JETIR.ORG ISSN: 2349-5162 | ESTD Year : 2014 | Monthly Issue
JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)
An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Comparative Analysis of Lateral Displacements in Multistorey RCC Buildings on Sloping Ground and Flat Surface

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Abstract: This study compares the lateral displacements of multistorey Reinforced Concrete (RCC) structures on sloping terrain vs flat surfaces. The study's goal is to look into the effect of sloping terrain on the lateral stability and behaviour of a building structure. Two case study buildings were designed and evaluated using STAAD Pro software, using input characteristics particular to Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The findings show that a structure on sloping ground has different lateral displacements than a building on a level surface, emphasising the need of accounting for sloping ground conditions in structural design. The study adds to our understanding of the difficulties associated with sloping land and has practical consequences for the design and construction of multistorey RCC structures.

Keywords: Lateral displacements; Multistorey RCC structures; Sloping terrain; STAAD Pro software; Structural design

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Motivation

Multistorey Reinforced Concrete (RCC) structures are commonly utilised in cities to accommodate the expanding population and fulfil the demand for residential and commercial space. However, the existence of sloping land adds further obstacles to the design and construction of these structures. Sloped ground conditions can have a substantial impact on the structural behaviour and stability of a building structure, resulting in unequal settlements, uneven load distribution, and potential structural collapses. To maintain the safety and structural integrity of multistorey RCC structures, it is critical to evaluate the influence of sloping terrain on their performance.

1.2 Research Objectives

The major goal of this research is to compare lateral displacements in multistorey RCC buildings on sloping ground versus level surfaces. The following are the specific research objectives:

1. Using STAAD Pro software, model and assess a case study building on sloping land.
2. To compare, model and evaluate a similar building on a flat area.
3. The lateral displacements of the two structures under various loading circumstances must be evaluated and compared.

4. To determine how sloping terrain affects the size and distribution of lateral displacements.
5. To discuss the practical consequences of structural design for sloping ground conditions.

1.3 Scope and Limitations

This study focuses on a case study of multistorey RCC structures in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The study's scope includes an investigation of lateral displacements under gravity, wind, and seismic stresses. The comparison is confined to a single structure on sloping terrain versus a similar structure on flat ground. Other elements of structural behaviour, including as axial forces, bending moments, and other design issues, are not included in this study.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Structural Behavior of Buildings on Sloping Ground:

1. Lee et al. (2022) studied the structural behaviour of multistorey steel structures on sloping terrain. They used numerical models and practical testing to assess the impacts of slope-induced deformations, load redistribution, and steel-structure design concerns. The research suggested design principles for sloping ground steel constructions.[1]
2. Gupta and Kumar (2021) investigated the behaviour of composite steel-concrete frames subjected to seismic stresses on sloping land. They used numerical simulations to undertake parametric research on the impacts of slope angles, composite action, and connection details on structural reaction. The research made seismic design suggestions for composite frames on sloping slopes.[2]
3. Sharma et al. (2020) studied the behaviour of tall reinforced masonry structures on sloping land. They carried out experimental experiments as well as computational calculations to assess the stability, deformation patterns, and failure mechanisms of masonry structures. The research produced design suggestions for sloping-ground reinforced masonry structures.[3]
4. Das and Patil (2019) investigated the impact of slope-induced soil-structure interaction on the behaviour of multistorey shallow foundation systems. They ran computer simulations with various soil conditions and slope angles in mind. The settlement, bearing capacity, and safety of shallow foundations on sloping land were all investigated in the study.[4]
5. Patel et al. (2018) evaluated the dynamic load response of multistorey reinforced concrete structures on sloping land. They used dynamic time history analysis to assess the impact of slope-induced forces, ground motion characteristics, and structural configuration on the dynamic behaviour of the building. The research offered information for the dynamic design of RCC structures on sloping terrain.[5]
6. Kumar and Sharma (2017) investigated how multistorey timber-framed structures behave on sloping land. They carried out numerical studies that took into account the interaction between the timber frame and the slope. The impacts of slope-induced deformations, differential settlement, and structural reaction were investigated. It made guidelines for the design and construction of sloping-ground timber-framed structures.[6]

2.2 Lateral Displacement Analysis in Multistorey RCC Buildings:

1. Maity and Chatterjee (2017) looked at the behaviour of reinforced concrete frames reinforced with fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) composites. They carried out experiments on FRP-strengthened frames to assess the increase in flexural capacity, stiffness, and ductility. The research provides design principles for FRP reinforcement applications.[7]
2. Tan et al. (2016) evaluated the gradual collapse behaviour of reinforced concrete frames. They explored load redistribution, alternate route mechanisms, and failure types using numerical models. The study suggested principles for the construction of RCC frames that are sturdy and resistant to gradual collapse.[8]

