



ANALYTICAL STUDY OF STREET CRIMES IN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Abstract

The intent to conduct street crimes results from cultural standards that promote and encourage violence. Often, street crimes are exacerbated by the proliferation and formation of gangs that perpetuate and reinforce street-culture habits. Other causes of street crime include poverty and unemployment. It is believed that locations with higher poverty rates and unemployment have higher crime rates than other, more developed ones. In addition, those with poor self-control are more likely to perpetrate street crimes. The victims of street criminals become prey to moveable properties, i.e., mobile phones, cash, credit and debit cards, and vehicles. Victims' precious lives are sometimes taken during the occurrence of these incidents. Because street crimes are getting worse and people feel less safe, and because law enforcement agencies haven't been able to stop street crimes, this issue will stay. The researchers aspire that this study will open a venue for society to understand street crimes and their causes, the reasons for low conviction rates, and suggestions regarding the increase of conviction rates.

Keywords: crime rates, developed countries, developing countries, Human Development Index, street crimes

Introduction



According to the Open Education Sociology Dictionary (2022), a street crime is a crime that is more likely to be committed by or against people from lower-class backgrounds and is usually carried out in public places. For examples, mugging, kidnapping, targeted killings, extortion, stealing or snatching cars, motorcycles, or other valuables, selling drugs, pickpocketing, etc.

Street crime is a considerable problem that is important to address for its fruitful elimination. Every individual is anxious, anguished, and worried about how he can get rid of the heinous street crimes. The citizens are bound to think that even after the establishment of anti-terrorist courts in many countries, the rate of these crimes has not considerably declined. People are experiencing a sense of insecurity whether they are at home or outside.

The officer associated with the investigation executes his duty of investigating the offenders, and after that, typically, a case or complaint needs to be presented in the trial court and the public prosecutor makes a plea on the state's behalf. The trial court passes the decision based on the facts and with the help of the witnesses and under the legislation. The citizens have made self-security arrangements, i.e., acquired the services of private security agencies for the protection of their locality. It shows a lack of confidence in law enforcement agencies and the judicial system as well. There are many aspects related to the causes of street crimes and their remedies. The problem of rising street crimes is caused by the confrontation of deterrent agencies and the accused, who skillfully exploit gaps to conduct crimes. Most of the time, the person who did the wrong thing doesn't get caught because law enforcement agencies don't try hard enough to catch them.

For the sake of a peaceful community, criminals are punished per the utilitarian doctrine. According to the deterrent theory of punishment, the purpose of punishment is to discourage criminal behavior. The philosophy of retributive justice advocates and supports criminal punishment. The purpose of punishment, according to restorative theory, is not to inflict pain or produce an overall better society, but to repair individuals who were hurt by the act (Binnal, 2018).

Justification of the Research

The objective of the research was to find out the causes of street crimes in developing and developed countries, so that modest conviction rates could be achieved. The research findings will be useful to governments in improving the law and the skills of the personnel involved in the investigation process. First, it would make people more aware of what causes street crime, which is a very important step toward fixing the problem of street crime in both developed and developing countries.

Research Methodology

As per Komba and Lwoga (2020), a systematic review approach was used to conduct this research. This technique highlights establishing the research objectives and conducts an



exhaustive examination of the subject's literature. According to Petticrew and Roberts (2006), the study results are categorized per the subject's topic. The study incorporates classified data by categorizing it into categories (Pawson et al., 2005). The study's flow is determined by evaluating classified material and titles (Rahi, 2017). Victor (2008) mentions that the guarantee of integrity is maintained by making a comparison between the research subjects and their contents.

As a consequence, this technique was selected, and the associated processes were observed. Reviewing the relevant literature resulted in the accumulation of data and information, which were coded according to the study goals. The coded data were grouped by subject. After classifying and merging the subjects, they were ordered by degree of connection.

Literature Review

A sense of protection from criminal risks is a crucial need for reaching a high standard of living. A renowned psychologist Abraham Maslow believed that humans have needs ranging from fundamental survival to self-fulfillment; yet, they cannot meet their higher wants until their basic needs are met (Kim, 2006). In this context, Maslow developed a five-stage hierarchy that includes physiological requirements, safety needs, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization (McLeod, 2018). Although safety according to Maslow appears to be a secondary need, it is substantially correlated with the incidence of crimes in a person's immediate environment, particularly the home.

