



# **Journal of Scientific Research**

**Refereed Scientific Journal**

**Issued Twice Annually By:**

**Africa University for Human and  
Applied Sciences**

**Tripoli – Libya**

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**Issue No. (5) Third Year 2018**

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**Journal of Scientific Research Issued By:**  
**Africa University for Human and Applied Sciences**  
**Libya - 2018**



**Journal of Scientific Research Issued By:  
Africa University for Human and Applied  
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***Content Issue No. 5***

<b>No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>The Author</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1	Assessment of the Modes of Soil Shear Failures that occurs in Jadu and Elrohibat	Eng. Anwar Ahmed Ramadan Abuasara  Eng. Khaled Ali Asheik  Dr. Basheer Musbah Khalifa Alnnaas	8



# Assessment of the Modes of Soil Shear Failures that occurs in Jadu and Elrohibat

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المستخلص

## تقييم نمط انهيار القص للتربة بمنطقة ( جادو و الرحيبات )

تهدف الدراسة الي التحري عن انماط انهيار القص التي تحدث للتربة في منطقة جبلية محصورة بين مدينتي جادو والرحيبات بالجبل الغربي، بهدف إيجاد قدرة تحمل التربة التي تصميم عندها اساسات المباني . حيث تشهد منطقة الدراسة تطور عمراني وتجاري في المباني الحديثة والقديمة دون النظر إلى نوع وخصائص التربة المحمل عليها هذه المباني، وكذلك الدراسات الشحيحة في هذا المجال ووجود نقص شديد في توفر المعلومات الكافية عن خواص التربة التي تمكن المصمم من فهم السلوك الا نشائي للتربة وانماط الانهيار في هذه المناطق، نتيجة لذلك لوحظ وجود بعض انماط انهيار القص للتربة لبعض المباني والتي جعلت من تلك المباني غير صالحة للاستخدام.

بناءا علي ذلك تم عمل سلسلة من الاختبارات المعملية والتي تشير نتائجها الي ان نمط الانهيار للتربة بالمنطقة سيأخذ نوع انهيار القص العام (General shear failure) فيما اذا زاد التحميل لاساسات المبني عن ذلك المسموح به. كما تشير نتائج الاختبارات بليقوة احتكاك التربة (C) وتماسكها (Ø) من العوامل الرئيسية لتحديد وفهم سلوك التربة تحت تأثير الأحمال مع الأخذ في الاعتبار عمق التربة، قيمة الحمل الراسي و نوع التربة بحيث كان العامل الاساسي المؤثر علي قدرة تحمل التربة بمنطقة الدراسة هو قوة التماسك لحبيبات التربة الناعمة.

## Abstract:

This paper presents an investigation into soil shear failure in particular area in order to serve structural designer in regard to foundation design. As far as bearing capacity is concerned, design of a shallow foundation is dependent on two essential criterions that include the ultimate bearing capacity of the subsurface and the excessive settlement for the foundation. The determination of these two criterions relies on the footing geometry and several soil properties that need to be precisely determined before foundation design. As the soil properties are challenging to be specified, an excessive exploration must be carried out when interpreting laboratory or field tests. Incorrect predictions would be the result of insufficient information about the soil. Therefore, the proper bearing capacity factors can be obtained when the soil properties are understood.

The objective of this paper is to investigate the soil properties for the area of study that is experiencing a development of construction activities with a lack of soil information. It was noticed that several building experienced shear failures as a result of insufficient soil information. As several laboratory tests were conducted, results showed that general shear failure would occur when the foundation is exposed to excessive loading conditions. It was concluded that the cohesion of soil (C ) is the

main affect factor to the value of bearing capacity in order to using modified Terzaghi equation as presented in table (10) result of study,As concluded that both parameters cohesion and angle of friction for the soil are crucial to making alogical prediction for the soil behaviour. The required parameters are considered withrespect to the depth, load and soil type.

