Experimental and Analytical Study on Rc Frame with Brick Infill

Engineering

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ABSTRACT   *This paper presents an experimental investigation on the behaviour of a 2D single bay two storey reinforced concrete (RC) frame with brick infill. RC frame with brick infill is cast in the laboratory to a scale down of 1:3.25; the dimension of frame is 2300 mm height and 1000 mm width. The cross section of beam and column are 100mm x 70 mm and 70 mm thick brick infill. The proposed model is subjected to lateral load at each storey level and their performance was assessed based on load carrying capacity and deflection. The present study includes the entire range of loading from the initial elastic stage until the ultimate failure stage. Analytical study was also conducted for the similar frame; analytical results were obtained using finite element analysis software Etabs -13. Analytical results were compared with experimental results , results are tabulated and conclusions are drawn .*

1. INTRODUCTION

Masonry infills have been used in reinforced concrete frame structures as interior and exterior walls .Since they are usually considered as nonstructural elements their interaction with the bounding frame is ignored in design. Infill substantially alters the behavior of buildings subjected to lateral loads such as wind and earthquake forces; when subjected to strong lateral forces infill walls tend to interact with bounding frame and induce a load resistance mechanism that is not accounted for in the design. The present study aims to evaluate the response of reinforced concrete frame with brick infill wall by means of an experimental study and an analytical study.

2. EXPERIMENTAL WORK

The experimental work consists of the following steps.

- Casting of 2D RC bounding frame.
- Casting of Brick infill wall within the RC frame.
- Testing arrangement.
- Testing of Infilled frame under progressive lateral load and measure of deformations.

2.1. Casting of 2D RC Bounding Frame

RC bare frame is cast in the laboratory to a scale down model of 1:3.25; the dimension of frame is 2300 mm height and 1000 mm width, the cross section of beam and column are 100mm x 70 mm, figure (1) shows the details of 2D RC frame model. The concrete mix is designed as per IS: 10262-1982 for a characteristic strength of 20N/mm². After 28 days of curing period was over ,the frame is lifted and transported in to the loading frame with the help of the overhead crane (figure.2).
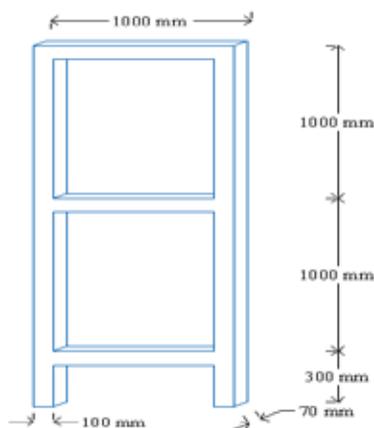

Figure (1) Experimental model

2.2 Casting of Brick Infill Wall within the RC Frame.

The details of RC frame with brick infill are listed in table (1). Table molded first class bricks are selected for masonry work (figure 3a). Test on bricks such as water absorption, density, dimension, and compression are conducted . These bricks are soaked in water for 24 hours before they have been used for construction. Cement and sand are also tested confirming to IS code. Mortar of 1:6 proportion Cement and Sand are mixed in dry condition, 0.5 % water is added to the dry mix of mortar, mix these materials thoroughly. Using this mortar RC frame is filled with brick masonry of a thickness 70 mm is constructed within the bounding frame, bricks are placed parallel to the horizontal axis as shown in figure (3.b). The masonry is cured for 14 days, the frame is painted to ensure the visibility of cracks during testing, figure (3c) shows completed infilled frame model.

