

Investigation on Pressure Drop of Fluid-Solid Mixture Flow through Pipes Using CFD and SK Model

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How to cite this paper: Jothi, M., Haimanot, R. and Kumar, U. (2019) Investigation on Pressure Drop of Fluid-Solid Mixture Flow through Pipes Using CFD and SK Model. *Journal of Applied Mathematics and Physics*, 7, 218-232.

<https://doi.org/10.4236/jamp.2019.71018>

Received: December 14, 2018

Accepted: January 25, 2019

Published: January 28, 2019

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Abstract

The carrier fluid (air or water) is used to transport solid material from the source place to its destination point through pipeline. Using air as carrier fluid to transport solid material through pipeline is called Pneumo transport, whereas transporting material with water or any other liquid through pipeline is called as hydraulic transport. A large number of installations are now available globally to transport solid materials to short, medium, and long distances using water/air as carrier fluid. However, the design of such system of pipeline is still an empirical art. In the present investigation, one generalized mathematical model developed by Shrivastava and Kar (SK Model) and CFD models were used and compared with experimental results for pneumatic and hydraulic transport of granular solids. The motivation of present work is to find the accuracy of SK model based on analytical, empirical and semi-empirical for the prediction of pressure drop and comparing the result with CFD based on mathematical equation for the mixture flow in the horizontal and vertical pipe lines. The comparison of pressure drop results obtained by using SK model and CFD model were validated with the experimental results for pneumatic and hydraulic transport of solids through. From the comparison results, it was observed that the results of pressure drop predicted by SK model are more accurate than the CFD models for all the cases considered.

Keywords

Pressure Drop, SK Model, CFD Models, Hydraulic and Pneumatic Transport, Solid and Fluid Flow

1. Introduction

Fluid-solid mixture flow is form of multiphase flow which is simultaneous flow of two or several phases through a system such as pipe in the present investigation. From the literature survey [1] [2] [3], two-phase flow may be grouped according to the phases involved as gas-liquid mixture, gas-solid mixture, liquid-solid mixture, and two-immiscible-liquids mixture. The study of two phase flow is not only important from the viewpoint of fundamental phenomenon but also in practical applications (pneumatic transport and hydro-transport of particles in pipes) and natural phenomenon (e.g. sediment transport in water bodies, biological/ biomedical flow). Solid particles can be transported from one location to another using pipeline and carrier fluid like liquid, water, oil, and etc. and gases. Depending up on the carrier fluid the solid transport system may be called as hydraulic transport or Pneumo transport, when water or air is used as carrier fluid respectively.

Many investigators have carried out experimental on prediction of pressure drop and minimum conveying velocity on fluid-solid mixture flow through pipes. Titus *et al.* [4] simulated the effect of particle size (90 μm to 270 μm) liquid slurry using Eulerian-Eulerian two-fluid model in ANSYS CFX-15 in a horizontal pipeline to examine frictional pressure loss. They observed that decrease in frictional pressure loss as particle size increased at constant particle volume fraction. Furthermore, for a constant particle volume fraction, the radial distribution of particle concentration increased with increasing particle size, where high concentration of particles occurred at the bottom of the pipe.

Kelessidis *et al.* [5] have performed experimental investigation on the flow of dilute solid-liquid mixtures in a horizontal concentric and 100% eccentric annulus. The experiments were performed in a 5 m long, 7 cm by 4 cm transparent annulus. A range of superficial liquid velocities between 0 and 2.32 m/s were studied, The authors observed that main parameters affecting the flow pattern transitions are the liquid superficial velocity, the pipe eccentricity and, to a lesser extent, the liquid viscosity. Besides frictional pressure drop with dilute slurries flowing in the concentric annulus is higher compared to liquid-only flowing for all three fluids

An experimental investigation related to frictional pressure loss in a horizontal pipeline on the effect of various particle size was examined by Nabil *et al.* [6]. From the results, least pressure loss was recorded in fine particle size whereas the highest pressure loss was recorded in the coarse particle size for each constant particle volume fraction ranges from 5% to 30%. Besides, it was found that the particle velocity profiles were asymmetric in nature and dependent on particle size and fraction of volume.

Investigation is done on hydraulic transport of coarse solid particles to demonstrate as to how a generalized mathematical model (SK model), developed earlier by Shrivastava and Kar [7] can be utilized in designing the systems of pipeline for the hydraulic transport of coarse solid particles. The SK model has

been validated thoroughly with a large number of experimental results for conveying coarse solid particles such as sand, gravels, pebbles, coal, etc. through pipes of different orientations in earlier investigations. By utilizing the results of the earlier investigations along with some new ones it has been clearly shown in this paper that the SK model estimates the values of head loss and critical velocity quite accurately as compared to the experimental results for conveying coarse solid particles hydraulically through the pipes of different diameters and orientations, irrespective of the particle—density, shape, size, size distribution, and the solid concentration in the mixture. The SK model has also been found useful in optimizing the various parameters of hydraulic transport from energy consumption point of view [8].

For any fluid-solid transport system the most important parameters required to design the system are the pressure drop and minimum transport velocity. Estimation of pressure drop is very complicated phenomena in multiphase flow. The techniques for analyzing two phase flow include correlations, phenomenological models, simple analytical model, integral analysis, differential analysis, computational fluid dynamics (CFD) and artificial neural network (ANN) [9].

The physics of two-phase flow is more complex than for single flow due to the presence of dispersed (solid) phase so that this work deals with investigation on fluid (gas/liquid)-solid mixture flow through pipes. Such two-phase flow is widely encountered in pipe flows. One example of the gas-solid mixture through pipe in textile factory (air-cotton ball) that found nearby Mikelle city, Ethiopia in eastern Africa is presented in the application of this investigation. The data used for the study is based on both primary and secondary sources. The primary data are collected through MAA Garment and Textile Factory at Mekelle city, Tigray region, Ethiopia. The secondary sources of data that the researcher used are from different relevant books and Journals. In this study an attempt has been made to apply and compare the two methods of prediction pressure drop *i.e.* Shrivastava and Kar (SK model) [2] [7] and CFD with experimental found in literatures for the fluid-solid mixture flow through pipe for different orientations. The objective of the study is to determine the most accurate empirical/semi empirical correlations or computational fluid dynamics (CFD) models which can predict the most accurate results for pressure drop estimation and can be applying the method in industries.

