

Impact Strength of Concrete with Nano Materials at Elevated Temperatures

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Abstract: Nanocomposite is a multiphase solid material where one of the phases has one, two or three dimensions of less than 100 nanometers (nm), or structures having nano-scale repeat distances between the different phases that make up the material. Nano composites are produced by adding nano-particles to a material in order to improve the properties of material. The materials such as nano cement, nano-silica, nano flyash, nano metakaolin are being combined with cement. The use of finer particles (higher surface area) has advantages in terms of filling the cement matrix, densifying the structure, resulting in higher strength and faster chemical reactions i.e. hydration reactions. Nano-cement particles can accelerate cement hydration due to their high activity. Similarly, the incorporation of nano-particles can fill pores more effectively to enhance the overall strength and durability. Normally, the particle size ranges between 1nm to 100nm, they are generally called as nano materials. The fineness can reach up to molecular level by special processing techniques. An experimental investigation has been carried out to determine the influence of concrete with nano-particles such as (nano-cement, nano-fly ash, nano-metakaolin, & nano-silica fumes) under elevated temperature. M30, M40 and M50 grades of concrete were cast. For each of grades of concrete, 10%, 20% and 30% of cement was replaced with nano-materials. The particle size of the nano-materials was determined using a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). Impact strength of concrete with nano materials under various elevated temperature (250°C, 500°C, 750°C and 1000°C) were found by using Impact Testing Apparatus. Impact strength is found to be least for the concrete specimens with replacement of nano-metakaolin. It was also found that impact strength of M30 grade concrete specimens was low as compared to other grades of concrete (M40 & M50).

Keywords: Nano Cement, Nano Silica Fumes, Nano Fly Ash, Nano Metakaolin, Elevated Temperature, Impact Energy

1. Introduction

Nano technology is an interesting but emerging field of study, which is under constant evolution offering a very wide scope of research activity. Normally, if the particle size ranges between 1nm to 100nm (1), they are generally called as nano-particles or materials. The fineness can reach up to molecular level (1 nm –100 nm), by special processing techniques. As the fineness increases, the surface area increases, which increases the 'reactivity' of the material. Nano-cement was produced in a high energy ball grinding mill and was used as a partial replacement to cement. Application of nano-cement in concrete can lead to significant improvements in the strength and life of concrete. The mechanical behaviour of concrete materials depends to a great extent on structural elements and phenomena which are effective on a micro- and nanoscale. The ability to target material modification at the nano structural level promises to deliver the optimization of material behaviour and performance needed to improve significantly the mechanical performance, volume. Nano composites are produced by adding nano-particles to a material in order to improve the properties of material. Concrete is a material most widely used in construction industry. Concrete is a composite material made up of cement, sand, aggregate, water and mineral or chemical admixtures. The materials such as nano-silica, nano flyash, nano metakaolin are being combined with cement (5). There are also a limited number of investigations dealing with the manufacture of nano-cement. The use of finer particles (higher surface area) has advantages in terms of filling the cement matrix, densifying the structure, resulting in higher strength and faster chemical reactions i.e. hydration

reactions. Nano-cement particles can accelerate cement hydration due to their high activity. Similarly, the incorporation of nano-particles can fill pores more effectively to enhance the overall strength and durability.

K. Ramesh, Dr. K. Arunachalam, S. Rooban Chakravarthy (April 2013). Study the Impact Resistance of the Fly ash concrete reinforced with steel fibers (2). Balakrishnaiah, Balaji.K.V.G, Srinivasa Rao.(November 2013) used materials like cement, different percentages of admixtures like fly ash, silica fume, metakaolin, finely grounded pumice(FGP), group granulated blast furnace slag(GGBS), polypropylene fibre(PP fibre), palm oil fuel ash(POFA), Portland pozzolana cement(PPC), rice husk ash(RHA), different fine and coarse aggregates, super plasticisers, retarders and the conditions included a temperature range of 28°C to 1200°C(3).

