Bamboo Reinforced Concrete: A Review of Thermal Expansion and Shrinkage Behaviour Under Temperature Variations

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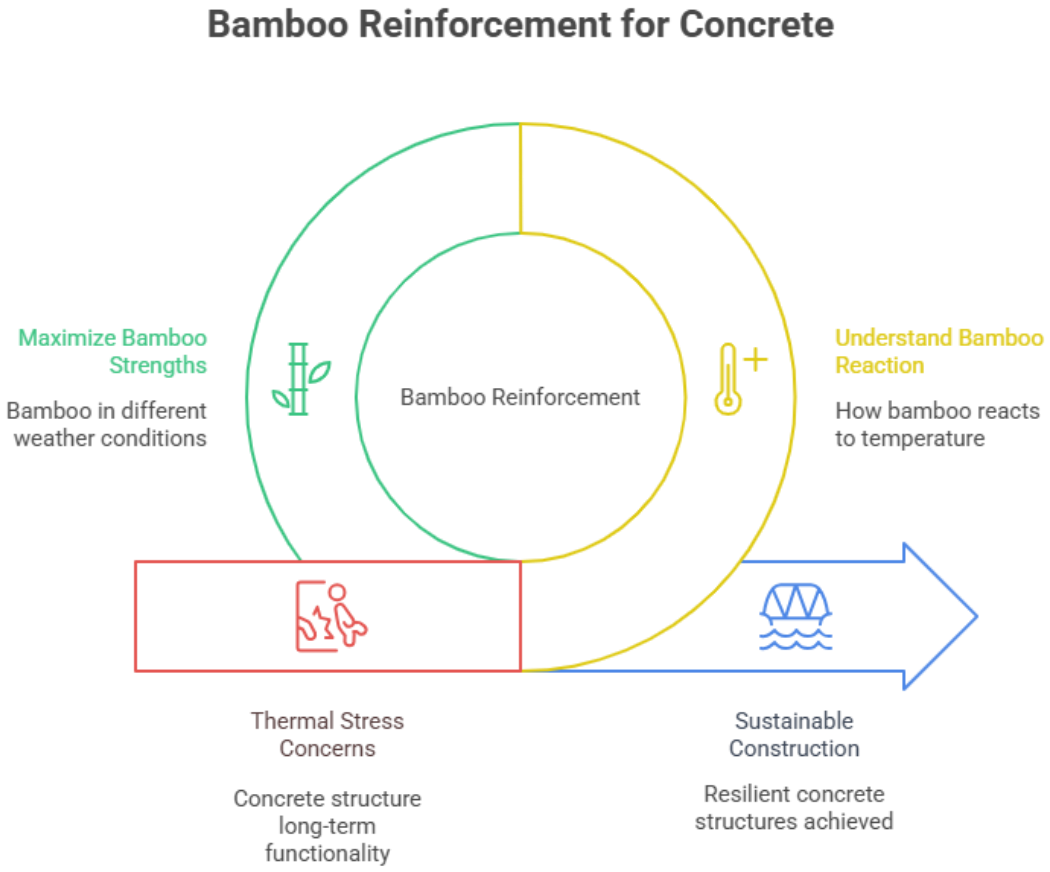
Abstract

The following paper investigates the possibilities of bamboo use as a reinforcement material in concrete with a focus on the thermal characteristic of such a material and the restrictions of the use in the changing temperature. Rapidly renewable bamboo is becoming of interest as a sustainable material that can reinforce traditional products like bamboo because of its high tensile strength and low environmental costs. The differences in the thermal characteristics of bamboo and concrete do however pose difficulty in connection with thermal expansion, shrinkage and internal stresses. This review focuses on the mechanical and thermal performance and characteristics of bamboo-reinforced concrete, particularly on the performance of the material with respect to temperature changes such as the problem of cracking, delamination among others. Possible solutions that can be implemented to reduce such thermal stresses, and consequently, enhance long-term performance of bamboo-reinforced concrete buildings also are mentioned in the paper. With the discovery of how the properties of the bamboo and concrete interact in different environmental conditions, this review adds value by providing an insight into how it is possible to maximize the use of the bamboo to come up with sustainable, high-performance concrete materials in contemporary constructions.

