

**Ministry of Higher Education
and Scientific Research
University of Diyala
College of Engineering**



**ASSESSMENT OF SETTLEMENT FOR RAFT
FOUNDATION UNDER ECCENTRIC LOADING
NEARBY SANDY SLOPE USING FINITE
ELEMENT METHOD**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Council of the College of
Engineering, University of Diyala in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science
in Civil Engineering - Soil and Foundation Engineering**

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Dedication

I dedicate my thesis to the soul of the most precious person in existence, to the soul of my dear mother, whose prayers accompanied me in her life and even after her death...

Also I dedicate this work to my son Ali and to my daughter Aya, may God prolong their lives, I hope that they will be proud of me and my struggle and my continuing to complete my studies despite the hardships of life and the passage of many years since graduating...

Dina

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Dina

Assessment of Settlement for Raft Foundation under Eccentric Loading nearby Sandy Slope using Finite Element Method

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Abstract

Communication Towers may be found in areas outside cities, where sloping lands and hills, a self-supporting tower with four legs and a height of 50 meters with raft foundation is the typical tower adopted in this study. The communication tower represents a lightweight structure compared to other structures and at the same time exposed to eccentric load represented by the overturning moment resulting from the wind load, this load depend on the basic wind speed, and the prevailing speeds in Iraq (33, 38, 42, and 44) m/sec are the speeds which adopted to obtain the values of eccentricity. The study examines the behavior of tower foundation near sandy slope under the influence of parameters: eccentricity ratio (e/B) at values (0.08, 0.11, 0.14, and 0.15), relative density (loose, medium, dense), angle of slope at values (20° and 30°) with constant height of the slope (10) m and embedment depth of the foundation (D_f/B) at values (0 and 0.125), using Finite Element Method in Plaxis 3D program, these parameters investigate with two constitutive models: Hardening Soil Model (HSM) and Mohr Coulomb Model (MCM). After finding a method of representing the projected moment on raft foundation by Finite Element Method in Plaxis 3D program, results of angle of rotation for all models of the study are compared with the permissible value of (1/600), one of the most important findings of this study is that the ultimate bearing capacity of the foundation was not reached, and the failure mechanism

is the overturning of the structure, and its determinants are differential settlement and angle of rotation of the foundation. The results of soil representation with (HSM) are close to that of (MCM) for both dense and medium-dense soils, while the results of (HSM) exceed significantly (MCM) in loose soils. The results also indicate that the acceptable distance of the tower foundation from the crest of the slope is equal to half the width of the foundation or more ($b/B \geq 0.5$), which cancels out the effect of the slope and the foundation behaves as if it were on flat ground, which is also the recommended distance for the construction of the tower safely and for the two soils dense and medium-dense density, while avoiding the construction of the tower on loose soils, depending on the permissible value of the angle of rotation. Increasing the ratio of the embedment depth for the foundation reduces the maximum settlement below foundation by a rate ranging from (31.18-47.25) %.

Table of Contents

Titles	Page No.
Dedication	I
Acknowledgements	II
Abstract	III
Table of Contents	V
List of Figures	VIII
List of Tables	XV
List of Symbols	XVII
List of Abbreviations	XX
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 The Importance of Study	2
1.3 The Statement of the Problem	3
1.4 The Objectives of Study	4
1.5 Thesis Outlines	5
CHAPTER TOW: LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Slope and Foundation in Geotechnical Engineering	7
2.3 Eccentric Loading	8
2.3.1 One-Way Eccentric Load	10
2.3.2 Mechanism of Failure	13
2.4 Bearing Stress and Bearing Capacity	13
2.5 Bearing capacity of Foundation near a slope	15
2.6 Settlement of Foundation	17

