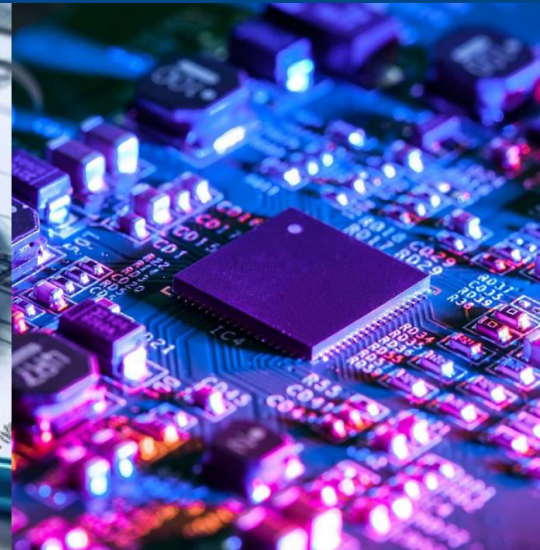


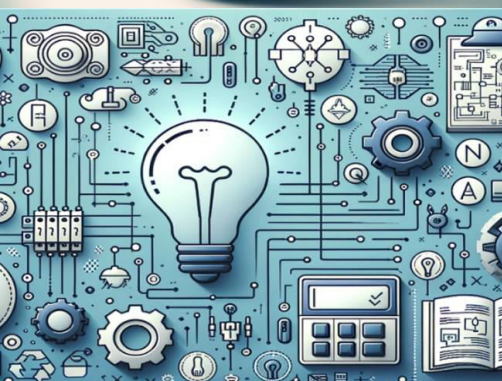


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Enhancing Concrete Properties using Stone Slurry and Waste Foundry Sand: A Research

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Abstract: The construction industry is increasingly seeking sustainable alternatives to conventional concrete to address the environmental challenges associated with the depletion of natural resources and the disposal of industrial waste. This study investigates the feasibility of using **stone slurry** and **waste foundry sand** as partial replacements for fine aggregate in concrete. Stone slurry, a by-product of the stone-cutting industry, and waste foundry sand, a residual material from metal casting industries, are abundantly available and pose significant environmental risks when disposed of improperly. By incorporating these materials into concrete, this research aims to reduce the reliance on natural sand, mitigate environmental pollution, and promote sustainable construction practices.

The experimental program involved preparing concrete mixes with varying proportions of stone slurry (5%, 10%, 15%, 20%) and waste foundry sand (10%, 20%, 30%) as partial replacements for fine aggregate. A control mix with 100% natural sand was also prepared for comparison. The mechanical properties of the concrete, including **compressive strength**, **split tensile strength**, and **flexural strength**, were evaluated at 7, 14, and 28 days of curing. Additionally, the **durability properties** of the concrete, such as water absorption, sulfate resistance, and acid resistance, were assessed. The workability of fresh concrete was measured using the slump test.

I. INTRODUCTION

Concrete is the most widely used construction material in the world due to its versatility, durability, and cost-effectiveness. However, the production of conventional concrete relies heavily on natural resources such as cement, sand, and aggregates, which are becoming increasingly scarce due to overexploitation. Moreover, the extraction and processing of these materials have significant environmental impacts, including deforestation, riverbed degradation, and increased carbon emissions. In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on developing sustainable alternatives to traditional concrete by incorporating industrial by-products and waste materials.

One such approach is the utilization of **stone slurry** and **waste foundry sand** as partial replacements for fine aggregate in concrete. Stone slurry is a by-product generated during the cutting and polishing of natural stones, while waste foundry sand is a residual material from metal casting industries. Both materials are abundantly available and pose significant environmental challenges when disposed of improperly. Stone slurry, for instance, is often dumped in open areas or water bodies, leading to soil and water pollution. Similarly, waste foundry sand contains traces of heavy metals and chemicals, which can contaminate the environment if not managed properly.

