

**Experimental Study of the Shear strength of Self
Compacting Concrete T-Beams made with Recycled
Concrete as Coarse Aggregate**

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Abstract

This paper presents the test results of an experimental study on shear strength of reinforced concrete T-beams cast using self-compacting concrete (SCC) with recycled concrete aggregate (RCA) as a partial replacement of coarse aggregate. Twenty seven T-beams were cast and tested, the variables were the shear span to effective depth ratio (1, 2 and 3) , the RCA replacement ratio (0% ,50% and 75%) and the amount of web reinforcement. The beams were tested under four-point load condition. During the test, the values of the first crack load and the ultimate load were observed as well as the deformation of the beams.

The experimental results indicated that when increasing the RCA replacement ratio to 50%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load reduced by an average of 30% and 6% respectively. When the RCA replacement ratio was 75%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load reduced by 31.6% and 9.4% respectively. It can be observed that, at the load 500kN, T-beams with the higher replacement ratio of RCA exhibited slightly higher deflection. Also the first cracking load and the ultimate load decreased with the increase of (a/d) ratio. The presence of web reinforcement causes an increase of about 16% in cracking load. This increase seems to be independent of a/d ratio and the RCA replacement ratio. The average increase in ultimate loads were 4.4% , 18.9% and 28.4% for a/d ratio of 1, 2 and 3 respectively. The presence of web reinforcement slightly reduced the measured deflection and crack width, and its effect was more for the lower stirrup spacing.

Keywords: T-beam, Self-compacting concrete, Shear strength, Recycled concrete.

دراسة تجريبية لمقاومة القص للعتبات على شكل T من الخرسانة ذاتية الرص المصنوعة باستخدام الخرسانة المعادة كركام خشن

الخلاصة

يقدم هذا البحث نتائج دراسة مختبرية لمقاومة القص للعتبات الخرسانية المسلحة على شكل T والمصنوعة بخرسانة ذاتية الرص مع الركام الخرساني معاد التدوير كنسب استبدال جزئي من الركام الخشن للخرسانة. تم صب وفحص سبعة وعشرين عتبة على شكل T، المتغيرات هي نسبة طول فضاء القص الى العمق الفعال (3,2,1)، نسبة استبدال ركام الخرسانة معاد التدوير (0,50,75%) وكمية حديد القص. اختبرت العتبات تحت اربع نقاط تحميل. خلال الفحص تم ايجاد قيم حمل التشقق الاولي وحمل الفشل وتم ملاحظة تشوهات العتبات اثناء الفحص. وأشارت النتائج المختبرية إلى أن عند زيادة نسبة الاستبدال لركام الخرسانة المعاد التدوير الى 50%، حمل التشقق الاولي وحمل الفشل ينخفض بمعدل 30% و 6% على التوالي. عندما تزداد نسبة الاستبدال للركام الخرسانة معادة التدوير الى 75%، فان حمل التشقق الاولي وحمل الفشل ينخفض بمعدل 31.6% و 9.4% على التوالي. تم ملاحظة عند الحمل 500kN، العتبات ذات النسب الاستبدال الاعلى تظهر انحناء اكثر. ايضا يقل حمل التشقق الاولي وحمل الفشل بزيادة نسبة طول الفضاء الى العمق الفعال (a/d)، وجود تسليح القص يسبب زيادة حوال 16% لحمل التشقق. اما حمل الفشل النهائي يزداد بمعدل 4.4%، 18.9%، 28.4% لنسب a/d 1,2,3 على التوالي. يادي وجود حديد القص الى انخفاض طفيف في مقدار الانحناء وعرض التشقق، ويكون تأثيره اكثر عند تقليل المسافة ما بين اطواق التسليح.

الكلمات المفتاحية: عتبات على شكل T، الخرسانة ذاتية الرص، مقاومة القص، الركام الخرساني المعاد.

1. Introduction

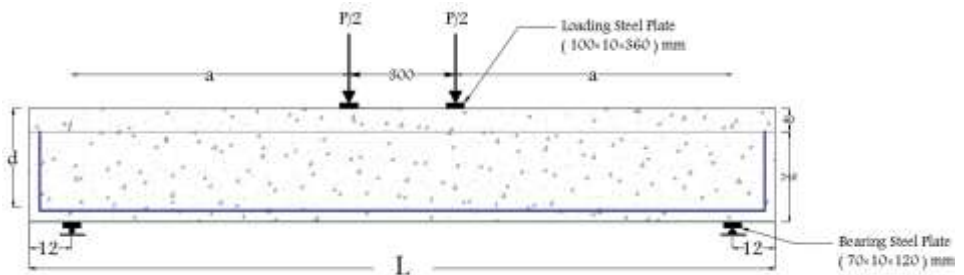
The importance of establishing the suitability of recycled aggregates has increased in recent years against the backdrop of a growing emphasis on sustainable building practices. The rate of building demolition is constantly increasing, making it essential to effectively reuse demolition waste to conserve nonrenewable natural resources. At present a large portion of potentially useful construction and demolition waste is disposed of in landfill sites, creating environmental problems due to scarcity of such sites, unplanned disposal, and environmental cost of transporting demolition waste. The use of coarse recycled concrete aggregates (RCA) as a replacement for natural coarse aggregates in concrete offers a sustainable solution to these problems. However, the use of RCA may potentially reduce concrete quality as coarse RCAs are

generally of poorer quality than natural coarse aggregates, with greater water absorption and lower density [1] .

