

The Relationship of CPTED and Fear of Crime in Gated and Non-Gated Residential

Siti Rasidah Md Sakip¹, Noraini Johari¹, Mohd Najib Mohd Salleh²

¹ Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Surveying, University Technology Mara Perak, 32610 Bandar Seri Iskandar Perak, Malaysia
² School of Housing Building and Planning, University Science of Malaysia, 11800 USM Penang, Malaysia

sitir704@perak.uitm.edu.my

Abstract

The built environment especially in terms of the residential design is believed to be one of the factors influencing crime and the level of fear of crime (FOC). People's perception of FOC varies considerably depending on their attitude and practices towards environmental conditions. CPTED is one of the most effective mechanisms to reduce FOC. Therefore, this paper investigates the relationship between practices and attitudes of CPTED and FOC in gated and non-gated residential areas. This study found that CPTED perception has a positive relationship with FOC (r=0.36, p<0.01) while CPTED practices has a negative relationship with FOC (r=0.40, p<0.01).

Keywords: Crime; CPTED; fear of crime; built environment

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1.0 Introduction

The escalating rate of crime has become a serious concern in most countries. This is because it has led to rising fear of crime amongst residents who feel that they are constantly at risk (Nasar & Jones, 1997). These acts of crime believed to be related to the physical environment (Cozens et al., 2005). Liebermann & Kruger (2004) postulated that if an opportunity exists in a conducive environment, it will encourage a criminal to act on a targeted victim besides influenced by the criminal's willingness and ability to act as well as the targeted victim's vulnerability that attracted and induced the act of crime. Apparently, the environmental element is one of the factors considered by criminals in deciding whether or not to commit an act of crime (Anastasia & John, 2007).

Various studies have found that the built environment do influence criminal behaviour (Cozens, David, & Gwyn, 2001;Merry, 1981) where housing areas that not guarded or patrolled are more prone to become targets for acts of crime. In forming such control, interaction among factors including physical, social, environmental, individual, and community form the basis for environmental design and management as one of strategies to prevent crime. This may be related to the place-based method of crime prevention which refers to the steps taken to prevent or mitigate crime before it happens. This form of crime prevention focuses on all efforts aiming at reducing crime rates and fear of crime. Various crime prevention efforts such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) focus on criminal spatial dimension and combine various strategies with the objective of changing criminal behavior. This study aims to investigate the relationship between CPTED's practices and attitudes of CPTED and fear of crime (FOC) in gated and non-gated residential area.

2.0 Literature Review

There are four approaches to crime prevention, namely: (a) the legal system or the enforcement of policed control systems (Dantzker & Robinson, 2002); (b) social approaches (Bennet, Holloway, & Farrington, 2006; Simons, 2002; Syarmila Hany, 2008; Welsh & Hoshi, 2002); (c) approaches relating to the crime perpetrators (Paul Michael Cozens, Saville, & Hillier, 2005); and, (d) approaches through environmental design (Brantingham & Brantingham, 2005; Blakely & Synder, 1997; Jacobs, 1961; Newman 1972). Each one of these approaches has their technique and different measurement methods in changing the behavioural patterns of an individual in committing crime.

Among the four methods of crime prevention as listed above, the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) approach is perceived to have a stronger effect in influencing fear towards crime (Nasar & Fisher, 1993). This is due to the fact that the CPTED approach involves constant elements that may be modified through planning and design. This has been proven through several research that discovered that the physical environment can open up opportunities for crimes to be committed (Anastasia & John, 2007; Taylor & Harrel, 1996). According to Lamya Rostami Tabrizi and Ali Madanipour (2006), physical layout, housing typologies as well as neighbourhood outlook and appearance are the main criteria that become the focus for the occurrence of crime. This aspect is believed to have a correlation with certain physical configurations which may generate more comfortable surroundings in which people can communicate and act in a better and easier way (Bynum & Purri, 1984).

The concept of CPTED focuses on areas that often become the targets of acts of crime. It is emphasizing on techniques that can reduce acts of crime in the affected areas (Taylor & Harrel, 1996). CPTED is a different approach in crime prevention. It may be expressed as physical environmental designs that may reduce the opportunity for criminal acts and thus reduce fear of crime through natural, mechanical and procedural means. This based on physical environmental characteristics that influence opportunities for crime to happen and affecting the criminal's perception on their targets for criminal acts (Taylor, 1996). Various studies have found that CPTED involves four main elements namely territoriality, surveillance, maintenance and access control.

