

Research Article

Shear Strength and Pull-Out Response of Tire Shred-Sand Mixture Reinforced with Deformed Steel Bars

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The use of scrap tires in various engineering applications has been extensively explored. The present study has the following aim: to evaluate the suitability of tire-sand mixtures as backfill material based on its shear strength. To achieve this objective, modified Proctor compaction tests were performed on tire shred-sand mixture with mixing proportions by weight of tire shreds and sand (0/100, 20/80, 30/70, and 40/60) using different sizes of tire shreds (50 mm, 75 mm, and 100 mm). Based on the results of the modified Proctor compaction test, the two mixing proportions, i.e., tire shred/sand, 20/80 and 30/70, respectively, were selected. Large-scale direct shear test indicated higher internal friction angle and cohesion values for tire shred-sand mixtures (30/70) with 100 mm tire size (38.5° and 19 kPa) as compared with sand-only backfill material (30.9° and 0 kPa). Based on stress-strain behavior plots, it was indicated that the inclusion of tire shreds imparts ductility to backfill mixtures. To achieve the second objective, the pull-out tests were performed with deformed steel bars of two different diameters (12.7 mm and 15.8 mm) embedded in various backfill mixtures prepared with tire shreds of three different sizes (50, 75, and 100 mm). The pull-out test result indicated that the deformed steel bars exhibit higher pull-out resistance in tire shred-sand mixtures (9.9 kN/m) compared with sand-only backfill material (4.1 kN/m).

1. Introduction

For the past many decades, scrap tires are produced in huge quantities worldwide. The nonbiodegradable nature of vulcanized rubber in tires has a serious environmental impact. According to the rubber manufacturing association (RMA), around the world, an estimated 1 billion metric tons of scrap tires are produced annually, and this amount is increasing day by day [1]. Unrecycled waste tires are a global concern due to their chemical composition, flammability, and nonbiodegradability [2]. Waste tire production has become alarming worldwide, causing the environmental and economic problems [3]. To avoid growing stockpiles, it is essential to reuse waste tires [4]. This stockpiling of scrap tires provides a suitable breeding environment for mosquitoes and other rodents. Moreover,

the uncontrolled burning of tires emits heavy dark smoke, consisting of toxic compounds such as cyanide hydrogen chloride, nitrogen oxides, and gasses. The emissions present significant risks to human health and safety [5–7], according to the Maine Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources [8]. The burning of tires releases highly toxic compounds such as dioxins and furans. These pollutants disperse in air and travel a long distance and can remain for a very long time without decomposing [9–11]. Many countries prohibit the stockpiling of scrap tires and encourage their reuse and recycling [12]. The solution to this issue is the process of recycling these huge amounts of scrap tires which are toxic waste. For the past many decades, shredded tires have been used in several civil engineering infrastructures such as pavements, retaining walls, and dams [13–15].

In various civil engineering applications, tires can be used as an entire tire or shreds. Compared with the entire tire, the compressibility and ease of handling of shredded tires provide more benefits. High thermal conductivity, low density, and high shear strengths at large strains make waste tires an ideal material for geotechnical applications. Tire shreds are elastic and lightweight. These unique characteristics and critical design parameters distinguish them from the soil, sand, and gravels. Tire shreds are effectively utilized in road embankments as thermal insulation layers or as backfill materials for wall retention [16, 17]. The use of waste tires could give several advantages in the California Bearing Ratio (CBR) value of subbase material used in flexible pavement layers; the use of tire buffing and cement together is suggested both to reduce construction costs and to boost the CBR value in a flexible pavement design of a subbase material [18]. Additionally, a small amount of lime to the clay with tire buffing increases the CBR values of the specimens and thereby may cause a substantial decrease in design thickness of a highway pavement [19].

Tires are generally shredded via (a) mechanical grinding, (b) ambient scrap tire processing, (c) cryogenic crushing, (d) pyrolysis, and (e) Molecra. The mechanical grinding method is usually used as this process is cheaper than others [11]. The reduction of the tire to smaller sizes varying from 0.425 mm to 2 mm requires several cycles through the shredder, which makes the tire shreds uneconomical [20, 21]. Hence, the use of large tire shreds would be favored from an economic perspective. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) states that the size of tire shreds to be used as fragments of scrap tires should be in the range of 50–300 mm [12]. From an engineering perspective, tire shreds have unique properties such as improved seismic stability, high frictional resistance, availability, low cost, light weight, easy placement, exceptional rigidity, and shear strength [4, 22–27].

In the past twenty years, tire shred-sand mixture has gained wide acceptance in the construction of geotechnical projects [27]. One of the most important applications of tire shred-sand mixture is its use as backfill material in mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls. Tire shred-sand mixtures can be reinforced using different types of reinforcements, e.g., metal strips, metal bars, and geogrids [28, 29]. Mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls have several advantages over concrete retaining walls; e.g., they have a simple design, which takes less time for construction. The MSE wall is constructed with a design height of up to ~19 m, and its construction does not require especially skilled labor or heavy machinery [20, 30]. The use of the MSE wall is the economically and technically feasible solution, as it requires less site preparation compared with a traditional concrete retaining wall [31–33]. The United States (US) transportation system used MSE wall as retaining structure, bridge supports, decks departure slabs, and embankments [34, 35]. Generally, the backfill material used in the MSE wall is clean granular cohesionless material. The sand-based backfill material can be mixed with lightweight shredded tires, sawdust, fly ash, plastic bottles, geofoam, etc. These light-weight materials help in reducing vertical stresses and

lateral displacements of the retaining walls [36, 37]. The performance of the MSE wall primarily depends upon the interaction between its backfill material and components [37].

Numerous studies [5, 38–40] investigated the various fundamental parameters related to the mechanical response and the deformability of tire shred-sand mixtures. Uma-shankar et al. [41] evaluated the influence of tire shred size, tire shred-sand mixing ratio, and confining pressure on the interaction between the ribbed-metal strips and tire shred-sand mixtures using large-scale laboratory pull-out tests. The tire shreds of sizes 9.5 mm, 50–100 mm, and 100–200 mm in 0/100, 12/88, 25/75, and 0/100 (tire shred to the sand ratio by weight) backfill mixtures were used. Suksiripattanapong et al. [42] mixed well-graded gravel, well-graded sand, poorly graded sand, and crushed rock with irregular-shaped tire shreds of size in the range of 50–100 mm. The backfill mixture consisted of different mixing ratios, and the normal pressure was applied with the help of airbags. In another study, Suksiripattanapong et al. [43] report that the frictional pull-out resistance is higher in the well-graded gravel than in the well-graded sand, poorly graded sand, and crushed stone. They observed an enhancement in pull-out friction resistance with the increase in the normal load. McCartney et al. [33] fabricated a large-scale apparatus capable of performing the direct shear test for evaluating the shear strength properties of tire-derived aggregates. The normal load was applied using dead loads and hydraulic actuators, respectively. The length, width, and height of the tire-derived aggregate sample were 3048 mm, 1220 mm, and 1830 mm, respectively. In the direct shear test, the apparatus permits the mobilization of peak shear strength and the values of shear stiffness and damping ratio under large strain conditions for tire-derived aggregate with large particle size. Bernal et al. [40] evaluated the interaction properties of tire shred-sand mixture with geosynthetics based on direct shear and pull-out tests. Three different sizes of flexible geogrids (with different aperture sizes) and woven geotextile embedded within two different types of fill material were used as backfill material. The backfill materials used were tire shreds and tire shred-sand mixtures. The results indicated that the backfill mixtures based on tire shreds are easy to construct, have lower lateral earth pressure, undergo limited deformation of the facing, and control the settlement.

