2	parameters in high seismic regions: A case of Bhutan Himalaya
3	Karma Tempa <sup>1</sup> , Komal Raj Aryal <sup>2</sup> , Nimesh Chettri <sup>1</sup> , Giovanni Forte <sup>3</sup> , Dipendra Gautam <sup>4, *</sup>
4	<sup>1</sup> Civil Engineering Department, College of Science and Technology, Royal University of Bhutan,
5	<sup>2</sup> Ecoulty of Positiones, Pahdan Academy, Aby Dhabi, United Arch Emirates
7	<sup>3</sup> Department of Civil Environmental and Architectural Engineering (DICEA). University of Naples Federico II
, 8	Naples Italy
9	<sup>4</sup> Department of Civil Engineering Institute of Engineering Thanathali Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal
10	* Correspondance: Dipendra Gautam (dipendra01@tcioe.edu.np)
11	Abstract. Historical earthquakes have demonstrated that strong motion characteristics and local soil condition
12	when coupled the combination of the characteristics of strong ground motion and local soil conditions
13	significantly influence the seismic site response of a particular given site. Most of the Himalayan earthquakes
L4	have depicted anomalous behavior per the site conditions historically. Being one of the most active seismic regions
15	on earth-, the The eastern fringe of the Himalaya Mts. is one of the most active seismic areas worldwide has
6	observed many devastating earthquakes and uneven damages were extensively reported. To this end, we present
17	quantification of surface motion parameters for a soft soil deposit located at Phuentsholing city in western Bhutan.
8	Using one dimensional site response analysis, sensitivity of ground motion variation is estimated for Bhutan. This
19	study represents the first attempt to quantify the influence of the local site conditions on ground shaking in
20	Phuentsholing, one of the major commercial hubs of whole Bhutan. To this end, one-dimensional (1D) ground
21	response analysis in eight different locations were performed. According to the recent Global Seismic Hazard
22	Map (GSHAP), Phuentsholing Thromde (city) in Bhutan is likely to be exposed to the peak ground acceleration
23	(PGA) between 0.20 g - 0.28 g. These high acceleration values do not account for the effect of local site condition
24	as no instrumental records of past earthquakes are available. This study represents the first attempt to quantify
25	the influence of the local site conditions on ground shaking in Phuentsholing Thromde (city), one of the major
26	commercial hubs of whole Bhutan. To this end, one-dimensional (1D) ground response analysis in eight different
27	locations were performed. They This study accountsed for the earthquakes with Magnitude between of moment
28	magnitude between M <sub>w</sub> -6.6 and M <sub>w</sub> -7.5 with a wide variation of PGA-peak ground acceleration (PGA) even
29	beyond 0.28g, which is the maximum PGA range suggested by the Global Seismic Hazard Map (GSHAP). In
80	particular, to To diagnosedissect the characteristics of six inputted ground motions on eight local ground
31	conditions, a-sensitivity analysis is performed through a statistical analysis statistically. The statistical correlation
32	of the response data sets and the linear regression model of the bedrock outcrop and the surface motion spectral
33	acceleration along the stratified depth waswere examined to quantify the variation in surface motion parameters.
34	The The studyResults highlighted thats those earthquakes of strong motions having PGA greater than ~0.34 g
35	demonstrates greater sensitivity leading to some anomalies in response parameters, resulting in attenuation of
86	seismic site effect (amplification). The same scenario was observed for the PGA range below 0.1gwith similar
37	pattern below 0.1 g. The study shows a potential range of seismic site amplification between ~1.7 to 6.2 in Zone

Sensitivity analysis of input ground motion on surface motion

1

# Formatted: Space After: 12 pt

Commented [rev1]: insert the magnitudes
Commented [KT2R1]: Inserted.

38 <u>I and ~1. 8 to 5.8 in Zone II over 0.1 s and 3.0 s periods, respectively. This corresponds to the PGA earthquakes</u>
 39 <u>between 0.11 g and 0.33 g.</u>

40 Sensitivity analysis is performed by a statistical correlation function to correlate the ground motion parameters

41 for different earthquake shaking intensities. The amplification responses of each soil column are predicted to

42 determine the seismic site effects. The study highlights the critical range of the fundamental natural period roughly

43 between 0.9 s to ~ 5.0 s with the highest range of seismic wave amplification between ~ 2.8 to 6.2, suggesting a

44 likely aggravation due to local soil condition that may lead to severe consequences of infrastructure damages.

45 Keywords: seismic site effect, amplification factor, soil fundamental period, sensitivity analysis, Bhutan.

## 46 1. Introduction

47 Bhutan falls in Himalaya Mts., is located in the eastern fringe of Hind-Kush-Himalaya. -an area vulnerable to 48 multiple kind of natural hazards and among them earthquakes are one of the most devastating for the country. 49 Historical earthquakes that occurred in this-the Hind-Kush-Himalayan region have resulted in enormous losses 50 and damages (Gautam et al., 201620167) and thus the impending earthquakes are certain to strike the region with 51 detrimental consequences. The eastern fringe of Himalaya, i.e., Bhutan, and neighboring areas were strongly 52 affected by significant earthquakes in the past, however, most of those occurred in until the 18th century are not 53 well-documented. The most recent events occurred on April 5th 05, 2021 (Mw 5.0) in Samtse (South Bhutan) and 54 on September 2009 Mongar earthquake (Mw 6.7) in eastern Bhutan., Tthesey earthquakes caused major damages 55 in the eastern parts of Bhutan and considerably affected the other parts of the Country (Chettri et al., 2021b). 56 These events and historical recordsAll the past earthquakes highlighted anomalous damage pattern to structures 57 and infrastructures in various parts of the country, especially in the plain areas. Such evidence prompt indication 58 of likely local site effects in Bhutan. So far, few studies on local seismic response have been conducted in Bhutan 59 using a single strong motion and theybut the studies mainly focused on the role of bedrock depth on ground 60 response parameters (see e.g., Tempa et al., 2020; Tempa, Chettri, Gurung, et al., 2021). In such cases, the The 61 ground motion response analysis may not adequately address the accuracy in predicting the response parameters 62 due to limited information regarding site characteristics and their variations within the same soil column (Stevens 63 et al., 2020). In the case of data scarce region such as Bhutan, the variation in terms of material characteristics can 64 be possibly accounted for using sensitivity analysis. -For this reason, this study is an attempt to quantifyquantifies 65 the characteristics and effects of different several strong ground motions to seismic responses in the areasite effects 66 depiction. Seismic ground response analysis fall in the Grade III approach of microzonation studies (e.g. ISSMGE 1999; Licata et al., 2018), it is a widely used method widely used by researchers for various applications in order 67 68 to capture local ground effects or site conditions that can affect the estimate and prediction of the ground motion 69 characteristics- (Chavez-Garcia et al., 1990; Lopez-Caballero et al., 2012, Gautam and Chamlagain 2016, and Sil 70 and Haloi 2018). The outcomes of such studies aim to provide local seismic hazard parameters which can be 71 adopted for earthquake resistant design of structures and infrastructures (Douglas, 2006). -- but also, other 72 earthquake hazards such as landslides and soil liquefaction (Bommer and Martinez-Pereira, 2000). These 73 ground Ground response parameters typically characterize the complex nature of strong -motion accelerograms 74 using a simple expansion of predictive relationships. The two prominent deterministic and probabilistic approaches are widely used for seismic hazard studies globally. Wyss and Rosset, (2013) stated that the standard 75

Commented [rev3]: this is not very clear, try to modify Commented [KT4R3]: minor edits.

**Commented [KT5]:** Kindly edit as per reviewer's comments.

**Formatted:** Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0" + Indent at: 0.25"

Commented [rev6]: Not clear

**Commented [rev7]:** ISSMGE (1999) Manual for zonation on seismic geotechnical hazards. In: Technical committee for earthquake geotechnical engineering, TC4, international society for soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering. The Japanese Geotechnical Society, Tokyo

**Commented [rev8]:** A multi-level study for the seismic microzonation of the Western area of Naples (Italy) Licata, V., Forte, G., d'Onofrio, A., Santo, A., Silvestri, F. Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering, 2019, 17(9), pp. 4711–4741

76 probabilistic seismic hazard assessment method (PSHA) leads to an over or underestimation of the expected 77 acceleration and intensity respectively in areas with low and high seismicity often resulting in incorrect results. 78 Similarly, Previously, Tempa, Chettri, Gurung, et al. (2021) recommended the use of a-the deterministic approach 79 that can calculate the accelerations and losses that would occur if the maximum considered earthquake 80 (MCE)estimate parameters under various earthquake occurrence scenarios. occurs. In additionNotably, selecting 81 a single ground motion by considering only amplitude only for seismic hazard analysis may not be a reliable 82 approach to estimateing site amplification. The selection of wide amplitude range and the assessment of likely 83 fluctuation scenario for Bhutan is not done yet. Hence, the ground motion parameters that are related to the 84 amplitude are investigated to examine and predict the variability, often considered regarded as sensitivity. 85 concerning mean values and associated scatter. Although input motion selection is a complex procedure, a simple 86 approach widely adopted is to is to scale ground motion records to a target spectral acceleration in the fundamental 87 period of the structure of interest (Kramer et al., 2012).

