

QUALITY CONCRETE A STEP TOWARDS PROGRESS

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With the advent of improved cements, cement concrete has established itself as a building material comparable to structural steels. The usage of concretes are a more economically viable solution than steels in countries where natural iron ore deposits are not present.

The concrete material may be viewed as the most important material available to the Construction Industry of Sri Lanka, because of the afore said reasons. However unlike steels which are manufactured under controlled factory processes the quality of concrete suffers because of the nature of site production and the many other reason which could affect quality.

A problem relating to the concretes produced in Sri Lanka are that it is found to be of a poor quality from the laboratory monitoring tests on such materials. The statistics of such compliance tests indicate a high standard deviation with a wide variation of strengths from that specified. These problems have been identified to be due to

- a) The insensitive attitudes of the industry towards quality, with finances and project time receiving pride of place.
- b) The employees at all levels being not trained in the awareness of the importance of manufacturing a good concrete and the precautionary measure to be taken to prevent usage of poor quality raw materials.

The paper identifies the weakness and provides information to throw light on methods and steps to be followed to improve standards of concrete manufacture to internationally acceptable levels. The Engineer will be enlightened on the requirements of Quality, Economy, Safety and Time using the techniques described.