

## Current State Of Fibre Rein forced Self-Compacting Concrete

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**Abstract:** The relative compressive strength of concrete is high and tensile strength is low is a well-known fact, which provoked a host of investigations to circumvent the problems created by the low tensile strength. The presence of micro cracks hastened the relatively faster failure of concrete and researchers have been relentlessly working on this issue and came up with solutions like putting in fibers along with main reinforcement, whether natural or manufactured. The distributed fibres act as a bridge between micro-cracks leading to the improved mechanical properties such as ductility, impact strength, toughness, tensile strength and fatigue resistance. Moreover, the development of self-compacting concrete has enhanced the flowability of concrete at all nooks and corners. A combination of FRC and SCC has created a composite known as FRSCC to annihilate the negativities of both.

**Key words:** FRC, SCC, FRSCC, micro-cracks, fibres, flowability

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### I. Introduction

Fibre reinforced concrete (FRC), though capable of having better flexural properties, lacks in fillability which is taken care of by the self-compacting concrete (SCC). So, the development of Fibre Reinforced Self Compacting Concrete (FRSCC) is a boon to construction industries struggling with the problems like fillability, higher flexural strength, durability, etc. this work brings out what has been investigated so far. Hybridization of fibres would be advantageous for improving the overall properties of concrete, wherein one type of fibre which is smaller for bridge the micro-cracks and the larger second type of fibre which is longer can arrest propagation of macro-cracks leading to enhanced toughness [1]

### II. Published Work

Malhotra, et al [2] showed that polypropylene fiber reinforced, high-volume fly ash concrete has satisfactory workability, strength characteristics, very low permeability, low drying shrinkage, adequate ductility, and toughness characteristics.

Rossi [3] had shown that the minimum percentage of steel fibers needed is around 1 percent by volume and as the quantity of the cement paste and water-cement ratio (w/c) increases the compressive and uniaxial tensile strengths decrease compared to those of a normal concrete

Shin, et al [4], found that steel fiber reinforced high-strength concrete beams effectively resist abrupt shear failure. Tan, et al [5] had found that inclusion of fibers enhanced cracking load and the beam stiffness, as well as the creep and shrinkage restraints.

Coconut fibres provide excellent reinforcement for polymer concrete, increasing the fracture and flexural results [6]. Beneficial effects have been observed in reinforced engineered cementitious Composite members compared to conventional reinforced concrete [7]. External reinforcement of concrete beams without stirrups using epoxy bonded carbon fibre-reinforced-polymer sheets and strips could effectively be used as external torsional reinforcement [8]. Use of fibre-reinforced polymers as re-bars in reinforced concrete elements prevents corrosion effects that reduce the service life of members that use steel reinforcement [9].

The properties of SCC like flowability and high resistance to segregation can be effectively used to ensure filling of the heavily reinforced areas apart from eliminating the need for vibration along with reduced resource and maintenance requirements [10, 11].

Okamura et al [12], has proposed that SCC can be prepared by fixing the coarse aggregate 50% of the concrete volume and sand 40% of the mortar volume and then manipulate the water/powder ratio and super plasticizer dosage so that self-compactability can be achieved easily.

Khayat et al [13] investigated the workability requirements needed to secure self-consolidation along with field-oriented tests that can be used to evaluate deformability, filling capacity, and stability of SCC.

Zoran et al [14], investigated the properties of SCC with additives like fly ash, silica fumes, hydraulic lime and a mixture of fly ash and hydraulic lime and found that the addition of fly ash to the mixture containing hydraulic lime brings in substantial improvement in the behaviour of SCC.

Sri Ravindrarajah R. [15] investigated the effect of varying dosage of high-performance superplasticizer on the properties of flowing concrete ( $465 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ) as well as self-compacting concrete (350 and  $135 \text{ kg/m}^3$  of cement and fly ash) mixes namely workability, bleeding capacity, segregation potential, compressive and tensile strengths, and drying shrinkage. The mix compositions and superplasticizer dosage influenced drying shrinkage significantly.

Pai BHV et al [16] investigated the possibility of using Ground Granulated Blast furnace Slag (GGBS) and Silica fumes (SF) in preparation of SCC and is evaluated in terms of self-compactability, compressive strength, split tensile strength and flexural strength.

Hazrina Ahmad et al [17], suggested circumventing the lacunas of placing of reinforcement as well as compaction of normally vibrated concrete through the use of Steel Fibre Reinforced Self-compacting Concrete (SFRSC) and found steel fibres enhances the hardened properties of self-compacting concrete

Steffen Grunewald et al [18] compared the workability of plain SCC and SCC with steel fibres. Tests used to evaluate fresh characteristics were slump flow, fiber funnel and the J-ring.

