POTENTIAL OF KENAF AND COIR FIBERS AS THERMAL INSULATORS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
ABSTRACT	vii
ABSTRAK	viii

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of Study	1
1.2	Objective of Study	4
1.3	Problem Statement	4
1.4	Significance of Study	4
1.5	Scope and Limitation of the Study	5

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	Heat 7	Heat Transfer and Thermal Insulation		
2.2	Concept of Heat Transfer		8	
	2.2.1	Conduction	8	
	2.2.2	Convection	9	
	2.2.3	Radiation	9	
2.3	Factors Influencing the Performance of Insulator		10	
	2.3.1	Density of the Fiber	10	
	2.3.2	Ratio of the Fiber	11	
	2.3.3	Thermal Conductivity of the Fiber	11	

ABSTRACT

POTENTIAL OF KENAF AND COIR FIBERS AS THERMAL INSULATORS

This study was done to investigate potential of using kenaf and coir fibers as thermal insulators. Different fiber ratio of 100% kenaf, 100% coir, 75% kenaf 25% coir and 25% kenaf 75% coir were used in creating the insulators walls. The thermal conductivity of each fiber was recorded for every 10 minutes. Thermal insulating capabilities were observed based on the change in temperature. The model buildings were exposed under the sunlight for 8 hours. From the results, it was found that denser materials have higher thermal conductivity and therefore are poor insulators, whereas the lightweight materials have lower thermal conductivity and considered as better thermal insulators. The 75% kenaf 25% coir of treated fiber was founded to be the best combination as thermal insulators. Meanwhile, 100% untreated kenaf fiber was known as the best fiber for making thermal insulator.