting in the better use of absorption of water and nutrient from the soil. The comparison between plants cultivated in normal soil and 0.2% hydrogel mixed soil were done. It was found that even for minimum requirement of 0.2% of hydrogel can reduce the water consumption up to 50% as that of the normal plants without comprising the yield.

Keywords: Hydrogel, Lady's finger, Chilly.

I. INTRODUCTION

India is facing severe water scarcity issues during summer months, people are struggling to get potable water for their daily needs. In addition, water scarcity in India is expected to worsen by year 2050 due to increased urbanization, increase in population, unscientific waste management etc. Farmers are unable to manage their crop and vegetables due to unavailability of both surface and subsurface water. Recently kitchen gardening or organic farming is hitting in India especially in cities and villages of Kerala. The population especially youngsters are aware about the need of cultivating their own vegetables and fruits. In urban area, most of them have space to do farming and plants grown either in containers or grow bags. Plants grown in containers and in grow bags with limited soil require frequent irrigation to maintain adequate moisture especially in summer. Hydrogels are three-dimensional, hydrophilic, polymeric networks proficient in absorbing a great amount of water or biological fluids. Owing to their increased water content, porosity and soft consistency, they intently simulate natural living tissue, more so than any other category of synthetic biomaterials. Hydrogels can either be chemically durable or they may eventually disintegrate and dissolve. Generally,

PUSA hydrogel is used in the agricultural field. Hydrogel a super absorbent able to retain water and plant nutrients and release it to the plants when surrounding soil near the root zone of plants start to dry up. Hydrogel are three-dimensional, hydrophilic, polymeric networks proficient in absorbing a great amount of water or biological fluids. Owing to their high-water content, porosity and soft consistency, they intently simulate natural living tissue, more so than any other category of synthetic biomaterials [4]

The Effect of hydrogel on growth, fresh yield and essential oil content of ginger. In this Pusa Hydrogel plays an important role in enhancement of absorption capacity and retention of water in soil [1], fighting against water shortage and decreasing harmful effects of drought stress. The results indicated that hydrogel had a remarkable effect on enhancement of growth, yield and oil content of ginger. The Effects of hydrogel and nitrogen fertilization on the production of arugula in successive crops. The hydrogel had no effect on the fresh and dry mass of arugula, regardless of the cultivation period [5].

Soilless cultivation conditions could lead to a progressive loss of effectiveness of the hydrogel, due to the periodic dehydration and hydration cycles and the high fertilization rate. The tested hydrogel

showed to be suitable for potential use in agriculture, with potential benefit in particular for short growing cycle crops in the Biodegradable Superabsorbent Hydrogel Increases Water Retention Properties of Growing Media and Plant Growth [3]. Improving biological activity of the soil expressed as total count of bacteria and Hydrogels have the ability to absorb a lot of water in soil, the existing nutrients in the soil which dissolve in soil solution can be absorbed into it or on its surface. At the same time absorbed nutrients can be released or desorbed slowly through the exchange of free water or minerals between soil solution and RS-based hydrogels [2]. The main objective of this study is to analyze the effect of hydrogel at 0.2% of weight of soil on vegetable growth and yield for chilly and ladies finger which is cultivated in agro bags.

II. EXPERIMENTAL METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS USED

The experiment was conducted at Amal Jyothi College of Engineering, Kanjirappally, Kottayam, Kerala, India. First, the saplings of ladies' finger and chilly were made in paper cups. Agro bags were used for the cultivation of both the vegetable plants. The experiment was conducted by filling soil, cow dung, and coir pith in the proportion 1:1:1. The normal 20 plants of both chilly and ladies' finger were cultivated. Also, another 20 plants were cultivated in 0.2% hydrogel by weight of soil mixed with the same media. The normal plants were noted as N1, N2...N20 and the hydrogel incorporated plants were denoted as H1, H2...H20 for both ladies' finger and chilly. The plants were irrigated at regular intervals such that the water should not go away from the soil. The height of the plant, the number of leaves, the temperature of the locality, the amount of rainfall, and the yield of the plants were measured and analyzed.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The growth of the plant was analyzed based on the height of plants, weight of fruits. For the normal plants, the irrigation provided was 1000 ml and for plants with hydrogel, it was 500 ml per day to maintain constant capillary water for the plants.

I. Growth rate analysis of lady's finger plant

Table 2.1: shows the height of lady's finger for normal and hydrogel incorporated plants after cultivation for different periods.

Table 2.1 Height of lady's finger for normal and hydrogel soil

Height of the Plant (cm)		
No. of Days	Hydrogel	Normal
26	13.350±2.058	12.133±1.959
33	17.575±2.369	17.533±2.587
40	28.700±2.5567	29.333±4.011
43	33.250±3.006	33.466±4.189
55	47.300±7.0494	53.767±6.491
62	51.375±6.569	55.767±6.697
70	54.825±6.454	56.933±6.670

76	57.150 ± 5.931	57.833 ± 6.393
84	58.775 ± 5.413	58.533 ± 6.165
91	59.950 ± 5.512	59.167 ± 5.969

Fig. 2.1 shows the height of hydrogel plants and normal plants of ladies' finger grown in normal soil and soil incorporated with hydrogel. At the initial stage, the plants with hydrogel has more growth compared with normal plant. But from 55th day to 70th day the growth of normal plant and hydrogel plant became same. After that height of hydrogel plants increased. These show that hydrogel has a greater influence on plant growth.

