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**POLYPROPYLENE FIBRE REINFORCED
LATERITE BRICK**

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ABSTRACT

The main aim of this research was to study the effect of incorporation of polypropylene fibres in the non-fired pressed laterite bricks. The objectives of the research were to study the physical properties including the size, weight, density and water absorption and determine the mechanical property, which was compressive strength. The effect of moisture content of constituent materials on the compressive strength control bricks was also determined. It was also important to observe the effect of various fibre contents. The tests were carried out according to BS 3821:1985 for clay bricks. The polypropylene fibre reinforced laterite (PFRL) bricks were pressed at factory and tested at Material Testing Laboratory, UiTM. Seven types of brick specimens were tested.

The findings of this research showed that, firstly, incorporation of polypropylene fibres between 0.5% to 2% into the bricks had increased the densities of PFRL bricks. Secondly water absorptions of low fibre content PFRL bricks (0.5%, 1% and 2%) were lower than the water absorption of control brick and water absorption of high fibre content PFRL brick (3% and 5%) were higher than water absorption of control brick. Lastly, the compressive strengths of low fibre

content PFRL bricks (0.5%, 1%, and 2%) were higher than compressive strength of control brick and the compressive strength of high fibre content of PFRL bricks (over 3%) were lower than the compressive strength of control brick. The highest strength obtained was 12.56MN/m² from the bricks with 0.5% fibre content.

TABLE OF CONTENT

NO		PAGE
	Abstract	
	Acknowledgement	i
	List of tables	ii
	List of figures	v
	List of photographs	vi
	List of appendix	vii
<hr/>		
1.0	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	General Background Of Fibre Reinforced Cement And Concrete	1
1.2	Research Objectives	4
1.3	Research Methodology	4
<hr/>		
2.0	THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES OF FIBRE REINFORCEMENT	
2.1	Introduction	6
2.2	The Failure Strain Of The Matrix	6
2.3	Elastic Modulus Of The Fibre	7
2.4	Fibre Strength	7
2.5	Volume Fraction Of Fibre	7
2.6	Bond Between Fibre And Matrix	8
2.7	Geometry Of The Fibres	8
<hr/>		
3.0	REINFORCING FIBRES	
3.1	Introduction	9
3.2	Man Made Fibre	11

3.3	Processing And Fabrication Of Polymer Fibres	
3.3.1	Introduction	14
3.3.2	Solution Spinning	14
3.3.3	Melt Spinning	15
3.3.4	Gel Spinning	17
3.3.5	Emulsion Spinning	17
3.4	Chemical Composition And Molecular Structure	18
3.5	Polypropylene (PP)	
3.5.1	Introduction	20
3.5.2	Mechanical Properties Of Polypropylene	21
3.5.3	Thermal Properties	23
3.5.4	Other Properties	24
3.6	Processability	26

4.0 MASONRY BRICKS

4.1	Introduction	28
4.2	Classification Of Bricks	29
4.2.1	Common Bricks	29
4.2.2	Facing Bricks	30
4.2.3	Engineering Bricks	30
4.3	Properties Of Bricks	30
4.3.1	Compressive Strength	31
4.3.2	Efflorescence And Soluble Salt Content	31
4.3.3	Water Absorption	32
4.3.4	Thermal Movement	32
4.3.5	Fire Resistance	32
4.3.6	Sound Insulation	33
4.3.7	Weight And Density	33