

CONTENTS

Chapter No.	Title	Page No.
1	Introduction	1 - 6
2	Review of Literature	7 - 28
3	Methodology	29 - 67
3.1	Phase I - Survey and Fibre Selection	34
	3.1.1 Conduct of Survey	34
	3.1.2 Selection of Fibres	35
3.2	Phase II – Procurement, Treatment and Evaluation of Fibres	35
	3.2.1 Procurement of Fibres	35
	3.2.2 Surface Modification of Fibres	36
	3.2.2.1 Chemical Treatment	36
	3.2.2.2 Biological Treatment	37
	3.2.3 Nomenclature of Fibre Samples	38
	3.2.4 Evaluation of Fibres	39
	3.2.4.1 Visual Evaluation	39
	3.2.4.2 Spectrophotometric Analysis	39
	3.2.4.3 Chemical Constituents	40
	3.2.4.4 Moisture Content, Regain, Water Absorption and Density	40
	3.2.4.5 Tensile Strength and Elongation	41
	3.2.4.6 Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)	41
	3.2.4.7 Scanning Electron Microscopic Analysis (SEM)	41
	3.2.4.8 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopic Analysis (FTIR)	41
3.3	Phase III – Nonwoven Fabrication	42
	3.3.1 Nomenclature of Nonwoven samples	42
	3.3.2 Mechanical Bonding	43
	3.3.3 Thermal Bonding	45
	3.3.4 Evaluation of Nonwoven Structures	46
	3.3.4.1 Thickness	46

Chapter No.	Title	Page No.
	3.3.4.2 Weight	46
	3.3.4.3 Bulk Density	46
	3.3.4.4 Tensile Strength and Elongation	48
	3.3.4.5 Abrasion Resistance	48
	3.3.4.6 Moisture Regain	48
	3.3.4.7 Air Permeability	48
	3.3.4.8 Absorption Tests	49
	3.3.4.9 Thermal Conductivity	50
	3.3.4.10 Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)	50
	3.3.4.11 Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)	50
	3.3.4.12 Acoustic Test – Sound Absorption Coefficient (SAC)	50
	3.3.4.13 Correlation Between Thickness and Acoustic Property	51
3.4	Phase IV – Fabrication of Composite Structures	51
	3.4.1 Nomenclature of the Composite Samples	52
	3.4.2 Selection of Reinforcement	52
	3.4.3 Selection of Polymer Matrix	53
	3.4.4 Fabrication of Composite Samples	53
	3.4.4.1 Preparation of Mould	53
	3.4.4.2 Neat Epoxy Slab	53
	3.4.4.3 Development of Fabric Reinforced Composite Samples	53
	3.4.5 Machining of the Composite Samples	56
3.5	Evaluation of Prepared Composite Samples	57
	3.5.1 Tensile Strength and Elongation	57
	3.5.2 Flexural Strength	57
	3.5.3 Compression	58
	3.5.4 Shore D Hardness	58
	3.5.5 Impact Strength	58
	3.5.6 Spectrophotometric Analysis	60
	3.5.7 Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)	60
	3.5.8 Density and void Fraction of Composites	60

Chapter No.	Title	Page No.
	3.5.8.1 Density of Composites	60
	3.5.8.2 Volume Fraction of Voids	61
	3.5.9 Liquid Absorbency Test	61
	3.5.10 Scanning Electron Microscopic Appearance (SEM)	62
	3.5.11 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopic Analysis (FTIR)	62
	3.5.12 Soil Burial Test	62
	3.5.12.1 Weight Loss	63
	3.5.12.2 Degradability	63
	3.5.12.3 Visual Evaluation	63
	3.5.13 Comparison Between the Mechanical Properties of Composite Structures	63
3.6	Phase V - Evaluation of Selected Composites	64
	3.6.1 Acoustic Test	64
	3.6.1.1 Sound Transmission Loss	64
	3.6.1.2 Sound Absorption Coefficient	64
	3.6.1.3 Comparison Between Nonwoven Fabric and Composites	64
	3.6.1.4 Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC)	64
	3.6.2 Roughness	65
	3.6.3 Drill Test	65
	3.6.4 Flammability Test	65
	3.6.5 Cost Estimation of Composite Slab	67
	3.6.6 Feedback of Selected Composite Slab	67
	3.6.7 Statistical Analysis and Diagrammatical Representations	67
4.	Results and Discussion	68 -184
4.1	Survey	68
	4.1.1 General Information	68
	4.1.2 Type of Jobs Undertaken	68
	4.1.3 Type of Materials Used for Floor Construction	70
	4.1.4 Materials Used for Roofing	70
	4.1.5 Materials Used for Exterior Wall Covering	71