Table. 2.2 and Fig. 2.2. shows the comparison of mean fruit weight of normal and hydrogel incorporated plants of ladies' finger. At the 50th day of the plantation, the weight of fruit was measured. And it shows that yield from hydrogel plants is greater than normal lady's finger plants

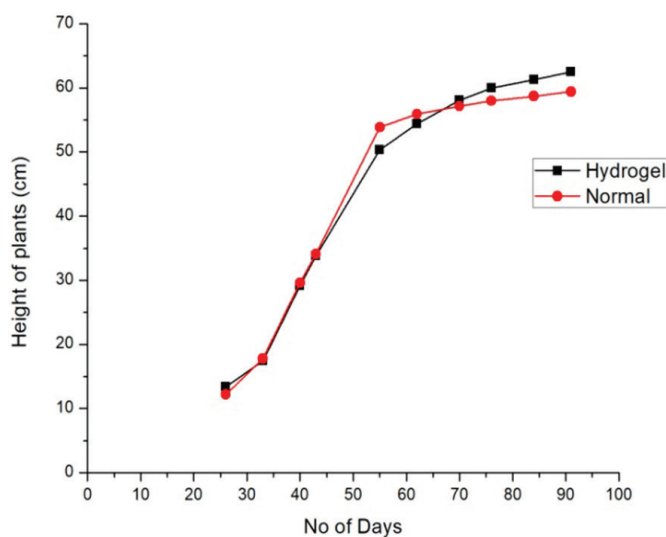


Figure 2.1 Comparison of mean height of lady's finger for normal and hydrogel plants

Table 2.2 Yield of lady's finger for normal and hydrogel plants

No. of Days	Weight of Fruit (gm)	
	Hydrogel	Normal
51	15.111 ± 5.820	14.00 ± 3.464
57	34.000 ± 12.961	32.666 ± 7.257
65	34.667 ± 13.840	27.777 ± 5.711
74	33.000 ± 4.123	27.111 ± 8.225
84	44.889 ± 17.965	37.200 ± 8.022
91	29.440 ± 9.673	28.777 ± 5.883

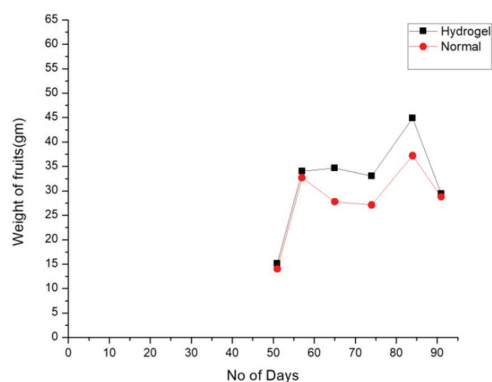


Figure 2.2 Comparison of mean fruit weight of lady's finger for both normal and hydrogel plants

Table. 2.3. and Fig. 2.3. Shows the height of hydrogel incorporated plants and normal plants of chilly for varying periods after cultivation

Table 2.3 Height of chilly for normal and hydrogel incorporated plants

Height (cm)		
No. of Days after Cultivation	Hydrogel Incorporated Plants	Normal Plants
26	12.9±3.314	10.1±3.562
33	18.6±4.176	15.3±4.100
40	28.4±5.678	5.3±6.270
43	34.8±7.400	30.3±7.900
55	48.8±7.820	46.0±7.589
62	66.7±6.100	64.2±6.144
70	74.6±5.043	73.0±5.157
76	81.3±5.119	80.3±4.770
84	87.4±3.929	86.4±4.360
91	93.2±3.762	90.4±3.770

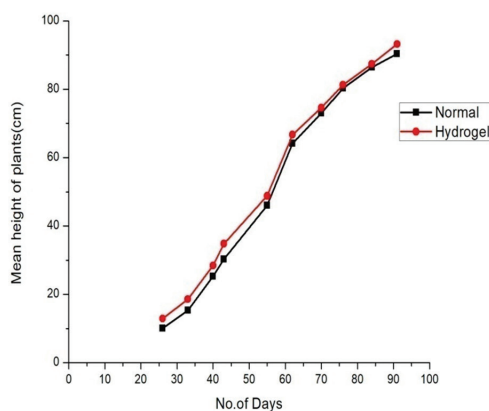


Figure 2.3 Comparison of mean height of chilly both for hydrogel incorporated and normal

Table 2.4 Weight of chilly both for hydrogel incorporated and normal

Weight of Fruit (gm)		
No. of Days after Cultivation	Hydrogel Incorporated Plants	Normal
44	5.8±5.820	7.20±1.980
51	22.4±3.440	20.6±3.230
59	26.5±4.080	24.0±3.970
65	24.1±2.624	20.9±4.085
71	39.2±2.891	37.1±2.808
76	29.2±2.749	26.4±2.970
81	34.5±2.291	32.3±2.830
86	33.7±2.830	31.0±2.144
91	33.8±2.561	31.0±2.440
96	35.3±3.769	32.2±3.490

Table 2.4. and Fig. 2.4. shows the comparison of mean fruit weight of hydrogel plants and normal plants of chilly. From the 44th day of plantation the weight of fruit was measured. It also shows that weight of fruit from hydrogel incorporated plants is greater than normal chilly plants.

