

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF DEMOLISHING SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS IN NOORPUR SHAHAN, ISLAMABAD: AN ESG PERSPECTIVE

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This study investigates the socio-economic consequences of demolishing squatter settlements in Noorpur Shahan (originally Chorpur), Islamabad, through an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) lens. Using primary qualitative methods, including field visits, structured interviews with affected residents, and direct observations, the research highlights how forced evictions disrupt livelihoods, income, social networks, and psychological well-being. Despite limited environmental or governance benefits, the demolitions reflect gaps in policy planning and a neglect of social considerations. The findings emphasize the need for inclusive resettlement strategies, social protection measures, and community engagement in urban development policies to mitigate adverse impacts on marginalized populations.

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1 Introduction

Noorpur Shahan, originally known as Chorpur, is located at the foothills of the Margalla Hills in Islamabad, Pakistan. Islamabad, established in 1967 as a planned capital city, involved the acquisition of approximately 45,000 acres of land from surrounding rural settlements. This process of planned urban development, as highlighted in urban transition theories (Davis, 2006; UN-Habitat, 2020), often generates informal settlements due to displacement, inadequate compensation mechanisms, and rural urban migration pressures. In this context, informal settlements in Noorpur Shahan can be understood as a structural outcome of uneven urbanization rather than merely unauthorized land occupation. These settlements, including Muslim Colony, Narrola Village, Mohallah Tehjar, Balti Mohallah, and Nori Bagh, are inhabited by both indigenous populations who lived there before the establishment of Islamabad and migrants who arrived due to economic necessity.

The Capital Development Authority (CDA), responsible for urban planning and land management in Islamabad, has periodically undertaken demolition operations targeting informal settlements. Existing literature on forced evictions (e.g., Fernandes, 2011; Human Rights Watch, 2025) conceptualizes such actions as governance instruments often employed in cities undergoing rapid spatial restructuring, where regulatory enforcement tends to prioritize land formalization over social protection. In Noorpur Shahan, demolition practices have reportedly involved limited formal notification procedures and have resulted in the removal of residential, commercial, and educational structures. Rather than framing these actions normatively, this study approaches them analytically as policy interventions with measurable socio-economic consequences.

Forced evictions, as shown in Figure 1, are defined by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1997) as the removal of individuals or communities from their homes without adequate legal safeguards. The theoretical framing of forced evictions intersects with rights based approaches to urban development and the concept of “the right to the city” (Lefebvre, 1968; further operationalized in UN-Habitat frameworks), which emphasize equitable access to urban space and services. These frameworks provide a conceptual basis for examining how eviction practices affect access to housing, livelihoods, and social infrastructure. In Pakistan, constitutional provisions such as Article 38 outline the

state's responsibility to ensure basic welfare. International instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, establish broader normative benchmarks.



Figure 1: Residents of Noorpur Shahan Displaced Due to Forced Evictions
Source: Photograph taken by the author (2026)

From an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) perspective, the demolition of informal settlements presents a multidimensional policy issue. ESG theory, increasingly applied in urban governance research (Kuffer et al., 2016; UN-Habitat, 2020), provides an integrated framework to evaluate policy impacts across environmental sustainability, social equity, and institutional accountability. In the case of Noorpur Shahan, preliminary observations suggest that environmental gains from land clearance are limited, while social disruptions and governance challenges are more pronounced. This study therefore situates the case within ESG oriented urban governance literature. It aims to empirically assess how demolition practices align or fail to align with ESG principles.

Importantly, this research addresses a gap in the existing literature by offering a localized, qualitative case study of demolition induced socio-economic impacts in Islamabad, with explicit linkage to ESG analytical frameworks. While prior studies have examined informal settlements at global or national levels, fewer have provided site specific, empirically grounded analyses integrating social and governance dimensions. Accordingly, the objective of this study is not to generalize across all urban contexts but to generate context sensitive insights into the socio-economic

effects of demolition in Noorpur Shahan, thereby contributing to more evidence based and inclusive urban policy discussions.

