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INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF MUNICIPALITY IN SITUATIONAL CRIME DETERRENCE (CASE STUDY: KERMANSHAH COUNTY, 2015)

Samira KARIMI GHOBADI, Akbar VARVAEI*

Department of Criminal Law and Criminology, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch, Kermanshah, Iran.

* Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

Situational deterrence as a preventive measure refers to the collection of strategies aiming at the reduction and elimination of the crime perpetration opportunities and situations. One reason why such a prevention method has been welcomed is the ineffectiveness of social prevention. Although this type of prevention bars the process of transition from thought to practice, it is per se faced with barriers and limitations rendering its efficiency less accentuated. Besides the human right considerations, these limitations are incurrence of costs and creation of responsibilities for victims of crimes, creation of fear of crime as well as creation of anxiety and fear in weak and disabled individuals all of which are amongst the problems hindering the implementation of situational deterrence solutions. The present study makes use of a survey method based on questionnaire. The study is an applied research. The study sample volume includes 100 managers and experts from Kermanshah's municipality. The study sample volume has been selected based on a convenience method. The questionnaire reliability was found equal to 0.74 based on Cronbach's alpha method. The study findings indicated that strategies, increase in crime perpetration risk, reduction in crime perpetration stimulants, omission of excuses, decrease in crime interests and increase in the amount of efforts needed for crime perpetration are correspondingly effective on the situational crime deterrence by Kermanshah's municipality and that the municipality's performance has not been as optimal in line with the implementation of situational crime prevention strategies.

Keywords: *Situational Prevention Strategies, Municipality, Kermanshah.*

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem:

Security is defined as feeling safe and being sure of the lack of abuse to one's life, properties and other rights. Such an exclusive value is one of the individual and social life necessities. In the past, the fences surrounding the cities and the trenches dug around the cities created a safe privacy for the city and the residents living therein, but, nowadays, the insecurity is more rooted inside the cities than being imposed by a foreign foe. Unfortunately, violence has increased considerably and the old individuals, children and young women are exposed to criminal behaviors more than the others.

Urban crimes are delinquencies taking place inside the environment of cities. By urban environment, the same geographical and social concept is intended and it incorporates the slum areas and the individuals who unofficially reside the suburbs in this regard. The structure of the urban society leads to the perpetration of crimes the examples of which cannot be found in other spots. Furthermore, the cities have a lot of blind zones that are prone to more crimes in contrast

to other localities inside the cities. From criminological perspectives, urbanization has resulted in the creation of more opportunities for crime perpetration and the absence and weakness of informal controls have paved the way for criminal activities.

Non-punitive prevention as a branch of applied criminology can per se be divided to various types the effectiveness of each of which differs from another. For example, social prevention thwarts the grounds and factors giving rise to crime occurrence and situational deterrence reduces the crime occurrence possibilities or makes crime perpetration difficult. Therefore, considering the non-uniform and different effects of prevention measures, planning, strategies, interventions and activities of this science are vast and expensive in their spectra so it cannot be expected that only the judicature has to shoulder the crime prevention within the societies. Thus, the idea is formed parallel to crime prevention that there is a need for a full-scale interaction between all the institutions extant in a country.

One institution that can play an important role in crime prevention is municipality. Municipality that is formed as a nongovernmental and independent institution within the cities by law and is assigned with local affairs and offering services to the citizens and residents of a city can play an important and pivotal role in reducing the crime rates inside the cities through recognizing the features and spatial facilities of the crime inside the cities as well as via making appropriate programs parallel to the elimination of environmental facilities of crime and an array of other measures.

The primary question of the present study is that what roles does municipality play in situational crime prevention?