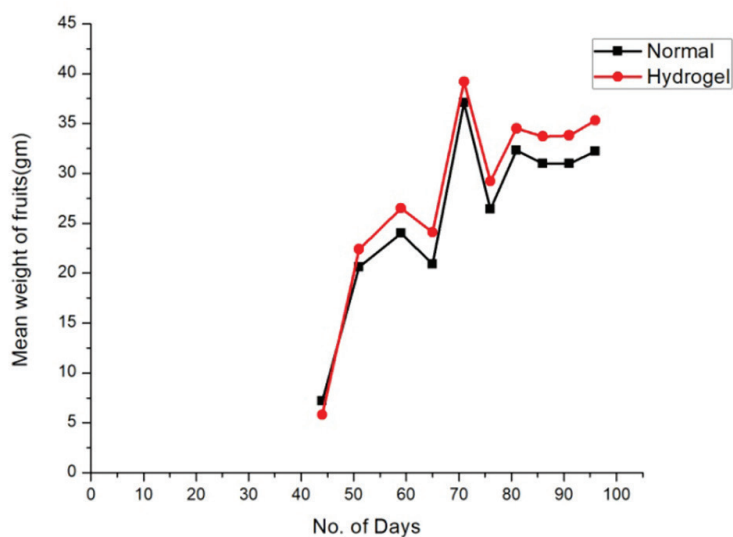
**Figure 2.4** Comparison of mean fruit weight of chilly

Fig. 2.5 and Fig. 2.6 shows the root growth of the Lady's finger for hydrogel incorporated and normal after the plant life.



Figure 2.5 Root growth of normal lady's finger plants



Figure 2.6 Root growth of hydrogel lady's finger plants

IV. CONCLUSION

The effect of 0.2% of hydrogel on vegetables such as ladies finger and chilly were studied. Hydrogels have been successfully used to increase the water-holding capacity by reducing the irrigation than normal plants both for chilly and ladies finger. It was found that even for 0.2% of hydrogel can reduce the water consumption up to 50% as that of the normal plants without any significant reduction of yield.

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3. Experimental Analysis on the Characteristics of Geopolymer Brick using Bentonite as Additive

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ABSTRACT: Brick represents one of the most used materials for the construction of buildings, but the rising demand of building materials and increased construction and demolition wastes has encouraged the development of new building materials. However, the traditional brick production causes several environmental and human health impacts, so there is a clear need of searching and replacing for more efficient and durable alternatives far beyond the limitations of the conventional brick production. Geopolymer that emerged as an eco-friendly alternative to cement binders has distinct advantages such as excellent mechanical properties, low energy in its production and emits fewer dioxides. This project work is an attempt to discover an eco-friendly brick for the development purposes by totally replacing the normal brick components by wastes from many industries. For the investigation purpose, we made geopolymer bricks by utilizing fly ash as the binder (fly ash is the by-product from burning coal in electric power generating plants and it is wealthy in silica and alumina), foundry sand as the fine aggregate which is the by-product from ferrous and non-ferrous metal casting industries, bentonite as an additive for improving its properties and finally the alkaline arrangement (blend of NaOH and Na_2SiO_3). Fly ash combines with alkalis such as Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH) and Sodium Silicate (Na_2SiO_3) creating aluminosilicate gel, that shows properties similar to that of cement and it can be used as the binding material. Also, there is no carbon dioxide emission as in the case of cement production. Here water is needed only for making sodium hydroxide solution from solid pellets of NaOH. As fly ash is a fine material, it has more surface area for reacting with the chemicals, thereby increasing the pozzolonic activity and hence there will be an increase in compressive strength. Also, a combination of foundry sand and bentonite is very good for moulding purposes. In ordinary brick making, kiln burning is needed for curing purposes and huge energy is consumed during this process. But when it comes to geopolymer brick, only 24 hours oven drying at 1100°C is required. The remaining curing processes are under normal air temperature. The mix design was obtained to be 10 M for NaOH and the ratio of solutions to fly ash is 0.5. The ratio of Na_2SiO_3 to NaOH is 1.5. The geopolymer bricks were then produced and the blocks were held under rest period for about 3 days after moulding. The demoulded bricks are dried under oven for about 24 hours and henceforth the strength parameters such as compressive strength, water absorption, efflorescence, sound test and hardness were tested on the brick on the day after oven drying, 7th day, 14th day and 28th day. Hence the final results were made by comparing these properties with ordinary clay brick. From the experimental results, it is seen that the geopolymer bricks presented a high compressive and a low-water absorption capacity. The bricks were rated as slight-effloresced without any flaking of brick surfaces. The presence of efflorescence is ultimately due to the presence of alkali. Accordingly, 10 M solution can be taken as the design mix because as molarity increases there will be more efflorescence and at the same time as molarity decreases there will be decrease in compressive strength.