2.7 Differential Settlement of Foundation	18
2.8 Tilt and Angular Distortion of Foundation	19
2.9 Raft Foundation on Sand Soil	23
2.10 Communication Tower	24
2.10.1 Types of Communication Tower	24
2.10.2 Forces Affecting on Communication Tower	25
2.10.3 Factors Affected on Wind Load	26
2.11 Studies on Shallow Foundation	28
2.11.1 Studies on Shallow Foundation on Flat Ground	29
2.11.2 Studies on Shallow Foundation near Slope	31
2.11.3 Summary	40
CHAPTER THREE: FINITE ELEMENT METHOD AND CASE STUDY PROBLEM	
3.1 Introduction	42
3.2 Finite Element Method Details	42
3.2.1 Theory and Basic Equations of Continuum Deformation	42
3.2.2 Finite Element Formulation	44
3.2.3 Plaxis Finite Element Software	45
3.2.3.1 Tetrahedral elements	45
3.2.3.2 Interface elements	47
3.2.4 Basic Parameters of the Adopted Models	47
3.2.4.1 Linear Elastic Model (Hooke's law)	47
3.2.4.2 Mohr Coulomb Model (MCM)	47
3.2.4.3 Hardening Soil Model (HSM)	49
3.2.5 Modeling Steps	52
3.3 Verification Problem of Finite Element Modeling	57

3.4 Parametric Study	60
3.4.1 Models and Materials Properties	61
3.4.1.1 Sandy Slope:	61
3.4.1.2 Raft Foundation	63
3.4.1.3 Eccentric load	64
3.4.2 Models Construction	71
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1 Introduction	76
4.2 Effect of Parameters on Raft Foundation	76
4.2.1 Effect of Eccentricity on Raft Foundation	78
4.2.2 Effect of Angle of slope on Raft Foundation	82
4.2.3 Effect of Relative Density of Sand Soil on Raft Foundation	99
4.2.4 Effect of Distance from Crest of a slope on Raft Foundation	108
4.2.5 Effect of Embedment Depth on Raft Foundation	110
4.3 Effect of Constitutive Model on Raft Foundation	119
4.4 Allowable Limitation	121
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
5.1 Introduction	128
5.2 Conclusions	128
5.3 Recommendations	130
REFERENCES	132

List of Figures

Figure No.	Titles	Page No.
1.1	Sketch of the problem of the study.	4
2.1	Sketch of simple slope (Atkinson, 2007).	7
2.2	Eccentrically loaded foundations (Das & Sivakugan, 2018).	8
2.3	Distribution of pressure in soil under foundation (Turker et al., 2014).	9
2.4	Failure surface under Shallow strip footing eccentrically loaded (Das & Sivakugan, 2018).	11
2.5	Stages of bearing stresses (Lambe and Whitman, 1979).	14
2.6	Shallow foundation near a slope (Das & Sivakugan, 2018).	15
2.7	Bearing capacity factor $N_{\gamma q}$ for granular soil (Das & Sivakugan, 2018).	16
2.8	Bearing capacity factor $N_{c q}$ for cohesive soil (Das & Sivakugan, 2018).	17
2.9	Various types of settlement (Lambe & Whitman, 1979).	18
2.10	Angular distortion for different structures (from Bjerrum, 1963a).	20
2.11	Rotation of footing (Bowles, 1996).	21
2.12	Types of Communication Tower (Casini et al., 2001).	24
2.13	Fall of the main communications tower in Al-Zawiya Post office in western Libya (www.akhbarlibya24.net , 2022).	25

