

Analysis of Unidirectional Aligned Banana and Glass Fibre Reinforced Polyester Composite for Tensile and Flexural Strength

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Abstract

The hybrid composite can be developed by utilizing at least two fibre reinforcement in the composite. In the present work, the hybrid composite was made by utilizing banana/glass fibre keeping fibre volume loading 40%. The banana fibre was treated with 5% NaOH. The tensile test and flexural test were preceded according to ASTM D3039 and ASTM D790 respectively. The results indicate that hybrid composite made with 5% NaOH treated banana fibre and glass fibre shows improved mechanical properties than non-treated fibre composite.

Keywords: Banana fibre; E-glass fibre; Flexural properties; Tensile properties; Unsaturated Polyester resin

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INTRODUCTION

The fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) composite material has been utilized in various applications as a customary development material for light load application. The high density to weight proportion, corrosion resistant property and low support cost are the appealing properties of FRP materials. This advantage of FRP material encourages the researchers to do more innovations. Composite materials are designed and developed using at least two constituent materials with fundamentally unique physical properties which stay independent and particular inside the composite structure. Most of the composites have high strength and more weight due to high density of reinforced fibre bonded in the matrix. So, the goal is generally to make a composite material which is strong and durable, regularly with a low density and weight. These days, composite

material generally utilized as substitution of ordinary plastic. Ordinarily thermosetting were used if it gets reinforced, at that point its properties get improved, by the idea of reinforcement of the fibre in the composite. The blend of at least two fibre in reinforcement is characterized as hybridization. The hybrid improves mechanical properties by giving the benefits of two different reinforced fibre characteristics. The portion of the synthetic fibre based hybrid composite have dominating influenced factors like variety in volume/weight division in stacking progression of fibre layer in FRP [1]. While incorporation of natural fibre was likewise revealed as an appropriate swap because of its high elongation which makes it as a potential substitute for automobiles as light to medium load application [2]. The alkaline treated banana fibre gives improved mechanical

properties and less water absorption [3]. NaOH treatment was found to improve mechanical properties because of expelled of waxy layers from the surface of the fibre, In alkaline 5% of NaOH concentration preferred best over the other 1%, 3%, 7%, 9% of concentration [4]. Until now the researchers have studied that the convectional composite replaced by adding the Natural fibre for light load application. Researchers found that mono fibre composite achieves lower strength than hybrid composite with same volume fraction, synthetic fibre with natural fibre as a reinforcement in matrix gives better adhesion composite structure improved mechanical properties in hybridization, when testing done as per ASTM standard. For hybrid composite most of the work reported on combination of glass fibre and carbon fibre with epoxy as a matrix, but both fibre have higher density, realistic advantage of hybrid is not fulfilled so, more experimental investigation is required using the combination of glass and natural fibre with polyester resin. In the experimental work, deficiency observed with combination of glass and natural fibre as well as natural with natural fibre with thermosetting binders. Moreover, to analyze mechanical properties like tensile strength and 3 point bending (flexure) test with treated and untreated fibre of long continuous unidirectional aligned (natural + synthetic) fibre reinforced plastics, more work needs to be done. Hybridize with treated fibre also needs to be investigated for different natural fibre based on volume fraction and test as per ASTM standard. In the recent experimental work, the mechanical properties of composite with 40% of fibre loading were studied. The point of this examination is to research the tensile properties in hybrid fibre reinforced composite by hand layup technique. To explore the conduct of such unique reinforcement in 40% of volume fraction of fibre according to ASTM D 3039 and ASTM D 790 tests followed by the experimental and analytical investigation done with the comparison. The objective of this work is to give a thorough comprehension about the impact of fibre hybridization in improving the mechanical properties of composite. The specific properties of the natural fibre

composites were found better than those of glass fibre. This recommended that natural fibre composites have a potential to replace glass in many engineering applications which do not require very high load bearing capabilities [16]. Generally, hybrid composite made via carbon fibre and glass, having high density, thickness and weight increment so natural fibre having less thickness can be use as reinforced with glass fibre give great outcome for light load application in automobile [5].

RULE OF MIXTURE

There are two unique approaches to choose the mechanical properties of hybrid composite materials, which are either using the weight fraction or using the volume fraction for fabrication of the composite. The strength and modulus of the hybrid composite can be derived from the Rule of hybrid mixture equation by neglecting the interaction between two system [6]. Rule of mixture and Rule of hybrid mixture were resolved subjected to the volume fraction of the composite constituents. Rule of mixture approach can be used to decide the vast majority of composite lamina properties [15].

