

Foundation Reinforcement with Inclined Corrugated Micro-Piles: A Practical Perspective

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Abstract:

Micro-pile is a type of pile which acts as a supporting structure to transfer the load from building to the ground. Micro-pile is a deep foundation element constructed using high strength, small diameter steel casing or corrugated bar. By using corrugated bars high bond strength will be developed. The soil chosen for this study is Chenkal clay and the geotechnical properties of the soil were determined. Fe 500 TMT corrugated bars (micro-piles) of 12 mm diameter (D) were purchased for the study and cut to lengths 5D, 10D & 12.5D. The micro-piles were provided at spacing's 2D, 3D & 4D. Inclinations adopted for the study were 15°, 30° & 45°. Square footing in a square pattern and circular footing in a triangular pattern were adopted. The plate load tests were conducted on both square & circular footing. The bearing capacity of soil and settlement of foundation were determined on both square & circular footing and shows a percentage increase of 15.79% & percentage decrease of 62.97% respectively for square footing & a percentage increase of 14.85% & percentage decrease of 56.25% respectively for circular footing. The optimum length, spacing and inclinations were determined on square footing and circular footing respectively. Comparison study on square footing and circular footing were done.

Keywords — Plate Load Test, Bearing capacity, Corrugated Micro-piles, Settlement

I. INTRODUCTION

Strengthening of foundations of buildings prone to earthquake or new floors added to existing buildings due to very high land values in big cities which requires the need for excavation and temporary support systems below the foundation level. This would create a problem due to limited head room and access in congested areas in many places

Micro-piles are small diameter piles usually it's diameter ranges from 100-300 mm, where it is bored cast-in-place piles and most of the applied loads are being resisted by steel reinforcement. They are constructed by drilling boreholes then casing is inserted into the holes, placing steel reinforcement and grouting the holes.

In this project micro-piles are driven into clayey soil at various spacing's and inclinations. Threaded/corrugated bars not only to produce full tension and compression capacity which provides the muchneeded bonding. Inclinations offers increased lateral resistance and improved load-bearing abilities. Inclined angle provides stability, especially in areas prone to sliding or where traditional vertical piles might not be as effective.

II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this work is to study the effect of corrugated micro-piles in various inclinations. The main objectives are to study the following:

- To find the optimum length, optimum spacing & optimum inclinations of the corrugated
- Micro-piles on both square footing & circular footing.
- To determine the settlement on square footing & circular footing placed on soil with and without micro-piles.
- To determine the bearing capacity on square footing & circular footing on soil with and without micro-piles.
- To compare the results in both square footing & circular footing

III. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

The materials used for the study were clayey soil, micro-piles, model footings and also model test tank. The locally available clayey soil was collected. The footings and also the micro-piles of required dimensions were purchased. A model

test tank is constructed in the laboratory in order to make the soil bed. The details of the materials, methodology and experimental setup are explained in the following sections.

A. Materials

The various materials required for the study are listed below:

- 1) **Clayey Soil:** The clayey soil for the study was collected from Chenkal, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The engineering properties of the soil were determined.



Fig. 1 Clayey Soil

TABLE I
 PROPERTIES OF SOIL

| Property | Result |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Specific Gravity, G | 2.219 |
| Liquid Limit, W_L | 58% |
| Plastic Limit, W_P | 32% |
| Plasticity Index, I_P | 26% |
| Soil Classification | CH |
| Percentage of Clay | 53% |
| Percentage of Silt | 46.50% |
| Unconfined Compressive Strength | 50.52kN/m ² |
| Maximum Dry Density | 12.62kN/m ³ |
| Optimum Moisture Content | 25% |

- 2) **Corrugated Micro-piles:** Fe 500 TMT bars are used as micro-piles. Diameter (D) adopted for the study is 12 mm. Length of micro-piles under study were selected as 5D, 10D & 12.5D, i.e. 60 mm, 120 mm & 150 mm respectively. Spacing to be provided between micro-piles were selected as 2D, 3D & 4D, i.e. 24 mm, 36 mm & 48 mm respectively. Inclinations provided with respect to the vertical micro-piles were selected as 15°, 30° & 45° for each spacings.



Fig. 2 60mm length Micro-piles



Fig. 3 120mm length Micro-piles



Fig. 4 150mm length Micro-piles

- 3) **Model Square Footing and Circular Footing:** A mild steel square plate of dimension 120 x 120 x 10 mm was used as square footing and mild steel circular plate of dimension 120 x 10 mm were used as circular footing.