2. Theory of SK Model

The total head loss (h_t) per unit pipe length, for conveying heterogeneous mixture of fluid and solid through an horizontal, vertical, inclined and bending pipe under fully-accelerated and suspended conditions of flow, is the summation of head loss (h_f) due to fluid-pipe friction and additional head loss h_s due to the presence of solid particles in the flow, Shrivastava and Kar [2] were able to obtain an expression for h_t in their mathematical SK model [7], which is as given below:

$$h_t = \frac{fV_f^2}{2gD} + \left\{ 0.5C_d\rho_f A_p V_T^2 + m_p g \left(1 - \frac{\rho_f}{\rho_p} \right) \sin \theta \right\} \frac{M_s}{M_f} \frac{1}{m_p g} \quad (1)$$

The Darcy-Weisbach friction factor (f) of the above Equation (1) may be determined by using the Blasius equations as given below:

$$f = \frac{0.3164}{Re^{0.25}} \quad (2)$$

where, Re -Reynolds numbers defined as $Re = \frac{V_f D}{\nu_f}$. The values of terminal

velocity (V_T) and drag coefficient (C_d) of the solid particles to be transported with a carrier fluid through a pipe may be determined either experimentally or analytically by using the properties of the carrier fluid and the solid particles and taking the mean equivalent spherical diameter (d) of the particles in the following Equations (3) to (6):

$$V_T = \sqrt{\frac{4gd(\rho_p - \rho_f)}{3C_d\rho_f}} \quad (3)$$

$$C_d = 18.5Re_p^{-0.6}, \quad 0.1 < Re_p < 500 \quad (4)$$

$$C_d = 0.44, \quad 500 < Re_p < 2 \times 10^5 \quad (5)$$

where, Re_p — Reynolds number of particles is defined as

$$Re_p = \frac{V_p d}{\nu_f} \quad (6)$$

$$M_s = C_v A (V_g - V_T) \rho_p \quad (7)$$

And Mass flow rate of the fluid is defined as: $M_f = \rho_f \times A \times V_f$

The mathematical expression developed for critical velocity (V_c) in the SK model by applying the well-known techniques of optimization to Equation (1) is as given below:

$$V_c = \left[\left\{ 0.5 \times C_d \times \rho_f \times A_p \times V_T^2 + m_p \times g \left(1 - \frac{\rho_f}{\rho_p} \right) \sin \theta \right\} \times \left\{ \frac{2 \times M_s \times D^{C+1}}{m_p \times K \times V_f^C (2-C) A \times \rho_f} \right\}^{\frac{1}{3-C}} \right] \quad (8)$$

where values of constants K and C may be determined experimentally from the plots of friction factor (f) against Reynolds number (Re) for the flow of fluid alone in pipe, which results into a relation of the type:

$$f = \frac{K}{Re^C} \quad (9)$$

The value of density of particle (ρ_p) can be determined by using the relationship between mass of particle (m_p) which is directly measured and volume of the particle as shown below equation:

$$\rho_p = \frac{m_p}{V} \quad (10)$$

The value of density of fluid is expressed by the equation below:

$$\rho_f = \frac{P}{R_{specific} T} \quad (11)$$

3. Computational Fluid Dynamics

3.1. Multiphase Modeling

Advances in computational fluid mechanics have provided the basis for further insight into the dynamics of multiphase flows. Currently there are two approaches for the numerical calculation of multiphase flows: the Euler-Lagrange approach and the Euler-Euler approach.

3.1.1. Euler-Lagrange Approach

The fluid phase is treated as a continuum by solving the Navier-Stokes equations, while the dispersed phase is solved by tracking a large number of particles, bubbles, or droplets through the calculated flow field. The dispersed phase can exchange momentum, mass, and energy with the fluid phase. This approach is made considerably simpler when particle-particle interactions can be neglected, and this requires that the dispersed second phase occupies a low volume fraction, even though high mass loading ($m_p \geq m_f$) is acceptable as reported by Bartosik and Shook [10]. The particle or droplet trajectories are computed individually at specified intervals during the fluid phase calculation. This makes the model appropriate for the modeling of spray dryers, coal and liquid fuel combustion, and some particle-laden flows, but inappropriate for the modeling of liquid-liquid mixtures, fluidized beds, or any application where the volume fraction of the second phase cannot be neglected.

3.1.2. Euler-Euler Approach

Manoj Kumar and Kaushal [9] were approached Euler method to investigate Modeling of sand-water slurry flow through horizontal pipe using CFD technique. In the Euler approach, the different phases are treated mathematically as interpenetrating continua. Since the volume of a phase cannot be occupied by the other phases, the concept of phasic volume fraction is introduced. These volume fractions are assumed to be continuous functions of space and time and their sum is equal to one. Conservation equations for each phase are derived to obtain a set of equations, which have similar structure for all phases. These equations are closed by providing constitutive relations that are obtained from empirical information, or, in the case of granular flows, by application of kinetic theory.

4. Results and Discussions

The input data used for prediction pressure drop using the SK model are collected

Table 1. Specifications of the Materials from MAA Garment.

S.No	Parameters	Items
1	Type of pipe	Steel based
2	Material of the pipe	Galvanized steel
3	Total length of pipe	16.6 m
4	Geometry of pipe—Vertical, Horizontal & Bending	Circular pipe
5	Inner Diameter of the pipe 1	250 mm
6	inner diameter of the pipe 2	650 mm
7	Solid phase material	Cotton seed(waste)
8	Mass flow rate pipe 1	0.167 kg/s
9	Capacity of Fan	5.5 kW (4Nos)

from the Manual of MAA garment and Textile factory [11], Mekelle city, Tigray region, Ethiopia as shown in **Table 1**.