Its equation as $(W_c = W_f + W_m), (V_c = V_f + V_m)$. _____ (1)

$$E_c = E_{f1}V_{f1} + E_{f2}V_{f2} + E_mV_m \text{ _____ (2)}$$

Theoretical calculation of tensile strength $\sigma_c = \sigma_{f1}V_{f1} + \sigma_{f2}V_{f2} + \sigma_m(1 - V_{f1} - V_{f2})$ _____ (3)

Theoretical calculation of flexure strength by equation $\sigma = 3FL / 2BH^2$ _____ (4)
[from ASTM D 790]

EXPERIMENTAL WORK

1. Materials

In this experiment, Glass and banana fibre is used for specimen preparation. Thermosetting resin is used as a matrix material that is polyester resin for the fabrication of hybrid composite. The glass fibre utilized in the current work is E-glass fibre which was provided by Triveni Fibre, Surat, Gujarat, India. The unsaturated polyester resin bought

from Sundaram Chemicals, utilized in the present work along with methyl ethyl ketone peroxide (hardener) and cobalt naphthene (quickenning agent) in ratio of 1:100 in resin Composition of glass fibre:

Various types of glass fibre are manufactured based on the compositions. In all of the glass fibre Silica and calcium oxide play major role. The other constituents used in glass fibre are given in the Table 1 below.[7]

Table 1: Composition of glass fibre [7].

Alloy (%)	E-glass	C-glass	S-glass
SiO ₂	55.2	65.0	65.0
Al ₂ O ₃	8.0	4.0	25.0
CaO	18.7	14.0	-
MgO	4.6	3.0	10.0
Na ₂ O	0.3	8.5	0.3
K ₂ O	0.2	-	-
B ₂ O	7.3	5.0	-

Glass fibre were obtained from sundaram chemicals Surat, Gujarat. Addition of glass fibre improves the mechanical strength and reduces the wear. The composites specimens fabricated by using hand layup method. Mechanical properties of tested glass fibre are given Table 2.

Table 2: Mechanical properties of glass fibre.

Properties	E-glass fibre
Density g/cm ³	2.5
Tensile Strength MPa	1700
Modulus of Elasticity GPa	72
Flexure strength Mpa	245
Elongation %	3.8
Flexure modulus GPa	1.52

a. Properties of banana fibre:

Banana fibre were obtained from Agriculture University Navsari, Gujarat and were extracted using rasporder machine. Banana fibre are obtained from waste products of banana cultivation. Because of high cellulose content, it shows good tensile properties. Mechanical properties of tested banana Fibre are given in the following Table 3.

Table 3: Mechanical properties of banana fibre.

Properties	Value
Density g/cm ³	1.35
Elongation at break %	5.9
Tensile Strength MPa	340
Diameter μm (micron)	1387
Flexure strength Mpa	2.5
Young's modulus GPa	27

b. Polyester Resin

This material can be strong yet it relies upon the speed of the response by which it happens. Along with unsaturated polyester resin, 1% of cobalt quickening agent and 1% (vol%) of MEKP as hardener is utilized. Polyester resin and supporting agent respond together to shape a matrix for the composite. Suitable amount of impetus is significant as it helps the best possible fix of polyester resin framework. Typical Properties of tested Unsaturated Polyester resin are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Typical Properties of tested Unsaturated Polyester Resin.

Properties	Polyester resin
Density g/cm ³	1.2
Tensile Strength MPa	38.81
Modulus of Elasticity MPa	1312
Flexure strength Mpa	44.21
Elongation %	4.673
Max. Extension mm	6.91
Flexure modulus GPa	1.52

c. Surface modification of fibre

Here, banana fibre treated with alkaline treatment to improve surface modification of the fibre which results for better fibre and matrix bonding according to researcher study [4, 8-11]. For this concentration is taken as 5% by weight in distilled water arrangement. It is proved that alkali treatment achieve higher strength [12]. In treatment of the fibre, first wash fibre with fresh water to expel dust, then permit drying it under sunlight for 48hrs. After that all fibre splashed with 5% NaOH arrangement. Take 1 liters of distilled water and 50gram of NaOH pellets at room temperature and add pellets in distilled water. After this, it was blended precisely so that NaOH blend gets broke up and dissolved in distilled water. Banana fibrelater on added into the arrangement and treated with the arrangement with 6 to 8 hour and again washed with distilled water to neutralize the fibre.

2. Preparation of composite specimen

To prepare the composite specimen, the mould developed from the prepared teak wood of size 300 mm x 170 mm x 3 mm. The planning of composite was completed utilizing hand lay-

up technique. Top cover plate and base surface covered with gel coat for simple evacuation of lamina plate. Fibre were cut according to required measurement and organized unidirectionally in the die with firmly fitted by clamp or fasteners. The fibre volume part of the composite was fixed to forty percent. Right now resin along with hardener and quickening agent were blended in with proportion of 100:1 which is utilized as grid. The air bubble was evacuated cautiously with a roller. After 24 hours composite plate taken out for marking and cutting according to ASTM standard.

3. Mechanical Testing of composite specimen A. Tensile test

The tensile strength of the composite specimen was experimentally evaluated according to ASTM D3039 standard on Universal Testing Machine (UTM) made by Tinius Olsen/arrangement H50kL. The components of the test parameters like measured length and cross head speed were chosen according to ASTM D3039 standard. The specimen was mounted between two jaws of the UTM and tensile test was performed. The dimensions of the specimen are 3 mm x 15 mm x 250 mm where 50 mm at both the ends is kept for tab. The specimens for tensile testing are shown in Figure. 1 and the specimens after testing are shown in Figure. 2.



Fig. 1: Tensile testing of specimen.