Rahmeyer [44] confirmed the greater effectiveness of using round metal bars compared with the rectangular metallic reinforcement in MSE walls in reducing the surface contact area with soil, resulting in a lower degree of corrosion-related losses. The author asserted that the use of selecting round bars instead of steel straps as reinforcement has significant implications on the pull-out capacity of steel reinforcements in MSE walls. Corrosion may lead to decay and gradual loss of metal reinforcement, which may, in turn, lead to affecting the performance of MSE walls. Therefore, the corrosion factor should be considered when deciding on engineering designs for retaining steel-reinforced walls [45]. It was further deduced that reinforcement made with crossbars and metal round bar offers higher pull-out resistance with little to no extensibility. Pond [45] inspected

various types of steel reinforcement and assessed their efficiencies. Based on comparative analysis between rectangular steel straps round bars in terms of corrosion resistance and pull-out strength, the author confirmed that the circular cross section holds an advantage over rectangular cross sections. The round bars are less susceptible to corrosion, which may increase the design life of the project.

Reviewing the literature, it is apparent that adequate research has been carried out to investigate the pull-out resistance of geotextile materials. However, the pull-out performance of deformed bars embedded in MSE walls has to be investigated adequately. Therefore, in this work, the effectiveness of deformed bars embedded in tire shred-sand mixtures in terms of pull-out resistance has been comprehensively investigated. To achieve this goal, two bars with diameters of 12.7 mm and 15.8 mm were used as reinforcement. Based on the results obtained, it was deduced that the pull-out resistance of deformed bars depends upon the contact area, surcharge loads, and backfill material. In addition, the shear strength parameters of tire shred-sand backfill mixtures were also evaluated using a large-scale direct shear apparatus. Therefore, the use of deformed bars as major reinforcement as well as tire shred-sand mixtures as backfill material in MSE walls proved to be an effective technique in improving their overall performance.

2. Materials

2.1. Sand. Locally available, poorly graded sandy soil (SP) conforming to the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS) as a primary filler was used. The particle size distribution was performed as per the standard test method for particle-size analysis of soils [46]. Figure 1(a) shows the particle-size distribution of the sand used in this study. Figure 1(b) shows the visual aspect of the sand utilized in the research. The coefficient of uniformity and coefficient of curvature were measured to be 1.75 and 1.37, respectively. The fineness modulus for sand was measured to be 2.73 as per ASTM C33.

2.2. Tire Shreds. In this study, tire shreds with sizes of 50, 75, and 100 mm in were used. The 50 mm tire shreds were equidimensional, while the 75 and 100 mm tire shreds were flat and elongated. Tires were cut into the required sizes as per the ASTM D-6270 [12]. According to the geometric consideration, the length of the tire shred was measured randomly using measuring tape. The digital images of tire shreds of different sizes are shown in Figure 2.

2.3. Geometric Classification of Tire Shreds. The compaction tests performed in this study were carried out on backfill mixtures based on different sizes of tires shreds (i.e., 50 mm, 75 mm, and 100 mm) and mixing ratios. The size of the tire shred was measured manually using a ruler. The length of the shredded piece is the greatest distance between the two furthest points. The width and depth characterize shredded pieces by giving an average dimension, which is at an angle of 90° to the length of the tire shred. The tire shreds used were elongated and flat due to the fact that the length of the

shred is greater as compared to its width and depth. Another representative property related to the shape of the tire shred is the aspect ratio. The aspect ratios (length/width) for 50–100 mm and 100–200 mm tire shreds were 1.6 and 2.2, respectively [29].

2.4. Deformed Steel Bar. Round-shaped deformed steel round bars having a tensile strength of 275 MPa were used. Figure 3 gives the visual aspect of the deformed bar used in this study. To achieve adequate contact friction, the bars having a diameter three times the diameter of average grain size (D_{50}) were selected [7]. In this research, deformed bars with diameters of 12.7 mm (no. 4) and 15.8 mm (no. 5) were used. The length of the bar was kept at 214 mm (i.e., 0.7 times the height of the MSE wall) as specified by the Federal Highway Administration Manual (FHWA) on the MSE wall construction [47]. The pull-out capacity primarily depends on two major factors, that is, the frictional resistance between reinforcement and fill particles and the passive resistance due to the contact area and with the projections of the bar [43].

3. Experimental Study

3.1. Optimum Mixing Ratio of Tire Shred-Sand Mixture. A series of compaction tests were carried out to ascertain optimum mixing ratio, maximum dry density, and optimum moisture content using a modified Proctor test (ASTM 1557). To determine the appropriate mixing ratio for compacted tire shred-sand mixture, laboratory compaction tests were conducted using a compaction mould with diameter of 270 mm. The compaction mould with larger diameter was selected to achieve adequate and homogenous mixing. The size ratio between diameter of tire shreds (50, 75, and 100 mm) and diameter of mould (270 mm) was in the range of 2.5–5.5.

The mass of the rammer was 9 kg, with a drop height of 0.4 m. The tire content in the sand was kept at 0, 20, 30, and 40% (by weight) relative to sand in 0/100, 20/80, 30/70, and 40/60 tire shred-sand mixtures, respectively. The samples were prepared for different sizes of tire shred (50 mm, 75 mm, and 100 mm). The tire shreds and sand were air-dried and compacted in five layers. Each layer was given 72 blows to achieve proper and homogenous compaction. The tire shreds and sand were compacted using the standard Proctor effort (600 kN-m/m³), as described in ASTM D698-00a (standard test methods for laboratory compaction characteristics of soil using standard effort) [29, 48, 49]. The procedure for specimen preparation is similar to that reported by Yoon [29].

The ratio of the mould's diameter to the tire shreds' average size with length of 100 to 200 mm is on the order of two and therefore size effects which will be present for this range of tire shreds. Size effects are therefore minimal for the other two tire shred sizes used in the 50 mm and 75 mm samples [50]. From the results presented in Table 1, it was observed that tire shred-sand mixture with a mixing proportion of 20/80, for all the sizes of tires shreds, has the

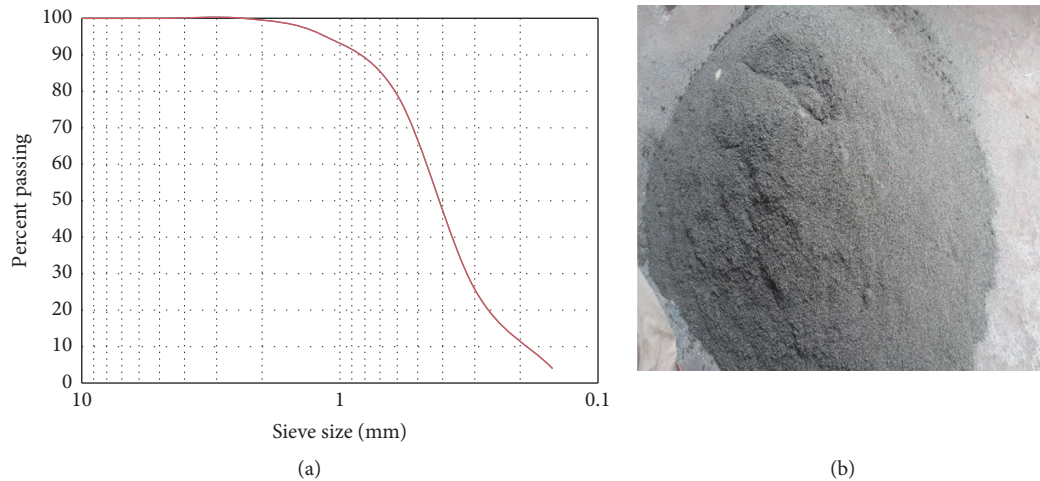


FIGURE 1: (a) Particle-size distribution curve and (b) visual aspect of sand used.