2 Literature Review

Informal settlements, commonly referred to as squatter settlements, slums, or unplanned residential areas, represent a significant dimension of contemporary urbanization, affecting over 1.1 billion people globally (UN-Habitat, 2020). Recent scholarship frames the emergence of such settlements within broader theoretical constructs of rapid urbanization, structural inequality, and governance deficits (Davis, 2006; UN-Habitat, 2020). Rather than being anomalies, informal settlements are increasingly understood as integral components of urban systems, shaped by land market exclusion, migration dynamics, and institutional limitations. In developing countries, including Pakistan, these settlements often provide affordable housing solutions for low income populations but remain characterized by insecure tenure, inadequate infrastructure, and heightened exposure to environmental and socio-economic risks.

The literature on forced evictions has evolved from descriptive accounts to more theoretically grounded analyses incorporating human rights, urban governance, and political economy perspectives. Fernandes (2011) emphasizes that eviction practices in developing urban contexts frequently reflect top down regulatory frameworks that lack participatory planning mechanisms. Similarly, Human Rights Watch (2025) documents how forced evictions in Pakistan disproportionately affect marginalized populations, often exacerbating poverty and social exclusion. These studies highlight that eviction is not merely a spatial intervention but a socio-political process with multidimensional impacts.

From a socio-economic standpoint, forced evictions have been consistently associated with loss of livelihoods, income instability, and disruption of social networks. Empirical studies indicate that informal economies, which are often embedded within residential spaces, are particularly vulnerable to demolition policies, resulting in immediate and long-term income shocks (Davis, 2006). Furthermore, research demonstrates that displacement weakens social capital by fragmenting community networks that function as informal safety nets, thereby reducing resilience among affected populations. Vulnerable groups, including

women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, are disproportionately impacted, experiencing heightened psychological stress and reduced access to essential services such as education and healthcare.

Recent contributions have also emphasized the psychological and educational dimensions of displacement, which have historically received less attention. Studies show that forced evictions disrupt children's educational continuity and contribute to emotional distress, thereby affecting long term human capital development. This aligns with broader development theories that link stable housing conditions to social well-being and intergenerational mobility.

From an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) perspective, the literature underscores the need for integrated policy evaluation frameworks. Kuffer, Pfeffer, and Sliuzas (2016) highlight that while environmental arguments, such as land reclamation and improved urban aesthetics, are often used to justify demolition, the actual ecological benefits tend to be limited when not accompanied by structured redevelopment plans. In contrast, the social (S) and governance (G) dimensions of ESG frequently reveal significant deficits, particularly in terms of inadequate resettlement planning, lack of stakeholder engagement, and weak institutional accountability. ESG oriented analyses therefore provide a more holistic lens for assessing the trade-offs inherent in urban demolition policies.

Governance related scholarship further identifies institutional fragmentation, corruption, and regulatory inconsistencies as key drivers of informal settlement proliferation and subsequent eviction cycles. In the context of Islamabad, the persistence of informal settlements has been linked to administrative lapses, including unauthorized approvals and weak enforcement of land use regulations. This creates a paradox in which state institutions both enable and later penalize informality, raising critical questions about policy coherence and accountability.

International legal and normative frameworks play a central role in shaping the discourse on forced evictions. The United Nations' Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development Based Evictions establish that evictions should only occur under conditions of due process, adequate notice, and provision of alternative housing. Similarly, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 11) recognizes the right to adequate housing as a fundamental human right.

These frameworks are complemented by the “right to the city” concept, which advocates inclusive and participatory urban governance. The literature suggests that non-compliance with these principles often results in adverse socio-economic outcomes and increased urban inequality.

Despite the breadth of global and regional studies, a critical gap remains in context specific, empirically grounded analyses that integrate ESG dimensions within localized urban settings such as Islamabad. Existing research has largely focused on macro level trends or single dimensional analyses (e.g., environmental or economic impacts), with limited attention to the intersection of social vulnerability and governance practices at the community level.

This study contributes to the literature by providing a qualitative, site specific examination of the socio-economic impacts of demolition in Noorpur Shahan, explicitly linking empirical findings to ESG theoretical frameworks and urban governance debates. In doing so, it advances a more nuanced understanding of how demolition policies affect marginalized populations and highlights the importance of integrating social equity and institutional accountability into urban development strategies.

3 Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative case study design to examine the socio-economic impacts of demolishing squatter settlements in Noorpur Shahan, Islamabad, through an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework. The qualitative approach is theoretically grounded in Interpretivist research paradigms, which emphasize understanding lived experiences, social meanings, and institutional practices in context-specific settings (Creswell, 2014). This design is particularly appropriate for exploring complex phenomena such as forced evictions, where quantitative indicators alone may not capture the depth of socio-economic and psychological impacts.

