

**APPLICATION OF CFRP COMPOSITE FOR
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION OF CORRODED SLAB
SYSTEM DUE TO LOW NOMINAL COVER
CASE STUDY ON NERD SLAB SYSTEM**

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Degree of Master of Science

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Sri Lanka

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree Master of Science in Civil Engineering

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my work. This thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgment any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other university or institute of higher learning. To the best of my knowledge and belief, it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgment is made in the text.

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The above candidate has carried out research for the master's under my supervision.

Name of the supervisor: Prof. (Mrs.) J C P H Gamage

Signature of the supervisor: *UOM Verified Signature*

Date: 26.03.2023

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ABSTRACT

Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer (CFRP) strengthening technique had been shown excellent performance in externally strengthening reinforced concrete (RC) elements due to their superior properties compared to the alternative strengthening techniques. A substantial number of studies have been done to study the behavior of externally bonded CFRP strengthened RC elements. However, as per the knowledge, while most studies have focused on the external strengthening of RC beams using CFRP, and very few studies have focused on strengthening the pre-stressed beams and slabs.

Pre-stressed concrete is most popular building technique in construction buildings. Steel corrosion is recognized as the most serious and dominant mechanisms of deterioration for concrete structures. Subsequently, the capacity of the pre-tension elements decreases after exposure to corrosion. NERD center slab system faces such unacceptable losses in load carrying capacity, stiffness, and ductility due to severe corrosion in pre-stressed beams. This study focuses on how CFRP can go for a load increment after reaching its ultimate load carrying capacity.

The test procedure was arranged in two stages. The first stage testing was used to show the performance/ behavior of composite slab specimen and pre-stressed beam, with the application of load. The second stage of testing was carried out to make comparison between the structural performance of retrofitted and strengthen specimens. Specimens were selected for retrofitting after application of loading in stage 1. The total of 12 specimens were exposed to the loading and behavior of each of the specimen were observed. Specimens were selected as slabs and eight number of them were composite slabs with or without shear links which have overall dimensions equal to 1800 * 600 mm and other four were pre-stressed beams with overall dimensions of 1800 mm in length. In this study, CFRP is proposed as the economical solution which does not touch the structural integrity of the structure.

All the specimens were tested using universal loading machine. In stage 1, specimens were loaded up to its ultimate failure. In stage 2, all the tested specimens were retrofitted using CFRP. In total number of six specimens were used for retrofitting. Another six specimens were also strengthened using CFRP before loading. In each stage of loading several observations were done. Such as mode of failure, cracking width distribution, ultimate load, and each composite panel's corresponding deflection were also recorded.

In stage 1, flexural and shear cracks propagated in the pre-stressed beam and the beam failed at the applied load of more than 50 kN. Stage 2 focused on the performance/behavior of the retrofitted and strengthened specimen after application of CFRP. The results from stage 2 showed a considerable reduction (nearly 20%) in loading of retrofitted/ strengthened composite slabs compared to control specimens. Difference in failure pattern is caused for this discrepancy in load demand of second stage. The experimental results showed some satisfactory performance in regaining the lost strength of the composite specimens due to corrosion.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|------|
| DECLARATION..... | ii |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT..... | iv |
| ABSTRACT..... | v |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS..... | vii |
| LIST OF FIGURES..... | x |
| LIST OF TABLES..... | xiii |
| CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| 1.1. Background..... | 1 |
| 1.2. Research Objectives..... | 3 |
| 1.3. Methodology..... | 4 |
| 1.4. Significance of the Research..... | 4 |
| 1.5. Thesis Arrangement..... | 5 |
| CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW..... | 7 |
| 2.1 Concrete structures..... | 7 |
| 2.2 Concrete slabs..... | 7 |
| 2.2.1 Pre-stressed slabs..... | 8 |
| 2.2.2 Composite Slab (use in NERD, Sri Lanka)..... | 8 |
| 2.2.3 Structural integrity of concrete structures..... | 16 |
| 2.3. Deterioration of Concrete Structures..... | 17 |
| 2.3.1. General literature on concrete and defects..... | 17 |
| 2.3.2. Failure due to steel corrosion..... | 19 |
| 2.3.2 Stress Corrosion Cracking in concrete..... | 27 |
| 2.3.4. Degradation of pre-stressed RC structures..... | 32 |
| 2.4 Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) materials..... | 38 |
| 2.4.1 Background of FRP materials..... | 38 |
| 2.5. Retrofitting RC structures with FRP..... | 47 |