Keywords: Bamboo reinforcement, concrete, thermal expansion, sustainability, mechanical properties, temperature fluctuations

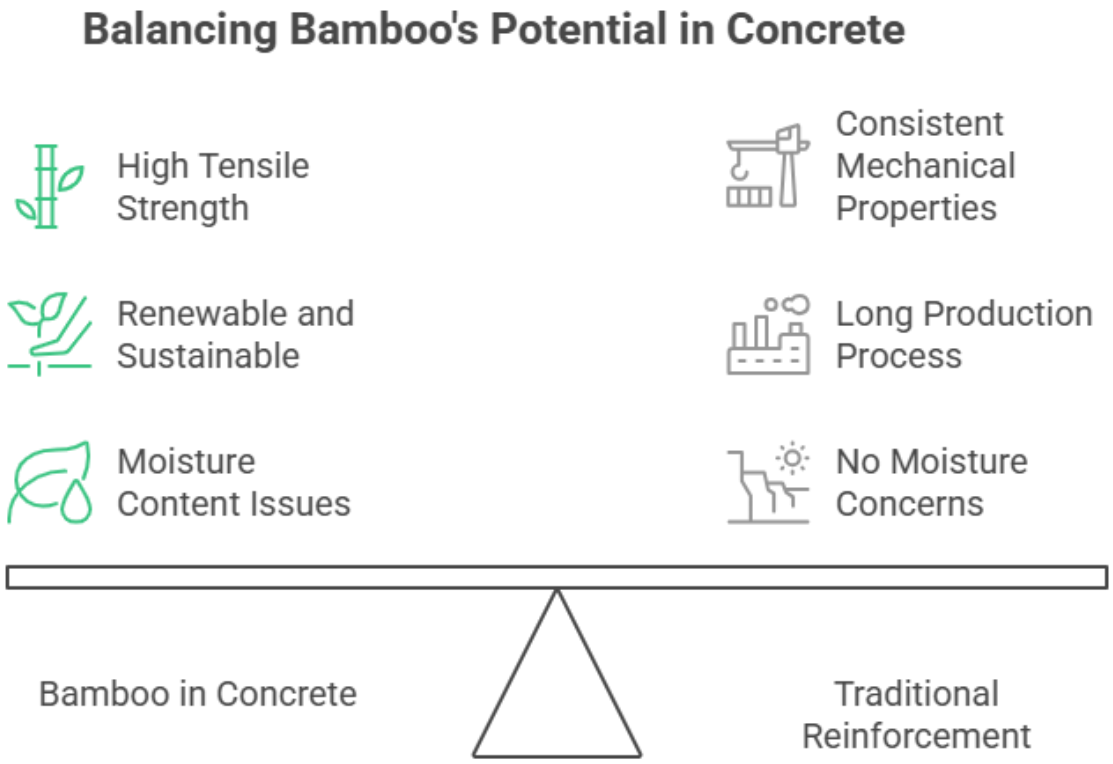
1. Introduction

This paper reviews the application of using bamboo as a reinforcement material in concrete especially with regards to temperature changes. Since they are fast-growing and have a low carbon footprint, with high mechanical strength, bamboo shows more interest in the construction industry as a sustainable alternative to the conventional reinforcement material such as steel. The main aim of this paper is to look at how bamboo can be utilized and be combined well with concrete when subjected to thermal stress as this is one of the most important factors that oversee how a concrete structure functions in a long-term basis. Considering the naturalization condition of bamboo, i.e. high moisture content and the tendency to degrade under the influence of the environment, when it is used in concrete, the main focus of the properties of this material should be to understand how it reacts when exposed to temperature changes. The highlights of this review include the benefits and shortcoming of bamboo as reinforcement, thermal behaviour, and the consequences on the performance of concrete, i.e. expansion, shrinkage, and cracking. It also underscores the comparisons in existing research and future studies are warranted to maximize the strengths of bamboo when used in concrete structures in different weather conditions, which will give way to a more sustainable and resilient way of construction (Ramful et al., 2021), (Zhao et al., 2025).



