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Preventing Carbonation from Forming in Tunnel Concrete with the Help of Silicious and Pozolona Materials in Fresh Concrete for Improving Durability and Permeabilty of Lining Concrete

M. Ramesh[1] **and Raushan Kumar**[2]
Research Scholar, Department of Civil Engineering[1]
Professor, Department of Civil Engineering[2]
Eklavya University, Damoh M.P, India

Abstract: *One important aspect of concrete's durability that the writers of this research have reviewed is its carbonation studies. Carbonation is one of the main reasons why concrete deteriorates and is destroyed. The mechanism of carbonation is the entry of carbon dioxide (CO2) into the porous system of concrete, which creates an environment by lowering the pH near the reinforcement and starting the corrosion process. This paper aims to clarify the significance of carbonation in concrete by examining its chemistry, process, and water/cement ratio, as well as how carbonation is affected by admixtures, curing, depth of concrete cones, grade, strength, porosity, and permeability. The part played by supplemental cementitious materials (SCMs) such as silica and ground-granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS). The review includes an analysis of fume (SF) and the impact of carbonation depth*

Keywords: CO2, carbonation studies, concrete's durability, examining chemistry, process, water/cement ratio

I. INTRODUCTION

It is commonly known that carbonation plays a major role in the corrosion of concrete reinforcement. Globally, it has been determined that the primary factor contributing to the degradation of concrete structures is the erosion of reinforcement. This process's main mechanism is that the atmosphere reacts with the hydrated cement, destroying its alkalinity. Porosity, permeability, diffusion, and capillarity are examples of transport qualities that exhibit their impact on carbonation. Because they limit the impact of chlorides, they also affect how long concrete lasts. In addition to reviewing how curing age affects concrete constructed of various SCM, the paper also shows how permeability and curing age, as well as strength and depth of carbonation, are related to each other. When concrete constructions are exposed to harsh surroundings in an open manner, their durability becomes crucial. Carbonation shortens the structure's useful life and destroys it. The process of carbonation lowers the alkalinity of concrete by forming calcium carbonate from the atmosphere's reaction with hydrated cement components. In reality, utilising high strength concrete and properly compacting it to make it denser can minimise the detrimental effects of carbonation to the greatest extent possible. Low water/cement ratios can also lessen carbonation. Self Compacting Concrete (SCC) allows for a low water/cement ratio and high strength concrete with a relatively less carbonation effect. It is discovered that the carbonation greatly affects a few of the concrete's engineering characteristics. More than any other attribute, compressive strength and hardness are primarily affected by it. When concrete is scraped, phenolphthalein indicator can be sprayed to determine the depth of carbonation.

II. FACTORS AFFECT RATE OF CARBONATION

The following factors have a significant effect on the rate of carbonation.

(i) External factors

- Ambient relative humidity

- Concentration of carbon dioxide
- Surface protection

(ii) Internal factors

- Grade of concrete
- Permeability of concrete
- Depth of cover to reinforcement
- Water-cement ratio

(iii) Other factors

- Time of exposure
- Orientation of building

III. CONSTITUENTS INFLUENCE CARBONATION

(i) Effect of water/cement ratio- No matter the mix design, the water/cement ratio has been found to have a significant impact on carbonation through a number of research studies. The most accurate and consistent measure for forecasting how typically vibrated concrete would react to carbonation is the water to cement ratio. Previous research studies have determined that the depth of carbonation is directly correlated with the ratio of cement to water, and that the depth of carbonation increases as the ratio of cement to water increases. It has a direct bearing on how old the concrete is as well.

(ii) Effect of water/binder ratio- Deep carbonation is significantly impacted by the water/binder ratio, it has been discovered. The correlation between the permeability and compressive strength of concrete is mostly determined by the water/binder ratio. Greater ratios of water to binder affect other properties, but at lower levels, they have no effect on carbonation depth. With a rise in the water/binder ratio, the carbonation depth increases. This led to the discovery that the water/binder ratio and carbonation depth are intimately related. The depth of carbonation was also greatly influenced by slump values; a rise in slump heightens the carbonation depth. The strength and depth of carbonation of concrete have also been more impacted by fly ash (FA). Significant effects on all the properties are caused by high water/binder ratios with fly ash.