Self-compacting concrete (SCC) is one of the most important innovations in the concrete technology. It arrived as a revolution in the field of concrete technology. Its distribution worldwide is because of its very attractive properties in the fresh state as well as after hardening. It is a highly workable concrete that can flow through densely reinforced or geometrically complex structural elements under its own weight and sufficiently fills voids without segregation or excessive bleeding without the need for vibration to consolidate it [2,3]. Construction and Demolition waste constitutes a major portion of total solid waste production in the world, and most of it is used in landfills. Research by concrete engineers has clearly suggested the possibility of appropriately treating and reusing such waste as aggregate in new concrete. Recycling is the act of processing the used material for use in creating new product. The utilization of waste material as secondary raw material is the solution to the problem of an excess of waste material, not forgetting the parallel trend of improvement of final product quality [4].

2. Experimental program

The experimental program consists of twenty seven SCC T-beams

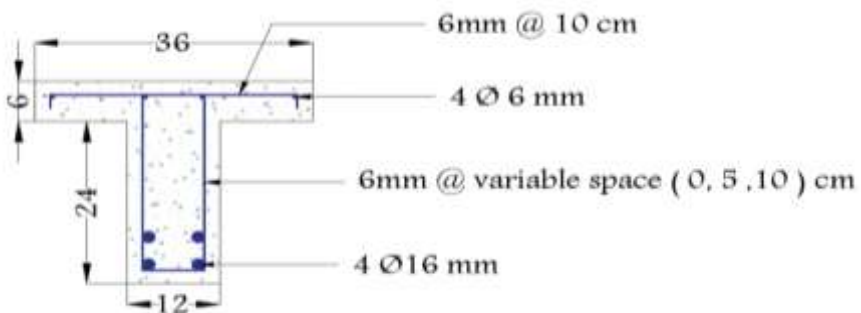


with RCA design to failed in shear with different (a/d) ratio (1, 2, 3). Three types of mixes were used, which were differ in the percentage replacement of recycled concrete aggregate (0% ,50%, 75%). For each replacement ratio, three web reinforcement ratios were considered. The full details of the T-beams are presented in Figure(1) and Table (1).

Figure(1):Details of the tested T-beams

Table (1): Properties of tested T-beams

T-beam No.	RCA content %	a/d	Total length (m)	Tensile reinforcement	Web Reinforcement
R0S0	0	1	1.06	4Φ16	None
R0S10	0	1	1.06	4Φ16	Φ6@100mm
R0S5	0	1	1.06	4Φ16	Φ6@50mm
R50S0	50	1	1.06	4Φ16	None
R50S10	50	1	1.06	4Φ16	Φ6@100mm
R50S5	50	1	1.06	4Φ16	Φ6@50mm
R75S0	75	1	1.06	4Φ16	None
R75S10	75	1	1.06	4Φ16	Φ6@100mm
R75S5	75	1	1.06	4Φ16	Φ6@50mm
R0S0	0	2	2.58	4Φ16	None
R0S10	0	2	2.58	4Φ16	Φ6@100mm
R0S5	0	2	2.58	4Φ16	Φ6@50mm
R50S0	50	2	2.58	4Φ16	None
R50S10	50	2	2.58	4Φ16	Φ6@100mm



R50S5	50	2	2.58	4Φ16	Φ6@50mm
R75S0	75	2	2.58	4Φ16	None
R75S10	75	2	2.58	4Φ16	Φ6@100mm
R75S5	75	2	2.58	4Φ16	Φ6@50mm
R0S0	0	3	2.10	4Φ16	None
R0S10	0	3	2.10	4Φ16	Φ6@100mm
R0S5	0	3	2.10	4Φ16	Φ6@50mm
R50S0	50	3	2.10	4Φ16	None
R50S10	50	3	2.10	4Φ16	Φ6@100mm
R50S5	50	3	2.10	4Φ16	Φ6@50mm
R75S0	75	3	2.10	4Φ16	None
R75S10	75	3	2.10	4Φ16	Φ6@100mm
R75S5	75	3	2.10	4Φ16	Φ6@50mm

2.1. Materials:

The properties of the materials that used in the preparation of the tested reinforced SCC T-beams with RCA are described below.

2.1.1 Cement:

Conventional Portland cement made by Mabrouka cement company was utilized in this study. This cement comply with the Iraqi specifications number (5/1984) [5].

2.1.2 Water:

Potable water was utilized for both making and curing the samples of concrete.

2.1.3 Fine Aggregate

Normal sand from Al-Zubair, region in Basrah city was utilized. Before using it, the sieve analysis is performed at Material Laboratory in Engineering College of Al-Basra University for ensuring its validity for mixing. The fine aggregate was in region 2 of Iraqi specification number (5 / 1984) [5].

2.1.4 Coarse Aggregate

A-Gravel :

Crushed gravel from Al-Zubair, region in Basrah city with maximum size of 20 mm was utilized. Before using it, the sieve analysis is performed at Material Laboratory in Engineering College of Al-Basra University for ensuring its validity for mixing. The results demonstrate that, the coarse aggregate grading is within the requirements of Iraqi specification No. 45/ 1984 [5].