The case study strategy was selected to enable an in-depth, context sensitive investigation of demolition practices in a specific geographic and institutional setting. Rather than aiming for statistical generalization, the study seeks analytical generalization by linking empirical observations to ESG theory and urban governance frameworks.

3.2 Study Area

The study area comprises multiple informal settlement clusters, including Muslim Colony, Narrola Village, Mohallah Tehjar, Balti Mohallah, and Nori Bagh, as illustrated in Figure 2. These areas were selected due to their direct exposure to recent demolition activities carried out by the Capital Development Authority (CDA), making them relevant sites for examining the immediate and short term impacts of forced evictions.

The spatial selection of the study area follows purposive case selection logic, focusing on locations where the phenomenon of interest (demolition of informal settlements) is most pronounced. This enhances the explanatory depth of the research while maintaining alignment with qualitative research standards.



Figure 2: Scattered Concrete Block Debris Across Demolition Sites
Source: Photograph taken by the author (2026)

3.3 Data Collection Methods

Primary data were collected through a combination of field visits, structured interviews, and direct observation. To improve methodological transparency, the data collection process was conducted in three sequential phases: (i) preliminary field reconnaissance, (ii) structured interview administration, and (iii) observational validation.

- (i) **Field Visits:** Multiple site visits were conducted to document the physical extent of demolitions, including residential structures, commercial shops, and educational facilities. These visits enabled real-time observation of displacement patterns and coping strategies adopted by affected residents.
- (ii) **Structured Interviews:** A total of approximately 50 structured interviews were conducted using a predefined interview guide to ensure consistency across respondents. The interview instrument consisted of four thematic sections: (a) household socio-economic profile, (b) income and livelihood impacts, (c) housing and displacement experiences, and (d) perceptions of governance and institutional response. Each interview included both closed-ended and open-ended questions, allowing for comparability while also capturing detailed narratives.
- (iii) **Direct Observation:** Observational data were systematically recorded to complement interview findings. An observation checklist was used to document indicators such as housing damage, availability of basic services, presence of debris, and informal reconstruction activities. This triangulation of data sources enhances the reliability and validity of the findings.

Interviews were conducted in Urdu language, and responses were later translated into English for analysis. This approach ensured inclusivity and minimized language barriers during data collection.

3.4 Sampling Strategy and Sample Description

A purposive sampling technique was employed to select participants who had been directly affected by demolition activities. The sampling criteria included: (i) households experiencing residential or commercial loss, (ii) presence of vulnerable

members (e.g., children, elderly, disabled individuals), and (iii) representation from different settlement clusters within Noorpur Shahan.

The sample comprised approximately 50 households distributed across Muslim Colony, Balti Mohallah, Nori Bagh, and adjacent areas. Within each household, the primary respondent was typically the head of the household; however, additional perspectives were obtained from elderly residents and school age children where relevant. This approach allowed for capturing intra-household variations in socio-economic impact.

While the study ensured diversity in socio-economic representation, it is important to note that the sample is not statistically representative of the entire population. Instead, it is analytically representative, consistent with qualitative research objectives.

3.5 Methods of Analysis

Data were analyzed using thematic content analysis. The analytical process followed a systematic coding procedure consisting of three stages: (i) open coding to identify initial categories, (ii) axial coding to establish relationships between categories, and (iii) selective coding to align findings with ESG dimensions.

The identified themes were categorized according to ESG criteria:

Environmental (E): Land use changes, infrastructure destruction, and environmental inefficiencies.

Social (S): Income loss, housing instability, educational disruption, psychological stress, and breakdown of social networks.

Governance (G): Institutional practices, eviction procedures, legal compliance, and administrative accountability.

To strengthen analytical rigor, empirical findings were iteratively compared with existing literature, enabling the identification of convergences and divergences between local observations and broader theoretical frameworks.

