Seismic Vulnerability of Pocket Settlement: A Study of Traditional Architecture of Baglamukhi

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Abstract

Valley has experienced lots of earthquakes and the earthquake that the generation still remember bitterly is of 1935. As we know Earthquakes do not kill the people but buildings do, it obviously is the lack of proper knowledge and measures in construction methodology which is responsible for loss of lives. The aim of the study was to examine the seismic vulnerability of traditional Newari settlement by using FEMA P-154 RVS considering the physical factors like building typology, plan irregularities, no. of stories, exterior falling, design date, soil type, adjacency, pre-code, post benchmark, etc. for Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) and social factors for assessing the level of vulnerability that those factors contribute to the settlement during and after seismic hazards. From this assessment study and according to the basic scores for regions, Kathmandu falls under the category of high seismic criteria. A pocket settlement of 41 buildings were examined out of which 10 Reinforced Masonry buildings with rigid floor and roof diaphragms (RM2) is found vulnerable to Grade 3 substantial to heavy damage (moderate structural damage, heavy non-structural damage), large and extensive cracks in most walls, detached roof tiles, chimneys fracture at the roof line, failure of individual non-structural elements (partitions, gable walls etc.). Altogether 31 i.e. 12 buildings of Concrete frame buildings with unreinforced masonry infill walls (C3) +19 buildings of Unreinforced masonry bearing-wall buildings (URM) are found to be vulnerable under the category of Grade 4 substantial to very heavy damage (heavy structural damage, very heavy non-structural damage), serious failure of walls (gaps in walls), partial structural failure of roofs and floors. Vulnerability scores of the screening found from that of RVS methodology of assessing vulnerability is interpreted in tabular form at last.

Keywords

traditional Newari settlement, seismic vulnerability, FEMA P-154 RVS, physical factors, social factors, vulnerability score

1. Introduction

The survival of traditional architecture is threatened world-wide by the forces of economic, cultural and architectural homogenization. How these forces can be met is a fundamental problem that must be addressed by communities and also by governments, planners, architects, conservationists and by a multidisciplinary group of specialists. The revival of traditional architecture of that place must be carried out by multidisciplinary expertise recognizing the inevitability of change and development, and the need to respect the community's established cultural identity. A need for scientific research to have the know-how of technical consideration while reviving those tradition of any particular region is immense as traditional architecture has that threshold to stand intact for ages if undergoes through maintenance and conservation frequently and hence is proved to be economical and sustainable approach to lead the reconstruction works to the path of building back a better Nepal than before. [1]

1.1 Background

Nepal lies in subduction zone therefore it happens to be the region of high seismicity. Kathmandu Valley due its underlying soft rock, earthquake waves amplify when it travels towards surface. This makes the valley more vulnerable to earthquake. Masonry construction practice has born approximately 10,000 years ago and is the oldest building technique known to man. With time construction practice has been advanced. However, there are still many traditional brick masonry buildings which were constructed locally with mud mortar and burnt clay bricks. Though these buildings have survived for centuries, they lack seismic resistant measures to fight the future severe earthquake hazards. But also, to the contrary, they have those potential to endure seismic hazards through their flexibility and performances. Other factors also play a pivotal role in determining their performances. Historical and heritage importance and safety of lives dwelling in those buildings motivates the research study in this field with the aim of their sustainability.[2]



Figure 1: Epicenter, the fault line and shake area

1.1.1 Terminologies

The word tradition comes from the Latin noun 'traditio' meaning 'handing over', which derives from the verb 'tradere' (hand over, deliver).

Traditional architecture is a category of architecture handed over by ancestors which was once built by considering localized needs and construction materials, and reflecting local traditions. It refers to traditional buildings that have been designed and build to match the local climate and culture. Traditional building is the traditional and natural way by which communities house themselves. It is a continuing process including necessary changes and continuous adaptation as a response to social constraints.

During **earthquake re-construction phase** i.e. the long-term phase of post disaster where recoiling back to previous pre-functioning is considered and even a better resilient condition carrying a goal of 3-Bs (buildback-better) is endeavored, recovery is to be focused on revisited thoughts of traditional aspects of recovery as they are impartial aspects to one's daily life.