Figure 2. RC frame before brick infill

Figure 3.a shows the types of bricks used

Figure 3.b Shows in progress construction of brick masonry

Figure 3.c Shows portion of masonry in RC frame

Table (1) Details of RC Bare frame with brick infill

Parameter		Frame
Type of frame		2D
Number of bays		1
Number of story		2
Bay length		1000 mm
Storey height		1000 mm
Structural material		Reinforced concrete
Concrete	Compressive strength [MPa]	26.6 N/mm²
Reinforcement.	Modulu s of elasticity [MPa]	25787.59 N/mm²
	Yield strength f_y [MPa]	415 N/mm²
Column.	Section length	100 mm
	Section width	70 mm
	Reinforcement	4- # 8 2Legged 6 mm dia stirrups at 100 mm c\c
	Percentage of steel	2.87

Beam.	Section height	100 mm
	Section width	70 mm
	Reinforcement Percentage of steel	4- # 8 2.87 %
		2Legged 6 mm dia stirrups at 100 mm c\c
Brick	Density	19.2 kN/m³
	Mass	19.57 kN/m³
	Water absorption	8.6%
	Poisson Ratio	0.15
	Modulus of elasticity [MPa]	2750.0 N/mm²

2.3. Testing Arrangement .

The RC frame was cast in the laboratory and sufficient precautions are taken so that the specimen could be easily removed from the casting place and erected. Then the frame was lifted and transported to the testing block with the help of the overhead crane . The testing frame is placed in to the lateral loading frame. Fixity is achieved by applying Nitobond and clamping using MS clamp plate as shown in figure (4). Two loading points were selected at first and second storey levels. The load points roughly stimulate the equivalent static seismic load to the frame. The static lateral incremental loads were applied at the jack locations to the frame by hydraulic jacks of 500kN capacity with least measurable value of 2.5kN. The jacks are placed horizontally in line with centre of beams; horizontality of jacks is confirmed using spirit level. The loading frame, which is used for loading arrangements, is rigidly fixed to the floor. The jacks are fixed to the loading frame. Load is transferred to the specimens in the form of uniformly distributed load pattern; the jacks were controlled by an individual console. For the application of load, hand operated oil pumps were used. Crack pattern and displacements are observed at all increment of loading. The apparatus used are as follows.

- 50kN capacity Lateral loading frame.
- 2D RC Frame with brick infill (Testing frame).
- LVDT (0.01mm three dial gauges) instrument.
- 2 Hydraulic jacks of 500kN capacity of 2.5 kN least measurable value.

2.4. Testing of Infilled frame under progressive Lateral Load and

Measure of Deformations.

The lateral loads are applied at the 1st and 2nd storey level using hydraulic jacks. The load increment for each interval is 2.5kN. The first crack in mortar joint was observed at the total load (P_1+P_2) of 12.5kN for a deflection of 20.61mm, details are shown in table (2). Gradually load is increased for same intervals. At the load of 15.5kN cracks have been developed at joints in the frame for a deflection of 30.30 mm. The application of load is stopped at 37.25kN for deflection of 90.75mm, as the cracks widened and no further new cracks have developed. Width of cracks are measured, all the cracks are of 3 to 3.5 mm wide at the starting points and reduces towards end.

LVDTs (Linear Variable Differential Transformers) of least count 0.01mm are used for measuring displacement at each storey level. LVDTs were connected to slotted angles that are in turn connected to the fixed type of steel reaction frame available in the laboratory. The load increment for each cycle is 2.5kN. The deflections at all storey levels were measured using LVDT at each increment of load. The load increments are continued till the final cracks occurred in all joints.

Figure .5a First crack appear in mortar

Figure.5b rare view of first crack

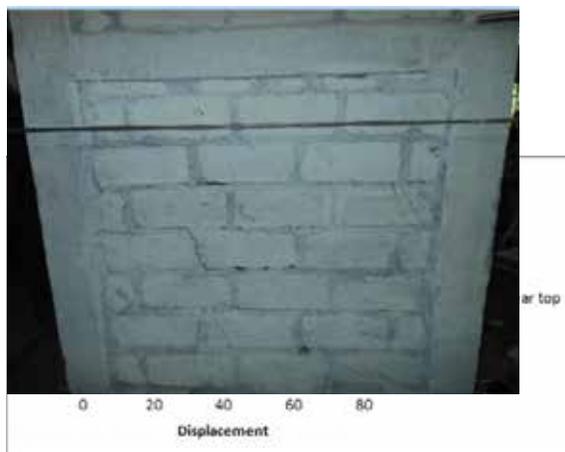**Figure. 5c Front view of final crack**

Figure 3. Base Shear V/S Displacement   Curve for Experimental Results.