B. Flexural test

The specimen for the flexural test was set up according to ASTM D-790 standard for all treated and non-treated. The 3-point flexure test was performed for set of five specimens for each sort of arrangement of fibre in composite and average estimation of flexural strength and modulus was recorded. The most

normally utilized specimen size is 3.2 mm x 13 mm x 125 mm. The specimen was set in UTM and force was applied until it bends thoroughly. The flexural strength and displacement were recorded. The test was conducted at room temperature. The specimens for flexural testing are shown in Figure. 3 and the specimens after testing are shown in Figure. 4.



Fig. 2: Specimens after tensile test (Unidirectional continuous fibre).



Fig. 3: Flexure testing of specimen for 3-point flexure test.



Fig.4: Specimens after flexure test (Unidirectional continuous fibre).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Hybrid fibre reinforced composite materials is being utilized for some, light load engineering applications throughout the previous few decades. The engineers and academicians are researching on the mechanical properties of composite for various fibre reinforcements like natural+ natural, natural + synthetic etc. In the current work, mechanical properties of hybrid fibre reinforced composite is assessed.

1. Tensile testing

The tensile test of composite specimen was done on the universal testing machine. The tensile load was applied till the failure of the specimens. The stress-strain values for each variety of specimens were recorded by the machine software. As per the load sustainability, different strength of the composite obtains. Tensile strength and tensile modulus of treated and untreated specimens are shown in Figure. 5 and Figure. 6 respectively.

For the tensile testing, both treated banana/glass fibre and non-treated fibre one composite get trimmed by diamond cutter in required dimension as mentioned in ASTM D-3039 and testing performed on universal testing machine. Increased of reinforcement in terms of jute greater than 33.33% and 35% in comparison of glass in hybridization weaken the effect rather than strengthening as natural fibre strengthening is less than glass[8]. N. Vijay Kumar et al.[1] found tensile value for Hybrid untreated (50-50)% glass/banana with polyester matrix with untreated and found it 120MPa. In case of chopped fibre of banana/glass, with untreated fibre reinforced composite, it is observed that as fibre length increase strength increases. Chopped fibre of 15mm fibre length and 20% of fibre loading with forty percent fibre loading reported higher value as observed by R. Karthick et al[13]. Unidirectional composites are significantly proved to be stronger in the fibre direction than similar composites with fibre in multiple directions[14-17].The high pressure and temperature in composite production allowed the discontinuous fibre to flow and distort, which led to their misalignment but in unidirectionally aligned long continuous fibre reinforced polymer composite shows more

balanced mechanical performance[19-21].In the present work of unidirectional composite investigated as mentioned in Figure5 & 6, it is found that treated fibre reinforced composite with volume fraction of B20-G20 has both fibre loading is of 50-50% as total of forty percent fibre loading gives maximum tensile strength of (152.3 MPa) and tensile modulus (3997 MPa) as compared to other hybrid combination. G40-B0 gives higher value than B20-G20 but due to high density, glass fibre composite observes heavy weight, so to reduce the weight natural fibre incorporation needed. In experimental investigation, it is found that the allfibre not broken at the same time, fibre of lower strength fracture first so the broken fibre transfer the load to another fibre. The first fibre to fail is basically the lower elongation fibre. The higher elongation fibre does not necessarily have a large failure strain, but it is always greater than the one of the LE fibre [18]. In this investigation, banana fibre has higher elongation as compared to lower elongation glass fibre but due to low strength it fail first so, the load then transferred to glass fibre. Hence in the stress strain diagram, it rises up to some extent and then fall. This is due to some load bearing capacity of continuous aligned glass fibre. Hence the hybrid composite with long continuous fibre observe higher strength then chopped one. Also its strength is higher as compared to non-treated because treated reduce the weight of the fibre as alkaline wash the waxy layer from the fibre surface so more banana fibre get loaded with the same weight and hence hybrid strength get enhanced.

2. Flexure testing

In standard ASTM D-790 taken for three point bending test of the specimen. When the composite get loaded on machine for flexure testing jaws can be adjusted on machine as per the calculation, $16t$ (t = thickness of the specimen) given in the ASTM D-790. Here the deflection of specimen observes same as that occur in the beam. On the top portion of specimen compressive stress generate while on bottom portion of loaded specimen tensile stress generated. In flexure strength (three-point bending test) the material at the surface is strained more than the material in the bulk, when the material starts to crack. So, the

deviation in the surface composition would strongly affect the flexural strength. Therefore, the results from the bending tests of the specimens are more sensitive to such deviation [14].

Flexure strength and Flexure modulus of treated and untreated specimens are shown in

Figure. 7 and Figure. 8 respectively. From the above graph it is found that the banana with polyester resin composite produce 41.10MPa of flexure strength and with treated banana fibre its strength increases to 52.3MPa as compared to pure polyester resin. Strength with volume fraction B10-G30 in untreated category shows maximum value.