Keywords: Fly ash, Foundry sand, Bentonite, Sodium hydroxide (NaOH), Sodium silicate (Na_2SiO_3)

I. INTRODUCTION

Blocks are comprehensively used material in advancement and building material. In the United States, around the scope of 9 billion blocks are used a year. A traditional block normally uses earth and shale as the source material. Other than creation of block by utilizing earth, there is additional generation of Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) block. It releases ozone depleting substances, which is carbon dioxide (CO_2), into the environment during its manufacturing process. There is generally about 1.5 kWh of vitality for around 1 kg of CO_2 released to the air for assembling of 1 kg of OPC. Subsequently, by introducing geopolimer on planning of block, it can appportion every single issue caused by dirt block and OPC block. In India, mud blocks have been extensively used from long time and are the staggering advancement material even today. The Indian block industry, which is the second greatest creator on earth, close to China, eats up in excess of 150 million tons of coal yearly without incorporating the power used in block age. The diesel for transporting the blocks alone makes precisely 180 million tons of CO_2 .

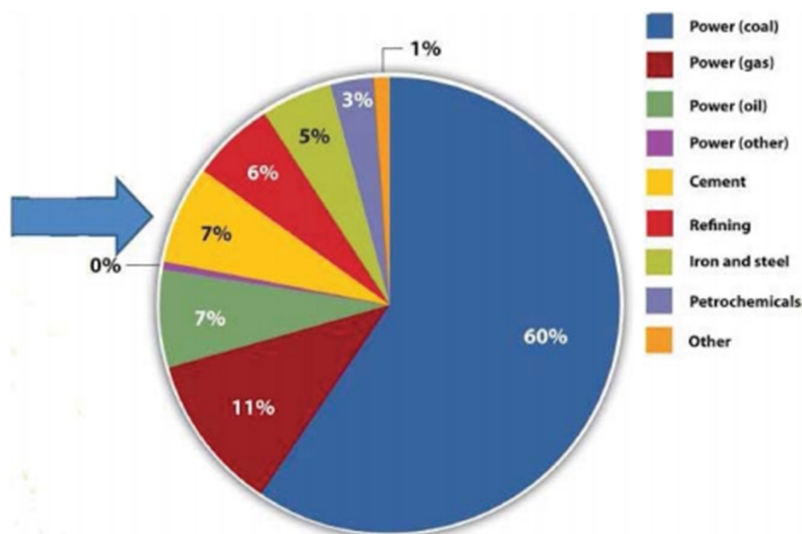


Figure 3.1 CO_2 emission by industries

Geopolymers was at first actualized by Davidovits in 1979. It is an inorganic alumina silicate polymer that is mixed fantastically from silicon and aluminum materials or from materials like fly fiery debris. For instance, fly powder responds with alkali activators to make a cementitious material yet it doesn't transmit carbon dioxide.

Geopolymer not just gives exhibitions basically indistinguishable to OPC in various demands; anyway it has additional focal points, joining unlimited rough material resources, quick progression of mechanical quality, remarkable quality, and its capacity to immobilize contaminants. These characteristics have make geopolymer one of the brilliant researches connects as an ideal material for reasonable advancement. Geopolymer blocks are made with less vitality utilization and simpler contrasted with assembling of earth and blocks. The improvement of geopolymer block is essential advancement towards procedure blocks with better mechanical properties and environmental material.

This paper mainly deals with the manufacturing and mix proportions of fly ash based geopolymer brick and also the experimental work determined on the compressive strength on the day after oven drying, 7th, 14th, and 28th day, water absorption after the 28th day, efflorescence, sound and hardness tests. Finally the comparison of normal clay brick and geopolymer brick are carried out based on their common properties.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Bhasker T. et al. [1] did investigations to examine the conduct of geopolymer blocks utilizing fly fiery debris and quarry dust. As the level of fly ash decreases below quarry dust, water absorption and compressive quality increases.

Preetinder Singh et al. [2] carried out trials on geopolymer blocks utilizing fly slag and foundry sand. This investigation depends on the creation of geopolymer blocks utilizing fly fiery remains, mineral material, foundry sand and basic arrangement. The reasonable work done throwing a block of 230×110×75 mm size of geopolymer block with substitution of sand by foundry sand and mineral material. T. Subramani et al. [3] cast bricks using fly ash, eco-sand and alkaline activators and the solid to liquid ratio was 3:1. Then obtained brick specimens with low density (light weight), high compressive strength (6–25 Mpa), poor water absorption (5–12%) and high flexibility and also the bricks were tested for its color, dimension and efflorescence value.

Banupriyal et al. [4] did examinations to think about the conduct of eco-friendly blocks utilizing fly ash and Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS). The test outcomes affirmed that geopolymer block utilizing 65% fly ash and 35% of above introduced waste material delivered great compressive quality. S. R. Sanjaiyan et al. [5] cast geopolymer blocks utilizing fly fiery debris and dyeing sludge. Dyeing sludge is a waste material acquired as the last buildup in the wake of treating the gushing from the coloring business. Blocks of size 230×115×75 mm were arranged and restored under oven relieving for 24 hours.

The inference from of literature indicates a big importance for geopolymer bricks in the near future, in the construction sector. Compressive strength of conventional clay bricks and concrete blocks are 3.5 N/mm². But for geopolymer brick the range increases and it ranges from 6–25% depending on the different types of constituents and curing period. Also the water absorption is comparatively low when comparing to normal bricks, that is it ranges from 6–12% and it is about 20–25% for conventional clay bricks. In this study, it is proposed to study the characteristics of geopolymer bricks using fly ash as basic component and many other components which are different from the components already discussed in many journals. Hence there is a scope for this study.

III. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

From the Literature Survey, it is apparent that there is a ton of issues in the presently used normal clay brick. After further examination on different building bricks, the following conclusions were drawn. Clay brick is unable to sustain years of extreme changes in temperature and can start cracking. Snow and water can get into the pores in brick and mortar and then expand when it freezes. This causes a gradual breakdown of the brick that will require replacement over time.

A dirt block house requires a solid fascination between the block and cement to stay stable for a long time. Downpour and cold altogether lessen the adequacy of mortar and make block development unsteady. The untreated block necessitates to be shielded from climate conditions all through the structure procedure to keep a breakdown in the block and a debilitating of the introduced mortar. Frost assault/harm is a typical issue that generally happens in more established blocks, and those that were under burnt amid the terminating procedure. Limit dividers are especially inclined to ice assault

Common blocks can retain a lot of water (up to around 20%) and numerous sorts are powerless to ice harm. In a few occasions the presence of blocks is influenced by the advancement of efflorescence or stains. These may begin from materials in the block or mortar. Lime spillover is the place abundance water moves through cementitious material. Water can break down calcium hydroxide (free lime) which is then saved on the block face. The calcium hydroxide is a solvent type of lime which is made as Portland concrete hydrates.

Vanadium salts produce a yellow or green efflorescence in the core of light-hued block on new brickwork. The salts happen normally in certain dirt (as a rule, however not only those that are utilized

to deliver buff/lighter shaded blocks). There is more vitality utilization and ozone harming substance discharge because of the creation of ordinary structure blocks

IV. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials used and their properties

Main components used for the preparation of geopolymer bricks are:

- Fly ash
- Foundry sand
- Bentonite
- Alkaline solution

The properties of components used are illustrated below:

Fly ash: Fly ash is a loss from warm influence plant units. It is wealthy in siliceous and aluminous material and a lot of progressively different constituents. Fundamental constituents of fly fiery debris are Silicon dioxide (25–60%) Aluminum oxide (10–30%) Ferric oxide (5–25%) and Calcium oxide. Class F fly fiery debris is kind of fly ash in which the absolute level of these three constituents is 70% or above 70% and responsive calcium oxide is under 10%. Fly ash is finely divided material and hence has more surface area to react with chemicals which thereby improves its pozzolanic activity and thereby increases its cementitious properties.

Foundry sand: Foundry sand is high class silica sand and it is a side-effect of ferrous and non-ferrous metal throwing enterprises. This sand has been utilized for trim material as a result of its warm conductivity.



Figure 3.2 Fly ash



Figure 3.3 Foundry sand

Bentonite: It is a kind of dirt framed by the change of glass particles from volcanic cinder. Bentonite blended with foundry sand gives more strength to block and is utilized as a binder. It can be used as a binding material for many casting works and has properties such as viscosity and plasticity.

Alkaline solution: The soluble arrangement is consolidated blend of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) or potassium hydroxide (KOH) and Sodium silicate otherwise called water glass (Na_2SiO_3). The sodium hydroxide arrangement can be set up by dissolving the pellets of NaOH in one liter of water for various molar fixations by various mass. Both the arrangements ought to be premixed of 24 hours before use. They have a soapy or slippery feel to touch and they are also used in products such as soap, medicines, etc



Figure 3.4 Bentonite



Figure 3.5 Sodium hydroxide and sodium silicate

Manufacturing of bricks

Brick mould preparation: 22.5×10.5×7.5 cm size mould is used for the making of geopolymer brick.

Mixing and moulding: In experimental work the material used for casting brick is fly ash, foundry sand, alkaline solution and bentonite. Fly ash (54%), foundry sand (44%), bentonite (4%) and a molarity of 10 M used for final experimental work. The ratio of alkaline solution to fly ash is 0.5 ratio of Na_2SiO_3 to NaOH is 1.5.

Collection of materials by weight: Size of brick is 22.5×10.5×7.5 cm, volume of brick with 20% extra is 2126.244 cm^3 , Ratio of fly ash: foundry sand: bentonite is 0.54:0.44:0.04.