**Keywords:-** Site Investigation, Bearing capacity of soil, Modes of Shear failure, Geotechnical Engineer.

## 1. Introduction: Intr

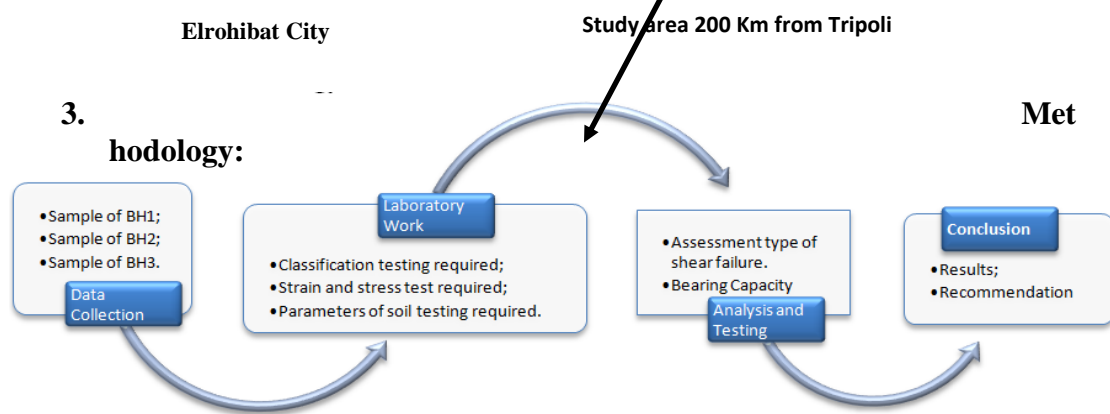
In order to design a shallow foundation, the behaviour of the underlying soil bearing must understand. Generally, the soil will fail as the settlement increases dueto an increase in load forces and as shear planes develop [1]. Nevertheless, as the soil type and shallow foundation vary, determining particular bearing capacity factors is a key issue when attempting to predict accurately how specific soil would fail. In contrast, the ultimate load that a shallow foundation can withstand may lie in the degree of settlement[2]. Consequently, bearing capacity prediction can be particularly difficult without the understanding of the soil physical parameters such as relative density, cohesion (C) and angle of friction ( $\phi$ ).

## 2. Aims and objective. Ai

The aims ofthis paper to investigate an area of a growing interest in construction activities. This area is located between two cities(Jadu and Elrohibat) up in the mountain of Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi.Figure (1) shows the location of the study area. As the targeted area is expected to have a high bearing capacity values, general shear failures for several building was noticed, particularly when increasing the stories for an existing building without taking this into account for the bearing capacity of soil. Because the mountain cities, in general, lack of soil information needed for foundation design, an intensive studies for the soil properties is highly needed as this may serve engineers for foundation design.



Figure (1), illustrated location of Boreholes in Study area.



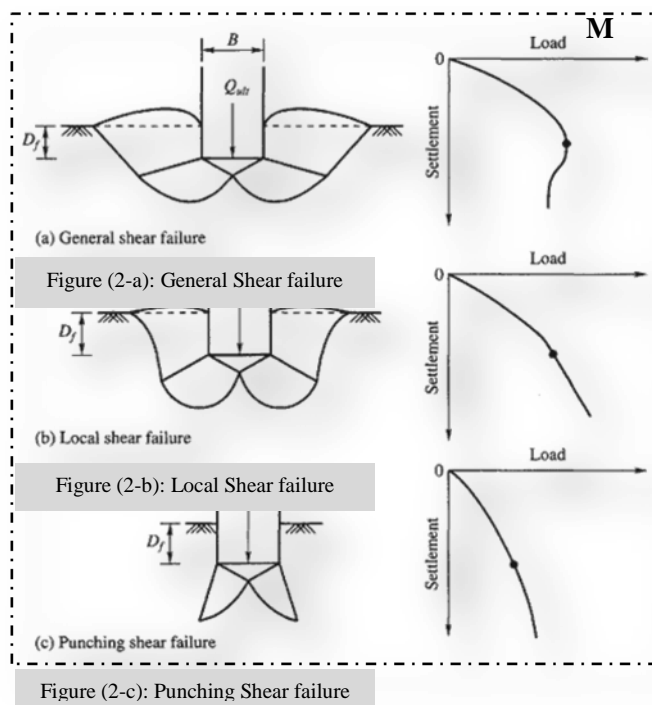
### 3.1.

#### Modes of shear failure

The bearing soil can experience different modes of shear failure according to the compressibility of the soil. When a shallow foundation is exposed to an increasing load, a triangular zone will be created under the base due to a development of three shear planes as shown in Figure (2).

As The footing moves downwards, the surrounding soil will consequently yield

and soil will reach its ultimate b  
incompressible, a general shear  
planes developed to the surface as shown in Figure (2-a). On the other hand, for a compressible soil that is able to fill its own void, a punching shear failure will occur as illustrated in Figure (2-c). When the soil condition is in between previous two cases, local shear failure will occur as shear planes will be a mix of general and punching shear failures as shown in figure (2-b), [2]. To determine the modes of shear failure for a soil, sophisticated field tests have emerged to classify these modes of failure according to the soil properties [2,3]. As a result, classifying the soil in terms of the mode of shear failure is considered to be a vital issue when defining the bearing capacity. Table (1) demonstrates the differences between general shear failure, local and punching shear failure according to the soil properties.



*Figure (2): Modes of shear failure, [Vesic 1963].*

### 3.2.

L

#### **laboratory Work and Analysis.**

This study involves laboratory tests that are required to determine the mode of shear failure and ultimate bearing capacity. Table(2) shows the tests were conducted in this study.



