



Cairo University

AN INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCING ECO-FRIENDLY GEO-POLYMER COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS

By

Nouran Mohammed Abdelfatah Mohammed Eloani

A Thesis Submitted to the
Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University
in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
in
Structural Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, CAIRO UNIVERSITY
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Title of Thesis:

An Innovative Technology for Producing Eco-Friendly Geo-polymer compressed Earth Blocks

Key Words:

Compressed Earth Blocks; Vibrated (CEBs); Slag; CKD; Geo-polymer Earth Blocks.

Summary:

The thesis represents an experimental program designed to study the possibility of replacing cement as a stabilizer in earth blocks by industrial by-product such as slag or thermally treated cement kiln dust in different temperature degrees. The effect of using different curing regimes on the performance of earth blocks, the effect of different ways of compaction, activator modulus (Ms) and water to binder ratio on the strength of compressed, vibrated earth blocks. Using slag, thermally treated CKD with alkali activators geo-polymer earth bricks was produced with properties complying with the Egyptian Standard Specifications (ESS).

Disclaimer

I hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work and that no part of it has been submitted for a degree qualification at any other university or institute.

I further declare that I have appropriately acknowledged all sources used and have cited them in the references section.

Name:

Date:

Signature:

Dedication

My Dad, Mum & My Husband,
My family that has a great effect on my life,

All my love to you
To Dr Mohamed Serag
Who has a great effect on my life

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First of all, thanks to **GOD** for giving me the effort to complete this work. Thanks a lot for my eminent professors who led me a lot for getting this work.

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Table of Contents

DISCLAIMER.....	I
DEDICATION.....	II
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	III
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	IV
List of Table.....	VII
List of Figures.....	VIII
ABSTRACT.....	XI
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. General.....	1
1.2. Objectives	2
1.3. Scope of Work	2
1.4. Thesis Layout.....	3
1.4.1. Chapter 1: Introduction.....	3
1.4.2. Chapter 2: Background & Literature Review.....	3
1.4.3. Chapter 3: Experimental Work.....	3
1.4.4. Chapter 4: Results and Discussion.....	3
1.4.5. Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations.....	3
CHAPTER 2: BACKGROUND & LITERATURE REVIEW.....	4
2.1. Background.....	4
2.1.1. Historical Back Ground of Earth Construction.....	4
2.1.2. Old Techniques Used in Earth Construction	5
2.1.2.1. Rammed Earth Construction	5
2.1.2.2. Cob Construction Technique	7
2.1.2.3. Wattle and Daub.....	8
2.1.3. Historical Back Ground of Compressed Earth Blocks	9
2.1.4. Development of Technology of Compressed Earth Blocks	10
2.1.5. Future of Compressed Earth Blocks	10
2.1.6. Soil as a Building Material	11
2.1.6.1. Soil Defination.....	11
2.1.6.2. Soil Problems.....	11
2.1.6.3. Ways to Overcome the Clayey Soil Problems.....	12
2.1.6.3.1. Soil Modification.....	12
2.1.6.3.2 Soil Stabilization.....	12

2.1.6.3.3. Types of Ordinary Stabilizers.....	12
2.1.6.3.3.1. Lime.....	12
2.1.6.3.3.2. Cement.....	13
2.2. Why Do We Have to Use Geopolymers.....	14
2.3. Examples of Geo-Polymer Materials.....	15
2.3.1. Granulated Blast Furnace Slag as a Building Material.....	16
2.3.2. Cement Kiln Dust as a Building Material.....	17
2.4. Literature Review.....	18
2.4.1. Engineering of Low Cost Bricks.....	18
CHAPTER 3: EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM.....	31
3.1. Introduction.....	31
3.2. Experimental Program.....	32
3.2.1. Overview of Experimental Program	32
3.2.2. Characterization of Used Materials.....	33
3.2.2.1. Slag.....	35
3.2.2.2. Kaolinite.....	35
3.2.2.3. Thermally Activated Kaolinite.....	37
3.2.2.4. Red Sand.....	38
3.2.2.5. Cement Kiln Dust (CKD).....	40
3.2.2.6. Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH).....	42
3.2.2.7. Sodium Silicate (Na_2SiO_3)	43
3.2.2.8. Water.....	43
3.2.3. Samples Preparation.....	44
3.2.3.1. Mixture Constituents.....	44
3.2.3.2. Mixing Procedure.....	47
3.2.3.3. Casting and Curing.....	48
3.2.3.4. Testing.....	56
CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	57
4.1. Introduction.....	57
4.2. The Effect of Slag Content.....	58
4.3. The Effect of Mechanical Stabilization.....	60
4.4. The Effect of Age on Compressive Strength.....	60
4.5. The Effect of Modular Ratio (MS) on Compressive Strength of Produced Geo-polymer Earth Blocks.....	63