Settlement is a process that introduces built environment for the community. This built

environment potentially defines the social system as one interlinked with other subsystems of the community. However, following a fundamental trend in the system, restoring the equilibrium of a community requires certain basic conditions. Settlement fails if the built environment does not provide these basic conditions. Failure in terms of built environment has been recorded in studies based on the inappropriate house design, insufficient infrastructure, inappropriate new environment, and alike.

Vulnerability is the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of a hazard. Vulnerability is a function of existing hazard, characteristics and quality of resources, population etc. Seismic vulnerability is the referring to the condition or state of groups or communities exposed to external stresses and disturbances due to physical, social, cultural, political and environmental circumstances caused during an onset of earthquake. Vulnerability is focused on risk.

Vulnerability assessment is the process of identifying, quantifying and prioritizing (or ranking) the vulnerabilities in a system.

Seismic vulnerability assessment has to consider (i) number of stories, (ii) minimum gap between adjacent buildings, (iii) building site location, (iv) soil type, (v) irregularity in elevation, (vi) soft storey, (vii) vertical irregularity, and (viii) cladding for allocating PMF(Performance Modification Factors) scores that are based on damage surveys undertaken previously. Apart from these, parameters pertaining to (i) roofing material, (ii) parapet height, (iii) re-entrant corner, (iv) heavy mass at the top, (v) construction quality, (vi) condition/ maintenance, and (vii) overhang length have been included in the present study, so as to make the assessment suitable for the building in the region.

Avulnerability score is a measure of the exposure of a population to some hazard. Typically, the score is a composite of multiple quantitative indicators that via some assigned value according to guidelines, delivers a single numerical result.

1.2 Need and Importance of Study

Due to the homogenization of culture and of global socio-economic transformation, traditional structures all around Nepal are extremely vulnerable, facing serious problems of obsolescence, internal equilibrium and integration. People are being detached from the practice of utilizing the availed indigenous material for construction of building with those techniques of scientifically and practically sound methods of construction that stand for ages. People are being detached from the civilization of core rural settlement pattern. Traditional architecture is being replaced by contemporary architecture and we are building back a 'jungle of concrete' instead of building back better and native using indigenous materials which is creating a kind of negative psycho-socio impact on our day-to-day lives. So, it needs to be addressed before much delay. Similarly, architectural ambience is highly being encroached by disjoint and nuclear dwelling pattern. Traditional courtyards of Newari culture and different public spaces are being on the verse of extinct. High rise buildings and apartments along with mushrooming dwelling sites on open spaces in city area is a huge threat to human as there will be no open accessible space for evacuation during earthquake.

It is necessary, therefore, to establish principles for the implementation and protection of our traditional architecture and techniques, a manner of building shared by the community, a recognizable local or regional character responsive to the environment i.e. settlement planning, coherence of style, form and appearance, or the use of traditionally established building typology to bear the seismic loads and act as earthquake resilient buildings. [3]

1.3 Objective of Study

The primary objective of this research is:

• To identify the state of vulnerability of building typologies in a pocket settlement through Rapid Visual Assessment.

Further, the gist of research is dedicated to find out the response to following questions:

- To find out the factors of traditional buildings making it vulnerable to seismic hazard and tally with that of FEMA P-154 score modifier.
- To know the physical and social contribution to seismic vulnerability of a pocket settlement.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Review of FEMA P-154

Rapid Visual Screening Method (RVS) (FEMA-154 2002) is simpler procedures that can help to rapidly evaluate the vulnerability profile of different types of buildings. In (FEMA-154 2002), the basic Structural Hazard Scores. Modifiers and final Scores are based on: building type, design, construction practices and soil types. Using statistical analysis, a "structural score" for a building is developed. Final Structural Score (S) all relate to the probability of building collapse. Final score, S typically range from 0 to 7. Building receiving lower score are determined as potential risk. [4] The scoring methodologies was reference from Federal Emergency taken Management Agency (FEMA) 154: Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards. In doing so, building typologies that are unique to Nepal, topological and soil parameter were taken into account. Building typologies used in this analysis include the following three categories:

- a. Concrete frame buildings with unreinforced masonry infill walls (C3)
- b. Reinforced masonry buildings with rigid floor and roof diaphragms (RM2)
- c. Unreinforced masonry bearing-wall buildings (URM)

2.2 Importance of FEMA P-154

Before embarking on seismic retrofitting, seismic deficiencies shall have to be identified through a seismic evaluation process using a RVS form:

- The first phase assessment is general seismic vulnerability assessment method based on qualitative approach to identify the seismic deficiencies in the building.
- The first phase study finds seismic deficiencies in the building and possible seismic performance is not up to the acceptable level/criteria.
- It recommends either second phase assessment or concludes the evaluation and state that potential deficiencies are identified.