The effect of steel fibres on the strength and behaviour of self-compacting concrete on flexural elements as well as durability aspects of fibre reinforced SCC was studied by Ganesan, et al [19,20] and found that the optimum volume fraction of fibres for better performance is 0.5% for aspect ratios 15 and 35.

Linerato Ferrara, et al [21] worked on the influence of fibres on grading of solid skeleton minimum content and rheological properties of paste required to achieve the required self-compactability and rheological stability by conducting test on plane and fibre reinforced concrete for various mix compositions.

A study by Mustafa et al [22], concluded that high-volume coarse fly ash can be used to produce fibre reinforced self-compacting concrete, though high fly ash compromised the strength slightly. The fly ash used did not meet the fineness requirements of ASTM C 618.

Mustafa et al [23], investigated the workability of hybrid fibre reinforced self-compacting concrete (HFR-SCC) as a function of fibre volume, length, and aspect ratios of the fibres, using two different types of steel fibres.

Osman General, et al [24] discussed how steel fibres enhance the toughness of hardened concrete significantly apart from arresting the crack propagation. Fibre reduces flowability but proportionately enhances toughness.

Chih-Ta Tsai, et al [25] worked on steel fibre reinforced self-compacting concrete (SFRSCC). The conclusions drawn are: (i) the SFRSCC designed by the densified mixture design algorithm (DMDA) method reduces the entanglement or balling problem of fibres. In order to have high flowing capability, the content of steel fibre should not be greater than 0.5% for normal weight SFRSCC made with crushed coarse aggregate. (ii) Higher fibre content increased compressive strength, flexural strength, abrasion resistance, and fibre crack-control effect. (3) Combination of steel fibre and pozzolanic material improves the bonding strength. (4) The range of electrical resistivity as well as the level of chloride ion permeability has remained in the passive range.

Cunha VMCF, et al [26] examined the complex behaviour of a self-compacting concrete reinforced with two hooked ends steel fibre contents both numerically as well as experimentally. They found that a linear trend exists between the number of effective fibres and both the stress and energy dissipation. The interface behaviour of steel fibres was obtained from single fibre pull-out tests.

Pereira, et al [27] investigated the tensile behaviour of self-compacting concrete (SCC) reinforced with two distinct hooked ends steel fibre contents ( $30$  and  $45 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ) was characterized by performing displacement controlled tensile tests and found that a linear relationship exists between the post-cracking parameters and the number of effective fibres. Predominant failure mode of the fibres was fibre pull out. They developed a stress-crack opening relationships from the stress- displacement curves.

Oucief H, et al [28] discussed about hardened properties of hybrid fibre reinforced self-compacting concrete and found it to be promising. They found that hybridization can enhance overall properties of SCC as well as a performance synergy. Control, single, two fibres hybrid composites were cast using different fibre type steel and polypropylene with different sizes and tested for flexural toughness tests. They used fibres of 30mm and 20 mm long. Hybrids based on steel fibres (20 mm) long and polypropylene fibres demonstrated some synergy. More over found that the short fibre is clearly far more effective in producing synergy in hybrids than the length fibre.

Torrijos MC et al [29] analysed the mesostructural homogeneity of plain and SFRSCC to be used in slender elements of considerable height, avoiding the use of conventional reinforcement. They measured rheological properties and self-compactability through tests. In the hardened state studies at the mesostructural

level include analysis of the distribution of the coarse aggregate and fibres along the height of the columns, measure of modulus of elasticity, compressive strength and ultrasonic pulse velocity.

Hemant B. Dhonde et al [30], worked on fresh and hardened properties of self-compacting fibre reinforced concrete (SCFRC), by adding steel fibres to enhance the tensile and shear resistance of the traditional fibre reinforced concrete, compromising the workability. The optimum fibre content to meet the workability requirements of the SCFRC mix was found to be suitable for application to the end regions of I-beams. Optimum fibre contents for SCFRC mixes used were: 1 % by volume of hooked short steel fibres (1.2 inch long) or 0.5 % by volume of hooked long steel fibres (2.4 inch long). Higher coarse aggregate / fine aggregate ratio reduces the filling ability and deformability of SCC, however, addition of VMA to concrete can ensure self-compacting capability. SCC with reasonable self-consolidation, without influencing the slump flow, could be possible using hooked short steel fibres ( $L = 30$  mm), whereas, hooked long steel fibres ( $L = 60$  mm) adversely influence filling.

Aly M. Said et al [31], investigated behaviour of beam-column joints cast using self-consolidating concrete under reversed cyclic loading wherein authors have cast full scale 3 m high beam-column joints as per the Canadian standards CSA A23.3-94 & ACI 352R-02. For comparison, specimen of these joints was made with normal concrete as well as SCC and was tested under cyclic load applied at the beam tip. They found that the beam-column joint of SCC have similar load carrying capacity to that of normal concrete joints up to a certain ductility level. The lower aggregate content in SCC is attributed to a different behaviour at high ductility level.