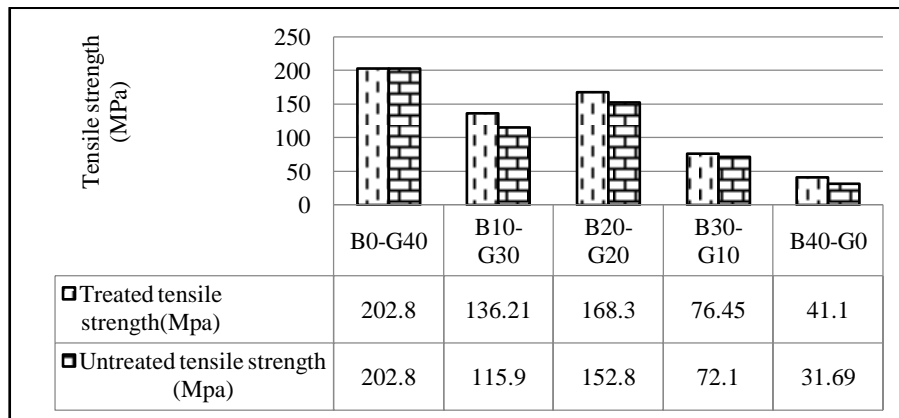


Fig. 5: Tensile strength of treated and untreated specimen.

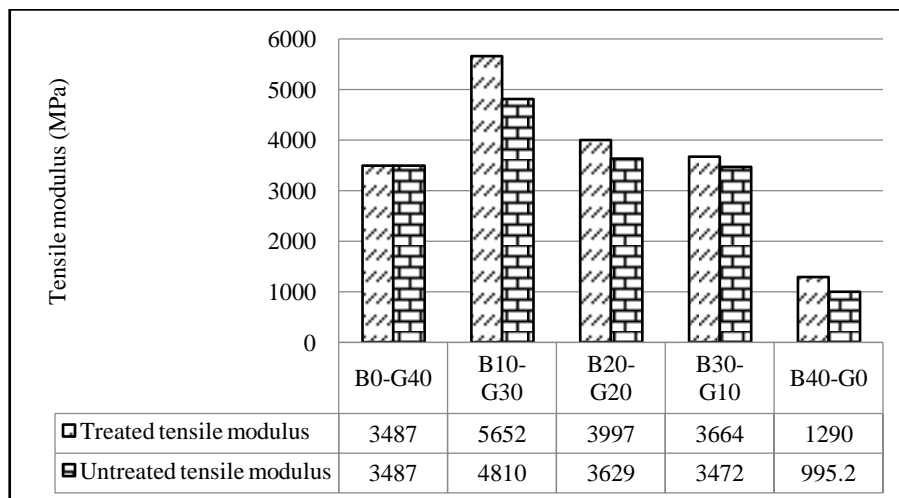


Fig. 6: Tensile modulus of treated and untreated specimen

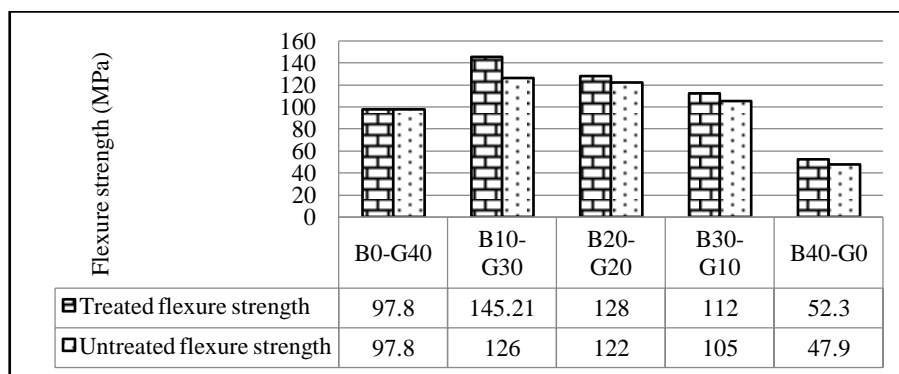


Fig. 7: Flexure strength of treated and untreated specimen.

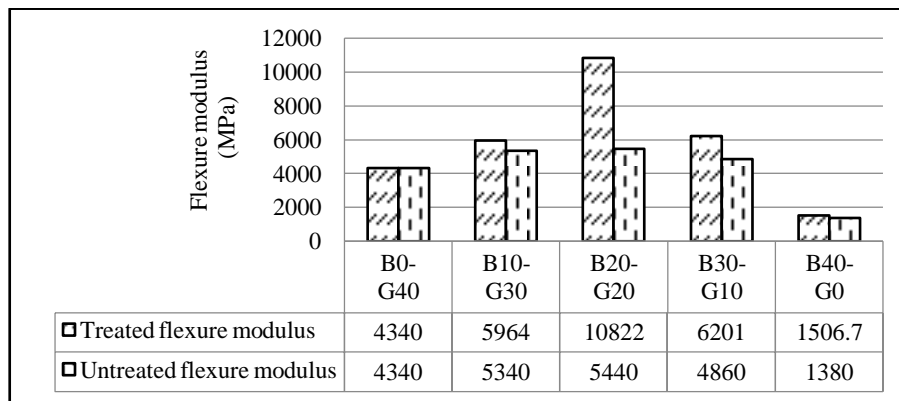


Fig. 8: Flexure modulus of treated and untreated specimen.