Fig. 5 Model Square Footing



Fig. 6 Model Circular Footing

B. Methodology

The soil is being mixed with water at OMC thoroughly and it is then filled in the steel tank. It is being filled in layers where it is being compacted and levelled. Corrugated micro-piles are inserted into the soil by using a plastic sheet having the pattern of spacings to be provided between micro-piles and inclined insertion was done by placing a chart cardboard having the inclinations marked on it. By placing the micro-piles parallel to the lines on the chart inclination was done. After the micro-piles are inserted, a square plate of dimension 120 x 120 x 10 mm and circular plate of dimension 120 mm x 10 mm is placed over the micro-piles. According to IS 1888: 1983, Plate Load Test was conducted and the results were obtained. The flow chart of methodology is given below:

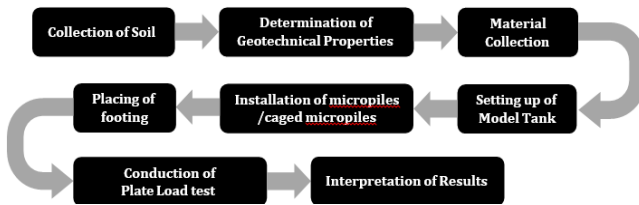


Fig. 7 FlowChartofMethodology

C. Experimental Setup

The plate load tests were conducted on 60 mm length (Set 1), 120 mm length (Set 2) & 150 mm length (Set 3) with 24 mm, 36 mm & 48 mm spacings, each tested at 15°, 30° & 45° on both square & circular footings. The micro-piles were inserted in two different patterns namely square pattern (on square footing) and triangular pattern (in circular footing). A mild steel square plate of dimension 120 x 120 x 10 mm was used as square footing and mild steel circular plate of dimension 120 x 10 mm were used as circular footing. The loads are applied using hand operated - mechanical jacks of capacity 50kN. The applied loads are measured using load dial gauge of capacity 50kN. The settlements were measured using two dial gauges each of 0.01mm sensitivity kept diametrically opposite to each other. The load is applied in equal increments to the model footings & settlements are recorded simultaneously from both the dial gauges.

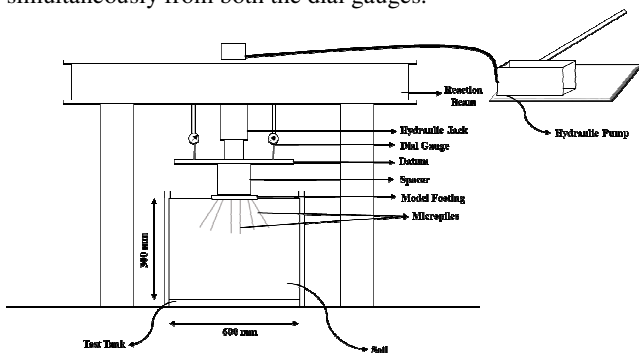


Fig. 8 SchematicDiagramofLoadingSetup

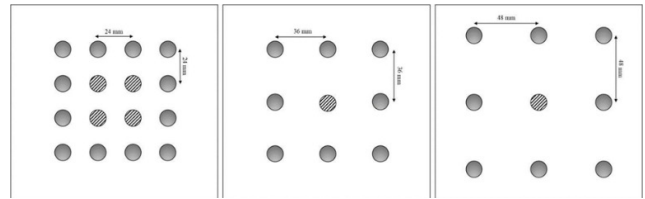


Fig. 9 SquareFootingwithSquarePattern

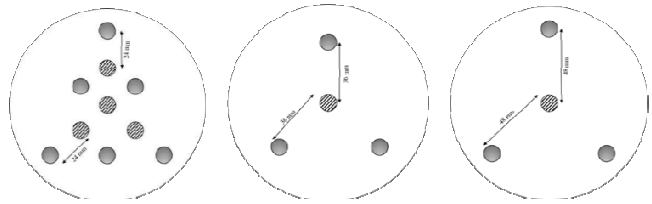


Fig. 10 CircularFootingwithTriangularPattern

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Test on Square Footing and Circular Footing