4.1. Comparisons of Pressure Drops Using SK Model and CFD Model

The equations given in the SK model predicts pressure drops more accurately than any other correlations available. However, many work in this area has been done utilizing the numerical methods and CFD techniques during last five decades to predict the values of pressure drop for conveying solids through pipes using water or air as carrier fluids. Hence it was decided to compare the performance of SK model with that of the CFD models by comparing the calculated results of pressure drop with the experimental values of the investigators [12] [13] [14].

In this section the objective is to examine the accuracy of SK model in predicting the values of pressure drops by comparing the results with the experimental values and those obtained utilizing the CFD model for hydraulic and pneumatic conveying of granular solids.

4.2. Hydraulic Transport

Experimental investigations have been conducted by Tamer Nabil *et al.* [15] to measure the pressure drops for transporting sands of three different sizes ($d_{50} = 0.2$ mm, 0.7 mm and 1.4 mm) at different volumetric concentrations with water through a horizontal pipes of diameter 26.8 mm. These results of pressure drop have been compared with the predicted values using CFD model and also the experimental results. All these comparisons of pressure drops obtained SK model, CFD model and experimental results have been plotted in **Figures 1-3** for sands of three different sizes $d_{50} = 0.2$ mm, 0.7 mm and 1.4 mm respectively. It may be observed from **Figures 1-3**, the SK model results are more closely and it was matching with experimental results than the predictions made by using CFD model for all the sizes of sand and all volumetric concentrations. The properties

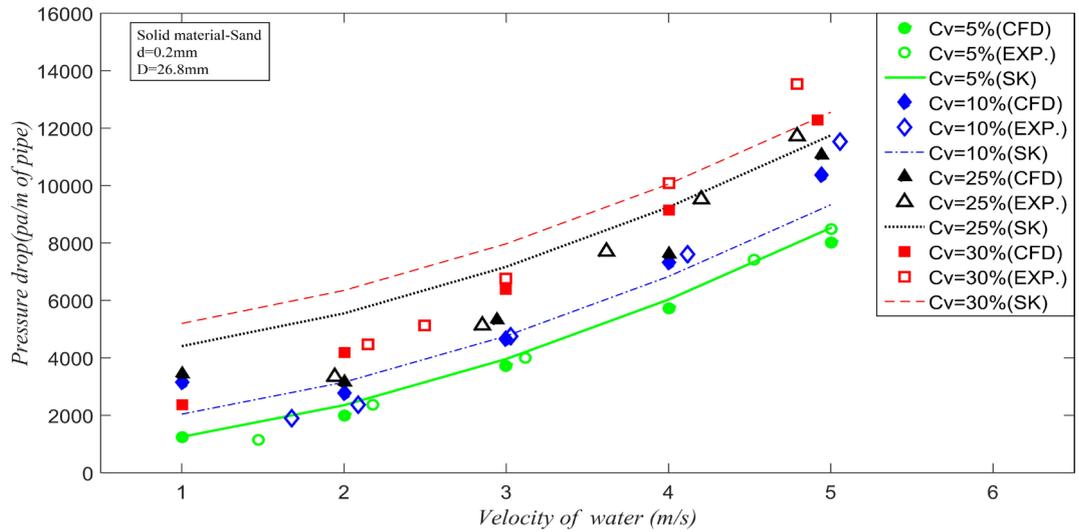


Figure 1. Comparison of estimated pressure drop with for $d_{50} = 0.2$ mm.

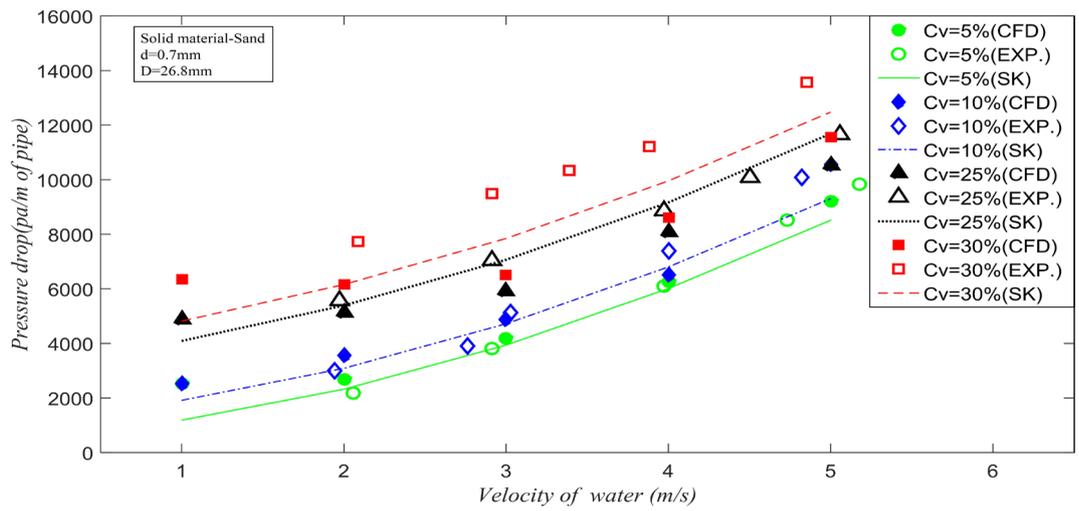


Figure 2. Comparison of estimated pressure drop for $d_{50} = 0.7$ mm.