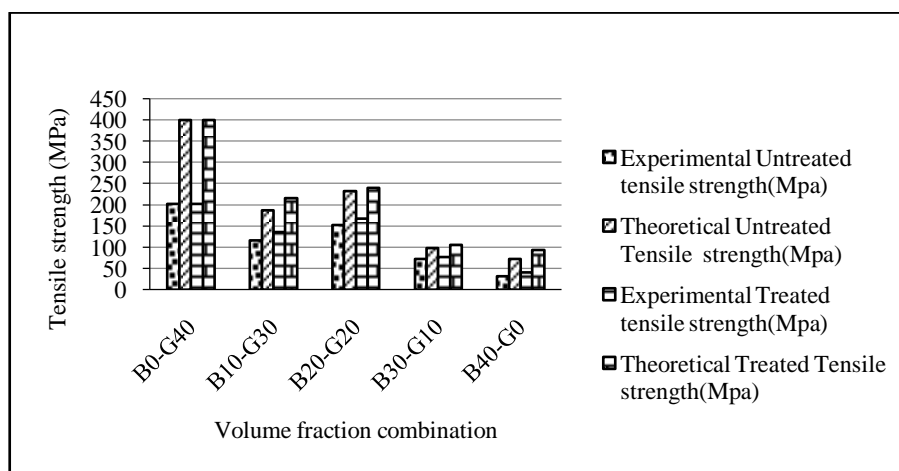


Fig. 9: Tensile strength of experimental & theoretical.

While treated fibre of the B10-G30 gives 145.21MPa. Enhancement of the strength in treated fibre composite observes higher value in all as compared to non-treated. Maximum value of flexure strength is 145.21MPa and flexure modulus 5964MPa is obtained in this investigation.

3. Comparison of tensile strength

Figure. 10 states that the tensile strength of chopped fibre composites is increased with increase in fibre length and fibre loading percentage. The maximum tensile strength was obtained in 15 mm fibre length and 20% fibre loading as observed by R. Karthick [13]. While in Figure. 11, it is observed that high tensile application composites may select the 25% weight fractioned treated banana fibre with the glass for the fashion of G/B/G hybrid composite. The high appreciable 45MPa tensile strength offers by the 25% weight fractioned treated banana fibre with the glass for the fashion of G/B/G hybrid composite. Hence the

treated banana fibre improves the mechanical properties as observed by R. Saravanan [20]. Figure.12 represent that as compared to mono-fibre hybrid enhance the strength and at 50% fibre loading maximum strength obtained as investigated by N. Vijay Kumar [1]. As the outcome of the present experimental work of long, continues treated fibre with unidirectional aligned fibre, great improvement in tensile strength with B/G of 50% fibre loading is obtained as compare to 40% of B20-G20 volume fraction of fibre in the composite. The present study graph in Figure. 9 (Tensile strength of experimental & theoretical) shows that the banana fibre with low strength but while get alkaline treated and hybridize with glass fibre increases the strength and enhance the mechanical properties. Experimental and theoretical value also observed good agreement in tensile strength. The rule of hybrid mixture value is higher than experimental value due to chance of formation of micro voids in composite. This factor was not accounted in this study.

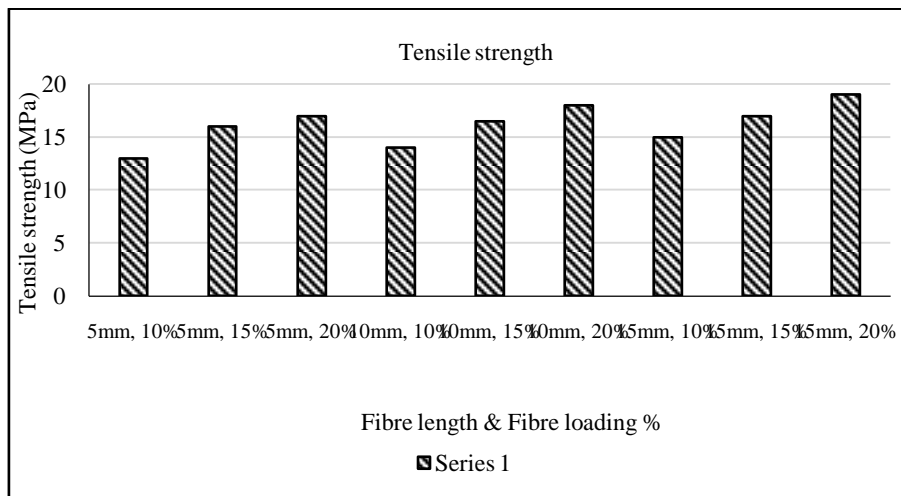


Fig. 10: Specimen tensile strength [13].