3. ANALYTICAL STUDY

Analytical study is also conducted for the similar RC frame with Brick infill ; analytical results were obtained using finite element analysis software Etabs -13. Analytical results were compared with experimental results.

To compare experimental results with analytical results, frame with brick masonry infill models are prepared and analyzed using finite element package ETABS (version-9.7.1). It is versatile and user-friendly software that offers a wide scope of features like static, dynamic, linear and nonlinear analysis etc. Analytical results are compared with experimental results.

Modeling of Brick Masonry Infilled Frame
Masonry infills have significant effect in stiffness, strength and seismic performance of buildings. In case of uniformly infilled frame buildings, strength capacity increases than that of bare frame buildings with the reduction in displacement. This effect reduces with the increase of the height of the building.

The total storey shear force increases considerably as the stiffness of the building increases in the presence of masonry infill. The mode of failure in soft storey mechanism (formation of hinges in ground floor columns), the lateral load resisting mechanism of the masonry infilled frame   are essentially different from the bare frame. The bare frame acts primarily as a moment resisting frame with the formation of plastic hinges at the joints under lateral loads. In contrast, the infill frame behaves like a braced frame resisted by a truss mechanism formed by the compression in the masonry infill panel and tension in the column.

As per FEMA-356, the modulus of elasticity of the brick masonry is given by

$$E_m = kf_m \qquad (1)$$

where, f_m is the compressive strength of masonry prism in MPa and coefficient k lies between 300 to 900. Here for modeling infill a fair condition of brick masonry   is taken.

The elastic in-plane stiffness of a solid unreinforced masonry infill panel prior to cracking shall be represented as an equivalent strut of width 'w' is given in Eqn (2). The thickness of equivalent strut is taken same as the thickness of wall and modulus of elasticity of the infill panel as defined by FEMA-356

$$w = 1/2[(\alpha_h{}^2 + \alpha_L{}^2)]^{1/2} \qquad (2)$$

$$\alpha_h = (\pi/2)[(E_f\, I_c h_e) / (2E_m t \sin 2\theta)]^{1/4} \qquad (3)$$

$$\alpha_L = (\pi)[(E_f I_b l_e) / (2E_m t \sin 2\theta)]^{1/4} \qquad (4)$$

Where   L= Length of infill wall,   t = Thickness of infill wall,

     w = Width of infill wall,   I = Moment of inertia
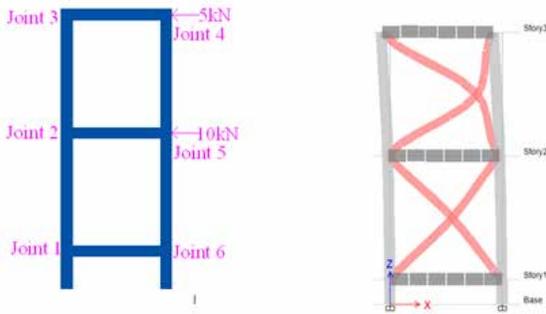
Figure (6a). Details of basic Analytical model

Figure (6b) Details of analytical model with diagonal struts.

3.2 Geometric Modeling (modeling of frames)
ETABS 9.7.1 offers an option to choose 2D and 3D geometric models, depending upon the user's convenience and problem definition, A 2D model of the RC frame is developed . Beams and columns are modeled by frame element formulation. Member stiffness is defined by the dimensions of the section, assigned through section properties and modulus of elasticity of the concrete. The details of the structure are shown in table (3).