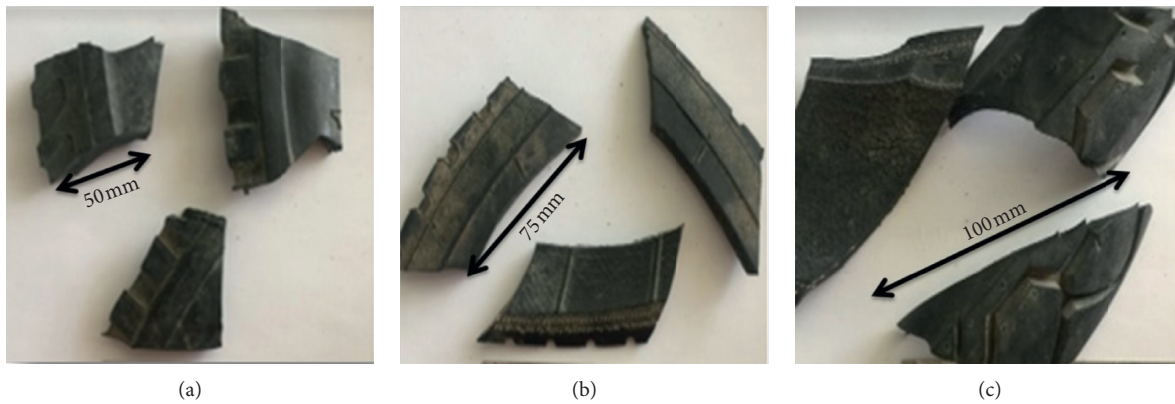


FIGURE 2: Visual aspect of tire shreds of different sizes (50, 75, and 100 mm).

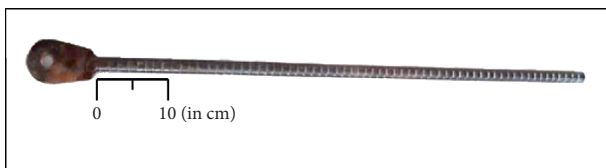


FIGURE 3: Visual aspect of deformed steel bar.

highest dry unit weight. Figure 4 represents the compaction curve for 20/80 tire shred-sand backfill mixtures with all tire shred sizes and its comparison with sand-only backfill material (0/100). As shown in Figure 4, the dry unit obtained for 0/100 backfill is higher than 20/80 mixtures due to the fact that the specific gravity of sand is higher than the tire shreds. Furthermore, the dry density of 20/80 backfills is observed to be a function of the size of tire shred; that is, the dry density decreases with the increase in particle size of tire shreds.

3.2. *Large-Scale Direct Shear Test (LSDT) Apparatus.* Figure 5 shows the large-scale direct shear test equipment as well as the pull-out test setup. The shear box was

designed as per specifications given in ASTM 3080 [51]. The loading frame consisting of a rectangular steel girder frame of dimension 1.15×1.46 m was installed on a concrete pad. The LSDT apparatus consists of upper and lower boxes having dimensions of $0.6 \text{ m} \times 0.6 \text{ m} \times 0.3 \text{ m}$ and $0.8 \text{ m} \times 0.6 \text{ m} \times 0.3 \text{ m}$, respectively. The upper box was fixed, while the lower one was movable. The lower box was used for both the test pull-out and the large-scale direct shear test. For normal and lateral pressures, hydraulic jacks were installed as loading devices. The vertical load was applied using a vertical jack having a capacity of 150 kN, whereas, for the application of the shearing force and pull-out force, a horizontal jack of the capacity of 100 kN was used. Control levers were installed to control the movement of a jack at a constant rate. A 4 kW motor was installed for power supply to the hydraulic jack. Two load cells having the capacities of 150 kN and 100 kN were used to measure the normal forces and shearing forces, respectively. Two linear variable displacement transducers (LVDTs) were also installed to determine the shear and vertical displacements in the specimens. Load cells and LVDTs were attached to the data acquisition system through a data logger.

TABLE 1: Modified Proctor test results.

Shredded tires (mm)	Proportion of mix (by weight)	γ_d (kN/m ³)	OMC (%)
Sand only	0/100	23.0	8.46
50	20/80	21.5	8.46
	30/70	20.5	8.46
	40/60	20.0	8.46
	20/80	19.7	8.46
75	30/70	19.4	8.46
	40/60	18.4	8.46
	20/80	17.9	8.46
100	30/70	16.5	8.46
	40/60	16.1	8.46
	20/80	16.1	8.46

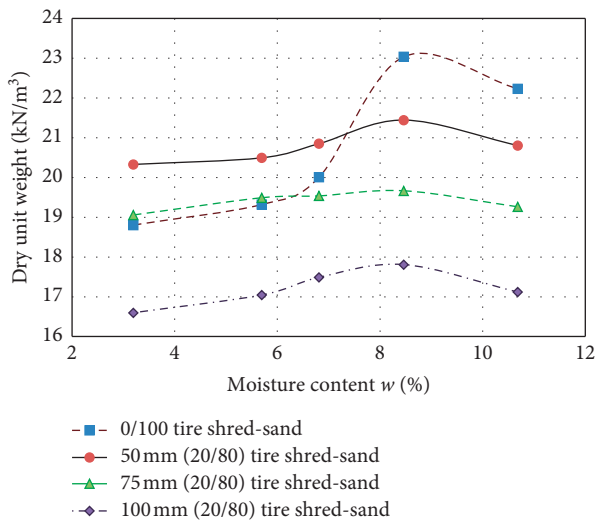


FIGURE 4: Results of modified Proctor test with tire shred-sand mixture with a ratio of 20/80 with 50 mm, 75 mm, and 100 mm tire shred size.

3.3. Data Acquisition Systems. A computer-based data acquisition setup was used for the LSDT box. The data logger was used to record the data such as shearing movement, vertical dilation, shearing force, and normal force. A personal computer, connected with a data acquisition system and Matlab software, was used to record measurements of horizontal displacement, vertical displacement, normal force, and shear strength.

3.4. Sample Preparation for LSDT. Tire shred-sand mixture was prepared using different mixing ratios. The content of tire shred in the sand was maintained at 20 and 30% (by weight) relative to the sand and was referred to as 20/80 and 30/70, respectively. Three sizes of tire shreds (50, 75, and 100 mm) were used. The tests were performed at three different normal stress levels (20, 30, and 40 kN). Hand mixing of sand and tire shreds was performed in the laboratory. Afterward, the prepared mixture was shifted to the shear box and was compacted in the form of layers. The shear plane between two boxes was adjusted at the center of the compacted layers. Each layer was hand-compacted using a 5 kg drop-weight hammer, which consists of a steel pipe attached to a 305 × 305 mm square plate [52, 53].

3.5. Large-Scale Pull-Out Test Setup. The pull-out test setup was fabricated, modifying the LSDT setup. The pull-out apparatus was designed according to the ASTM D6706-01 [54]. The pull-out apparatus was constructed by modifying the lower box of the large direct shear apparatus, and the protruding steel bar from a 25 mm circular slot on the front face of the box was connected to the load cell. The slot was sealed with a plate during the direct shear test, as shown in Figure 6(a). One end of the load cell was connected to the reinforcement through the clamp to avoid slippage of the reinforcement, while the other end was fitted to the hydraulic jack for the pull-out. The hydraulic jack was placed at the center of the slot. The normal stress was applied by vertical jack having a capacity of 100 kN on the rigid plate placed at the top of the specimen just like in direct shear test. The displacement was measured using LVDTs attached to the front face of the pull-out box. An L-shaped sleeve was provided inside the box at the front face to transfer the pull-out force beyond the rigid front face, as shown in Figure 6(b). In the absence of the sleeve, the pull-out capacity of the reinforcement could be overestimated because of the lateral pressure exerted against the walls. To reduce the frictional resistance between the walls and sample, the inner walls of the box were coated with smooth vinyl sheets. Moreover, the foam was placed at the opening to avoid the slipping of material [23, 55].