After the soil gets filled in the tank, square footing was placed inside without micro-piles and the plate load test was conducted. The settlements were noted and the load - settlement curve was evaluated. The load - settlement curves for without micro-piles on square footing and circular footing were studied. The following equation is used for calculation:

$$S_f = S_p \times \left(\frac{B}{B_p} \right)$$

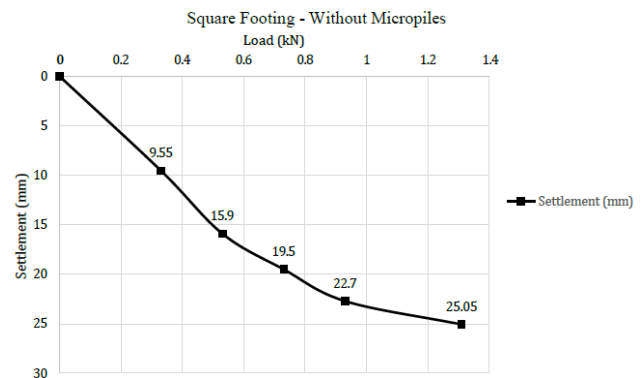


Fig. 11 Square Footing without Micro-piles

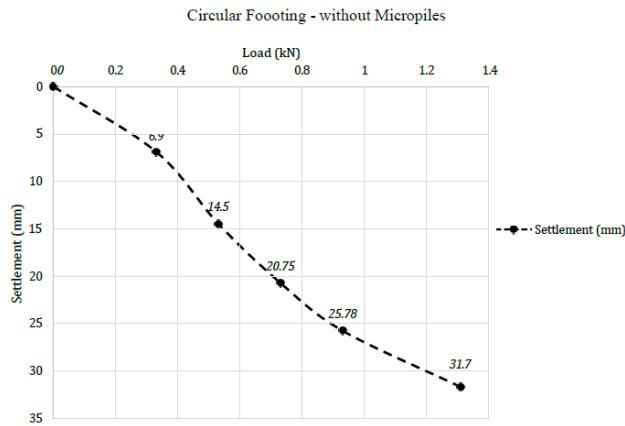


Fig. 12 Circular Footing without Micro-piles

The load – settlement curves for optimum spacings of each length on square footing and circular footing were studied. Micro-piles of length 150 mm (Set 3) is having the least settlement (blue curve) on square footing and Micro-piles of length 60 mm (Set 1) is having the least settlement (red curve) on circular footing.

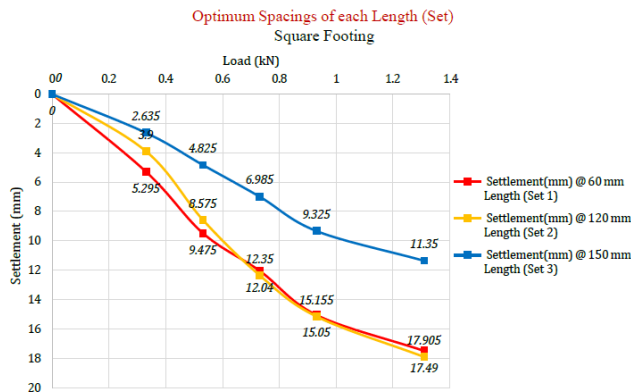


Fig. 13 Optimum Spacings of each Length (Square Footing)

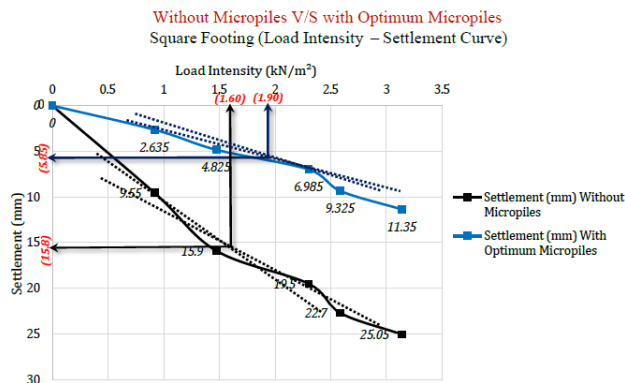


Fig. 14 Without Micropiles V/With Optimum Micro-piles (Square Footing)

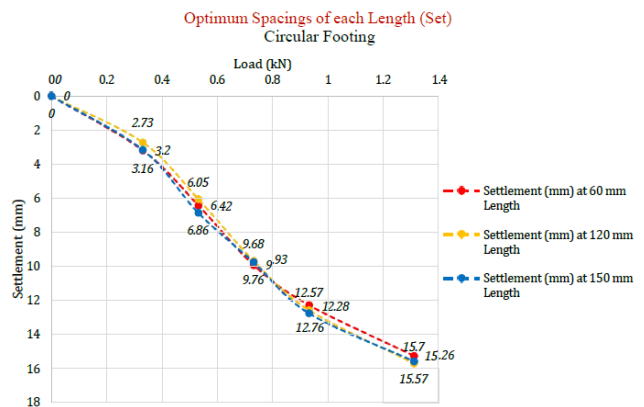


Fig. 15 Optimum Spacings of each Length (Circular Footing)

