# PRODUCTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF ECONOMICAL HYBRID POLYMER MATRIX COMPOSITES

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The aim of this study was to development of economic hybrid composites which have enhanced mechanical properties with the addition of ceramic and glass fiber wastes into epoxy resin. Waste inventory of ceramic factories involves fired vitrified product waste amounts to 400 tons/month and floor tile product waste amounts to 4000 tons/month. This waste quantity is quite high and it should be reevaluated. The utilization of wastes will be realized with the addition of grinded ceramic wastes into the polymer matrix as a reinforcement phase. This process not only reduces the production cost but also reduces environmental pollution. Ceramic and glass fiber wastes were grinded and particulated in the required size ranges. The characterization of waste particulate fillers was carried out by scanning electron microscopy(SEM), X-ray diffraction(XRD), X-ray fluoresans, laser diffraction and He gas picnometer techniques. The effects of the ceramic: glass fiber ratio and the particle size on the physical and mechanical properties were determined with a fixed polymer:filler ratio of 40:60. The density, three point bending strength, impact resistance and hardness of the hybrid composites were measured. The results indicated that the bulk density remained unchanged, and the bending strength and impact resistance decreased, while the hardness and elastic modulus were almost constant with incresing filler particle size. Moreover, because of the weak matrix-reinforcement interface, mechanical properties was deteriorated with the increasing amount of waste glassfiber. Additionally, due to the high surface area and stronger matrixreinforcerment interface bonding of fine particles, better mechanical properties were achieved. As a result, incorporation of waste ceramic and glass fiber basically resulted in the reinforcement of the epoxy matrix. This allows recycling of the residues as well as improves some mechanical properties of the composites.

**Keywords:** ceramic waste, epoxy matrix, glass waste, hybrid composite, mechanical properties

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