Pull-out resistance is the design consideration for the reinforcement embedded in backfill material. The pull-out capacity of the reinforcement is expressed as the ultimate tensile load needed to slide the reinforcement outward embedded in backfill material. According to guidelines provided by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the pull-out resistance per unit width of the reinforcement can be computed from the relationship given below:

$$P_{\text{ult}} = F^* \alpha \sigma L_e C, \quad (1)$$

where P_{ult} is ultimate pull-out capacity of the reinforcement, α is scale effect, and the correction factor for nonlinear stress reduction over the embedded length is taken as 1 for metallic reinforcement and 0.6 to 1 for geosynthetic reinforcement; these values are calculated from laboratory data. σ' is vertical normal stress at any depth between soil and reinforcement interface, L_e is adherence or embedded length in the resisting area, C is effective unit parameter of the reinforcement, which is taken as 2 for the grids, strips, and sheets, and $L_e C$ is

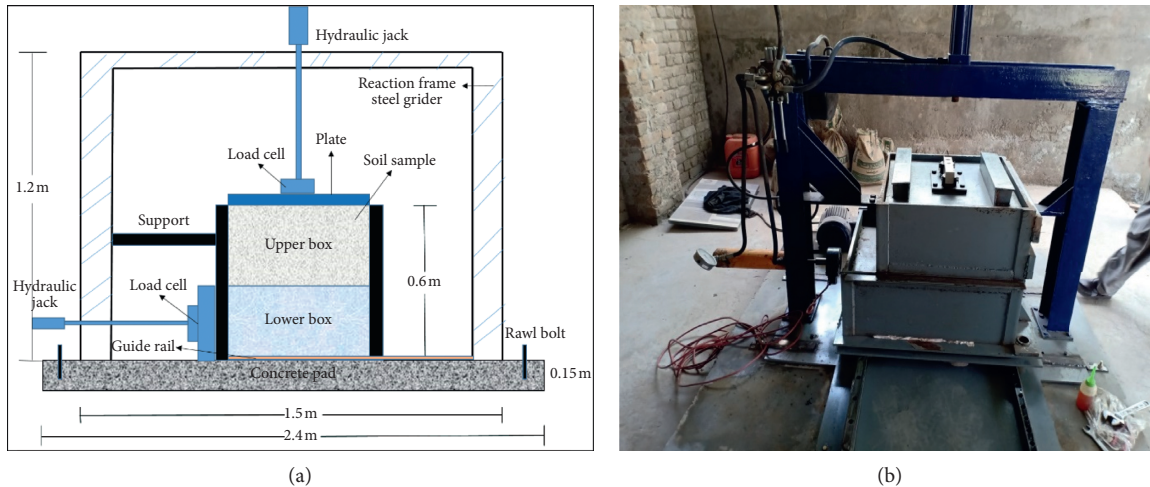


FIGURE 5: Schematic diagram and visual aspect of large-scale direct shear test apparatus.

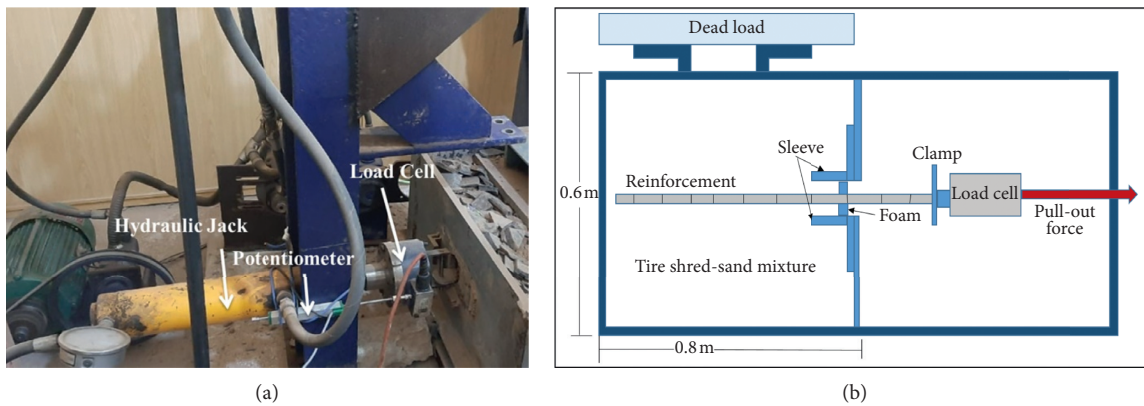


FIGURE 6: (a) Pull-out test setup. (b) Schematic diagram of the pull-out test.

total surface area per unit width of the reinforcement embedded in the resistive area behind the slip surface. F^* is pull-out resistance factor; it can be calculated from the laboratory of the field pull-out tests, or the pull-out resistance factor can be calculated from the empirical and theoretical equations formulated for interaction mechanism between soil and reinforcement. The general equation used to calculate F^* is given below:

$$F^* = \tan \rho + F_q^* \alpha \beta, \quad (2)$$

where $\tan \rho$ is the frictional resistance, $F_q^* \alpha \beta$ is the passive resistance, $\alpha \beta$ is bearing factor for passive resistance, ρ is the interaction friction angle between soil and reinforcement, and F_q is the surcharge bearing capacity factor.

3.6. Sample Preparation for Pull-Out Testing. Two diameter sizes of deformed bars (12.7 mm and 15.8 mm) were used to determine the pull-out capacity of reinforcement in tire shred-sand mixture. Forty-two tests were performed using the different combinations of deformed bars and backfill mixtures. The same mixing ratios used for LSDT, that is, 0/100, 20/80, and 30/70, were used for pull-out testing. To achieve the targeted mixing ratios, the tire shreds and

sand were premixed in buckets and then placed into the chamber at a very low height to reduce segregation. The sample was compacted in four equally thick layers inside the box [56]. The same hammer used for LSDT was used to compact the mixtures for pull-out testing. After compaction of the second layer, the bar was positioned in the middle of the box. The embedded length of the reinforcement was kept at 214 mm, followed by fixing the embedded bar with the load cell to prevent slippage during testing. Subsequently, the remaining sample was compacted in the form of layers over the embedded bars. To get the representative height, the distance between the top of the sample and the top edge of the chamber is calculated at six different locations. A layer of protective sand at 3 cm to 4 cm was poured on top of the sample to level the surface. The seating lid was provided at the top of the sample to put a uniform vertical normal load by the hydraulic jack.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Large-Scale Direct Shear Test. In total, seven LSDTs were performed to estimate the shear strength of the tire shred-sand

mixtures at different loading conditions. After the test was completed, the backfill material was removed and replaced by a newly prepared sample for further testing following the same procedure.

4.1.1. Shear Strength Parameters. Figure 7 exhibits the shear strength versus normal stress plots obtained from the large-scale direct shear test (LSDT) obtained for various backfill mixtures with different tire shred particle sizes. Moreover, Table 2 collects the shear strength parameters for various backfill mixtures at a constant normal stress level of 40 kPa obtained from Figure 7. These plots help elucidate the effect of various mixing ratios and tire shred particle sizes on the angle of friction and cohesion values. Compared with sand-only backfill mixture, the shear strength parameters (angle of friction and cohesion) are observed to increase for all tire shred-sand backfill mixtures. As is shown, an increase in percentage and size of tire shred increases the angle of internal friction and cohesion values. The largest values for the angle of friction and cohesion were obtained for 30/70 backfill mixture with 100 mm tires shred size, that is, 38.56° and 19 kPa, respectively. The angle of internal friction increases because of the angularity of the tire shreds and their adequate interlocking with sand grains. As highlighted by Anbazhagan et al. [25], the increase in the angle of friction was due to the failure in the shearing zone. In the shearing zone, the tire shreds are oriented and randomly distributed at the shearing surface. As a result, the tire shreds particles resist against sliding, which leads to an increase in the angle of friction, which in turn leads to shearing among tire shred particles [57, 58]. Moreover, the cohesion also increases due to the inclusion of tire shreds in backfill material; the maximum cohesion value was attained. The cohesion does not always correspond to the highest shear strength parameters. The increase in cohesion is due to better interlocking between sand and tire shreds [59].