2. Bamboo as a Reinforcement Material in Concrete

Use of bamboo forest as a reinforcement material in concrete has been determined as a proscribed material due to its mechanical strength, renewable, and sustainability. The material has been defined as highly tensile just like steel and also able to enhance the overall performance of the concrete particularly the flexural and tensile strength. The bamboo also has great environmental benefits as it is fast growing renewable material and can be harvested every few years as compared to other reinforcement materials which takes a lot of processing and takes a long process of production. Nevertheless, though these have promising claims, there exist a number of drawbacks of bamboo in concrete especially with regards to moisture content which may influence its adhesion to cement adversely. The inherent inconsistencies in the physical properties of bamboo because of its different varieties in terms of physical characteristics including the orientation of its fibers, even within the same species also becomes a challenge of assuring consistency in performances across various concrete mixes. Bamboo has proved to enhance the workability of concrete, minimize cracking and increase the overall structural strength of the material when incorporated into concrete. Many types of bamboo have been tried and the best ones to reinforce with are those that have greater tensile strength and durability (Sayed et al., 2022), (Azuwa, 2024).



3. Thermal Properties of Concrete and Bamboo

Concrete naturally swells and shrinks with variations in temperature and thermal performance of concrete has a lot to say about the long term performance and durability of structures. Coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) of concrete is important because it will help to determine the extent to which the concrete will expand or shrink when it is exposed to heat or cold. Concrete tends to be low CTE and this will be a problem when it is subjected to extreme temperature variations. As opposed to that, bamboo is natural material that allows its own thermal properties. It reacts in different way to changing temperatures than concrete does; bamboo causes expansion and contraction based on its moisture content and this also adds more complication to the reaction between the materials as reinforcement in concrete. The thermal conductivity of bamboo is rather high relative to concrete implying that it is capable of transferring heat more effectively. This thermo-mechanical behaviour difference between bamboo and concrete may cause internal stresses throughout the structure, but especially during thermal cycles, and can end up causing cracking or debonding between bamboo and concrete. The relationship of these materials when subjected to thermal pressure should be well comprehended since temperature stresses would lower the performance and durability of the bamboo reinforced concrete. Some more additions to this list include that the bamboo structure can be weakened with the exposure to high temperatures like the one which occurs in a burning fire, which makes it even harder to use in creating concrete. The determination of the thermal expansion behavior of bamboo and concrete takes on a significant role in making sure that the bamboo-reinforced concrete will also do well in performing under the influence of varying environmental factors which makes it possible to replace conventional reinforcement materials with it (Zhang et al., 2024), (Noori et al., 2021).

4. Thermal Expansion in Bamboo-Reinforced Concrete

One of the requirements that are necessary to consider in evaluation of the performance of bamboo-reinforced concrete with regard to changes in temperature is thermal expansion in bamboo-reinforced concrete. Concrete is a material that amplifies in volume when it becomes heated and shrinks when it gets cooler, and coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) is an important factor in this process. It is a natural material, Bamboo has a different thermal response when compared to concrete. Although the thermal expansion rate of bamboo is high compared with concrete, the motion of it expansion and

contraction is also affected by its moisture content, which will fluctuate with the environment boundary conditions. This difference in thermal expansion between bamboo and concrete may cause the internal stresses between the two materials at the interface and this can initiate problems like cracking, delamination, or softening of the bond between the bamboo and the concrete matrix. This difference in thermal expansion should be considered in the design since we do not wish to have structural failures when using bamboo as a reinforcement. The risks associated with the differential thermal expansion have been countered by experimental tests which indicate that it is possible to alter the overall expansion properties of the concrete by adding bamboo fibers and also by taking proper control of the processing of bamboo, moisture content and the treatment of the fiber so as to reduce the risk of the difference in expansion. So it is important to understand these effects so as to be able to make bamboo-reinforced concrete perform well as far as any changes in temperature are concerned especially in the environments that show high changes in temperature on a regular basis (Zheng et al., 2024), (Chen et al., 2024).

5. Shrinkage Behavior Under Temperature Variations

The issue of shrinkage due to changes in temperature is of great concern to concrete and when the reinforcement material is bamboo the concern becomes greater. Concrete dries out and hardens and this process is aggravated with changes in temperature causing it to shrink. Bamboo in its form of natural fiber structure also suffers shrinkage, of which the behavior is not quite similar to the common reinforcement materials that use steel. Shrinkage in bamboo is very much related to its moisture content since it exudes or takes water, with regard to the environmental conditions. When using bamboo as a component in concrete, it can lead to failure of the final product due to shrinkage effect. Research also shows that concrete reinforced by bamboo can be slightly lesser likely to shrink than the traditional concrete since the bamboo fiber has unique characteristics that can be used in regulating the inward flow of moisture. Nevertheless, temperature effects on shrinkage in bamboo-reinforced concrete continue to be a challenge especially in hot climates where any smart variations in the concrete and bamboo may have serious consequences on the bamboo supported concrete. The manner in which the shrinkage of bamboo in concrete is managed is by ensuring that there is optimum moisture content in the bamboo fibers and adequate curing procedures used to minimize chances of the material cracking or developing any other distresses. Also, it is important to understand the interaction of bamboo and concrete during the shrinkage process whereby there may be differences in the rates of shrinkage of the two construction materials which may cause internal stresses and related durability issues (Che Rosely et al., 2024), (Kant et al., 2024).