2.14	Basic wind speed in Iraq (contour map) (Dawood et al., 2020).	26
2.15	Comparison of experimental and predicted reduction factor (Sethy et al., 2017).	30
2.16	Comparison of bearing capacity on dense sand (Zedan & Maulood, 2017).	31
2.17	Comparison of Experimental work with Numerical (Salih and Laman, 2013).	32
2.18	Failure surfaces (Turker et al., 2014).	33
2.19	Relationships between Q_{us} & e/B for surface footing close to sandy slope unreinforced and reinforced (Turker et al., 2014).	34
2.20	Design chart (Jawad and Fattah, 2019).	36
2.21	Comparison of FEM with Meyerhof equation (Abbas et al., 2019).	37
2.22	Comparison of Reduction ratio (ie) of study with literature studies (Mazouz et al., 2021).	38
3.1	Tetrahedral Element (Plaxis, Scientific Manual).	46
3.2	Parts of elastic perfectly plastic model (Plaxis, Material Models).	48
3.3	Hyperbolic Model (Plaxis, Material Models).	49
3.4	Yield Surfaces of Hardening Soil Model (Plaxis, Material Models).	50
3.5	Yield Surfaces of Hardening Soil Model in Vonage principal stress space (Plaxis, Material Models).	50
3.6	Comparison between HSM, MCM and real soil response (Ehsan, 2013).	52

3.7	Steps of Modeling raft foundation near sandy slope	56
3.8	Curves of Pressure-Settlement for unreinforced slope (Mittal et al., 2009).	57
3.9	Comparison between experimental works (Mittal et al. 2009) and program models for footing on flat ground.	59
3.10	Comparison between experimental works (Mittal et al. 2009) and program models for footing on top of slope with ratio ($D_e/B=4$).	60
3.11	Sketch of: a) raft foundation, b) side view of tower and foundation.	63
3.12	Fixities of model.	71
3.13	Mesh Generations.	71
3.14	Section of connectivity plot of geometry.	72
3.15	Stages Construction of model.	72
3.16	Initial Stage of model.	73
3.17	Safety Stage of model.	74
3.18	Foundation Stage of model.	74
3.19	Loading Stage of model.	75
4.1	Sketch of: a) Top view of raft foundation, b) section 1-1 in raft foundation.	77
4.2	Total displacement for model (loose sand, HSM, $\beta = 30^\circ$ and $b/B=0$).	78
4.3	Effect of (e/B) on maximum settlement at ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	80
4.4	Effect of (e/B) on differential settlement at ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	81

4.5	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (HSM, $e/B = 0.08$, $Df/B=0$).	83
4.6	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (HSM, $e/B = 0.11$, $Df/B=0$).	84
4.7	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (HSM, $e/B = 0.14$, $Df/B=0$).	85
4.8	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (HSM, $e/B = 0.15$, $Df/B=0$).	86
4.9	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (MCM, $e/B = 0.08$, $Df/B=0$).	87
4.10	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (MCM, $e/B = 0.11$, $Df/B=0$).	88
4.11	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (MCM, $e/B = 0.14$, $Df/B=0$).	89
4.12	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (MCM, $e/B = 0.15$, $Df/B=0$).	90
4.13	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (HSM, $e/B = 0.08$, $Df/B=0$).	91
4.14	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (HSM, $e/B = 0.11$, $Df/B=0$).	92
4.15	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (HSM, $e/B = 0.14$, $Df/B=0$).	93
4.16	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (HSM, $e/B = 0.15$, $Df/B=0$).	94
4.17	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (MCM, $e/B = 0.08$, $Df/B=0$).	95
4.18	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different	96

	angles of slope at (MCM, $e/B = 0.11$, $D_f/B=0$).	
4.19	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (MCM, $e/B = 0.14$, $D_f/B=0$).	97
4.20	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different angles of slope at (MCM, $e/B = 0.15$, $D_f/B=0$).	98
4.21	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (HSM, $e/B = 0.08$, $D_f/B=0$).	100
4.22	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (HSM, $e/B = 0.11$, $D_f/B=0$).	101
4.23	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (HSM, $e/B = 0.14$, $D_f/B=0$).	101
4.24	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (HSM, $e/B = 0.15$, $D_f/B=0$).	102
4.25	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (MCM, $e/B = 0.08$, $D_f/B=0$).	102
4.26	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (MCM, $e/B = 0.11$, $D_f/B=0$).	103
4.27	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (MCM, $e/B = 0.14$, $D_f/B=0$).	103
4.28	Maximum settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (MCM, $e/B = 0.15$, $D_f/B=0$).	104
4.29	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (HSM, $e/B = 0.08$, $D_f/B=0$).	104
4.30	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (HSM, $e/B = 0.11$, $D_f/B=0$).	105
4.31	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (HSM, $e/B = 0.14$, $D_f/B=0$).	105