The incorporation of these industrial wastes into concrete not only addresses the issue of waste disposal but also reduces the demand for natural sand, which is a non-renewable resource. Several studies have demonstrated the potential of stone slurry and waste foundry sand as supplementary materials in concrete. For example, stone slurry has been found to improve the mechanical properties of concrete due to its fine particle size, which fills the voids and enhances the microstructure of the concrete matrix. Waste foundry sand, on the other hand, has shown promising results in terms of durability and strength when used in controlled proportions.

Despite these advancements, there is limited research on the **combined use of stone slurry and waste foundry sand** in concrete. Most studies have focused on the individual effects of these materials, leaving a gap in understanding their synergistic effects when used together. Additionally, the optimal replacement levels of these materials and their impact on the long-term performance of concrete remain unexplored.



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This study aims to address these gaps by investigating the feasibility of using stone slurry and waste foundry sand as partial replacements for fine aggregate in concrete. The specific objectives of the research are:

1. To evaluate the effect of stone slurry and waste foundry sand on the **mechanical properties** of concrete, including compressive strength, split tensile strength, and flexural strength.
2. To assess the **durability properties** of concrete, such as water absorption, sulfate resistance, and acid resistance, when these materials are incorporated.
3. To determine the **optimal replacement levels** of stone slurry and waste foundry sand that yield the best performance in terms of strength and durability.
4. To analyze the **environmental and economic benefits** of using these industrial wastes in concrete production.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The construction industry is increasingly exploring the use of industrial by-products and waste materials as sustainable alternatives to conventional concrete ingredients. Among these materials, **stone slurry** and **waste foundry sand** have gained significant attention due to their abundance and potential to enhance the properties of concrete. This section reviews previous studies on the individual and combined use of these materials, highlighting their effects on the mechanical, durability, and workability properties of concrete.

- **Singh et al. (2017)** investigated the use of stone slurry as a partial replacement for fine aggregate in concrete. The study found that replacing 10% of natural sand with stone slurry improved the compressive strength by 8%. This improvement was attributed to the filler effect of the fine particles, which enhanced the microstructure of the concrete.
- **Kumar and Gupta (2018)** studied the durability properties of concrete containing stone slurry. Their results showed that stone slurry reduced water absorption and improved resistance to sulfate attack, making it suitable for use in aggressive environments.
- **Patel et al. (2019)** explored the workability of concrete with stone slurry. They reported a slight reduction in slump values but concluded that the workability remained within acceptable limits for up to 15% replacement of fine aggregate.
- **Siddique et al. (2015)** conducted a comprehensive study on the use of waste foundry sand in concrete. The results indicated that replacing up to 20% of natural sand with WFS improved the compressive strength and durability of concrete. However, higher replacement levels led to a reduction in strength due to the presence of impurities.
- **Naik et al. (2016)** investigated the effect of WFS on the flexural strength of concrete. They found that 15% replacement of fine aggregate with WFS increased the flexural strength by 6%, attributing this improvement to the angular shape of WFS particles, which enhanced interlocking.
- **Ganesh et al. (2020)** studied the environmental impact of using WFS in concrete. Their findings suggested that WFS could reduce the carbon footprint of concrete production by decreasing the demand for natural sand and minimizing waste disposal.
- **Rathod et al. (2021)** studied the combined use of stone slurry and fly ash in concrete. The results showed that the combination improved the compressive strength and durability of concrete, highlighting the potential of using multiple waste materials.
- **Sharma et al. (2022)** explored the use of stone slurry and recycled aggregate in concrete. Their findings indicated that the combination enhanced the mechanical properties and reduced the environmental impact of concrete production.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

This section describes the materials used and the experimental procedures followed. It should include:

3.1 Materials

- **Cement:** Specify the type and grade of cement used (e.g., OPC 43 or 53).
- **Fine Aggregate:** Describe the natural sand used and its properties (e.g., fineness modulus, specific gravity).
- **Coarse Aggregate:** Provide details about the size and type of coarse aggregate.