6. Effect of Temperature Variations on Bamboo Reinforced Concrete

Changes in temperatures can also have major impacts on the performance of bamboo reinforced concrete bearing in mind that there is a difference between the thermal properties of bamboo and ordinary concrete. Both the materials will expand and contract as temperatures vary, and both materials do that at varying rates, which can cause thermal stresses in the concrete matrix. The differences in reaction to change in temperature that is made by bamboo and concrete may affect the strength, durability and strength of a material. Under high temperatures, the bamboo reinforcement could experience thermal expansion whereas concrete can experience contraction, hence internal stresses which might lead to cracking, delamination or deterioration of bamboo- concrete bond. In addition, it makes this interaction even more complicated by the fact that bamboo is sensitive even to the changes in moisture content as a result of the changes in temperature. Such changes in moisture may cause dimensional changes in the bamboo fibers, which further escalates the thermal stresses and may even cause bonds to lose their integrity. Effects of temperature changes are particularly significant in those environments that are exposed to freeze-thaw conditions or high temperatures and the material undergoes repeated classes. The key to solving these problems lies in the optimization of the bamboo treatment process, the modification of the concrete mix designs to suit the deflection of the thermal behavior, as well as the stability of the interface between the bamboo and the concrete to the thermal stresses that would occur as long-lasting effects. The strength and durability of the bamboo reinforced concrete can be greatly improved by adequacy in design and selection of the material especially in temperature sensitive environments

7. Thermal Stresses and Structural Implications

One issue that has been identified as being critical with regard to the use of bamboo as concrete reinforcement is that of thermal stresses because the two materials have varying thermal expansion and contraction behaviors. Concrete normally experiences low coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE), hence is less susceptible to expansion and contractions due to a change in temperature. Otherwise, bamboo, as an organic material, possesses a greater CTE and is more sensitive to the changes in temperature caused by moisture. The existence of this gap causes internal stresses that are seen to occur during a change in temperature, which may result in cracking or separation of bamboo fibers and the concrete matrix. The formation of such stresses may interfere with the structure of the bamboo-reinforced concrete especially in areas that have wide diapason of temperature changes. Moreover, these problems may be increased by cycling of temperatures therefore causing more degradation in the long term. The behavior of bamboo and concrete under heating condition is totally needed in inferring the long term performance of bamboo-reinforced concrete buildings. The structural implication is that structural consideration must be properly taken into consideration to play down the consequences of the thermal stresses such as assuring good contact with the materials used, optimizing the bamboo treatment to drive down the moisture content of the material, and other materials to balance up the heat characteristics. Proper measures to prevent such stresses can go far in enhancing the strength and stability of the bamboo-reinforced concrete to practical usage.

8. Conclusion

To sum it up, bamboo reinforced concrete is an exciting, sustainable solution compared to conventional reinforcement materials such as steel and where bamboo as a reinforcement material can indicate future company construction practices can become renewable. The high tensile strength of bamboo and time of growth, as well as low carbon footprint, make it an appealing commodity to be used as concrete. It however does not interact so well with concrete particularly in different thermal environments. Mis-match of thermal expansion between bamboo and concrete may cause the generation of internal stresses, cracks and even cause degradation that should be taken seriously. This review has underscored the necessity of knowing the thermal behaviour of the two materials and indicated that more studies need to be carried on to maximize the interaction between the two materials especially during the process of bamboo treatment, stronger bonding methods and variations in design. These and other problems notwithstanding, there is a huge potential of bamboo-reinforced concrete in making concrete structures more sustainable and perform better, particularly in temperature-sensitive areas. It is expected to become a popular finding in the construction business through the passage of time and through increased technology, which has the potential to support a stable application of bamboo reinforced concrete and in addition to having an environmental advantage.