



## Study on Flexural properties of folded plates covered with GGBS replaced ferrocement concrete

*S.Sameer<sup>1</sup>, P. Dhanabal<sup>2</sup>, P. Narendra Reddy<sup>3</sup> and P. Hema Kumar<sup>4</sup>*

*Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Annamacharya Institute of Technology and science, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, India<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>*

### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to evaluate suitability and flexural behavior of ferro-cement in folded plates. Ferro cement is one of the building materials that is emerging as a replacement for the traditional RCC in many respects. Ferro cement is the future of the low cost houses and precast houses. Folded plates are the economical and aesthetic solution for longer span roofs. This project incorporates the benefits of both Ferro cement and folded plates. In ferrocement, cement is partially replaced with GGBS. The trough style Ferro cement folded plates of size 0.6 m x 1.80 m x 0.15 m are cast in consideration of various journals & RCC folded plates when fixing dimensions. properties of the materials used for casting are tested and the compressive strength of the mortar used is tested, the test is performed at 1:2 cement: sand ratio and 0.35 water cement ratio. The specimen is cast with a 2 mm opening stainless steel mesh and 2 layers are laid on the front and back sides of 6mm dia 150mm of spaced skeleton steel. Cast specimens are tested for 28 days in loading frame strength and the results are compared with analytical analysis The use of ANSYS for load vs deflection and the suitability of the application of ferro-cement in folded plates are studied. The test results show good results, finally with low expenditure and low self-weight Ferro cement structures being a good alternative to RCC.

**Keywords:** Ferro-cement, Flexural behaviour, folded plates, ANSYS, suitability of ferro-cement in folded plates, skeleton steel.

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Ferrocement

The term "Ferro cement" has been used by extension to other composite materials, including those containing no cement or ferroceous content ( R. Mohana et al., 2021) : ( Ren Xin and Pengfei Ma. 2021): ( Abeer M. Erfan et al., 2021) : ( Fatimah H. Naser et al., 2020) : (T. Chaitanya Srikrishna and T.D. Gunneswara Rao, 2020) : (Hosein Naderpour et al., 2020). Ferrocement is a system of reinforced mortar or plaster spread over a metal mesh sheet, woven with extended metal or metal fibers and tightly spaced thin steel rods such as rebar, metal widely used iron or other form of steel (M.S. Deepak et al., 2020) : ( I.A. Sharaky et al., 2020) : (Ubaid Ahmad Mughal et al., 2019) : ( Ru Mu, Peng Xing et al., 2019) . Ductility was found to be strongly influenced by the form of mesh reinforcement (Ibrahim G. Shaaban et al., 2018). Many ferrocement beams displayed higher loads of serviceability compared to control specimens (Dimas Smith et al., 2021) : ( Majid Jafar Sada et al., 2021) : ( Wenhui Zhao et al., 2021). However, specimens reinforced with expanded metal mesh often reached their serviceability loads prior to the initiation of the first crack, while other specimens reinforced with welded wire mesh formed the first crack before reaching their serviceability load (Juby Mariam Boban et al., 2021) : ( Muazzam Ghous Sohail et al., 2021) : ( M. Amala, Lenin Dhal et al., 2021) : ( Ibrahim G. Shaaban et al., 2018). The ultimate load is roughly twice that of the first crack load. The contribution of the bamboo strips to the mortar and wire mesh of the theoretical final load capacity of the slab is approximately three times higher corresponding to the experimental final load capacity (Oscar Javier Sandoval et al., 2021) : ( Sarga S et al., 2021) : ( Linda Giresini et al., 2021) : ( S. Jeeva Chithambaram

\* Corresponding author.. P. Dhanabal  
E-mail address: [dhanabalge@gmail.com](mailto:dhanabalge@gmail.com)

and Sanjay Kumar, 2017). Replacement of concrete with new advanced eco- friendly materials and wastes also help to decrease the demand and scarcity of existing materials (P. Dhanabal et al., 2021).

### Folded Plates

Folded plate roofs are composed of a series of rectangular reinforced concrete slabs (whose length is more than three times its width) placed inclined to one another and joined monolithically, one after the other, along their longitudinal edges. The unit as a whole is supported rigidly at its ends, by transverse diaphragms, as in the case of cylindrical shells. These structures are also called prismatic structures or hipped plates. These can be made into various shapes ( Quan Shi et al., 2017) : ( Yuguo Sun et al., 2017) : ( S. Sadamoto et al., 2017) : ( Julien Gamarro et al., 2017). Since the structure is proposed to be folded using a pre-cut board, the dimensions of the square dome are reduced(Zhejian Li et al., 2018). The geometric constraints of the folded plates, such as the conditions at the end and the intermediate supports, are modelled by very rigid springs (R.J. Jiang, F.T.K et al., 2011). The major objective of this study is to achieve high strength mortar also bending response above folded plate with covered with ferrocement under UDL. Compare experimental results between ANSYS Analysis at the end.