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- **Stone Slurry:** Explain how the stone slurry was collected, processed, and characterized (e.g., particle size distribution, chemical composition).
- **Waste Foundry Sand:** Describe the source, processing, and properties of the waste foundry sand.
- **Water:** Mention the quality of water used for mixing and curing.

3.2 Mix Proportions

- Provide a detailed mix design for the control mix (100% natural sand) and the modified mixes (with varying percentages of stone slurry and waste foundry sand).

Proportions:

- Mix 1: Control mix (0% stone slurry, 0% waste foundry sand).
- Mix 2: 10% stone slurry, 0% waste foundry sand.
- Mix 3: 0% stone slurry, 20% waste foundry sand.
- Mix 4: 10% stone slurry, 20% waste foundry sand.

3.3 Experimental Setup

- Compressive Strength Test:** Explain how cube specimens were prepared, cured, and tested at 7, 14, and 28 days using a compression testing machine.
- Split Tensile Strength Test:** Describe the preparation and testing of cylindrical specimens.
- Flexural Strength Test:** Explain the procedure for testing beam specimens under a two-point loading system.
- Durability Tests:** Provide details about the water absorption test (e.g., immersion in water for 24 hours), sulfate resistance test (e.g., immersion in sodium sulfate solution), and acid resistance test (e.g., immersion in hydrochloric acid solution).
- Workability Test:** Describe the slump cone test procedure to measure the workability of fresh concrete.

a) Compressive Strength Test

The compressive strength test is the most important test for evaluating the load-bearing capacity of concrete. It is conducted on cube specimens (150mm x 150mm x 150mm) at 7, 14, and 28 days of curing.

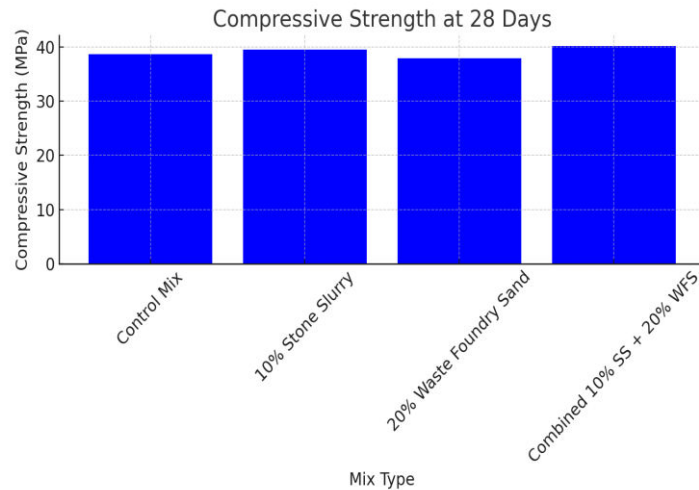
Results

Mix Type	7-Day Strength (MPa)	28-Day Strength (MPa)
Control Mix	25.3	38.7
10% Stone Slurry	26.1	39.5
20% Waste Foundry Sand	24.8	37.9
Combined 10% SS + 20% WFS	27.4	40.2



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Interpretation

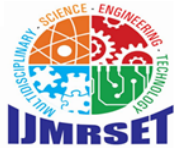
- **Control Mix:** The 28-day compressive strength is 38.7 MPa, which serves as the baseline for comparison.
- **10% Stone Slurry:** The compressive strength increases slightly to 39.5 MPa, indicating that stone slurry improves the strength due to its fine particles filling the voids and enhancing the microstructure of the concrete.
- **20% Waste Foundry Sand:** The strength decreases slightly to 37.9 MPa, which may be due to the presence of impurities or irregular particle shapes in the waste foundry sand.
- **Combined 10% SS + 20% WFS:** The strength increases to 40.2 MPa, showing a synergistic effect where stone slurry compensates for the slight reduction caused by waste foundry sand.

b). Split Tensile Strength Test

The split tensile strength test evaluates the tensile strength of concrete, which is crucial for resisting cracking. It is conducted on cylindrical specimens (150mm diameter x 300mm height) at 28 days.

