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A Review on Conversion of Waste Plastics into Fuel

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ABSTRACT: This paper discuss about the fuel preparation From low density plastic wastes. Plastics have woven their way Into our daily lives and now pose a tremendous threat to the Environment. Over a 280 million tone's of plastics are Produced annually worldwide, and the used products have Become a common feature at overflowing bins and landfills. Here, the process of converting waste plastic into value added Fuels is explained as a viable solution for recycling of plastics. Thus two universal problems such as problems of waste plastic And problems of fuel shortage are being tackled Simultaneously. In this study, plastic wastes (low density polyethylene) were used for the pyrolysis to get fuel oil that Has the same physical properties as the fuels like petrol, diesel Etc. Pyrolysis runs without oxygen and in high temperature of About 300°C. The waste plastics are subjected to pyrolysis to Obtain different value added fuels such as petrol, kerosene, and Diesel, etc. Converting waste plastics into fuel hold great Promise for both the environmental and economic scenarios. Thus, the process of converting plastics to fuel has now turned The problems into an opportunity to make wealth from waste.

KEYWORDS: Plastics, Pyrolysis, LDPE, Oxygen, Carbon, Calorific Value, GreenhouseGases, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Polyethylene,

I. INTRODUCTION

Majority of plastics that are used are non-biodegradable in nature, they remain in environment for long period of which affects the environmental quality. Plastics are nonbiodegradablepolymers1[1].Plasticsc time ontains1mainlyhighdensitypolyethylene, polyethylene, polypropylene, lowdensity polyethylene. According to national survey approximately 10000 tons plastic wastes were produced every day in our country, but out of which only 60% waste plastics are recycled [5]. Economic1 growth and changing consumption and production patterns are resulting into rapid increase in generation of waste plastics in the world. Due to the increase in generation, waste plastics are becoming a major stream in solid waste. After food waste and paper waste, plastic waste is the major constitute of municipal and industrial waste in cities. Even the cities with low economic growth have started producing1more plastic wasteldue to plastic packaging, plasticshoppingbags, PETbottles and other goods/appliances which usesplastic as the majorcomponent. This increase has turned into amajor challenge for localauthorities, responsible for solid waste management and sanitation. Due to lack of integrated solid waste management, most of the plasticwaste is neither collected properly nor disposed of inappropriate manner toavoid its negative impacts on environment1 and public health. On the other hand, plastic1waste recycling can provide an opportunity to collect anddispose of plasticwaste in the most environmental friendly way and it can be convertedinto a resource.

In general, the conversion of waste plastic into fuel requires feed stockswhich are non-hazardous and combustible. The composition lof the plastics used as feedstock may be very different and some plastic articles might contain undesirable Substances1nitrogen, halogens, sulphur1or any other hazardoussubstances which pose potential risks to humans and to the1environment [7]. Thebroad classification of plastic includes high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene [2]. Also, plastics are classified theirchemical structure of the polymer'sbackbone and side chains. Some important1groups in these classifications are the acrylics, polyesters, silicones, polyurethanes, and halogenated plastics. Plastics can1also be classified by the chemical process used in their synthesis, such as condensation, polyaddition, and cross-linking. Low-density polyethylene (LDPE) is used for itstoughness, flexibility, and relative1transparency. LDPE is used to makebottles that require extra flexibility. To take advantage of its strength and toughness, it is used to produce grocery bags and garbage bags, squeezable bottles, shrink wrap, stretch films, and coating for milk cartons. It can also be found in toys, container lids, and packaging. Polypropylene (PP) is known for its high melting point, which is used to makecontainers for yogurt, 1margarine, takeout meals, and deli foods. It is also1use for medicine bottles, bottle caps, and somehousehold items.



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II. REVIEW OF PYROLYSIS

Pyrolysis is the thermal degradation of plastic waste at highTemperature this process is done in absence of oxygen. TheWord pyrolysis is derived from the Greek word pyro means"fire" and lysis means "separating". The products formed atThe highest temperature of pyrolysis process include solid Coal (char), liquid pyrolysis oil, and gas. Pyrolysis liquid andGas products are often used for power generation in engine And turbines. Therefore, the pyrolysis of biomass could alsoBe a used as alternative method for energy sources. ThisMethod takes place at high temperature in absence ofOxygen where it goes through chemical and physicalSeparation into different atoms and molecules. The criticalTemperature ranges for obtaining pyrolysis products areBetween 350 and 500°C, the process can use for productionOf raw oil or gas. This technique is usually performed byConsuming less energy from the surface. There are two typesOf pyrolysis method which can be done first is by slowPyrolysis method and second is by fast pyrolysismethod. But We have used the slow pyrolysis method by which we get Solid char, raw petrol, diesel and gas.[8]

The Pyrolysis reaction can be Carried out with or without the presence of catalyst. Accordingly, the reaction will be thermal and catalytic Pyrolysis. Since majority of plastic used are polyolefin, So extensive research has been done on this polymer Which is summarized as below.