B-Recycled Concrete Aggregate :

Recycled concrete aggregate which was utilized in this study was obtained from the destruction of concrete cubes which have been taken to the laboratory for testing. The results demonstrate that, the RCA grading is within the requirements of Iraqi specification No. 45/1984 [5]. The maximum size, of this aggregate was 20mm.

2.1.5 Superplasticizer:

A high performance concrete, superplasticizer (High Range Water Reduction Agent HRWRA) based on polycarboxylic technology, which is well-known commercially as Glenium 51, is utilized in these tests. Glenium 51 has been principally manufactured for applications in the precast and premixed concrete industries where the highest performance and durability are required. Glenium 51 is free of chlorides and complies with ASTM C494 type a [6].

2.1.6 Steel Reinforcement

Steel reinforcing deformed bars of 6 and 16 mm diameter were used for the longitudinal reinforcement and stirrups. Three tensile specimens of each size of bars were tested. Test results indicated that the bars conformed to the ASTM A615/A615M-04b[7]. The properties of reinforcing bars are presented in Table (2).

Table (2) Properties of reinforcing bars

Bar size (mm)	Test results		
	Yield stress (N/mm ²)	Ultimate Strength (N/mm ²)	Elongation (%)
6	442	656	11
16	530	677	12

2.1.7 Limestone Powder (LSP):

This material is locally named as Al-Gubra, which has been brought from local market and used to increase the amount of powder (cement + filler). The specific gravity of the (LSP) was 2.4.

2.2 Proportioning of Concrete Mixture

Concrete is mixed in drum laboratory mixer, with a capacity of 0.1m^3 the mixer was cleaned and moistened before use. Based on Jin's work [8], a fixed mixing procedure was adopted and carried out throughout this research for mixing concrete to achieve maximum super plasticizer efficiency and full dispersion of the powder. The mixing method may be summarized as:

- 1- Powder (limestone powder and cement) and aggregates (fine and coarse) were blended for one minute.
- 2- The first part 80% of blending water was added gradually and blended for another 1 minute.
- 3- The second part 20% of blending water with superplasticizer dissolved in it was added gradually whereas blending for another one minute.
- 4- Blending was continuous for additional 3 minutes.
- 5- The blend was allowed to break for 3.5 minutes.
6. The blend was remixed for thirty seconds and discharged for casting.

From these guidelines and after many trials, one concrete mix has been selected which satisfy the conditions of self-compacting concrete. Table (3) shows the amount of used mix materials.

Table (3) Concrete mix materials

Material	Content
Cement kg / m ³	414
Limestone Powder kg / m ³	178
Coarse Aggregate kg / m ³	778
Fine Aggregate kg / m ³	826
Water kg / m ³	183
SP kg / m ³	4

University of Thi-Qar Journal Vol.14 No.1 Mar 2019

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2.3 Fresh Concrete Tests

In fresh state SCC is required to have three characteristics; filling ability, passing ability and segregation resistance. Therefore several test methods are implemented in this study in order to ensure that SCC mixes meet these requirements as shown in Table (4).

Table (4): Properties of fresh SCC

RC A (%)	Slump flow (mm)	EFNARC Guideline		T 500 (sec)	EFNARC Guideline		V-funnel (sec)	EFNARC Guideline		L-Box	EFNARC Guideline	
		Min.	Max.		Min.	Max.		Min.	Max.		Min.	Max.
0	700	650	800	2.66	2	5	8.27	8	12	0.94	0.8	1.00
50	660	650	800	2.72	2	5	8.56	8	12	0.93	0.8	1.00
75	610	650	800	3.02	2	5	9.41	8	12	0.89	0.8	1.00

2.4 Mechanical Properties of Hardened SCC

To evaluate the mechanical properties of all types of concrete used in this work, control specimens are cast from the same mixes used for the SCC T-beams. Three mechanical properties are evaluated here: compressive strength of cubes (f_{cu}), splitting tensile strength (f_t), and modulus of elasticity (E_c). Three specimens were used for each mixture of any property and the average value of the three results are hence, the results are presented in Table(5).

Table(5): Properties of hardened SCC.

Mix No.	RCA Replacement Ratio	f_{cu} (MPa)	f_t (MPa)	E_c (GPa)
1	0%	44.32	3.96	31.24
2	50%	38.63	3.43	28.94

3	75%	32.11	3.12	25.67
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3. Results and Discussion

3.1 General Behavior and Crack Patterns

Generally all the tested beams showed similar behaviour and crack propagation during load application. The first diagonal crack suddenly developed at mid-depth of one of the shear spans. As the load increased, the diagonal crack became wider and extended towards the load and support points. With further increase in the applied load more inclined cracks were developed and propagated in both shear spans. In most of the beams the shear cracks were accompanied by the formation of fine flexure cracks at bottom of mid-span. In some beams and near the failure load, the inclined cracks extended through the flange.

T-beams with a/d (1 and 2) failed due to shear compression and T-beams with $a/d=3$ failed due to shear diagonal tension as shown in Figure (2). First crack and ultimate loads are shown in Tables (6 , 7 and 8).