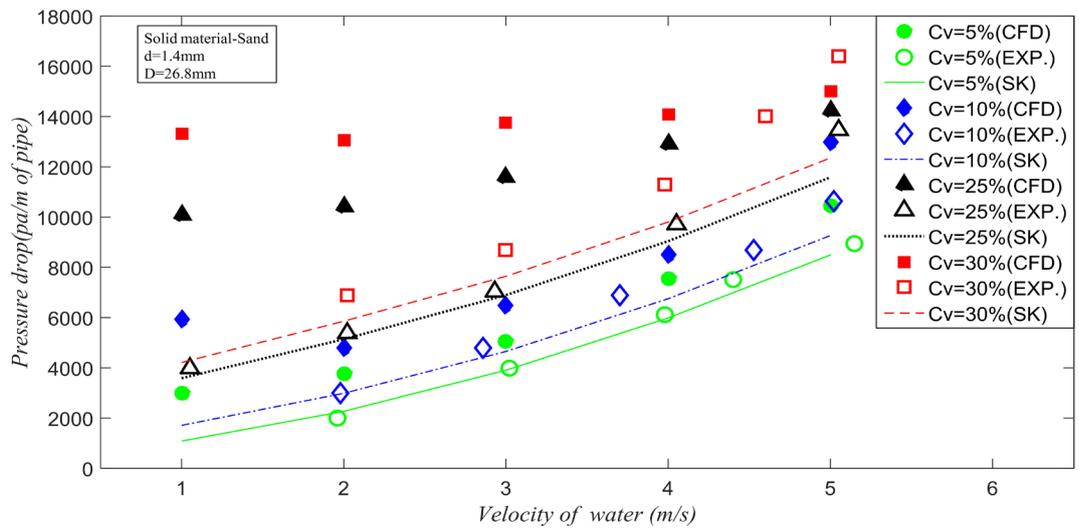


Figure 3. Comparison of estimated pressure drop for $d_{50} = 1.4$ mm.

of solid material and water along with calculated values of C_d and V_t given in the **Tables 2-4**.

Figure 4 and **Figure 5** clearly depict that the effect of particles size on pressure drop in the plot of pressure drop against velocity of water for volume fraction of 5% and 25% respectively for the transportation of sand hydraulically through horizontal pipe made by using SK model.

It may be concluded from the curves obtained using SK and CFD model that the pressure drop is inversely proportional to particle size, i.e pressure drop is minimum for highest size of particle and as the size reduces pressure drop also increases throughout the velocity of water spectrum. However it is evident from these comparisons that, the results of pressure drop obtained by SK model match very closely with experimental values than the predictions made by CFD model.

The deviation from the experimental in the case of SK model was found to be $\pm 7.54\%$ whereas for CFD model it was observed to be $\pm 27\%$ as clearly reflected in the graph. The Properties of PVC granules and water along with calculated values of C_d and V_t given in **Table 5** as described.

In another work made with by Bartosik and Shook *et al.* [16] for hydraulic transport, a CFD model was developed and the model was tasted with experimental result for conveying of PVC granules of 3.4 mm size through a vertical

Table 2. Properties of sand and water and calculated value of C_d and V_t for $d_{50} = 0.2$ mm.

Conveying of Sand		
$D = 26.8$ mm	$d_{50} = 2 \times 10^{-4}$ m	$\rho_p = 2650$ kg/m ³
$v_f = 1.004 \times 10^{-6}$ m ² /s	$\rho_f = [2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5]$	$\rho_f = 1000$ kg/m ³
$C_v = [0.05 \ 0.1 \ 0.25 \ 0.3]$		$e = 1.5 \times 10^{-6}$
$V_t = 0.0246$ m/s		$C_d = 7.1131$

Table 3. Properties of sand and water, and calculated value of C_d and V_t for $d_{50} = 0.7$ mm.

Hydro-transport		
$D = 26.8$ mm	$d_{50} = 7 \times 10^{-4}$ m	$\rho_p = 2650$ kg/m ³
$v_f = 1.004 \times 10^{-6}$ m ² /s	$\rho_f = [2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5]$	$\rho_f = 1000$ kg/m ³
$C_v = [0.05 \ 0.1 \ 0.25 \ 0.3]$		$e = 1.5 \times 10^{-6}$
$V_t = 0.1030$ m/s		$C_d = 1.4234$

Table 4. Properties of sand and water, and calculated value of C_d and V_t for $d_{50} = 1.4$ mm.

Hydro-transport (Sand-water mixture flow through Horizontal pipe)		
$D = 26.8$ mm	$d_{50} = 1.4 \times 10^{-3}$ m	$\rho_p = 2650$ kg/m ³
$v_f = 1.004 \times 10^{-6}$ m ² /s	$\rho_f = [2 \ 2.5 \ 3 \ 3.5 \ 4]$	$\rho_f = 1000$ kg/m ³
$C_v = [0.05 \ 0.1 \ 0.25 \ 0.3]$		$e = 1.5 \times 10^{-6}$
$V_t = 0.2275$ m/s		$C_d = 0.5836$

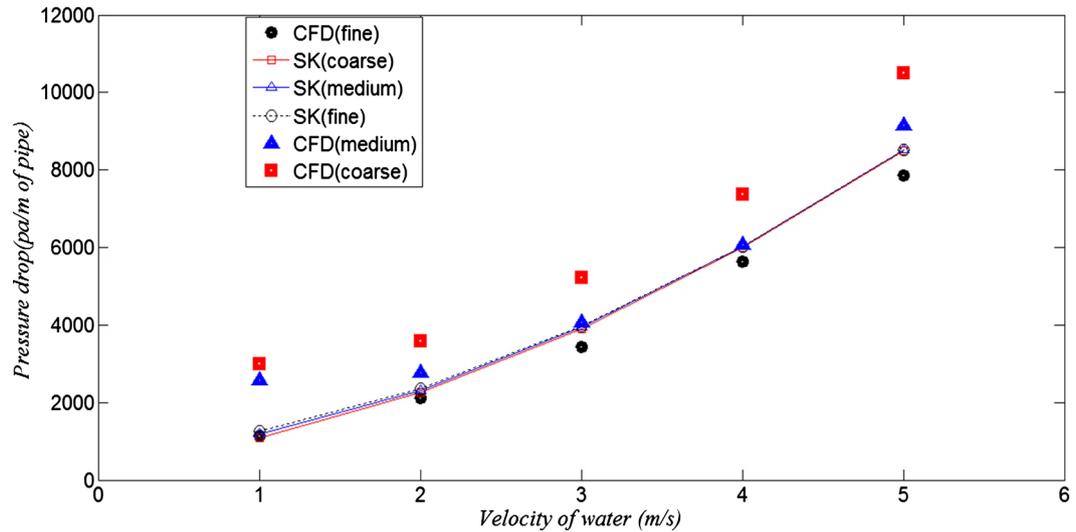


Figure 4. Effect of particles size pressure drop against velocity of water for (C_v) 5%.