2. Materials and Experimentation

- Cement: In this experimental work OPC 43 grade with specific gravity 3.15 was used confirming to IS: 8112: 2013.
- Fine aggregates: Sand used in this experimental work was locally procured and was confirming to zone II. Specific gravity was determined to be 2.67.
- Coarse aggregates: Locally available crushed angular coarse aggregate having the maximum size of 12.5 mm were used in the present work. The specific gravity of coarse aggregate was 2.7 and bulk density 1550 Kg/m³.
- Water: Potable tap water was used for experimental works and also for curing specimens.

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- Cement Replacement: 10%, 20%, 30% replacement with nano Cement, Nano Fly ash, Nano Slica Fume, Nano Metakaolin

In this experimental work mix design is arrived at through trial and error. IS method is used as a basis to arrive at the final mix design. Concrete was designed for M30, M40 & M50 grade.

Table 1: Mix proportions

Particulars	M30	M40	M50
Cement (Kg/m ³)	438	492.5	562.8
Fine aggregates (Kg/m ³)	691.42	656.446	617.43
Coarse aggregates (Kg/m ³)	1093.6	1083	1063.1
Water (l)	197	197	197

Table 2: Replacement ratio of nano-materials

GRADES	M30	M40	M50
Cement content Kg/m ³	438	492.5	562.85
Nano-materials replacement of 10%(Kg/m ³)	43.8	49.25	56.285
Nano-materials replacement of 20%(Kg/m ³)	87.6	98.5	112.57
Nano-materials replacement of 30%(Kg/m ³)	131.4	147.75	168.85

In this experimental work, concrete specimens were cast with different grades. The specimens were cast in this study consist of impact cylinders of size 150 * 64 mm.

Mixing of nano-cement can be accomplished by many methods. The mix should have a uniform dispersion of the nano-cement in order to prevent segregation during mixing. Cement with 10%, 20%, 30% replacement of nano-cement and aggregates are mixed thoroughly by using rotary mixer machine. The total nano-cement volume fraction used for casting is 10%, 20%, & 30%. Compared to conventional concrete, nano-cement concrete mixes are generally characterized by higher cement factor, higher fine aggregate content, and smaller size coarse aggregate. External vibration is preferable to prevent fiber segregation. Metal trowels, tube floats, and rotating power floats can be used to finish the surface.

Table 3: SEM results of Nano Materials

Particulars	Size of material before grinding	Size of material after grinding
Cement	10 - 45 microns (10-6 m)	10 – 118.53 nano-meters (10-9 m)
Fly Ash	45 - 100 microns (10-6 m)	1 – 175.36 nano-meters (10-9 m)
Silica Fumes	0.1 microns (10-6 m)	1 – 173.33 nano-meters (10-9 m)
Metakaolin	0.6 microns (10-6 m)	1 – 159.56 nano-meters (10-9 m)

2.1 Testing Specimens Under Elevated Temperature

An electric furnace was used to heat the specimens. The inner dimensions of the furnace are 500mmx 500mmx 500mm. The sides and top are lined with electrical heating coils embedded in refractory bricks. The control panel has a temperature controller to prevent damage to the furnace by tripping off, if the temperature inside the furnace exceeds the specified temperature. The maximum operating temperature of the furnace is 1200°C. The concrete specimens were

exposed to fire inside the furnace and the furnace was heated from 27°C to 1000°C. After exposing the specimens to desired temperature and duration, the furnace was switched off and the specimens were taken out of the furnace. The specimens were naturally allowed to reach the room temperature by air cooling and water cooling. Ultimate loads of the specimens were found at 28th day for the reference and other specimens that were subjected to elevated temperature.

After 28 days of curing the specimens taken out from the curing tank and kept out for one day to avoid moisture. Then the specimens were placed in the furnace. The specimens were heated upto a temperature of 1000°C. The specimens were naturally allowed to reach the room temperature by air cooling and water cooling.

2.2 Experimental Set Up and Testing Procedure

The size of the specimen recommended by the ACI 544.2R89 committee is 150mm in diameter and 64mm in height (4).

The equipment consists of a standard manually operated 4.4Kg compaction hammer with an 18 inch drop (457mm) a 44mm diameter hardened steel ball and a flat base plate with positioning bracket.

In addition to the above equipment, a mould to cast 150mm diameter and 64mm thick concrete specimens is needed.