88 To quantify the seismic site effects in terms of amplification of amplitude parameters, a range of time histories 89 is selected and site response parameters are estimated. In this paper, sensitivity analysis of site response for 90 specific soil conditions in Phuentsholing, (Bhutan) is explored by a statistical correlation function of the ground 91 motion parameters for different earthquake shaking intensities. The study area is very significant, as Phuentsholing 92 is one of the major urban and commercial hubs in Bhutan Himalaya and seismic site effects on existing structures 93 may have detrimental consequences due to inherent vulnerabilities of structures and infrastructures as well as due to the likely phenomenon such as amplification effects in loose soil depositspresence of loose soil deposits. To 94 95 quantify the seismic site effects in terms of amplification of amplitude parameters, a range of time histories is 96 selected, and site response parameters are estimated. To quantify the seismic site effects in terms of amplification 97 of amplitude parameters, a range of time histories is selected and site response parameters are estimated.

98 2. Seismicity and geological settinggeology of the study area

99 The Himalayan region is one of the most seismically active zones-regions on earth, which observes characterized
by-both large and moderate-sized events frequently (Drukpa et al., 2006). Bhutan is located in the eastern
Himalayas formed due to the subduction of the Indian plate beneath the Eurasian Plate and spans from the lowlying Brahmaputra Plain to the high Tibetan Plateau. Most of the land area of Bhutan is underlain by the Main
Himalayan Thrust (MHT), which covers runs along the entire length of the Himalayan aArc.

104 Historical earthquake catalogue (see Fig. 1a) indicates that Bhutan has experienced several earthquakes 105 characterized by M\*of moment magnitude greater higher than 5.0 since early 1900, among them, including the 106 1915 Trashigang (Mw 6.6), the 1954 Trashiyangtse (Mw 6.4) in the 2009, Mongar (Mw 6.1) earthquake, which that 107 occurred at 11 km east of Bhutan are the most notable ones. The 2011 Sikkim-Nepal earthquake ( $M_w$  6.9) has 108 alsoalso caused noticeable damage to building stocks in Bhutan (Chettri et al., 2021a). The earthquakes in the 109 vicinity of the study area (Phuentsholing) include the 1981 Dagana (Mw 5.1) earthquake and the 2003 Haa 110 earthquake (Mw 5.5). The most recent event occurred in Samtse in -2021 Samtse (Mw 5.1), which affected 111 Phuentsholing and the neighboring areas with an intensity level of IV in Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) scale.

<u>Continuity of seismic activities in Bhutan is attributed to The high seismicity of the Bhutan is due to the presence</u>
 of major shear zones such as <u>the Main Himalaya Thrust (MHT)</u>, <u>the Main Boundary Thrust (MBT)</u>, <u>the Main</u>

Formatted: Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0" + Indent at: 0.25"

**Commented [rev9]:** It is necessary a small inset with location of Bhutan move a) bottom right; inset b) could be removed unless we

use it later. Isn t it possible to use the geological map as background?

Commented [KT10R9]: Modified, and superimposed.

114 Central Thrust (MCT), and the South Tibetan Detachment System (STDS) (Long & McQuarrie, 2010) as shown 115 in Figure 21a. The study area falls underis within the Phuentsholing formation of Buxa group of the Lesser 116 Himalaya mainly made of characterized by highly weathered dark grey to black slate and phyllite, thin interbeds 117 of limestone, with substantial amount of cream-colored dolomite, and fine-medium quartzite, additionally 118 consisting fine to medium grained conglomeratic quartzite interbedded with phyllite and dolomite towards the 119 Rinchending area of Zone II. Hence, the lithological characteristic characteristic of the area indicates weak and 120 highly unstable geology in the region. The pPresence of thrust faults in the proximity of the study area along the 121 entire belt of the Lesser Himalayan units and the quaternary sediments in the south impose depict the area to be 122 seismically active with the majority of the historical earthquake events occurring concentrated within these 123 geological units.

124 Hn particular, this study focuses focuses on Phuentsholing Thromde (city) under of Chhukha 125 dzongkhag (district) in Bhutan (Fig. 31c). The city is one of the major commercial hubs for trade with India. 126 making the town the gateway to Bhutan for trade with India. The proposed study area is challenging because of 127 theobserving rapid infrastructure\_development activities and expansion of urban landurban expansion use to cater 128 tofor residential, commercial, and industrial transformation besides purposes. providing a major trade network to 129 other districts, e.g., extended Toribari township in the east and Amochu Land Development and Township Project 130 (ALDTP) in the west. The Phuentsholing city covers an area of 15.6 km<sup>2</sup> and is located at 26.86°E and 89.39°N. 131 The city is populated with ahas the population of 27,658 people, mostly distributed towards the peripheral 132 international border area with a total of 2,263 residential and commercial buildings per the 2020 statistics (data 133 are referred to the year 2020; http://www.pcc.bt/index.php/). The seismic site characterization includes 134 eight locations in the regions of Dhamdhara, Toorsa, and Rinchending in Phuentsholing, Bhutan. In this study, 135 the sites are grouped into two main zones based on the geographical location and the proximity of the 136 surveyimmediate availability of survey locations. These two grouped-zones also refer to the Local Area Plan 137 (LAP) of Phuentsholing. The zones are Zone I: Dhamdhara I, Dhamdhara II, Toorsa I and Toorsa II, and Zone II: 138 College of Science and Technology (CST) Football Ground, CST Hostel, Phajoding, and Monastery area. Out 139 of Among the 8 of these-LAPs, Dhamdhara and Toorsa (Zone I) fall underare in the same region in the western 140 part of the city and Rinchending (Zone II) in the east. A similar classification was also used by Tempa et al. 141 (Tempa, Chettri, Gurung, et al., 2021). The zones are; Zone I: Dhamdhara I, Dhamdhara II, Toorsa I and Toorsa 142 II, and Zone II: College of Science and Technology (CST) Football Ground, CST Hostel, Phajoding, and 143 Monastery area.

**Commented [rev11]:** isn t it possible to simplify this map? The name of the formations tell nothing to a foreign reader, it is better a lithological map grouping some formations together; thrusts in red;

#### Commented [KT12R11]:

Formatted: Space Before: 24 pt, After: 12 pt, Tab stops: 1", Left





145 Figure 1: Geology and, seismicity and the study area:, (a) Geological map of Bhutan reproduced from McQuarrie

et al. (2013) and seismicity, (b) Location of Phuentsholing and geology of the area, (c) Study area showing

- 146
- 147 <u>surveyed site using MASW (modified from Google Earth Pro 2021).</u>

#### 148 3. Materials and method

#### 149 4.13.1 Geotechnical site characterization

150 The geotechnical reports collected by Phuentsholing municipality provided have 29 stratigraphic logs. From these

151 records, the depth of the water table (GWT) was derived demarcated. Drilling log data showed the highest depth 152 of the water table in the Dhamdhara area at a depth of 12.5 m to 16.0 m, while thewhereas groundwater table in

153 Rinchending area is at 5 m-underlying, followed by the Toorsa area at between 0.5 m and 3m, which is -below

154 located near the riverbed. The depth of the water table is one of the essential input parameters used for 1D ground

155 response analysis. Three drill holes are presented to typically illustrate the underground stratigraphy (Figure 2).

156 Table 1 presents a summary of soil properties from laboratory testing of in-situ samples collected from the drill

157 holes. The number of samples in each zone represents the total number of samples collected from all drill logs at

158 various stratigraphic depths. All laboratory tests have been verified according to the Indian Standard Codes.

159 Testing included physical identification, Atterberg limits, grain size distribution curve definition and direct shear

160 testing. Field tests such as the standard pPenetration Test-resistance (SPT) and cCore cCutter tTest were



162

163

Figure 2: Typical borehole stratigraphy in Toorsa and Dhamdhara (Zone I) and Rinchingding (Zone II).

