

## **The Key Contribution Factors of Safety through Crime Prevention towards Higher Quality of Life in Neighborhood Residential**

Noor Ashikin Mohamad Bahari, Halmi Zainol, Siti Rashidah Sakip, Amelia Ahmad, Noor Syarafina Sallehudin, Nur Shaffiqah Muhammad Soffian

Department of Town and Regional Planning, Faculty of Architecture Planning and Surveying,  
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Perak Branch, Seri Iskandar Campus, Bandar Seri Iskandar  
32610, Malaysia

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### **Abstract**

The distraught crime incidents in Christchurch in 2019, shaken the whole nation and killed the feeling of safety among community worldwide because even in the safest place people exposed to criminal risk. Hence, there is a need for a critical and comprehensive review to identify the essential contribution factors in preventing crime occurrence in the neighbourhood area. This paper reviews the literature focusing on the key contributing factor in crime prevention while addressing the challenges facing by the population all over the world. The findings will establish through the development of the key crime prevention towards higher quality of life for the best possible environment for the community. The findings of this paper suggest that there is crucial in established crime prevention approached for neighbourhood towards better living and all planning stakeholders, designers and societies should engage towards crime-free neighbourhood areas.

**Keywords:** Crime, Crime Prevention, Safety Neighbourhood, Quality of Life.

### **Introduction**

Neighborhood safety plays an important role in everyday life to ensure the quality of life as the neighbourhood is the place where people start to build their family institution. Most people will find a safe and comfortable housing location to build family life. Safety is recognised globally in previous study as an essential ingredient of development. Many studies highlighted that low crime as the top in factors what makes a place good to live. Previous research also recorded the most important things that make somewhere a good place to live highlighted 'low level of crime' in the top rank responses to by the public. This statement confirms that there is a need to plan for crime prevention towards safety living of the communities as the safety is well-known as the most essential ingredients to make somewhere a good place to live.

The issue that has been arises globally recently is about the security and safety challenges in the rapidly globalized world where the challenges give a significant negative impact on the lives of millions all around the world as the population increases. This subject ranked among the most pressing issues in this modern world with increasing number of population. Robinson, et al (2009), in recent review stated that the increasing of population density is leading to the rising of crime rates. This issue is indeed lead to a cause of concern among communities. The increases in crime activities recently will give a negative impact to the community. The perceived problem of crime in residential neighbourhood area will not only resolve the issues regarding physical planning of the neighbourhood, but the most importantly will also give the potential long term social impact to the residents.

That is why this study is not only important but crucial to provide clearly understanding in identifying the key factors which can contribute to the crime prevention in neighbourhood area and at the same time to ensure that all design stakeholders can give focus and attention in designing space while deter out crime for people well-being with better quality of life, free from crime and out from fear of crime. This study will support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2020 (SDG), under “Goal 16”, to promote peace, justice and strong institutions. All the goals outlined are a call for action by all countries whether poor, rich and middle-income countries to participate and promote prosperity while protecting the globe. This study seen to give significant contribution in current practices or in academic field in order to enhance the related field in line with the Concept of Global Smart City Framework to use information, communication and digital technology to address urban challenges, improve urban management, and quality of life, sustainability, efficiency as well as security as all countries all over the world striving towards safety and security of their citizens and to increase the quality of their lives.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to provide understanding through preliminary research on the key factors that contribute to crime prevention in the residential neighbourhood which will cover what kind of factors can be employ to avoid the incidence of crime in neighbourhood areas.

### **Objective of the Study**

In line with the purpose of the study, the objective of the study is to review related scholarly articles and previous literature in order to identify the key factors that help in preventing crime in neighbourhood area.

### **Literature Review**

In a view of the importance of these issues, desk studies were conducted to identify the key factors that can be employ to reduce crime occurrence so that the population can live in peace and harmony at the same time enhancing quality of life. In order to prevent crime, it is essential and crucial to have a clear understanding on its roots cause of crime.