## 2. Material and Properties

### Cement

Cement used for this study was having specific gravity 3.15. It confirms to IS: 12269(2013). Properties of cement given in Table 1.

S.No	Property	Test Result
1	Normal consistency	33%
2	Initial and Final setting time	55 min & 295 min
3	Specific Gravity	3.17
4	Soundness (Le-Chatlier Exp)	1.00 mm

Table 1: Properties of Cement

### Ground Granulated Blast furnace Slag (GGBS)

GGBS with Specific gravity 1.24 used for this work .

### Steel

Steel is an alloy of iron and carbon containing less than 2 per cent of carbon and 1 per cent of manganese and minimal quantities of silicon, phosphorus, Sulphur and oxygen. Square mesh used for study given in Figure 1. Steel is the most important engineering and building commodity in the world. It is used in every part of our lives; in vehicles and building goods, in refrigerators and washing machines, in cargo ships and in surgical scalpels.

Ultimate hexagonal mesh strength= 270 N/mm<sup>2</sup>.

Yield strength of 6mm MS bar, FI= 250 N/mm<sup>2</sup>.

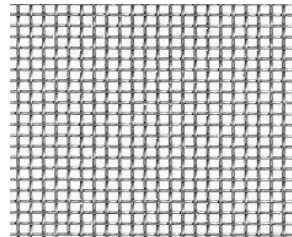


Figure 1: Square mesh

### 2.4 Sand

Sand with specific gravity sand was 2.62. It confirms to IS 2386 (1963). Properties of fine aggregate given in Table 2.

S.No	Property	Test result
1	Specific Gravity	2.60
2	Bulk density	1750
3	Fineness Modulus	2.77

Table 2: Properties of Fine Aggregate.

### 2.5 Water

Ordinary water with pH 7.40 was used for this study.

## 3. Numerical Analysis

Numerical analysis very important to compare results with experimental study results. In this work we analysis the folded plates with ferrocement model using Ansys Software. The numerical results (Maximum deformation and Ultimate load) compared with Experimental tested results.

### 3.1 Element types

The types of elements for this used for study model are given in Table 3.

Cement mortar	Solid 65
Steel reinforcement	Beam 188
Mesh	Shell 181

Table 3: Types of elements in ANSYS

#### 4. Hardened Properties

##### 4.1 Compressive Strength of Mortar

The average strength of three cubes was taken as the compressive strength of the Mortar casted ratio. The specimens used for this purpose are (70.6x 70.6x 70.6) mm mortar cubes. Compressive strength results are given in Table 4. Mortar cubes with 10 % replacement of GGBS has given high compressive strengths compared to others.so that we have adopted 10% GGBS as cement replacement in our experimental work.

S.No	GGBS replacement	Compressive strength (MPa)
1	10 %	61
2	20 %	55
3	30%	57

Table 4: 28 day's compressive strength of mortar cubes

##### 4.2 Casting & Testing Of Ferro Cement Folded Plate Specimens

Two specimens are tested with dimensions of 0.6m x 1.82m x 0.15 m with thicknesses of 25mm and 6mm mild steel rods as a skeleton reinforcement with a spacing of 150mm c/c (as shown in figure) with a stainless steel mesh with a spacing of 2mm are placed on both sides of the skeleton reinforcement with a cover of 9mm. Specimen reinforcement in folded plate used for work shown in figure 5.

##### 4.3 Manufacturing of Test Models

The mortar was placed in the frame within a few minutes of the time of the final mixing and the manual compaction was used to compact the concrete in the frame. During the casting of the specimen, the mortar with trough force should be applied for proper compaction of the material since the chicken mesh is placed. The surface was eventually finished using steel troughs. After 24 hours of the mortar, the specimen is demolished.

The specimen was shielded to avoid the evaporation of water by the use of gunny bags after the destruction of the formwork. The specimens were healed by ambient healing prior to the date of research by gunny bags. The specimens were painted with white lime water solution so that cracks were clearly observed during the test. The positions of the deflection gauge on the bottom of the specimens were labeled. Casting of specimen covered with GGBS replaced ferrocement shown in figure 6.