The results obtained were similar to the results reported by Marto et al. [60]. The shear strength of the tire chips-sand mixture was analyzed to determine the effectiveness of lightweight materials using the standard direct shear test apparatus. It was observed that the shear resistance of tire chips-sand mixture is higher than that of the sand-only mixture. The increase in tire chips content up to 20% (by weight) increases the internal friction angle from 32.8° to 34.2° . Anbazhagan et al. [25] obtained similar results, that is, the shear strength increased significantly with the addition of granulated rubber up to 30% (by weight) in the sand. The friction angle for all rubber sizes varied from 35° to 41° . The value of cohesion varied slightly with an increase in the size of the rubber. The cohesion value increased from 6.16 to 12.45 kPa with the inclusion of rubber in the backfill mixtures.

Furthermore, Zornberg and coworkers [54] reported that the shear strength of tire shred-sand mixtures was affected by the tire shred content. The shear strength increases with increasing tire shred content, reaching a maximum value for a tire shred content of around 35%, followed by a decrease beyond this value. The authors also confirmed that

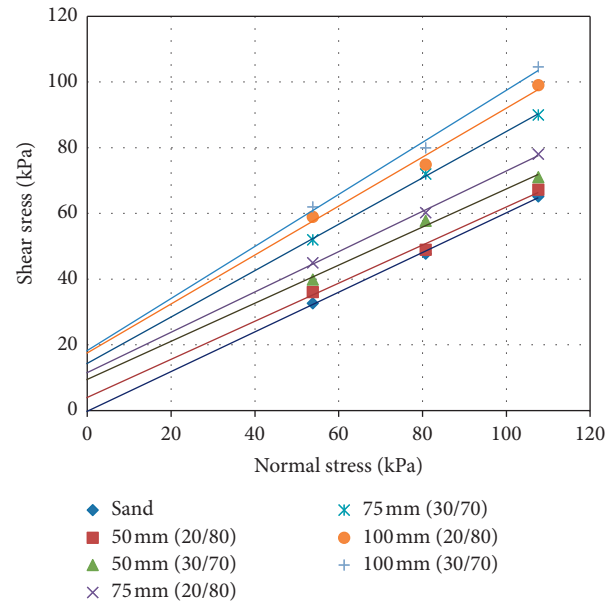


FIGURE 7: Shear stress versus normal stress plots for various sand-only and tire shred-sand mixtures with different tire shred sizes.

the maximum friction angle and cohesion values for tire shred-sand mixture were observed to be in the ranges of 26.5° – 44.5° and 3.8–60 kPa, respectively.

4.1.2. Stress-Strain Behavior. Figure 8(a) presents the stress-strain plots for various backfill mixtures prepared with a tire shred size of 100 mm at constant vertical stress of 40 kPa. As is shown, the shear stress tends to increase with an increase in shear displacement for all backfill mixtures. Moreover, after reaching the peak value, the shear stress decreases with further increase in shear displacement. The stress-strain characteristics of the tire shred-sand backfill mixtures shift from brittle to ductile as the rubber fraction increases. The ductile characteristics of these backfill mixtures could be attributed to the combined effect of tire shred length, aspect ratio (length/diameter), stiffness of tires, the orientation of tire shreds, sand frictional angle, and applied normal stress [61, 62]. Figure 8(b) presents the stress-strain plots for sand-only (0/100) and 20/80 backfill mixtures for various tire shred sizes. As is shown, the increase in the size of tire shreds increases the ductility of backfill mixtures; i.e., compared with sand-only backfill mixture, gradual drop after peak stress is observed with increasing shear displacement [63]. The tire shreds serve as reinforcement, and sand fills the voids created due to the tire shred addition. Moreover, the lower stiffness and higher compressibility are the governing factors for the ductile behavior of tire shred-sand backfill mixtures [64].

4.2. Pull-Out Test Results. After the application of normal pressures, pull-out values and displacement of the deformed steel bar were calculated. Table 3 collects the pull-out capacities for samples prepared at different mixing ratios, tire shred size, and diameter of deformed steel bars.

TABLE 2: Shear strength parameters obtained from LSDT at 40 kPa normal stresses.

Sample	Cohesion c (kPa)	Shear stress τ (kPa)	Normal stress σ (kPa)	Angle of internal friction ϕ
Sand	0	64	40	30.88°
50 mm (20/80)	4	68	40	30.88°
50 mm (30/70)	8.9	73	40	30.92°
75 mm (20/80)	12.7	78	40	31.39°
75 mm (20/80)	14.8	90	40	35.09°
100 mm (20/80)	18.8	98	40	36.50°
100 mm (30/70)	19	104	40	38.46°

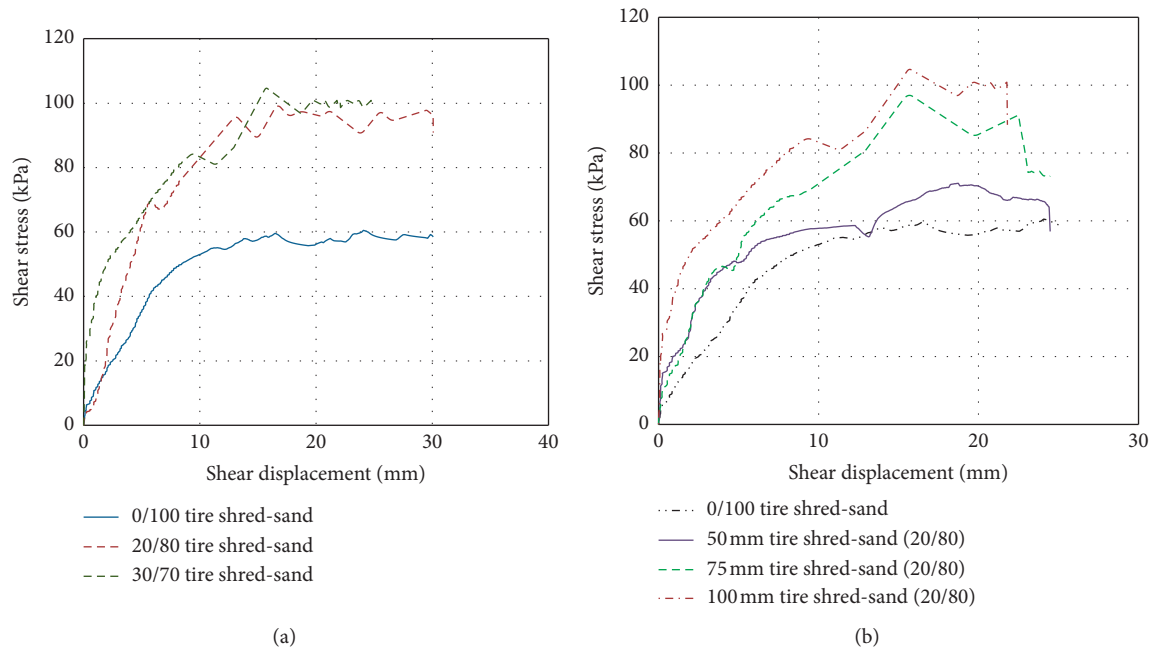


FIGURE 8: (a) Typical stress-strain plot for constant vertical stress of 40 kPa. (a) Various backfill mixtures prepared with a tire shred size of 100 mm. (b) Sand-only (0/100) and tire shred-sand backfill mixture (20/80) for various tire shred sizes.