*Figure (3) Shows the Laboratory of Soil Mechanics at Faculty of Engineering - Jadu the differences between local punching and general shear failure [2,7].*

<u>General Shear Failure</u>	<u>Local/Punching Shear Failure</u>
Occurs in dense/stiff soil $\Phi > 36^\circ$ , $N > 30$ , $D_r > 70\%$ , $C_u > 100$ kPa	Occurs in loose/soft soil $\Phi < 28^\circ$ , $N < 5$ , $D_r < 20\%$ , $C_u < 50$ kPa
Results in small strain (<5%)	Results in large strain (>20%)
Failure pattern well defined & clear	Failure pattern not well defined
Well defined peak in P- $\Delta$ curve	No peak in P- $\Delta$ curve
Bulging formed in the neighbourhood of footing at the surface	No Bulging observed in the neighbourhood of footing
Extent of horizontal spread of disturbance at the surface large	Extent of horizontal spread of disturbance at the surface very small
Observed in shallow foundations	Observed in deep foundations
Failure is sudden & catastrophic	Failure is gradual
Less settlement, but tilting failure observed	Considerable settlement of footing observed

*Table (2) indicates all the laboratory tests that are conducted in this study.*

<b>Name of test</b>	<b>The Amis of this test</b>	<b>Type of test</b>
Atterberg Limits tests	Classification of soil	Lab. Test
Sieve analysis test	Classification of soil	Lab. Test
Specific gravity test	To determined the $G_s$ Value	Lab. Test

Standard Proctor test	$(\gamma_{d \max} + \gamma_{d \min})$	Lab. Test
Unconfined compression test	To determine the stress-strain	Lab. Test
Sand cone test	$(\gamma_d)$ in field	Field test
Direct shear test	C & Ø, $\bar{C}$ & $\bar{\phi}$	Lab. Test

### 3.2.1. Classification of soil.

The classification of soil in this study is carried out using (USC & AASHTO Systems). These systems have substantial acceptance worldwide, as well as in Libya. Both USC and AASHTO systems are governed by the determination of the liquid and plastic limits of the soil, where the relationship between the number of blows and water content is plotted to obtain Liquid limit in 25 blows. In addition, USC & AASHTO systems are influenced by the sieve analysis test and the percent of passing through sieve No 200. The following table (3) summarises testes' result and the classification of soil for each Borehole (BH).

*Table (3 ) illustrates the Classification of Soil according to laboratory tests.[study result]*

Sieve Analysis Test					Liquid & Plastic Limits			
Percentage Passing Sieve No.		BH1	BH2	BH3		BH1	BH2	BH3
	No. 4	70.4	60.8	62.6	L.L	19.67	23.29	20.38
	No. 10	60.8	37.2	51.34	P.L	16.49	16.65	17.15
	No.40	44.1	22.8	30.3	P.I	3.18	6.64	3.23
	No.100	0.81	4.17	10.6	L.I	-3.05	-1.38	-3.51
Coefficients	No.200	0.072	2.81	2.81	Natural Water Content			
	D10%	0.19	0.27	0.15		BH1	BH2	BH3
	D30%	0.32	0.55	0.43	$W_c$	6.79	7.51	5.80
	D60%	2	4.93	4.05	Specific Gravity			
	$C_c$	0.27	0.23	0.30		BH1	BH2	BH3
Systems	$C_u$	10.53	18.26	27	$G_s$	2.47	2.61	2.56
	UCS		AASHTO			Classification		
	Table	Chart	Table	Chart	Group Index			

<b>BH1</b>	SW	CL-ML	A-1-b	A-2-4	-2.4 = 0	Course Sand Well graded with Inorganic Sils low plasticity
<b>BH2</b>	SW	CL-ML	A-1-a	A-2-4	-3.3 = 0	Sand Well graded with Inorganic Sils low plasticity
<b>BH3</b>	SW	CL-ML	A-3	A-2-4	-2.4 = 0	Fine Sand well graded with Inorganic sils low plasticity

### 3.2.2. Relative density.

Relative density of a soil reflects its compressibility. For instance, higher values of relative density indicate that the soil is incompressible in regard to low values for soils of the same magnitude. As a result, relative density can be used to determine the mode of shear failure, [4,5]. Figure (4) which shows the relationship between relative density and modes of shear failure in regard to the foundation depth. Consequently, relative density can be determined using Equation,(D. M. Barrister, Equation).

$$Dr = \left( \frac{\gamma_{df} - \gamma_{dmin}}{\gamma_{dmax} - \gamma_{dmin}} \right) \left( \frac{\gamma_{dmax}}{\gamma_{dmin}} \right) \dots \dots \dots (1), [9,10].$$

Where:- $D_r$  : Relative density.

