

Evaluation of Deflections of Prestressed Concrete Beams

Min Sook Kim, Young Hak Lee*

Kyung Hee University
1732 Deogyong-daero, Yongin, Korea
kimminsook@khu.ac.kr; leeyh@khu.ac.kr*

Extended Abstract

Prestressed concrete beam system could be a good economical alternative to typical reinforced concrete beams because it could provide relative thinner thickness than the conventional concrete beam system. Sherif and Dilger performed full-scale prestressed concrete slab tests and proposed the deflection equation [1]. Chao and Naaman proposed the simplified equation to predict deflection for prestressed concrete members based on finite element analysis [2]. Abhinav and Valsson studied the behaviour of prestressed beams based on finite element analysis [3]. Amin and Ramez proposed prediction model of long-term deflection for prestressed concrete beams [4]. In this paper, an experimental investigation was carried out to study the flexural behaviour of prestressed concrete beams with eccentricity. Three specimens were manufactured and tested to evaluate the flexural capacity of the prestressed concrete beams considering the eccentricity as a variable. The prestressing force was designed to be the same and each beam had one straight tendon with diameter of 12.7 mm. The design compressive strength of the concrete was 35 MPa. The total length and clear span of the specimens were 3.1 m and 2.7 m, respectively. The sectional width and height of the specimen were 800 mm and 300 mm, respectively. Boundary condition of all specimens was simply supported. Compared were crack pattern, failure mode, and load-deflection relations in order to evaluate the flexural performance of the specimens. Flexural cracks were first observed in the pure moment zone. As the load was increased, flexural cracks propagated toward the compression zone of the beam. Finally, flexural failure occurred to all the specimens. All the specimens exhibited similar load-deflection responses. On appearance of flexural cracks, the beam stiffness was reduced. The deflection increased substantially with little increase in load. All beams showed ductile behaviour at ultimate. As expected, the maximum load increased as the eccentricity increased. The test results were analysed to propose the nonlinear finite element model taking into account the nonlinearity of concrete. This proposed model is capable of prediction of the deflections considering eccentricity of the tendons. In this model, degenerate shell elements employing a layered discretisation through the thickness were adopted. Analytical and experimental results show good agreement with each other.

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References

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