4.32	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (HSM, $e/B = 0.15$, $D_f/B = 0$).	106
4.33	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (MCM, $e/B = 0.08$, $D_f/B = 0$).	106
4.34	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (MCM, $e/B = 0.11$, $D_f/B = 0$).	107
4.35	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (MCM, $e/B = 0.14$, $D_f/B = 0$).	107
4.36	Differential settlement at different (b/B) ratio for different relative density of soil (MCM, $e/B = 0.15$, $D_f/B = 0$).	108
4.37	Arrows of total displacement for loose sand at ($\beta = 30^\circ$), ($e/B = 0.15$) at ($b/B = 0$).	109
4.38	Arrows of total displacement for loose sand at ($\beta = 30^\circ$), ($e/B = 0.15$) at ($b/B = 0.5$).	109
4.39	Effect of (D_f/B) on maximum settlement at ($e/B = 0.08$) and ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	111
4.40	Effect of (D_f/B) on maximum settlement at ($e/B = 0.11$) and ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	112
4.41	Effect of (D_f/B) on maximum settlement at ($e/B = 0.14$) and ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	113
4.42	Effect of (D_f/B) on maximum settlement at ($e/B = 0.15$) and ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	114
4.43	Effect of (D_f/B) on differential settlement at ($e/B = 0.08$) and ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	115
4.44	Effect of (D_f/B) on differential settlement at ($e/B = 0.11$) and ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	116
4.45	Effect of (D_f/B) on differential settlement at ($e/B = 0.14$) and ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	117

	and ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	
4.46	Effect of (D_f/B) on differential settlement at ($e/B = 0.15$) and ($b/B = 0.5$) for different angles of slope.	118
4.47	Total displacement for loose sand at ($\beta=30^\circ$), ($e/B=0.15$) at ($b/B=0.5$).	120

List of Tables

Table No.	Titles	Page No.
2.1	Allowable values of Settlement (Lambe & Whitman, 1979).	19
2.2	Influence factors (I_0) (Bowles, 1996).	22
2.3	Verification of model on flat ground (Jawad and Fattah, 2019).	37
2.4	Comparison of Experimental results with Analytical solutions (Alkahtani and El Naggar, 2021).	39
3.1	Parameters used in MCM.	48
3.2	parameters used in HSM	51
3.3	Soil properties (Mittal et al., 2009).	58
3.4	Footing properties (Mittal et al., 2009).	59
3.5	Parameters of the present study.	60
3.6	Soil properties of present study.	62
3.7	Foundation properties of present study.	64
3.8	Calculation of the wind load & moment at ($V_b = 33$ m/sec).	66
3.9	Calculation of the wind load & moment at ($V_b = 38$ m/sec).	67
3.10	Calculation of the wind load & moment at ($V_b = 42$ m/sec).	68
3.11	Calculation of the wind load & moment at ($V_b = 44$ m/sec).	69
3.12	Calculation of details of the eccentric load.	70
4.1	Decreasing in maximum settlement at change of (D_f/B) from (0) to (0.125) at ($b/B = 0.5$).	119
4.2	Comparison of allowable Angle of rotation (0.0016667)	123

	and its calculated values for models in the program at ($e/B=0.08$).	
4.3	Comparison of allowable Angle of rotation (0.0016667) and its calculated values for models in the program at ($e/B=0.11$).	124
4.4	Comparison of allowable Angle of rotation (0.0016667) and its calculated values for models in the program at ($e/B=0.14$).	125
4.5	Comparison of allowable Angle of rotation (0.0016667) and its calculated values for models in the program at ($e/B=0.15$).	126
4.6	Angle of rotation: theoretical and calculated values in the program.	127