The study also developed a mathematical formula to estimate socio-economic loss due to demolitions:

$$SEL = \sum_{i=1}^n (H_i \times L_i + S_i \times E_i) \quad (1)$$

Where:

SEL = *Socio-Economic Loss*

H_i = *Number of households affected*

L_i = *Average income loss per household*

S_i = *Number of schools or shops demolished*

E_i = *Estimated economic value of destroyed infrastructure*

3.6 Ethical Considerations

The study adheres to established ethical research standards, including informed consent, voluntary participation, and confidentiality. Participants were informed about the purpose of the study and their right to withdraw at any stage. Special care was taken when engaging with vulnerable groups, ensuring that interviews were conducted sensitively and without causing additional psychological distress.

4 Research Results

4.1 Socio-Economic Disruptions

The findings indicate that demolition activities in Noorpur Shahan and Nareel Village resulted in substantial socio-economic disruptions across affected households. Empirical evidence from structured interviews shows that a majority of respondents experienced immediate income loss due to the destruction of commercial shops and home based enterprises. This finding is consistent with existing literature (Davis, 2006), which highlights the vulnerability of informal economies embedded within residential spaces.

Approximately 70–80% of interviewed households reported partial or complete loss of income sources, particularly those dependent on small retail shops, daily wage labor, or home based services. Respondents indicated that these income losses were

not temporary but had ongoing effects due to the absence of alternative livelihood opportunities. In addition, low profile government employees who had invested in informal housing as a supplementary economic asset also reported financial setbacks.

Housing instability emerged as a critical consequence of demolition. Interview data reveal that displaced households adopted multiple coping strategies, including temporary relocation to nearby areas such as Bara Kahu, return migration to native regions, and informal reconstruction in adjacent localities. These adaptive responses, while necessary, often resulted in increased financial burden and social dislocation. A notable secondary effect was the increase in rental prices in nearby settlements, attributed by respondents to sudden population influx.

4.2 Educational Disruption

The demolition of private schools located within informal settlements had direct implications for children’s access to education, as illustrated in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Demolished School Building
Source: Photograph taken by the author (2026)

Field observations and interview responses confirm that multiple low-cost private educational facilities were either partially or fully destroyed, leading to immediate discontinuation of schooling for enrolled students.

Parents reported that children faced uncertainty regarding school re-enrolment, financial constraints in accessing alternative institutions, and psychological distress associated with the abrupt loss of familiar learning environments. Approximately 60% of interviewed households with school age children indicated that their children's education was interrupted for at least several weeks following the demolitions.

These findings align with prior research emphasizing the linkage between housing stability and educational continuity, reinforcing the argument that eviction induced displacement has long-term implications for human capital development.

4.3 Psychological and Social Stress

The study identifies significant psychological and social impacts associated with forced evictions. A majority of respondents reported experiencing stress, anxiety, and uncertainty related to housing insecurity and income loss. These effects were particularly pronounced among vulnerable groups, including elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, and households with young children.

Qualitative narratives indicate that the anticipation of eviction, combined with inadequate notice procedures, contributed to prolonged psychological distress even before the actual demolition occurred. Parents expressed concern regarding their children's emotional well-being, while elderly respondents reported feelings of helplessness and social isolation.

In addition to individual stress, the disruption of community networks was identified as a key social consequence. Informal settlements often function as support systems providing financial, emotional, and logistical assistance. The fragmentation of these networks reduced collective resilience and coping capacity, corroborating findings from Fernandes (2011).

4.4 Governance Practices and Institutional Response

The results highlight several governance related issues associated with the demolition process. Interview data suggest that notification procedures were largely informal, with many respondents reporting verbal announcements or loudspeaker

warnings rather than written legal court notices. This indicates procedural inconsistencies in the implementation of eviction policies.

Notably, a medical doctor was appointed as Deputy Director General (Enforcement) to oversee demolition operations, despite lacking formal training in urban engineering or land-use planning. This appointment violates Article 18 of the Constitution of Pakistan and exemplifies misaligned governance practices.

CDA's justification of compensating indigenous residents raises further questions. If compensation was indeed disbursed after Islamabad's establishment, why was the land not vacated at the time? Moreover, no meaningful action was taken against officials who accepted bribes for the construction of informal housing, indicating systemic corruption and regulatory failure.

The institutional response was also characterized by a strong enforcement presence, with law enforcement personnel accompanying demolition teams, as illustrated in Figure 4. While this ensured operational execution, it also contributed to perceptions of coercion among affected residents.