#### 4.4 Experimental Setup

##### 4.4.1 Loading Systems

Application of uniformly distributed load: Uniformly distributed load is applied to specimens on a ridge plate by means of a 100-ton jack manual. The load was assessed by a test ring with a capacity of 10 tonnes. A cylindrical steel plate of 8 cm diameter was used to transmit the load from the jack to the specimen

##### 4.4.2 Setup Test Models for Testing

The test model was shifted to its place on the loading frame using an electrical crane with a capacity of 100 tonnes. The specimens rest on the top of the test frame for simply assisted edge condition. Placing of folded plate in loading frame given in figure 7. Ferrocement folded plate during testing shown in figure 8.

##### 4.4.3 Test results

Zero reading of the dial gauges, a test ring was registered. The load has been noted down. The load was then progressively added to the manual jack and the load readings were taken from the test ring. After each loading, the deflection readings were registered. The process was continued until the cracks became evident and the load at which the cracks began was noted. More loading was then applied until the crack propagation was complete. This stage was followed by excessive deflections, as clearly indicated by the continuous rotation of the dial gauges, and the failure load was registered. Load and Deflection results of specimen 1 and 2 are given in Table 5 and Table 6.

S.No	LOAD 'kN'	Deflection 'mm'	Remarks
1	0	0	-
2	1.33	2.8	-
3	2.66	4.95	-
4	4	5.64	-
5	5.33	9.08	-
6	6.66	9.73	First crack load
7	8	11.72	-
8	9.33	13.2	-
9	10.66	15.8	-

Table 5 load deflection behavior for specimen 1

S.No	Load kN	Deflection 'mm'	Remarks
1	0	0	-
2	1.33	1.22	-
3	2.66	2.03	-
4	4	4.03	-

5	5.33	4.18	-
6	6.66	5.00	-
7	8	6.08	First crack
8	9.33	6.67	-
9	10.66	7.32	-
10	12	9.05	-
11	13.33	-	-
12	14.66	-	-
13	16	-	Ultimate load

Table 6: load deflection behavior for specimen 2

## 5. Discussion of results

### 5.5.1 Observation of Crack Development

The Experimental Crack Pattern of The folded plate shown in Fig., For Simply Supported. Generally for RCC trough type folded plate crack is observed in transverse section at tension zone which is on bottom side of the plate since moment carrying capacity is weak in longitudinal direction rather than transverse section.

### 5.5.2 Load deflection behavior

Ferro cement trough type folded plate crack is, initially started at bottom in transverse section similar to the RCC folded plate but after that it is observed that is also get cracked in longitudinal section with increased deflection when compared to the RCC since Ferro cement is flexible member.

### 5.5.3 Comparison of first crack load and ultimate load

For the tested 2 specimens the first crack load is observed at 8 kN & 6.6 kN /m respectively and the ultimate load is observed at 16 kN & 14.4 kN respectively.

### 5.5.4. Comparison of Experimental and Analysis Results:

Comparison result of Folded ferrocement plates performance in Numerical and Experimental Investigation given in Table 7.

S. No	ANSYS	Experimental
ultimate load	23 KN/m	16 KN/m
max deformation	15 mm	9.05mm (8.0 KN/m)

Table-7: Results drawn from ANSYS

## 6. Conclusion

The below conclusion we arrived at the end of this work

- ❖ Ferro cement systems are high ductile structure failure of the members only by cracking not by sudden failure, even at higher loads.
- ❖ Use of Ferro cement in folded plates due to good results as folded plates are effective for a longer period of time. Ferro cement has rendered the components smaller for carrying the load because Ferro cement elements are high on stress as reinforcement is spread.
- ❖ For the tested 2 specimens the average first crack load is observed at 8 kN/m and the ultimate load is 16 kN /m respectively. The analytical values are nearer to the experimental values
- ❖ Ultimate load is 25% higher than the first crack load in experimental observation.
- ❖ The cracks observed in the folded plate of ferrocement begin at the tension zone.