List of Symbols

Symbol	Meaning
e	Eccentricity.
M	Overturning moment.
B	Foundation width.
L	Foundation length.
$q_{max.}$	Maximum pressure in soil under foundation.
$q_{min.}$	Minimum pressure in soil under foundation.
Q	Applied load.
B'	Effective width.
L'	Effective length.
q'_u	Ultimate bearing capacity.
$q_{u(e)}$	Ultimate bearing capacity at eccentricity.
c'	Cohesion.
c_u	Undrained cohesion.
ϕ'	Angle of internal soil friction.
ψ	Dilatancy angle.
Dr	Relative density.
R_K	Reduction factor.
D_f	Embedment depth.
Δq_s	Bearing Stress.
$(\Delta q_s)_a$	Allowable Bearing Stress.
$(\Delta q_s)_b$	Bearing Capacity.
$(\Delta q_s)_l$	Bearing Stresses Causing Local shear failure.
$(\Delta q_s)_u$	Ultimate Bearing Capacity.
H	Height of slope.

β	Angle of slope.
b	Distance from the footing to crest of slope.
N_s	Stability number.
V	Poisson's ratio
E'	Young's modulus of soil.
I_θ	Influence value.
$\tan \theta$	Angle of rotation.
q_s	Net safe pressure of raft.
N_{cor}	SPT value with both overburden pressure and energy corrections.
F	Horizontal wind load.
q_z	Velocity pressure.
G_H	Gust response factors.
C_F	Structure force coefficient.
A_E	Effective exposure area of structural component section
K_z	Exposure coefficient.
V_b	Basic wind speed.
E	Solidity Ratio.
A_F	Projected area (m ²) of flat structural components in one face of the section.
A_R	Projected area (m ²) of round structural components in one face of the section.
A_G	Gross area of one tower face (m ²).
D_F	Wind direction factor for (flat component).
D_R	Wind direction factor for (round component).
R_R	Reduction factor for (round component).

i_e	The reduction ratio for the bearing capacity.
W_f	Weight of raft foundation.
P^{ref}	Reference pressure.
R_f	Failure ratio.
q_a	Asymptote value of shear strength.
q_f	An ultimate deviator stress.
K_o	Coefficient of the lateral earth pressure.
K_o^{nc}	Coefficient of the lateral earth pressure for normally consolidated.
γ_{un}	Unsaturated unit weight.
γ_{sat}	Saturated unit weight.
E_{50}^{ref}	Secant stiffness.
E_{oed}^{ref}	Tangent stiffness.
E_{ur}^{ref}	Unloading/ reloading stiffness.
ν_{ur}	Poisson's ratio for unloading/ reloading.
m	Power of stress level.
R_{inter}	Interface strength.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
FEM	Finite Element Method.
FOS	Factor of safety.
HSM	Hardening Soil Model.
IQ 301	Iraqi specifications, 2014.
MCM	Mohr Coulomb Model.
RFM	Reduction factor method.
SPT	Standard Penetration Test.
TEA/EIA Standard	Structural Standards For Steel Antenna Towers And Antenna Supporting Structures, 1996.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The construction of structures is usually not only on the flat ground, most of the time there is an urgent need to construct one or another structure near a slope, usually the structure is subjected to centric loads, and at other times it is subjected to eccentric loads, eccentricity is the result of vertical or/and inclined load that affect at a distance from the center of gravity of the foundation of the structure and this aspect is mentioned by most of the previous studies, also the eccentricity is the result of the effect of moment, at this case how will the moment effect on the behavior of the foundation, especially if this foundation is near a slope.