The impact energy is calculated by the formula;

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 $E = W \times h \times n$ (N-m)

Where;

W = wt. of hammer (N).

h = height of fall (m).

n = no. of blows required for complete failure.

E2 = Energy absorption for final failure.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 First crack

Impact strength and impact energy was evaluated at 1st crack of specimen. Results are as followed from Table 4 to Table 11.

Table 4: No of Blow for First Crack for Nano Cement

TEMP.	M30				M40				M50									
	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4						
250°	68	58	34	30	16	10	104	84	56	48	31	23	136.0	125.0	24.0	20.0	17.0	10.0
500°	14	10	4	4	3	3	22	19	4	4	3	3	28.0	24.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
750°	3	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0
1000°	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0

Table 5: Impact Energy for First Crack for Nano Cement

TEMP.	M30				M40				M50									
	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4						
250°	1391	5318	3655	8813	5927	4204	62128	21719	91346	982	3634	4470	72783	12558	9491	1409	3847	5204
500°	286.5	204.6	81.9	81.9	61.4	61.4	450.2	388.8	81.9	81.9	61.4	61.4	573.0	491.1	81.9	61.4	61.4	40.9
750°	61.4	40.9	40.9	20.5	40.9	20.5	61.4	40.9	61.4	20.5	20.5	20.5	81.9	40.9	40.9	40.9	40.9	20.5
1000°	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	0.0	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	0.0	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	0.0