Formatted: Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0" + Indent at: 0.25"

Formatted: Outline numbered + Level: 2 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0" + Indent at: 0.25"

164 As shown in the stratigraphic logs reported in Fig. 5, the shallow soils arethe upper strata comprise 165 predominantly mixed coarse-grained soils characterized by dominant sand with considerable fraction of sand. 166 consisting of mainly made of sand with a high proportion of gravel and a good proportion of fines. Something 167 similar was also reported by some studies that were carried out in the study area indicating similar to the finding 168 of previous studies (Tempa and Chettri, 2021; Tempa, Chettri, Sarkar, et al., 2021). The soil classification of the 169 Phuentsholing area carried out by sieve analysis highlighted that most soils consist of 22.74% gravel, 74.89% 170 sand, and 2.37% of the silt and clay fractions. The sieve analysis results for the respective zones are shown in Fig. 171 63. The soils in Toorsa are non-plastic, as coarser grained soils dominate the particle distribution, while the soils 172 in Rinchending and Dhamdhara haved a low plasticity with a plasticity index (PI) of 6.5 and 10, respectively. The 173 bulk density is  $1.8 \text{ g/cm}^3$  in Toorsa,  $1.64 \text{ g/cm}^3$  in Dhamdhara, and  $1.33 \text{ g/cm}^3$  in Rinchending. The shear strength 174 parameter, cohesion (c), ranges between 0-0.18 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, while the angle of internal friction ( $\phi$ ) in the study area is 175 up to 35-°.





176

Figure 6<u>3</u>: Results of sieve analysis showing grain size distribution curves Representative grain size distribution
 curve for the study area.

179 Table 1. Average soil parameters in the study area.

Location	Testing methods	Soil parameters	No. of samples	Reference
	Atterberg's limit	Non-plastic		IS: 2720 (Part 5)-1995
Toorsa	Core cutter	Bulk density, $\gamma_t = 1.8$ g/cc Dry density, $\gamma_d = 1.64$ g/cc	86	IS:2720 (Part 29)-1975
(Zone I)	Direct shear	c = 0 $\phi = 35^{\circ}$	00	IS: 2720 (Part 13)-1997
	SPT	N-value = 25 to 50		IS: 2131–1981
Dhamdhara	Atterberg's limit	Low plasticity (PI = 6.5)	28	IS: 2720 (Part 5)-1995

**Commented [rev16]:** Can we group them in 1 fig? We can color the curves of the same color for each zone.

Commented [KT17R16]: Consolidated to 1 fig.

**Commented [rev18]:** Can't we insert a 3<sup>rd</sup> zone?, so Toorsa and Dhamdhara are representative of different areas. For what I see on google they should be quite different.

(7 D				
(Zone I)				
		Bulk density, $\gamma_t = 1.64$ g/cc		IS:2720 (Part 29)-1975
	Core cutter	Dry density, $\gamma_d = 1.51$ g/cc		
		$c = 0.073 \text{ kg/cm}^2$		
	Direct shear	$\phi = 31.44^{\circ}$		IS: 2720 (Part 13)-1997
		'		
			-	
	SPT	N-value = 19 to 37		IS: 2131–1981
				IS: 2720 (Devet 5) 1005
	Atterberg's limit	Low plasticity (PI = 10)		15: 2720 (Part 5)-1995
				IS:2720 (Part 29)-1975
	Core cutter	Bulk density, $\gamma_t = 1.83$ g/cc		
Rinchending	core euter	Dry density, $\gamma_d = 1.70 \text{ g/cc}$	26	
(Zone II)		$c = 0.18 \text{ kg/cm}^2$	-	
	Direct shear	$\phi = 20-30^{\circ}$		IS: 2720 (Part 13)-1997
		T T-		
	SPT	<i>N</i> -value = $21$ to >100		IS: 2131–1981
	1		1	

180

181 Shear wave velocity profiles from eight locations in the study area based on the multispectral surface 182 wave analysis Multispectral Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW) (Fig. 7) and empirical correlation developed by 183 Tempa et. al. (Tempa, Chettri, Gurung, et al., (2021) are used\_to earry-outperform ground response analysis. 184 According to the shear wave velocity profile, the engineeringengineered bedrock ( $V_s > 800$  m/s) lies at a depth 185 ranging fromof 150 m to 400 m (e.g., Dhamdhara I in Zone I and Phajoding in Zone II), as shown in Fig. 84. 186 According to the parametric analysis carried out by <u>Tempa et al.</u> (Tempa et al., (2020) in the study area, the site 187 condition in the study area is classified into ground as ground type B in conjunction toper the Euro Code EC-08 188 and National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) with the majority of shear velocity (V<sub>s,30</sub>) ranging 189 between 380-470 m/s, except in for the Phajoding, which has a shear wave velocity of 584.76 m/s (Table 2). The 190  $V_{s,30}$  can be estimated with the following<u>using</u> Equation 1.

**Commented [rev19]:** are they used on spt ? we should locate them as well

**Commented [KT20R19]:** No SPT. MASW locations are indicated in Fig 2.

Formatted: Justified, Indent: First line: 0.5", Space Before: 0 pt, After: 0 pt

191		

192 (1)

**193 Table 2**. Site classification as per Euro Code EC\_08

 $V_{s,30} = 30 / \sum_{n=1}^{N} \left(\frac{h_i}{V_i}\right), \text{ m/s}$ 

Zones	Sites	<i>V<sub>s,30</sub></i> (m/s)	Ground Type
	Dhamdhara I	386.43	В
T	Dhamdhara II	435.92	В
1	Toorsa I	439.54	В
	Toorsa II	464.30	В
	CST football ground	426.76	В
Π	CST hostel	426.61	В
	Monastery area	446.20	В

	Phajoding	584.76	В
All	Bedrock	>800	А



194

**195** Figure 84: Shear wave velocity profile of study locations in Phuentsholing, Bhutan.

196 To furtherFurther supplement to complement the requirements for the seismic demand action and 197 damage risk, it is essential to take into accountconsideration of the subsurface conditions associated with the 198 earthquake energy\_, whichthat amplify or abbreviate the ground motion responses is imperative (Kramer, 1996). 199 Dynamic properties of soils are influenced by shear modulus and damping and are defined by the respective 200 degradation models, regarded as the backbone curves. Figure 9-5 represents the dynamic soil model for sand used 201 in this study. Degradation models are well established by many researchers-investigators for different types of 202 soils\_which influenceaffecting the response at low strain levels, (see e.g., (Seed and Idriss, 1970; Vucetic and 203 Dobry, 1991; Darendeli, 2001; Dobry and Vucetic, 1982; Seed et al., 1986).

A damped linear elastic model of the soil system is used <u>for the analysis</u>. Due to the <u>non-linearity of the</u> soil <u>nonlinearity</u> for which the shear modulus is strain-dependent, ProShake performs an iterative process on the linear model until both the moduli and damping ratios are compatible with the average strains and convergence is achieved <u>on-at</u> the last iteration (Shafiee et al., 2011; Puri et al., 2018). The nonlinear and hysteretic stress-strain behavior of soils under cyclic loadings is approximated as a function of  $G_{sec}$  and  $G_{max}$ . This predetermined

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0.5"

estimation of  $G_{sec}$  or G and  $G_{max}$  is attributed by unit weight or bulk density,  $\rho$ , and shear wave velocity,  $V_s$  (  $G_{max} = \rho V_s^2$ ). Similarly, damping ratios are predicted as a function of  $G_{sec}$  or G values. This estimation is achieved

211 using the an\_iterative procedure in the Proshake 2.0 program (EduPro Civil Systems Inc., 2017).