Figure (2): crack pattern for T-beams.

Table(6): First crack and ultimate loads of SCC T-beams (a/d=1).

Specimens	RCA (%)	Stirrups spacing (mm)	Cracking load P_{cr},(kN)	Ultimate load P_u,(kN)	P_{cr}/P_u %
R0S0	0	None	220	640	34.0
R0S10	0	100	230	640	35.9
R0S5	0	50	210	650	32.3
R50S0	50	None	140	620	22.5
R50S10	50	100	150	620	24.2
R50S5	50	50	170	650	26.1
R75S0	75	None	120	580	20.6
R75S10	75	100	140	600	23.3
R75S5	75	50	150	620	24.2

Table (7): First crack and ultimate loads of SCC T-beams (a/d=2).

Specimens	RCA (%)	Stirrups spacing (mm)	Cracking load P_{cr}(kN)	Ultimate load P_u(kN)	P_{cr}/P_u %
R0S0	0	None	140	450	31.1
R0S10	0	100	130	490	28.8
R0S5	0	50	140	560	25.0
R50S0	50	None	120	480	25.0
R50S10	50	100	140	480	24.2
R50S5	50	50	160	550	29.1
R75S0	75	None	100	440	22.7
R75S10	75	100	110	480	22.9
R75S5	75	50	120	520	23.0

Table (8): First crack and ultimate loads of SCC T-beams (a/d=3).

Specimens	RCA (%)	Stirrups spacing (mm)	Cracking load P_{cr},(kN)	Ultimate load P_u,(kN)	P_{cr}/P_u %
R0S0	0	None	110	340	32.3
R0S10	0	100	120	340	35.3
R0S5	0	50	140	400	35.0
R50S0	50	None	80	270	29.6
R50S10	50	100	90	330	27.2
R50S5	50	50	100	340	29.4
R75S0	75	None	70	240	29.1

R75S10	75	100	80	310	25.8
R75S5	75	50	80	340	23.5

3.2 Effect of using RCA on SCC T-beams

3.2.1 First Cracking and Ultimate Load

The first cracking load and the ultimate load decreased with the increase in the recycle concrete coarse aggregate ratio as shown in Tables (8 ,9 and 10).

For beams with a/d ratio of (1) and with variable stirrups (without stirrups, $\Phi 6$ at 100mm and at 50mm), when increasing the RCA replacement ratio to 50%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load reduced by average of 30% and 2% respectively. When the RCA replacement ratio was 75%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load reduced 37.7% and 6.7% respectively.

For beams with a/d ratio of (2) and with variable stirrups (without stirrups, $\Phi 6$ at 100mm and at 50mm), when increasing the RCA replacement ratio to 50%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load is slightly affected. When the RCA replacement ratio was 75%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load reduced 19.4% and 3.8% respectively.

For beams with a/d ratio of (3) and with variable stirrups (without stirrups, $\Phi 6$ at 100mm and at 50mm), when increasing the RCA replacement ratio to 50%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load reduced by average 27% and 12.8% respectively. When the RCA replacement ratio was 75%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load reduced 37.5% and 17.7% respectively. When increase the replacement ratio of RCA it causes reduction in compressive strength, splitting tensile strength and modulus of elasticity and thus causes a decrease in values first cracking loads and the ultimate loads.

3.2.2 Deflection

Figures (3) to (5) present a comparison between deflection of SCC T-beams for replacement ratio of RCA (0%, 50%, 75%). It can be observed that, at the load 500kN, T-beams with the higher replacement ratio of RCA exhibited slightly higher deflection. As an example, at the same load level, and for beam with a/d ratio of (1) and without stirrups, beam with 50% replacement ratio showed (22%) higher deflection compared to beam without recycle concrete aggregate while this increase in deflection became (34%) for beam with 75% replacement ratio. The increase in deflection for T-beams with increasing the replacement ratio of RCA is attributed to the lower modulus of elasticity and compressive strength of RCA compared to NC.

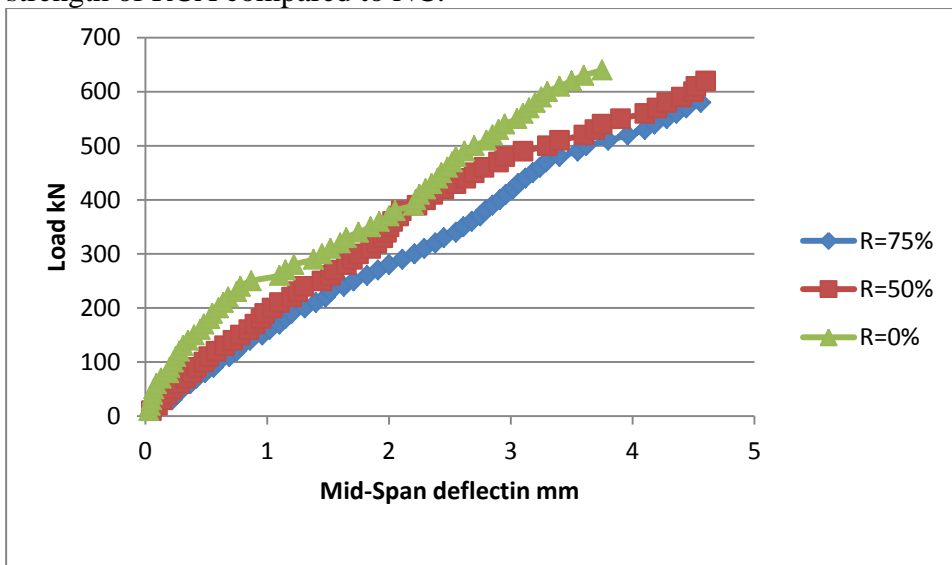


Figure (3): Experimental load versus mid- span deflection curve for T-beams without stirrups and a/d=1