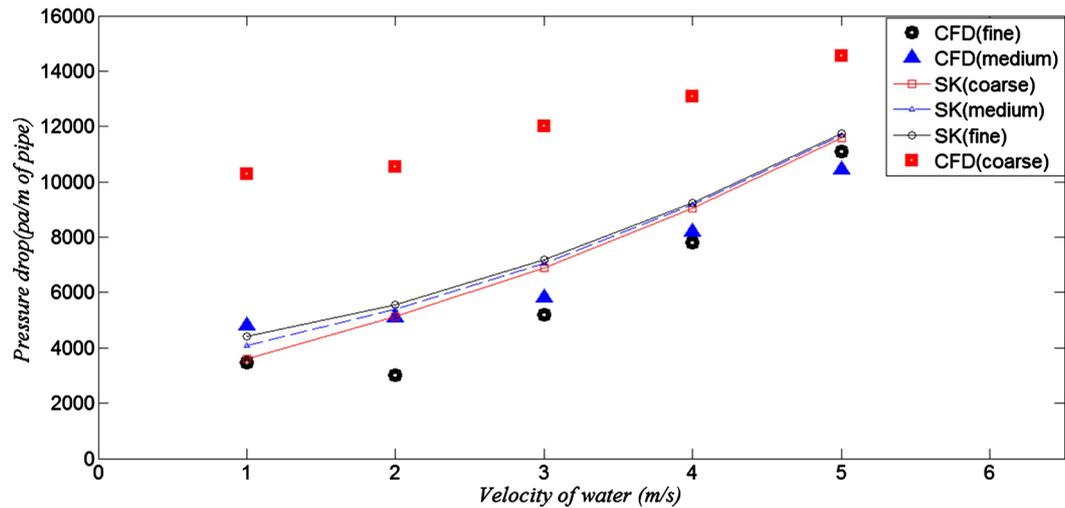


Figure 5. Effect of particles size pressure drop against velocity of water for (C_v) 25%.

Table 5. Properties of PVC granules and water, and calculated value of C_d and V_r .

Hydro-transport (liquid-solid mixture flow through vertical pipes)		
$D = 40 \text{ mm}$	$d_{50} = 3.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}$	$\rho_p = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$
$\nu_j = 1.004 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$	material = PVC granules	$\rho_f = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$
$V_{mix} = [3.06 \ 3.55 \ 4.09 \ 4.55 \ 4.85 \ 5.67 \ 6.36]$		For $C_v = 10\%$
$V_{mix} = [2.97 \ 3.55 \ 4.03 \ 4.58 \ 5.13 \ 5.52 \ 5.81]$		For $C_v = 20\%$
$V_i = 0.2011 \text{ m/s}$		$C_d = 0.44$

pipe of 40 mm inner diameter at two volume concentration of 10% and 20%. In this work the SK model was also applied to calculate pressure drops and the results were compared with experimental values and the prediction by CFD model in Figure 6 and Figure 7 respectively for 10% and 20% volumetric concentrations respectively. It is evident from these comparisons shown in Figure 6 and

Figure 7 that the results of pressure drop obtained by SK model match very closely with experimental values than the predictions made by CFD model.

4.3. Pneumatic Transport

An exhaustive numerical simulation using the CFD methodology and taking Euler-Euler approaching was performed for developing CFD model by Pandaba Patro *et al.* [17], in their research work for gas-solid flow, and the model was validated by comparing the predicted values of pressure drop of the investigators for conveying plastic particles of 200 μm and 3400 μm sizes pneumatically through 30 mm pipe.

In the present investigation the SK model was applied to calculate pressure drops for conveying solids of different mass loading ratio pneumatically at different volumetric concentrations and results of pressure drop have been compared with the predicted values using CFD model and also with the experimental

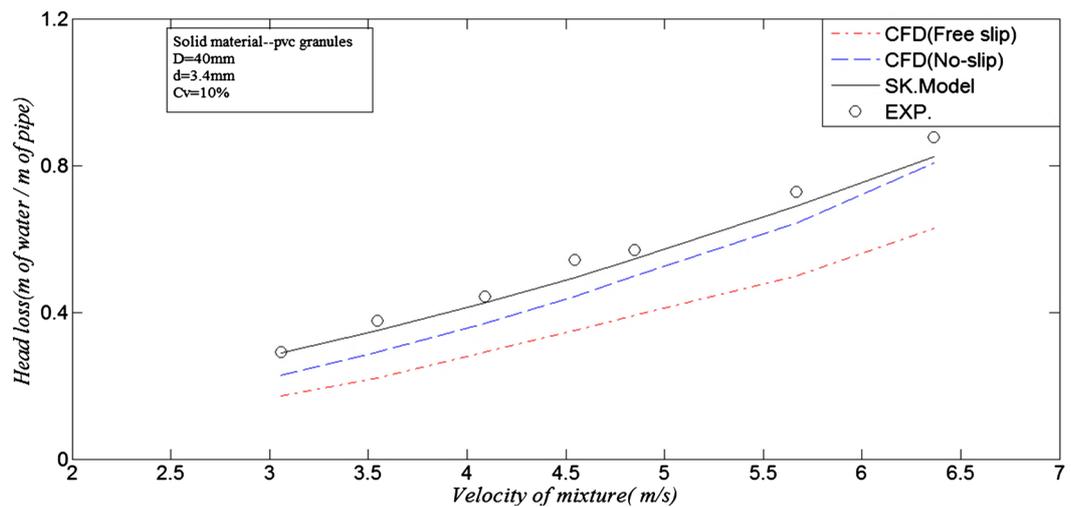


Figure 6. Comparison of estimated pressure drop using SK model, CFD model with $C_v = 10\%$.