$\gamma_{dmax}$  : Maximum dry density (Laboratory).

: Field dry density (Field).  $\gamma_{df}$

$\gamma_{dmin}$ :Minimum dry density (Laboratory).

Figure (5) indicating the data from a standard Proctor test with OMC and  $\gamma_{dry}$  to obtain the  $\gamma_{dmax}$  in the laboratory (AASHTO T99-10)

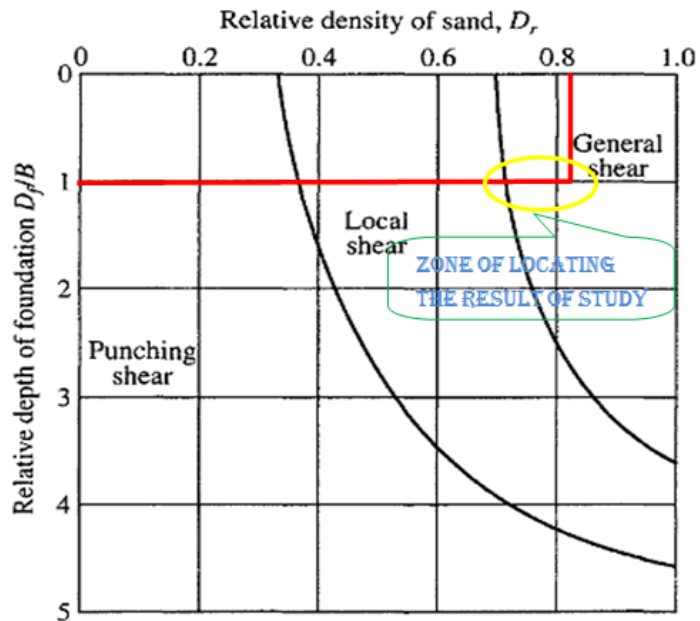
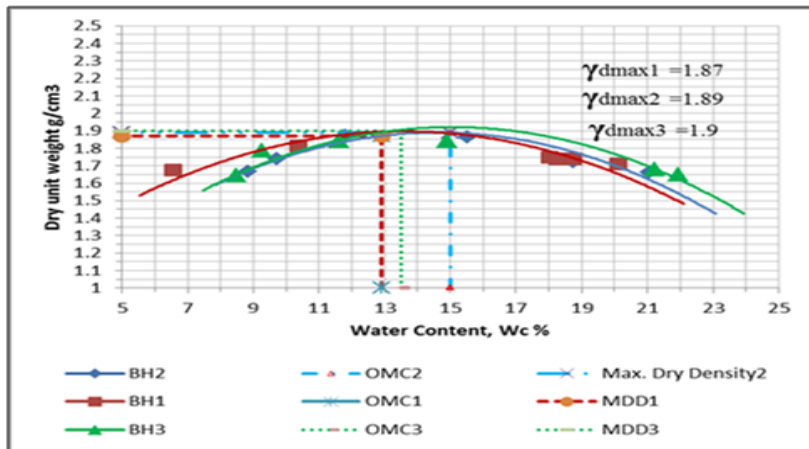


Figure (4): Modes of shear failure at different Relative densities & depths of foundations [Vesic, 1963 and 1973].





*Figure (5), illustrated relationship between water content and dry unit weight in Standard Proctor test.[study result].*

According to, Bowles, J.E., (1992), Relative density can be obtained also from applying the result of maximum, minimum and field density into chart of relative density as showing in Figure (6) where the limits of relative density are indicated.

Table (4) shows the obtained values of relative densities for the Soil samples. The values indicate that the soil in the study area is dense enough to ensure that a general shear failure would occur if the foundation experience an excessive loading conditions. In addition, the obtained relative densities from figure (4) are also indicates that soil will experience general shear failure.

