

Geographical Analysis of Hotspots of the Drug-Related Crimes in the City of Kermanshah

Z. Pishgahifard. M. Kalantari. F. Parhiz. E. Haghpanah

Received: 15 September 2010 / Accepted: 14 May 2011, 19-22 P

Extended abstract

1-Introduction

Kermanshah is one of those cities which face many problems of urban development in the course of the past two decades. The spatial, anatomical, and social conditions of this city caused the statics of crimes to increase. In addition, the studies show that drug-related crimes are statistically more than other social abnormalities. Therefore, it is required that the local conditions of these crimes is identified in Kermanshah using modern technologies and based on scientific methods, in order to take practical and executive measures to remove such conditions or reduce the effects of such situations.

This research, thus, aims to identify and analyze the spatial organization of social abnormalities of drug-related crimes in the city of Kermanshah using statistical models and geographical data system.

2-Theoretical bases

Upon physical and social development of cities, and changing to socially and culturally inhomogeneous population, the rate of urban abnormalities, especially in central areas and fringes of cities, has increased accordingly. Urban crimes cause many personal, social, and national damages. Therefore, different studies have been conducted based on theoretical systems to research the social, economic, geographical and even psychological cause of the emergence and increase of such social abnormalities in big cities. For this purpose, hypotheses and practical models have been provided to study the different aspects of such abnormalities. The interface of these theories is the importance given to the role of environment in delinquency and also its impacts on prevention of crimes. One of

Authors

Z. Pishgahifard

Associate Professor of Political Geography, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

M. Kalantari

Associate Professor of Geography and Urban Planning, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran

F. Parhiz (✉)

M.A. of Geography and Urban Planning, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran
e-mail: Faryad.Parhiz@yahoo.com

E. Haghpanah

M.A. of Geography and Urban Planning, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran

the prominent theories in this field is the notion of "Hotspots of Crime ", defined as follows: a geographical location in which the occurrence of crime is more than average rate, or a region in which crime is more concentrated in comparison to the distribution of crime in the whole area.

3-Discussion

According to the findings of the research, the most important hotspot of drug-related crimes is the unofficially settled neighborhood of Jafarabad and Rashidi region in the southeast of Kermanshah. The spatial distribution of the studied crimes in the city of Kermanshah has a concentrated and cluster model; this means that in certain regions of this city, crime has been concentrated, and many areas are clean in terms of delinquency and commitment of crimes. The higher share of residential and commercial users existing in the said neighborhoods has significant impacts on the increase of crime in these regions of the city of Kermanshah. On the other hand, no occupation or profession is practiced in relation to the needs of the citizens of these regions or for giving services regarding the residential and commercial use of these two neighborhoods. There is also a great need to some services in these regions, including health services, public utilities, cultural services, and police services. Therefore, the uses of the urban lands may be effective in and pave the way for the commitment of crimes. On the other hand, there are some local characteristics, which may be criminally deterrent.

Moreover, there is a direct relation between population density in these areas, and the rate of crimes, in such a way that the relative density of population in these areas is highly more than that of other

regions of Kermanshah. As a result, the rate of crime is more than that of other areas.

4-Conclusion

The most important hotspot of drug-related crimes is the unofficially settled regions of Jafarabad and Rashidi (southeast of the city) in the city of Kermanshah. The spatial distribution of crimes in the city of Kermanshah has a concentrated and cluster model. Among drug-related crimes, the crime of drug abuse, with 404 cases equal to 47.15 percent of the total drug-related crimes, is the most frequent crime; and drug trafficking, with 52 cases equal to 6.06 percent of the total crimes, is the least frequent crime. The high density of residential and commercial use of these two neighborhoods and lack of those land-uses to meet the needs of the citizens of these regions have great impacts on the geographical distribution of the type and rate of crimes and formation of spatial models of crimes in the said regions. Moreover, there is a direct relation between the population density of these regions and the rate of crime commitment.

5-Suggestions

5-1- Preventing the uncontrolled vertical and horizontal urban development.

5-2- Construction of towns and small estates to prevent the unreasonable expansion of big cities.

5-3- Preventing marginalization.

5-4- Locating and establishment of police stations in the regions with higher concentration of crimes in cities.

5-5- Inviting people to participate in the prevention of crimes and ensuring social security.

5-6- Controlling some special regions with closed-circuit cameras.

Key words: spatial-local patterns, Hotspot, drug-related crimes, Kermanshah.

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