Among the structures affected by the moment are the tall structures such as communication towers, these structures are characterized by their height, light weight and exposure to wind load and overturning moment below to that load, there are many codes to estimate wind load, all of them depend on the basic wind speed, terrain topology, exposure area and height of the structures. There are several types of communication tower: Monopole, Guyed and Self-Supporting with three or four legs. Self-Supporting (with 4-legs) Communication Tower constructed on raft foundation or other types of foundation according of the bearing of soil, dead load of tower and its installation columns rather light do not resist the effect of wind load, so that the raft foundation with its weight will resist the overturning moment beside the important duty of raft to reduce the differential settlement.

1.2 The Importance of Study

Recently, communications have become an important and complementary part of the details of the present day, which led to the increase of communication towers to cover most areas of the world, including slope areas. The nature of the land on which the tower built may not be flat, but rather tilted, as in agricultural land and hills outside cities, and to ensure the quality of communications, the towers must be fixed and stable.

This study is interested in knowing the behavior of tower foundation near sandy slope soil as it has a slope, and subjected to eccentric load resulting from the moment. It also highlights the differential settlement under the base and the angle of rotation, the tower is used as a model for the study is a 50m-height self-supporting communication tower with four legs, and the foundation is a raft foundation, not a separate.

Among the most important things that the study comes up with is to arrive at an acceptable way to deal with the simulation of moments in Finite Element Method used in the approved engineering program and the other thing is to reach the determinants of failure for the high structures that are light in weight and subject to eccentric loads.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

The foundations of high structures subjected to eccentric loads that come from the overturning moment resulting from lateral loads such as wind force and earthquakes. Usually, solid structures resist these eccentric loads through their rather large weights, as in the case of concrete towers, but in the case of towers with metal structures, such as communication towers, all of the above

details are applied to them except for one thing, which is their light weight compared to solid towers.

Rigid foundation of tower can increase in weight to resist overturning moment and reduce differential settlement and angle of rotation of the foundation around its base. The acceptable values of the differential settlement and the angle of rotation depend on the type of high structure and its uses.

Towers under study do not built inside cities and flat lands only; the need requires their presence outside the cities and near inclined lands. Here, the effect of the slope will be with the effect of the eccentric load on the tower foundation. That requires obtaining the safe distance of the tower foundation from the crest of the slope with different angles of slope and for different cases of density of soil, Figure (1.1) shows a simple sketch of the problem of the study.

The study using the Finite Element Method (FEM) by choosing two constitutive models to represent the behavior of the soil, this is done after verifying the two models with laboratory results for a previous study of bearing capacity of shallow foundation near slope. The most appropriate mathematical model will be reached with the problems of eccentricity and slope regions. The study includes knowing the optimum conditions for establishing a communication tower foundation near a sandy slope in terms of variables (eccentricity which tower foundation is exposed, relative density, angle of slope, distance of the tower foundation from the crest of slope, and embedment depth of foundation). The nature of the towers is being high structures exposed to wind forces greatly, which causes overturning of the foundation around its base, leading to the eccentricity of the loading. The

pressure distribution under the base is irregular (it is increasing) and this leads to differential settlement which causing angle of rotation.