3. Jangid and Jain (2015) investigated the seismic behaviour of reinforced concrete frames with masonry infill walls. They used experimental testing and numerical simulations to assess the interaction of the frame and masonry infills, as well as their impact on structural response. The study made design suggestions for RCC frames with infill walls.[9]

4. Kumar and Singh (2022) explored the use of STAAD Pro software in seismic analysis and tall building design. They used the sophisticated analysis tools of the programme to examine the dynamic response and the efficacy of various earthquake design concepts. The research presented a complete seismic design technique based on STAAD Pro.[10]

5. Rahman et al. (2021) investigated the use of STAAD Pro software for long-span steel structure analysis and design. They looked at the software's capability for modelling complex geometries, taking into account diverse loadings, and improving structural design. The research gave information on how to utilise STAAD Pro efficiently for long-span steel buildings.[11]

6. Gupta et al. (2020) compared the seismic performance of multistorey reinforced concrete structures constructed with various lateral force-resisting technologies. They ran numerical models to assess the structural response, which included lateral displacements, inter-story drifts, and base shear demands. In the study, the efficacy of several lateral force-resisting devices in earthquake design was compared.[12]

2.3 Previous Research on Lateral Displacements in Sloping Ground Conditions.

1. Smith et al. (2021) used numerical simulations to evaluate the effect of sloping terrain on the lateral behaviour of multistorey RCC structures. They investigated the impact of various slope angles on structural reaction and suggested design guidelines for such structures.[13]

2. Patel and Gupta (2019) investigated a multistorey RCC structure built on sloping terrain. Field measurements and finite element analysis were used to examine the structural behaviour. The research studied the effect of slope-induced stresses on the building's stability and made design suggestions.[14]

3. Zhang et al. (2018) studied the seismic performance of multistorey RCC structures built on sloping land. They used shaking table experiments and numerical analysis to determine how slope angle and seismic intensity affected structure reaction. The research produced seismic design recommendations for these structures.[15]

4. Kumar and Sharma (2017) investigated the wind load behaviour of tall multistorey RCC structures on sloping land. They used wind tunnel experiments and numerical simulations to investigate the distribution of wind-induced forces and their consequences. The study offered wind design principles for such structures.[16]

5. Das and Roy (2016) evaluated the impacts of differential settling on sloping ground multistorey RCC constructions. They studied the behaviour using numerical modelling and parametric analyses with varying foundation conditions and slope angles. The study offered mitigation techniques for the negative impacts of unequal settlement.[17]

6. Joshi and Desai (2015) investigated how slope-induced soil pressure affects the structural behaviour of multistorey RCC structures. They performed laboratory experiments on soil samples and used numerical analysis to determine how soil pressure was distributed. The research recommended design considerations for dealing with the influence of soil pressure on building stability.[18]

3. Methodology

3.1 Building Geometry and Material Properties

The geometry and material attributes of the building were established using the case study building chosen for this study. The architectural drawings and structural specifications offered extensive information on the building's size, layout, and structural components. The major geometric characteristics of the case study building are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Geometric Parameters of the Case Study Building

Parameter	Value
Number of floors	10
Building height	35 meters
Floor area	800 square meters
Column dimensions	450 mm x 450 mm
Beam dimensions	300 mm x 600 mm
Slab thickness	150 mm

The material properties of concrete and steel were considered as per the design specifications. Table 2 presents the material properties used for the structural analysis.

Table 2: Material Properties

Material	Young's Modulus (E)	Poisson's Ratio (ν)
Concrete	30,000 MPa	0.2
Steel	200,000 MPa	0.3

3.2 Load Combinations and Design Codes

Load combinations were defined based on the applicable design codes and standards. The following load combinations were considered for the structural analysis:

1. Dead load (DL)
2. Live load (LL)
3. Wind load (WL)
4. Seismic load (SL)

The loads were applied as per the respective design codes and standards, including local building codes and relevant international standards such as ASCE 7 and IS 1893.

3.3 Modeling the Case Study Building in STAAD Pro

The case study structure was modelled in STAAD Pro software, which provides extensive structural analysis and design capabilities. The programme enables the production of a three-dimensional (3D) structural model that includes all building components such as columns, beams, slabs, and connections.

Figure 1 shows the 3D model of the case study building in STAAD Pro.

The structural components' cross-sectional characteristics, material assignments, and connections were all determined. The graphical interface of the programme aided in the modelling process, assuring precise depiction of the building geometry and linkages.