A. Thermal Pyrolysis of Polyolefin: The non-catalytic or thermal Pyrolysis of polyolefin is a High energy, endothermic processrequiringTemperatures of at least In some studies, high temperature as 700–900 $^{\circ}$ C is essential in achieving decent product yields. The extent and the nature of these reactions depend both on the reaction temperature and also on the residence of the products in the reaction zone, an aspect that is primarily affected by the reactor design. In addition, reactor design also plays a fundamental role, as it has to overcome problems related to the low thermal conductivity and high viscosity of the molten polymers. Several types of reactors have been reported in theliterature, the most frequent being fluidized bed reactors, batch reactors and screw kiln reactors.

Characteristics of thermal degradation of heavy hydrocarbons can be described with the following points;

- High production of C1s and C2s in the gas product.
- Olefins are less branched.
- Some olefins made at high temperature.
- Gasoline selectivity is poor; i.e. oil products are a wide distribution of molecular weight.
- Gas and coke products are high.
- Reactions are slow compared with catalytic reactions.

Thermal Pyrolysis of both virgin and waste plastics as well as other hydro-carbonaceous sources has been studied extensively in the past. A good number of these thermal cracking studies are on polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene. On the other hand, only a few have worked on the thermal decomposition of other common plastics such as polyvinylchloride, poly methyl methacrylate, polyurethane and polyethylene terephthalate. Generally, thermal cracking results in liquids with low octane value and higher residue contents at moderate temperatures, thus an inefficient process for producing gasoline range fuels. The gaseous products obtained by thermal Pyrolysis are not suitable for use as fuel products, requiring further refining to be upgraded to useable fuel products. A few researchers have sought to improve thermal Pyrolysis of waste polyolefin without employing the use of catalysts; however these changes either yielded insignificant improvements or added another level of complexity and costs to the system.

B. Catalytic Cracking of Polyolefin: Addition of catalyst enhances the conversion and fuel quality. As compared to the purely thermal Pyrolysis, the addition of catalyst in polyolefin Pyrolysis

1) Significantly lowers Pyrolysis temperatures and time. A significant reduction in the degradation temperature and reaction time under catalytic conditions results in an increase in the conversion rates for a wide range of polymers at much lower temperatures than with thermal Pyrolysis.

2) Narrows and provides better control over the hydrocarbon products distribution.

3) Increases the gaseous product yields. Under similar temperatures and reaction times, much higher gaseous



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product yield is observed in the presence of a catalyst for polyethylene

III.MECHANISM OF THERMAL DEGRADATION

The four different mechanisms proposed are: (1) end-Chain scission or unzipping,(2) random-chain Scission/fragmentation, (3) chain stripping/elimination Of side chain,(4) cross-linking. The decomposition Mode mainly depends on the type of polymer(the Molecular structure):

 $Mn \rightarrow Mn - 1 + M(1)$

 $Mn-1 \rightarrow Mn-2+M(2)$

 $Mn \rightarrow Mx + My(3)$

Equations (1) and (2) represent the thermal degradation, And(3) represents the random degradation route of the Polymers pyrolysis.

Initiation. Initiation may occur on some defected sites Of the polymer chains. For instance, an olefin linkage Could be converted into an on-chain carbonium ion by Proton addition:

 $-CH2CH2CH = CHCH2CH2 + HX \rightarrow CH2CH2 + CHCH2 - CH2CH2 + X - (4)$

The polymer chain may be broken up through beta

Emission:

 $-CH2CH2+CHCH2-CH2CH2- \rightarrow CH2CH2CH = CH2++CH2 CH2+ (5)$

Initiation may also take place through random hydride-Ion abstraction by low-molecular-weight carbonium

Ions (R+):

-CH2CH2CH2CH2CH2-+R+

 \rightarrow -CHCH2+CHCH2CH2-+RH (6)

The newly formed on-chain carbonium ion then Undergoes beta-scission.

Depropagation: The molecular weight of the main Polymer chains may be reduced through successive Attacks by acidic sites or other carbonium ions and Chain cleavage, yielding in gas oligomer fraction (approximately C30–C80). Further, cleavage of the Oligomer fraction probably by direct-emission of Chain-end carbonium ions leads to gas formation on one Hand and a liquid fraction (approximately C10–C25) on The other.

Isomerisation : The carbonium ion intermediates can Undergo rearrangement by hydrogen- or carbon-atom Shifts, leading to a double-bond isomerisation of an Olefin:

 $\text{CH2=CH-CH2-CH2-CH3H+} \rightarrow \text{CH3+CH-CH2-CH2-CH3}$

 $H+\rightarrow CH3-CH = CH-CH2-CH3$

H+CH–CH2–CH2–CH3H (7)

Other important isomerisation reactions are methyl-Group shift and isomerisation of saturated Hydrocarbons.

