

Review of Reinventing Crimes Fear Spaces and Crime Hotspots

Reinventing Crimes Fear Spaces and Crime Hotspots is a beautifully written book about the research on the geographical and social factors of crime in Ludhiana, one of Punjab's biggest metropolitan cities. This book has focussed on two types of crimes i.e. crimes against the person and crimes related to property.

Crime has been very aptly defined in the very beginning in the different dimensions. Characteristics of different theories of the occurrence of the crime have been very well described. Pattern and vulnerability as the promoter of the crime have been emphasized nicely.

Painstaking research has been carried out thoroughly, considering various parameters to determine the different dimensions of factors responsible for the crimes. Spatial and temporal factors related to the crime are established in this book. Results of the temporal characteristics of the crime seem very interesting, and it seems that these results may be applicable in other cities too. Effects of spatial factors studied will be applied locally as this has been explained on the type of the population and workforce in that particular area which may differ in different cities. More crime with more escape routes has been emphasized repeatedly, which gives escape to the responsibilities of the police officials. Colored maps provide an instant understanding of what the author wishes to highlight.

The concentration of the one type of population (Poor, less educated people, and laborers) has been responsible for the majority of the crimes. It may seem astonishing, but the acquainted person's crime is indeed more than unknown persons.

This work has fulfilled most of the aims and objectives of the research planned. A reader will enjoy the mindset rooted verbiages on the crime as those are the first-hand feelings near the truth. Similarly, case studies make the book interesting and give the readers the first-hand experience of victims, the community in which the victims lie, and the investigators. Perceptions of the victims and their associates are beautifully described giving insight that can be very useful for reducing and preventing the crimes.

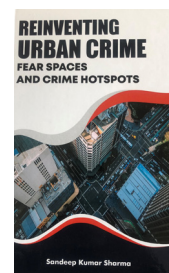
Though this research work is published as a book, the total format remains that of thesis and it seems to be the thesis publication rather than a book. Conversion of the thesis into a book would have made it a better reading material for the common people. Short statements rather than big tables in the Introduction would have conveyed better information for readers reading a book and not a thesis. The reference style used is of a thesis, and all names coming in between are interruptions in the reading. Reading would have been smoother if superscript numbers would have been used while referencing in the text. The list of tables, figures, and maps does not serve any useful purpose in this book initially and could have been omitted. An ordinary reader expects generalization of the research, which may be applicable to the general population but is critically lacking and is focused on one city.

The role of unemployment, illiteracy, and poverty have been very well highlighted, but there is much repetition of these factors when analyzing the various crimes.

Conclusions drawn are not very specific but just information that may not be easy to apply even if planners need to apply. At best, this research is good for Ludhiana city only.

This research work has been soft while commenting on the shortcomings in the police, and some factors have been ignored, which may be the topmost in the public's minds for crime reduction. All is said well about the police except some planning of police stations and their placements in the community. This could be well understood as the researcher is one of the stakeholders himself on which research is being carried out. Candid comments would have made this research more near the truth.

This book is a good attempt based upon research to find out the root cause of the crimes against persons and crimes related to the property. This research is a good initiation for the future agenda of the research on the crimes is rightly recommended which should be followed by more researchers in the other cities so that results from other studies can be compared with this research to formulate the recommendations for the reduction of crime. I will recommend this book to the students and researchers of the Geography who wish to understand the technicalities of the crimes against the person and crimes related to the property. This book will also be helpful to the police officials to have an insight into the crimes related to property and against the persons.



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