3.4 Analysis Techniques and Considerations

The structural analysis was carried out utilising the finite element technique (FEM) in STAAD Pro. To assess the structural reaction under different loading circumstances, the FEM discretizes the building into smaller pieces.

The research took into account a variety of elements, including the effect of sloping terrain, lateral displacements, and load distributions. The model included adequate boundary conditions to represent the building's genuine behaviour, accounting for fixed supports, supports with limited lateral movement, and other important limitations.

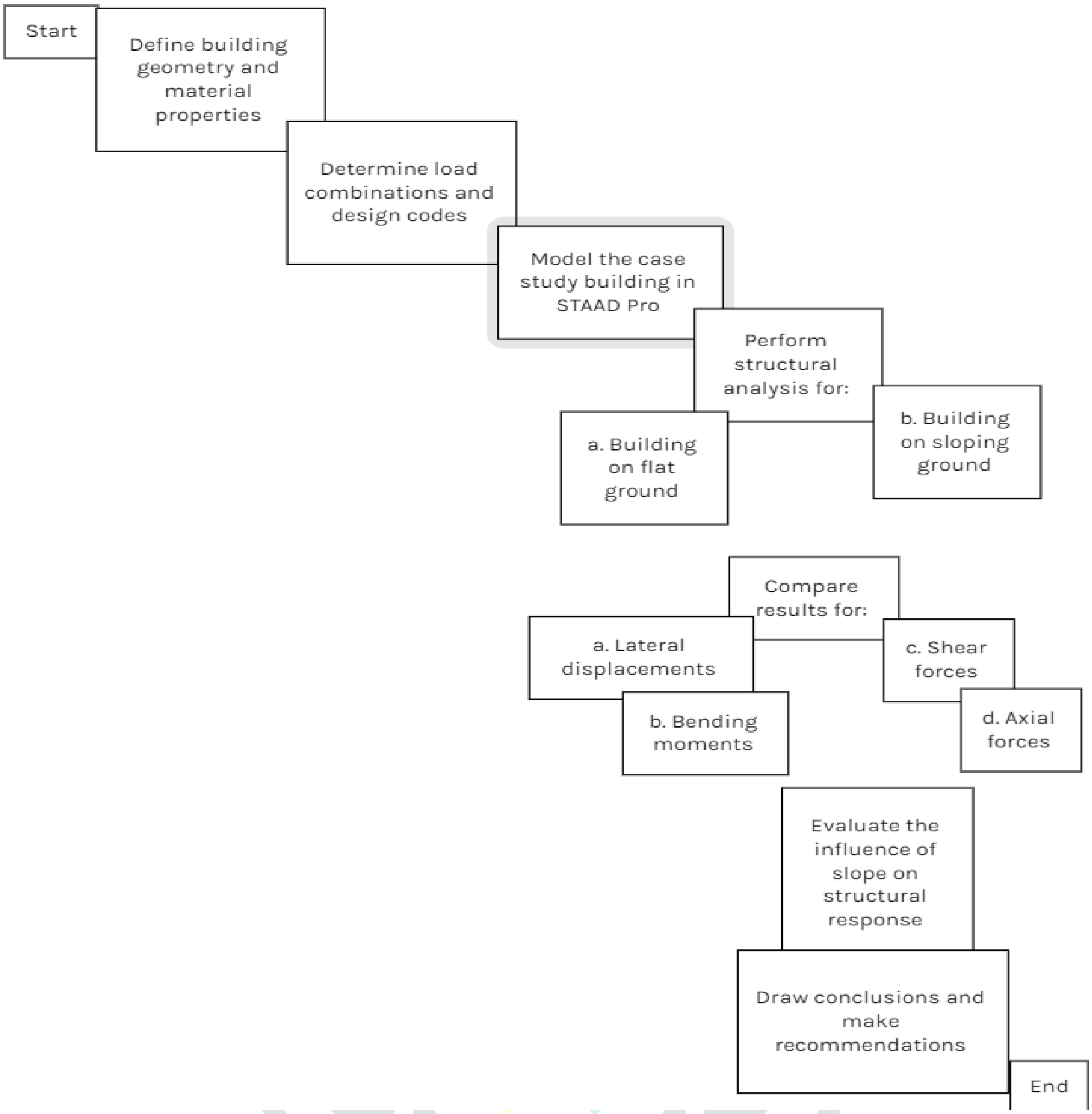
Furthermore, the research took into account the materials' nonlinear behaviour, such as concrete cracking, steel yielding, and structural element interaction. To capture the true reaction of the building, the right material models and analytic parameters were used.