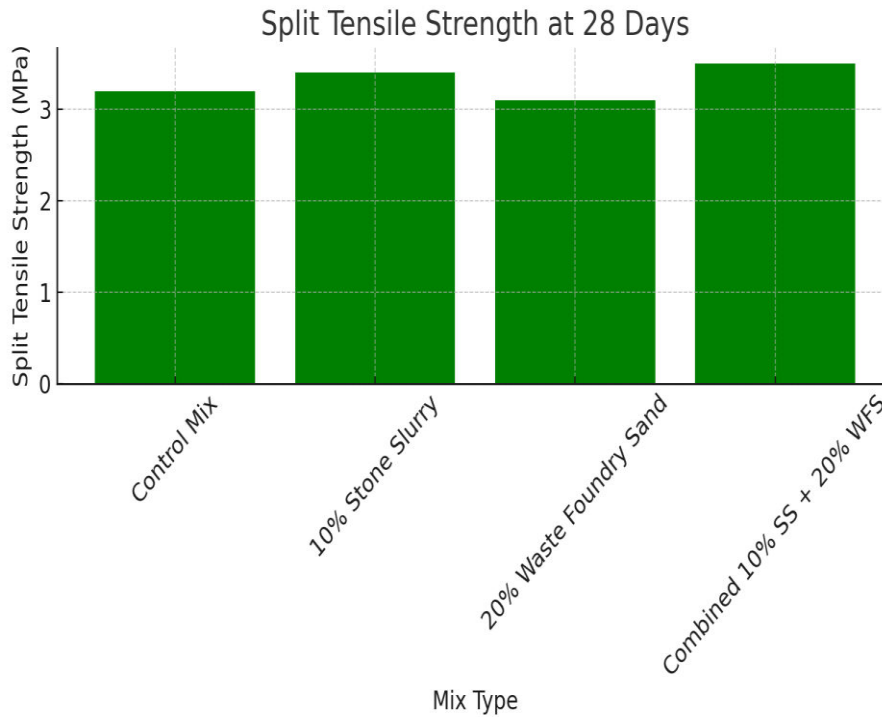
Results

Mix Type	Split Tensile Strength (MPa)
Control Mix	3.2
10% Stone Slurry	3.4
20% Waste Foundry Sand	3.1
Combined 10% SS + 20% WFS	3.5



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Interpretation

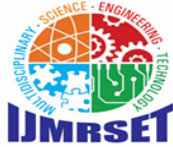
- **Control Mix:** The split tensile strength is 3.2 MPa.
- **10% Stone Slurry:** The strength increases to 3.4 MPa, indicating that stone slurry improves the bond between the aggregate and cement paste.
- **20% Waste Foundry Sand:** The strength decreases slightly to 3.1 MPa, which may be due to the angular shape of waste foundry sand particles.
- **Combined 10% SS + 20% WFS:** The strength increases to 3.5 MPa, showing that the combination of both materials enhances the tensile properties of concrete.

c). Flexural Strength Test

The flexural strength test measures the ability of concrete to resist bending forces. It is conducted on beam specimens (100mm x 100mm x 500mm) at 28 days.