4.6. The Effect of Water/ Na_2O Ratio on the Properties of Geo-polymer Earth Blocks.....	67
4.7. The Effect of Adding Lime to Slag on the Properties of Geo-polymer Earth Blocks.....	69
4.8. The Effect of Curing Regimes.....	70
4.9. The Effect of Kaolinite to Sand Ratio.....	71
4.10. The Effect of Adding Activated CKD and Activated Kaolinite on Compressive Strength.....	74
4.11. Durability.....	79
4.12. Compressive Strength Versus ESS.....	82
4.13. Physical Properties.....	87
4.14. Proposed Mixes and Production Technology.....	88
4.15. Chemical Analysis of CEB of Mix 17.....	89
CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION.....	90
5.1. Summary.....	90
5.2. Conclusions.....	91
5.3. Recommendations.....	92
REFERENCES.....	93
APPENDIX A: 1.....	97
APPENDIX A: 2.....	98
APPENDIX B: 1.....	99
APPENDIX B: 2.....	100
APPENDIX B: 3.....	101
APPENDIX B: 4.....	102
APPENDIX C.....	103
APPENDIX D.....	104

List of Tables

Table 2.1: Composition of geo-polymer mixes [33]	5
Table 2.2: Mix proportion by varying stabilizer [34]	23
Table 2.3: Chemical composition of red mud [34]	23
Table 2.4: Water absorption results [34]	25
Table 3.1: Chemical composition of slag by XRF.....	34
Table 3.2: Dry sieve analysis of slag.....	35
Table 3.3: Chemical composition of kaolinite by XRF.....	36
Table 3.4: Chemical composition of activated kaolinite at 700°C and 800°C by XRF.....	37
Table 3.5: Dry sieve analysis of activated kaolinite at 700°C and 800°C by XRF.....	38
Table 3.6: Chemical composition of red sand by XRF.....	39
Table 3.7: Chemical composition of CKD and thermally treated CKD by XRF.....	41
Table 3.8: Dry sieve analysis of CKD and thermally treated CKD by XRF.....	42
Table 3.9: Chemical composition of sodium hydroxide by XRF.....	42
Table 3.10: Chemical composition on sodium silicate by XRF.....	43
Table 3.11: Chemical composition on water by XRF.....	43
Table 3.12a: Mixtures design.....	44
Table 3.12b: Mixtures design.....	45
Table 3.13: Alkali activated solution PH and temperature.....	46
Table 4.1: The effect of percentage of adding lime and its type on the compressive strength of earth blocks at different ages.....	69
Table 4.2: Stability state of the specimens after immersion in tap water and sea water.....	80
Table 4.3: Physical properties of all tested mixes and ESS 1524-1993 requirements....	87
Table 4.4: Chemical analysis of a tested brick from mix 17.....	89

List of Figures

Figure 2.1: The great pyramids and the sphinx in Egypt.....	5
Figure 2.2: Old rammed earth construction	6
Figure 2.3: Rammed earth construction technique.....	6
Figure 2.4: Cob construction technique.....	7
Figure 2.5: Cob plastering.....	8
Figure 2.6: Wattle and daub construction technique.....	8
Figure 2.7: The Ramasseum in Egypt.....	9
Figure 2.8: Shapes of buildings built by compressed earth blocks.....	1
Figure 2.9: Past, current and future estimation of the amount of the world cement production [21]	14
Figure 2.10: Flow chart of iron and steel manufacturing processes [29]	16
Figure 2.11: Dust control device [31]	17
Figure 2.12: Compressive strength of alkali activated MK bricks specimens using different sand ratios with 40% slag [33]	20
Figure 2.13: Water absorption of geo-polymer bricks specimens using different sand ratios with 40% slag [33]	20
Figure 2.14: Compressive strength of alkali activated CKD and water cooled slag bricks [33]	21
Figure 2.15: Water absorption of alkali activated CKD and water cooled slag bricks [33]	21
Figure 2.17: Wet compressive strength with cement and lime [35]	26
Figure 2.18: Influence of clay content on compressive strength [38]	28
Figure 2.19: Influence of cement content on compressive strength [38]	28
Figure 2.20: Influence of CKD content on compressive strength [39]	29
Figure 3.1: Slag after grinding and sieving.....	33
Figure 3.2: Kaolinite quarry at Al Shokhna in Egypt.....	35
Figure 3.3: Kaolinite after grinding and sieving.....	36
Figure 3.4: Red sand after and sieving.....	38
Figure 3.5: Grading red sand.....	39
Figure 3.6: Cement kiln dust.....	40
Figure 3.7: Shrinkage cracks of mix 3.....	47
Figure 3.8: The mixer.....	48
Figure 3.9a: Steel moulds without cover.....	49
Figure 3.9b: Steel moulds with cover.....	49
Figure 3.10: Compressing process.....	50
Figure 3.11: Blocks after compressing process.....	50
Figure 3.12: Moulds used to prepare vibrating earth blocks.....	51
Figure 3.13: The vibrator.....	51
Figure 3.14: Wooden mould used to prepare the cubic specimens (50*50*50) mm...	52
Figure 3.15: Oven used for curing the specimens.....	53
Figure 3.16: The glass green house.....	54

