



A CRITICAL REVIEW: SEISMIC BEHAVIOUR OF FIRST SOFT STOREY EFFECT IN R.C.C BUILDING

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ABSTRACT

With urbanization and rising unbalance of required space to accessibility, it is becoming very important to provide open earth storey in commercial and residential buildings. Functional and Social need to provide car parking space at ground level and for offices open story at different level of organization far out-weighs the warning against such buildings from engineering community. These provisions reduce the inflexibility of the lateral load resisting structure and a progressive subside becomes inescapable in a strict earthquake for such buildings due to elastic storey. Soft storey behavior reveals higher stresses on the columns and the columns are unsuccessful as the forced hinges are not formed on predetermined position. Therefore, the vulnerability of soft storey consequence has caused structural engineers to rethink the design of a soft storey structure in areas of far above the ground seismicity. The near analytical studies investigate the influence of some parameters on activities of a building with elastic storey. In the current study the focus is on the investigation of the effect of a soft storey on the behavior of a structure and effect of masonry infill on structure.

Keywords— Multistory building, Seismic Analysis, Storey float, Storey shear, Soft story, equal static analysis, Storey dislocation, Time stage Forces, winding moment.

1. INTRODUCTION

Reinforced concrete frame buildings are becoming progressively common in India. Due to increasing population since the past few years so that car parking space for residential apartments in populated cities is a matter of major problem. So that constructions of multistoried buildings with open first storey is a common practice in all

over world. Hence the trend has been to utilize the ground storey of the building itself for parking or reception lobbies in the first storey.

The two distinct characteristics of the building having stilt parking are as follows -

1. Difference in flexibility, i.e. the relative horizontal displacement in the ground storey is much larger than upper story having both columns

as well as wall. This flexible ground storey is also called soft storey.

2. Ground storey having only columns are weaker than upper storey having both column and walls i.e. the lower storey can bear the horizontal earthquake force less efficiently than the upper storey.

A yielding storey is also acknowledged as a weak storey or stilt storey. It is a storey in a building with significantly less stiffness than the stories above or beneath. It also has inadequate shear resistance and ductility to resist the earthquake forces. These features are highly discarded especially when the structure is constructed in high seismic zone. IS 1893:2002 defines the elastic story as the single in which the lateral stiffness is less than 70% of that in the story directly higher than, or less than 80% of combined stiffness of three stories above. The Masonry infill walls are normally used in the structure and measured as a non-structural component. Below the seismic excitations, the presentation of structure is mostly affected by such non-structural elements. The stiffness contribution of infill walls can be carefully analyzed by equivalent strut approach. The soft storey has insufficient lateral load resistance due to its reduced stiffness.

2. SOFT STOREY BEHAVIOR

Many building structures having parking or commercial areas in their first stories, suffered major structural damages and collapsed in the recent earthquakes Fig.1 & Fig.2. Large open areas with less infill and exterior walls and higher floor levels at the ground level result in soft stories and hence

damage. In such buildings, the stiffness of the lateral load resisting systems at those stories is quite less than the stories above or below. In Fig.3, the failure mechanism of a building with a soft storey under lateral loading is shown.



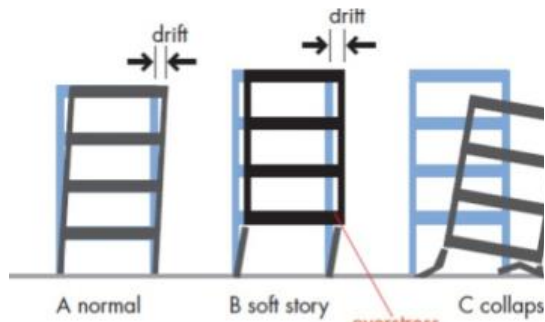
Soft first storey collapsed, upper part of the building fall onto the ground, (Kachchh, 2001)

Fig.1 Soft Storey Collapse



Soft Storey (Open Plinth), Vertical Split between two blocks (Bhuj)

Fig.2 Soft Storey Collapse



The soft first story failure mechanism.

Fig.3 Soft Storey Collapse

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A significant amount of research work on seismic behavior of soft storey building has been done by many investigators research area Such as

[1] **A.S.Kasnale and Dr. S.S.Jamkar**, studied, The Seismic performance of soft basement of RC framed Buildings. The five reinforced RC framed building with brick masonry infill were designed for the same seismic hazard, in accordance with IS code. In the present paper an investigation has been made to study the behavior of RC frames with various arrangements of infill when subjected to dynamic earthquake loading. The result of bare frame, frame with infill, soft ground floor and soft basement are compared and conclusion are made in view of IS 1893(2002) code. It is observed that, providing infill below plinth improves earthquake resistant behavior of the structure when compared to soft basement.