Chapter No.	Title	Page No.
	4.1.6 Materials Used for Interior Wall Covering	72
	4.1.7 Materials Used for Water and Damp Proofing	72
	4.1.8 Factors Considered While Selecting Building Materials	73
	4.1.9 Utilization of Other Fibres in Construction Field	74
	4.1.10 Awareness About Use of Natural Fibres in Construction Field	74
	4.1.11 Application of Natural Fibres	75
	4.1.12 Fabricated Structures Used for Buildings	76
	4.1.13 Suitability of Structure for Building /Interior Decoration / Construction	76
	4.1.14. Preference for Eco Friendly Products for Building Materials	77
	4.1.15 Application of Ecofriendly Materials in Building Construction	78
	4.1.16 Preference for Reusable Materials	78
	4.1.17 Satisfaction Level with Existing Building Materials and Their Supply	79
	4.1.18 Problems Faced in Civil Field Regarding Building Materials	80
	4.1.19 Common Problems Received from Customers About Existing Building	81
	4.1.20 Need for Special Kind of Material for Building Construction	82
4.2	Evaluation of Fibres	83
	4.2.1 Visual Assessment	83
	4.2.1.1 Visual Assessment of <i>Abutilon indicum</i> Fibre Samples	84
	4.2.1.2 Visual Assessment of <i>Agave americana</i> Fibres	85
	4.2.1.3 Visual Assessment of <i>Areca catechu</i> Fibres	86
	4.2.2 Spectrophotometric Analysis	88
	4.2.2.1 Spectrophotometric Analysis of <i>Abutilon indicum</i> Fibres	88
	4.2.2.2 Spectrophotometric analysis of <i>Agave americana</i> Fibres	89
	4.2.2.3 Spectrophotometric Analysis of <i>Areca catechu</i> Fibres	90
	4.2.3 Chemical Constituents	91
	4.2.3.1 Chemical constituents of <i>Abutilon indicum</i> Fibres	91
	4.2.3.2 Chemical constituents of <i>Agave americana</i> Fibres	94
	4.2.3.3 Chemical constituents of <i>Areca catechu</i> Fibres	97

Chapter No.	Title	Page No.
4.2.4	Density, Moisture Content, Moisture Regain and Water Absorption	100
4.2.4.1	Density, Moisture Content, Moisture Regain and Water Absorption of <i>Abutilon indicum</i> Fibres	100
4.2.4.2	Density, Moisture Content, Regain and Water Absorption of <i>Agave americana</i> Fibres	102
4.2.4.3	Density, Moisture Content, Regain and Water Absorption of <i>Areca catechu</i> Fibres	105
4.2.5	Tensile Strength and Elongation	106
4.2.5.1	Tensile Strength and Elongation of <i>Abutilon indicum</i> Fibres	107
4.2.5.2	Tensile Strength and Elongation of <i>Agave americana</i> Fibres	108
4.2.6	Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)	109
4.2.6.1	Thermogravimetric Analysis of <i>Abutilon indicum</i> Fibres	109
4.2.6.2	Thermogravimetric Analysis of <i>Agave americana</i> Fibres	110
4.2.6.3	Thermogravimetric Analysis of <i>Areca catechu</i> Fibres	113
4.2.7	Scanning Electron Microscopic Appearance of Untreated and Treated Fibres (SEM)	115
4.2.7.1	SEM appearance of <i>Abutilon indicum</i> Fibres	115
4.2.7.2	SEM appearance of <i>Agave americana</i> Fibres	116
4.2.7.3	SEM appearance of <i>Areca catechu</i> Fibres	117
4.2.8	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)	119
4.2.8.1	FTIR of <i>Abutilon indicum</i> Fibres	119
4.2.8.2	FTIR of <i>Agave americana</i> Fibres	120
4.2.8.3	FTIR of <i>Areca catechu</i> Fibres	122
4.3	Evaluation of Nonwoven Structures	123
4.3.1	Thickness	123
4.3.2	Weight	124
4.3.3	Bulk Density	125
4.3.4	Breaking Strength and Elongation	126
4.3.5	Abrasion Resistance	128
4.3.6	Moisture Regain	129
4.3.7	Air Permeability	130