## REFERENCE

1. R. Mohana, S. Prabavathy, S.M. Leela Bharathi, Sustainable utilization of industrial wastes for the cleaner production of ferrocement structures: A comprehensive review, Journal of Cleaner Production, Volume 291,2021, 125916,ISSN 0959-6526, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.125916> .
2. Ren Xin, Pengfei Ma,Experimental investigation on the in-plane seismic performance of damaged masonry walls repaired with grout-injected ferrocement overlay,Construction and Building Materials, Volume 282, 2021,122565,ISSN 0950-0618, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2021.122565> .
3. Abeer M. Erfan, Ragab M. Abd Elnaby, Ammar Elhawary, Taha A. El-Sayed, Improving the compressive behavior of RC walls reinforced with ferrocement composites under centric and eccentric loading,Case Studies in Construction Materials,Volume 14,2021,e00541,ISSN 2214-5095, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cscm.2021.e00541> .
4. Fatimah H. Naser, Ali Hameed Naser Al Mamoori, Mohammed K. Dhahir,Effect of using different types of reinforcement on the flexural behavior of ferrocement hollow core slabs embedding PVC pipes, Ain Shams Engineering Journal,2020,ISSN 2090-479, [doi.org/10.1016/j.asej.2020.06.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asej.2020.06.003) .
5. T. Chaitanya Srikrishna, T.D. Gunneswara Rao,A study on flexural behavior of geopolymer mortar based ferrocement,Materials Today: Proceedings,2020,ISSN 2214-7853, [doi.org/10.1016/j.matpr.2020.09.313](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matpr.2020.09.313) .
6. Hosein Naderpour, Danial Rezazadeh Eidgahee, Pouyan Fakharian, Amir Hossein Rafiean, Seyed Meisam Kalantari,A new proposed approach for moment capacity estimation of ferrocement members using Group Method of Data Handling, Engineering Science and Technology, an International Journal,Volume 23, Issue 2,2020,Pages 382-391,ISSN 2215-0986, [doi.org/10.1016/j.jestch.2019.05.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jestch.2019.05.013) .
7. M.S. Deepak, M. Surendar, B. Aishwarya, G. Beulah Gnana Ananthi,Bending behaviour of ferrocement slab including basalt fibre in high strength cement matrix,Materials Today: Proceedings,2020,ISSN 2214-7853, [doi.org/10.1016/j.matpr.2020.08.074](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matpr.2020.08.074) .