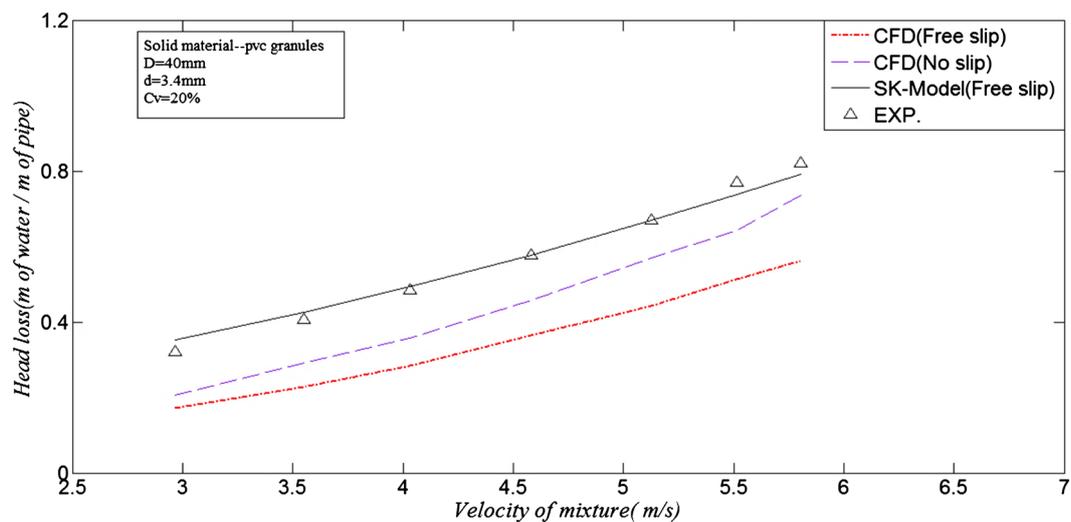


Figure 7. Comparison of estimated pressure drop using SK model, CFD model with $C_v = 20\%$.

results of Tsuji *et al.* [12]. All these comparisons of pressure drops obtained SK model, CFD model and experimental results have been plotted in **Figures 8-10** for mass loading 1, 2 and 3 respectively. The properties of air and calculated value of C_d and V_i for plastic solid material given in **Table 6** as described.

Besides the above investigations numerical simulation was also conducted by Brundaban Patro [18] with Euler-Euler approach and considering four way coupling for different mass loading ratio of 1, 2 and 3 and particle diameter 200 μm considering an internal pipe of 30mm diameter. In this work SK model was also applied to calculate pressure drop for the pneumatic conveying of plastic particle through horizontal pipe of 30 mm inner diameter and the results were compared with the experimental values of Tsuji *et al.* [12] and also with predictions made by CFD model developed in **Figures 11-13**. It is to be observed that in all the comparisons SK model results match more closely with experimental

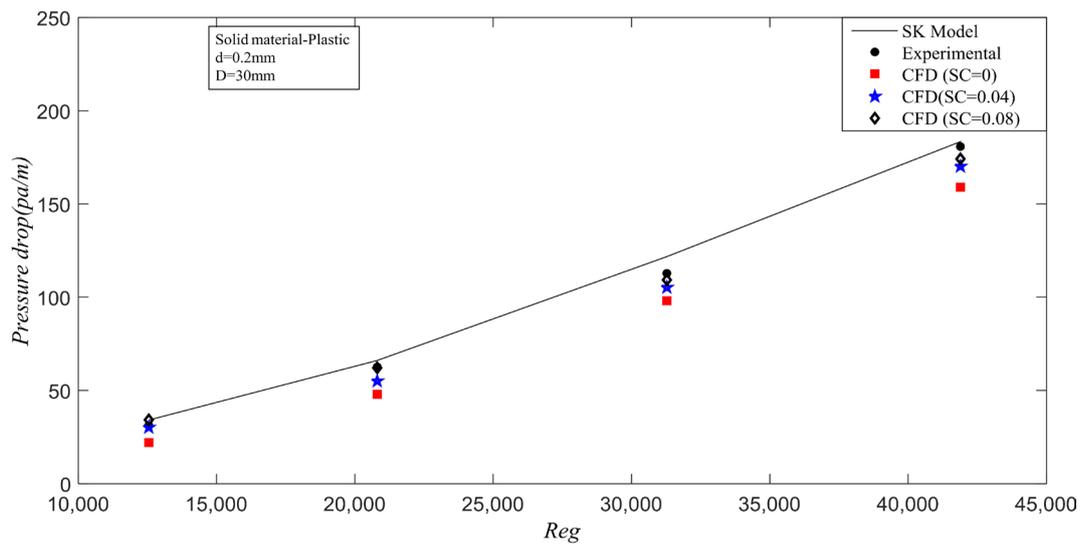


Figure 8. Comparison of CFD and SK model for Pneumo-transport ($\beta = 1$).