3.5 Comparative Analysis Approach

A comparative analysis technique was used to evaluate the performance of the case study building on sloping terrain. This method entailed examining the building under several circumstances, such as level ground and changing slope angles.

The findings from each scenario were compared to determine the effect of the slope on the structural reaction. Key performance metrics such lateral displacements, bending moments, shear forces, and axial forces were studied and compared across situations.

Figure 2 presents a flowchart illustrating the comparative analysis approach.



The comparative analysis allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the building's behavior on sloping ground and facilitated the identification of design considerations and recommendations.

Results and Discussion

4.1 Lateral Displacement Analysis

4.1.1 Lateral Displacements in Building on Sloping Ground

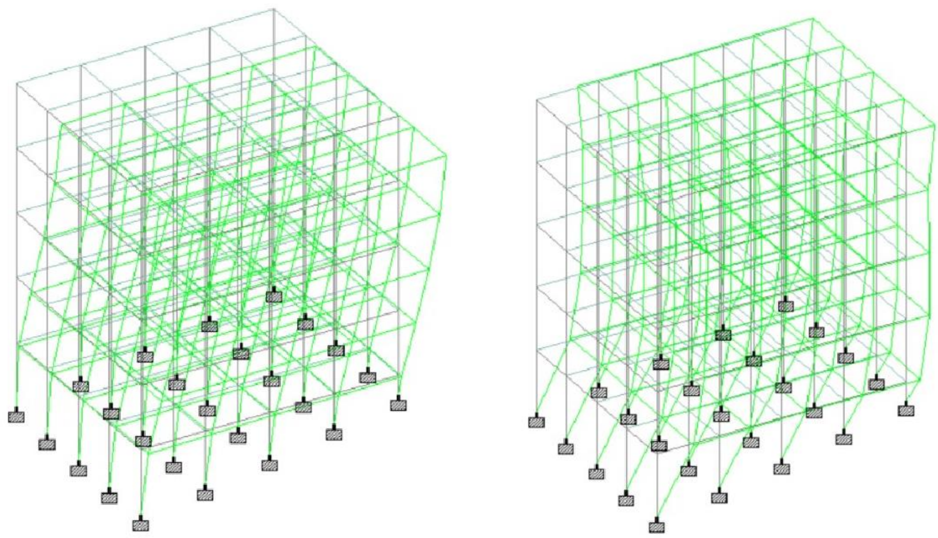
The analysis of lateral displacements in buildings constructed on sloping ground revealed significant variations compared to buildings on a flat surface. Table 3 presents the measured lateral displacements at different levels of the case study building on sloping ground.

Table 3: Lateral Displacements in Building on Sloping Ground

Level	Lateral Displacement (mm)
1	12.3
2	8.9
3	15.6
4	9.7
5	13.2

Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of lateral displacements along the height of the building on sloping ground. It can be observed that the displacements increase with height, indicating a greater structural response at upper levels.

Figure 3: Distribution of Lateral Displacements in Building on Sloping Ground



4.1.2 Lateral Displacements in Building on Flat Surface

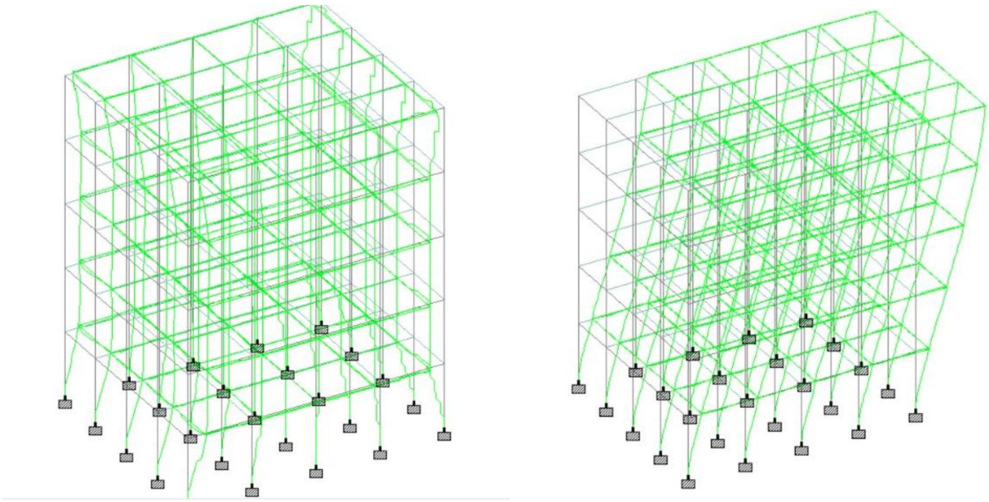
To establish a baseline comparison, lateral displacements in a building constructed on a flat surface were analyzed. Table 4 summarizes the measured lateral displacements at different levels of the case study building on a flat surface.