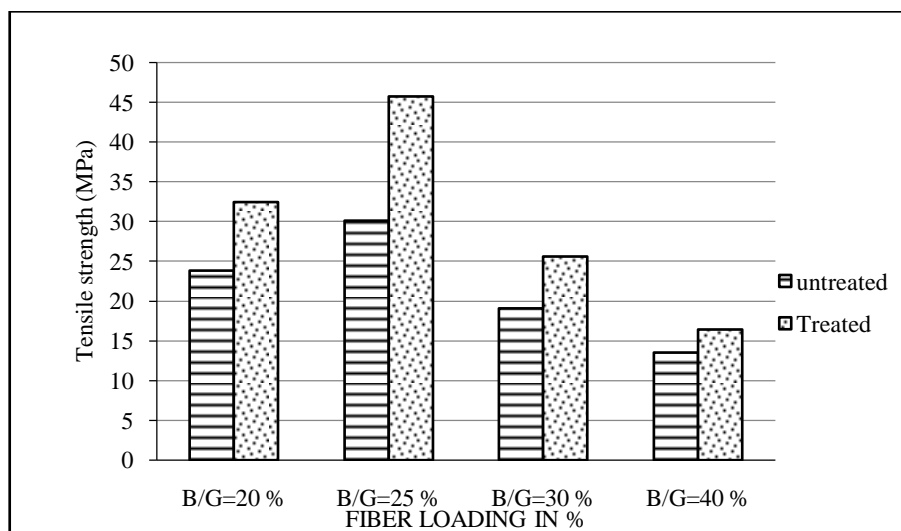


Fig. 11: Specimen tensile strength [20].

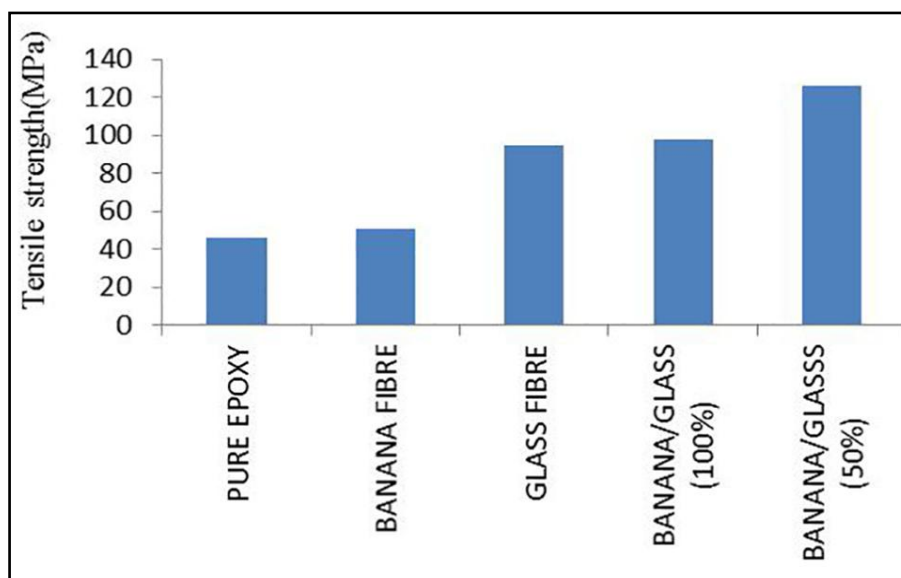


Fig. 12: Tensile strength of composites [1].

4. Comparison of flexure strength
 Figure. 13, Figure. 14, Figure. 15, Figure. 16 and Figure. 17 shows the comparison of flexural strength for different composites.

Flexural properties of untreated and treated fibre composites are shown in Figure.14. It is observed that the 100% matrix had flexural strength of 27.44MPa and that of untreated banana fibre reinforced composites is 36.15MPa with a 31.75% increase. The flexural strength of treated banana fibre

composites were in the range of 50 to 73.24MPa with improvements in the range of 38.32% to 102.62% due to chemical treatments [22. 23]. Figure.15 Shows the relationship of volume fraction on flexural strength of specimens with treated fibre length 127 mm and it is concluded that with increase the fibre loading strength increase up to some extent and then decrease due to decrease the bonding of matrix and fibre. Figure 16 Shows untreated chopped fibre's flexure strength with different volume fraction and concluded that

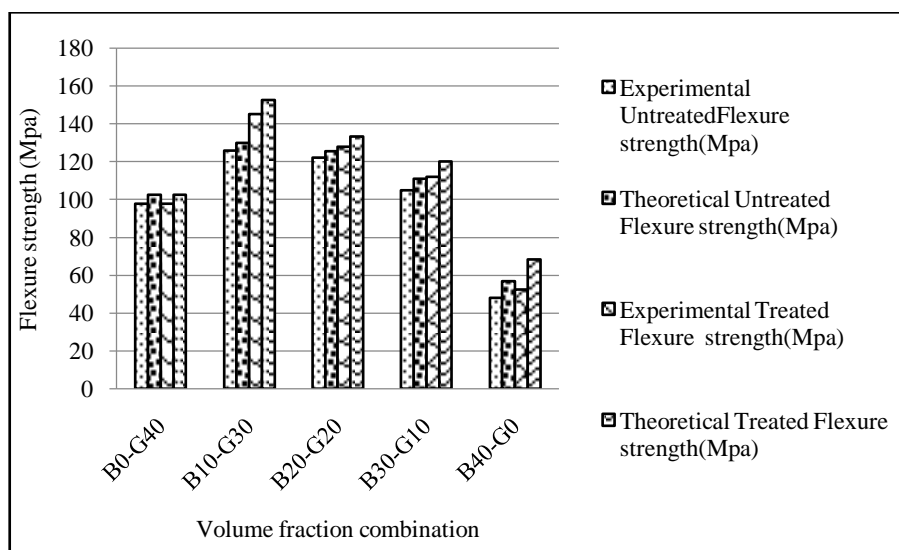


Fig. 13: Experimental v/s theoretical Flexure strength of treated and untreated.