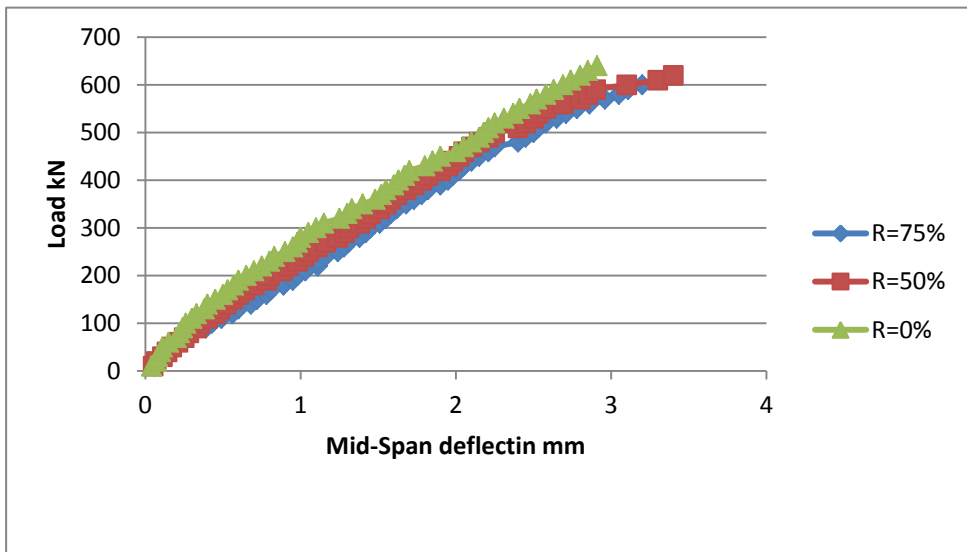


Figure (4): Experimental load versus mid- span deflection curve for T-beams with S=100 mm stirrups and $a/d=1$

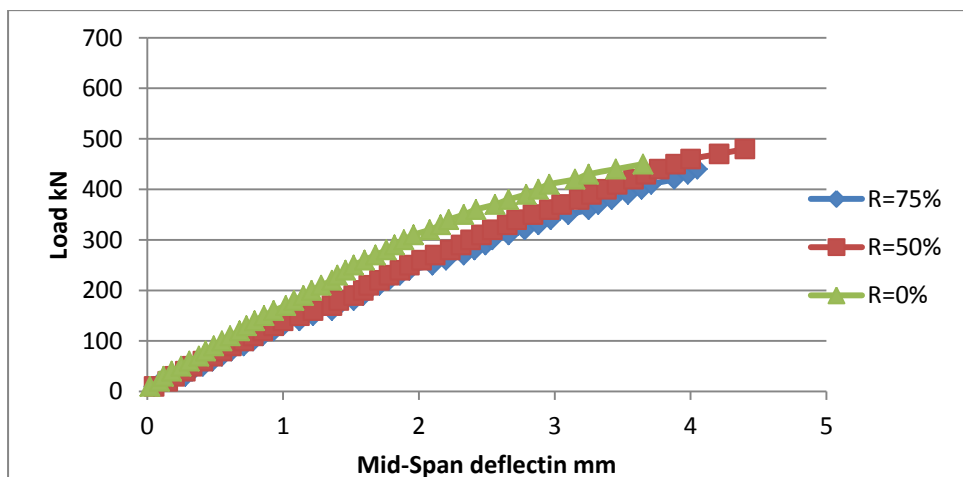


Figure (5): Experimental load versus mid- span deflection curve for T-beams without stirrups and $a/d=2$

3.2.3 Inclined Crack Width

It can be observed that, at the same a/d ratio and web reinforcement, the crack width increases with increase in the replacement ratio of recycled aggregate as shown in the Figures (6 to 8) . For beams with a/d ratio of (1) without stirrups, and at load 500kN, beam with replacement ratio of 50% showed 100% wider crack compared to beam without recycled aggregate. The increase in inclined crack width was 200% for beam with 75% replacement ratio . This behaviour is attributed to the reduction in modulus of elasticity of concrete with the increase of replacement ratio of RCA.

