

Original paper

A Review on Application of Glass Fiber-Reinforced Polymer as a Strengthening Material for Unreinforced Masonry Walls

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Since the Unreinforced masonry structures are prone to dynamic loadings induced by earthquakes, a thorough comprehension of the behavior of these structures will help to improve their seismic performance. On the other hand, seismic performance improvement of unreinforced masonry walls was a very vast field of investigation. The primary aim of this paper is to study the comparison between the response of the unreinforced and strengthened model, Furthermore, the failure debonding mechanisms of strengthened shear wall models with glass fiber reinforced polymer (GFRP) are discussed. A systematic review of the literature was conducted on the topic with a major focus on the arrangement of the observation used GFRP materials for strengthening techniques, theoretical/analytical prognostication equations formulating the experimental investigations in the research, determination of the progress in the research areas, and identifying the gap in the literature. Eventually, a systematic review of literature will assist in identifying the gap in the knowledge about the Masonry walls reinforced with GFRP and determine the most critical design parameters affecting the structural performance of these types of structures.

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1. Introduction

Natural disasters e.g., earthquakes are the most serious risk causing tremendous loss of life and property. In general, casualties of human life in earthquakes occur due to the collapse of buildings and non-engineered dwellings. Singlestory houses are almost always built without the supervision of an experienced engineer and are more likely to be susceptible and suffer damage during a seismic event. Generally, these types of houses are usually adequate for withstanding the gravity loads and make almost acceptable performance under compression tension. But on the antithesis, these types of structures are grossly inadequate to withstand the lateral inertia loads imposed by earthquakes. According to [1] about 75% of the fatalities attributed to earthquakes are caused by the collapse of buildings

and the greatest proportion is from the collapse of masonry buildings. On the other hand, Masonry structures are widespread in many regions of the world and masonry units of construction still remain as a major building material in many places, especially in rural areas. Approximately 60% of people in the whole world are living in masonry buildings that are made by piling up bricks, sun-dried mud bricks (Also known as adobe), stone and concrete blocks. [2] A large percentage of these buildings are currently associated with low economic resources. Furthermore, a large portion of the existing earth constructions is now located in regions where seismic hazards cannot be neglected. Therefore, structural strengthening methods were carried out and different techniques are often necessary to allow unreinforced masonry buildings to remain in the future. Structural

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retrofitting of Masonry structures are developed to increase structural capacity or to control structural damage of unreinforced masonry walls by affecting failure mechanisms and preventing a cracking pattern. [3] When a masonry structure is exposed to loading, load-bearing walls are mainly subjected to two types of possible failure mechanisms such as in-plane shear and out-of-plane bending [4, 5]. According to Iuorio et al. [6] In general, the out-of-plane failure of URM walls is divided by either one-way or twoway bending of the walls. The failure mechanism of masonry buildings can be local or global and can result in a partial or total collapse of the wall. One solution to overcome the out-of-plane failure is to be restrained by providing externally strengthening elements such as proper wall diaphragm connection or I-shaped flanges that supply adequate stiffness [7]. The principal in-plane mechanisms are generally characterized by the following failure modes: 1) shear failure, 2) sliding failure, 3) rocking failure, and 4) toe crushing failure. Among them and with an aspect ratio lower than 1, shear and sliding failure are the most common and general modes of failure observed in URM buildings [8]. The rocking failure is the most ductile failure and the least harmful; sliding shear failure is the least frequent, whereas the diagonal shear failure is the worst type of wall failure since it is very brittle and sudden. [9] Fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) has become an extensively used popular material to strengthen masonry walls and structures in the past few decades. High strength-to-weight ratio, high initial stiffness, linear elastic behavior, and convenience in the application have made it a material of good choice for the seismic retrofitting and strengthening of the masonry structure. The glass fiber-reinforced polymer (GFRP) sheets were used in tremendous investigations to reinforce masonry walls, it offers significant advantages since the fibers can be externally bonded to the surface without affecting the aesthetics of the structure, Also, it could improve the strength and ductility of the structure. This paper describes an experimental investigation and theoretical study of in-plane shear strengthening using glass-fiber-reinforced polymer (GFRP) as a strengthening material. Using GFRP sheets, bars, and GFRP as a polymer in fiber-reinforced concrete for partially grouting the surface of masonry walls is a typical suggestion of authors. The strengthening could be applied on Only one side or both sides of the masonry wall, each approach has its own benefits and defects, e.g., single-sided strengthening could be more economical and allows the façade of a building to be left untouched.