(iii) Effect of Admixtures- As evidenced by earlier research, the strength of concrete decreases as carbonation depth increases. A growing number of industrial by-products, such as GGBS, SF, FA, and metakaolin, are being utilised in construction because they enhance a variety of other qualities. They increase the concrete's strength and cause the carbonation depth to decrease. Replacing the cement also makes certain advantages possible, such as less shrinkage and expansion. Certain research found that advantageous rafter observations were made at lower replacement levels, i.e., between 0 and 30%, as opposed to greater replacement levels, such as above 60%. A 30% replacement of FA results in an improvement in compressive strength.

(iv) Silica fume (SF) - When used in paste form, silica fume effectively lowers the permeability of cement and lowers the porosity of concrete. It has a major impact on the creation of concrete with high strength and excellent performance. The SF-made concrete will withstand abrasion and have excellent bond strength. The additional SF will also result in an improvement in compressive strength. There is a concomitant rise in carbonation depth and compressive strength. The pH value of the pore solution decreases when SF combines with calcium hydroxide, signalling the start of the carbonation process. Previous research has shown that replacing silica fume with more than 10% of the original material may cause corrosion and have an impact on carbonation.

(v) Ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBS) - The ratio of cement to water and the addition of cementitious ingredients such as silica fume and GGBS determine the concrete's strength and porosity. More specifically, GGBS and silica fume are substitutes for cement in concrete. In concrete, GGBS and silica fume create a less porous form with strong binding strength. The concrete's strength and porosity determine the depth of carbonation.

IV. GPC MANUFACTURING STUDIES

(i) Fly Ash Based GPC- Fly ash with high silica and alumina content exhibits binding and pozzolanic qualities. Fly ash is utilised in the GPC because of its tiny particle size, spherical and porous characteristics, and higher solid to liquid ratios compared to other pozzolanic materials such as slag, metakaolin, and rice husk ash. Because bottom ash has a higher fineness, it closes the matrix's pores and improves the strength and workability of the growing surface area for reactivity in the GPC. The setting time is shortened when the dose of ultrafine fly ash is increased; however, the fly ash-based GPC has longer setting times, ultrafine fly ash utilisation, and dosages up to 15% higher.

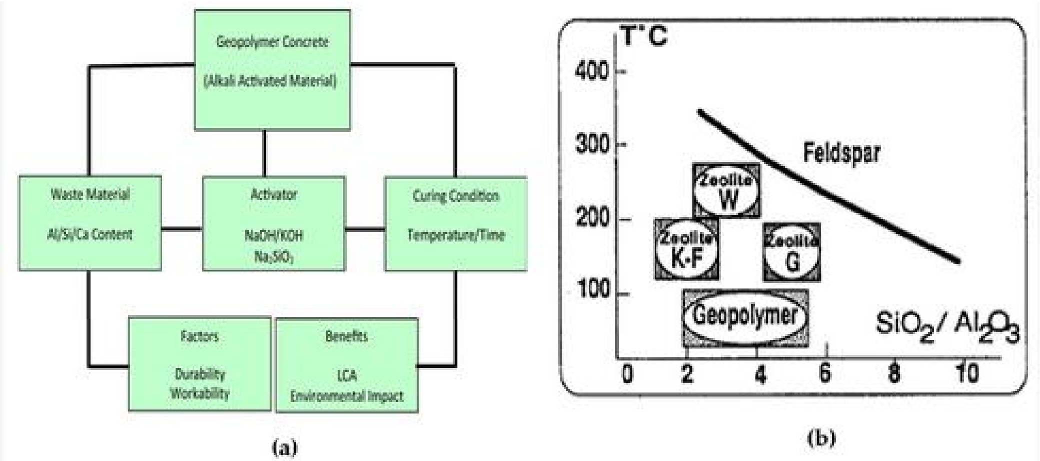


Figure 1- (a) Mechanism of Geopolymerisation; (b) crystallisation temperature ranges

(ii) GGBFS Based GPC- Because sample particles in the GPC are more angular than fly ash particles, raising the dosage of GGBFS reduces the workability of the mix. Because of the reactivity of the calcium in the slag, it reduces the ambient temperature curing setting time. When slag and fly ash are used in the GPC, the compressive strength of the ambient-cured specimens is comparable to that of the water-cured OPC concrete. After 28 days, the specimen's strength increases decrease, yet they still get stronger after 180 days. The GPC removes the need for heating during the curing process and shows an increase in strength as the dose of GGBFS in the mix design is increased.