3.3 Percentage of replacement vs Impact Energy graphs at different elevated temperature

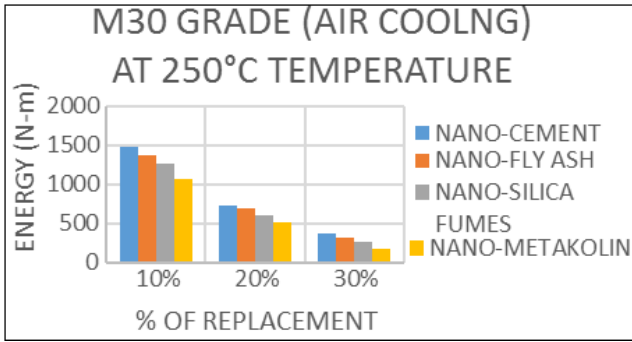


Figure 1: M30 Grade (Air Cooling) at 250°C temperature

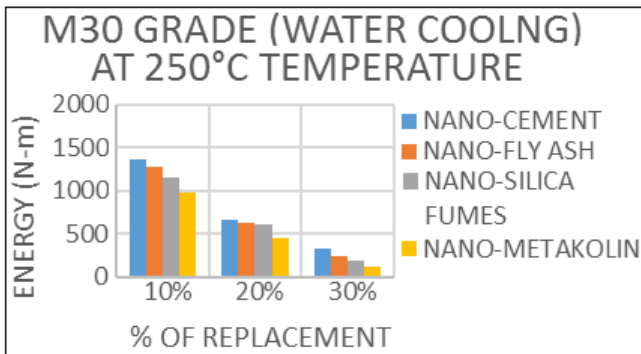


Figure 2: M30 Grade (water Cooling) at 250°C temperature

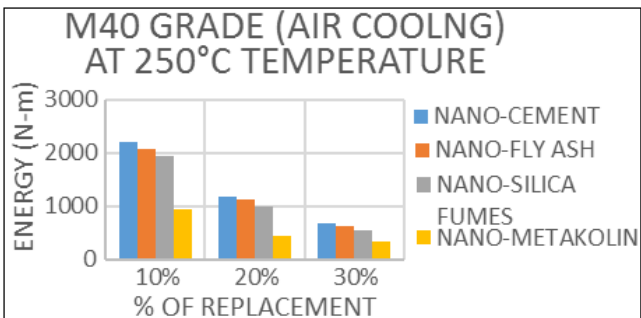


Figure 3: M40 Grade (Air Cooling) at 250°C temperature

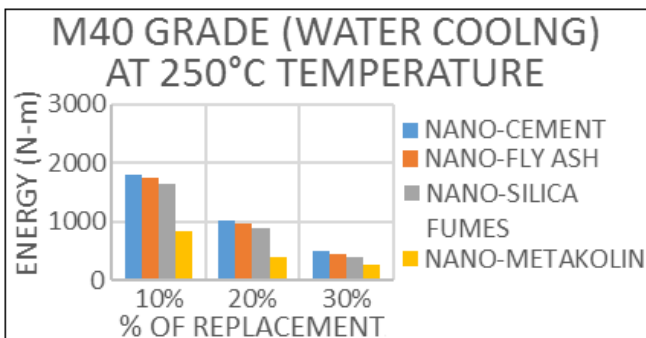


Figure 4: M40 Grade (water Cooling) at 250°C temperature

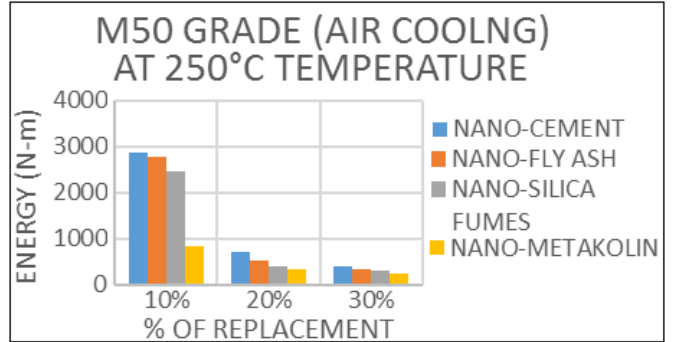


Figure 5: M50 Grade (Air Cooling) at 250°C temperature

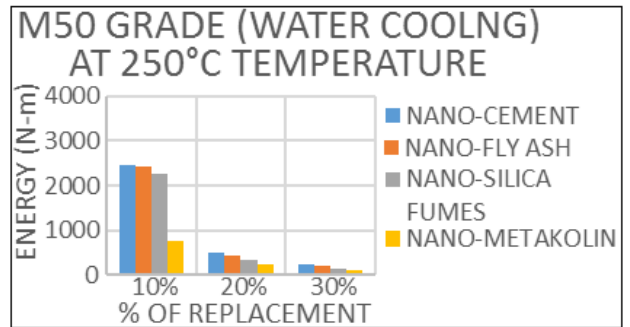


Figure 6: M50 Grade (water Cooling) at 250°C temperature

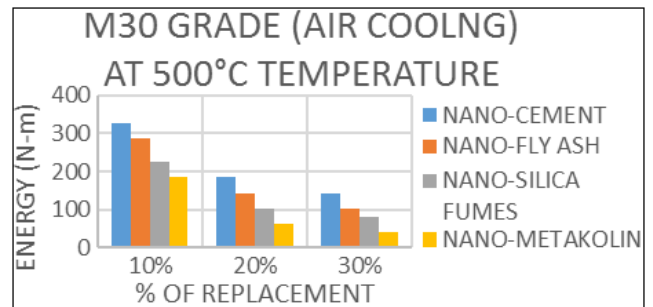


Figure 7: M30 Grade (Air Cooling) at 500°C temperature

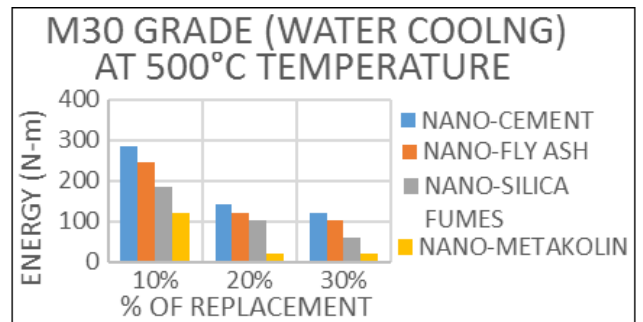


Figure 8: M30 Grade (water Cooling) at 500°C temperature

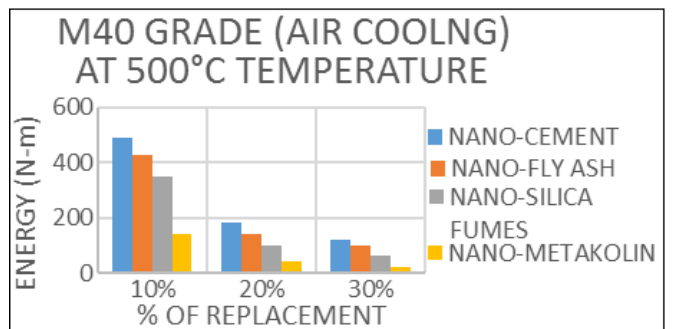


Figure 9: M40 Grade (Air Cooling) at 500°C temperature

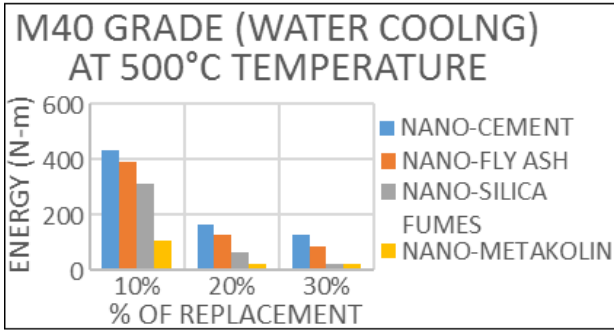