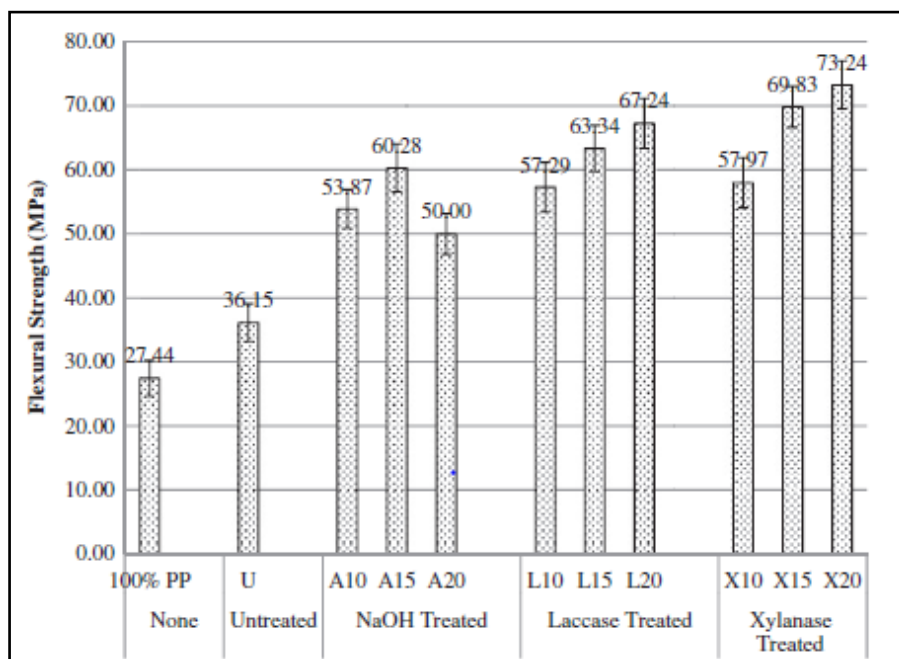


Fig. 14: Flexure strength of composites [22].

the 20% concentration of banana & glass achieve higher strength as observed by V. Santhanam [2]. Figure.17 Represent untreated banana/glass fibre composite flexure strength with 20% & 30% of total volume fraction. From the figure, it is clear that the flexural strength increases with fibre loading. At 20% fibre loading, there is a slight increase in flexural strength, i.e., 8.74 MPa. But at 30% fibre loading, there is an increase of 53%. The effect of fibre loading shows a similar maximum improvement with 30% fibre loading as observed by Anshida Haneefa et

al.[24]. Break load of hybrid composite is high. It is about 1.26 times that of untreated composite and 1.17 times that of sisal composite [12]. So, the present study evaluate that increase of fibre loading with treated fibre will enhance the flexure strength as observed from the Figure 13 which shows that B10-G30 and B20-G20 gives maximum flexure strength with 145.21MPa and 128MPa respectively. As compared to untreated, treated reinforced composite gives enhancement of flexure strength and it is also better in theoretical comparison.

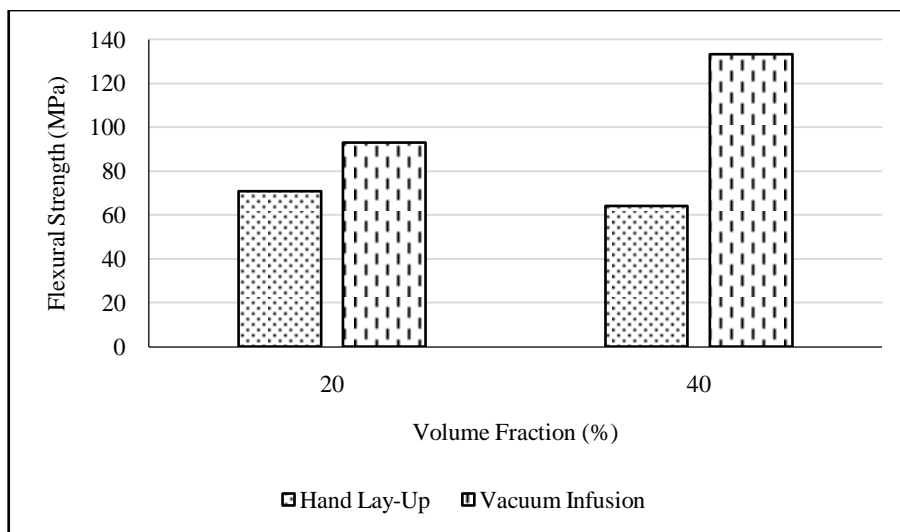


Fig. 15: Flexure strength of composites [23].