### **The Importance of Crime Prevention for Neighbourhood Safety**

Crime prevention can be defined as the “intervention in the causes of criminal and disorderly events to reduce the risk of the occurrence and or the potential seriousness of their consequences.” (Ekblom, 2005). Recently, many criminal incidents are often reported on social media that cause fear and anxiety among the community where some of them

experiences unwanted incidents such as housebreaks or burglary, robberies and the tragedy causes the loss of properties and among the biggest implications is losing the loved ones because of the incidents of murdered. Hence, it is not just important but essential and crucial to ensure the safety of communities in neighbourhood areas by find out the key factors that can contribute to safety in preventing such crime to happen. From the evaluation and investigation on the previous literature, it showed that physical and social factors play an important role in preventing crime. However, in order to understand on the key crime prevention factors, it is important to get a clear understanding on the nature of crime occurrence.

### **The Nature of Crime Occurrence**

The increasing of population is often related to an increase in criminal cases as outline by Rashid, et al. (2017) that by undergoes a tremendous volume of population mobility resulting from urbanisation process which are varied and lead to a positive urban development but also will give a negative implications including inconvenient of urban living conditions such as congestion, slums, crimes and many others negative impact that are related to the increasing of population. In a way to deter out crime occurrence, the opportunity or designing out the opportunities to offend must be clearly define. Jacques and Bonomo (2017) pointed out to learn more about crime, which include on how to prevent it, the researcher or criminologist need to address all related source as a collective, criminals are the prominent source of knowledge on crime.

Colquhoun (2004) stated that there are few types of crime that generally associated with neighbourhood areas including vandalism, burglary, racial crime, drug misuse, nuisance and anti-social behavior against people, domestic violence and sexual violence. The patterns of crime incidents that generally happened in neighbourhood areas mostly associated with a small number of persistent offenders who live near the area of incident (Colquhoun, 2004). Furthermore, he also outlined several important principles in understanding the nature of crime which among the principles include there is a dynamic interplay between physical environment and offenders behaviour where most of offenders are basically ordinary person who think rationally and make conscious choices even when they are the one did the offence. Colquhoun (2004) also outlined that different type of crimes involves different offenders, motives and opportunity structures and each crime varied and the offenders usually taking advantage of opportunities as they arise based on situation. Previous research also pointed out that generally, most of the offenders live in poor living areas and they usually commit crime near their homes area and according to previous research, most crimes in residential areas are actually undertaken within a mile of the offender's home.

### **Key Contribution of Safety through Crime Prevention**

The key crime prevention approaches refer to the range of strategies that have been implemented by the developmental planning stakeholders including individuals, communities, non-governmental organizations and many others in order to target for safety for better living environment. Modern Crime Prevention Strategy Report (2016) outlined that there are plenty of evidence reported that crime rises when there are more opportunities to offend, and crime falls when the number of opportunities to offend is reduced. Crime prevention can be classified in numerous possible ways in addition a number of authors have recognized various factors that contribute to safety through crime prevention which include

environmental crime prevention, developmental crime prevention, social crime prevention and community development. More recent evidence by Lab (2010) outline that the division of crime prevention are primary crime prevention, secondary crime prevention and tertiary crime prevention. Among the crime prevention approaches as adopted by Lab (2010) are shown as follows.

Table 1  
*Basis Crime Prevention Approached Adopted by Lab (2010)*

<b>Crime Prevention Approaches</b>		
<b>PRIMARY Crime Prevention</b>	<b>SECONDARY Crime Prevention</b>	<b>TERTIARY Crime Prevention</b>
<b>Environmental Design</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architectural design</li> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Access control</li> <li>• Property identification</li> </ul> <b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveillance</li> <li>• Citizen patrols</li> </ul> <b>General deterrence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrest and conviction</li> <li>• Sentencing methods</li> </ul> <b>Public education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels of crime</li> <li>• Fear</li> <li>• Self help</li> </ul> <b>Social crime prevention</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Employment/Job training</li> </ul> <b>Private security</b>	<b>Identification and predict</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early ID of problem individual</li> <li>• Crime area analysis</li> </ul> <b>Situational crime prevention</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem identification</li> <li>• Situation specific intervention</li> </ul> <b>Community policing</b> <b>Substance abuse</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and treatment</li> </ul> <b>Schools and Crime Prevention</b>	<b>Specific deterrence</b> <b>Incapacitation</b> <b>Rehabilitation and treatment</b>