## 212

213 Figure 95: Average modulus reduction ratio and damping ratio adopted for sand (Seed & Idriss, 1970).

#### 214 4.23.2 Selection of input motion

215 The definition of Definition of the input motion that should be adopted assumed is considered for site 216 response analysies of an area requires both the subsoil subsurface characterization and a-careful selection of 217 accelerogramsacceleration time histories. -In Bhutan, records of acceleration time histories are very scarcerare, if 218 not absent. :- and inIn the absence of a national seismic code, Bhutan is assumed to fall under Indian seismic zone 219 IV and V, with an expected maximum PGA of 0.24 g and 0.36 g for design purposes. respectively for Maximum 220 Considered Earthquake (MCE) (IS:1893, 2002). and In in many cases , PGA of 0.36 g is applied uniformly across 221 the whole country (Stevens et al., 2020). For the two zones mentioned, the PGA for earthquakes with a return 222 period of 475 years is expected to be half of the MCEmaximum considered earthquake (MCE), i.e., 0.12 g and 223 0.18 g. Notably, the GSHAP depicts the PGA range between 0.2-0.28g From the global seismic map (GSHAP), 224 the PGA depicted are in the presented range from 0.20 g to 0.28g, with an increasing pattern trend to in the east of 225 the countryry (Tempa, Chettri, Gurung, et al., 2021). The discrepancies in such agreements without much 226 conformity lead to a question about how differently the earthquake scenario is differently distributed at the 227 regional level at the currentthis juncture. In this study, such observations have beenwere instrumental in the 228 Considering the variations in expected PGA, we selectedion of six acceleration time histories historical global 229 earthquakes as input motions having an intensity of with a PGA intensity in the range of ranging from 0.067 g to 230 0.422 g<sub>1</sub> considering the least lowest and the highest range of possible earthquake scenarios (Table 3). 231 Two properties of seismic motion are most common for engineering purposes, Most commonly, for engineering 232 purposes, two characteristics of earthquake motion, i.e., amplitude and frequency content of the motion at bedrock

233 level motion are, of primary importance (Kirtas et al., 2015; Kramer, 1996). The acceleration time histories used

**Formatted:** Outline numbered + Level: 2 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0" + Indent at: 0.25"

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0", Space After: 0 pt

234 for the 1D ground response analysis are shown in Fig. 10.6 in ascending order of PGA order\_using the ProShake 235 2.0 computer program. In the ProShake 2.0 program, input motion and soil profile are denoted as "M" and "P", 236 respectively, and are used annotated in the following subsequent sections (Table 3). The amplitude and frequency 237 content of the bedrock level motion are particularly the most important parameters (Kirtas et al., 2015; Kramer, 238 1996). To understand the strong ground motion characteristics, we have plotted the Fourier amplitude versus 239 period in the frequency domain-(or period), which represents representing the Fourier amplitude spectra of the 240 input motions, as shown in Fig. 106. The effect of local soils is indicative at a much higher frequency range in all 241 the investigated sites.

Table 3. Historical earthquakes considered as input motionSelected strong motion records for ground response
 analysis.

Event	Station	Year	$M_{\rm w}$	PGA (g)	Notation	
Loma Prieta/Santa	Yerba Buena Island, CA – US	1000	6.0	0.077	N/1	
Cruz Mountains	Coast Guard	1989	6.9	0.067	MI	
Loma Prieta	Diamond Heights	1989	6.9	0.113	M2	
Taft Kern County	Taft	1952	7.5	0.185	M3	
Northridge	Topanga Fire Station	1994	6.7	0.329	M4	
El Centro	Imperial Valley Irrigation District	1940	6.9	0.344	M5	
Petrolia	Cape Mendocino	1992	6.6	0.422	M6	







## 252 4.33.3 1D ground response analysis

253 A 1D equivalent linear analysis was performed at eight sites in Phuentsholing, Bhutan to estimate local site effects 254 with using the ProShake 2.0 program. In this study, six strong motion records were used to replicate low, medium, 255 and high earthquake seismic accelerations categorizesd based on the intensity of PGA. The ProShake 2.0 program 256 offers provides the flexibility to input ground motions and soil profiles and is handy-useful to-for estimate 257 estimating the outcrop responses to input ground shaking. The improved shear wave velocity profiles down to the 258 engineered bedrock depth (150 m and 400 m) from eight sites were used. - which is reported in the study by Tempa 259 et. al. The enhanced shear wave velocity profiles to the depth of the engineering bedrock (150 m and 400 m) of 260 eight locations based on initial MASW profiles of ~ 22.2 m depth is well established in the study conducted by 261 Tempa et. al. (Tempa, Chettri, Gurung, et al., 2021). These deep shear wave profiles used in this study incorporate 262 are a complementary supplemental input parameter in the current study, which considers the effects of depth and 263 soil type of varying visco-elastic soil strata layers underlain with by above the predicted engineering bedrock. The 264 1D ground response analysis takes into accounts for wave propagation from the bedrock outcrop through the 265 visco-elastically layered stratified soil deposit and provides an estimate of the ground surface motion parameters 266 at surface. The complex response method is solved by the equation of motion in the frequency domain. The 267 soilSoil-nonlinear response soil-is estimated by an iterative-quasi-linear procedure in which successive linear 268 analyses are performed, with the soil while updating the shear modulus and damping ratio are updated based on 269 the shear strain level obtained in from the previous preceding iteration, analysis. Iterations continue until the 270 strain-compatible modulus and damping converge.

271 1.4. Results and discussion

- 272 4.4<u>4.1 Seismic site effects</u>
- 273 Figure 7 shows normalized surface PGAsPGAs on surface at two typical locations of two-the investigated zones.

The chart shows approximately depicts PGA of 1.2 g to 1.5 g for low intensity PGA earthquakes, 0.7 g to ~1.1 g

- for medium and high intensity <u>PGA</u> earthquakes.
- 276 Response parameters can be defined and characterized based on the amplitude parameters of the ground motion.
- and the severity of the ground motion excitation in nearby structures. to on the respective structure. This in turn

**Formatted:** Outline numbered + Level: 2 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0" + Indent at: 0.25"

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0"

278 is a function of the amplitude or intensity, the frequency content, and the duration of the ground motion (Bradley, 279 2011). Natural periods or frequency domain parameters are well-related to the seismic behavior of structures and 280 indirectly reflect the ground motion characteristics (Zafarani et al., 2020). Hence, to commensurate this 281 relationship, the response spectraum plot of bedrock and surface motion is are presented in Fig. 8 and 9. The results 282 toof various input ground motions indicate a higher spectral acceleration of the soil profile in the period range 283 from between 0.3 s to 3.0 s with the peak spectral acceleration of approximately 0.14 g to 1.62 g. Thus, the 284 structures with similar fundamental vibration period are likely to be exposed to greater peak spectral acceleration. 285 peak spectral acceleration. Buildings 3 m to 30 m tall usually fall into this spectrum. In the city of Phuentsholing, 286 buildings with 2-8 storeys can show higher values of hazard responses due to the variability of the earthquake 287 shaking intensity and soil condition examined. Both study areas show a similar tendency of ground response





288



292Response parameters can be defined and characterized based on the amplitude parameters of the ground293motion and the severity of the ground motion to on the respective structure. This in turn is a function of the294amplitude or intensity, the frequency content, and the duration of the ground motion (Bradley, 2011). Natural295periods or frequency domain parameters are well related to the seismic behavior of structures and indirectly reflect296the ground motion characteristics (Zafarani et al., 2020). Hence, to commensurate this relationship, the response297spectrum plot of bedrock and surface motion is presented in Fig. 8 and 9. The results to various input ground



motions indicate a higher spectral acceleration of the soil profile in the period range from 0.3 s to 3.0 s with

approximately 0.14 g to 1.62 g peak spectral acceleration. Buildings 3 m to 30 m tall usually fall into this spectrum.

298

299

305 Figure 8: Typical spectral acceleration of bedrock and ground surface motion at Toorsa II in Zone I corresponding 306 to the respective input motions.







A key parameter to account for seismic wave modification by local site conditions is commonly
 represented by the amplification factor (Bhutani and Naval, 2020). Figures 10 and 11 show the results of typical
 amplification factors at two locations in the study area. The ratio of the spectral acceleration of the surface motion
 to the spectral acceleration of the bedrock provides the amplification factor, which according to Eq. 2.

$$Amp(T) = \frac{SA_{Soil}(T)}{SA_{Rack}(T)}$$

(2)

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0.5", Space After: 8 pt

316 \_\_\_\_\_

315

308

317 From the results of the ground response analysis, the amplification factors in the study areas can be-318 roughly classified into three categories as low, medium, and high ranges, and the average values are highlighted. 319 The amplification factors range from 0.7 to 2.7, 0.6 to 2.6, 0.75 to 2.5, and 0.7 to 3.2 for Toorsa II, Dhamdhara I, 320 CST football ground, and Phajoding respectively for 0.01 s to 0.1 s natural period. In the natural period range 321 from 0.1 to 1.0 s, the amplification factors are in the range from 1.1 to 3.6, 0.7 to 4.2, 1.0 to 3.7, and 1.2 to 5.2 for 322 Toorsa II, Dhamdhara I, CST football ground, and Phajoding, respectively. In the high natural period range, the 323 amplification factors are 5.0, 6.2, and 5.8 for Toorsa II, Dhamdhara I, and CST football ground, respectively. 324 However, in the Phajoding the significance of the amplification amplification factor is  $\sim 1.7$  due to a much stiffer 325 soil deposit ( $V_{s,30} = 584.76$  m/s) and shallow engineering bedrock at 150 m.