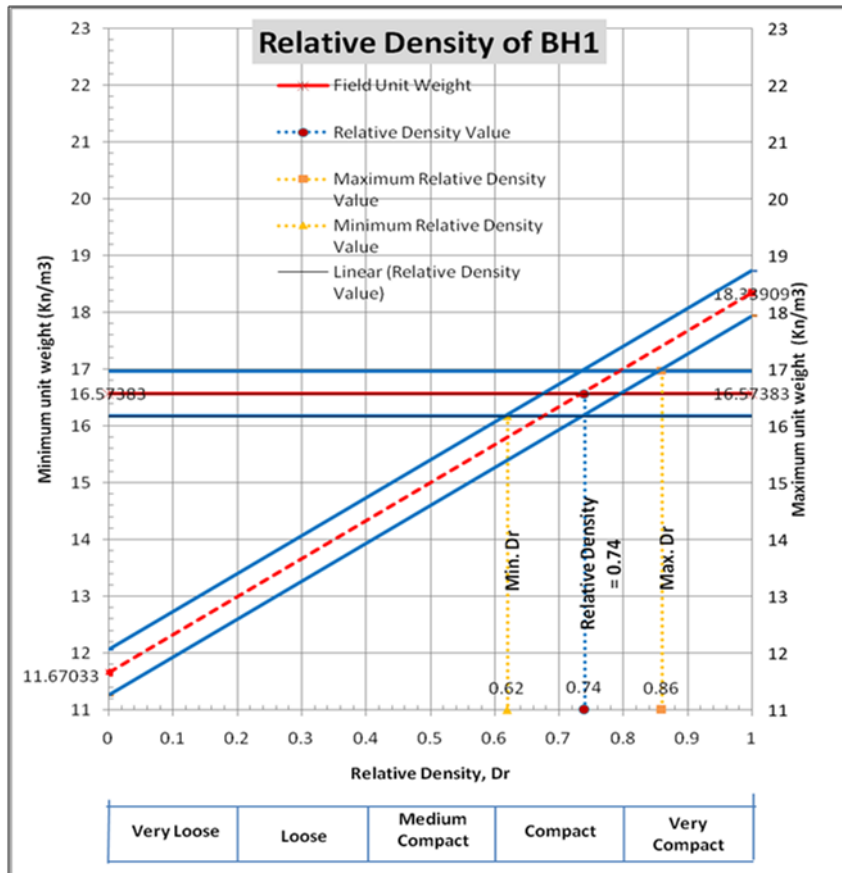


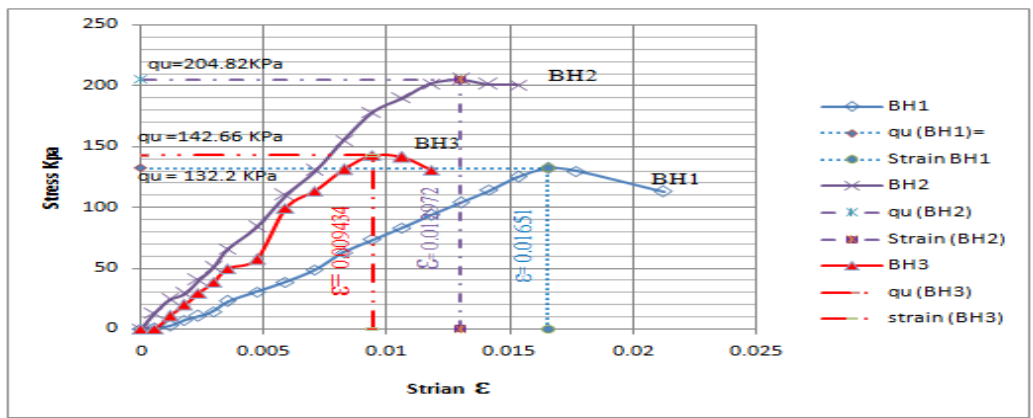
Figure (6) Shows Chart of  $D_r$  as an example of the limits of relative density for BH1[study result].

### 3.2.3. Evaluating the strain of soil.

The strain of soil is also considered as a key factor to categorize the mode of shear failure that may occur in the study area. Consequently, an unconfined compression test was carried out for samples of soil from the three locations according to (AASHTO T208-90). Figure (7) demonstrate the relationship between stress and strain which obtained from the unconfined compression test for the three different samples of the study area.

Table (4): Results of both methods used to obtain Relative Density for three different samples of study area. [study result]

		BH1	BH2	BH3
Name of Test		Dry Unit Weight		
Stander Proctor	$\gamma_d \text{ max}$ gm/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.87	1.89	1.9
Stander Mold	$\gamma_d \text{ min}$ gm/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.19	1.23	1.335
Sand Cone	$\gamma_d \text{ r}$ gm/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.69	1.72	1.71
		OptemumMostiture Content		
Figure (4) Chart No (a),(b),(c)	OMC	12.9	15	13.5
		Relative Density		
(D. M. Burmister, Equation). Equ.No(1)	Dr %	81	81	74
Figure (5) Chart of Dr.	$Dr_{\text{max}}$ %	86	87	81
	Dr %	74	72	66
	$Dr_{\text{min}}$ %	62	62	51
Ring of compaction		Compact to very Compact		
Type of shear failure		General Shear Failure		



*Figure (7): Relationship between stress and strain obtained from unconfined compression test for the three samples [study result]*

From figure (7), the factors that determine the mode of shear failure can be summarised as showing instable (5). As the strain  $\epsilon < 5\%$  for the three samples, this can also insure a general shear failure for the studied soil.