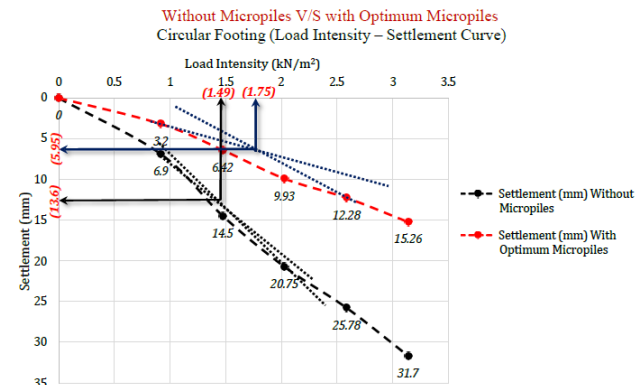


Fig. 16 Without Micropiles V/With Optimum Micro-piles (Circular Footing)

B. Comparison Study

After conducting tests on both square footing and circular footing, a comparison study was done for both without micropiles and with optimum micro-piles conducted on both model footings. A comparison of final settlement on both square footing and circular footing were studied.

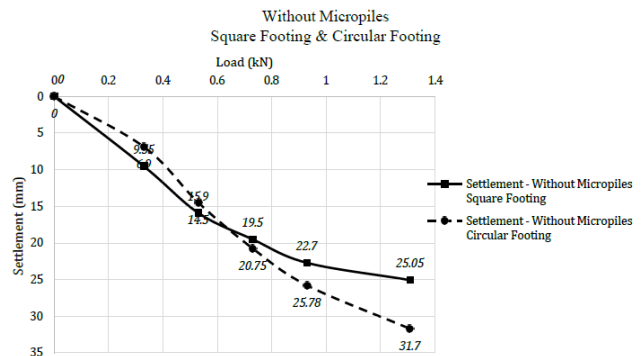


Fig. 17 Square Footing and Circular Footing without Micro-piles

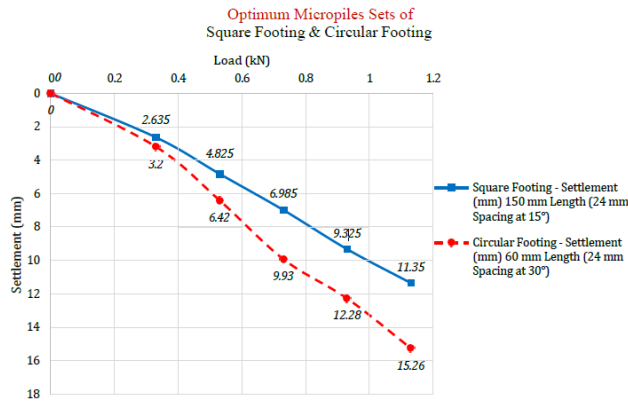


Fig. 18 Optimum Micro-piles Sets of Square Footing and Circular Footing

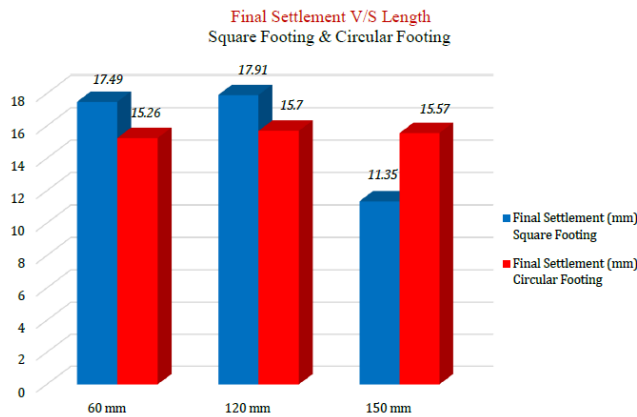


Fig. 19 Final Settlement V/S Length of Square Footing and Circular Footing

V. CONCLUSIONS

- Optimum length, optimum spacing & optimum inclination of micro-piles were determined for square & circular footings. (150 mm, 24 mm & 15° respectively for square footing & 60 mm, 24 mm & 30° respectively for circular footing)
- Percentage of settlement decreased after conducting the test with optimum micro-piles for square & circular footings. (62.97% decrease & 56.25% decrease respectively)
- Percentage of bearing capacity increased after conducting the test with optimum micro-piles for square & circular footings. (15.79% increase & 14.85% increase respectively).
- From the study, corrugated micro-piles tested on square footing showed better results, which may be due to larger contact area, higher edge stiffness & enhanced load transfer compared to tests on circular footing.

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