Aromatization: Some carbonium ion intermediates can Undergo cyclization reactions. An example is when Hydride ion abstraction first takes place on an olefin at a Position several carbons removed from the double Bond, the result being the formation of an olefin Carbanion ion:

 $R+1+R2CH = CH-CH2CH2CH2CH2CH3 \leftrightarrow R1H + R2CH = CH-CH2CH2CH2+CHCH3 (8)$



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(1) Initiation. Random breakage of the C–C bond of The main chain occurs with heat to produce hydrocarbon Radicals:

 $R1-R2 \rightarrow R \cdot 1+R \cdot 2$ (9)

(2) Propagation. The hydrocarbon radical decomposes To produce lower hydrocarbons such as propylene, Followed by scission and abstraction of H-radicals From other hydrocarbons to produce a new hydrocarbonRadical:

 $R \cdot 1 \rightarrow R \cdot 3 + C2 \text{ or } C3 (10)$

 $R \cdot 2 + R4 \rightarrow R2 \text{ or } R \cdot 4 (11)$

(3) Dis-proportionation recombination of Two radicals:

 $R \cdot 5 + R \cdot 6 \rightarrow R5 + R \cdot 6$ (12)

 $R \cdot 7 + R \cdot 8 \rightarrow R7 - R8$ (13)

IV.PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTIC

The performance test of the plastic pyrolysis oil was tested In a four-stroke variable compression ratio petrol engine test Rig in our college Energy Lab. Comparing the Brake Specific Fuel consumption, Brake thermal efficiency, Air fuel ratio of The plastic pyrolysis oil with the petrol. The performance Characteristic of the engine is plotted below. [11]

4.1 Brake Specific fuel consumption

Brake specific fuel consumption is a measure of the fuel Efficiency of the fuel burnt and produces shaft power. Variations in Brake specific fuel consumption (BSFC), with Respect to engine brake power. These graphs are shown in Brake power v/s Brake Specific Fuel Consumption. Plastic Pyrolysis oil content increased further due to Plastic pyrolysis Oil has similar calorific value and also has higher viscosity Compared to the petrol.

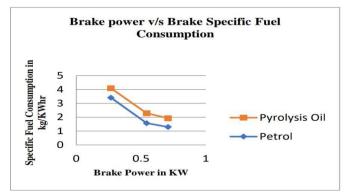


Fig.1. Brake power v/s Specific Fuel Consumption

4.2 Brake thermal efficiency

The experimental study on a Four Stroke Variable Compression Ratio Petrol Engine using plastic pyrolysis oil. At different electric load, the efficiency goes on increasing. The graph comparing Brake thermal efficiency of the plastic pyrolysis oil with the petrol is plotted below. Comparing to the petrol the plastic pyrolysis oil has less brake thermal efficiency as shown in Fig. 2.

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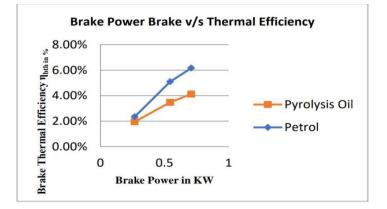


Fig. 2. Brake Power Brake v/s Thermal Efficiency

4.3 Air fuel ratio

Air fuel ratio is the mass ratio of the air to a solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel present in a combustion process. The air fuel ratio determines whether the mixture is combustible at all, how much un wanted pollutants are produced in the reaction. The graph comparing the plastic pyrolysis oil with petrol. The plastic pyrolysis oil has less air fuel ratio as shown in Fig. 3.

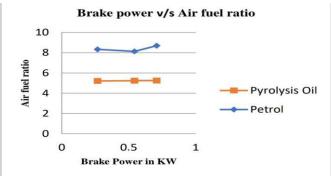


Fig.3 Air fuel ratio v/s Brake power

4.4 Emission Test Specifications Type of vehicle : 2-Wheeler Type of engine : 4 strokes Model : SPLENDOR plusFuel :petrol

	Unit	Pres STD		Measured level	
		Petrol	Plastic Pyrolysis Oil	Petrol	Plastic Pyrolysis Oil
CO	% Vol	3.5	3.5	0.41	0.08
HC	PPM	4500	4500	97	75
CO2	%Vol		2. 	1.30	1.00
02	PPM			11.8	2.7

TABLE 1 .Comparison of Emission Te



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V.CONCLUSION

The use of waste plastics in thegrowing and developing world. Other alternatives to plasticare difficult to find because plastic has many uses anddifferent properties. Demand for plastics is also increasingday by day and with increasing plastic rate their waste isincreasing or increasing. Increasing plastic waste is causing more environmental problems worldwide. As the use of waste plastic grows, it is immediately believed that solidwaste management will find more ways to collect them.Products of the plastic pyrolysis process can be used as fuelsor chemicals. It also reduces the problem of waste plasticdecomposition. In this work, the pyrolysis of waste plastics done because the use of catalysts is expensive and thereproduction of catalysts is a difficult task. Plastic pyrolysisproduces a mixture of gas and oil and produces a very smallamount of char. The implementation of this project in thereal world develops many possibilities. This is a goodsolution for controlling waste plastics and finding a newdiesel source for the country.According to the current data, there is a continuous increasein crude oil consumption and thereby an increase in theprice of crude oil, although there is a temporary decline indemand growth due to the international financial crisis and Covid19.

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