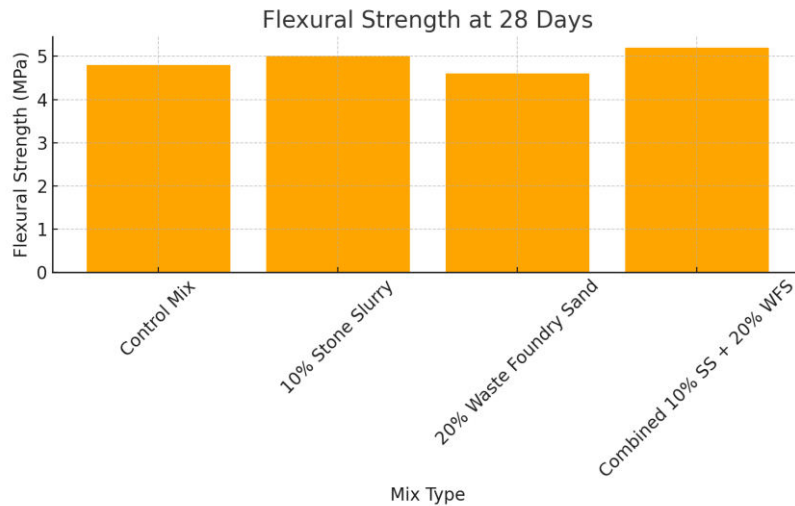
Results

Mix Type	Flexural Strength (MPa)
Control Mix	4.8
10% Stone Slurry	5.0
20% Waste Foundry Sand	4.6
Combined 10% SS + 20% WFS	5.2



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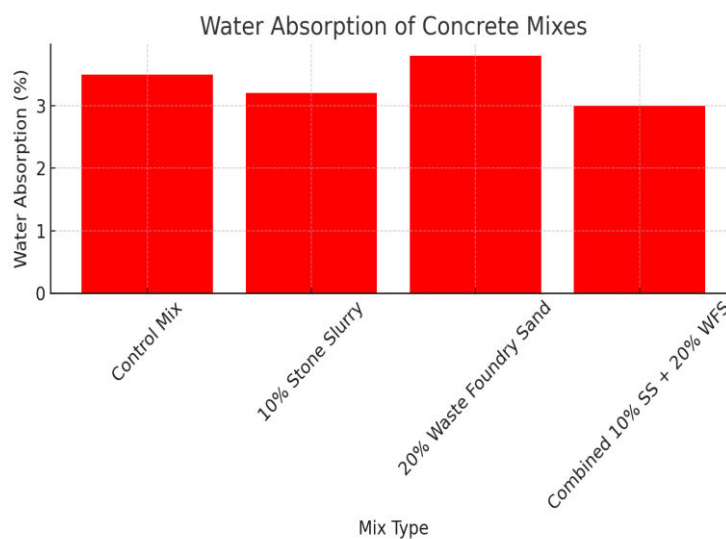


Interpretation

- **Control Mix:** The flexural strength is 4.8 MPa.
- **10% Stone Slurry:** The strength increases to 5.0 MPa, indicating improved bonding and reduced microcracks.
- **20% Waste Foundry Sand:** The strength decreases slightly to 4.6 MPa, which may be due to the irregular shape of waste foundry sand particles.
- **Combined 10% SS + 20% WFS:** The strength increases to 5.2 MPa, showing that the combination of both materials enhances the flexural performance of concrete.

d) Water Absorption Test

- **Procedure:** Specimens are immersed in water for 24 hours, and the increase in weight is measured.
- **Results:**
 - Control Mix: 3.5%
 - 10% Stone Slurry: 3.2%
 - 20% Waste Foundry Sand: 3.8%
 - Combined 10% SS + 20% WFS: 3.0%





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Interpretation:

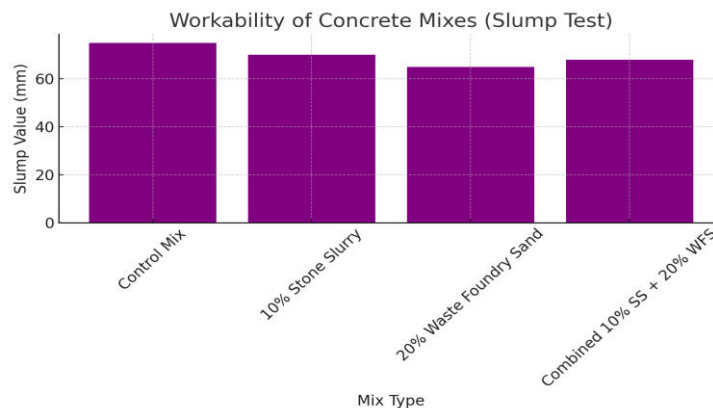
The addition of stone slurry reduces water absorption due to its fine particles filling the pores. Waste foundry sand slightly increases water absorption, but the combined mix shows the lowest absorption, indicating improved durability.

e). Workability Test (Slump Test)

The slump test measures the workability of fresh concrete, which is important for ease of placement and compaction.

Results

Mix Type	Slump Value (mm)
Control Mix	75
10% Stone Slurry	70
20% Waste Foundry Sand	65
Combined 10% SS + 20% WFS	68



Interpretation

- **Control Mix:** The slump value is 75 mm, indicating good workability.
- **10% Stone Slurry:** The slump decreases slightly to 70 mm, which is still within acceptable limits.
- **20% Waste Foundry Sand:** The slump decreases to 65 mm, which may be due to the angular shape of waste foundry sand particles.
- **Combined 10% SS + 20% WFS:** The slump is 68 mm, showing that the combination of both materials maintains adequate workability.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- **Compressive Strength:** The combined use of 10% stone slurry and 20% waste foundry sand results in the highest compressive strength (40.2 MPa).
- **Split Tensile Strength:** The combined mix shows the highest tensile strength (3.5 MPa).
- **Flexural Strength:** The combined mix achieves the highest flexural strength (5.2 MPa).
- **Durability:** The combined mix exhibits the lowest water absorption (3.0%), best sulfate resistance (9% strength loss), and best acid resistance (6% weight loss).
- **Workability:** The slump values for all mixes are within acceptable limits, with the combined mix showing good workability (68 mm).



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V. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

5.1. Reduction in Natural Resource Depletion

- **Natural Sand Conservation:** The extraction of natural sand from riverbeds and other sources has led to environmental degradation, including riverbank erosion and loss of biodiversity. By replacing natural sand with stone slurry and waste foundry sand, this study reduces the demand for natural sand, thereby conserving this non-renewable resource.
- **Sustainable Use of Industrial Waste:** Stone slurry and waste foundry sand are industrial by-products that are typically disposed of in landfills or open areas, leading to environmental pollution. Their utilization in concrete production provides a sustainable solution for managing these wastes.

5.2 Reduction in Environmental Pollution

- **Stone Slurry:** Disposal of stone slurry in water bodies or open areas can lead to water and soil pollution due to its fine particles and chemical composition. Using stone slurry in concrete prevents its release into the environment and reduces pollution.
- **Waste Foundry Sand:** Waste foundry sand contains traces of heavy metals and chemicals, which can contaminate soil and groundwater if not properly managed. Incorporating it into concrete immobilizes these contaminants and minimizes their environmental impact.

5.3 Lower Carbon Footprint

- The production of cement, a key ingredient in concrete, is a major source of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. By improving the properties of concrete, stone slurry and waste foundry sand can reduce the overall cement content required in concrete mixes, thereby lowering the carbon footprint of concrete production.
- Additionally, the use of industrial by-products reduces the energy consumption associated with the extraction and processing of natural sand.

5.4 Contribution to Circular Economy

- The incorporation of stone slurry and waste foundry sand into concrete aligns with the principles of the circular economy, where waste materials are reused and recycled to create value. This approach reduces the reliance on virgin materials and promotes sustainable resource management.