8. I.A. Sharaky, Heba A. Mohamed, L. Torres, Mohamed Emara, Flexural behavior of rubberized concrete beams strengthened in shear using welded wire mesh, *Composite Structures*, Volume 247, 2020, 112485, ISSN 0263-8223, doi.org/10.1016/j.compstruct.2020.112485 .
9. Ubaid Ahmad Mughal, Muhammad Azhar Saleem, Safeer Abbas, Comparative study of ferrocement panels reinforced with galvanized iron and polypropylene meshes, *Construction and Building Materials*, Volume 210, 2019, Pages 40-47, ISSN 0950-0618, doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2019.03.147 .
10. Ru Mu, Peng Xing, Junchao Yu, Luansu Wei, Quanming Zhao, Longbang Qing, Jian Zhou, Wenling Tian, Shuling Gao, Xiaoyan Zhao, Xiaowei Wang, Investigation on reinforcement of aligned steel fiber on flexural behavior of cement-based composites using acoustic emission signal analysis, *Construction and Building Materials*, Volume 201, 2019, Pages 42-50, ISSN 0950-0618, doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2018.12.084 .
11. Ibrahim G. Shaaban, Yousry B. Shaheen, Essam L. Elsayed, Osama A. Kamal, Peter A. Adesina, Flexural characteristics of lightweight ferrocement beams with various types of core materials and mesh reinforcement, *Construction and Building Materials*, Volume 171, 2018, Pages 802-816, ISSN 0950-0618, doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2018.03.167 .
12. Dimas Smith, Carlos Graciano, Gabriela Martínez, Expanded metal: A review of manufacturing, applications and structural performance, *Thin-Walled Structures*, Volume 160, 2021, 107371, ISSN 0263-8231, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tws.2020.107371 .
13. Majid Jafar Sada, Sa'ad Fahad Resan, Structural behavior of hybrid reinforced concrete beams of trapezoidal section, *Materials Today: Proceedings*, Volume 42, Part 5, 2021, Pages 2733-2741, ISSN 2214-7853, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matpr.2020.12.713 .
14. Wenhui Zhao, Chengbin Du, Liguang Sun, Xiaocui Chen, Experimental study on fracture behaviour of concrete after low-cycle reciprocating loading, *Construction and Building Materials*, Volume 276, 2021, 122190, ISSN 0950-0618, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2020.122190 .
15. Juby Mariam Boban, Anjana Susan John, A review on the use of ferrocement with stainless steel mesh as a rehabilitation technique, *Materials Today: Proceedings*, Volume 42, Part 2, 2021, Pages 1100-1105, ISSN 2214-7853, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matpr.2020.12.490 .
16. Muazzam Ghous Sohail, Nasser Al Nuaimi, Rami A. Hawileh, Jamal A. Abdalla, Kais Douier, Durability of plain concrete prism strengthened with alvanized steel mesh and CFRP laminates under harsh environmental conditions, *Construction and Building Materials*, Volume 286, 2021, 122904, ISSN 0950-0618, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2021.122904 .
17. M. Amala, Lenin Dhal, V. Gokul, S. Christi, K. Dhanasekar, Strengthening of compression member by ferrocement with high performance mortar – Jacketing technique, *Materials Today: Proceedings*, Volume 43, Part 2, 2021, Pages 1810-1818, ISSN 2214-7853, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matpr.2020.10.495 .
18. Ibrahim G. Shaaban, Yousry B.I. Shaheen, Essam L. Elsayed, Osama A. Kamal, Peter A. Adesina, Flexural behaviour and theoretical prediction of lightweight ferrocement composite beams, *Case Studies in Construction Materials*, Volume 9, 2018, e00204, ISSN 2214-5095, doi.org/10.1016/j.cscm.2018.e00204 .
19. Oscar Javier Sandoval, Caori Takeuchi, Julian Carrillo, Bryan Barahona, Performance of unreinforced masonry panels strengthened with mortar overlays reinforced with welded wire mesh and transverse connectors, *Construction and Building Materials*, Volume 267, 2021, 121054, ISSN 0950-0618, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2020.121054 .
20. Sarga S. Anand, R. Nirmala, D. Ajith Kumar, Varuturi Srikanth, M. Sunil Kumar, An experimental and numerical investigation on flexural characteristics of wire mesh reinforced concrete beam blended with rice husk ash (RHA) and nano silica, *Materials Today: Proceedings*, 2021, ISSN 2214-7853, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matpr.2020.11.298 .
21. Linda Giresini, Flavio Stochino, Mauro Sassu, Economic vs environmental isocost and isoperformance curves for the seismic and energy improvement of buildings considering Life Cycle Assessment, *Engineering Structures*, Volume 233, 2021, 111923, ISSN 0141-0296, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.engstruct.2021.111923 .
22. S. Jeeva Chithambaram, Sanjay Kumar, Flexural behaviour of bamboo based ferrocement slab panels with flyash, *Construction and Building Materials*, Volume 134, 2017, Pages 641-648, ISSN 0950-0618, doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2016.12.205 .
23. P. Dhanabal, K.S. Sushmitha, P. Narendra Reddy, Study on properties of concrete with Electronic waste, Volume 36 , pages 48-58, No 1 (2021), http://www.ricuc.cl/index.php/ric/article/view/1174
24. Quan Shi, Xiaoqiang Shi, Joseph M. Gattas, Sritawat Kitipornchai, Folded assembly methods for thin-walled steel structures, *Journal of Constructional Steel Research*, Volume 138, 2017, Pages 235-245, ISSN 0143-974X, doi.org/10.1016/j.jcsr.2017.07.010 .
25. Yuguo Sun, Yanxiao Li, Prediction and experiment on the compressive property of the sandwich structure with a chevron carbon-fibre-reinforced composite folded core, *Composites Science and Technology*, Volume 150, 2017, Pages 95-101, ISSN 0266-3538, doi.org/10.1016/j.compscitech.2017.06.029 .
26. S. Sadamoto, S. Tanaka, K. Taniguchi, M. Ozdemir, T.Q. Bui, C. Murakami, D. Yanagihara, Buckling analysis of stiffened plate structures by an improved meshfree flat shell formulation, *Thin-Walled Structures*, Volume 117, 2017, Pages 303-313, ISSN 0263-8231, doi.org/10.1016/j.tws.2017.04.012 .
27. Julien Gamarro, Christopher Robeller, Yves Weinand, Rotational mechanical behaviour of wood-wood connections with application to double-layered folded timber-plate structure, *Construction and Building Materials*, Volume 165, 2018, Pages 434-442, ISSN 0950-0618, doi.org/10.1016/j.conbuildmat.2017.12.178 .
28. Zhejian Li, Wensu Chen, Hong Hao, Crushing behaviours of folded kirigami structure with square dome shape, *International Journal of Impact Engineering*, Volume 115, 2018, Pages 94-105, ISSN 0734-743X, doi.org/10.1016/j.ijimpeng.2018.01.013 .
29. R.J. Jiang, F.T.K. Au, A general finite strip for the static and dynamic analyses of folded plates, *Thin-Walled Structures*, Volume 49, Issue 10, 2011, Pages 1288-1294, ISSN 0263-8231, doi.org/10.1016/j.tws.2011.05.006 .
30. IS: 12269, "Specifications for 53 grade ordinary Portland cement", Bureau of Indian standards (BIS), New Delhi, India, 2013.
31. IS 2386, "Methods of tests for aggregates for concrete", Bureau of Indian standards (BIS), New Delhi, India, 1963.