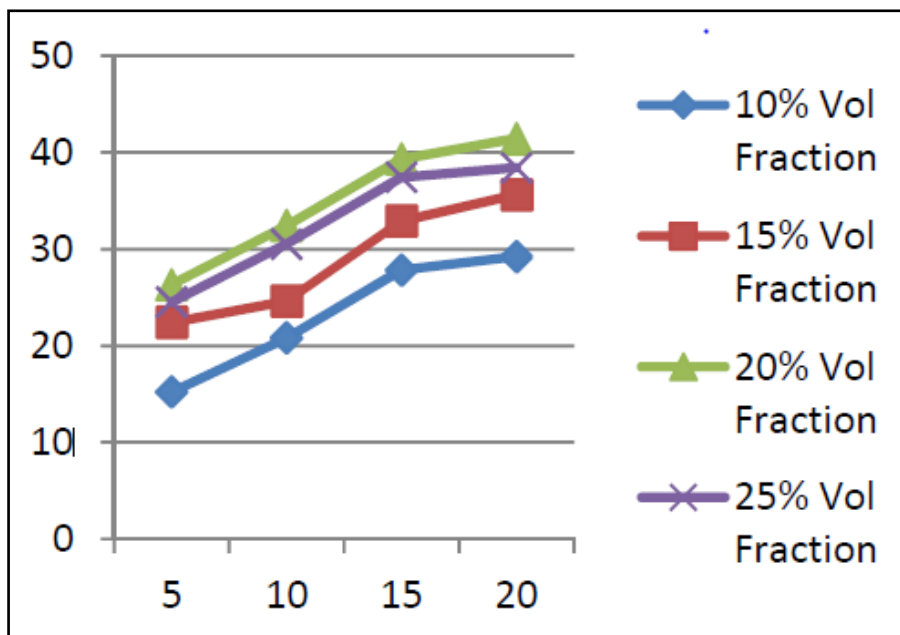


Fig. 16: Flexure strength of composites [24].

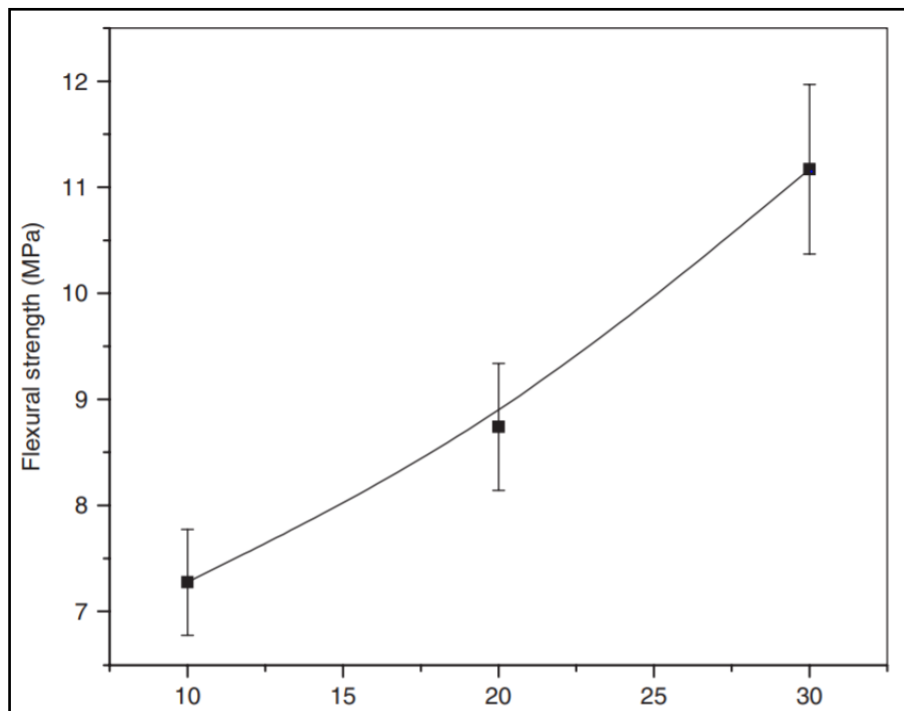


Fig. 17: Flexure strength of composites [24].

CONCLUSION

In the present study, evaluation of mechanical properties of banana/glass treated and untreated fibre reinforced composite were done by arranging fibre in unidirectional manner.

- From the experimental investigations, it can be concluded that composite material made of 5%NaOH treated bananafibre embedded with glass fibre exhibits 15.3% enhancement in the tensile strength as compared to B20-G20 of non treated value. In the same way flexure strength also increases for B10-G30 up to 10%.
- From the comparison with the untreated fibre composite graph, it can be concluded that hybrid effect with treated fibre increase the tensile as well as flexure strength in case of unidirectional in composite reinforcement.
- Experimental and theoretical values indicate good agreement in both tensile and flexure strength.

SYMBOLS

V_c	Volume of composite
V_f	Volume of fiber
V_m	Volume of matrix
W_c	Sum of weight of composite material
W_f	Weight of fibre

W_m	Weight of matrix
E	Young modulus
σ	Strength of composite
E_m	Young modulus of matrix
v_f	Volume fraction of fiber
E_f	Fibre modulus of elasticity
E_m	Matrix modulus of elasticity
F	Maximum load (N)
L	Distance between the support in mm
B	Width of the specimen in mm
H	Height of the specimen in mm

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