Figure 10: M40 Grade (water Cooling) at 500°C temperature

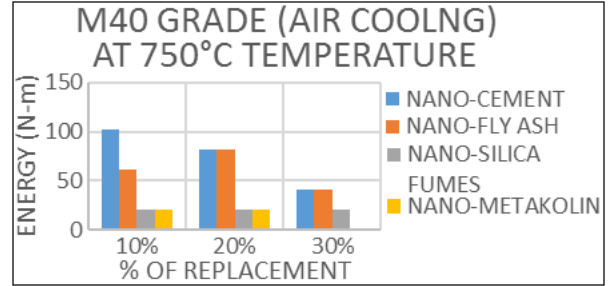


Figure 15: M40 Grade (Air Cooling) at 750°C temperature

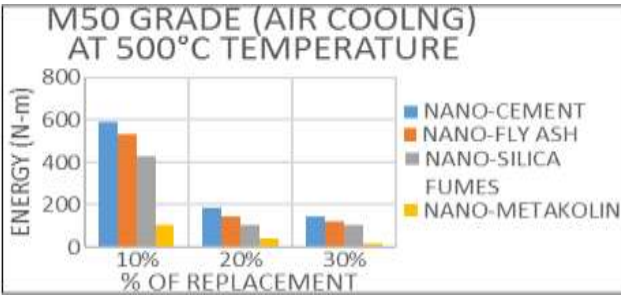


Figure 11: M50 Grade (Air Cooling) at 500°C temperature

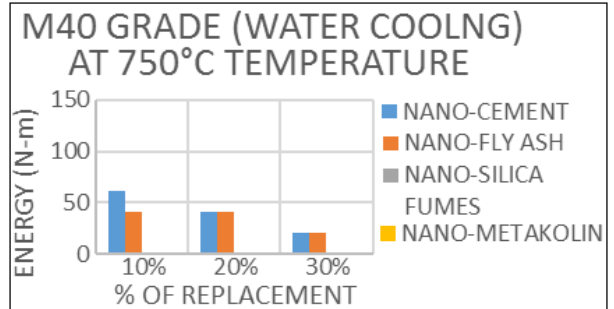


Figure 16: M40 Grade (water Cooling) at 750°C temperature

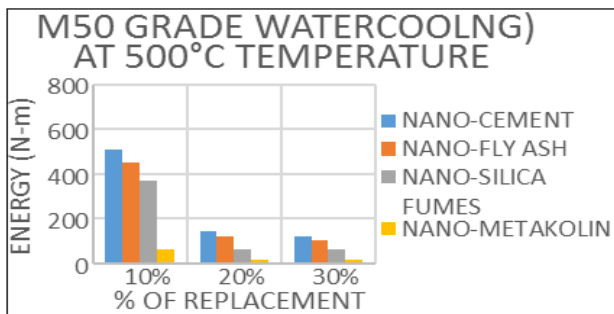


Figure 12: M50 Grade (water Cooling) at 500°C temperature

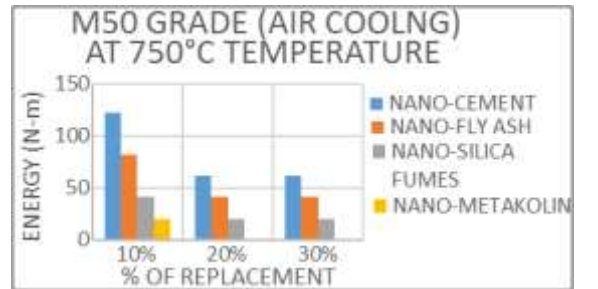


Figure 17: M50 Grade (Air Cooling) at 750°C temperature

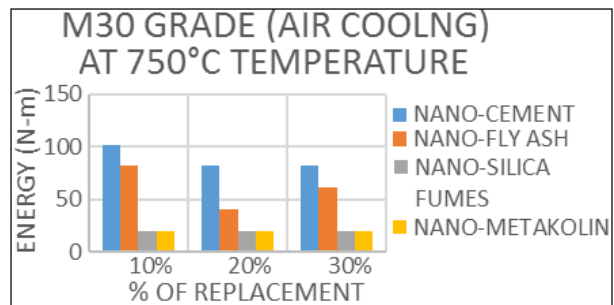


Figure 13: M30 Grade (Air Cooling) at 750°C temperature

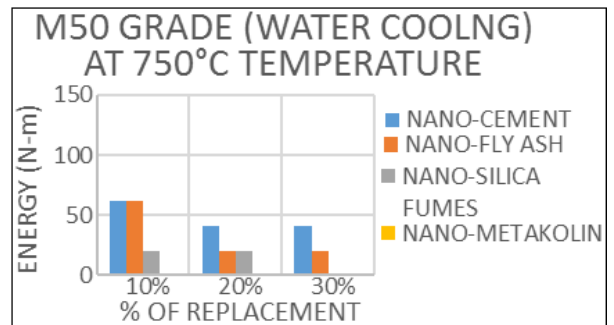


Figure 18: M50 Grade (water Cooling) at 750°C temperature

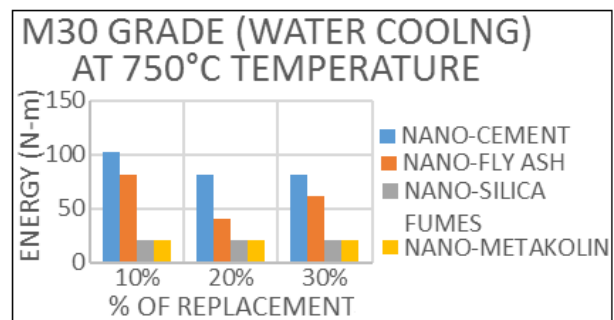


Figure 14: M30 Grade (water Cooling) at 750°C temperature

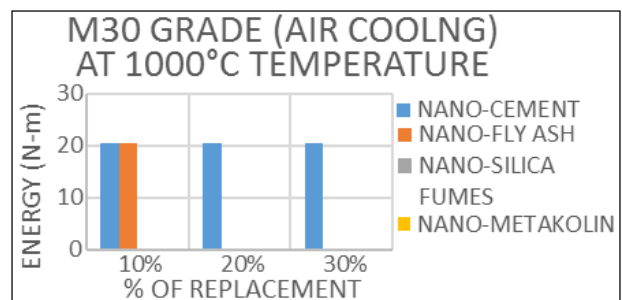


Figure 19: M30 Grade (Air Cooling) at 1000°C temperature

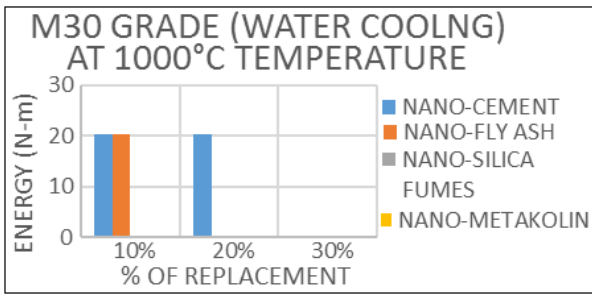