TABLE 3: Pull-out resistance of 12.7 mm bar and 15.8 mm deformed bars embedded in various backfill mixtures with different tire shred sizes.

S/no.	Size of the tire shred (mm)	Mixing ratio	Pull-out resistance of 15.8 mm diameter bar (kN/m)	Pull-out resistance of 12.7 mm diameter bar (kN/m)	Normal load (kPa)
1	Only sand	Only sand	4.1	2.8	20
			4.7	4.3	30
			5.3	5.3	40
2	50	20/80	3.6	3.4	20
			4.1	4.1	30
			6	5	40
3	50	30/70	4.2	4.2	20
			4.8	5.8	30
			7.4	8.1	40
4	75	20/80	4.6	3.4	20
			5.5	4.5	30
			8.1	8.5	40
5	75	30/70	6.2	5.1	20
			6.9	6.2	30
			7.8	8.6	40
6	100	20/80	6.5	3.9	20
			8.2	5.9	30
			9.9	9.5	40
7	100	30/70	7.9	5.6	20
			8.8	8.1	30
			9.7	9.2	40

TABLE 4: Pull-out capacities and pull-out resistance factor F^* for deformed bars no. 4 and no. 5.

S/no.	Normal load (kPa)	Pull-out resistance (kN/m)	F^*	Increase in pull-out compared to sand (%)		Pull-out resistance (kN/m)	Increase in pull-out compared to sand (%)		F^*	Increase in pull-out compared to normal load (%)
				15.8 mm deformed bar	12.7 mm deformed bar		15.8 mm deformed bar	12.7 mm deformed bar		
1	20	4.1	0.13	—	—	2.8	—	0.09	—	
2	30	4.7	0.1	—	14.6	4.3	—	0.09	53.5	
3	40	5.3	0.08	—	12.7	5.3	—	0.08	23.2	
4	20	3.6	0.11	-12.1	—	3.4	21.4	0.11	—	
5	30	4.1	0.09	-12.7	13.8	4.1	0	0.09	20.5	
6	40	6	0.09	13.2	46.3	5	-5.6	0.08	21.9	
7	20	4.2	0.13	2.43	—	4.2	50	0.13	—	
8	30	4.8	0.1	2.12	14.2	5.8	34.8	0.12	38.1	
9	40	7.4	0.12	39.6	54.16	8.1	52.8	0.13	39.6	
10	20	4.6	0.14	12.1	—	3.4	21.4	0.11	—	
11	30	5.5	0.11	17	19.6	4.5	4.6	0.09	32.3	
12	40	8.1	0.13	52.8	47.2	8.5	60	0.13	88	
13	20	6.2	0.19	51.2	—	5.1	0	0.16	—	
14	30	6.9	0.14	46.8	11.2	6.2	44.1	0.13	21.5	
15	40	7.8	0.12	47.1	13	8.6	62.2	0.13	38.7	
16	20	6.5	0.2	58.5	—	3.9	39.2	0.12	—	
17	30	8.2	0.17	74.4	26.1	5.9	37.2	0.12	51.2	
18	40	9.9	0.15	86.7	20.7	9.5	79.2	0.15	61	
19	20	7.9	0.25	92.6	—	5.6	100	0.18	—	
20	30	8.8	0.18	87.2	11.39	8.1	88.3	0.17	44.6	
21	40	9.7	0.15	83	10.2	9.2	73.5	0.14	13.5	

Based on the results presented in Table 3, it is assessed that the pull-out resistance increases with an increase in tire shred size, the tire content (by weight percent), and the diameter of the deformed bar. Besides, the pull-out resistance of the deformed steel bar increases with an increase in normal pressure. These results are consistent with the findings by Balunaini and Prezzi [55]. Based on pull-out tests performed on ribbed metal strip embedded in tire shred-sand mixtures, the authors observed a higher pull-out capacity for ribbed metal strips embedded in tire shred-sand mixture compared with the metal strips embedded in the tire-only shred mixture. Mohan et al. [65] performed laboratory tests on ladder-type reinforcement placed in tire shred-sand mixture with different sizes of tire shreds ranging between 50 mm and 100 mm. The results were then compared with the pull-out resistance of the ribbed steel bar. The results followed the same trend, such that an increase in size and content of tire shred (by weight) increased the pull-out resistance from 4.2 kN/m to 9.7 kN/m.

4.2.1. Effect of Normal Stress on Pull-Out Resistance. The influences of normal stress on the pull-out capacity of deformed bars embedded in various backfill mixtures are presented in Table 4. All backfill mixtures (0/100, 20/80, and 30/70) prepared with different tire shred sizes (50 mm, 75 mm, and 100 mm) exhibited an increase in pull-out response with the increase in the normal stress. This finding was in agreement with the results obtained by Horpibulsuk and Niramitkornburee [66].

4.2.2. Pull-Out Resistance Factor (F^*). The F^* values calculated based on the pull-out capacities acquired from the tests are also given in Table 4. As observed, the pull-out resistance factor is inversely related to pull-out resistance i.e., with an increase in pull-out resistance, the pull-out resistance factor decreases. Furthermore, with respect to sand only backfill (0/100), the percentage increase in pull-out resistance factor for various tire shred-sand mixtures reinforced with 12.7 mm diameter deformed bars was in the range of 23.2–88%. While the percentage increase in the pull-out resistance factor for 15.8 mm diameter bars embedded in the aforementioned mixtures was in the range of 12.7–54.6%. These values are in agreement with the results obtained by [65].

4.2.3. Pull-Out Resistance vs. Displacement. Figures 9 and 10 show the pull-out resistance vs. displacement plots for 12.7 and 15.8 mm diameter deformed bars embedded in various backfill mixtures. Analyzing the graphs, it is assessed that pull-out resistances increase with the increase in normal stress levels for all backfill mixtures. The pull-out response curves for sand only mixtures showed a sharp decline in pull-out resistance after a peak value, indicating the brittle behavior. Conversely, for tire shred sand backfill mixtures, the pull-out resistance decreased gradually after peak values of pull-out resistance. The pull-out response of backfill mixtures depends upon the type of reinforcement, nature of backfill material, and the