Crime is a widespread social problem that requires specific consideration. Fear of crime refers to a wide variety of emotional and physical responses by communities and individuals to crime (Marzbali et al., 2016). It has been a significant concern for communities, requiring social and systemic responses. The publication of "The Death and Life of Great American Cities," there has been an increase in urbanization (Jacobs, 1961). Much study has been conducted in the sphere of urban planning on the relationship between the built environment and crime. Certain settings promote particular crimes. For instance, street robbery is simpler when the victim is alone. While covert access facilitates burglaries, it has little effect on pickpocketing on busy streets. It appears that by stopping one crime, we may be facilitating another (Hillier & Sahbaz, 2008).

Previous research indicates that women frequently fear sexual harassment or street crimes when using public transportation or wandering in public spaces (Graglia, 2016; Seedat et al., 2006; Stark & Meschik, 2018). In addition, mainstream media frequently portrayed women as victims of street crimes, such as how a woman was killed during a bag snatching in Jakarta, Indonesia (Kompas, 2019) and how a woman was dragged by a motorcycle during a bag theft incident in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (The Sun Daily, 2019). These images have developed a gender indoctrination that asserts women are physically more susceptible to street crime and assault, hence contributing to women's low sense of safety (Chataway & Hart, 2019; Cossman & Rader, 2011).



Hidayati, Tan, and Yamu (2020) investigated the impact of geographical and sociocultural elements on people's perceptions of safety. They accomplished this by: (1) polling 383 individuals on the street in eight areas in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Kala Lumpur; (2) evaluating films captured using the walking with video method; and (3) utilizing space syntax to evaluate the street network. Compared to males, a high proportion of women expressed negative views regarding safety, according to the findings. Negative perceptions of safety were associated with aversion to motorcyclists in Jakarta, the absence of other pedestrians in Kuala Lumpur, and the image of the location.

Walkability may be described as "the degree to which a location encourages walking." In their research, Wang and Yang (2019) define walkability as "the degree to which the built environment is conducive to walking, which improves the health of citizens and the livability of cities."

Arellana et al. (2020) evaluated the Walkability Index (WI) literature over the last decade (2009-2018), and their findings indicate that traffic safety and subjective security are the most influential elements of walkability. Instead of the actual occurrence of crimes, security appeared to be highly connected with a subjective component, indicated by the fear or perceived danger of crime. This study demonstrates the significance of the physical features of the actual environment and how pedestrians capture, evaluate, and process them. In addition, the results indicate that the condition of the pavement and the presence of obstructions on the sidewalks are important factors for enhancing walkability.

Lighting, the frequency of crimes on roadways, the presence of security cameras, and efficient pedestrian traffic flow can be used to gauge security (Talavera-Garcia & Soria-Lara, 2015). As there is not much data on crime safety, it is difficult to determine the correlation between illumination and crime rate. Gaviria and Velez (2001) devised measures of security on sidewalks, like surveillance cameras and the number of police officers.

Leukfeldt and Roks (2020) investigated the linkages between street and cybercrimes. To get insight into the offline and local features of these operations, fourteen Dutch criminal investigations involving groups related to cybercrimes were investigated. Their research of both criminal behaviors and the genesis and growth of cybercriminal networks demonstrates the continued significance of the non-virtual world. There are instances in which recruiters and members are part of Dutch street culture and their efficiency is based on how they use language, why they do it, and how they attempt to conceal it. Consequently, their findings indicate that cybercrime instances may also be viewed as digital analogs of old street crimes and, by extension, as illustrations of how criminals have adapted technological skills.

Few studies have examined the transformation of street-oriented people' and gangs' social relationships (Lauger & Densley, 2018; Moule et al., 2014; Patton et al., 2019; Pyrooz et al., 2015; Roks, 2016; Storrod & Densley, 2017; Stuart, 2020; Urbanik & Haggerty, 2018; Van Hellefont, 2012). Pyrooz et al. (2015) believe that future studies may reveal more



sophisticated Internet use "after gangs have the technological expertise to leverage the instrumental opportunities accessible online."