3. Study area

Figure 2: Location map

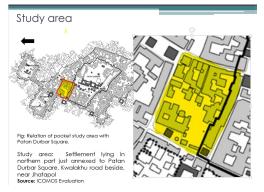


Figure 3: Figure showing the pocket settlement

4. Methodology

The research uses a co-relational research strategy where we first will find out the variables on which viability of traditional or indigenous architecture depends on analyzing the degree of co-relation between the variables that could affect the local architecture. The methodological framework of the study is shown in figure 4.

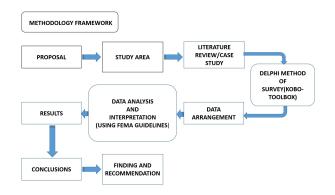


Figure 4: Methodology

4.1 Data cleaning

In data analysis, superstructure typology and damage categories were some of the most critical information. For example, a building of which superstructure was categorized as adobe/mud construction also had additional description of mud-mortar and others. However, multiple description for the building superstructure complicates the data analysis. Hence, those data points with multiple superstructure typologies were cleaned to have only one typology which is the weakest of all the selected.

Score Modifiers determines overall vulnerability level of each building considering other parameters such as soil type, building height, ground slope, distance from river, age of building and building foundation type. Table 1 summarizes the vulnerability score assignment.

The Rapid Visual Screening sample form for level-1 and level-2 high seismicity (which is annexed latter in the paper) along with its calculation formula is given below.

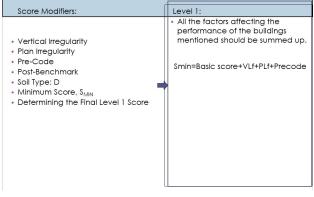


Figure 5: Calculation: RVS level-1

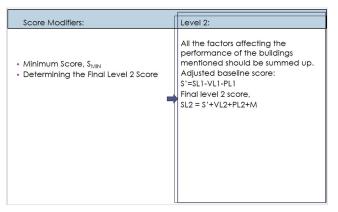


Figure 6: Calculation: RVS level-2

5. Result

5.1 Building typology

The building typologies are scored as per the guidelines which is tabulated below:

Table 1: Building Typology scores as per the guidelines

SN	Building Model	FEMA 154	EMS-98
		Score (S)	Damage Grade
1	C3	0.2	Grade 4
2	RM2	0.3	Grade 3
3	URM	0.2	Grade 4

Where, Concrete frame buildings with unreinforced masonry infill walls = (C3)

Reinforced masonry buildings with rigid floor and roof diaphragms = (RM2)

Unreinforced masonry bearing-wall buildings = (URM)

5.2 Physical infrastructures

The likelihood of an earthquake disaster increases when the community's-built environment (i.e., buildings and lifeline systems—or community infrastructure) is comprised of the following vulnerable elements [5]. Therefore, they are studied and marked into the map.

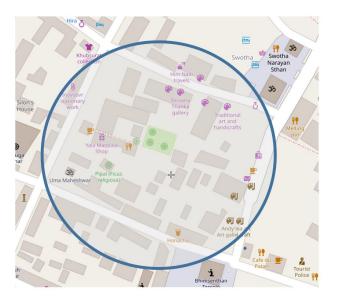


Figure 7: Shops nearby

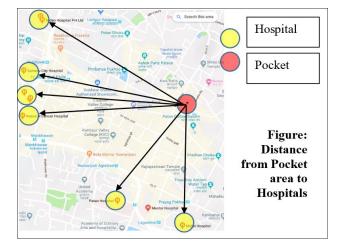


Figure 8: Hospital nearby



Figure 9: Courtyards nearby

Physical Vulnerability Factors	Social Vulnerability Factors	Contribution to Seismic Vulnerability					
Building irregularities	Ethnicity/Awareness	Impose risk to dwellers					
Proportion	Inheritance/Division of land	Slenderness increases					
Adjacency	Vertical encroachment	Formation of gaps					
Ground floor opening ratio	Tenants /Occupancy	Soft story/weak story					
Roofing materials	Lack of materials awareness	Exterior falling hazards					
Flooring materials	Scarce of skilled masons	Loss of flexibility					
Courtyard	Modernization	Evacuation function/temporary stay					
Building occupancy	Money-minded /lack of proper provision	Live load/dead load					
Urban infrastructure	Connecting routes	Lack of access at the time of need/onset of EQ					