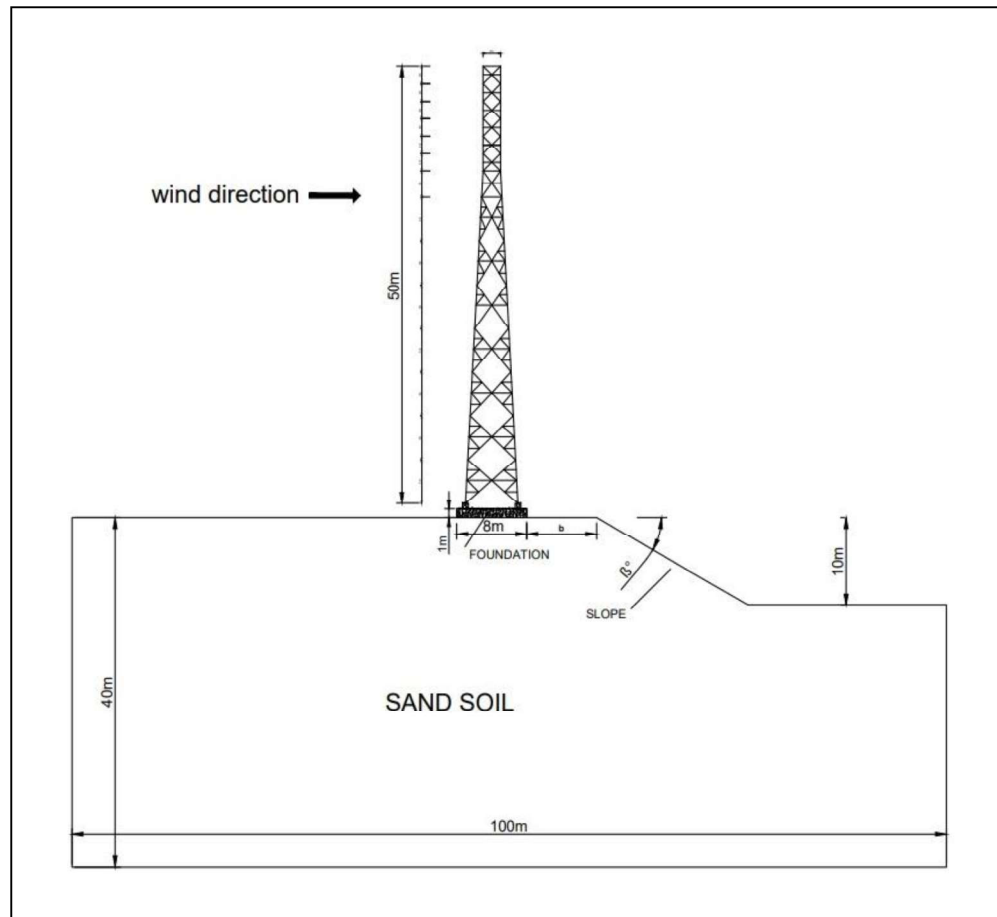


Figure (1.1): Sketch of the problem of the study.

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

This study aims to evaluate the effect of overturning moment on raft foundation of communication tower near slope regions. Ultimate Bearing capacity will be reached or not, especially since the weights of these towers are rather low and there is no increase in the intensity of the vertical loading resistance to overturning moment. The objectives are focused on behavior of communication tower foundation (maximum settlement, differential

settlement and the angle of rotation of the foundation) under eccentric loading caused by moment; are divided to investigate the following:

1- Effect of parameters:

- Eccentricity caused by basic wind speed in Iraq.
- Angle of slope.
- Relative density of sand soil.
- Acceptable distance from crest of slope.
- Embedment depth of foundation.

2- Effect of constitutive model.

3- Results with allowable limitation.

1.5 Thesis Outlines

After this chapter which including introduction of thesis, there are four other chapters, as follow:

Chapter two presents literature review of the study which includes introduction of bearing capacity of foundation near a slope, introduction of eccentric load and its effect on bearing capacity, differential settlement under the base and the angle of rotation, introduction of communication tower; its types, forces affecting on communication tower, and factors affected on wind load.

Chapter three discusses primary features of finite element program and numerical modeling which used to simulate the study, also it presents verification of bearing capacity of shallow foundation near a slope by applying laboratory results of literature study in program and comparing the laboratory results with numerical one, also it includes the parametric study with models of raft foundation.

Chapter four presents the results and discussions of parameters (constitutive model, eccentricity caused by moment due to wind load, relative density of sandy soil, angle of slope, distance of the foundation from crest of slope, and embedment depth), as well as examining the results with allowable limitation.

Chapter five presents conclusions and recommendations for further studies.

References of thesis listed after the five chapters of it.