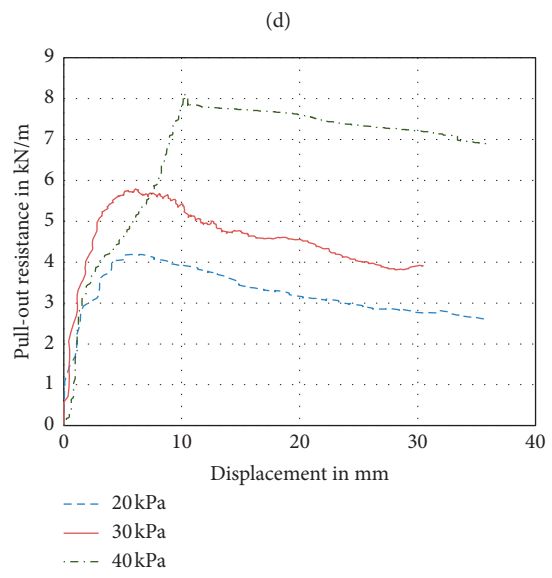
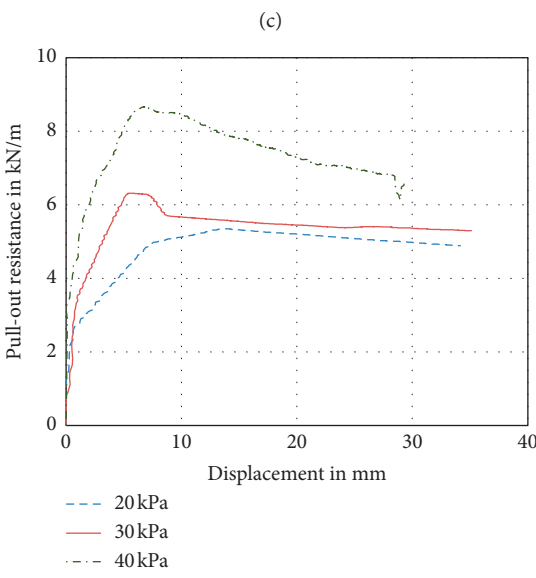
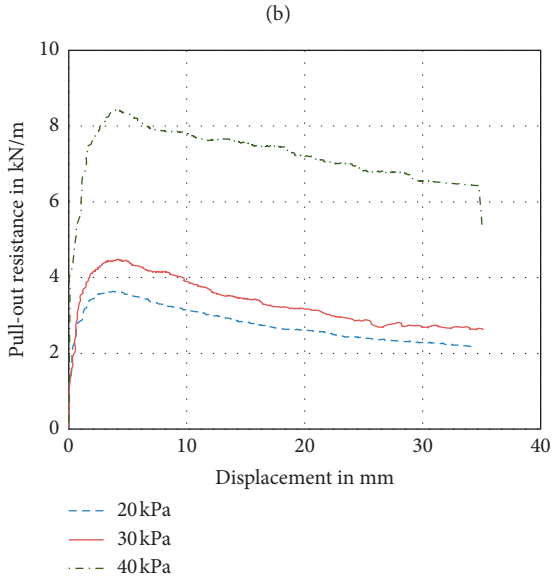
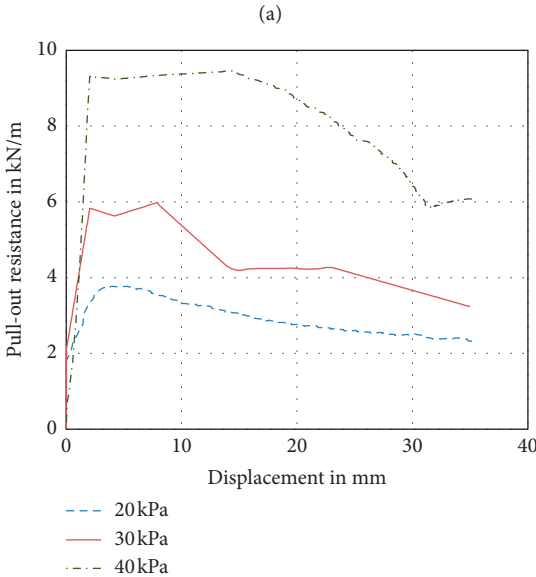
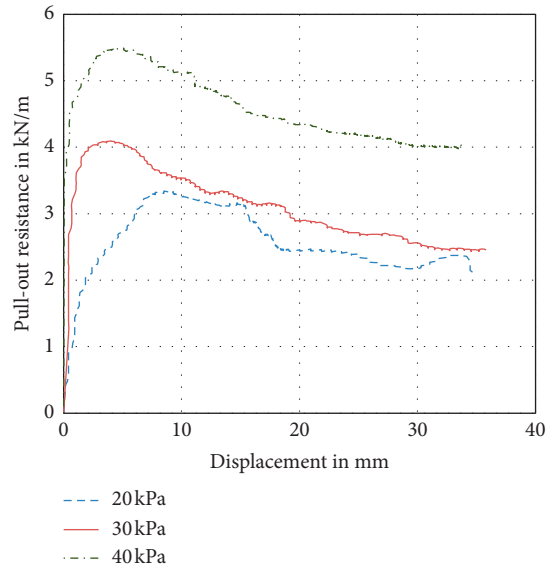
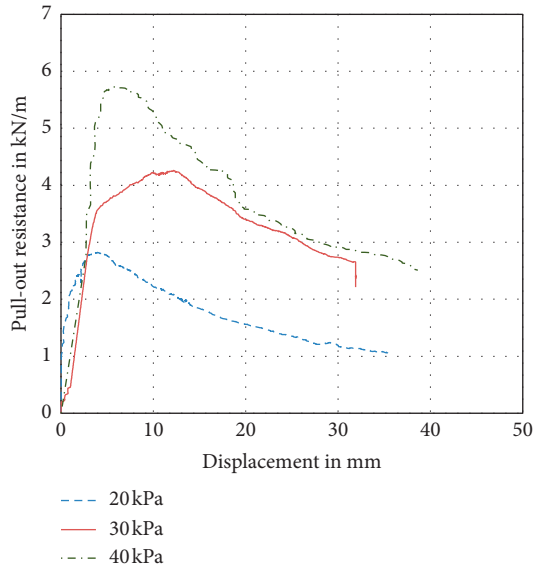
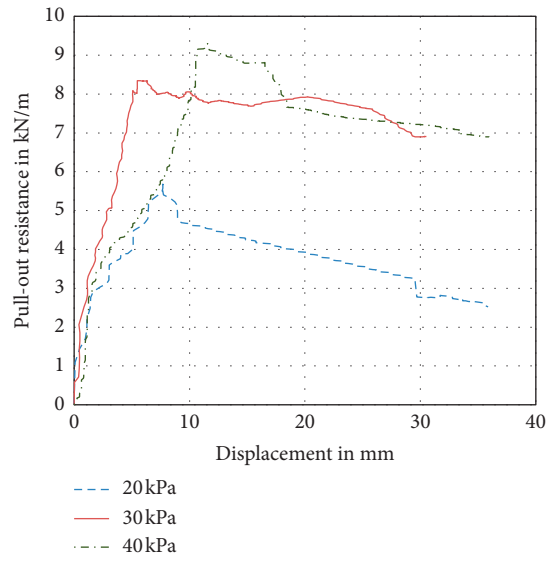
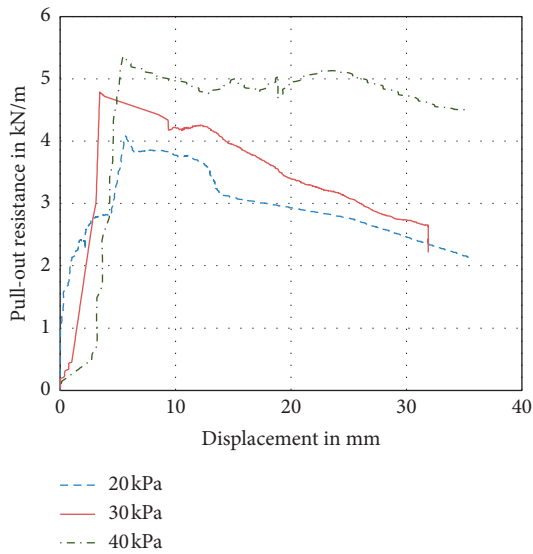


FIGURE 9: Continued.

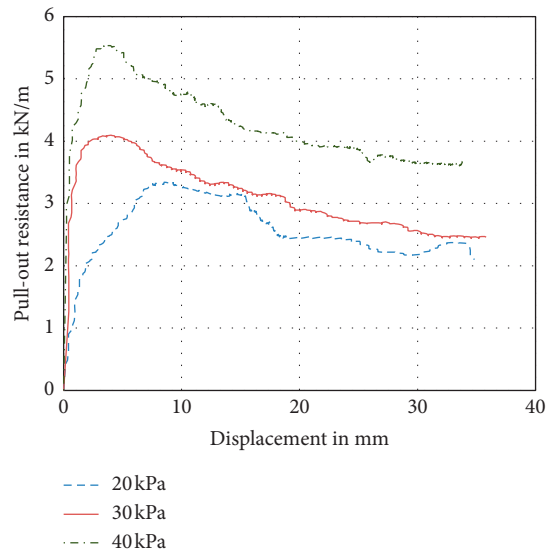


(g)

FIGURE 9: Pull-out resistance of 12.7 mm deformed steel bar at different stress levels embedded in (a) 0/100 and (b) 20/80 with 50 mm tire shred, (c) 30/70 with 50 mm tire shred, (d) 20/80 with 75 mm tire shred, (e) 30/70 with 75 mm tire shred, (f) 20/80 with 100 mm tire shred, and (g) 30/70 with 100 mm tire shred.