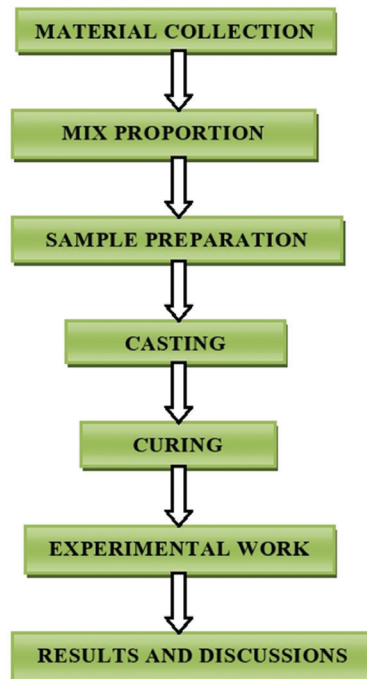


Figure 3.6 Methodology block diagram

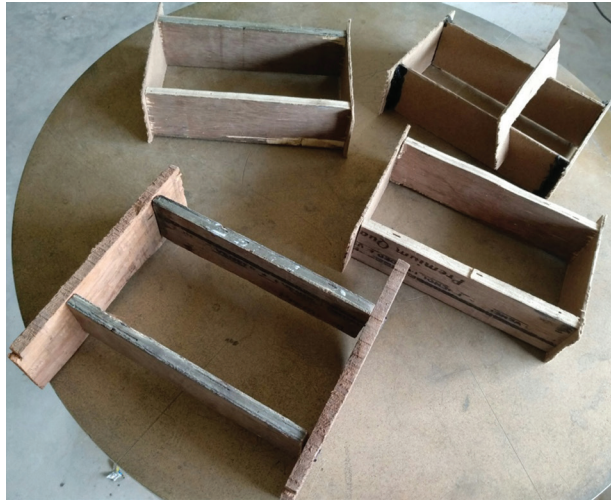


Figure 3.7 Brick mould

Amount of materials to be taken

Fly ash

Density of fly ash is 1.5 g/cm^3

Weight of fly ash = $2126.244 \times 0.53 \times 1.5 = 1690.36 \text{ g} = 1.6 \text{ kg}$

Foundry sand

Density of foundry sand is 2.2 g/cm^3

Weight of foundry sand = $2126.244 \times 0.43 \times 2.2 = 2011.43 \text{ g} = 2.01 \text{ kg}$

Bentonite

Density of bentonite is 0.593 g/cm^3

Weight of bentonite = $2126.244 \times 0.04 \times 0.593 = 50.43 \text{ g} = 0.05 \text{ kg}$

Alkaline solution

Basic equation is $\text{EVN}/1000$

E-Equivalent weight of NaOH

V-Volume of water

N-Normality

10 M Solution

$\text{EVN}/1000 = 40 \times 1000 \times 10/1000 = 400 \text{ g}$



Figure 3.8 Mixing of materials

Casting

The block shape was made utilizing plywood of internal measurements $225 \times 105 \times 75$ mm. The Fly fiery debris, foundry sand and bentonite were blend physically in a holder and then, the alkali arrangement was added to set up the geopolymer block. The blended materials were put in $225 \times 105 \times 75$ mm shape in three layers, and each layer was compacted by giving 25 blows with a 16 mm diameter tamping rod.



Figure 3.9 Casting of bricks

Curing

The geopolymer block will solidify at steam relieving or sight-seeing curing and the base restoring period will be 24 hours. Subsequent to casting the examples, they were kept in rest period under room temperature for 3 days. The term rest period is the time taken from the consummation of casting of test example to the beginning of restoring at a raised temperature. The geopolymer block was demoulded and transferred into an oven for high temperature restoring at 110°C for 24 hours. The blocks were then permitted to cool at room temperature for the coming days.



Figure 3.10 Oven drying

V. EXPERIMENTAL WORK

Compressive Strength Test: Compressive quality of a block is dictated by testing the block under standard conditions utilizing a compression testing machine. The technique referenced in IS 3495 (Part-2) will be utilized to decide the compressive quality of block work.

The following apparatus is required for testing the brick:

- Measure scale
- Compression testing machine



Figure 3.11 Demoulded bricks



Figure 3.12 Compressive strength testing machine

The minimum compressive strength required for a burnt clay brick as per IS code is 3.5 N/mm^2 . Compressive strength of the brick is calculated in the following way.

$$\text{Compressive strength (N/mm}^2\text{)} = \frac{\text{Maximum load at failure (in N)}}{\text{Average area of bed faces (in mm}^2\text{)}}.$$

Compressive strength on the day after oven drying, 7th, 14th, and 28th day were noted

Water Absorption Test: Water absorption test on blocks are done to decide toughness property of blocks, for example, level of consuming, quality and conduct of blocks in enduring. A block with water ingestion of under 7% gives better protection from harm by solidifying. The level of minimization of blocks can be acquired by water retention test, as pores in blocks consume water.

The water retention by blocks increases with increase in number of pores. In this way, the blocks, which have water retention under 3%, can be called as vitrified. This test gives the level of water assimilation of blocks.

Water absorption,% by mass, after 24 hours immersion in cold water in given by the formula,

$$\text{Water absorption\% by mass, } W = \frac{M_2 - M_1}{M_2} \times 100 \quad \frac{M_1 - M_2}{M_1}$$

Where,

M_1 -Dry weight in kg

M_2 -Wet weight in kg



Figure 3.13 Water absorption test

Sound Test: The two bricks are struck with each other. For a good brick; they should produce clear ringing sound. The sound should not be dull.

Hardness Test: For this, a simple field test is to scratch the brick with nail. No impression is marked on the surface of a good building brick.

Efflorescence Test: The presence of alkalis in brick is not desirable because they form patches of gray powder by absorbing moisture. Hence to determine the presence of alkalis this test is performed, that is explained below:

Place the brick specimen in a glass dish containing water to a depth of 25 mm in a well-ventilated room. After the water is absorbed completely or evaporated again add water for a depth of 25 mm. After second evaporation observe the bricks for white/grey patches.

