

A Brief report on the one day workshop on “Ferrocement Design and applications in Civil Engineering ”

One day workshop on “Ferrocement in Civil Engineering Structures” was organized on 3 February 2012 by department of civil engineering, Rajarambapu Institute of Technology, Rajaramnagar (Islampur, Dist. Sangli, Maharashtra) in association with Ferrocement Society.

The objectives of the workshop were learning the basics, unique features of the constituent materials, designs, techniques of fabrication and construction, various fields of applications. Very nice brochure was printed by the organizers for inviting the participants. Prof. H.S. Jadhav, HOD, Civil Department was the convener. The write up of the workshop

was given to all participants in CD form. During discussions, Prin. Dr. Mrs. Sushama Kulkarni expressed her interest for such new technologies and new research projects for the PG students.



After the registration of the participants the inaugural function started. The dignitaries enlightened the lamp with a photograph of Late Rajarambapu Patil on the background. Prof. M.T. Telsang, Dean, Academics, Dr. P. S. Patil, Coordinator for TEQIP, and the guest faculties were present on the dais. Prof. P.D. Kumbhar, coordinator, introduced the course and then Prof. Telsang extended his best wishes for the workshop. In his speech Prof Telsang said that RIT is getting Rs 12.5 Crores for upscaling of PG programs. This was the first program under TEQIP.

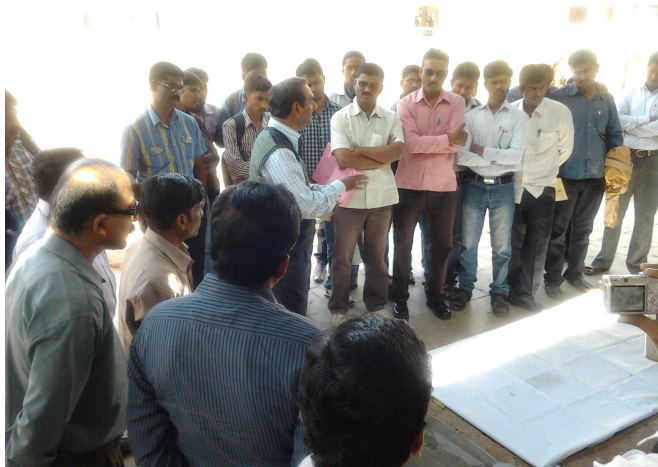
Before lunch 3 sessions were conducted. In the first session Shri Himanshu Parikh introduced the concept and explained the difference between the RCC and Ferrocement.

After that Dr. B. N. Divekar (Consultant, Ferrocement, Pune) who has 30 years experience in Ferrocement design and constructions explained the construction details and the procedure and innovative ideas. He showed how shapes can give strength to any structure. He explained that Ferrocement is like a Joint Hindu Family which has got unbreakable emotional attachments and bonds in between the family members. Ferrocement bends but does not crumble in to discrete separations. This proves its ability to sustain the earthquake forces. The structures built in Ferrocement are seismic resistant.



A demonstration of the actual press filling the mortar in the Ferro grilled mesh was arranged near the stage on the internal ground. All the students were impressed as they took part in the practical of mixing the mortar, and then press filling and finishing. Ferrocement skeletons were shown to the participants. The participants appreciated that no form work is needed for such construction because the mortar is with held by the layers of the chicken meshes.

A delicious lunch was arranged in Hostel Mess in the same campus. All the faculty and participants gathered in the auditorium at 1415 hrs after the lunch break .



Er. Chandramohan Hangekar then explained about the need of attachment of each engineer with the professional technical societies like Ferrocement Society, Pune. He showed the film of MOJO RELIC which showed that in Texax, the MOJO building which was built in Ferrocement in 1972, is still standing in tact after the heavy disaster and damage to every part except the Ferrocement structure. He also explained with video how a storage tank can be easily built by a farmer in his farm.

Mr. Ulhas Adhav explained the cost analysis and market rates of the ferrocement works. He explained that the ferrocement is not a cheap alternative but it can be cost effective.

Er. Prakash Nagnath explained with many photographs how Ferrocement is used for interior and exterior of the buildings.



Dr. B. N. Divekar then explained about his patented thermo coal sandwiched panel walls and the mass housing concepts using the Ferrocement formwork for beams and columns. He advised the PG students to have this as a project work. He impressed to start a self business in Ferrocement instead of getting employed.

The workshop ended with distribution of certificates to participants from Kolapur, Sangli etc. and vote of thanks by Ms. S. N. Patil.