Formatted: Space After: 8 pt





**Figure 10:** Typical Examples of amplification factors for various earthquakes at (a) Soil profile P1 at Toorsa II in Zone I, (b) Soil profile P4 at Dhamdhara I in Zone I



**330** Figure 11: Examples of Typical amplification factors for various earthquakes at (a) Soil profile P1 at CST Football

Ground in Zone II, (b) Soil profile P3 at Phajoding in Zone II

## 332 4.54.2 Correlation analysis

333 The main objective of this study is to demonstrate the sensitivity of six earthquakes of different PGA 334 magnitudesinput motion amplitudes to predict the variability of seismic site effects due to local ground conditions. 335 To achieve this, we first performed a statistical analysis using the results of the 1D ground response analysis. The 336 fundam entals of statistical analysis are to We aim to examine potential trends, patterns, and relationships between 337 data sets for the results obtained from the analysis. A statistical quantitative approach is implemented and the 338 distribution of the amplitude parametersUsing statistical analysis, variation of amplitude statistical data 339 parameters of the input ground motions isareis projected by aby box plots (Figs.ure 12 and 13). Hence, Sstatistical 340 correlations are fitted between pPeak gGround aAcceleration (PGA), pPeak gGround vVelocity (PGV), pPeak 341 gGround dDisplacement (PGD), and sSpectral aAcceleration (SaA) to determine the interplay-correlation between 342 the effects of strong ground motion and the local soil conditions. As anticipated, the 1992 Petrolia earthquake 343 with 0.422 g PGA (Mw = 6.6) led to the highest-greatest response; However, the 1994 Northridge earthquake 344 with a PGA of 0.329 g (Mw = 6.7) shows greater variability in spectral acceleration compared to other 345 earthquakes. This is the most relevant finding and perhaps also the most significant in the current study. This is 346 because the spectral acceleration is one of the most important response parameters corresponding to the interaction 347 between the ground and the shaking intensity of an earthquake and is directly related to the response of equivalent 348 SDOF systems. Therefore, from the perspectives of seismic site effects the box plot of the spectral acceleration 349 (period or frequency domain) is highly scattered with the outliers, confirming uncertainty in the ground response 350 characteristics in both zones both regions. These indicates that the seismic site effects are likely to increase due 351 to ground responselocal soil conditions and could severely affect buildings coinciding with the natural 352 fundamental frequency. The El Centro and Petrolia earthquakes, with the highest PGAs in this study, also appear 353 to be closely associated with spectral acceleration.



354 355

5 Figure 1912: Box and Whisker plot for ground motion parameters of soil profile at P1 Toorsa II in Zone I.

**Commented [KT21]:** Revised version and updates with additional linear regression model of bedrock amplitude parameter and surface motion.



Figure 2013: Box and Whisker plot for ground motion parameters of the soil profile at P1 CST Football Ground
 in Zone II.

Primarily, propagating energy waves (outcrop motion) act on each stratified soil layers which that amplifies or deamplifiesy the ground motion response parameters at each stratified soil-layer. The sensitivity of the input motions is critically monitoredmonitored, and enhanced correlation are exploited developed. To bring this issue to surfaceoutline this, a linear regression model for bedrock outcrop motion and the predicted motion parameters as a function of bedding depth wasis developed in addition to the statistical parameters presented above. Regression analysis is performed for one particular soil profile from two zones (Toorsa II and CST Hostel) in order to accurately substantiate the sensitivity analysis (Figs. 14 and 15).



 367
 Figure 14: Bedrock linearLinear regression model for bedrock and surface spectral accelerations for Toorsa II

 368
 (Zone I)

The 95% confidence interval (CI) shows a linear relationship for the historic Loma Prieta 2-2, Taft Kern County,

and Northridge earthquakes, indicateing a closer impact on surface motion that corresponds to outcrop motion.

371 For In this case, the predominant frequency content of the input motion is between 1 and 10 Hz. (see Fourier

amplitude). In contrast, the Loma Prietra 1, El Centro, and Petrolia earthquakes, with a predominant frequency

between 0.3 and 1.2 Hz, exhibit typical nonlinearity throughout the spectral range, indicating possible damping

of the spectral responses of the soil deposits.



Figure 1615: Bedrock linearLinear regression model for bedrock and surface spectral accelerations for CST
 Hostel (Zone II)

378 **4.6** 

375

## 379 4.7<u>4.3</u> Sensitivity of input motion

\_\_\_\_\_

380 The number of response parameter variations on due to different input motion provides addition insight into 381 sensitivity. As the different seismic ground motions propagate through different soil layers, the ground surface 382 motion response is modified in an increasing order of magnitude of PGA. As the various earthquake ground 383 motion propagate through different soil profiles, the ground surface motion response is modified in the ascending 384 order of the PGA of input motion. Since all analysis sites fall under theare in tType B site, the trend of ground 385 motion variation to surface is very similar, so the average values may be crucial for better implementation of the 386 scenario-based seismic risk in the study area. Since all the sites fall under the type B site, the trend of the variation 387 in the ground motion to surface is very similar, so the average values may be decisive for improving the realization 388 of the scenario-based seismic risk in the study area. Ground response parameters such as PGA and response

Formatted: Normal

389 spectrum intensity including Arias intensity show linear variations for aggregated values with while increasing 390 intensity of earthquake shaking corresponding to a particular given soil profile. However, the predominant period 391 opposite linear correlation with the characteristics of strong ground motion. These results were mainly observed 392 due to change in characteristics of seismic waves propagating through different stratified soil deposits before the 393 strong ground motion reach the ground surface. In ProShake 2.0, the The mean, median and standard deviation of 394 the output parameters are computed using regression statistical analysis, and tThe response spectrum intensity is 395 computed based on Housner approach (Housner, 1959) as integral from 0.1 to 2.5 s of the pseudo-velocity 396 spectrum that provides an indication of the average velocity for most civil engineering structures. The plot of 397 sensitivity of various input motions on amplitude parameters to different local soils in two study zones is shown 398 in Figs. 16 and 17.

399 The standard deviation is lower for a set of predominant natural periods for a soil profile compared to 400 the response spectrum dataset and this deviation from the mean value Within the set of predominant natural 401 periods corresponding to each input motion, the standard deviation is lower compared to the data set of the 402 response spectrum of the soil column, which indicates a higher strength of stronger soil response to the SDOF 403 systems, as presented shown in Figs. 16d and 17dTable 4 and Table 5. The non-linearity of soilsSoil nonlinearity 404 often shows a significant scatter in spectral acceleration at higher and lower periods, and therefore the practical 405 reliability of the result is that it requires prompts more analysis with larger sets of many input motions to predict 406 the mean (or median) response with some level of confidence (Kramer et al., 2012). Tables 4 and 5 summarize 407 the statistical results of seismic response parameters indicating the sensitivity of various earthquake inputs at local 408 sites in Zone I and Zone II. The additional ground response parameters are provided in Tables A1 and A2-The 409 sensitivity of the output results of input motion is shown in Figs. 14 and 15 with examples from two site 410 locations from two investigated locations. The results of the correlation analysis and the sensitivity plots indicate 411 that the Ginput motion round motion M4 (Northridge) has a significant influence on most of the response 412 parameters\_and except\_M5 (El Centro) show a slight spread of ground response compared to other ground 413 motionson Aries intensity. The additional ground response parameters are provided in the appendix (Tables A1 414 and A2).

Formatted: Font color: Red Formatted: Font color: Red Formatted: Font color: Red Formatted: Font color: Red

Table 4. <u>Descriptive s</u>Statistics <u>of for</u> averaged ground response parameters in Zone I for all four soil profiles
 and six input ground motions.

	PGA (g)	Aries intensity (m/sec)	Response spectrum intensity (g <sup>2</sup> )	Predominant period (sec)	Mean frequency (Hz)
Mean	0.270	1.073	2.996	0.818	3.527
Median	0.238	0.630	2.450	0.689	3.319
Standard deviation	0.121	0.765	2.013	0.468	1.097
84th percentile	0.407	2.215	4.541	1.251	4.824
16 <sup>th</sup> percentile	0.139	0.179	1.322	0.379	2.283

**418 Table 5.** <u>Descriptive Statistical relationshipstatistics of for</u> averaged ground motion parameters in Zone II for all

419 four soil profiles and six input ground motions.

