

The remediation of landslide at Jhika Gali, Murree

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Abstract

A site at Jhika Gali was earmarked for a 13 storey car parking plaza in the year 2008, to ease the traffic problem in the resort town of Murree. However, the haste to start work on the project prevented due diligence and execution of proper geotechnical investigations beforehand. Landslides triggered during foundation excavation at about 120 ft. depth below the road level in the steep natural slopes. The sliding revealed the area to contain an old dormant landslide as well.

Subsequently, the parking plaza was halted and a series of geotechnical investigations and studies were carried out. It was concluded that not only the area was unsuitable for placing a multi-storey structure at this location but also that it required stabilization measures to save the existing road network from any future landslide activity.

The stabilization measures adopted included construction of massive Reinforced Earth work using Terratral T-2, cast insitu bored pile retention system at the toe, extensive surface and sub-surface drainage measures and stabilization of unstable area downhill.

Lessons learnt include that the extensive investigations are a must before the start of projects in areas prone to landslide activity.