VI. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

6.1 Cost Savings in Raw Materials

- **Natural Sand Replacement:** Natural sand is becoming increasingly expensive due to its scarcity and high demand. Replacing natural sand with stone slurry and waste foundry sand reduces the cost of raw materials, making concrete production more economical.
- **Waste Management Costs:** Industries that generate stone slurry and waste foundry sand incur significant costs for their disposal. By utilizing these materials in concrete, industries can reduce their waste management expenses.

6.2. Reduced Transportation Costs

- Stone slurry and waste foundry sand are often locally available near stone processing and metal casting industries. Using these materials in nearby concrete production facilities reduces transportation costs compared to sourcing natural sand from distant locations.

6.3 Improved Concrete Performance

- The enhanced mechanical and durability properties of concrete containing stone slurry and waste foundry sand can lead to longer service life and reduced maintenance costs for structures. This translates to economic benefits over the lifecycle of the concrete.



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6.4 Market Potential

- The growing demand for sustainable construction materials presents a significant market opportunity for concrete containing stone slurry and waste foundry sand. Construction companies and developers are increasingly seeking eco-friendly alternatives, and this study provides a viable solution.

VII. CONCLUSION

This study investigated the feasibility of using **stone slurry** and **waste foundry sand** as partial replacements for fine aggregate in concrete, with the aim of promoting sustainable construction practices and addressing environmental concerns associated with industrial waste disposal. The experimental program evaluated the mechanical, durability, and workability properties of concrete containing varying proportions of these materials. The key findings and conclusions of the study are summarized below:

7.1 Key Findings

1. Mechanical Properties:

- The **combined use of 10% stone slurry and 20% waste foundry sand** yielded the highest compressive strength (40.2 MPa at 28 days), representing a 4% increase over the control mix.
- The split tensile strength and flexural strength of the modified concrete also improved, reaching 3.5 MPa and 5.2 MPa, respectively.
- These improvements are attributed to the filler effect of stone slurry and the angular shape of waste foundry sand particles, which enhance the microstructure and interlocking within the concrete matrix.

2. Durability Properties:

- The modified concrete exhibited lower water absorption (3.0%), better sulfate resistance (9% strength loss), and improved acid resistance (6% weight loss) compared to the control mix.
- These results indicate that stone slurry and waste foundry sand enhance the durability of concrete, making it suitable for use in aggressive environments.

3. Workability:

- The slump values for all modified mixes remained within acceptable limits, with the combined mix (10% stone slurry + 20% waste foundry sand) showing a slump of 68 mm.
- This demonstrates that the workability of concrete is not significantly compromised by the incorporation of these materials.

7.2 Recommendations for Future Research

- **Long-Term Performance:** Further studies should investigate the long-term performance of concrete containing stone slurry and waste foundry sand under different environmental conditions, such as freeze-thaw cycles and marine exposure.
- **Optimal Mix Design:** Additional research is needed to optimize the mix design for different applications, such as high-strength concrete, self-compacting concrete, and lightweight concrete.
- **Environmental Impact Assessment:** A detailed life cycle assessment (LCA) should be conducted to evaluate the overall environmental impact of using stone slurry and waste foundry sand in concrete production.
- **Large-Scale Implementation:** Pilot projects should be undertaken to assess the feasibility of large-scale implementation of these materials in real-world construction projects.

7.3 Final Remarks

The findings of this study provide valuable insights for the construction industry, paving the way for the large-scale adoption of stone slurry and waste foundry sand in concrete production. By reducing the reliance on natural sand and promoting the efficient use of industrial by-products, this research contributes to the global shift towards sustainable development and resource conservation. The results of this study have the potential to transform the construction industry by offering a viable, eco-friendly alternative to conventional concrete.



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Summary of Key Contributions

Aspect	Contribution
Mechanical Properties	Improved compressive, split tensile, and flexural strength.
Durability Properties	Enhanced water absorption, sulfate resistance, and acid resistance.
Workability	Maintained acceptable slump values.
Environmental Benefits	Reduced natural sand consumption and pollution.
Economic Benefits	Lower material and waste management costs.

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