Figure 10: Physical and social factors contributing to seismic vulnerability

6. Conclusion

Vulnerability assessment was performed from the process of defining, identifying, classifying and prioritizing vulnerabilities in applications and network infrastructures. The performance of masonry structures used to be noticeably inferior than the performance of RC framed structures due to construction technology, load concentration and structural binding. [6] In addition to this, masonry houses in Nepal are used at least by three generations without any strengthening measures, so during every earthquake in Nepal the older masonry structures claim enormous damage of life and properties. Building units were commonly of adobe, brick or stone masonry and RC structures in our site. The construction technology, construction materials, binding materials are noticeably changing in settlements of Banglamukhi, Patan.

10 Reinforced Masonry buildings with rigid floor and roof diaphragms (RM2) is found vulnerable to the probability of $1/(10)^{(0.3)}$ to seismic hazard.

12 C3 +19 URM are found to be vulnerable under the category of Grade 4 to the probability of $1/(10)^{(0.2)}$.

6.1 Scope and limitation of Study

Study is limited to only visual assessment of those buildings and settlement as a part of case study classification as per the score of vulnerability.It is limited to qualitative assessment, not quantitative assessment. Reliability of assessment lowers because it not only relies on secondary information but also involves primary data collection. This study also does not incorporate the influences of institutional factors in detail.

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Annexe-I

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Vres, Final Level 2 Score, S.p1.5 No detailed evaluation is not necessary detailed evaluation is not necessary detailed evaluation is not necessary Nonstructural hazards? Yes No No No, no nenstructural hazards identified DNK	Exterior: Partial Interior: None Drawings Reviewed: Yes Soil Type Bource: Geologic Hazards Source: Contact Person:	Are There Hazards That Trigger A Detailed Structural Evaluation? Pounding potential (unless S ₁₂ > cut-off, if known) Faling hazards from taller adjacent building Geologic hazards or Soil Type F					Detailed Structural Evaluation Required? Yes, unknown FEMA building type or other building Yes, score less than cut-off Yes, other hazards present No Detailed Nonstructural Evaluation Recommended? (check one) Yes, nonstructural hazards identified that should be evaluated											
Where information cannot be verified, screener shall note the following: EST = Estimated or unreliable data_OR_DNK = Do Not Know	LEVEL 2 SCREENING PER										a manufa	or the second second second	amazola -	wind theat.	the local state of the	tine mill-	alian hot	
Legend: MRF = Moment-resisting hame RC = Reinforced concrete URM INP = Unreinforced maseing infill MH = Manufactured Housing PD = Plexible disphr	Tres, Final Level 2 Score, St.2 -1.				the s	tructural	system			de	tailed ev	aluation	is not na	cessary			ation, but	a

Figure 11: RVS form: level-1

Annexe-II

Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards

Level 2 (Optional)