Figure 20: M30 Grade (water Cooling) at 1000°C temperature

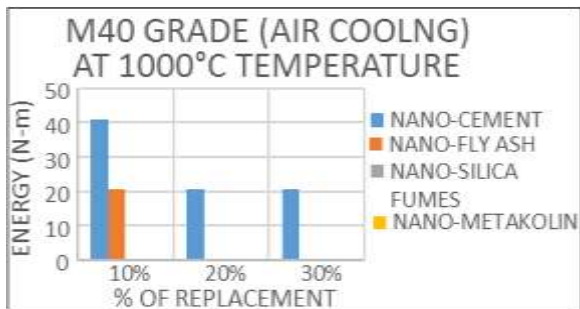


Figure 21: M40 Grade (Air Cooling) at 1000°C temperature

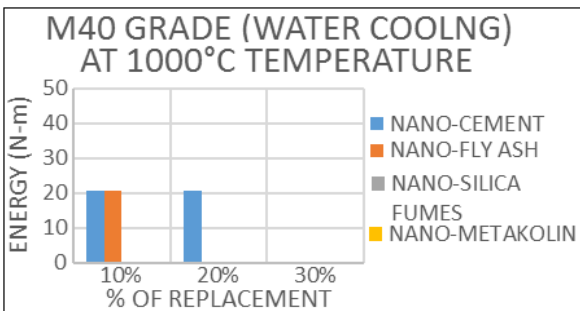


Figure 22: M40 Grade (water Cooling) at 1000°C temperature

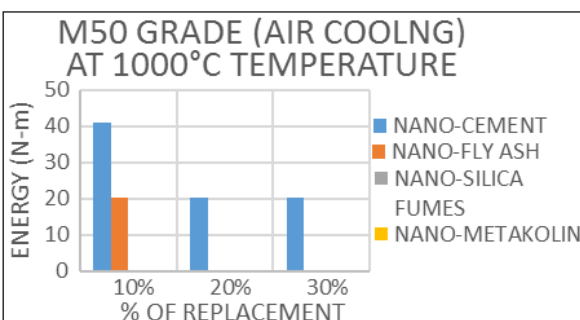


Figure 23: M50 Grade (Air Cooling) at 1000°C temperature

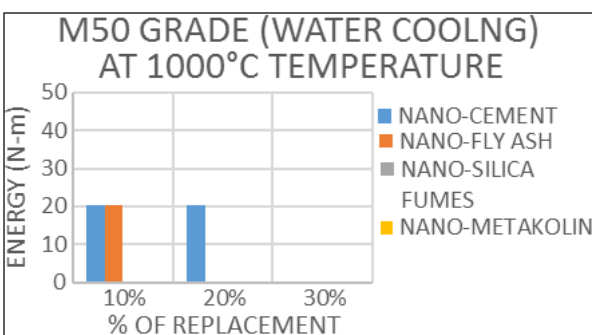


Figure 24: M50 Grade (water Cooling) at 1000°C temperature

4. Conclusions

- 1) Based on the experimental investigation the impact strength of heated specimens at 250°C increases in case of air cooling about 76%, 83%, 89% and 95% for the specimens of M30, M40 and M50 grades respectively with 10% replacement of cement with nano-cement compared to reference specimens.
- 2) The impact strength of heated specimens at 250°C decreases in case of water cooling about 81%, 89%, 93% and 98% for the specimens of M30, M40 and M50 grades respectively with 10% replacement of cement with nano-cement compared to reference specimens.
- 3) The impact strength of heated specimens at 500°C, 750°C, 1000°C decreases in both air and water cooling for the specimens of M30, M40 and M50 grades respectively with 10%, 20% & 30% replacement of cement with nano-cement compared to reference specimens.
- 4) The specimens heated up to 1000°C with 30% replacement of cement with nano cement and cooled by water failed before impact test for all the grades of concrete.
- 5) The impact strength for normal concrete is higher than the concrete replaced with nano-materials at elevated temperatures.

5. Future Enhancements

- 1) It is suggested to find the compressive strength and split tensile strength, using the same nano-materials.
- 2) To study the impact strength of High Strength concrete (HSC) at elevated temperature.
- 3) To study the ductility index of concrete with nano materials at elevated temperatures
- 4) To study the micro structural analysis of concrete made with nano materials.

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