Traditionally, economic-motivated street crimes reside on the streets of metropolitan areas. Scholars have discovered a variety of instrumental criminal acts within these contexts, ranging from amateur and fun to professional, and high-value illegal transactions (Ilan, 2017). In-depth studies of street and gang cultures in the United States (e.g., Anderson, 1999; Bourgois, 2003) and in Europe (e.g., de Jong, 2007; Densley, 2013; Ilan, 2017; Roks, 2016; Sandberg & Pedersen, 2011; Van Hellefont, 2015) demonstrate that the street economy offers a plethora of criminal opportunities for street-oriented individuals who are motivated. The majority of these studies examine the local narcotics business as a source of income. This is because drug dealing is one of the most prominent causes of problems for individuals.

Technology, according to Moule et al. (2014), "is a value-neutral medium that offers new and distinct options for risky, deviant, and criminal conduct, particularly for persons related to street crimes." The use of information technology to prevent street crimes is of great value. Jain et al. (2020) proposed a model based on the use of artificial intelligence and deep learning to automatically perform weapon detection and trigger the alarm. But keeping speed and accuracy is hard because a false alarm is always something to avoid.

Wikstrom (1995) looked at research and theories that could help us understand and stop disorder and crime in city centers and on the streets. City-center activities like entertainment and shopping attract both law-abiding citizens and criminals, but they also create temptations and interpersonal conflict. Influencing normal behaviors that produce temptations and friction, as well as implementing targeted enforcement and monitoring methods, are necessary to prevent crime in the urban core. Wikstrom (1995) argued that a greater understanding of how disputes in life lead to violence and other crimes is essential for the development of effective preventative strategies. With the changing function of the city center in the urban system in terms of mobility and the increasing number of suburban areas, more study is required into the effects of these changes on the urban crime pattern and their implications for crime prevention. He found that these changes had been more extensive in American cities than in European ones.

Kassem et al. (2019) analyzed the influence of unemployment, population density and remittances, and industrialization on the district-level crime rate in Punjab, Pakistan. In the districts of Punjab, Pakistan, population density and unemployment have a positive influence on the crime rate. The results indicate that the number of remittances, social infrastructure, and industrialization has a negative and substantial effect on the district-level crime rate in Punjab. This study says that if the government of Punjab wants to cut down on crime, it should control unemployment and population growth while also improving industrialization and social infrastructure with the money that people send home from abroad. The study concluded that unemployment is the root cause of crimes.



Allen (2005) investigated the connections between cocaine and heroin and street crimes. Examining the nature of these connections, he determined that cocaine and heroin usage were not direct causes of "minor offenses" such as stealing. This is because participation in minor crimes, such as stealing, typically precedes drug usage. In addition, he discovered that consistent use of cocaine and heroin led to and was associated with street robbery and snatch stealing. In addition, he stated these crimes as "acts of desperation."