The detail description of the crime prevention approaches is elaborate as follows.

i. Environmental Crime Prevention

Recent research suggest that environmental crime prevention is the implementation of crime prevention through physical design which the approaches concerned principally with architecture and built environment. In addition, the idea of CPTED is based on the proper design and effective use of the built environment which can lead to deter out crime and fear of crime among community, and also an improvement of the quality of life. As stated in Jeffery’s early work (1971), CPTED refers to the development of an interdisciplinary behavioural science of crime and prevention, where Jeffery was among the pioneer to come out with the idea that the design of physical environment has an influence on the opportunity of crime to occur. National Crime Prevention Institute (NCPI) defined CPTED as the proper design and effective use of the build environment that can lead to the reduction of fear and the incidence of crime and also lead to the improvement of the quality of life. The emergence of CPTED design introduce the CPTED into more holistic and comprehensive way in deter out

crime. CPTED have been employed widely all over the world. It is related to the use of design to reduce or eliminate crime while encouraging community to “keep an eye” to ensure the safety of other through design. The table below shows the factors that contribute in environmental crime prevention.

Table 1

*Physical Factors that Contribute in Crime Prevention*

Physical Factors of Crime Prevention			
Elements	Physical Crime Prevention Design Criteria		Authors (year)
Surveillance	Informal	Minimize visual obstacles (maximizes visibility) Introduce transition zones	Newman (1973)
		Self-surveillance opportunities as facilitated by window	Newman (1973)
	Formal	Electronic/mechanical monitoring (example: CCTV) Fixed guard posts and security patrols (eg:police) Lighting (eg: street lighting)	Poyner (1991) Newman (1973) Brown (1999) Taylor (2002)
Access Control (denying access)	Informal	Spatial definition	Newman (1973)
	Formal	Security personnel	
	Mechanical	Locks and bolts	
Territorial Reinforcement	Reinforcing notions for sense of ownership through fences, pavement treatments, signs, landscaping and artwork.		Newman (1973)
Image Maintenance and Management	Promoting a positive image and routinely maintaining		Lynch (1960) Newman (1973) Wilson and Kelling, (1982)
Target Hardening	Denying or limiting access to a crime target through the use of physical barriers such as fences, gates, security doors, and locks,		Cozen & Love (2015)
Activity Support	Generation and support seeks to place inherently “unsafe” activities Eyes on the street (increasing pedestrian pathways)		Crowe (2000)

## ii. Developmental Crime Prevention

Developmental crime prevention refers to the organized provision of resources in some approaches to individuals, families, schools or communities to obstruct the later development of crime or other problems at the early stages (Homel, 2005). Tremblay and Craight (1997) pointed out that the developmental crime prevention targets the most potential person to become criminal whereas the early assumption that the occurrence of criminal activity is the implication from their life experiences and learning. Australian Institute of Criminology stated that developmental crime prevention refers to the early intervention strategies where the

prevention can be employed through three levels of prevention stages including primary, secondary and tertiary. This approach is preferably to employ before the problem becomes a very serious damage that will lead to worse and more serious crimes and entrenched. Homel (2005) also notified the complexity of challenges that need to be addressed is about what is the factors or course exist whether in individual, family institution, schools or communities that contribute to the involvement of individual in crime, where early prevention can be exploit. Developmental prevention generally associated with the prevention approaches through early intervention to prevent the development of criminal potential in individuals, especially those targeting risk and protective factors discovered in studies of human development (Farrington and Welsh 2007). For example, by saving children from a life of crime by intervening at early childhood phase by tackling the risk factors of committing crime.