[2] **D. B. Karwar and Dr. R. S. Londhe(2014)**, Investigate the behaviour of Reinforced Concrete framed structures by using nonlinear static procedure (NSP) or pushover analysis in finite element software

“SAP2000”.and the Comparative study made for different models in terms of base shear, displacement, performance point. Concluded base shear is minimum for bare frame and maximum for frame with infill for G+8 building.

[3] **SharanyHaque and Khan Mahmud Amanat (2009)**, Investigate the effect of masonry infill in the upper floors of a building with an open ground floor subjected to seismic loading. The number of panels with infill is varied from bare frame condition (zero percent infilled panels) and 10, 30, 50 and 70 percent of panels with infill on the upper floors and Comparison of base shear. Concluded the design shear and moment calculated by equivalent static method may at least be doubled for the safer design of the columns of soft ground floor.

[4] **SevalPinarbasi and DimitriosKonstantinidis(2007)**, Investigate the hypothetical base-isolated building with a soft groundstory. Comparison is made with how soft-story flexibility affects the corresponding fixed-base building. Concluded performance of a soft-story building, is also effective in particularly reducing the seismic demand (i.e., interstory drift) on the soft-story level, which is the primary cause of catastrophic collapse in these types of buildings.

[5] **Nikhil Agrawal, Prof. P.B kulkarni, PoojaRaut**, carried out analysis of masonry infilled RC frame with & without opening including soft storey by using “equivalent diagonal strut method. According to FEMA-273, & ATC-40 which contain the provisions of calculation of stiffness of infilled frames



by modelling infill as “equivalent diagonal strut method”. This analysis is to be carried out on the models such as bare frame, strut frame, strut frame with 15% centre & corner opening, which is performed by using computer software STAAD PRO from which different parameters are computed. In which it shows that infill panels increase the stiffness of the structure.

[6] **Dr. Saraswati Setia and Vineet Sharma**, investigated the influence of some parameters on behavior of a building with soft storey. The modeling of the whole building is carried out using the computer program STAAD.Pro 2006. Parametric studies on displacement, inter storey drift and storey shear have been carried out using equivalent static analysis to investigate the influence of these parameter on the behavior of buildings with soft storey. The selected building analyzed through five numerical models.

[7] **G.V. Mulgund and D.M. Patil (2010)**, Investigate the behaviour of RC frames with various arrangement of infill when subjected to dynamic earthquake loading and result of bare and infill frame are compared. Concluded masonry infill panels in the frame substantially reduce the overall damage.

[8] **A. Wibowo and J.L. Wilson, (2009)**, Analysis an analytical model has been made to predict force-displacement relationship of the tested frame. The experimental investigation the load deflection behaviour and collapse modelling of soft storey building with lateral loading. Concluded the large drift capacity of the precast soft storey

structure was attributed to the weak connections which allowed the columns to rock at each end.

[9] **Sharany Haque and Khan Mahmud Amanat (2009)**, Investigate the effect of masonry infill in the upper floors of a building with an open ground floor subjected to seismic loading. The number of panels with infill is varied from bare frame condition (zero percent infilled panels) and 10, 30, 50 and 70 percent of panels with infill on the upper floors and Comparison of base shear. Concluded the design shear and moment calculated by equivalent static method may at least be doubled for the safer design of the columns of soft ground floor.

[10] **Mr. D. Dhandapany (2014)**, Investigate the seismic behaviour of RCC buildings with and without shear wall under different soil conditions. Analyzed using ETABS software for different soil conditions (hard, medium, soft). The values of Base shear, Axial force and Lateral displacement were compared between two frames. Concluded the design in STAAD is found to be almost equal results to compare in ETABS for all structural members

3. CONCLUSION

RC frame buildings with soft story are known to perform poorly during in strong earthquake shaking. Because the stiffness at lower floor is 70% lesser than stiffness at storey above it causing the soft storey to happen. For a building that is not provided any lateral load resistance



component such as shear wall or bracing, the strength is considered very weak and easily fail during earthquake. In such a situation, an investigation has been made to study the seismic behaviour of such buildings subjected to earthquake load so that some guideline could be developed to minimize the risk involved in such type of buildings.

From the above it is seen that, when the effect of soft storey is considered then the deflection has increased at that particular floor. It has been found earthquake forces by treating them as ordinary frames results in an underestimation of base shear. Investigators analysed numerically and use various computer programs such as Staad Pro, ETABS, SAP2000 etc.

Calculation shows that, when RC framed buildings having brick masonry infill on upper floor with soft ground floors subjected to earthquake loading, base shear can be more than twice to that predicted by equivalent earthquake force method with or without infill or even by response spectrum method when no infill in the analysis model.

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ISSN 2394-3777 (Print)

ISSN 2394-3785 (Online)

Available online at www.ijartet.com

International Journal of Advanced Research Trends in Engineering and Technology (IJARTET)

Vol. 3, Special Issue 2, March 2016

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