VI. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Compressive Strength Test Results

Table 3.1 Compressive strength for developed bricks

Sl. No	Time (Days)	Load at Failure (N)	Size of Brick (mm ³)	Compressive Strength (Mpa)
1	After oven drying	20000	225×105	0.85
2	7 th	40000	225×105	1.69
3	14 th	90000	225×105	3.81
4	28 th	140000	225×105	5.93

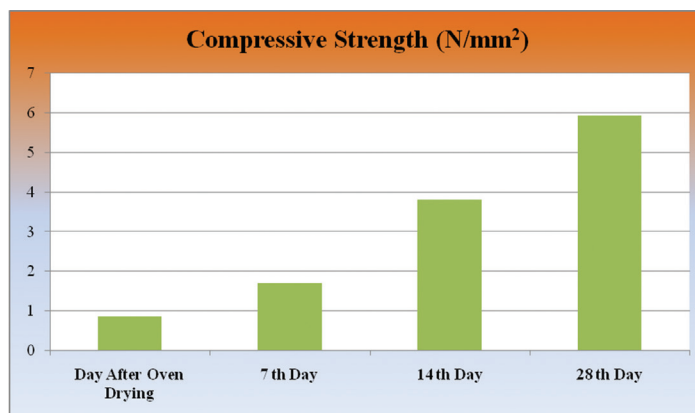


Figure 3.14 Compressive strength graph

From the graph shown and table shown above, it can be seen that the compressive strength increases with an increase in age. It is due to the general fact that the compressive strength increases with increase in curing period (3 days rest period after moulding, 24 hours oven drying and remaining curing at normal room temperature).

Water Absorption Test Results

Dry weight of brick = 2.608 kg

Wet weight of brick = 2.829 kg

Water absorption = $((2.829 - 2.608) / 2.608) \times 100 = 8.47\%$

From the above value of water absorption for geopolymer brick, it can be concluded that these types of bricks has less water absorption capacity due to the limited number of pores in these bricks. For normal clay brick, it is in between 20-25%, but for geopolymer brick we get a value of 8.47%, which is less than normal clay brick, which means geopolymer brick has less water absorption and hence it is an advantage of our work.

Sound Test Results: For a good building brick, it produces a clear ringing sound when two bricks strike each other. Here, our brick sample produces a clear ringing sound when they struck each other. If a dull sound is produced when the two bricks strike each other, it is not suitable for building purposes.

Hardness Test Results: When the surface of the brick is scratched using the finger nail, no nail mark is formed on the surface. For a good building brick, there should not be any scratch mark on the brick; hence we can say that it is ideal for construction purposes, because the brick is hard enough.

Efflorescence Test Results: A slight amount of white powder is formed on the brick surface. It is ultimately due to the presence of alkali and lack of burning of bricks.

Density Calculation

The standard value of density for ordinary burned clay brick is 2400 kg/m^3 .

Mass of geopolymer brick is 2.608 kg

Volume of geopolymer brick is 2126.244 cm^3

Therefore, from our work we got a density value of 1226.57 kg/m^3 . It means that geopolymer bricks are lighter in weight than normally burned clay brick, as due to lower density value.



Figure 3.15 Efflorescence on the surface of brick

VII. CONCLUSIONS

From this study we have epitomized various advantages that geopolymer bricks hold over normal clay bricks. Using this brick in construction field, waste materials such as fly ash, foundry sand and bentonite can be effectively used. Thus, the amount of waste disposing can be reduced which in turn can save the environment. There are chances of emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases during the production of normal clay brick and it can be avoided by this proposed method of production. The compressive strength of geopolymer brick is normally greater than clay brick and it is in between 6 to 25 MPa. Normally a good building brick should have a compressive strength equal to or greater than 3.5MPa. From our study we got a compressive strength of 5.93MPa. Geopolymer bricks are lighter in weight than normal clay brick and it also has relatively less water absorption property than normal brick due to less number of pores in it that is 8.47%. For a geopolymer brick, the water absorption rate will be in the range of 5–12%, but a normal clay brick has a water absorption rate in between 20–25%.

When two geopolymer bricks strike each other, it produces a clear ringing sound and no scratches are formed when scratched with nail. These are the noteworthy advantages of geopolymer bricks. From an environmental point of view, it has considerably greater advantages. A fly ash brick is known as

geopolymer brick because of the usage of alkaline solution. When fly ash comes in contact with alkali solution it shows properties similar to cement. But this gives way to the formation of a white powder on the surface of the brick, which is known as efflorescence. This is because of the presence of alkali on the surface of the brick, which ultimately leads to efflorescence.

Even though the main constituents are cheap waste materials, the alkali activators such as Sodium Hydroxide and Sodium Silicate are costly. Hence, we cannot conclude that geopolymer bricks are cost effective. Also, the use of chemicals during mixing of constituents may lead to health issues such as skin problems; allergy etc. It can be avoided by using gloves and masks.

The prime reason that led us to choose this topic was to find an eco-friendly brick that has more compressive strength and better properties than a normal clay brick. From our studies it can be concluded that the increasing need for cement can be reduced and consequently, the emission of greenhouse gases can be reduced. This is because in geopolymer brick, cement is completely replaced by fly ash and instead of sand, foundry sand is used. Ultimately, the waste materials from many industries can be effectively utilized, instead of dumping or disposing it. Hence, it can be concluded that geopolymer bricks are eco-friendly and eco sustainable bricks.