V. SLAG-POZZOLANIC CEM V CHARACTERISTICS

(i) General- According to the cement standard EN 197-1, the strategy of substituting additional cementitious constituents for Portland cement in this case, fly ash (FA), granulated blast-furnace slag (S), and natural pozzolana (P) was used in this study to produce slag-pozzolanic cement CEM V. The goal was to produce cements with a lower carbon footprint. Compared to EN 197-1's previous edition, which was in effect until the spring of 2018, the family of common cements' 27 products were expanded to 39 products as of right now. This included, among other things, the addition of the primary cement type CEM VI "composite cement," which has a limestone content ranging from 6 to 20 weight percent. The former CEM V "composite cement" was renamed as CEM V "slag-pozzolanic cement."

(ii) Cement Mortars Properties- In order to assess the qualities of both fresh and hardened cement paste, test specimens obtained from fresh mortar were created, see cf. To achieve a water/cement ratio of 0.5, test sand was combined with cement in a 3 to 1 ratio and the appropriate volume of water. The slump, density, and air content of the fresh mortar, along with its setting time and soundness, provide information regarding the workability and performance of the cement types that were tested. The anticipated behaviour was exhibited by the strength development of the cement kinds under consideration. While CEM V/A cement types reach an identical strength level between 7 and 56 days of curing time, standard cement CEM I 32.5 R reaches excellent early strength. Unlike CEM I and CEM V/A kinds, CEM V/B types lag behind but nevertheless exhibit a rise in strength after 56 days.

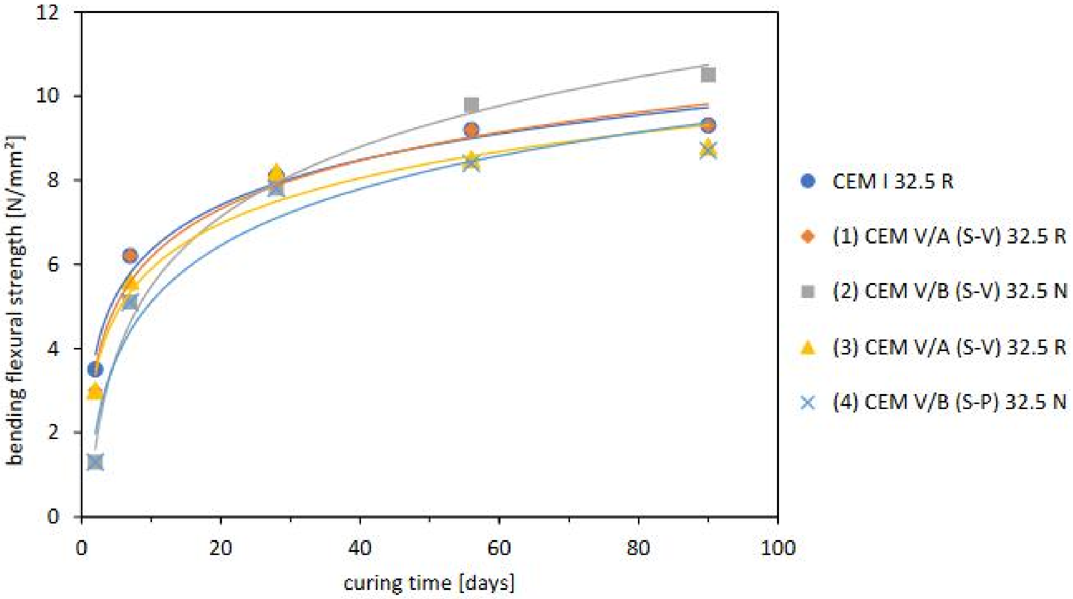
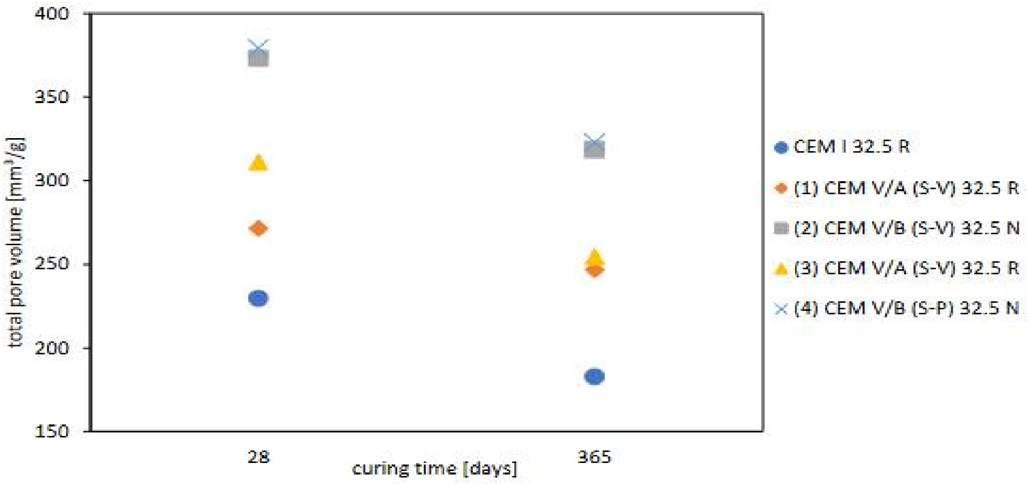