Bldg Name: E	Building 40			Final Level 1 Score:	SLt = 0.3			(do not	consider S _{MI}	
	adikshya/Ne	elu/Kiran		1 Irregularity Modifiers:	Vertical Irregularity, V			ian Irreg	jularity.	P _{L1} =	
Date/Time: 1	0/08/2019		ADJUS	TED BASELINE SCORE:	$S' = (S_{LT} - V_{LT} - P_{LT})$)= 1					
STRUCTURA	L MODIFIE	RS TO ADD TO ADJU	STED BA	SELINE SCORE	CONCERNING OF A						
Горіс	and the set of the local data of the set of	If statement is true, circle th							Yes	Subtotals	
/ertical	Sloping			ory grade change from one					-1.2		
rregularity, V _{L2}	Site Non-W1 building: There is at least a full story grade change from one side of the building to the other. Weak W1 building cripple wait. An unbraced cripple wall is visible in the crawl space.										
	and/or										
	Soft Story	and there is less than 8' of		-1.2							
	(circle one		There are	openings at the ground stor	y (such as for parking) ow	er at leas	at 50% of t	he	0		
	maximum)	length of the building.	of Internal of	unterm at anic stans in lass th	an EDD/ of that at stars, ab	auto as h	aight of an	1	(12)		
		story is more than 2.0 tim		ystem at any story is less the ht of the story above	ten 50% of that at story ac	ove or n	eight of an	iA	-0.9		
				ystem at any story is betwe	en 50% and 75% of that a	t story a	bove or he	ight	-0.0		
		of any story is between 1	3 and 2.0 t	mes the height of the story	above.			-	-0.5		
	Setback			m at an upper story are out	board of those at the story	below c	ausing the				
		diaphragm to cantilever a		m at upper stories are inboa	ed of those at lower storie			-	-1.0		
				ral elements that is greater				-	-0.3		
	Short			ast 20% of columns (or pier			l system h	ave			
	Column/			the nominal height/depth ra					-0.5		
	Pier			column depth (or pier width ors that shorten the column		e depth	of the spa	ndrel,	-0.5		
	Split Level	There is a split level at on	and the second second second	the second se				-	-0.5		
	Other			vertical irregularity that obvi	ously affects the building's	seismic	performa	nce.	-1.0	V12= -1.2	
	Irregularity			te vertical irregularity that m					-0.5	(Cap at -1.2	
Plan		egularity: Lateral system do			in plan in either or both di	rections.	(Do not				
rregularity, P12		V1A open front irregularity I system. There are one or n			al maters that are not off	hannall	in each at	hite	-0.7		
	Reentrant co	ner.	-0.4								
	Diaphragm o		-0.2								
	C1, C2 build		-0.4	Piz=							
		arity: There is another obse				ic perfor	mance.		-0.7	(Cap at -1.1	
Redundancy Pounding		has at least two bays of lat sparated from an adjacent s		The floors do not align w			(Cap total	-	+0.3		
ounding	by less than		-1.0								
		adjacent structure and:		The building is at the en	e stories taller than the oth d of the block.		pounding modifiers		-0.5		
S2 Building		eometry is visible.				-			-1.0		
C1 Building		rves as the beam in the mo				-			-0.4		
PC1/RM1 Bidg		of-to-wall ties that are visible	e or known	from drawings that do not r	ely on cross-grain bending	. (Do no	t combine	with	+0.3		
PC1/RM1 Bidg		hark or retrofit modifier.) has closely spaced, full hei	aht interior	walls (rather than an interio	r space with few walls suc	h as in a	warehous	(n)	+0.3		
JRM	Gable walls	the state of the second s	gent streament	and particular and an other					-0.4	1	
NH		pplemental seismic bracing			e and the ground.				+1.2		
Retrofit		ive seismic retrofit is visible							+1.4	M= <u>-1.4</u>	
		$S_{L2} = (S' + V_{L2} + P_{L2} +$				-			ransfer	to Level 1 form	
fuer describe f	ble damage or he condition in	deterioration or another cor the comment box below an	dindicate o	regatively affects the building the Level 1 form that data	ng's seismic performance: illed evaluation is required	U Y		No huilding	is score		
r yea, deaunoo i	NO CONSIDERT IN	ore continent cox percer den	u manuale o	TOTO LOYOU T TOTTI DIDA GOLD	neu evolutions is sequireu	macpen	Mera or an	, noninery	o actre		
		UCTURAL HAZARDS									
Location Exterior		Check "Yes" or "No")		t or unbroand unrainformed	marano, chimney	Yes	No		Com	ment	
science		is an unbraced unreinforced masonry parapet or unbraced unreinforced masonry chimney.									
		ere is heavy cladding or heavy veneer									
		There is an unreinforced masonry appendage over exit doors or pedestrian walkways.									
	There is a si										
	There is a ta	Peref	oof tiles may fall out								
nterior		ved exterior nonstructural fa sliow clay tile or brick partition				V		ROOT	thes n	nay rall out	
interior.		ved interior nonstructural fai									
stimated Nons	tructural Seis	mic Performance (Check	appropriate	box and transfer to Level 1			-				
		I nonstructural hazards with									
	Nonstru	ctural hazards identified with	h significant	threat to occupant life safe	ty → But no Detailed Nor	structur	al Evaluat	ion requir	ed		

Figure 12: RVS form: level-2