3.3 Material Properties
The material properties considered for the analysis are given below. Material Characteristic strength (MPa) of Concrete (M20) fck = 26.44 N/mm^2 , Ec = 25709.920 N/mm^2 , Modulus of Elasticity (MPa) of Reinforcing steel fy = 415N/mm^2 Es = 2 E+5 MPa, Characteristic strength (MPa) of Brick fm = 4.19 N/mm^2 Ec = 2750.00 N/mm^2, Poisons ratio=0.15.

Width of diagonal srut:

$$\alpha_h = (\pi/2)[(E_f \ I_c h_e) / (2E_m t \sin 2\theta)]^{1/4} \qquad (5)$$

$$\alpha_L = (\pi)[(E_f I_b l_e) / (2E_m t \sin 2\theta)]^{1/4} \qquad (6)$$

$$\alpha_h = (\pi/2)[(25709.920 \ X \ 5833333.33 x900) / (2X2750x70X1)]^{1/4}$$

$$\alpha_h = 216.70 \ mm \qquad (7)$$

$$\alpha_L = (\pi)[(E_f I_b l_e) / (2E_m t \sin 2\theta)]^{1/4} \qquad (8)$$

$$\alpha_l = (\pi)[(25709.920 \ X \ 5833333.33 x900) / (2X2750x70X1)]^{1/4}$$

$$\alpha_h = 433.42 \ mm \qquad (9)$$

$$w = 1/2[(\alpha_h^2 + \alpha_L^2)]^{1/2}$$
$$w = 1/2[(216.70^2 + 433.42^2)]^{1/2}$$
w= 242.29 mm

3.4 Structural Modeling
The analytical model is created in such a way that the different structural components represent as accurately as possible the characteristics like mass, strength, stiffness and deformability of the structure.

(a) **Beams and columns:** Beams and columns are modeled as 3D frame elements. The   members were represented through the assigned properties like cross sectional area, reinforcement details and the type of material used.

(b) **Beam-column joints:** The beam-column joints were as-

sumed to be rigid and modeled by giving end-offsets to the frame elements. The intension is to get the bending moments at the face of the beams and columns. A rigid zone factor of -1 is considered to ensure rigid connections of the beams and columns.

(C). **Plastic Hinge:** When a concrete element undergoes large deformations in the post-yield stage, it is assumed that the entire deformation takes place at a point called "plastic hinge". The hinges represent concentrated post yield behaviour in one or more degree of freedoms. Each plastic hinge is modeled as a discrete point hinge. Hinges can only be introduced in frame elements at any location. ETABS implements the plastic hinge properties described in FEMA-356 (or ATC-40).

ETABS also gives the choice for uncoupled moment (M), torsion (T), axial force (P) and shear (V) hinges and coupled P-M3, P-M2 and P-M2-M3 hinges(CSI Analysis reference manual), which yields based on the interaction of axial force and bending moments at the hinge location. More than one type of hinge can exist at the same location, for example, both M3 (moment) and V2 (shear) hinge can be assigned to the same end of a frame element.

Default and user-defined plastic hinge options are available in ETABS. User-defined hinges are better than the default-hinges in reflecting nonlinear behaviour compatible with the element properties. However, if the default-hinge is preferred due to simplicity, the user should be aware of what is provided in the program. The definition of user-defined hinge properties requires moment–curvature analysis of each element. For the problem defined, building deformation is assumed to take place only due to moment under the action of laterally applied earthquake loads. Thus user-defined M3 hinge is assigned at member ends where flexural yielding is assumed to occur.