420

	PGA (g)	Arias intensity (m/s)	Response spectrum intensity (g <sup>2</sup> )	Predominant period (s)	Mean frequency (Hz)
Mean	0.271	1.079	2.985	0.812	3.814
Median	0.237	0.622	2.417	0.684	3.538
Standard deviation	0.126	0.794	2.066	0.453	1.382
84th percentile	0.411	2.226	4.541	1.243	5.330
16th percentile	0.136	0.174	1.287	0.377	2.349



422 Figure 16: Sensitivity of input ground motion in Zone I. (a) Peak ground acceleration, (b) Response spectrum
423 intensity, (c) Arias intensity, (d) Mean frequency. Soil profiles: P1 = Toorsa II, P2 = Toorsa 1, P3 = Dhamdhara

424 II and P4 = Dhamdhara I.

425



426

Figure 17: Sensitivity of input ground motion in Zone II. (a) Peak ground acceleration, (b) Response spectrum
intensity, (c) Arias intensity, (d) Mean frequency. Soil profiles: P1 = CST Football Ground, P2 = CST Hostel, P3
Phajoding, and P4 = Monastery area.

Mow we speculate that the input motion characteristics of the Northridge earthquake are largely related
 to the potential seismic site effects. The study proposes the implementation of the input motion PGA in the range
 of 0.11 g and 0.33 g of frequency content between 1 to 10 Hz. For the current study. In this study, the PGA of M4
 Northridge are mapped to show the spatial variability in two survey zones as shown in Fig. 18. The PGA in Zone
 I are distributed between 0.37 g to 0.42 g. The variability of PGA in Zone II is higher compared to Zone I, resulting

435 in the range 0.33 g to 0.47 g. The resulting interplay of strong ground motion with local soil conditions primarily

436 highlights the importance of the current study on the significance of input motion characterization.

437



### Formatted: Space Before: 12 pt, After: 0 pt

439 Figure 18: PGA distribution map of input motion M4 Northridge earthquake, (a) Toorsa and Dhamdhara in Zone

440 I, (b) Rinchending in Zone II.

#### 441 2.5. Conclusions

442	Using 1D site response analysis, we perform sensitivity of various input motions. The study concludes the
443	following: This study shows the sensitivity of the various input motions using a 1D seismic response analysis.
444	The overall significance of this study can be concluded as follows.

- 445 The trend in the variation of ground motion parameters such as PGA, PGD, PGV, and SA, as expected, 446 projects an increasing order in terms of thewith ground motion intensity as expected. The correlation analysis 447 and linear regression models provided the enhanced characteristics of input motion propagation, indicating 448 possible use of earthquake PGA between 0.11 g and 0.33 g from 1 to 10 Hz frequency-content. Further, the 449 sensitivity analysis of the ground vibration. However, the uncertainty for each parameter is widely scattered, 450 indicating the importance of the variability due to local soil conditionsshow potential interaction of the 451 Northridge earthquake to local soils in Phuentsholing.
- 452 The surface PGA in the investigation area of site classification type B shows about 0.1 g to 0.15 g for the 453 earthquake of low intensity, 0.23 g to ~ 0.38 g for the earthquake of medium intensity, and more than 0.43 g 454 for an earthquake of higher intensity earthquakes such as the 1992 Petrolia earthquakehigh PGA earthquakes.

Commented [rev22]: Again I'm not able to locate this maps

Commented [KT23R22]: These is the investigated area Zone I&II which is shown in box in Fig 2.

455The result shows a higher spectral acceleration of the soil profile in a period range from 0.3 s to 3.0 sec with456approximately 0.14 g to 1.62 g peak spectral acceleration.

- The critical range of the fundamental natural period is roughly between 0.9 sec to ~ 5.0 sec with the highest range of seismic wave amplification being between ~ 2.8 to 6.2. In Phajoding, the significance of amplification is comparatively less at ~ 1.7 between 0.4 s and 1.0 s due to a much stiffer soil deposit ( $V_{s,30}$  = 584.76 m/s) and a shallow engineering bedrock at 150 m. This suggests that the low rise buildings are more vulnerable and can see stronger vibrations than the high-rise buildings in Phajoding, however, overall effects on tall buildings cannot be neglected.
- 463 In the present seismic response analysis, the ground response of various strong ground motions with varying 464 ground shaking intensity as an input motionThis study indicated show some anomalies to local soils andin 465 seismic site effects due to input motion. Therefore, an appropriate proper ground motion 466 characterization is recommended when the input motions are selected, especially while performing afor site-467 specific seismic analysis. The high Fourier amplitude characteristics at low frequency have a larger greater 468 tendency to anomaliesyreflect anomalies in response parameters., e.g., input motion M1, M5 and M6. on 469 bedrock response spectra have larger impacts in low periods and the response from M6 is evident from the 470 current study. In other words, matching the frequency content and earthquake PGA gives a reliable estimate 471 of seismic site effects. In other words, the frequency content of the ground motion and the variability of 472 amplification would undermine the proper estimation of seismic site effects.
- 473 3. Appendix A: Surface motion parameters
- 474 4. Annotations
- 475 P = Profile number
- 476 M = Motion number
- 477  $G_{rms}$  = Root mean square acceleration
- 478  $t_a$  = Bracketed duration
- 479 D = Significant duration
- 480 CAV = <u>CummulativeCumulative</u> absolute velocity
- 481 SA = Spectral acceleration
- 482 StDev = Standard deviation

#### 483 Table A1. Additional surface motion parameters in Zone I.

Р	М	PV (m/s)	PD (m)	G <sub>rms</sub> (g)	<i>ta</i> (s)	D5-95 (s)	D5-75 (sec)	CAV (g-s)	SA @ 1.0 s (g)
1	1	0.173	0.040	0.022	1.360	7.980	2.660	0.209	0.096
1	2	0.170	0.048	0.033	6.000	9.080	4.100	0.318	0.181
1	3	0.201	0.064	0.043	15.580	28.740	10.200	1.116	0.214
1	4	0.200	0.046	0.100	14.160	8.530	4.450	0.934	0.166
1	5	0.397	0.120	0.071	29.340	24.580	10.420	1.580	0.649

Formatted: No bullets or numbering

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.25", No bullets or numbering

1	6	0.876	0.230	0.090	16.460	12.100	5.890	1.055	0.763
2	1	0.175	0.040	0.024	1.380	7.760	2.620	0.216	0.099
2	2	0.169	0.047	0.035	6.000	9.060	4.020	0.328	0.192
2	3	0.213	0.064	0.043	29.280	28.760	10.520	1.134	0.231
2	4	0.210	0.046	0.099	14.150	8.520	4.440	0.914	0.182
2	5	0.419	0.119	0.074	29.340	24.580	10.360	1.625	0.727
2	6	0.877	0.228	0.097	16.440	11.920	5.910	1.136	0.908
3	1	0.170	0.039	0.023	1.380	7.980	2.720	0.210	0.093
3	2	0.164	0.047	0.034	6.000	9.080	4.100	0.323	0.176
3	3	0.197	0.064	0.044	29.280	28.040	9.820	1.139	0.210
3	4	0.204	0.046	0.106	14.160	8.490	4.430	0.977	0.162
3	5	0.414	0.118	0.073	29.340	24.580	10.440	1.626	0.645
3	6	0.855	0.223	0.090	16.460	12.060	5.850	1.058	0.767
4	1	0.203	0.095	0.024	0.980	7.820	2.580	0.219	0.108
4	2	0.201	0.065	0.034	6.000	9.380	3.880	0.326	0.204
4	3	0.238	0.072	0.042	29.340	29.300	10.540	1.125	0.243
4	4	0.219	0.051	0.097	12.200	8.170	4.080	0.870	0.180
4	5	0.417	0.135	0.065	25.900	24.580	10.180	1.455	0.685
4	6	0.941	0.282	0.087	14.800	12.150	6.000	1.028	0.712
Ν	/lean	0.346	0.097	0.060	15.222	15.135	6.259	0.872	0.358
Μ	edian	0.283	0.078	0.053	10.276	13.150	5.545	0.703	0.269
S	tDev	0.256	0.071	0.029	10.088	8.330	3.021	0.472	0.271
84 <sup>th</sup> F	ercentile	0.509	0.146	0.090	30.026	22.042	9.121	1.450	0.570
16 <sup>th</sup> F	ercentile	0.157	0.042	0.031	3.517	7.845	3.371	0.341	0.127