| | |
|---|----|
| 2.5.1. Repair of corrosion- damaged reinforced concrete beams with FRP | 47 |
| CHAPTER 3: INTRODUCTION TO CASE STUDY..... | 52 |
| 3.0. Background..... | 52 |
| 3.1. Structural Retrofitting Plan..... | 52 |
| CHAPTER 4: METHODOLOGY..... | 53 |
| 4.1 Introduction to the proposed plan..... | 54 |
| 4.2 Behavior of Composite Specimen- Stage 01..... | 54 |
| 4.2.1. Load bearing capacity of the control specimen (Stage-I)..... | 55 |
| 4.3. Behaviour of the Retrofitted and Strengthened Specimen- Stage II..... | 57 |
| 4.3.1 Overview..... | 57 |
| 4.3.2. Load bearing capacity of the control specimen (Stage-II)..... | 58 |
| 4.3.3 Crack Repairing for Specimen Preparation and Material Properties..... | 60 |
| 4.3.4 Design of the strengthening system..... | 66 |
| CHAPTER 5: RESULTS & DISCUSSION..... | 68 |
| 5.1. Stage 1- Test Results..... | 68 |
| 5.1.1 Control slabs with or without shear links..... | 68 |
| 5.1.2. Comparison of load vs deflections of specimens..... | 69 |
| 5.1.3. Discussion..... | 70 |
| 5.2 Test program – Stage 2..... | 71 |
| 5.2.1. Retrofitted slabs with or without shear links..... | 71 |
| 5.2.2. Strengthened slabs with or without shear links..... | 75 |
| 5.2.3. Discussion..... | 77 |
| CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS..... | 79 |
| 6.1 Future Studies..... | 80 |
| CHAPTER 7: RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 81 |
| REFERENCES..... | 82 |
| 4.0 Design of elements..... | 87 |
| 4.1 Design data..... | 87 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 4.2 Calculation of Longitudinal Stresses | 87 |
| 4.4 Design of 50 mm Thick Slab in Transverse Direction | 96 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | |
|---|----|
| Figure 1.2: Summary of methodology..... | 4 |
| Figure 2.1: First slab construction at the NERD center..... | 9 |
| Figure 2.2: Typical slab system..... | 9 |
| Figure 2.3: Modified slab system | 10 |
| Figure 2.4: (a) Systematic diagram of modified connection; (b) Cast beams with modification..... | 11 |
| Figure 2.5: Stressing wires using special jacking arrangement..... | 13 |
| Figure 2.7: Wire position..... | 14 |
| Figure 2.6: Longline method of casting | 14 |
| Figure 2.8: Endplate types | 14 |
| Figure 2.9: Casting the composite slab panel (a) Hang the plywood shutter (b) keeping the welded mesh at the center (c) Making the in-situ topping..... | 15 |
| Figure 2.10: Remove damaged concrete, cut spalling concrete, brush steel bars, and coat steel bars (the constructor)..... | 19 |
| Figure 2.11: A simplified model of the electrochemical process of corrosion of Steel | 21 |
| Figure 2.12: Extractive metallurgy in reverse | 21 |
| Figure 2.13: Effect of reinforcement corrosion on residual structural capacity | 22 |
| Figure 2.15: Chloride induced corrosion..... | 25 |
| Figure 2.16: Corrosion by chloride ions and carbonation..... | 25 |
| Figure 2.17: Progress of corrosion in concrete and eventual spalling..... | 26 |
| Figure 2.18: Schematic diagrams (a) Crack distribution (b) Simplified crack propagation | 26 |
| Figure 2.19: The essential requirements for SCC | 27 |
| Figure 2.20: Start of stress corrosion cracking | 28 |
| Figure 2.21: General relationship for SCC process..... | 28 |
| Figure 2.22: Longitudinal and transverse cracks caused by bond stresses..... | 31 |
| Figure 2.23: Strand corrosion causes concrete to crack. | 33 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Figure 2.24: Diagram of load testing..... | 35 |
| Figure 2.25: Accelerated corrosion device..... | 36 |
| Figure 2.26: Test setup for tested beams..... | 36 |
| Figure 2.27: Crack pattern at the controlled specimens..... | 37 |
| Figure 2.28: the crack pattern of corroded concrete specimen..... | 37 |
| Figure 2.20: Material characteristics of CFRP, GFRP, AFRP, and Steel pre-stressing tendons..... | 40 |
| Figure 2.21: FRP Strengthening process..... | 42 |
| Figure 2.22: Stress-strain relationship under ULS for various constitutive materials..... | 43 |
| Figure 2.23: use of pre-stressed strip for flexural stiffness..... | |
| Figure 2.24: Application of CFRP for (a) flexural stiffness (b) shear strengthening (c) axial confinement..... | 45 |
| Figure 2.25: Failure scenarios in concrete with externally bonded CFRP..... | 46 |