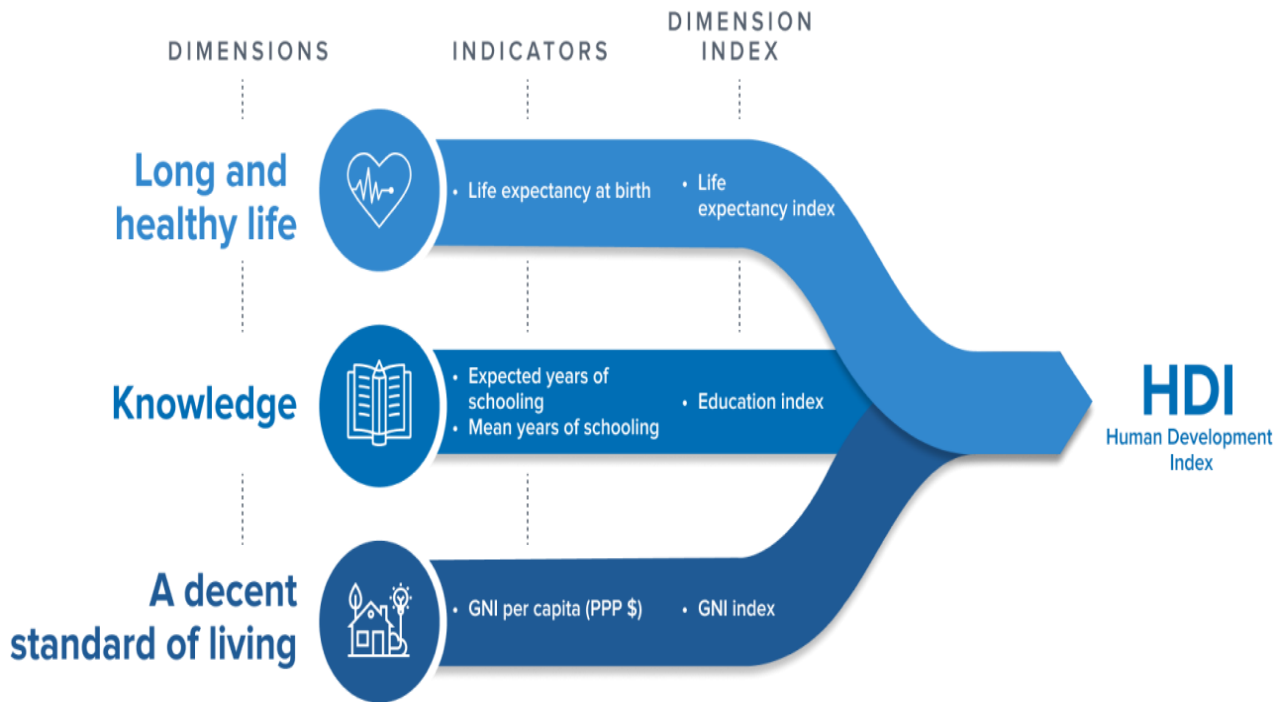
In Lahore, Pakistan, Bint-e-Waheed and Nadeem (2020) examine the perception of security risks and reasons for crime in gated and non-gated neighborhoods. The tendency and desire for gated communities are expanding as a result of the city's rising prevalence of street crime. To avoid crime, residents of non-gated neighborhoods have placed barriers and gates in the streets. The research found that inhabitants with high earnings encounter fewer crimes than those with low or intermediate incomes, who are more susceptible to being victims of crime. The crimes in a neighborhood are directly related to the citizens' sense of insecurity. Additionally, residents in gated communities are happy due to the community's safety and security. Multiple roadways on each block in non-gated neighborhoods facilitate criminal activity. This demonstrates that the layout of a residential area has a significant influence on promoting or preventing crime. The number of recorded crimes in the neighborhood without gates is 25 times greater than the reported crimes in the community with gates. In these neighborhoods, unregistered renters have also been discovered to be involved in criminal activity.

Developed and Developing Countries

A developed nation is a sovereign state with a long-standing economy and infrastructure that is more technologically sophisticated than that of other nations. Several elements, including a country's GDP, political stability, levels of industry, social welfare programs, infrastructure, and individuals' freedoms, decide whether a nation is developed or not. Nations that are not yet fully developed are known as developing nations. The HDI was created by the United Nations to assess a country's human development.

HDI is calculated by analyzing a nation's human development indicators, such as life expectancy, health, and education. On a scale from 0 to 1, the HDI is computed, with the majority of wealthy nations scoring above 0.80. The HDI may be used to assess the socioeconomic conditions of a specific nation, as more developed nations often offer a greater quality of life to their citizens.

HDI Dimensions and Indicators



Top 10 Countries with the Highest HDI – 2019

Country	HDI
Norway	.957
Ireland	.955
Switzerland	.955
Hong Kong	.949
Iceland	.949
Germany	.947
Sweden	.945
Australia	.944
Netherlands	.944
Denmark	.940

(Source: World Population Review, 2022)



Top 10 Countries with the Lowest HDI 2019

Country	HDI
Eritrea	.459
Mozambique	.456
Sierra Leone	.452
Burkina Faso	.452
Mali	.434
South Sudan	.433
Burundi	.433
Chad	.398
Central African Republic	.397
Niger	.394

(Source: World Population Review, 2022)

Countries with the Highest and Lowest Crime Rates

10 Countries With The Highest Crime Rates
1. Venezuela
2. Papua New Guinea
3. South Africa
4. Honduras
5. Afghanistan
6. Brazil
7. Guyana
8. Trinidad and Tobago
9. Syria
10. El Salvador

10 Countries With The Lowest Crime Rates
1. Iceland
2. New Zealand
3. Portugal
4. Austria
5. Denmark
6. Canada
7. Singapore
8. Czech Republic
9. Japan
10. Switzerland



Street Crimes in Developed and Developing Countries

The research examines the street crime patterns in nine nations. Australia, Canada, the United States, Russia, and Malaysia were selected as the five countries with the highest HDIs. Two nations with a medium HDI, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, as well as two countries with a low HDI, Mauritania, and Nigeria, were selected.