3.5 Pushover Analysis
The following steps are followed to   static non-linear Pushover analysis of Brick Infill frame.

1: ETABS provides a multi unit options, such as lb-ft, Kip-in, KN-cm, Kgf-mm, T-m, KN-m out of which KN-m unit is selected to create the basic model.
2: Go to file menu click on the new dialog box to create a new model, and select the default edb to select a model type.
3: Select uniform grid spacing option, the uniform grid spacing option requires   data in the following format. Enter the data as far with experimental model as shown in figure (4)

Table (3)   details of RC frame with brick infill data for ETABS

Number of lines in X Dir	2	No of stories	3
Number of lines in Y Dir	1	Story height	1.0
Spacing in X Dir	1	Typical story height	1.00
Spacing in Y Dir	1.0	Bottom story height	0.300
Cover to Rebar Centre		0.01	
Number of Bars in 3-dir		2	
Number of Bars in 2-dir		2	
Bar Size		8d	
Corner Bar Size		8d	
Cover to Rebar Centre		0.01	
Number of Bars in 3-dir		2	
Number of Bars in 2-dir		2	
Bar Size		6d	
Corner Bar Size		6d	

4: Select grids only menu, press 'OK' button.
5: Grid of the model is created as shown in figure (4).
6: Reinforcement details of column and beam are also included.

7: Go to Define menu and define the properties of frame section like beams and column with their respective cross section and reinforcement details.

8: Keep LHS window in Plan section, go to storey 2, go to draw tool bar and select Draw Lines option, dialogue box will appear select the given beam section and draw the line on the selected storey 2, the beam will be assigned and repeat for all storey .

9: Keeping LHS window in Plan section again, go to the storey 2, go to draw tool bar and select Create Columns in Region option, dialog box will appear select the required cross section and click on the selected storey 2 at each corners with respective cross section and columns will be displayed, similarly repeat the procedure for the remaining levels.

10: Keep LHS window in Plan section, go to the base and select all the corners and go to Assign option select joint/point, restraints and assign the fixity as per the requirement the base will be fixed.

11: Go to Select option, Select By Frame Section→Select all Column, then go to Assign option →Frame Non Linear Hinges Dialog box will appear drag down Select P-   MM→ 0 and once again P-MM→1. Click on add.

12: Go to Select menu select By Frame Section→Select all Beam, then go to Assign option →Frame Non Linear Hinges Dialog box will appear drag down Select   M3→0 and once again M3→1.Click on add.

14: Now Select RHS window go to the top and click on Set Building View Option, then
click on Fill Objects and Extrusion option you will get the model as below

15: Now go to Define menu, select Static Load Cases, here provide 1st load case as Dead→Dead→Self Multiplier as 1 →and Auto Lateral Load is Blank, similarly give 2nd load case as EQ→Quake→ Self Multiplier as 0 →and Auto Lateral Load for this we have to mention the code as IS 1893 2000 since the model is analyzed by this code provision of Earthquake, then go to modify and input the data like Zone factor coefficient, Soil type, Natural time Period T, Importance Factor I, Reduction Factor R, and then click on OK

16: Now go to Analyze menu, select Check Model, a dialogue box will appear then select all the options and click on OK, model will be checked and warnings will be viewed if any errors are detected.

17: Now again go to Analyze menu, select Run Analysis, and analysis will be done for the linear static cases.

Figure 7. Static load Case

18: After analysis is complete, go to Options menu Preferences→
Concrete Frame Design, a dialog box will appear and in Design code drag down select Indian IS 456-2000, this is for the design of the RC frame.

19: Now go to Design menu, select Concrete Frame Design→select
Start Design/Check Structure, the model will be checked for the adequacy of the members according to the IS 456-2000 code and results can be viewed in Display Design Info..

20: Once the design part is over Non linear analysis begins. Go to Define menu, select Non linear/pushover cases→Add New Case→Case Name as Push 1, set the Push to Displacement Magnitude to the Target displacement and use this target

displacement for other models to analyze, select the Number of Total Steps, Maximum Null Steps, then select P-delta in nonlinearity effects, in Load Patterns → select Acc in x Direction→Scale Factor is -1 then OK.

21: After defining the Non linear cases go to the Run Analysis option select Run Analysis, once this is complete again go to run analysis menu select run Static Non Linear Analysis, analysis will be carried out and after the completion, press OK.