485	Table A2. Additional surface motion parameters in Zone II.
	Tuble 1120 Huddidonal Salide Historich parameters in 2010 His

Р	М	PV	PD	$G_{rms}$	ta	D5-95	D5-75	CAV	SA @ 1.0
		(m/s)	(m)	(g)	(s)	(s)	(s)	(g-s)	sec (g)
1	1	0.181	0.043	0.024	1.380	7.840	2.600	0.215	0.104
1	2	0.182	0.048	0.035	6.000	8.960	4.000	0.325	0.197
1	3	0.215	0.066	0.043	29.320	28.800	10.480	1.135	0.231
1	4	0.214	0.047	0.097	12.200	8.270	4.170	0.879	0.179
1	5	0.404	0.124	0.072	29.360	24.600	10.380	1.598	0.677
1	6	0.936	0.244	0.095	16.470	12.060	5.770	1.106	0.816
2	1	0.186	0.041	0.024	1.380	7.760	2.540	0.212	0.103
2	2	0.186	0.046	0.035	5.980	8.940	3.900	0.322	0.199
2	3	0.217	0.067	0.042	19.000	28.900	10.520	1.101	0.232
2	4	0.211	0.047	0.090	12.190	8.300	4.190	0.815	0.177

2	5	0.393	0.126	0.070	29.340	24.580	10.340	1.557	0.686
2	6	0.943	0.250	0.096	16.450	11.920	5.800	1.101	0.839
3	1	0.158	0.037	0.021	1.360	8.060	3.020	0.202	0.078
3	2	0.149	0.045	0.031	6.000	9.360	4.520	0.317	0.152
3	3	0.178	0.062	0.044	17.040	27.420	9.720	1.116	0.175
3	4	0.182	0.043	0.111	16.880	8.640	4.610	1.056	0.135
3	5	0.406	0.112	0.076	29.340	24.400	10.720	1.690	0.551
3	6	0.830	0.218	0.092	18.050	11.900	5.390	1.103	0.704
4	1	0.184	0.041	0.023	0.960	7.800	2.580	0.209	0.101
4	2	0.183	0.048	0.034	6.000	8.940	3.960	0.319	0.195
4	3	0.212	0.066	0.041	18.960	28.840	10.520	1.084	0.227
4	4	0.209	0.047	0.091	12.200	8.300	4.190	0.832	0.175
4	5	0.391	0.125	0.069	29.340	24.580	10.340	1.530	0.672
4	6	0.905	0.243	0.091	16.440	11.990	5.870	1.056	0.793
Mean		0.344	0.093	0.060	14.652	15.048	6.255	0.870	0.350
Median		0.278	0.074	0.053	10.022	13.070	5.537	0.698	0.261
StDev		0.263	0.071	0.029	9.536	8.295	3.052	0.480	0.268
84th Percentile		0.506	0.140	0.090	28.804	21.920	9.109	1.451	0.559
16th Percentile		0.153	0.039	0.031	3.487	7.793	3.365	0.335	0.122

486

## 487 Data availability

488 All the data used in this study are presented in the paper.

## 489 Author contribution

- 490 Conceptualization (KT), Data curation (KT), Formal analysis (KT), Funding aquisitionacquisition (KRA),
- 491 Methodology (KT, DG and GF), Resources (KT, DG and KRA), Software and visu<u>a</u>lization (KT), Writing –
  492 original draft preparation (KT), Writing review & editing (DG, NC, GF and KRA).

## 493 Competing interests

494 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

- 495 <del>5.</del> Acknowledgements
- 496 The authors are thankful to Phuentsholing Thromde (Municipal office) for providing additional geotechnical data.

## 497 <del>6.</del> References

Anbazhagan, P., and Sitharam, T. G.: Seismic microzonation of Bangalore, India, Journal of Earth System
Science, 117, 833–852, https://doi.org/10.1007/s12040\_008\_0071\_5, 2008.

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 0", Hanging: 0.25", No bullets or numbering

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 0", Hanging: 0.25", No bullets or numbering

- Ansal A., and Tönük G.: Source and Site Factors in Microzonation. In: Pitilakis K.D. (eds) Earthquake
   Geotechnical Engineering, Geotechnical, Geological and Earthquake Engineering, vol 6. Springer, Dordrecht,
   https://doi.org/10.1007/978 1 4020 5893 6\_4, 2007.
- 503 Bajaj, K., and Anbazhagan, P.: Site Amplification Factors and Acceleration Response Spectra for Shallow
- Bedrock Sites Application to Southern India, Journal of Earthquake Engineering, 26(1), 1–21,
  https://doi.org/10.1080/13632469.2020.1754308, 2020.
- Bala, A., Balan, S. F., Ritter, J. R. R., Hannich, D., Huber, G., and Rohn, J.: Seismic site effects based on in situ
   borehole measurements in Bucharest, Romania, Proceedings of the International Symposium on Strong Vrancea
   Earthquake and Risk Mitigation, 1, 15, 2007.
- Berthet, T., Hetényi, G., Cattin, R., Sapkota, S. N., Champollion, C., Kandel, T., Doerflinger, E., Drukpa, D.,
  Lechmann, S., and Bonnin, M.: Lateral uniformity of India Plate strength over central and eastern Nepal,
  Geophysical Journal International, 195(3), 1481–1493, https://doi.org/10.1093/gji/ggt357, 2013.
- Bhutani, M., and Naval, S.: Preliminary amplification studies of some sites using different earthquake motions,
  Civil Engineering Journal (Iran), 6(10), 1906–1921, https://doi.org/10.28991/cej-2020-03091591, 2020.
- Bommer, J. J., and Martinez-Pereira, A.: Strong-motion parameters: definition, usefulness and predictability, 12th
  World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, 1–8, http://www.iitk.ac.in/nicee/wcce/article/0206.pdf, 2000.
- Bradley, B. A.: Empirical correlation of PGA, spectral acceleration and spectrum intensities from active shallow
  crustal earthquakes, Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics, 40(15), 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1002/eqe,
  2011.
- 519 Chamlagain D., and Gautam D.: Seismic Hazard in the Himalayan Intermontane Basins: An Example from
  520 Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, In: Nibanupudi H., Shaw R. (eds) Mountain Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction,
  521 Disaster Risk Reduction (Methods, Approaches and Practices), Springer, Tokyo, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-4522 431-55242-0\_5, 2015.
- 523 Chavez-Garcia, F. J., Pedotti, G., Hatzfeld, D., and Bard, P. Y.: An experimental study of site effects near
  524 Thessaloniki (northern Greece), Bulletin Seismological Society of America, 80(4), 784–806, 1990.
- 525 Chettri, N., Gautam, D., and Rupakhety, R.: From Tship Chim to Pa Chim: Seismic vulnerability and
- strengthening of Bhutanese vernacular buildings, In R. Rupakhety and D.Gautam (Ed.), Masonry Construction in
  Active Seismic Regions (1st ed. Ca, Issue May, pp. 253–288), Elsevier, https://doi.org/10.1016/c2019-0-024533, 2021. a
- 529 Chettri, N., Gautam, D., and Rupakhety, R.: Seismic vulnerability of vernacular residential buildings in Bhutan,
  530 Journal of Earthquake Engineering, 26(1), 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1080/13632469.2020.1868362, 2021. b
- 531 Darendeli, M. B.: Development of a New Family of Normalized Modulus Reduction and Material Damping
  532 Curves, Dept. of Civil Eng., Univ. of Texas, Austin, 2001
- Dobry, R., and Vucetic, M.: Dynamic properties and seismic response of soft clay deposits, International
   Symposium on Geotech., Eng. of Soft Soils, Maxico, 2(January 1987), 51–87, 1982.