**Table 2**  
*Developmental Crime Prevention*

Developmental Crime Prevention Criteria	Authors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Parenting and early childhood support program</li> <li>ii. Health care assistance and home help</li> <li>iii. Literacy training and alternative learning programs</li> <li>iv. Anti-bullying initiatives in schools</li> <li>v. Programs addressing violence reduction</li> <li>vi. Self-esteem and self-empowerment development and training.</li> <li>vii. Job skills training and development</li> <li>viii. Establishment of theatre and arts groups, sport and youth centres for recreation</li> <li>ix. Early school-leavers' programs.</li> </ul>	<p>Welsh &amp; Farrington (2009,2010)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Parenting skills programmes</li> <li>ii. Preschool literacy programmes</li> <li>iii. Home visiting programmes</li> <li>iv. Clinics for family therapy</li> <li>v. Drug and alcohol treatment programmes</li> <li>vi. Family preservation programmes</li> <li>vii. School-based programmes based on “what works” principles</li> <li>viii. Anti bullying “whole school programme”</li> <li>ix. Family/school partnerships</li> <li>x. Peer group community anti-drug programmes</li> <li>xi. Life skills and employment training programmes</li> </ul>	<p>Handbook on Planning &amp; Action for Crime Prevention in Southern Africa &amp; the Carribean Region</p>

**Research Methodology**

This section elaborates the research method for this paper. This paper focused on the factors contribute in preventing crime. The methodology employ for this paper is divided into two part which the first part review the introductory part in understanding the crime occurrence and crime prevention, where the second part include the review focused on the key contribution of crime prevention factors. Relevant references gathered through respected sources including books, scholarly sources such as journals, research papers, theses, websites, guidelines and reports. In order to obtain extensive literature review, this study have collected

significant references to achieve the purpose of the study. Articles by various authors that are related to crime prevention were also reviewed. From the reviews, it was gathered that various aspects should be highlighted in deter out crime occurrence for the well-being of the community towards higher quality of life.

### **Discussion**

From the overall review, it showed that there are several approaches needed in preventing crime in neighbourhood areas. The approaches in dealing with crime in neighbourhood areas are varied. The physical or environmental crime prevention focusing on the physical aspects which may lead to the reduction of crime, whereas the developmental crime prevention focusing the intervention of preventing crime at the early stages. The importance of crime prevention nowadays can't be denied as the population will keep on increases which lead to the increasing of crime rate as pointed out by Braithwaite (1975) that the population growth increases the crime rate (per capita). Various ways to deal with criminal issues should be implemented to ensure that the neighborhood can be inhabited peacefully and safely while improving the quality of life through comprehensive crime prevention approaches. The National Strategy for Social Crime Prevention by Ministry of Justice, Budapas (2003) outlined that the social crime prevention strategy will contribute to the improvement of quality of human life, economic advancement and the reduction of crime-related moral and material damage only if it works together, in achieving common objectives with the national agencies.

### **Findings**

Government and residential development stakeholders need to address the issues of crime occurrence in neighbourhood areas with the best possible solution to ensure better living of the community as the neighbourhood areas are the heart of community. This study will be a significant endeavor in the literacy of the important of preventing crime in neighbourhood areas as the houses are the center of everyone's lives which need to be filled with the most safer living environment.

### **Conclusion & Recommendations**

From the study, it indicated that both physical and social factors are important factors in preventing crime in neighbourhood area. This paper specifically dedicated for governments, non-government organisation, voluntary agencies and individual to study these suggestions to ensure that world can be safer with the application of comprehensive crime prevention approaches. This information may help all residential development planning stakeholders to design and manage housing areas comprehensively towards safer place to be living by the community as the world facing increasing of population with the risk of higher crime rate. Furthermore, there must be detailed summary carried out in further research how physical and social crime prevention can be effectively integrate to enhance the safety of the community that live in neighbourhood residential area to enhance the current practices in dealing with the rises of crime occurrence within neighbourhood areas as the population growth.

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