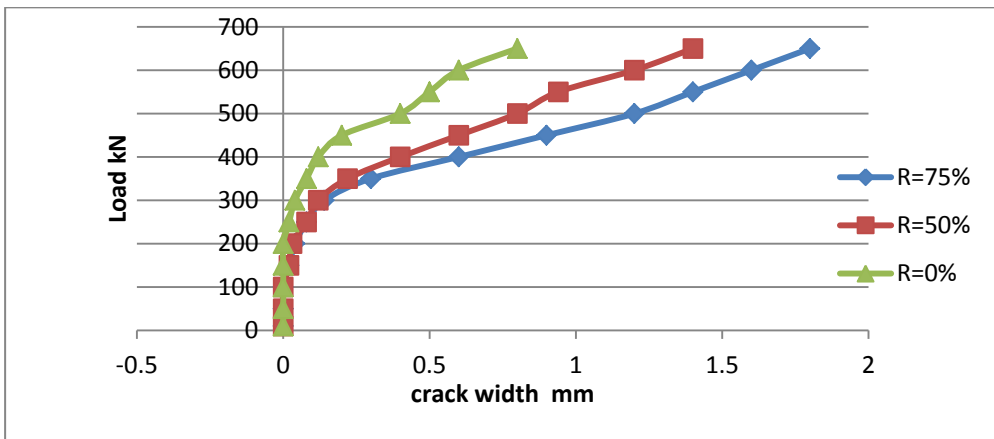


Figure (6): Load- Inclined Crack Width for T-beams without stirrups and a/d=1

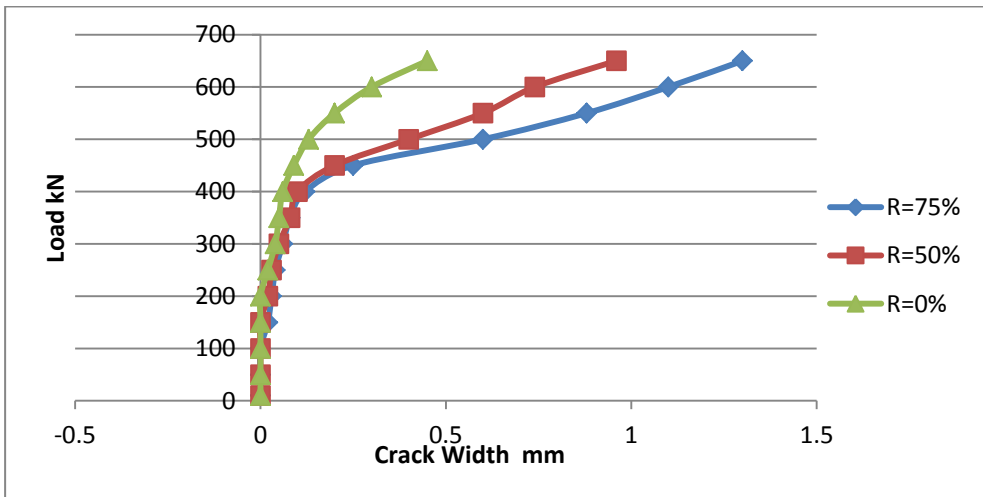


Figure (7): Load- Inclined Crack Width for T-beams with S=50mm stirrups and a/d=1

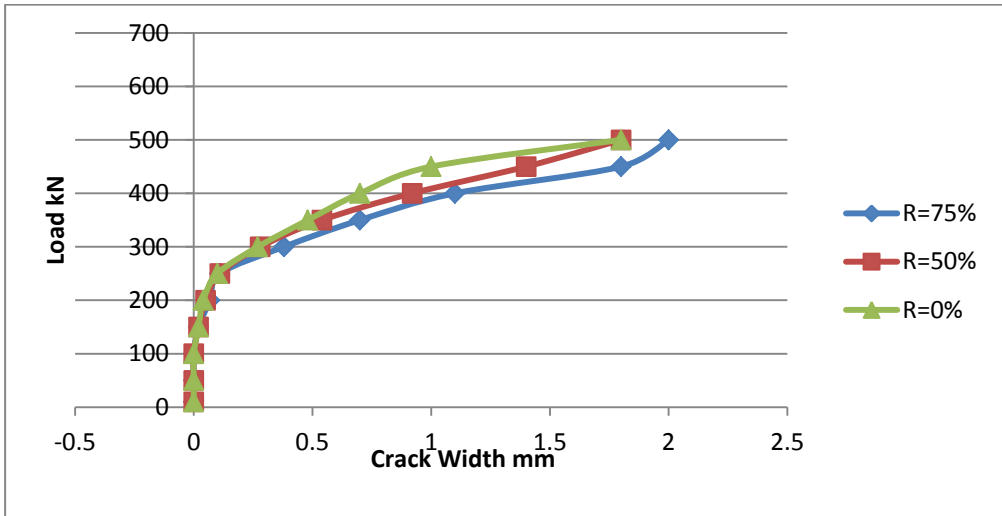


Figure (8): Load- Inclined Crack Width for T-beams with S=100mm stirrups and a/d=2

3.3 Effect of Web Reinforcement

3.3.1 First Cracking and Ultimate Load

From Tables (8, 9 and 10), it can be deduced that, the presence of web reinforcement causes an increase of about 16% in cracking load. This increase seems to be independent of a/d ratio and the RCA replacement ratio. While the effectiveness of web reinforcement have a tendency to increase with increasing the a/d ratio, and this is valid for concrete with and without RCA replacement. The average increase in ultimate loads were 4.4% , 18.9% and 28.4% for a/d ratio of 1, 2 and 3 respectively. This behaviour results from the fact that as the a/d ratio increases the inclination of the diagonal crack will be reduced so more stirrups will be crossed by the crack.