Figure 2- Bending flexural strength development of standard mortar prisms

(iii) Durability Aspects- The evaluation of the durability of hardened cement paste and concrete is mostly based on the pore structure and the consequent permeability. The type of cement used mostly affects how the pore structure of concrete and cement paste looks. Additional CSH-phases grow as a result of the delayed reaction of pozzolanic or hydraulic additives, which consume and reduce the Ca(OH)2 content and lower the heat of hydration. This guarantees a stronger defence against the attack of sulphate and chloride ions by significantly reducing the permeability, porosity, and thermally induced cracking of the paste or concrete. Moreover, the alkali reaction of cement with reactive aggregate components is limited because of the low alkali availability in FA and S.



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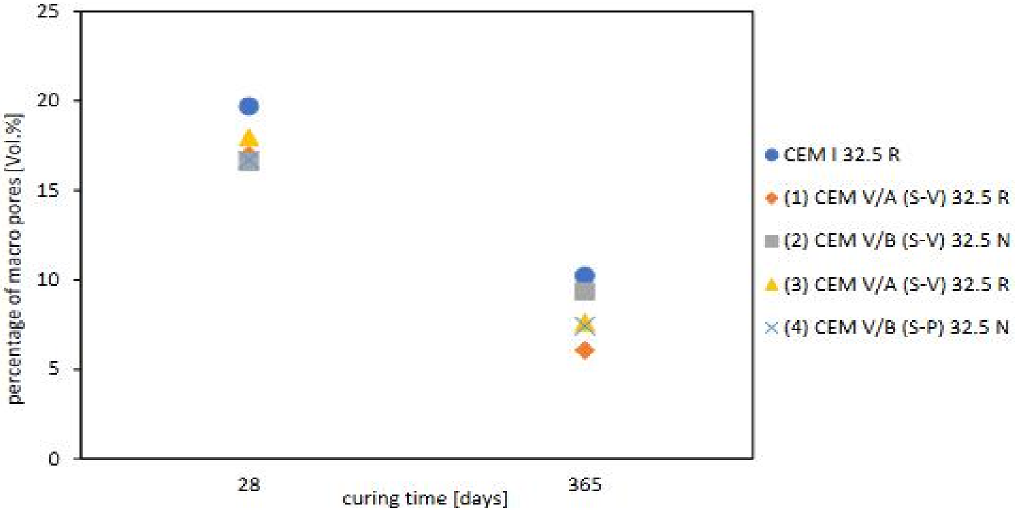

(b)

Figure 3- Development of total porosity (a) and percentage of macro-porosity (b) for a curing time of 28 and 365 days

VI. CONCRETE MIXTURES AND MECHANICAL CHARACTERIZATION

(i) Tentative Testing- A low cement level of 220 kg per m3 of concrete is applied in the concrete mix for filling concrete without the need for concrete exposure classes, using recycled aggregate from tunnelling as aggregate and CEM V cement types as binder. The water-binder ratio was set at 0.55 to achieve a flow spread of approximately 45 mm (consistency class F3 according to). A maximum grain size of 31.5 mm was achieved by using standard quartz sand for the grain fraction of 0–4 mm. This was done to keep the mixture's water requirement reasonable in relation to the workability of the fresh concrete.