Kabir Shakya, et al [32] examined the application of steel fibres in beam-column joints of rigid-framed railway bridges to reduce longitudinal and shear re-bars. Authors investigated the effect of reducing steel re-bars in beam-column joints and use of steel fibre reinforced concrete. A control specimen was prepared following the structural design of existing railway bridge in Japan and three more specimens with reduced longitudinal re-bars (27%) and hoops in column (29.2%) were prepared. Volume fractions of steel fibres used were 0%, 1% and 1.5%. They concluded that when 1.5% steel fibres were added to the concrete, the number of crack formation in beam-column joint was decreased to a great extent.

Ganesan N, et al [33] investigated the behaviour of hybrid fibre reinforced concrete beam-column joints under reverse cyclic loads. The grade of concrete was M-60 and designed using modified ACI method. In this study total 12 beam-column joints with reinforcement were casted. In this study crimped steel fibres and polypropylene fibres in hybrid form were used. Volume fractions of crimped steel fibres were 0.5% and 1% and that of polypropylene fibres were 0.1%, 0.15% and 0.2%. The beam-column joint made from Hybrid Fibre Reinforced High Performance Concrete (HFRHPC) showed a significant increase in ultimate strength and first crack strength. It is possible to reduce the congestion of steel reinforcement in beam-column joints by using HFRHPC. With 1% steel fibres and 0.15% polypropylene fibres energy absorption capacity and displacement ductility factor increased by 3.6 times and 3.1 times respectively.

Alireza Khaloo, et al [34] investigated the mechanical performance of self-compacting concrete reinforced with steel fibres. They studied the effect of steel fibres on rheological properties, compressive strength, splitting tensile strength, flexural strength and flexural toughness. Volume fractions of steel fibres used were 0.5%, 1%, 1.5% and 2%. M-40 and M-60 grade concrete were designed. They determined rheological properties by slump flow test, L-box test, V-funnel test. They concluded that workability of SCC is decreased by adding steel fibres as well as compressive strength of SCC is also decreased by adding steel fibres.

Mohammed Alias Yusof, et al [35] investigated on the mechanical Properties of Hybrid Steel Fibre Reinforced Concrete with Different Aspect Ratio. They studied the mechanical properties of fresh and hardened state hybrid steel fibre reinforced concrete. The fibres were used of 30 mm (aspect ratio = 40) and 60 mm (aspect ratio = 80). Volume fractions of fibres were 0.5%, 1.0%, 1.5%, 2.0%. It has been found that at volume fraction 1.5% (70% long fibres and 30% short fibres) the hybrid steel reinforced concrete gave the highest flexural strength and split tensile strength. At volume fraction 1.5% (30% long fibres and 70% short fibres) the compressive strength attains maximum value. They have also observed that workability of concrete mix will reduced by increasing the percentage of fibre in the mix.

Ramadevi K et al [36] investigated the behaviour RC beam structures strengthened by hybrid-fibre reinforced concrete. Fibres used are polypropylene and crimped steel up to 2% by volume of concrete. Compared to the controlled specimen, the ultimate deflection of HFRC beam was found to be more.

Liu, Cong [37] investigated the seismic behaviour failure modes of beam-column joint assemblies reinforced with steel fibres. He has developed a simplified procedure to evaluate the joint-shear contribution provided by different amount of steel fibres with and without the presence of stirrups. Moreover, it has been found that by using 1% by volume steel fibres significantly reduce the lateral reinforcement in the beam. Steel fibres in the joint enhance the capability of energy dissipation and can retain high level of moment carrying capacity even after high intensity cyclic loading.

Gustavo J Parra Montesano's et al [38] studied the feasibility of using high performance fibre reinforced composite as a means to eliminate need for confinement reinforcement in beam-column connections subjected to earth quake induced loading. They have concluded that the beam-column connections constructed with HPFRCC material containing 1.5% volume fraction of ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene fibres exhibited excellent strength, deformation capacity and damage tolerance.

Ganesan N, et al [39] describes the experimental results of SFRHPC exterior beam-column joint subjected to cyclic loading for fibre volume fraction varying between 0 to 1%. They have concluded that these joints can undergo large displacements without developing wider cracks compared to HPC joints.

Perumal et al [40] investigated the effect of different proportions of hybrid fibre combinations (1.5% of steel fibre and 0 to 0.4% of polypropylene fibre) at beam-column joint. It has been observed that mix with 1.5% steel fibre and 0.2% of polypropylene fibre exhibited maximum strength deformation capacity, energy dissipation capacity and minimum damage.

Liberto Ferrara et al [41] tried to have correlation among fresh state performance, fibre dispersion and hardened state properties of SCC at the industry level. They found that superior mechanical performance of FRSCC in a cost effective way is possible through the dispersion and the orientation of fibres in concrete through a suitably balanced set of fresh state properties and a carefully designed casting procedure.