Previous research demonstrates the relationships between elements of CPTED with fear of crime and crime itself such as Blobaum & Hunecke (2005), and Schneider & Kitchen (2007) on the relationships between surveillance and fear of crime, territoriality and fear of crime and crime itself (Aldrin, 1999; Newman, 1972) and maintenance with fear of crime (Cozens, Hillier, & Prescott, 2001). However, research relating all the CPTED elements with fear of crime is limited. Recently, several studies have linked the relationship between CPTED elements with fear of crime (Clontz, 1995; Hedayati, 2009; Minnery & Lim, 2005; Mohammad Abdul Mohit & Elsawahli, 2010). Fear of crime defined as a perception that fear of crime related to emotional reactions, feeling of fear and distrust towards anything that may cause injury brought about by assault (Pain, 2000).

Studies relation on CPTED (Aldrin, 1999; Blobaum & Hunecke, 2005; Chang, 2011; Cozens, Hillier et al., 2001; Hedayati, 2009; Minnery & Lim, 2005; Newman, 1972; Perkins et al., 1992; Schneider & Kitchen, 2007) focuses on CPTED practices rather than taking into consideration the respondents' perceptions on CPTED. Moreover, studies that examine the perception of CPTED and its relationship with CPTED practices and fear of crime are still rare. This assumption is in line with The Theory of Planned Behavior as proposed by Fishbein and Ajzen (1975). In the Theory of Planned Behavior proposed that a person's perception of a subject may motivate that person to act on the subject. For instance, a person who believes that the element of territoriality is able to reduce acts of crime will apply elements of territoriality at his residence to prevent acts of crime. Based on the theory behavior is an important to be considered in studying relationships between CPTED and fear of crime.

There is a large body of literature that supports the effectiveness of CPTED elements on fear of crime (Blobaum & Hunecke, 2005; Pain, 2000; Schneider &

Kitchen, 2007) A study conducted by Schneider and Kitchen (2007). Most studies show the relationship between CPTED elements with fear of crime and indicated that some elements of CPTED can reduce fear of crime. More specifically, Schneider and Kitchen (2007) found that good surveillance using lighting at night is able to improve visibility of the surrounding area especially at the pedestrian área thus reducing fear of crime. Clear nocturnal visibility at a certain distance enables a person to act quickly against any action perceived to be a bodily threat to him (Blobaum & Hunecke, 2005).

Elements of territoriality known as territorial functioning' are a social perspective which has significance in the advancement of the human lifestyle (Taylor, 1988). This related to the management of a space that requires the owner's actions and responsibility to ensure that space always cared for by displaying ownership characteristics; such as displaying signs of ownership, garden decorations, water features, landscaping and so on (Taylor, 1988). In addition, Brown and Altman (1981) found that a house that burglarised are most often houses that have weak territoriality space qualities such as signs of non-occupancy.

Natural surveillance believed to influence lack of criminal activities, which related with community relationship (Merry, 1981). Natural surveillance is a strategy that gives a perception to the potential criminal that there exists a risk that he will face in an area, making him feel that he watched; thus discouraging criminal intentions (Cozens et al., 2005). Surveillance can be achieved through natural and mechanical means. Natural surveillance involves the local community actions, the buildings' physical openings, and police patrol (Cozens et al., 2005). Mechanical surveillance, on the other hand, involves the use of surveillance tools such as CCTV (Jensen & Anderson, 2004; Kajalo & Lindblom, 2010).

Maintenance at the dwelling area helps the owner to give out a signal to outsiders that his dwelling always maintained and under watch (Cozens et al., 2005). Attention to the cleanliness of the dwelling and its surrounding areas expresses stronger place attachment, which related to crime and incivilities (Brown et al., 2004). A good image in terms of maintenance in the neighbourhood will create a perception that there are low social problems in the area (Crowe & Zahm, 1994). Furthermore, poor maintenance believed to invite targeting of crime (Crowe & Zahm, 1994; Wilson & Kelling, 1982). Clontz (1995) found that a dwelling that poorly maintained has three times higher risk of being burglarised than a dwelling with a better image and which is better maintained.