Countries with a very high HDI

1. **Australia:** International students primarily reside in Melbourne's socially chaotic districts with the cheapest homes in Australia. The local environments in which foreign students resided made them susceptible to opportunistic street crimes and racially motivated crimes perpetrated by delinquent young men of various ethnicities (Forbes-Mewett & Wickes, 2018; Steinmetz, 2020).
2. **Canada:** According to Onifade (2020), crime rates are often higher in metropolitan regions, where the size of the neighborhood may impact crime rates. From 2014 to 2018, the Crime Severity Index in Canada indicated an increase in the number of crimes recorded by the police. Urban regions have a greater rate of crime because they attract criminals (Statistics Canada, 2019). In Australia, England, Canada, and the Netherlands, a comparable urban-rural crime rate gap was identified (Shover, 2000). Charron (2009) investigated the geographical distribution of crime statistics from Toronto police databases. The research examined property crimes (such as burglary, shoplifting, and vehicle theft) as well as a violent crimes (physical and sexual assault, homicide). It was determined that Toronto's property crime rate was ordinary, but its violent crime rate was somewhat above the Canadian average.
3. **United States:** The rate of burglaries rises progressively from day to night. Detroit, Michigan, USA. The theft rate of stolen vehicles is highest during daytime hours, whereas the theft rate of firearms is highest during astronomical twilight. Weapon crimes are adversely correlated with the number of street lights. Compared to nighttime, daytime has a lower incidence of weapon-related crimes. Improved lighting on streets can be a feasible, inexpensive, and effective means of decreasing street crimes, particularly in high-crime areas where it is properly targeted (Xu et al., 2018).
4. **Russian Federation:** The influence of street crimes on the evolution of the criminal milieu in the Russian Federation is expanding. The rate of violent crime on city streets is around 61.4%, and the proportion of street crime to all crimes committed in public areas is 45.5%, with a rising trend of serious crime and latency. Typically, locations, where street violence takes occurring, are abandoned. There has been an alarming increase in the number of mobile phones stolen from pedestrians. The unpredictability and abruptness are fundamental characteristics of robbery and street stealing. In the street, around 12% of all recorded crimes occur. Every seventh infraction is a felony, every second is theft, and every third is an attack or hooliganism (Truntsevsky et al., 2018).
5. **Malaysia:** This country is not an exception with regards to attempts of curbing street crimes. The goals of the National Key Results Area were to find implementable solutions that will reduce street and index crime. The NKRA generated positive outcomes with a



39.7% drop in street crime and an 11.1% decline in the crime index. Safe City Programme permitted improving residential security systems, installing numerous CCTV, extending the GIS crime-mapping to the police stations, boosting the brightness of the street lights, and creating speed breakers (Ghani, 2017).

Countries with a medium HDI

1. **Bangladesh:** In underdeveloped nations such as Bangladesh, street crime is a frequent issue. Although this issue has been acknowledged for quite some time, there is no apparent solution to the problem of street crime in Dhaka (Parvez et al., 2016). The street children's population is particularly large in Bangladesh. According to the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, there are 1.5 million street children in the country, and their number is projected to increase dramatically (Atkinson-Sheppard, 2018). In Bangladesh, organized criminal gangs employ street youngsters to commit violent crimes. They carry firearms, sell illicit substances, extort money, and engage in political violence. Some adolescents participate in even contract killings and land grabbing. Children and adolescents in question should be deemed illegal child workers because they are neither completely innocent victims nor hardened offenders (Atkinson-Sheppard, 2019).

2. **Pakistan:** Khalid et al. (2015) investigated street crimes in Faisalabad, focusing on bicycle theft, vehicle theft, robbery, and snatching. They discovered a correlation between the unemployment rate and the pervasiveness of street crimes in the study area. The majority of robberies occur in the city's residential areas, while thefts of bicycles and automobiles are concentrated along the city's major roads. In Faisalabad, they observed that larceny occurs in commercial and residential areas. According to Talha Hashmi (2022), there were 56,500 incidents of street crime reported in Karachi between January 2022 and August 2022. (i.e. 8 months). More than 35,000 bikes were taken. There were 104 automobile thefts and 1 383 car thefts. Over 19,000 Karachi residents have reported cell phone thefts.