3.3.2 Deflections and inclined crack width

Figures (9 and 10) present a comparison between deflection of SCC T-beams for different values of web reinforcement (without stirrups, at 100mm and at 50mm). It can be observed that, T-beams with stirrups

exhibited slightly lower deflection. As an example, at the load 450kN, and for beam with a/d ratio of (1) and with RCA ratio 50%, beam with stirrups at 100mm showed (22%) lower deflection compared to beam without stirrups while this decrease in deflection became (33%) for beam with stirrups at 50mm.

Figures (11 and 12) present a comparison between crack width of SCC T-beams for different values of web reinforcement (without stirrups, at 100mm and at 50mm). It can be observed that, T-beams without web reinforcement showed higher crack width. As an example, at the load 400kN, and for beam with a/d ratio of (1) and with RCA ratio 50%, beam with stirrups at 100mm showed (30%) lower crack width compared to beam without stirrups while this decrease in crack width became (75%) for beam with stirrups at 50mm.

The addition of stirrups did cause an increase in the stiffness of the beam system as compared to the beam without stirrups.

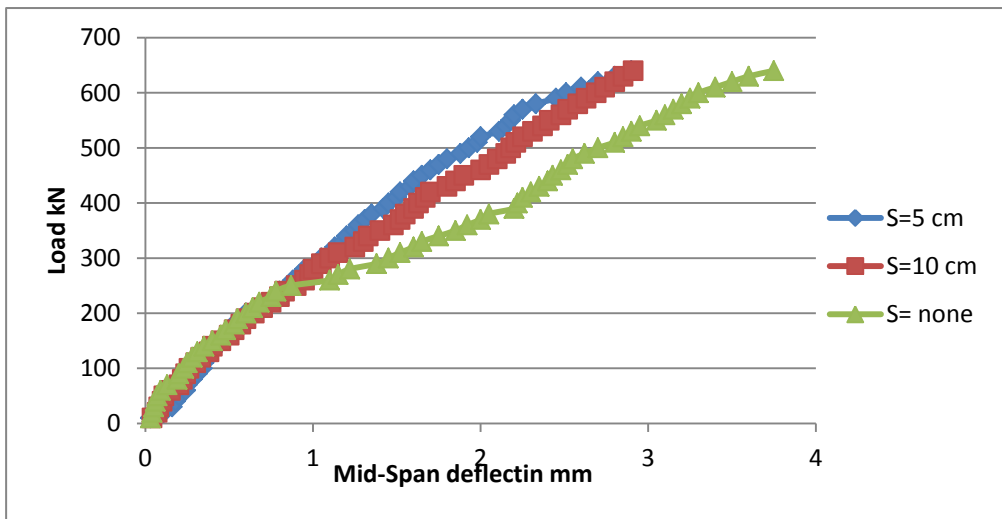


Figure (9): Experimental load versus mid- span deflection curve for T-beams with a/d=1 and R=0%

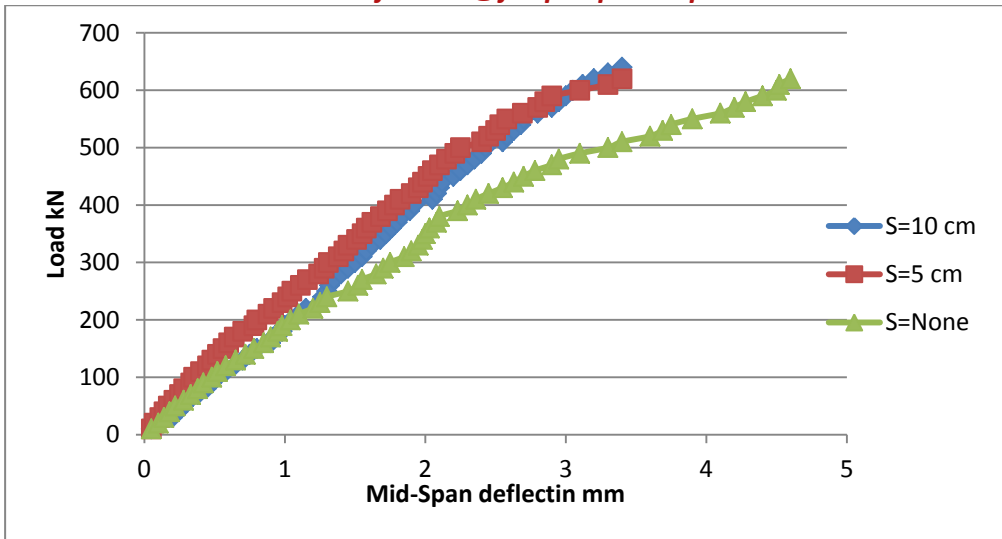


Figure (10): Experimental load versus mid- span deflection curve for T-beams with $a/d=1$ and $R=50\%$