Access control is a strategy aimed at reducing opportunities for commission of acts of crime by giving a perception to offenders of the risks they will face (Brantingham & Brantingham, 1993; Cozens et al., 2005). These obstructions to target areas are in the form of fencing, solid walls, automatic locks, padlocks and alarm systems that obstruct and hinder burglary (Hirschfield, 2004). Various studies

have proven that unsecured dwellings or properties have three times (Budd, 1999), and six times (Clontz, 1995) higher probabilities of burglarised than properties with basic security equipments.

Research has shown that some elements of CPTED were able to reduce or mitigate acts of crime (Brown et al., 2004; Crowe & Zahm, 1994; Kajalo & Lindblom, 2010; Perkins et al., 1993; Taylor, 1988; Wilson & Kelling, 1982) which also perceived to reduce fear of crime (Newman, 1972). Recent research discussing the relationship between CPTED and fear of crime are by Hedayati (2009), as well as Minnery and Lim (2005) which found that fear of crime do not have a significant relationship with CPTED in dwelling areas. According to Hedayati (2009), this finding could be related to other factors such as speculations on crime, and social and psychological factors that have higher influences on fear of crime. In this context, it can be seen that elements of the physical environment have the ability to mitigate and prevent the commission of acts of crime.

3.0 Methodology

The study conducted in Putrajaya and Bandar Baru Bangi, which located in the central part of Malaysia. The study area in Putrajaya is Precint 9 Road B, which was the first neighbourhood to be built in Putrajaya (Roslan Talib, 2009) with 275 dwelling units. The area consisting of purely landed properties is a typical medium-high income housing area with two-storey terrace houses. The other study area was Bandar Baru Bangi which located near Putrajaya at a distance of approximately 15 kilometres (Putrajaya, 2009). The study area in Bandar Baru Bangi is Section 4 Road 4/7, which purely landed properties in a typical medium-high income housing area with two-storey terrace houses; which is similar with the study area in Putrajaya and consists of 201 dwelling units.

The two selected study areas consist of a population of 476 residents. Therefore, population survey taken as survey approach in this study. 20 households excluded from the study as these are unoccupied residences, such as vacant residences, nurseries and etc. This study included a structured questionnaire, which administered in the context of face-to-face structured and formal interviews. The respondent in this study comprised of the main breadwinner in the household. Only 171 respondents participate in this study.

4.0 Findings and Analysis

The CPTED practices construct based on four dimensions, namely; (a) territoriality, (b) surveillance, (c) maintenance, and (d) access control. Meanwhile, CPTED perception construct based on three dimensions; (a) territoriality, (b) surveillance and, (c) maintenance. The perception of fear of crime (FOC) construct based on three dimensions; (a) physical environment, (b) social environment and, (c) indirect victimization. The validation and confirmation of all constructs done using Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA). CFA is a

measurement model which developed by the correlation between latent variables and several indicators (items) or known as variable and error manifests. The CFA method is able to ensure and validate the items used in measuring latent variables by taking into account the value of the variances, as opposed to the factor analysis (FA) which only explores an item and suggests a factor for each of the items (Joreskog & Sorbom, 1993). The result for the level of reliability found by calculating the Cronbach's Alpha. The dimensions of construct have a good reliability value as the Cronbach's Alpha value exceeds 0.60 (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). The results indicated that the Alpha values for CPTED practices dimensions were territoriality (0.32), surveillance (0.65), and maintenance (0.62) and access control (-). The access control dimension involves only one item that do not require any reliability test and measurement model analysis to be done, hence the Alpha value could not be developed. The territoriality dimension, meanwhile, has an Alpha value of less than 0.60 (α =0.32) which related to the total number of an item which was inadequate to measure the construct (Hair et al., 2006). This is because the Cronbach's Alpha value was sensitive towards the number of items used whereby if the number of items was small in the scale used, the Cronbach's Alpha value must therefore be small (Pallant, 2005). Based on this situation, the item to item correlation value from 0.2 to 0.4 are acceptable values to show the correlation between items (Pallant, 2005). The surveillance and maintenance dimensions meanwhile achieved good reliability levels (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994).