(a)



(b)

FIGURE 10: Continued.

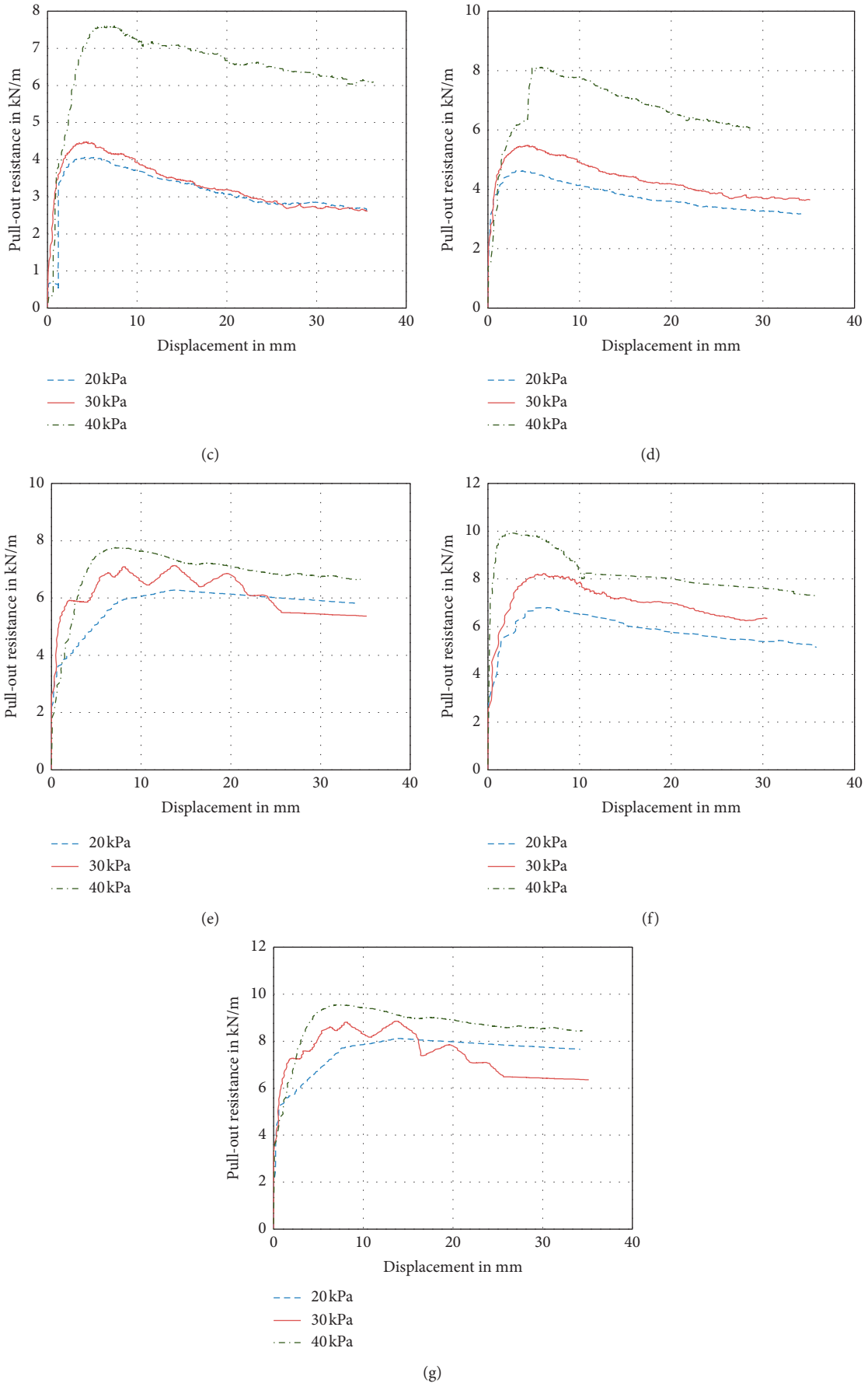


FIGURE 10: Pull-out resistance of 15.8 mm deformed steel bar at different stress levels embedded in (a) 0/100 and (b) 20/80 with 50 mm tire shred, (c) 30/70 with 50 mm tire shred, (d) 20/80 with 75 mm tire shred, (e) 30/70 with 75 mm tire shred, (f) 20/80 with 100 mm tire shred, and (g) 30/70 with 100 mm tire shred.

confinement pressures used. Furthermore, the ductility of backfill mixtures based on pull-out resistance seems to be largely affected by tire shred size and its content in the backfill mixture [7]. The increase in pull-out force due to an increase in tire size was possibly due to the following reasons: (1) the larger size tire particles creating more resistance with the box boundaries and (2) increase in the passive resistance [65].

5. Conclusions

This study was carried out in two stages; in the first stage, the large-scale direct shear test (LSDT) was performed to assess the shear strength parameters of tire shred-sand backfill mixtures in MSE walls. The effect of tire shred sizes and mix proportion of backfill mixtures was evaluated. The second stage of the study deals with the estimation of pull-out resistance of 12.7 and 15.8 mm bar diameter deformed steel bars embedded in tire shred-sand mixtures. The feasibility of using tire shred-sand mixture with deformed steel bars as reinforcement in backfill material for mechanically stabilized earth walls is elucidated. The large-scale direct shear apparatus was used for both the direct shear and pull-out test. The following conclusions were drawn from this study:

- (i) The shear strength value is 64 kPa for sand-only backfill, which increases to 104 kPa for 30/70 tire shred-sand mixture with 100 mm tire shred size. This is due to the increase in bonding between the particles.
- (ii) The value of the angle of internal friction was observed to be 38.46° for 30/70 tire shred-sand mixture with 100 mm tire shred size compared with 30.88° obtained for sand-only backfill mixture (0/100). The reason is that the tire shreds are randomly distributed at the shearing zone and thus offer higher resistance against sliding.
- (iii) The cohesion also increases with the inclusion of tire shreds; its value increases from 0 kPa to 19 kPa obtained for sand-only backfill mixture (0/100) and 30/70 tire shred sand with 100 mm tire shred size, respectively. The cohesion increases because of the interlocking phenomenon between tire shreds and sand.
- (iv) Based on stress-strain plots obtained from LSDT, ductility of tire shred backfill mixtures increases compared with sand-only backfill material.
- (v) The pull-out capacity of 15.8 mm bar reinforcement embedded in 20/80 and 30/70 mixtures increased by 12.2–86.7% and 2.4–92.6%, respectively, compared to sand alone for the range of normal stresses considered in the study. Similarly, the pull-out capacity of 12.7 mm bar reinforcement embedded in 20/80 and 30/70 mixtures increased by 4.6–79% and 34–100%, respectively, compared to sand alone.
- (vi) The pull-out capacities for sand-only backfill (0/100) embedding 12.7 mm and 15.8 mm diameter bars as reinforcement are 4.1 kN and 2.8 kN, respectively. Meanwhile, the pull-out capacities for the same bars in tire-sand backfill mixture (30/70) with 100 mm tire shred size are observed to be 9.2 kN and 9.7 kN, respectively. This can be attributed due to the higher interlocking force offered by projections of deformed steel bars against the tire shred pieces and due to the frictional resistance.
- (vii) The pull-out resistance of the 15.8 mm diameter deformed bar is nearly 5.43% higher than the deformed bar having a diameter of 12.7 mm. This is because of the increase in surface area, which imparts more frictional resistance.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest related to this article.

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