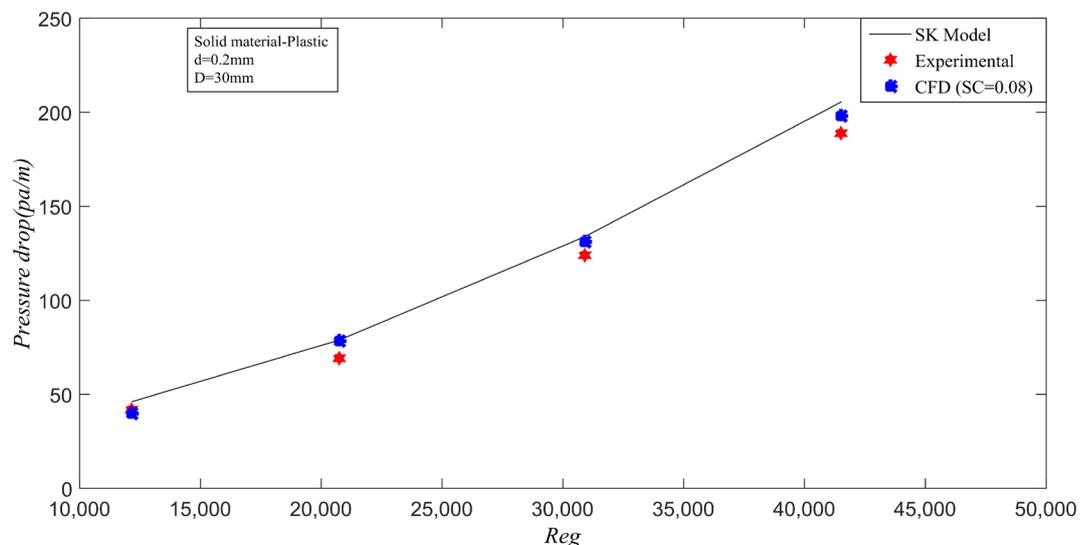


Figure 9. Comparison of CFD and SK for Pneumo-transport ($\beta = 2$).

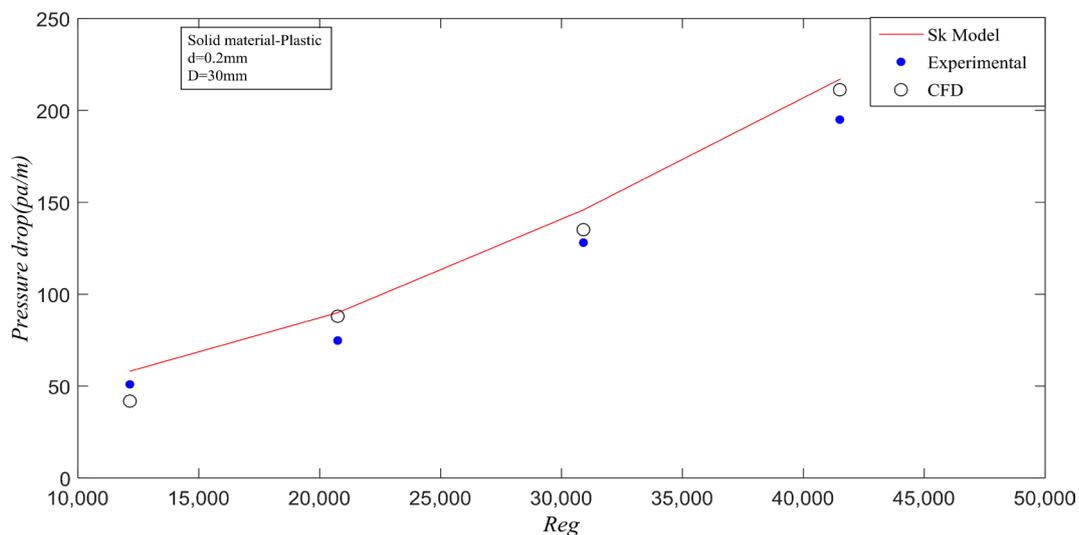


Figure 10. Comparison of CFD and SK model for Pneumo-transport ($d = 200 \mu\text{m}$, $\beta = 3$ & $SC = 0.08$).

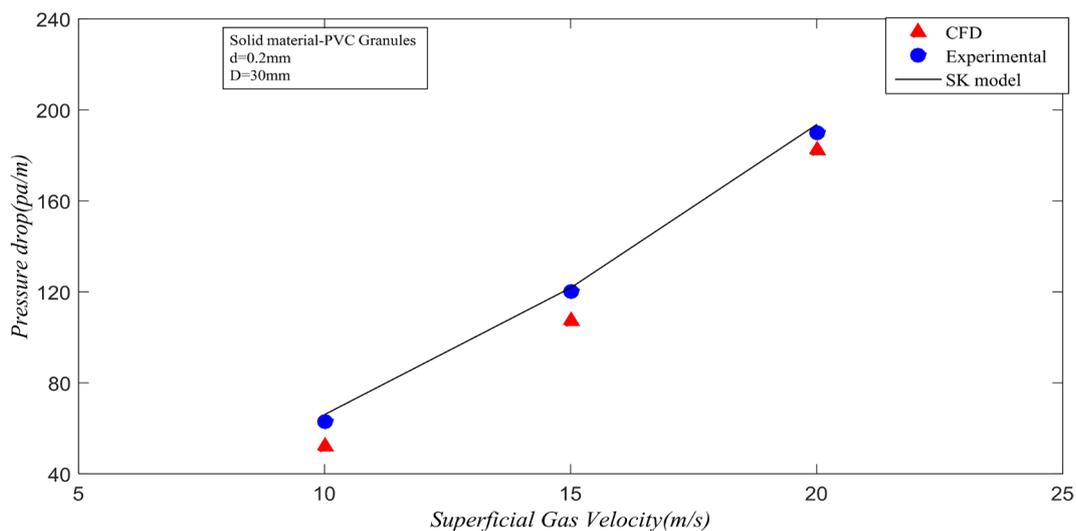


Figure 11. Comparisons of CFD and SK model for Pneumo-transport ($\beta = 1$) with $200 \mu\text{m}$.