22: Now go to the display menu and select show Static Pushover curve, where we will get the Push over curve and Capacity-Demand Curve as Shown below, again go back to Display and Show Deformed Shape →for Push 1 at diff mode shapes we will get the hinge levels as shown below.
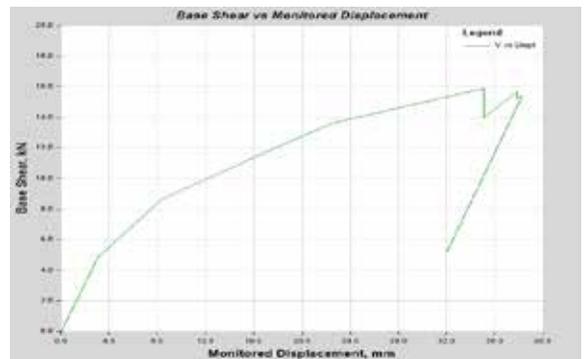

Figure 8. Pushover Load Case details

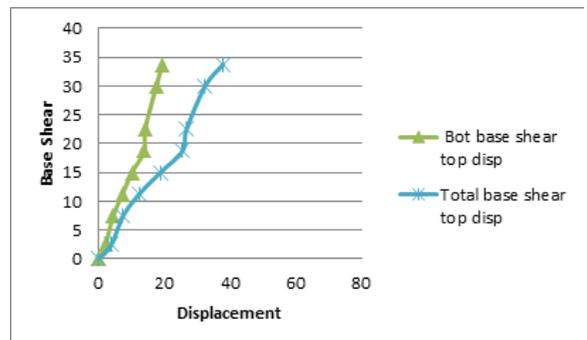**Figure.(9) pushover curve for RC frame with Brick infill**

Figure (10) shows composition of analytical and experimental results.

4. RESULTS:

Two dimensional RC frame is cast and filled with brick infill, the model is tested for lateral load and Analytical study is also conducted for the similar RC frame with brick infill, analytical results were obtained using finite element analysis software Etabs -13. Analytical results were compared with experimental results, table (1) shows the experimental and analytical results, the details are as follows.

Experimental results.

Horizontal loads are applied at all storey levels, displacements are measured using LVDT fixed at each storey level. The results are tabulated in table (3). Pushover curve is plot to the above results, details are shown in figure (3). Figures (5a to 5d) show the cracks at joints 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Analytical results . Similar models are created using ETABS, deflections obtained in experimental results are put as displacement in pushover analysis, details are shows in figure (7&8) base shear against displacements are recorded, the details of results are shown in table (3). Figure (9) shows the pushover curve for analytical results and figure (10) show comparison of experimental and analytical pushover curves.

Table (2) Experimental and Analytical Results of Frame with Brick infill

Sl No	Experimental					Analytical		Remarks
	Load			Displacement		Load	Displa cement	
	P 1 Bottom	P2 (kN) Top	Total (kN)	D1 (mm) Bottom	D2 (mm) Top	(kN)	(mm)	
1	2.50	0	2.50	2.112	3.80	2.50	3.02	
2	5.00	2.50	7.50	5.74	18.720	7.50	17.81	
3	7.50	3.75	11.25	8.19	19.03	11.25	18.53	
4	10.00	5.00	15.00	12.13	21.82	15.00	20.98	First Crack in mortar
5	12.5	6.25	18.75	18.23	32.62	18.75	31.94	
6	15.00	7.50	22.50	21.2	37.82	22.50	36.98	Cracks at joints 5
7	20.00	10.00	30.00	23.41	42.62	30.00	41.86	Cracks at all joints
8	22.50	11.25	33.75	28.86	55.72	33.75	54.85	Cracks are wider, no additional cracks

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS. In the present study 2D RC bare frame with brick infill was subjected to lateral loads and the obtained results were compared with analytical results obtained by ETABS software on similar model. The obtained values of base shear and deflections by experimental and analytical results are compared, the experimentally obtained values are found to be within permissible limit.

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