Study Objectives:

Main Study Objective:

- Determination of the effects of situational prevention strategies by municipality in deterring crime in Kermanshah
- Determination of municipality's performance in the area of situational prevention of crime in Kermanshah

Secondary Study Objectives:

- Determination of the effect of the municipality's strategy of "increasing the crime perpetration effort" on crime prevention in Kermanshah
- Determination of the effect of municipality's strategy of "increasing the crime risk" on crime prevention in Kermanshah
- Determination of the effect of municipality's strategy of "reducing the crime interest" on crime prevention in Kermanshah
- Determination of the effect of municipality's strategy of "reducing crime perpetration stimulants" on crime prevention in Kermanshah
- Determination of the effect of the municipality's strategy of "elimination of excuses" on crime prevention in Kermanshah

STUDY THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

Situational prevention is a sort of non-punitive or interactive deterrence that emphasizes on the situation and position, time and place of the crime occurrence in such a manner that the crime



perpetration by the criminals becomes more difficult or they are deprived of their crime perpetration opportunities and/or feel an increased risk of being identified and apprehended. These actions precede crime occurrence so they are also called preemptive actions. These interventions might also incorporate the duties and responsibilities of the police institutions. Such a type of prevention is also called disciplinary or police deterrence (like the police's presence within the society through its patrols, stations, sentry posts and others of the like, the use of technical equipment like CCTVs in public places, obligatory fingerprinting in airports and passenger terminals and creation of stop-and-search posts and mobile inspections on the gorges). Another type of prevention encompasses the government and municipalities' interventions in urban design and architecture, the street alignments, lighting systems, residential and nonresidential buildings' architecture and so forth all of which can be effective on the crime's rise and falls.

Crimes occur in spatial spaces like residential houses, streets, buses, shopping centers, parks, cinemas, hotels, factories and, generally, a part of city or in temporal spaces like day or night. In defining crime deterrence, Akelbum writes: "it embraces the endeavors in line with reducing the risk of the criminal incidents and misbehaviors related thereto through performing interventions regarding the reasons contributing to their occurrence with the objective being the creation of considerable changes in the crime occurrence or fear of crime". Having cited the abovementioned definition, Sneider and Kitchen underline the role of place in crime occurrence inside the urban environments and confirm the environmental criminologists' viewpoints in saying that "no crime can occur without a temporal and spatial space ..." (cited in Sneider and Kitchen, 2008, p.18).

The reasons giving rise to crime perpetration (psychological, biological and social) have been sufficiently studied in the past. Moreover, the correction and treatment of the criminals have been sufficiently considered but the crime statistics are still going up. Thus, an important change was to be made in the policies of fighting crime one of which is paying a greater deal of attention to the situational crime deterrence.

Urban Architecture and Prevention:

Some criminologists have taken a method into account wherein the designing of the buildings and the urban architecture can influence the felony rates. They reason that the absence of defensible space or supervision in buildings' architecture can provide for the promotion of deviations and delinquencies. Such an idea about the buildings and their methods of designing was first proposed as a theory by Newman, an architectural engineer. He criticized the designing of the buildings made in blocks for various reasons and claimed that such building blocks are more susceptible to crime than the other types of buildings due to having numerous entries and exits and public uncontrolled precincts.

The things attended to and considered more important in urban design are first of all the appropriate and controllable and visible designing of the spaces and secondly the home-making policy as well as the way these residential buildings and commercial spots are designed subject to a logical and well-investigated policy.

- ***Creation of Controllable and Visible Spaces:***

Some regions naturally possess more visibility while some other regions, like the zones with less-lighted streets or passenger tunnels and blind alleys might not feature such capabilities. The crime likelihoods are decreased if the potential criminals find themselves



exposed to sight. The possibility for a higher rate of supervision can be provided through versatile change of life environment as well as via design and placement order of the buildings and their peripheral spaces based on various methods. Newman knows change of the designs as being directly associated with crime reduction. He developed the defensible space concept in such a manner that he considered places and spaces inside the cities that are exposed to view and can be locally controlled by way of which opportunistic crime occurrence could be prevented. The perspective even claims that the environmental design has the competency of fostering a latent local dependency sense amongst the residents as a result of which they might be encouraged to take measures against the criminals and the criminal acts within their local community (Burrows, 1980, p.134). The followings are some examples and strategies considered by the situational crime prevention researchers in controlling or visualizing the spaces and reduction of delinquency likelihoods:

- 1) Privatization and individualization of public and semi-public spaces and the precinct areas at the side of the residential blocks;
- 2) Shortening or even destroying the internal corridors and accessible balconies and access routes and roofs;
- 3) Increasing inspection over the entrances and roofed passageways, parking lots, underground garages, playgrounds, public facilities and roads, including the increase in the lighting in both internal and external parts and use of closed-circuit TVs, if necessary;
- 4) Designing the buildings and the peripheral grounds in such a manner that the inside and outside of the region can be easily seen through the windows and other spots providing an overview;
- 5) Encouraging activity in less frequently used regions like equipping the playgrounds with benches and facilities to be used by the youths (like exhibitions, sport facilities and gyms and so forth);
- 6) Building the streets and pavements at the side of one another in lieu of complete separation of them;
- 7) Generally, the buildings and their peripheral environments should be easily visible from the street and the adjacent buildings and the chances of hiding in the vicinity and inside the residential places should be decreased to minimum;

The cul de sacs and fences, carefully installed, as well as the other barriers should be utilized to the extent that it is made sure that they frustrate the unknown individuals in gaining access and escaping through a spot. The use of the playgrounds should be increased so that the number of the eyes on the streets hence supervision could be increased (Behnet, 1984, p.97).

Clarke believes in regard of situational crime prevention through environmental design that crime and apartment buildings' destruction can be intensively reduced through taking advantage of video-door phones or installing watchmen in the large building's entrance. Some conditions and characteristics that are the origins of crime from his perspective are large height and vastness of the residential spots providing for immethodical crowding of the population, easy access of the dangerous individuals to inside the buildings, easy traffic regulations



that connect the interior parts of the buildings to one another and high concentration of crowded families in a building (Clarke, 1984, p.10).

Observation of the security and safety points in the construction of the urban media is of a great importance. Barring the construction of commercial compounds in one spot and hiring patrols and guards can preserve the protective coefficient of these places. Many of the robberies and crimes will not occur if the houses in the cities are built in such a manner the entry to the building would entail the pass from in front of the gatekeeper. Urging the construction of parking lots in the newly-built buildings, especially in residential compounds and apartment blocks, are amongst the measures that, besides preventing the vehicles from being robbed, provide for a smooth traffic flow in the streets (Hatefi Ardakani, 2002, p.131).

- ***Prevention Via Housing Policies:***

Some architecture specialists are of the belief that besides the favorability and aesthetical considerations, a building should appropriately respond to the creation of feeling secure. Adopting a subtle perspective towards large cities, the city-building experts assert that lack of identity and uniformity can be witnessed in such cities and this has provided for dull environments and various sorts of bioenvironmental pollutions that have rendered the general urban space blurry and intolerable. Some architecture and city-building experts conclude that the architecture of the large cities has currently led to the diminishment of security sense.

It is assumed despite the criticisms imposed on Newman's approach that such a mindset has preserved itself its attractiveness because the recommendations it offers for the crime prevention can be rendered practical and they have been operationalized in some of the cases (Hope, 1986, p.18). It is necessary to point here to the discussions regarding the relationship between housing and criminality.

- 1) **Designing Buildings and Immunizing them against Crime:**

There are rules and regulations enacted in some countries expressing the detailed conditions of creating various levels of security in the different types of properties and positing guidelines at length for the building engineers and constructors in relation to the buildings' security. Some researches offer information regarding the method of creating various security levels in the buildings through utilizing different kinds of masonries and doors and windows as well as arranging standards to be followed by the building engineers and constructors and others of the like regarding the buildings' security; additionally, they also emphasize that such standards should not be contradictory to fire prevention and observation of other security points. The study of security progresses in 750 houses has shown that they exert direct effects on the robbery rates. Technological progresses have increasingly resulted in the complication of entering the houses (Poyner, 1987, p.67).