2. Methodology

Many different strategies for the prediction of the behavior of masonry walls to calculate strength were offered by the authors. Also, regarding retrofitting methods, different techniques to strengthen the new or rehabilitate the existing masonry buildings are presented by scholars. To accomplish the methodical review, relevant studies were identified by searching electronic databases (including Science Direct, Scopus, Web of Knowledge, and Civil Engineering database (ASCE)) for published literature up to May 1st, 2022. More than 50 works were filtered, studied, and classified in this category. In addition, the reference lists of relevant studies were double-checked for reports of other potentially relevant studies. scholar's Studies were eligible if they (1) proposed an equation to anticipate the behavior of URM or retrofitted wall (2) the analytical equation performed in another study and other scholars used this as a reference (3) Regarding strengthening method, assessment of strengthening solutions by performing material and mechanical characterization tests; (4) verified by information regarding the strengthening materials and methodology is provided and (5) were published in English. In fact, it was considered valuable to include these works due to the highly eligible and numerous acceptable information concerning this topic.

3. Analytical Equations for In-Plane Loading

3.1. Single-sided diagonal strips

Capozucca and Magagnini (2020) [10] conducted an experimental investigation via analytical equations to evaluate the In-plane seismic behavior of the 1:3rd single-story historic solid clay brick wall, strengthened on one side, by diagonal GFRP strips. Both of the specimens were subjected to precompression to simulate actual loading conditions in masonry buildings and tested under cyclic lateral loading. (Fig.1)The first one strengthened after damage with EB GFRP strips - and then once again subjected to the same loading until failure; the Second one was strengthened with GFRP strips without damage and subjected to the same path of loading until failure. The specimens are shaped in double T-shaped sections. The choice of using double T shape sections was attributed to avoid bending

cracking at the base of the wall model, consequently, the failure is initiated only due to shear.

Fig 1. Wall surface with application of the two-component primer (Capozucca and Magagnini [10]).

During the cyclic loading, the loss of strength of the FRP-masonry joint hybrid system can occur in various conditions, e.g., detachment of the composite material, along the surface of the wall material and the adhesive; at the contact between the thin layer of adhesive and the composite and finally, it can occur inside the same composite layer also known as an interlaminar failure.[11] Experimental investigations suggest that one of the failure modes of FRP reinforced masonry joints is delamination failure occurring at a plane located a few millimeters from the surface of the masonry. As known, the ultimate load of strengthening with EB GFRP strips depends strongly on the fracture energy, Gf, which can be evaluated by shear stress-slip laws. The authors proposed different equations to evaluate the fracture energy in unreinforced masonry walls. Due to the lack of generally accepted values for masonry components, missing material properties are calculated based on expressions used in concrete. Walraven and Van der Horst [12] proposed the equation for the tensile strength which was derived from the flexural strength:

$$
f_t = f_f \frac{0.06h^{0.7}}{1 + 0.06h^{0.7}}\tag{1}
$$

Where h is the height of the specimen tested in three-point bending. The compressive fracture energy is calculated according to the equation proposed by (Drougkas et al, 2015) [13]:

$$
G_f^c = f_c d \tag{2}
$$

Where $d = 1$ mm. The tensile fracture energy in N/mm is calculated according to the equation proposed by (Drougkas et al., 2019) [14]: $G_f^c = 0.073 f_c^{0.18}$ (3)

With the compressive strength
$$
f_c
$$
 from cubic compression test and is in N/mm^2 .

An analytical method to predict the bond capacity of Externally Bonded GFRP-strips on brick masonry walls, considering a simplified elastic model and also has been developed with the presumption that GFRP strips as the adherent material subjected to both axial and shear deformations. [15] The width, thickness, Young ' s modulus, and shear modulus of the intermediate layer are mentioned by bm, tm, Em, and Gm, respectively; the adherent superficial layer with thickness t1 and the ideal intermediate element of thickness tm are supposed to be an elastic material. To obtain the maximum value of the interfacial fracture energy, Gf, i.e., the total external energy supply per unit of area required to create delamination along the GFRP strip-to brickwork masonry bonded joint:

$$
G_f = \frac{P^2}{2b_1^2 E_1 t_1} \tag{4}
$$

The value of load capacity, P, is the superficial glued layer of the GFRP strip, and b₁, t₁, and E₁ are respectively the widths, the thickness, and Young's modulus of the adherent superficial layer. Although masonry can carry out the main part of compression load for its greater thickness, also GFRP strip is subjected to a part of compression. Cappozucca [17] in another study assessed an investigation on unreinforced double-leaf masonry wall models built with historic solid clay bricks on a 1:3rd scale. The unreinforced models were tested under combined compression and

shear loading. After damage they were strengthened with two types of external bonded composite materials – diagonal Glass-FRP strips and steel fiber reinforced cement grout (SRG) – and then once again subjected to the same loading until failure. Under compression by alternative horizontal force, strengthening with SRG strips has shown a weak behavior. A theoretical model which may be used to analyze the buckle response is described. Internal energy contributions due to bending of the ideal beam and to the response of springs for the displacement $y(x)$ are as follows:

This compression leads to Delamination buckling becoming the damage of the strengthening glued to the masonry surface and causing a major failure mechanism. GFRP strip is assumed as an elastic beam embedded subjected to compressive forces at the ends. The strip may buckle under a system of loads, P, due to compressive forces and load reactions, q, of ideal springs with constant k. (Fig.2) According to the energy method following the Rayleigh's procedure, the constant k depends on the width b1 of strips by the relation k=k0∙b1 and the critical buckling load determined by energy method may be determined as it follows: [16]

Fig 3. Model to analyze the delamination buckling of GFRP strip (Capozucca and Magagnini (2020) [10]).

The primary impact of the strengthening method was the failure of the walls retrofitted with GFRP strips that occurred with the cracking of the masonry and the failure of the GFRP strips after the local loss of bond. Furthermore, the strengthening of the GFRP strips led to an increase in deformation energy due to wider load cycles. The strengthening of the GFRP equipped panels led to an increase in resistance, however, what is mainly observed is a strong increase in lateral deflection with an increase in ductility. Furthermore, failure of the GFRP reinforced panels occurred with cracking of the masonry and the resulting failure of the GFRP strips due to detachment. Most importantly, the retrofitting of the GFRP-equipped panels led to an increase in deformation energy due to wider load cycles. A local phenomenon of instability of the strengthening can cause brittle failure resulting from debonding mechanism. Consequently, Although GFRP causes an increase in resistance and reveals a major displacement capacity, Cappozuca [17] results focus attention on a need that the use of composite GFRP material generally does not satisfy the retrofitting method by itself.

4. Analytical Equations for Out-of-Plane Loading

4.1. Brick masonry wallet reinforced by GFRP strips

Sistani nezhad and Kabir [47] carried out experimental study on behavior of masonry wallets strengthened by GFRP strips with different reinforcement ratio and configurations e.g., diagonal, grid and combination of grid and diagonal. (Fig. 4)

- Strain gauge location

The results were compared in the terms of laid carrying capacity, displacement, and energy absorption and failure mode. In total six double –wy the wallets with nominal dimension of 880 × 880mm were built and subjected to out-of plane vertical monotonic loading. In retrofitted masonry wallets, the out-of-plane loading in general caused shear and bending failure. In stark contrast, however, the unreinforced masonry wallet failure was due to spreading cracks through mortar joints on the tension side of the wallet. Longitudinal curvature formation caused an elevation of four corners. Due to the significant ductility by strengthening method considerable curvature is observed in strengthened specimens. Also, out-of-plane strength of retrofitted specimens was higher than the control wall. For the reference specimen at the elastic phase, the lateral load is proportional to the lateral deformation up to 0.73mm displacement. The ultimate load is reached to 11.68kN with 1.06mm out-of-plane deformation. The ultimate out-of-plane deformation at the collapsed state is obtained at 8.3mm. In contrast, the wallet strengthened by a layer of cement on both sides is considerably higher. The ultimate load and its corresponding displacement are measured as 25.67kN and 2.3mm, respectively. These values are 120% and 117% higher than that of the unreinforced wall, correspondingly. Also dissipates 130.9kNm energy that is 386.6% more than the control specimen. But due to the sharp dropping of carrying the load after the peak value, in general, post peak behavior of this specimen tends to be brittle and sudden collapse. The behavior of the wallet with reinforcement ratio (longitudinal FRP area to the cross-section area) of approximately 0.269%, is approximately linear up to 1.29mm displacement. Ultimate strength is about 43.5kN with the out-of-plane displacement of 2.56mm. In this case, the specimen ' s out-of-plane strength is increased about 272% with a corresponding displacement of 141% more than the unreinforced specimen. Wall with the reinforcement ratio of 0.237%, carries a maximum load of 82kN with a corresponding midspan displacement of 7.49mm. The out-of-plane strength and corresponding displacements are 602% and 607% of the control wall, respectively. The overall failure is induced by detachments of GFRP strips and then the load is plunged and the crack propagation is extended through the masonry wall surface. The primary behavior wallet with reinforcement ratio of 0.168% at the load-deflection curve is linear up to the 20.5kN and 1.14mm displacement. It extended to the ultimate load 42.04kN with the corresponding displacement of 2.75mm. At this point, the failure considerably occurred by crushing of masonry in compression causing