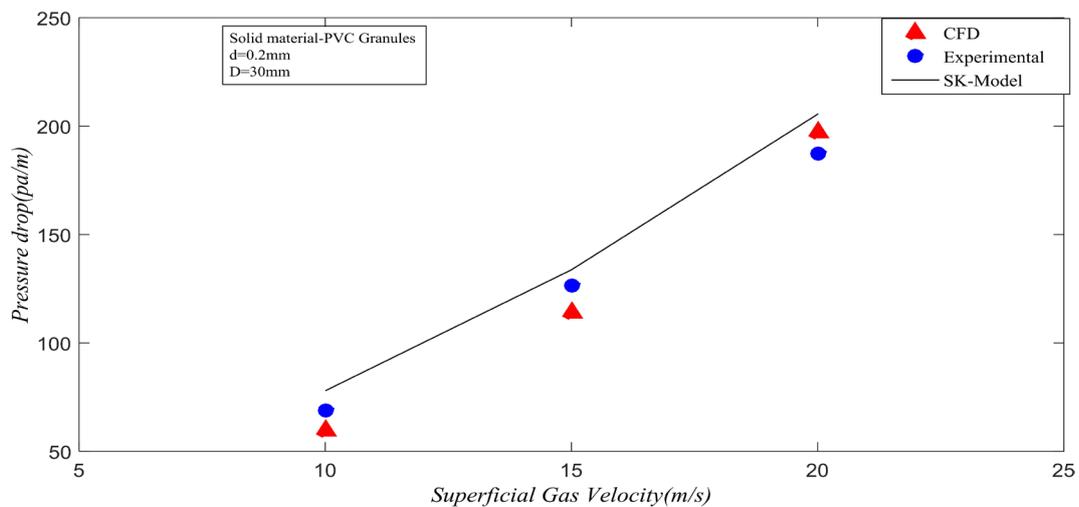


Figure 12. Comparison of CFD and SK for Pneumo transport ($\beta = 2$) with $d = 200 \mu\text{m}$.

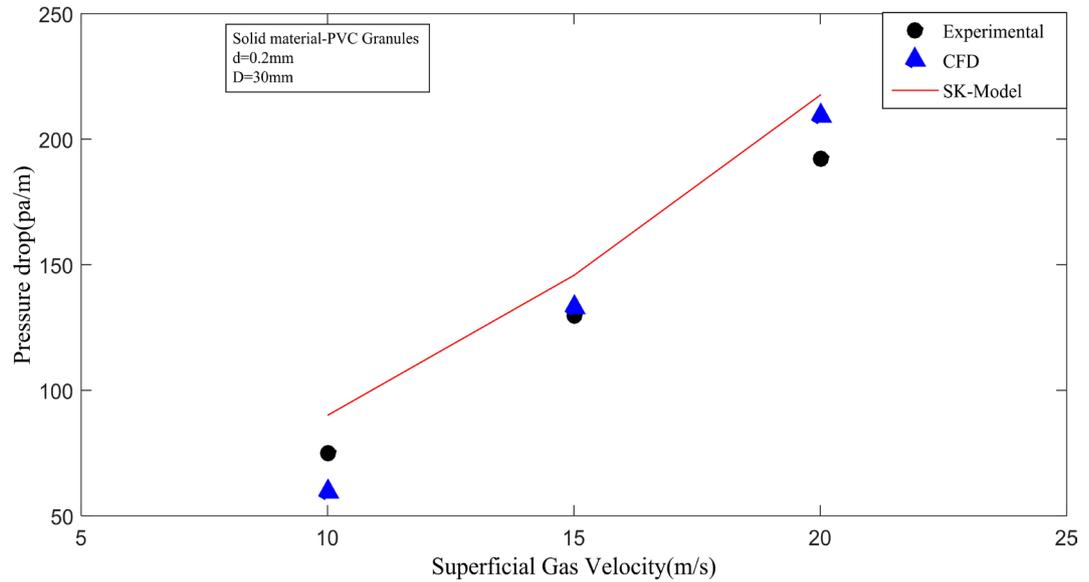


Figure 13. Comparison of CFD and SK for Pneumo-transport ($\beta = 3$) with 200 μm .

Table 6. Properties of air, and calculated value of C_d and V_t for plastic solid material.

Pneumatic transport (Gas-solid)		
$D = 30 \text{ mm}$	$d = 200 \mu\text{m}$	$\rho_p = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$
$v_f = 1.46122 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$	$\beta = 1, 2 \text{ \& } 3 \text{ and}$	$\rho_f = 1.225 \text{ kg/m}^3$
$Re = [12540 \ 20794 \ 31270 \ 41905]$		SC = 0, 0.04 & 0.08
$V_t = 0.6559 \text{ m/s}$		$C_d = 4.9574$

Table 7. Properties of solid and air, and calculated value of C_d and V_t for 200 μm .

Pneumatic transport (Gas-solid)		
$D = 30 \text{ mm}$	$d = 200 \mu\text{m}$	$\rho_p = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3$
$v_f = 1.46122 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$	$\beta = 1, 2 \text{ \& } 3$	$\rho_f = 1.225 \text{ kg/m}^3$
$V_f = [10 \ 15 \ 20] \text{ m/s}$		SC = 0.005
$V_t = 0.6559 \text{ m/s}$		$C_d = 4.9574$

results than the predicted values using CFD model. The properties of air and calculated value of C_d and V_t for 200 μm given in Table 7 as described.

5. Conclusions

- From the above experimental literatures for prediction of pressure drop, the deviation between the experimental result and calculated value is found to be good agreement as similar with Shrivastava Kaushal. The validation of experimental results of pressure drop by using of empirical and semi-empirical correlation of SK model was concluded as more accurate.
- The SK model is good agreement for prediction of pressure drop as the volume concentration is less than 25%. Because this model is not considered

the friction caused due to collision of the particle.

- The pressure drop does not depend on particle size with constant internal diameter of pipe and mass flow rate of mixture rather it depends on the critical velocity.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge our thanks to MAA garment for providing the necessary data and extraordinary support in this research work.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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Nomenclature

Symbol	Description	[Unit]
A :	Area,	[m ²]
A_p :	Projected area	[m ²]
C_d :	Drag coefficient	[-]
C_v :	Volume fraction	[%]
D :	Diameter of the pipe	[m]
d_p :	Diameter of the particle	[m]
e :	Roughness of pip	[m]
f :	Darcy friction factor	[-]
Re_p :	Particles Reynolds number	[-]
m_f :	Mass flow rate of fluid	[kg/s]
M_s :	Mass flow rate of solid particles	[kg/s]
h_s :	Head loss due to the solid particles	[-]
h_f :	Head loss of fluid	[-]
h_t :	Total head loss	[-]
ν_f :	Kinematic viscosity of fluid	[m ² /s]
ρ_f :	Density of fluid	[kg/m ³]
ρ_p :	Density of particles	[kg/m ³]
β :	Mass loading ratio	[-]
SC:	Sepecularity coefficient	[-]