Figure 4: CDA's Employees Operating Under Police Presence

Source: Photograph taken by the author (2026)

These findings suggest gaps in governance practices, particularly in relation to transparency, procedural fairness, and alignment with established legal and policy frameworks.

4.5 Environmental Implications

The environmental outcomes of demolition activities were found to be limited and, in some cases, counterproductive. Field observations indicate that while land clearance was achieved, there was no immediate evidence of planned redevelopment or environmental restoration. Instead, demolished areas were characterized by debris accumulation and underutilized land.

Additionally, the destruction of existing infrastructure, such as electricity connections and paved roads, represents a loss of previously invested public resources. This finding challenges the assumption that demolition inherently contributes to environmental improvement as suggested in some policy narratives.

From an ESG perspective, the environmental dimension appears to be weakly realized in the absence of integrated planning and redevelopment strategies.

4.6 Legal and Human Rights Violations

The findings also reveal significant concerns related to legal compliance and right based protections. Respondents' accounts suggest that eviction processes did not consistently adhere to formal legal procedures, particularly regarding advance notice, documentation, and provision of alternative housing options.

While this study does not provide a legal adjudication, the empirical evidence indicates potential misalignment between observed practices and established national and international frameworks governing forced evictions. These include constitutional provisions related to welfare and international guidelines emphasizing due process and protection of vulnerable populations.

4.7 Socio-Economic Loss Estimation

Using the formula presented in Section 3, socio-economic loss (*SEL*) can be approximated. For example, with 500 households affected (H_i), average monthly income loss of PKR 20,000 per household (L_i), and 20 demolished schools/shops with estimated economic value PKR 15 million each ($S_i \times E_i$), the cumulative *SEL* is:

$$SEL = \sum_{i=1}^{500} (H_i \times L_i + S_i \times E_i) = (500 \times 20,000) + (20 \times 15,000,000) = 10,000,000 + 300,000,000 = 310,000,000 \text{ PKR} = 310 \text{ million PKR} = \text{Approximate value } 1.11 \text{ million USD}$$

This quantification underscores the substantial financial, social, and human costs of top-down demolition practices.

5 Discussion

The findings of this study provide a context-specific understanding of the socio-economic and governance implications of demolishing informal settlements in Noorpur Shahan, Islamabad. When interpreted through an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework, the results reveal a clear imbalance among the three dimensions, with social and governance costs significantly outweighing any observable environmental benefits. This section analytically situates the empirical findings within existing literature and theoretical frameworks, avoiding overgeneralization while highlighting key patterns relevant to similar urban contexts.

5.1 ESG Based Analytical Interpretation

Environmental Dimension (E):

The empirical results suggest that environmental gains from demolition activities are limited in the absence of planned redevelopment. While land clearance is often justified as a means of improving urban environmental quality, the observed accumulation of debris and underutilized land indicates that demolition alone does not constitute effective environmental management. This finding is consistent with Kuffer et al. (2016), who argue that environmental benefits of slum clearance are contingent upon integrated urban planning and post demolition land use strategies.

Additionally, the destruction of existing infrastructure, such as electricity networks and paved roads, represents a reversal of prior development investments and thereby reduces overall resource efficiency. From an ESG perspective, this reflects a weak alignment with environmental sustainability principles.

Social Dimension (S):

The study identifies extensive social impacts, including income loss, housing instability, educational disruption, and psychological stress. These findings strongly align with prior research (Davis, 2006; Fernandes, 2011), which emphasizes that forced evictions disproportionately affect economically vulnerable populations and undermine informal support systems.

Importantly, the results highlight the interconnected nature of socio-economic variables. For instance, loss of housing directly contributed to educational discontinuity and psychological distress, demonstrating that eviction impacts are multidimensional rather than isolated. This supports theoretical perspectives that view housing as a central determinant of social well-being and human development.

The observed increase in rental prices in nearby areas such as Bara Kahu further illustrates the secondary effects of displacement, reinforcing the argument that eviction policies can generate broader urban inequalities beyond the immediate area of intervention.

Governance Dimension (G):

Governance related findings reveal procedural inconsistencies and institutional gaps in the implementation of demolition policies. The reliance on informal notification methods, absence of structured resettlement planning, and lack of transparent compensation mechanisms indicate deviations from established governance standards and international guidelines on forced evictions.

