Question:

An object is suspended by a thread of 50 cm long and both the object and the thread move along in a horizontal circle with 125 rpm. If the mass of the object is 10 kg, (a) Determine the following for the rotating object ,

- (i) the centripetal acceleration
- (ii) the centripetal force
- (iii) the centrifugal force
- (b) Draw a neat sketch explaining the problem and interpret your solution briefly.

Answer:



Centripetal acceleration:

$$a = \frac{v^2}{R} = \frac{(rpm \times 2\pi \times R \times 60^{-1})^2}{R} = \frac{(125 \, rpm \times 2\pi \times 0.5 \, m \times 60^{-1} \, \text{s}^{-1})^2}{0.5} = 85.7 \, \frac{m}{s}$$

Centripetal force:

$$F_{cp} = ma = 10 \ kg \times 85.7 \ \frac{m}{s} = 857 \ N$$

Centrifugal force:

$$\overrightarrow{F_{cf}} = -\overrightarrow{F_{cp}}$$
 and $|\overrightarrow{F_{cf}}| = ma = 857 N$

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