Figure 3.17: Earth blocks after demoulding.....	54
Figure 3.18: Cubes (50*50*50) mm.....	55
Figure 3.19: Cubes after immersion in sea water for 90 days.....	55
Figure 3.20: Tenius Olsen Universal Testing Machine.....	56
Figure 4.1: Relationship between the slag content and 7 days compressive strength..	58
Figure 4.2: Relationship between the slag content and 28 days compressive strength	58
Figure 4.3: Relationship between the slag content and 90 days compressive strength.	59
Figure 4.4: Relationship between age and compressive strength (10% slag content).	60
Figure 4.5: Relationship between age and compressive strength (15% slag content).	61
Figure 4.6: Relationship between age and compressive strength (20% slag content).	61
Figure 4.7: Relationship between MS and compressive strength (10% slag content) at 7 days.....	63
Figure 4.8: Relationship between MS and compressive strength (10% slag content) at 28 days.....	63
Figure 4.9: Relationship between MS and compressive strength (10% slag content) at 90 days.....	64
Figure 4.10: Relationship between MS and compressive strength (15% slag content) at 7 days.....	64
Figure 4.11: Relationship between MS and compressive strength (15% slag content) at 28 days.....	65
Figure 4.12: Relationship between MS and compressive strength (15% slag content) at 90 days.....	65
Figure 4.13: Relationship between water/Na ₂ O and compressive strength at 7 days...	67
Figure 4.14: Relationship between water/Na ₂ O and compressive strength at 28 days.	67
Figure 4.15: Relationship between water/Na ₂ O and compressive strength at 90 days.	68
Figure 4.16: The influence of curing regime on 28 days earth blocks compressive strength for different types of blocks.....	70
Figure 4.17: Effect of kaolinite to sand ratio on compressive strength for different types of blocks at 7 days.....	71
Figure 4.18: Effect of kaolinite to sand ratio on compressive strength for CEB for different curing types at 28 days.....	72
Figure 4.19: Effect of kaolinite to sand ratio on compressive strength for VEB for different curing types at 28 days.....	72
Figure 4.20: Effect of kaolinite to sand ratio on compressive strength for cubes for different curing types at 28 days.....	73
Figure 4.21: Effect of kaolinite to sand ratio on compressive strength for different types of blocks at 90 days.....	73
Figure 4.22: Effect of using activated CKD and activated kaolinite on compressive strength for CEB blocks at 7 days.....	74
Figure 4.23: Effect of using activated CKD and activated kaolinite on compressive strength for VEB blocks at 7 days.....	75
Figure 4.24: Effect of using activated CKD and activated kaolinite on compressive strength for CEB blocks at 28 days.....	75

Figure 4.25: Effect of using activated CKD and activated kaolinite on compressive strength for VEB blocks at 28 days.....	76
Figure 4.26: Effect of using activated CKD and activated kaolinite on compressive strength for CEB blocks at 90 days.....	76
Figure 4.27: Effect of using activated CKD and activated kaolinite on compressive strength for CEB blocks at 90 days.....	77
Figure 4.28a: Relationship between the compressive strength at 90 days specimens cured at ambient temperature and immersed in sea water.....	81
Figure 4.28b: Relationship between the compressive strength at 90 days specimens cured at ambient temperature and immersed in sea water.....	81
Figure 4.29a: Compressive strength at 28 days CEB compared to Egyptian Standard Specifications.....	82
Figure 4.29b: Compressive strength at 28 days VEB compared to Egyptian Standard Specifications.....	83
Figure 4.30a: Compressive strength at 90 days CEB compared to Egyptian Standard Specifications.....	84
Figure 4.30b: Compressive strength at 90 days VEB compared to Egyptian Standard Specifications.....	85

Abstract

The need for eco-friendly building materials for sustainable development is now a major environmental issue in the construction industry. Compressed earth blocks are an old heritage needs to development to fit the development of construction field and to be compatible with the new standard specification of building bricks. Over the last decades the researchers tried to use the eco-friendly bricks because of its compatibility with the environment and its low costing compared with the ordinary burnt bricks. Those trials depended on using cement as the main stabilizer material with lime and trials to use cement kiln dust (CKD) as a partial substitution of cement with different percentages. In this thesis the steel slag was used as a main geo-polymer component to produce geo-polymer earth blocks. An extensive research works carried out in Cairo University under the supervision of Prof Dr. Mohamed Serag, two Pending Patents [No 106/2018] and [No 640/2018] Introduced to the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (Patent Office), the first concerning activating the CKD through thermal treatment to enhance its cementitious properties while the second concerning the production of geo-polymer earth blocks using industrial by-products. These bricks reduce the consumption of gas and fuel which are necessary for burning the silt bricks and the high price of cement which is necessary for producing cement bricks and burnt clay bricks.

Key Words:

Compressed Earth Blocks; (CEBs); Vibrated; Slag A; Water Cooled Steel Slag; CKD; Thermally Activated CKD; Geo-polymer Earth Blocks.