Mazaheripour H ET AL [42] investigated the effect of polypropylene fibres on LLSCC and found that when SCC was lightened to 75% of their normal weight, their fresh properties are affected immensely. Polypropylene fibre did not influence the compressive strength and elastic modulus. However, the tensile strength and flexural strength are enhanced.

Burcu Akcay et al [43] examined the effects of fibre dispersion on mechanical properties of SCC. They investigated the workability using three types of steel fibres in two volume fractions and found that mechanical properties of SCC can be enhanced with homogenous distribution of fibres.

Orbe A et al [44] worked on the structural application of SFRC. Various fibres were studied to find the suitable fibre. Steel fibre reinforced self-compacting concrete mix was designed for improved performance. A relationship between magnetic and mechanical properties were established in order to predict the softening and hardening in flexural behaviour of the composite.

Morteza H Begi et al [45] investigated the combined effect of fibers and nanosilica on SCC. They had tested and compared the mechanical, rheological and durability properties. They found that nanosilica and fibres can improve the mechanical properties and durability of SCC. Microstructural properties were studied using AFM and XRD

Amin Abrishambaf et al [46] studied the influence of the fibre distribution and orientation on the post-cracking behaviour of steel fibre reinforced SCC. Post cracking behaviour was assessed by both splitting tensile tests and uniaxial tensile tests. They found that the splitting tensile test overestimated the post-cracking parameters.

Pajak M et al [47] studied the flexural behaviour of SCC reinforced with straight and hooked end steel fibres at levels of 0.5%, 1% and 1.5% and compared it with normally vibrated concrete. They proposed a deflection-CMOD (crack mouth opening displacement) relationship for SFRSCC.

Mazaheripour H, et al [48] investigated the GFRP-concrete bond behaviour to formulate sound design equations because the currently available bond laws of conventional steel bars cannot be used. Thirty six pull out bending tests were carried out to evaluate the bond performance between GFRP bars and steel fibre reinforced SCC. SFRSCC cover and bond length paid an important role on the bond strength.

Ponikiewski Tomasz et al [49] investigated the effect the method of forming of beam elements has on the distribution of steel fibres. They have experimented on beams cast with dimensions  $120 \times 15 \times 15 \text{ cm}^3$  and  $180 \times 15 \times 15 \text{ cm}^3$ . The self-compacting mixture contained steel fibres of varying lengths (35 and 50 mm) and varying levels of their volume ratio in the mix (0.5% - 1.0% - 1.5%). They had used computed tomography for 2D and 3D images for distribution of fibres throughout the internal volume of the concrete.

Youok Setyo Hadiwidodo et al [50] applied Taguchi method in SCC freshened property studies. They found that Taguchi method is a promising approach to optimize mix proportions to meet the freshened properties of SCC.

Arabi NS Alqadi et al [51] examined the influence of cement content, water to powder ratio, fly ash content and superplasticizer on compressive strength of SCC using contrast constant factorial design and response surface methodology. They found that the above mentioned variables as well as their interactions influence compressive strength.

Wu-Jian Long et al [52] tried to model the effect of mixture parameters and material properties on the hardened properties of pre-stressed self-compacting concrete and to identify the relative significance of the primary parameters and their interactions in terms of the mechanical and visco-elastic properties of SCC

Wu-Jian Long, et al [53], investigated the effect of chloride penetration of hybrid fibre reinforced self-compacting concrete (SCC). They found that the chloride penetration resistance of concrete can be improved by



single incorporation of either carbon or cellulose fibres. They used the orthogonal array for planning the experiment.

Athiyamaan V, et al [54] discussed the use of statistical approaches like DOE is used in optimizing the concrete performance. Statistical models could be developed to create predictive models to select optimal combination of various parameters to meet the objectives.

### **III. Conclusion**

Literature survey conducted establishes that many researchers have developed SCC and evaluated various properties of it, attributing to its properties to ensure filling of the regions otherwise difficult to fill with normal concrete.

Further, investigators studied the effect of addition of various fibres on different properties of normal concrete, whereas few researchers have attempted the same with SCC. They found that addition of fibres in to SCC improves hardened properties of it.

However, the investigation of one of the most critical area of concrete structures, namely beam-column joint, especially using SCC with fibres is not much ventured into. This investigation is imperative looking into the susceptibility of RCC structures, particularly joints to failure under seismic loading conditions. Such loading situation demands the structure to have high ductility ratios and able to absorb as much as energy as possible after the initiation of yielding. The structures ductility ratio as well as the ability to absorb energy is enhanced by the addition of short and long fibres into SCC, which in turn will prevent catastrophic failure of joints of the structures.

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