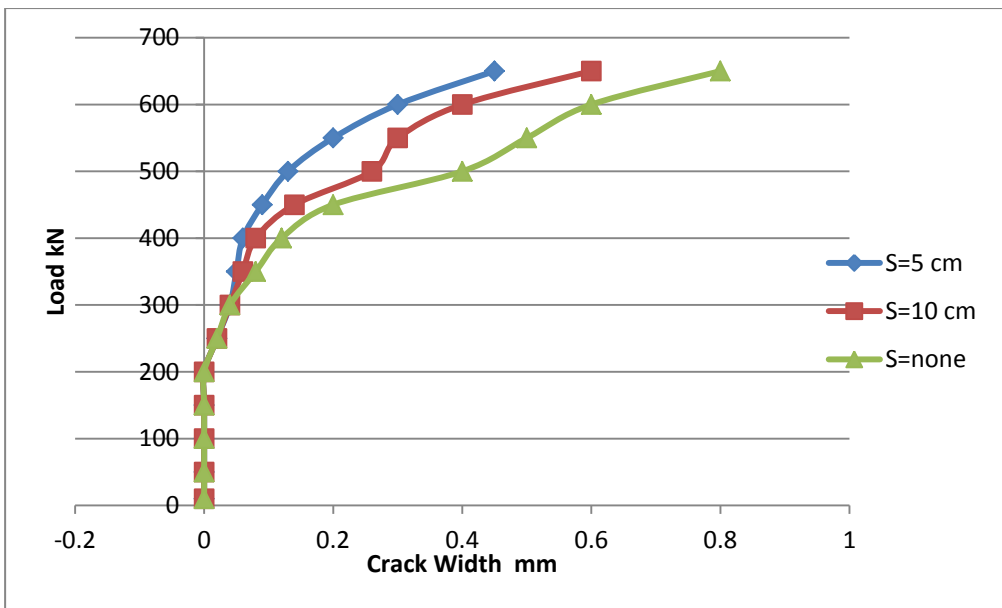


Figure (11): Load- Inclined Crack Width for T-beams with $a/d=1$ and $R=0\%$

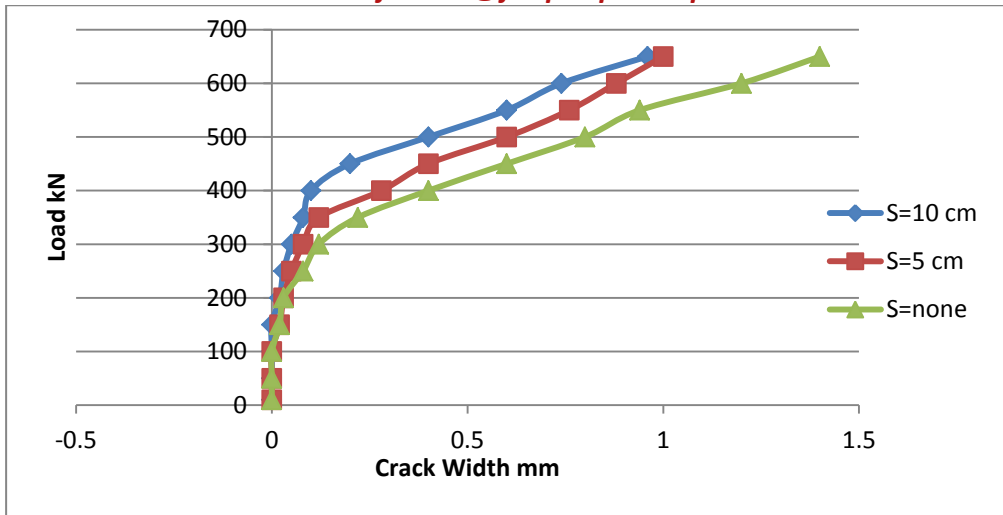


Figure (12): Load- Inclined Crack Width for T-beams with $a/d=1$ and $R=50\%$

4. Conclusion

- 1- The use of recycled concrete aggregate (RCA) as a partial replacement of coarse aggregate have inversely affected the fresh properties of the self-compacting concrete but the resulting concrete remain within the limits specified for SCC.
- 2- Hardened concrete tests showed that self-compacted concrete with RCA replacement ratio of 50% have 12.8% lower compressive strength, 13.3% lower splitting tensile strength and 7.3% lower modulus of elasticity compared to SCC without RCA. For RCA replacement ratio of 75%, the reduction become 27.5%, 21.2% and 17.8% respectively.
- 3- For beams with a/d ratio of (1,2 and 3) and with variable stirrups (without stirrups, at 100mm and at 50mm), when increasing the RCA replacement ratio to 50%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load reduced by average 30% and 6% respectively. When the RCA replacement ratio was 75%, the first cracking load and the ultimate load reduced 31.6% and 9.4% respectively.
4. T-beams with the higher replacement ratio of RCA exhibited slightly higher deflection.

5. At the same a/d ratio and web reinforcement, the crack width increases with increase in the replacement ratio of recycled aggregate.
6. The first cracking load and the ultimate load decreased with the increase of (a/d) ratio
7. At the same RCA ratio and web reinforcement, the crack width increases with increase in the a/d ratio of T-beams.
8. The presence of web reinforcement causes an increase of about 16% in cracking load. This increase seems to be independent of a/d ratio and the RCA replacement ratio. The average increase in ultimate loads were 4.4% , 18.9% and 28.4% for a/d ratio of 1, 2 and 3 respectively.
9. T-beams without web reinforcement showed higher crack width .

5.References

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