- 535 Douglas, J.: Selection of strong-motion records for use as input to the structural models of VEDA, BRGM, 2006.
- Drukpa, D., Velasco, A. A., and Doser, D. I.: Seismicity in the Kingdom of Bhutan (1937-2003): Evidence for
  crustal transcurrent deformation, Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth, 111(6), 1–14,
  https://doi.org/10.1029/2004JB003087, 2006.
- 539 EduPro Civil Systems Inc.: ProShake: Ground Response Analysis Program 2.0, User's Manual. 2017.
- Gautam, D.: Mapping surface motion parameters and liquefaction susceptibility in Tribhuvan International
  Airport, Nepal, Geomatics, Natural Hazards and Risk, 8(2), 1173–1184,
  https://doi.org/10.1080/19475705.2017.1305993, 2017.
- Gautam, D., and Chamlagain, D.: Preliminary assessment of seismic site effects in the fluvio-lacustrine sediments
  of Kathmandu valley, Nepal, Natural Hazards, 81(3), 1745–1769, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-016-2154-y,
  2016.
- Gautam, D., Forte, G., and Rodrigues, H.: Site effects and associated structural damage analysis in Kathmandu
  Valley, Nepal. Earthquake and Structures, 10(5), 1013–1032, https://doi.org/10.12989/eas.2016.10.5.1013, 2016.
- Housner, G.W.: Behavior of structures during earthquakes, Journal of the Engineering Mechanics Division,ASCE, 85(14), 109-129, 1959.
- ISSMGE.: Manual for zonation on seismic geotechnical hazards. In: Technical committee for earthquake
  geotechnical engineering, TC4, international society for soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering, The
  Japanese Geotechnical Society, Tokyo,1999.
- IS:1893.: Criteria for Earthquake Resistant Design of Structures General Provisions and Buildings Part-1, Bureau
   of Indian Standards, New Delhi, Part 1, 1–39, 2002.
- Jishnu, R. B., Naik, S. P., Patra, N. R., and Malik, J. N.: Ground response analysis of Kanpur soil along IndoGangetic Plains, Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering, 51(2013), 47–57,
  https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soildyn.2013.04.001, 2013.
- Kirtas, E., Koliopoulos, P., Kappos, A., Theodoulidis, N., Savvaidis, A., Margaris, B., and Rovithis, E.:
  Identification of earthquake ground motion using site effects analysis in the case of Serres city, Greece,
  International Journal of Civil Engineering and Architecture, 2(1), 20–27, 2015.
- 561 Kramer, S. L.: Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering, Prentice Hall, 1996.
- Kramer, S. L., Arduino, P., and Sideras, S. S.: Earthquake ground motion selection, The State of Washington
  Department of Transportation, 2012.
- Long, S., and McQuarrie, N.: Placing limits on channel flow: Insights from the Bhutan Himalaya, Earth and
   Planetary Science Letters, 290(3–4), 375–390, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.epsl.2009.12.033; 2010.
- Lopez-Caballero, F., Gelis, C., Regnier, J., and Bonilla, L. F.: Site response analysis including earthquake input
   ground motion and soil dynamic properties variability, 15th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, 2012.

- Licata, V., Forte, G., d'Onofrio, A., Santo, A., Silvestri, F.: A multi-level study for the seismic microzonation of
  the Western area of Naples (Italy), Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering, 17(9), 4711–4741, 2019.
- 570 McQuarrie, N., Long, S. P., Tobgay, T., Nesbit, J. N., Gehrels, G., and Ducea, M. N.: Documenting basin scale,
- geometry and provenance through detrital geochemical data: Lessons from the Neoproterozoic to Ordovician
  Lesser, Greater, and Tethyan Himalayan strata of Bhutan, Gondwana Research, 23(4), 1491–1510,
- 573 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gr.2012.09.002, 2013.
- Naik, S. P., and Patra, N. R.: Generation of Liquefaction Potential Map for Kanpur City and Allahabad City of
  Northern India: An Attempt for Liquefaction Hazard Assessment, Geotechnical and Geological Engineering,
- 576 36(1), 293–305, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10706-017-0327-4, 2018.
- 577 Nath, S. K., and Thingbaijam, K. K. S.: Seismic hazard assessment A holistic microzonation approach, Natural
  578 Hazards and Earth System Science, 9(4), 1445–1459, https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-9-1445-2009, 2009.
- Panjamani, A., Katukuri, A. K., Reddy, G. R., Moustafa, S. S. R., and Al-Arifi, N. S. N.: Seismic site classification
  and amplification of shallow bedrock sites, PLoS ONE, 13(12), 1–22,
  https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0208226, 2018.
- Puri, N., Jain, A., Mohanty, P., and Bhattacharya, S.: Earthquake Response Analysis of Sites in State of Haryana
  using DEEPSOIL Software, Procedia Computer Science, 125(January), 357–366,
  https://doi.org/10.1016/j.procs.2017.12.047, 2018.
- Seed, H. B., and Idriss, I. M.: Soil Moduli and Damping Factors for Dynamic Response Analyses [Report No.
  EERC 70-10], Earthquake Engineering Research Centre, University of California, Berkeley, https://ntrl.ntis.gov/NTRL/dashboard/searchResults/titleDetail/PB197869.xhtml, 1970.
- Seed, H. B., Wong, R. T., Idriss, I. M., and Tokimatsu, K.: Moduli and Damping Factors for Dynamic Analyses
  of Cohesionless Soils, Journal of Geotechnical Engineering, 112(11), 1016–1032, 1986.
- Shafiee, A., Kamalian, M., Jafari, M. K., and Hamzehloo, H.: Ground motion studies for microzonation in Iran,
  Natural Hazards, 59(1), 481–505, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-011-9772-1, 2011.
- Shiuly, A., and Narayan, J. P.: Deterministic seismic microzonation of Kolkata city. Natural Hazards, 60(2), 223–
  240, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-011-0004-5, 2012.
- 594 Sil, A., and Haloi, J.: Site-specific ground response analysis of a proposed bridge site over Barak River along
- Silchar Bypass Road, India, Innovative Infrastructure Solutions, 3(1), https://doi.org/10.1007/s41062-018-0167 y, 2018.
- 597 Sitharam, T. G.: Seismic Microzonation: Principles, Practices and Experiments, Electronic Journal of598 Geotechnical Engineering, 1–58, 2008.
- 599 Sitharam, T. G., Anbazhagan, P., Mahesh, G. U., Bharathi, K., and Reddy, P. N.: Seismic Hazard Studies Using
- 600 Geotechnical Borehole Data and GIS, Symposium on Seismic Hazard Analysis and Microzonation, 341-358,
- 601 2005.

- Stevens, V. L., De Risi, R., Le Roux-Mallouf, R., Drukpa, D., and Hetényi, G.: Seismic hazard and risk in Bhutan,
  Natural Hazards, 104(3), 2339–2367, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-020-04275-3, 2020.
- Tempa, K., and Chettri, N.: Comprehension of Conventional Methods for Ultimate Bearing Capacity of Shallow
  Foundation by PLT and SPT in Southern Bhutan, Civil Engineering and Architecture, 9, 375–385,
  https://doi.org/10.13189/cea.2021.090210, 2021.
- Tempa, K., Chettri, N., Gurung, L., and Gautam, D.: Shear wave velocity profiling and ground response analysis
  in Phuentsholing, Bhutan, Innovative Infrastructure Solutions, 6(2), 1–16, https://doi.org/10.1007/s41062-02000420-w, 2021.
- Tempa, K., Chettri, N., Sarkar, R., Saha, S., Gurung, L., Dendup, T., and Nirola, B. S.: Geotechnical parameter
  assessment of sediment deposit: A case study in Pasakha, Bhutan, Cogent Engineering, 8(1), 1–21,
  https://doi.org/10.1080/23311916.2020.1869366, 2021.
- Tempa, K., Sarkar, R., Dikshit, A., Pradhan, B., Simonelli, A. L., Acharya, S., and Alamri, A. M.: Parametric
  study of local site response for bedrock ground motion to earthquake in Phuentsholing, Bhutan, Sustainability
  (Switzerland), 12(13), 1–20, https://doi.org/10.3390/su12135273, 2020.
- Vucetic, M., and Dobry, R.: Effect of Soil Plasticity on Cyclic Response. Journal of Geotechnical Engineering,
  117(1), 89–107, http://sokocalo.engr.ucdavis.edu/~jeremic/PAPERSlocalREPO/CM1769.pdf, 1991.
- Wyss, M., and Rosset, P.: Mapping seismic risk: The current crisis. Natural Hazards, 68(1), 49–52,
  https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-012-0256-8, 2013.
- 620 Zafarani, H., Ghafoori, S. M. M., Soghrat, M. R., and Shafiee, M.: Spatial correlation of peak ground motions and
- 621 pseudo-spectral acceleration based on the sarpol-e-zahab mw 7.3, 2017 earthquake data, Annals of Geophysics,
- 622 63(4), 1–15, https://doi.org/10.4401/ag-8349, 2020.