Chapter No.	Title	Page No.
	4.3.8 Liquid Absorbency Tests	131
	4.3.8.1 Water Absorption	132
	4.3.8.2 Sinking	133
	4.3.8.3 Wicking	134
	4.3.8.4 Spray Test	135
	4.3.9 Thermal Conductivity	137
	4.3.10 Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)	138
	4.3.11 Scanning Electron Microscopic Appearance (SEM)	141
	4.3.12 Acoustics	142
	4.3.12.1 Sound Absorption Coefficient (α) for Set I Samples	142
	4.3.12.2 Sound Absorption Coefficient (α) for Set II Samples	144
	4.3.12.3 Sound Absorption Coefficient(α) for SET III Samples	145
	4.3.12.4 Sound Absorption Coefficient (α) for SET IV Samples	146
	4.3.13 Correlation Between Thickness and Acoustic Property	149
4.4	Evaluation of Prepared Composites	150
	4.4.1 Tensile Strength and Elongation	150
	4.4.2 Flexural Strength	151
	4.4.3 Compressive Strength	152
	4.4.4 Shore D Hardness	153
	4.4.5 Impact Strength	153
	4.4.6 Spectro Photometric Analysis	156
	4.4.7 Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)	157
	4.4.8 Density and Void Fraction of Composites	159
	4.4.8.1 Density of Composites	159
	4.4.8.2 Void Fraction of Composites	160
	4.4.9 Liquid Absorbency Test	160
	4.4.9.1 Between Samples in Deionised Water (DW)	161
	4.4.9.2 Between Samples in Ionised Water (IW)	162
	4.4.9.3 Between Samples in Kerosene (K)	163
	4.4.10 Scanning Electron Microscopic Appearance (FESEM)	164
	4.4.11 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopic Analysis (FTIR)	165
	4.4.12 Soil Burial Test	166

Chapter No.	Title	Page No.
	4.4.12.1 Weight Loss of Composites	167
	4.4.12.2 Degradation of Composites	168
	4.4.12.3 Visual Evaluation	169
	4.4.14 Comparison of Mechanical Properties of Composites	172
4.5	Evaluation of Selected Composites	172
	4.5.1 Roughness of Selected Composites	172
	4.5.2 Drill Behavior of Selected Composites	174
	4.5.2.1 Penetration Time	174
	4.5.2.2 Damage and Cut Fibres	175
	4.5.3 Flammability of Selected Composites	176
	4.5.4 Acoustics	177
	4.5.4.1 Transmission Loss	177
	4.5.4.2 Sound Absorption Coefficient (SAC)	179
	4.5.4.3 Comparison Between Nonwoven Fabrics and Composite Structures	181
	4.5.4.4 Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC)	182
	4.5.5 Cost Estimation of Composite Slab	183
	4.5.6 Feedback for Selected Composite Materials	184
5	Summary and Conclusion	186 – 200
	References	201 - 221
	Appendices	222 - 243
	Publications	
	Plagiarism Report	