These observations are consistent with governance literature in the Pakistani context, which identifies institutional fragmentation and regulatory inconsistencies as key challenges in urban management. Furthermore, the findings illustrate a policy paradox: state institutions that historically enabled informal settlement expansion through weak enforcement later adopt coercive measures to eliminate these settlements, raising questions about accountability and policy coherence.

5.2 Comparison with Existing Literature

The empirical findings of this study both corroborate and extend existing literature on informal settlements and forced evictions. Consistent with global studies, the results confirm that demolition led interventions often produce significant socio-economic disruptions while failing to achieve sustainable environmental outcomes.

However, this study contributes additional insights by explicitly integrating ESG analysis at a localized level. Unlike many macro level studies, the findings demonstrate how ESG dimensions interact within a specific urban context, revealing that governance deficiencies often amplify social vulnerabilities.

Moreover, the identification of secondary effects, such as increased rental pressures in adjacent settlements, adds to the literature by illustrating the spatial diffusion of eviction impacts, an area that has received relatively limited empirical attention.

5.3 Implications for Urban Governance and Policy

The discussion highlights several implications for urban governance. First, the findings suggest that demolition-based approaches, when implemented without comprehensive planning, may exacerbate rather than resolve urban challenges. This underscores the need for policy frameworks that integrate social protection, stakeholder engagement, and long-term planning.

Second, the study reinforces the relevance of ESG frameworks as analytical tools for evaluating urban policies. By systematically assessing environmental, social, and governance outcomes, policymakers can better identify trade-offs and design more balanced interventions.

Third, the results indicate the importance of data-driven planning mechanisms. The proposed use of technologies such as UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) based surveys, while not implemented in this study, aligns with emerging trends in urban analytics and could support more accurate assessment of population needs, infrastructure requirements, and risk factors in seismic zones.

5.4 Study Specific Scope and Analytical Boundaries

It is important to emphasize that the findings of this study are based on a qualitative case study of Noorpur Shahan and should be interpreted within this specific context. While the results share similarities with broader urban trends, they do not aim to provide universal generalizations.

The study focuses primarily on short term and immediate impacts of demolition, and therefore does not capture long term adaptation strategies or policy outcomes. Additionally, the qualitative nature of the research prioritizes depth of understanding over statistical representativeness.

6 Conclusions

- (i) The present study examined the socio-economic effects of demolishing squatter settlements in Noorpur Shahan, Islamabad, using an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) analytical framework. Based on qualitative evidence derived from field observations and structured interviews, the findings indicate that demolition practices are associated with significant socio-economic disruption, while delivering limited observable environmental benefits within the studied context.
- (ii) The study demonstrates that affected households experienced income loss, housing instability, educational interruption, and psychological stress. These impacts were particularly pronounced among vulnerable groups, including children, elderly individuals, and low income households. The results further indicate that displacement effects extended beyond the immediate area, contributing to increased rental pressures and social strain in nearby localities.
- (iii) From an ESG perspective, the findings suggest an imbalance among the three dimensions. The environmental component appears weakly realized due to the absence of coordinated redevelopment and resource optimization. In contrast, the social dimension reflects substantial adverse impacts on livelihoods and well-being, while the governance dimension reveals procedural inconsistencies, including limited transparency in notification processes and the absence of structured resettlement mechanisms.
- (iv) Importantly, the conclusions of this study are confined to the scope of a qualitative case study and should be interpreted accordingly. The research

does not seek to generalize across all urban settings but instead provides context specific insights into the dynamics of demolition-led interventions in Noorpur Shahan.

- (v) The study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by integrating ESG theory with empirical analysis at a localized level. It highlights the importance of aligning urban policy interventions with principles of social equity, institutional accountability, and environmental sustainability.
- (vi) Future research may build on these findings by incorporating longitudinal designs, quantitative validation, and comparative analyses across different urban contexts. Such approaches would enable a more comprehensive assessment of long term impacts and policy effectiveness.
- (vii) Overall, the study underscores that demolition based urban interventions, when implemented without inclusive planning and governance safeguards, may generate substantial socio-economic costs. A more balanced and evidence-based approach to urban development grounded in ESG principles remains essential for addressing the challenges associated with informal settlements in Islamabad and comparable urban environments.

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