A half day seminar on “Alternative Materials of Construction” was held on 19th March 2019. The session was handled by Mr. Abhilash Joy, CEO, Stuba Engineering Consultancy Private Limited.

Mr. Abhilash Joy in his exemplary and vibrant way of presentation gave a detailed account of an Emerging trends in advanced construction materials. He cited numerous examples regarding his topic in this 2 hour session.

He started the session giving an introduction on the parts of a building. Then he made us understand about setting out of the building and also small details of the drawing plan, elevation and section of a building. Then he stepped on to his main topic which is advanced construction materials.

Mr. Abhilash Joy is an expert in alternative technologies practiced in construction industry using wide range of materials like ferro cement, clay bamboo, gypsum and light weight materials. Ferro cement is a new term to us and we were really excited to know what it is. He made us understood that ferro cement is a system of reinforced mortar or plaster applied over layer off metal mesh, woven expanded metal or metal fibres and closely spaced thin steel rods such as rebar. It is used to construct relatively thin, hard, strong surfaces and structure in many shapes such as hulls for boats, shell roots and water tanks. We came to know the construction details, advantages and disadvantages of using ferro cements from him.

He also made us aware of using clay, bamboo, gypsum and other light weight materials for eco-friendly construction. These materials can be used to make our earth more sustainable and the construction cost is found to be much less than the conventional materials used for construction.

The session ended with an interactive session in which the audience participated actively. Many students cleared their doubts. At last, Dr. Anitha G. Pillai, Head of the Department, Civil Engineering thanked Mr. Abhilash Joy for spending time to share his knowledge with the students.