*Table (5): the ultimate values of compression stress, and strain resulted from the unconfined compression test,[study result]*

	BH1	BH2	BH3
$q_u$ (KPa)	132.2	204.82	142.66
$C_u$ (KPa)	66.1	102.41	71.33
$\epsilon\%$	1.65	1.29	0.94

### 3.2.4. Determining the value of Cohesion & Internal angle friction(C),( $\phi$ ):

The cohesion and angle of friction are also essential parametric properties to classify the mode of shear failure and determine the bearing capacity of the soil. In this study, a direct shear test was conducted to estimate these parametric properties according to(AASHTO T 236-90). Figure (8) indicates the relationship between shear Stress and horizontal displacement from direct shear test for three samples exposed to three normal stresses of 4,8,16 kg respectively.The peak value of shear stress was taken for the corresponding displacement of 10mm considered as a failure shear stress, [10].

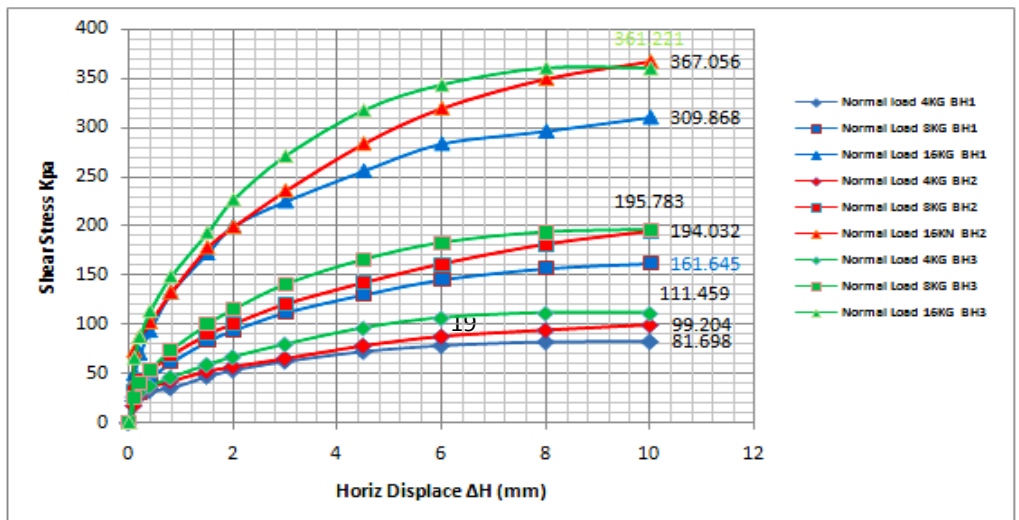


Figure (8): Result of direct shear test under three normal loading conditions shear stress and corresponding horizontal displacement to obtain the failure shear test, from.[study result]

Table (6) review the ultimate shear values at failure in correspondence to the normal stresses for each sample and loading condition. This shear failure stress can be used to determine the cohesion and angle of friction as in figure (9) by using Coulomb's shear strength equation.

Table (6): Ultimate shear values and corresponding strains for each sample.  
[study result]

BH No	BH1			BH2			BH3		
Case of Loading	Normal Load			Normal Load			Normal Load		
	4KG	8KG	16KG	4KG	8KG	16KG	4KG	8KG	16KG
Shear Failure	81.7	309.9	161.7	99.2	194.0	367.1	111.5	195.8	361.2
$\Delta H$ (mm)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Normal Stress	109	218	436	109	218	436	109	218	436

The cohesion (C) and internal angle friction of soil ( $\phi$ ) can be obtained from Coulomb's equation (2,3) which depends on the values of shear stress failure ( $\tau_f$ ) and normal stress ( $\sigma_n$ ) identified from figure (9).

. The values of cohesion and angle of friction are summarized in table (7).

$$\tau_f = C + \sigma_f \tan(\phi) \dots \dots \dots (2). [2,7,11]$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\tau_f - C}{\sigma_f} \right) \dots \dots \dots (3) [2,7,11]$$

Where:  $\tau_f$  = Shearing resistant of soil at failure.

C = apparent cohesion of soil.

$\sigma_f$  = Total normal stress on failure plane.

$\phi$  = angle of shearing resistance of soil (angle of internal friction).