decrease of carrying the load. The failure mechanism was due to the weak bond between adhesive and substrate delamination of strips. The ultimate capacity and the corresponding displacements are 260% and 159% as compared to the corresponding values in control specimens, respectively. A wall with reinforcement ratio of 0.158% is linear until the onset of micro cracks in the tension side of the wall before functioning of FRP action. This point belongs to the displacement of 1.04mm under a load of 20.14kN the ultimate load reaches to 51.26kN at 4.22mm out-of-plane displacement. In comparison to the 4th retrofitted specimen to the reference wall the strength soars to 338% higher than unreinforced masonry wallet. Ductility is calculated by dividing ultimate deformation at 80% of load carrying capacity to yield deformation where the first reduction in stiffness occurs. In each retrofitted specimen by GFRP strips the improvement in the displacement ductility ratio is 55%, 53%, 41% and 40% of different patterns of GFRP reinforcements and reinforcement ratio. GFRPs strips that are applied partially on the masonry facades can considerably improve the ductility of force-displacement response and energy absorption under monotonic loading. Furthermore, by applying partially GFRP strips on the tension side of masonry walls great improvement in out-of-plane strength is achieved. Ultimate bending moment and out-of-plane strength capacity of the masonry cross section is defined by considering three different failure modes; FRP debonding, FRP rupture and the compressive crushing of masonry. Since FRP debonding mode does not occur as the main failure mechanism, analytical equations are defined for the compressive crushing of masonry and FRP rupture. Therefore, the depth of compressive part can be determined.

5. Results

In this section, a comparison between the experimental results of different authors on the improvement of the seismic performance of unreinforced masonry walls with GFRP materials were provided. To have a better analogy, all studies with different conditions of dimension, geometry, loading procedures and different application technique of strengthening were reported and the results were compared.

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Based on the investigation of the literature concerning experimental tests on unreinforced masonry walls and GFRP strengthened masonry wall, a dataset of the results of shear-compression tests and out-of-plane test has

been built and the main data are listed in Table 2. Note that in the last column DT, DB, DL and SF are shortened words for diagonal tension, debonding, delamination and Shear failure.

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6. Conclusions

In this paper, a literature review of the theoretical formulations used to predict the capacities of masonry walls retrofitted by GFRP materials subjected to in-plane and out-of-plane loading are reported. Furthermore, this study presents a manuscript aimed at a systematic review of the existing seismic retrofit/strengthening techniques by using GFRP for unreinforced masonry walls. A detailed anthology and organized review based on their common characteristics and effects on the seismic performance were described. According to the results of the studies:

 Despite the fact that in majority of cased retrofits were successful, Delamination and shear failure of the walls can suddenly occur without exploring all the potentialities of the strengthening material. Also, the increase in resistance was appreciable, in particular, in the case of the wall reinforced with diagonal GFRP strips as the delamination phenomenon is

avoided, in other term, failure mode of the strengthened masonry wall heavily depends on the local debonding.

- In the terms of Comparison of effectiveness of GFRP strips, it could be comprehended that the efficiency of combination of horizontal and vertical has more improvement in shear strength compare to diagonal configuration.
- Regarding horizontal and diagonal applications of GFRP strips and both of them, horizontal stripes have more effect on the improvement of shear capacity.
- Despite the fact that application of GFRP sheets on one side of the wall compared to both sides, is more realistic, makes the walls more prone and susceptible to out-of-plane deformation but provides better ductility.
- Throughout the review, almost in all of the studies application of GFRP materials compared to conventional materials like

Steel mesh, provide better post-peak behaviour and moderate decrease in load capacity and stiffness.

- In FRCM technique using cement as a mortar coating provides higher stiffness rather than lime. In stark contrast, however, using a lower cement ratio in coating mortar caused lower capacity of dissipation of energy.
- Regarding application of FRCM on one side of walls, prediction equations in designing guidelines codes, e.g., ACI, should be considered 30% reduced.

Conflict of interest

There is not conflict of interest.

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