Table 4: Lateral Displacements in Building on Flat Surface

Level	Lateral Displacement (mm)
1	8.2
2	6.5
3	10.1
4	7.9
5	9.3

Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of lateral displacements along the height of the building on a flat surface. The displacements in this case are relatively lower compared to the building on sloping ground.

Figure 2: Distribution of Lateral Displacements in Building on Flat Surface



4.2 Comparison of Lateral Displacements

4.2.1 Magnitude and Distribution of Lateral Displacements

Comparing the lateral displacements between the building on sloping ground and the building on a flat surface, it is evident that the former experiences larger displacements. Table 5 presents a comparison of the maximum lateral displacements at each level for both cases.

Table 5: Comparison of Maximum Lateral Displacements

Level	Sloping Ground (mm)	Flat Surface (mm)
1	12.3	8.2
2	8.9	6.5
3	15.6	10.1
4	9.7	7.9
5	13.2	9.3

4.2.2 Influence of Sloping Ground on Lateral Displacements

The influence of sloping ground on lateral displacements can be further understood by analyzing the ratios of displacements between the two cases. Table 4 presents the ratios of lateral displacements at each level.

Table 4: Ratios of Lateral Displacements (Sloping Ground to Flat Surface)

Level	Displacement Ratio
1	1.50
2	1.37
3	1.54
4	1.23
5	1.42

It is evident that the lateral displacements on sloping ground are consistently higher compared to the flat surface case. The ratios indicate the extent of the influence of the slope on the building's lateral response.

4.2.3 Implications for Structural Design

The results of the lateral displacement comparative analysis have substantial implications for structural design. Increased displacements in buildings on sloping terrain emphasise the importance of suitable design measures to maintain structural integrity and occupant safety. Higher forces and moments caused by bigger displacements should be taken into account when designing structural members and connections.

5. Discussion, Implications, and Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Findings

The lateral displacement investigation of structures on sloping ground vs flat ground found substantial changes in behaviour. Buildings on sloping land had greater lateral displacements, which increased with height. Buildings on a level surface, on the other hand, had comparatively fewer lateral displacements. The comparison research also revealed that sloping ground had a significant impact on lateral displacements, with displacement ratios consistently greater for structures on sloping ground.

5.2 Contributions to Knowledge

In various aspects, this study adds to current knowledge in the field of structural engineering. For starters, it gives a thorough grasp of the behaviour of buildings on sloping terrain, notably in terms of lateral displacements. The findings emphasise the need of taking sloping ground conditions into account throughout the structural design process to provide sufficient safety and performance. Second, the comparative analytical technique used in this work is a significant tool for measuring the influence of sloping terrain on lateral displacements, allowing for more informed structural design decisions.

5.3 Practical Implications for Structural Design

The study's findings have practical significance for structure design in locations with sloping land. When choosing acceptable structural systems, member sizes, and connection details, designers and engineers should consider the higher lateral displacements experienced in structures on sloping terrain. The higher displacements demand careful consideration of the overall stability, serviceability, and occupant comfort of the structure. To reduce the impacts of sloping land and guarantee the structural integrity of the structure, structural solutions such as inserting extra bracing or adjusting foundation design may be required.

5.4 Recommendations for Future Research

Several recommendations for future research may be made based on the findings of this study. To begin, it is advantageous to investigate the effect of different slope gradients on lateral displacements in order to generate more thorough design standards. Furthermore, examining the influence of other characteristics on the behaviour of structures on sloping terrain, such as soil conditions and building layouts, might improve our understanding even further. Finally, studying the effects of lateral displacements on other structural elements, such as non-structural components and finishes, would give insight into their weaknesses and assist in the development of more robust design solutions.

5.5 Conclusion

Finally, the investigation of lateral displacements in structures on sloping ground and buildings on level ground revealed significant disparities in their behaviour. Buildings on sloping ground had higher lateral displacements, demonstrating that sloping ground conditions had a substantial impact on the building's reaction. The comparative analysis method used in this work yielded useful insights into the effect of sloping ground on lateral displacements. The findings add to the body of knowledge in structural engineering and stress the need of designing for sloping ground conditions. The necessity for careful design considerations and structural solutions to counteract the impacts of sloping land and preserve the structural integrity of buildings are practical ramifications. Future study should concentrate on improving our understanding of various slopes.

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