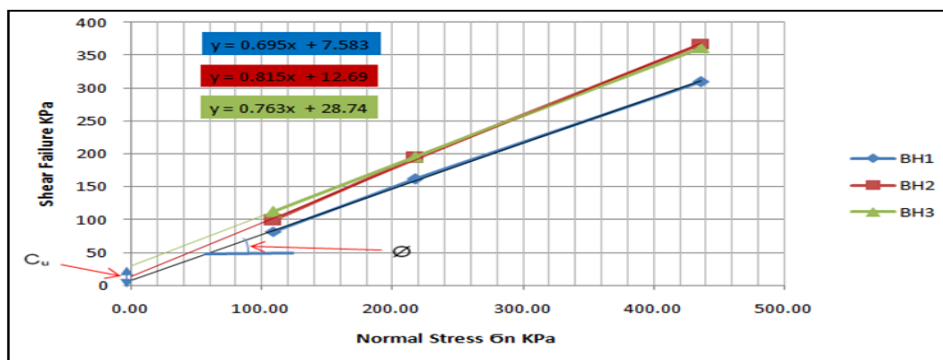


Figure (9). Relationship between shears tress failure( $\tau_f$ ) and normal stress ( $\sigma_n$ )

[study result]

Table (7). Illustrated the values of cohesion and angle of friction [study result]

	BH1	BH2	BH3
Shear stress failure $\tau_f$	309.9KPa	367.1 KPa	361.2 KPa
Normal stress on failure $\sigma_f$	436 KPa	436 KPa	436 KPa
Cohesion of soil C	7.5KPa	7 KPa12.	28.7KPa
Friction of soil $\phi$	38.59°	43.45°	41.48°
Type of shear failure	G.S.F	G.S.F	G.S.F

According to Table (1), the obtained values of C &  $\phi$  in this study indicates that the type of shear failure is General Shear Failure.

### 3.3.

B

#### Bearing Capacity of Soil:-

The bearing capacity of shallow foundations has received the attention of several investigators over the last century. Prandtl (1921) was one of the earliest investigators who studied the bearing capacity of soils by loading a

strip footing until it penetrated into the soil[6]. The applied stress at which stability failure occurs was defined as the ultimate bearing capacity of the soil. Several techniques and empirical procedures that followed Prandtl's research were valuable to provide a comprehensive understanding of the bearing capacity of soils (Terzaghi 1943, Terzaghi and Peck 1948, Meyerhof 1951, Meyerhof 1956, Lawrence 1968, Vesić1973, and Bolton and Lau 1993). These studies were used in the estimation of the bearing capacity based on the saturated shear strength parameters of the soil, dimensions of the footing and its shape, depth and inclination factors and the groundwater table depth.

Based on previous researches and theories, the equation for ultimate bearing capacity have provided as follows.

$$q_u = CN_c S_c d_c i_c + q N_q S_q d_q i_q + 0.5 \gamma B N_\gamma S_\gamma d_\gamma i_\gamma \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

[11]

According to (Ressner (1924), Prandtl (1921), Meyerhof (1963)), the bearing capacity factors are given by the following expressions which depend on  $\phi$ .

$$N_q = (e^{\pi \tan \phi}) \tan^2(45 + \frac{\phi}{2}) \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

$$N_c = (N_q - 1) \cot \phi \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

$$N_\gamma = 1.5(N_q - 1) \tan \phi \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

There C = cohesion

$\gamma$  = unit weight of soil

q = Surcharge at the ground level

B = Width of foundation

$N_c, N_q, N_\gamma$  = Bearing Capacity factors.

Equations are available for shape factors ( $s_c, s_q, s_\gamma$ ), depth factors ( $d_c, d_q, d_\gamma$ ) and load inclination factors ( $i_c, i_q, i_\gamma$ ). The effects of these factors are to reduce the bearing capacity, and the following are Meyerhof's equations to determine factors.

- S

Shape Factors:-

$$[S_c = 1 + \frac{B}{L} \frac{N_q}{N_c}], [S_q = 1 + \frac{B}{L} \tan \phi], [S_\gamma = 1 - 0.4 \frac{B}{L}] \dots \dots \dots (8)$$

- D

Depth Factors  $D_f/B \leq 1$ :-

$$[d_c = 1 + 0.4 \frac{D_f}{B}], \quad [d_q = 1 + 2 \tan \phi (1 - \sin \phi)^2 \left( \frac{D_f}{B} \right)],$$

$$[d_\gamma = 1] \dots \dots \dots (9)$$

- D

Depth Factors  $D_f/B > 1$ :-

$$[d_c = 1 + 0.4 \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{D_f}{B} \right)], [d_q = 1 + 2 \tan \phi (1 - \sin \phi)^2 \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{D_f}{B} \right)],$$

$$[d_\gamma = 1] \dots \dots \dots (10)$$

- I

Inclination Factors with  $\beta$  is the inclination of load with respect to the vertical:-

$$[i_c = i_q = \left( 1 - \frac{\beta}{90^\circ} \right)^2], \quad [i_\gamma = \left( 1 - \frac{\beta}{\phi} \right)^2]$$

\dots \dots \dots (11)

(Note:  $i_v$ ,  $i_q$  and  $i_\gamma$  are all equal to 1 because the load is vertical.)