VIII. SCOPE OF FUTURE WORK

This analysis can be extended to the following areas;

- Studies could be made with some other cheaper chemicals to reduce cost.
- Molarity can be reduced, so as to reduce consumption of chemicals.
- Properties of binders can be varied by using different types of wastes such as paper waste, green leaf etc.
- Temperature effect can be studied by burning the bricks in high temperature as other normal bricks.
- Burning of bricks can be performed to analyze the effect of efflorescence on the surface of brick.
- Test can be conducted by using admixtures other than bentonite to study the variations in strength and other properties of brick.

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4. Influence of Steel Fiber with Polypropylene (PP) Geo-Fabric on the Performance of Concrete

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ABSTRACT: Geotextiles are highly recommended to use as a composite material to enhance the tensile properties of brittle materials in construction. Polypropylene (PP) is a bi-axial type of geo-fabric shows better performance and exhibits good tensile characteristics along both the directions. Recently PP geo-fabrics widely used in weak subgrades as well as in many infrastructural works for strengthening purpose. In other hand concrete is heterogeneous mixture and because of its weak ductile characteristics researchers' insights more on this area. In this present work an attempt is made to study the behavior of concrete using steel fiber with PP geo-grids in concrete. The experimental studies conducted on basic concrete elements like Cubes, Prisms and Cylinders with and without percentage of steel fiber with PP geo-fabrics. The experimental result shows that enhance in strength and ductility of concrete elements compared with normal conventional concrete specimens.

Keywords: Polypropylene, Infrastructure, Performance, Composite material, Ductility.

I. INTRODUCTION

Concrete is a heterogeneous mix its characteristics shows high versatility in presence of other construction materials. In recent wide range of research has been going to replace construction materials. Searching an alternative plays a major role and it needs proper studies and experimental investigation. The behavior of concrete structures under different varieties of combinations of loads are highly unpredictable. Recent advances in the construction field is to invent variety of new concrete to satisfy both strength and durability condition by considering different environmental factors.

The geo-fabrics are extensively used in construction projects and these fabrics are emerged as new constituent materials to enhance the properties. Polypropylene geo-fabrics have been extensively used in the field of Geotechnical engineering to enhance the properties of weak soil sub grade and also used in reinforcing massive earth work [1]. These fabrics further used in concrete pavements particularly in different layers of soil media to enhance the strength as well as to maintain connectivity by better bonding [2]. More recently researchers used PP geo-fabrics in concrete elements and stated the importance of PP fabrics by conducting several experiments [3]. An experimental investigation has been carried out to study the behavior of plain cement concrete beams reinforced with two and three biaxial geo-fabrics and showed the importance of bi-axial geo-fabrics [4]. The objective of the present research paper is to understand the basic structural strength properties of concrete at different ages of curing at 7 and 28 days with different volume of fraction of bi-axial polypropylene (PP) geo-fabrics.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

S. Sivakamasundari et al. [5] carried out research work on flexural behavior of steel fiber reinforced concrete beams confined with bi-axial geo-grids. Three-point loading flexure tests were done on two types of beam specimens with different configurations of transverse reinforcements with and without geo-grid specimens. The experimental results were found that geo-grid confined specimen shows improvement in strength, stiffness, degradation, Energy dissipation capacity and displacement ductility. El Meski et al. [3] conducted an experimental investigation on conventional and geo-fabric reinforced concrete beam specimens under four-point loading flexure test. Results from test confirm the benefits of geo-fabrics are evident from experimental results in terms of post peak behavior, load capacity and failure mode.

Sreekeshava K S et al. (2018) conducted a series of basic tests on geo-fabrics proportioned concrete elements and reported the advantages of geo-fabrics presence at plastic hinge regions in concrete elements. Saranyadevi et al. (2016) worked on behavior of strengthening techniques using geo-fabrics in concrete beams and reported the importance of bi-axial geo-grids. The experimental results are validated through analytical methods using finite element analysis. The past study showed that geo-fabrics can be beneficial in improving the performance of concrete elements. Hence polypropylene (PP) geo-fabric with steel fibers in concrete has been promoted in this present research paper.

III. EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

I. Materials specifications

The specimens were casted using mix proportions of 1:1:2 in ordinary Portland cement (OPC) with water cement ratio of 0.45. Hooked end steel fibers with a specification of 30mm length, 0.5mm diameter has an aspect ratio 60, has nominal tensile strength of 1000 Nmm²/ed to prepare steel fiber reinforced concrete having a constant volume fraction of 0.5%, 1% and 1.5%. The polypropylene (PP) geo-fabric used in this study has a tensile strength of 100 kN/m in machine and cross machine direction. [Table 4.1](#) and [Table 4.2](#) represents the properties of aggregates used.

[Table 4.1](#) Properties of coarse aggregates

Property	Coarse Aggregates
Specific Gravity	2.7
Fineness Modulus	6.2
Water Absorption	0.8%

[Table 4.2](#) Properties of fine aggregates

Property	Fine Aggregates
Specific Gravity	2.74
Fineness Modulus	2.2
Water Absorption	1%

II. Polypropylene geo-fabrics

The Polypropylene (PP) bi-axial geo-fabrics are used in this study is stiff geo-grids made up of polymers. Variations exist in the aperture geometry and dimensions and in the physical and mechanical properties.