In terms of the CPTED perception construct, reliability results for every dimension indicated as follows: territoriality (0.75), surveillance (0.74) and maintenance (0.60). All these dimensions achieved good Alpha reliability levels (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). The fear of crime (FOC) construct meanwhile shows Alpha reliability levels on three dimensions namely physical environment (0.93), social environment (0.93) and indirect victimisation (0.94). All FOC dimensions achieved good Alpha levels (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994).

Based on a population study, from the data of 171 respondents of this study, there was a significant difference between CPTED practices and type of residence (t(169)= 4.11; p=0.00) whereby respondents living in individual gated residential areas (IGR) (M=7.76, SD=0.57) have higher CPTED practices as compared to respondents living in individual non-gated residential areas (INR) (M=7.41, SD=0.52). Additionally, the CPTED practices dimension mean score of surveillance (INGR: M=8.07, IGR: M=7.70), access control (INGR: M=3.79, IGR: M=3.16), and maintenance (IGNR: M=7.80, IGR: M=7.73) were higher at individual non gated residential areas (INR) compared to individual gated residential areas (INR). However, territoriality dimension's mean score found to be higher in individual gated residential areas (IGR: M=0.94, INGR: M=0.44). Figure 1show the result.

This study also found a significant difference between CPTED perception and type of residence (t(169)= -3.80; p=0.00). This finding shows that respondents living in IGR (M=6.44,) type of residence have a higher CPTED perception compared to the respondents living in INGR (M=5.98) type of residence. Furthermore, the CPTED practices dimension mean score of territoriality (IGR: M=6.68, INGR: M=6.16), surveillance (IGR: M=6.26, INGR: M=5.87), and maintenance (IGR: M=6.61, INGR: M=5.99) were higher in IGR compare to INGR. Figure 2 show the result.



Fig. 1. Differences between CPTED practices at individual gated residential areas and non-gated residential areas with their dimensions



Fig. 2. Differences between CPTED practices at individual gated residential areas and non-gated residential areas with their dimensions

The study found a significant difference between fear of crime (FOC) and the type of residence (t(146.17)= -8.59; p=0.00). Respondents living in IGR type of residence have higher FOC as compared to respondents living in INGR type of residence. This based on a FOC mean score of (M=5.92) on IGR type of residence which is higher than a FOC mean score of (M=3.92) on INGR type of residence. Besides that, the FOC dimensions of the physical environment (IGR: M=5.80, INGR: M=3.85), social environment (IGR: M=6.01, INGR: M=3.99), and indirect victimisation (IGR: M=5.74, INGR: M=3.73) were also higher for respondents living in IGR compare to INGR. Figure 3 show the result.

Pearson's correlation results on the correlation between the three constructs of CTED practices, CPTED perception and fear of crime (FOC), indicated that CPTED perception has a medium strong, significant and positive relationship with fear of crime (FOC) (r= 0.36, p<0.01). These findings show that if a respondent has a high perception that CPTED is able to prevent crime in neighbourhood areas, fear of crime will be an increase. Meanwhile, CPTED practices found to have a significant, but negative relationship (r=-0.40, p<0.01) with

fear of crime. This finding states that as CPTED practices increases, fear of crime will be reduced.



Fig. 3. Differences between Fear of Crime at individual gated residential areas and non-gated residential areas with their dimensions

6.0 Conclusion

The objective of this paper is to investigate the relationship between CPTED practices with CPTED perception and fear of crime at two types of residences namely individual gated residential areas (IGR) and individual non-gated residential areas (INGR). The findings of this study proved that there is a relationship between CPTED practices with CPTED perception and fear of crime. Simultaneously, this study also proved that high CPTED practices are able to reduce fear of crime. These findings support various previous studies that elements of CPTED are able to reduce fear of crime. In addition, this finding could also have implications for the parties that involved in the development as an architect, landscape architect, planner and developer to ensure the application of CPTED elements in residential areas to eliminate of crime. This paper also contributes to the body of knowledge which states that perceptions towards CPTED also have relationships with CPTED practices and fear of crime. It is recommended that in future studies, a detailed study on all three variables at different residential areas such as flats, semi-detached houses and terrace houses must be conducted to investigate the relationships between these variables.

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