| Figure 2.28: Concrete cover separation..... | 47 |
| Figure 2.29: Crack pattern of original specimens..... | 47 |
| Figure 2.30: Crack pattern of repaired beams..... | 48 |
| Figure 2.31: Retrofitting solution for full slab..... | 48 |
| Figure 2.32: CFRP sheets without fastening..... | 49 |
| Figure 2.33: RC beam strengthening schemes:..... | 50 |
| Figure 2.34: CFRP side bonding provides shear strength..... | 51 |
| Figure 2.35: CFRP side bonding strips put perpendicular to a45' fracture angle..... | 51 |
| Figure 3.11: Deterioration of Pre-stressed NERD slab purlins..... | 53 |
| Figure 3.10: Deterioration of NERD slab system..... | 53 |
| Figure 3.12: Deterioration of Pre-stressed NERD slab purlins in house located in E-kala..... | 53 |
| Figure 4.1: Materials (a) Cement & Aggregate; (b) Cubes for crushing..... | 55 |
| Figure 4.2: Sample preparation..... | 56 |
| Figure 4.3: Test setup and instrumentation (a) loading setup of pre-stressed beam (b) loading setup of composite slab..... | 57 |
| Figure 4.4: CFRP fabric..... | 59 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Figure 4.5: Epoxy Adhesive | 59 |
| Figure 4.6: Repairing of cracks using structural repair motor..... | 61 |
| Figure 4.7: Inject epoxy resin (a) for composite panels (b) for pre-stressed beams (c) low viscosity long pot life epoxy injection resin, TamRez 220 TG | 64 |
| Figure 4.10: Crack pattern (a) composite slab (b) pre-stressed beams..... | 66 |
| Figure 4.11: Strengthening procedure (a) FRP application for composite slab (b) FRP application for pre-stressed beam..... | 66 |
| Figure 5.2: Slab failure at two supports..... | 69 |
| Figure 5.3: Cracking on pre-stressed beams..... | 69 |
| Figure 5.4: Variation of load vs deflection of composite slabs..... | 70 |
| Figure 5.5: Variation of load vs deflection of pre-stressed beams | 70 |
| Figure 5.7: Shear cracks near CFRP wrappings | 72 |
| Figure 5.6: Initial flexural cracks | 72 |
| Figure 5.8: Models failed by de-bonding of CFRP | 72 |
| Figure 5.9: Loosening of strength between in-situ concrete and pre-stressed beam. | 73 |
| Figure 5.10: Pre-stressed beams failed due to crushing and propagation of flexural cracks | 73 |
| Figure 5.11: Variation of load vs deflection of composite slabs..... | 74 |
| Figure 5.12: Variation of load vs deflection of pre-stressed beams | 74 |
| Figure 5.13: Shear and flexural cracking on strengthened models with FRP | 75 |
| Figure 5.14: Strengthened Pre-stressed beams failed due to crushing & propagation of flexural cracks | 76 |
| Figure 5.15: Variation of load vs deflection of composite slabs..... | 76 |
| Figure 5.16: Variation of load vs deflection of pre-stressed beams | 77 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 2.1: Variation of pre-stressed beam depth with the span | 10 |
| Table 2.2: comparison of rates of slabs | 12 |
| Table 2.3: Classification of corrosion risk at different chloride levels | 24 |
| Table 2.4: Volume variations of rust products | 24 |
| Table 2.5: Chemical composition of steel in terms of weight percentages | 34 |
| Table 2.6: Mechanical Characteristics of steel..... | 34 |
| Table 2.7: Parameters of specimen..... | 34 |
| Table 2.6: Difference in density of FRP composite & steel..... | 39 |
| Table 2.7: Properties of FRP composites | 41 |
| Table 2.8: ACI compliance of the design materials | 43 |
| Table 4.1: Different models for testing (before FRP application)..... | 54 |
| Table 4.2: Characteristic of the steel wires | 55 |
| Table 4.3: Different models for testing (after FRP application) | 58 |
| Table 4.4: Properties of Carbon Fiber Fabrics | 59 |
| Table 4.5: Properties of Epoxy Adhesive..... | 59 |
| Table 4.6: Properties of the material (MasterEmaco S 5400, n.d.) | 61 |
| Table 4.7: Product data (FastFix it, n.d.)..... | 62 |
| Table 4.8: Get and loading times..... | 62 |
| Table 4.9: Technical data for TamRex 220 (TamRex 220, n.d.)..... | 63 |
| Table 4.10: Product Specification (Normet Mighty Injector, n.d.) | 64 |
| Table 4.11: Properties of Carbon Fiber Fabrics (X-Wrap C300, n.d.)..... | 67 |
| Table 4.12: Properties of Epoxy Adhesive (X-Wrap Lamination Adhesive, n.d.) ... | 67 |
| Table 5.1: Load variation of allowable load and load at failure..... | 71 |
| Table 5.2: Load variation of allowable load and load at failure..... | 78 |