Countries with a low HDI

1. **Mauritania:** The rate of crime in Mauritania is low but on the rise. The majority of cases are crimes, like the theft of badly secured or visible goods left in vehicles and pickpocketing, and they occur in cities and bigger towns. The majority of criminal acts occur at night. Residential robberies are widespread in Nouakchott, particularly on the beaches. However, violent crimes involving the use of firearms are on the rise. In recent years, Mauritania, along with much of West Africa, has transformed into a distribution hub for Colombia to Europe cocaine trafficking (Global Organized Crime Index, 2021).

2. **Nigeria:** The situation in Nigeria is much different, with insufficient police manpower and overworked officers who lack contemporary, sophisticated equipment. With impunity, criminals commit crimes such as abduction for ransom, gang robbery, terrorist attacks, and human trafficking. Few areas, such as Abuja and Lagos, have recently adopted the use of



sophisticated scientific and technological approaches for crime control and prevention, like the installation of CCTV cameras, crime-mapping, and GIS (Ghani, 2017).

Causes of Street Crimes

1. Lack of religious education.
2. Lack of conventional education.
3. Leading immoral life.
4. Maternal and paternal deprivation.
5. Unemployment.
6. Lack of deterrent sentences.
7. Sense of impunity.
8. Lack of a simple lifestyle.
9. Materialism.
10. Prison's atmosphere.
11. Corruption and inefficiency of police.
12. Corruption and inefficiency of prosecution.
13. Lacunae in the Judicial system and lack of speedy trials.
14. Non-cooperation from witnesses.
15. Lack of interest of the general public.

Conclusion

The peace of citizens globally has been eroded on a large scale owing to street crimes. as street criminals are not discouraged due to low conviction rates. The enforcement agencies are responsible for curbing street crimes. But the primary reason for low convictions is the weakness of existing laws and the role of investigating officers in the respective process.

The conviction rate of street criminals is low because these criminals are largely not identified and walk freely. In addition, the lack of accountability and the law have been the main reasons behind the low conviction rate of street criminals and the increase in street crimes. The lack of modern techniques of investigation, low salaries, and other facilities, the slow process of promotion, and the weak and ineffective role of prosecutors are snags to eliminating street crimes. The trials in criminal courts remain pending for a considerable length of time, i.e., for years, and most accused are either acquitted for one reason or another. The ratio of convictions for the accused is not decreasing, which encourages street criminals to commission street crimes.

The witnesses play a huge role in the conviction of these criminals, but because of the lack of evidence and witnesses, there is not enough material to present in the courts, which results in the immediate acquittal of street criminals. The public's role is important not only as a complainant and witness to help the prosecution reduce street crimes but also as a deterrent to criminals who are afraid of getting caught.



The research looked at all of the important factors that led up to the rise in street crimes in both developed and developing countries, such as money, convenience, and willingness. Unfortunately, street criminals are not being prosecuted on a large scale. If they go to court and are found guilty and given a good punishment, the citizens will eventually be able to live their lives in peace.

Solutions and Recommendations

1. Religious education up to the university level is to be ensured.
2. Conventional education should be compulsory up to the college level.
3. Measures of removal of unemployment.
4. Strong family values and bonding can reduce street crimes.
5. Poverty elimination.
6. Non-political intervention regarding the appointment of police personnel.
7. Strong investigation system.
8. Use of science and technology in the field of investigation.
9. Exemplary and deterrent sentences.
10. Prison reforms.
11. Protection of witnesses.
12. Speedy trials.
13. Trial of street criminals in anti-terrorism courts.

Future Research Directions

To address the problem of street crimes, it is necessary to continue evaluating the relevance of psychological and sociological theories about the reduction of street crimes. To properly address policy and practice differences among developing and industrialized nations, larger and more varied study samples should be generated. A more empirical study should be conducted using official crime statistics. The availability of real-time data such as Internet monitoring, mobile phone data, and GPS tracking will aid in the forecast of future street crime to a certain extent.



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