This total uplift acts at $\frac{B}{3}$ from the heel or upstream end of the dam.

Uplift is generally reduced by providing drainage pipes or holes in the dam section.

Self weight of the dam is the only largest force which stabilizes the structure. The total weight of the dam is supposed to act through the centre of gravity of the dam section in vertically downward direction. Naturally when specific weight of the material of construction is high, restoring force will be more. Construction material is so chosen that the density of the material is about 2.045 gram per cubic meter.

2. Earthquake Forces

The effect of earthquake is equivalent to acceleration to the foundation of the dam in the direction in which the wave is travelling at the moment. Earthquake wave may move in any direction and for design purposes, it is resolved into the vertical and horizontal directions. On an average, a value of 0.1 to 0.15g (where g = acceleration due to gravity) is generally sufficient for high dams in seismic zones. In extremely seismic regions and in conservative designs, even a value of 0.3g may sometimes by adopted.

Vertical acceleration reduces the unit weight of the dam material and that of water is to $(1 - k_v)$ times the original unit weight, where k_v the value of g accounted against earthquake forces, i.e. 0.1 is when 0.1g is accounted for earthquake forces. The horizontal acceleration acting towards the reservoir causes a momentary increase in water pressure and the foundation and dam accelerate towards the reservoir and the water resists the movement owing to its inertia. The extra pressure exerted by this process is known as hydrodynamic pressure.

3. Silt Pressure

If h is the height of silt deposited, then the forces exerted by this silt in addition to the external water pressure, can be represented by Rankine formula

$P_{silt} = \frac{1}{2}\gamma_s h^2 k_a$ acting at $\frac{h}{3}$ from the base.

Where,

k_a = coefficient of active earth pressure of silt = $\frac{1 - \sin\phi}{1 + \sin\phi}$

ϕ = angle of internal friction of soil, cohesion neglected.

γ_s = submerged unit weight of silt material.

h = height of silt deposited.

4. Wave Pressure

Waves are generated on the surface of the reservoir by the blowing winds, which exert a pressure on the downstream side. Wave pressure depends upon wave height which is given by the equation

$h_w = 0.032\sqrt{PV} + 0.763 - 0.271 \times (F)^{1/4}$ for F < 32 km, and

$h_w = 0.032\sqrt{VF}$ for F > 32 km

Where h_w is the height of water from the top of crest to bottom of trough in meters.

V – wind velocity in km/hour

F – fetch or straight length of water expanse in km.

The maximum pressure intensity due to wave action may be given by

$P_w = 2.4\gamma_w h_w$ and acts at $\frac{h_w}{2}$ meters above the still water surface.

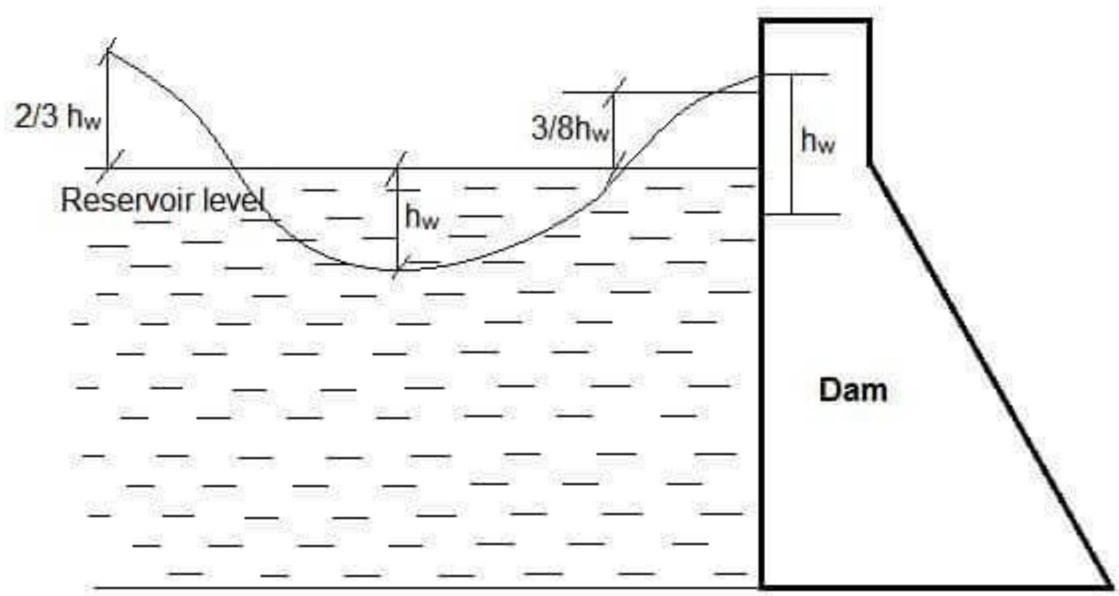

Figure 4

The pressure distribution may be assumed to be triangular of height $\frac{5h_w}{3}$ as shown in figure 4.

Hence total force due to wave action P_w

= $\frac{1}{2} \times (2.4 \gamma_w h_w) \times \frac{5}{3} h_w$ acting at $\frac{3}{8} h_w$ above the reservoir surface.

5. Ice Pressure

The ice which may be formed on the water surface of the reservoir in cold countries may sometimes melt and expand. The dam face is subjected to the thrust and exerted by the expanding ice. This force acts linearly along the length of the dam and at the reservoir level. The magnitude of this force varies from 250 to 1500 kN/sq.m depending upon the temperature variations. On an average, a value of 500 kN/sq.m may be taken under ordinary circumstances.

6. Weight of dam

The weight of dam and its foundation is a major resisting force. In two dimensional analysis of dam

FAILURES OF GRAVITY DAM

Failure of gravity dam occurs due to overturning, sliding, tension and compression. A gravity dam is designed in such a way that it resists all external forces acting on the dam like water pressure, wind pressure, wave pressure, ice pressure, uplift pressure by its own self-weight. Gravity dams are constructed from masonry or concrete. However, concrete gravity dams are preferred these days and mostly constructed.

The advantage of gravity dam is that its structure is most durable and solid and requires very less maintenance.

Causes of failure of a Gravity Dam:

A gravity dam may fail in following modes:

1. Overturning of dam about the toe
2. Sliding – shear failure of gravity dam
3. Compression – by crushing of the gravity dam
4. Tension – by development of tensile forces which results in the crack in gravity dam.

Overturning Failure of Gravity Dam:

The horizontal forces such as water pressure, wave pressure, silt pressure which act against the gravity dam causes overturning moments. To resist this, resisting moments are generated by the self-weight of the dam.

If the resultant of all the forces acting on a dam at any of its sections, passes through toe, the dam will rotate and overturn about the toe. This is called overturning failure of gravity dam. But, practically, such a condition does not arise and dam will fail much earlier by compression.