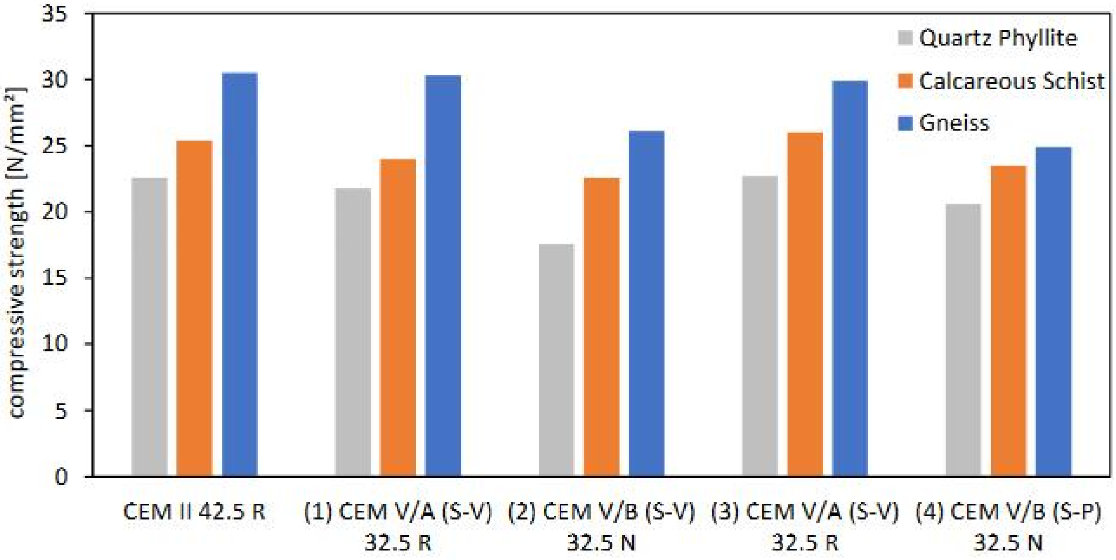

Figure 4- Compressive strength of various concrete mixtures varying cement

(ii) Inner Lining Concrete- It was determined that a concrete strength level of at least 50 N/mm2 and low permeability were essential for the usage of concrete using slag-pozzolanic binder and recycled material. Since calcareous schists predominate numerically at the Brenner Base tunnel, cf, normal quartz aggregate was used for the grain fraction 0/4 mm in concrete tests, while calcareous schists were used for the grain fractions 4/8, 8/16, and 16/31.5 mm. The water-binder ratio was set to 0.52 and the cement content utilising (2) CEM V/B (S-V) 32.5 N was increased to 330 kg per m3 of fresh concrete. According to, superplasticizer was utilised to achieve a class F4 flow spread. In terms of the fundamental mechanical characteristics of the concrete composition, the results are positive. Good concrete density and workability of the fresh concrete are achieved, and a good strength level that reaches concrete strength class C40/50 is attained. A concrete cube specimen following compressive strength testing is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5- Concrete cube test specimen after compressive strength testing

VII. CONCLUSION

The comprehensive analysis of the literature on carbonation on concrete leads to the following general conclusions:

- Since the strength of the concrete is dependent upon the water/cement ratio, the impact of this ratio on the strength of the concrete is highly significant. The ratio of cement to water determines the depth of carbonation. A deeper carbonation is a result of a higher water/cement ratio.
- A longer curing time lowers the depth of carbonation. When concrete is allowed to cure for long enough, it becomes more resistant to carbonation.
- A minimum of seven days of curing time is required to increase the plain concrete's resistance.
- Admixture additions change the concrete's pore structure and decrease its porosity.
- There is a linear link between accelerated carbonation and porosity if porosity increases and carbonation depth increases as well.
- The porosity and depth of carbonation of concrete are decreased by the addition of SCMs such as GGBS and SF.
- The rate of carbonation is significantly lowered by applying surface coatings and providing adequate cover. It is possible to extend the concrete's service life.
- The water/binder ratio also influences the compressive strength, and the properties of concrete are impacted by both larger and lower water/binder ratios of mineral admixtures.

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- It has been demonstrated that the greatest way to increase concrete's durability characteristic in relation to its carbonation is to utilise SCC.

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