### Assumptions:-

Based on the depth of taken samples and as the foundations at the study are usually founded on 1m depth, hence the foundation depth  $D_f$  and width of footing  $B$  are assumed to be 1m as shown in figure (10). Table(8) summarise the parameters of soil and bearing capacity factors for the three samples of the study area.

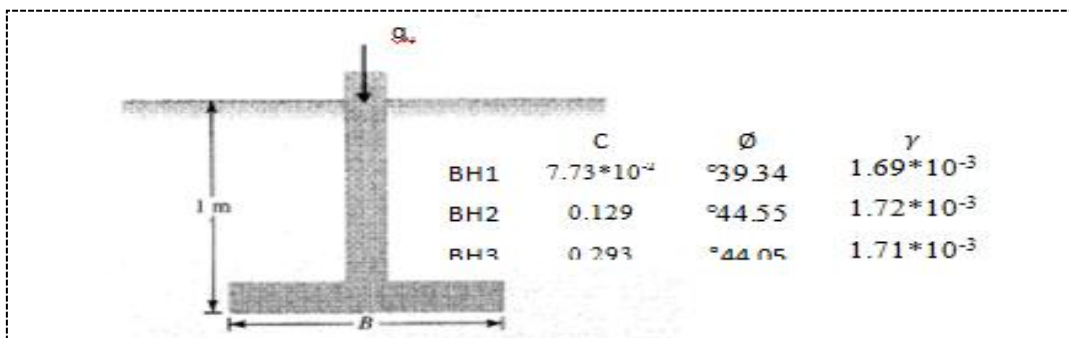




Figure (10): illustrated the Soil's profile [study result]

Table ( 8): parameters' of Soil and Bearing Capacity factors [study result].

BH N <sub>o</sub> .	Parameters of soil			D <sub>f</sub>	Foundation dimension		$\times D_f \text{ Kg/cm}^2$	Factors		
	$\gamma$ Kg/cm <sup>3</sup>	$\phi$	C Kg/cm <sup>2</sup>		B	L		N <sub>q</sub>	N <sub>c</sub>	N <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub>
BH1	1.69*10 <sup>-3</sup>	38.59°	7.73*10 <sup>-2</sup>	1	1	1	1.69*10 <sup>-3</sup>	22.37	14.81	22.22
BH2	1.72*10 <sup>-3</sup>	43.45°	0.129	1	1	1	1.72*10 <sup>-3</sup>	38.66	30.61	45.92
BH3	1.71*10 <sup>-3</sup>	41.48°	0.293	1	1	1	1.71*10 <sup>-3</sup>	30.81	22.74	42.87

Table ( 9): Values of Factors obtained from Meyerhof's equations Bearing Capacity [study result].

BH N <sub>o</sub> .	Factors of Shape			Factors of Depth			Factors of Inclination			q <sub>u</sub> Kg/cm <sup>2</sup>
	S <sub>c</sub>	S <sub>q</sub>	S <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub>	d <sub>c</sub>	d <sub>q</sub>	d <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub>	i <sub>c</sub>	i <sub>q</sub>	i <sub><math>\gamma</math></sub>	
BH1	2.51	1.69	0.6	1.4	1.25	1	1	1	1	4.122
BH2	2.26	1.81	0.6	1.4	1.21	1	1	1	1	12.66
BH3	2.35	1.76	0.6	1.4	1.24	1	1	1	1	22.06

4.

#### **onclusion:**

C

As the study area between Jade and Alrohibathave a growing interest of structural activates, an assessment of shear failure in the soil is highly needed for foundation design. Although the laboratory results indicates relatively high values of bearing capacities, in comparison to soils in Tripoli, all laboratory results indicate that the soil is expected to experience general shear failure when exposed to high loading conditions. This is duo to having a high relative density.

The studied soil also showed that the cohesion and angel of friction have an essential contribution to the value of bearing capacity. As summarised in table (10), the bearing capacity is significantly higher in borehole (BH3) where the cohesion is higher for fine sand.The lowest value of bearing capacity are obtain from coarse sand soil sample of borehole (BH1). However, it is predicted for the studied area that the soil will fail in general shear before reaching the ultimatebearing capacity.

Table (10) illustrated the summary of study.

Borehole No	Classification of sample	Cohesion CKpa	Angle friction Ø	Modes of shear failure	Bearing Capacity Kg/cm <sup>2</sup>
BH1	Coarse Sand	7.58	38.59°	G.S.F	4.122
BH2	Sand	12.69	43.45°	G.S.F	12.66
BH3	Fine Sand	28.74	41.48°	G.S.F	22.057

4.1.

#### **ecommendation.**

R

To consider more accurate results, the soil properties should be studied at various depths. Moreover, site tastes such as the plate load test should be involved in such studies to have a combination of laboratory and site results.

**5.**

**R**

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