Crime prevention through environmental designing that is usually abbreviated as "CPTEP" has recently drawn a large deal of attentions. The approach has led to the creation of special posts in British police force for officers who give advises



regarding public buildings and places in line with the reduction of crimes and disorders, particularly robberies.

2) Apartment Life and Delinquency:

One of the delinquency factors in the urban life is the high density of the population in neighborhoods with little areas. Various field studies have demonstrated that the youths living in building blocks are more prone to the juvenile delinquency than the youths residing personal homes. The various studies in different countries indicate that the juvenile delinquents have been relatively more from residential compounds and houses featuring smaller areas (Boer and Rufer, 2003, p.29).

2.1. Environmental Prevention:

One type of situational deterrence incorporates the investigation of the life environment and urban architecture's effect on the criminality rates. The observation of certain scales in the city-building principles, observation of security principles in buildings, installation of necessary security equipment and so forth can be effective on the crime prevention to a large extent. These discussions have gradually resulted in the emergence of a series of independent research that became known as environmental prevention, prevention through city-building and architecture, crime prevention via environmental design and architectural design.

Modification of crime prevention by the venue of environmental design was first utilized by Professor Lee Ray Ja'afary, an American criminologist, in 1971, in his book bearing the same title. Environmental prevention is laid upon the foundation of this simple concept that the crime is the outcome stemming from the environment to some extent. "Now that the case is as such, transformation of the physical environment should be made feasible in line with reducing crime perpetration" (Klocohen, 2008, p.109).

1) Residential Homes:

House robberies are serious threats for the citizens. A person may lose all s/he has in a robbery and/or be psychologically inflicted with a fear and insecurity.

Cash sums and jewelry, carpet, precious objects, visual and auditory tools and souvenirs with spiritual value are always at risk of being robbed.

Having places for guards and gatekeepers, parking lots for automobile, specifying a place for facilities and electronic equipment like CCTVs, fencing and making surrounding walls and properly guarded security doors and video-door phones are amongst the most important cases required in the residential houses.

2) Streets:

Citizens, especially in large cities, spend much of their time in street. The security of the streets plays a significant role in increasing the security of the citizens.

The designing of the alleys, streets and highways is not important only in regard of fast and easy coming and going, traffic control and air pollution



rather they are important in that they are appropriate places for committing crime. From appropriate lighting of them at night that was pointed out by Bekaria (Bekaria, 2008, 112) to ease of access, pass-ability, surveillance and control are issues that have been taken into account regarding crime. Creation of public parking lots in proportion to the population of every region, separation of streets from the pavements using fences or concrete walls, sufficient lighting at night, tree-planting alongside the streets, installation of CCTVs, installation of traffic signs, installation of speed bumps in necessary spots and creation of routes specific to emergency vehicles, fire-engines and police are amongst the important cases that have to be taken into consideration when performing environmental designing.

3) **Public Places:**

Public places are the localities to which all the citizens have access and can come and go like streets, parks, cinemas, mosques, sport clubs, art academies, recreational and resort areas outside the cities, along the sea, forests and stores. These places are auspicious places for crime perpetration. Robbery, troublemaking, bioenvironmental pollution, uproar and commotion, loud noise and drug-dealing are amongst the crimes that happen in these places. These locations are prone to inadvertent accidents like car accidents, building falls, injuries resulting from congestion and others of the same kind. Offering proper healthcare services, suitable transportation, mechanized collection of garbage, bioenvironmental cares, public supervision and control and police and public institutions' cares have considerable effects on crime reduction in these places.



STUDY METHOD, STUDY POPULATION, STUDY SAMPLE VOLUME AND MEASUREMENT METHOD:

Due to trying to find answers and offering solutions to a social problem and issue, the current study is an applied research and it is enumerated amongst the survey research for its method of data collection. To codify the theoretical foundations of the study, there was made use of documentary and library methods and the field data were gathered through administering a researcher-constructed questionnaire. The instrument used in the present study was a researcher-made questionnaire. A reliability value equal to 0.75 was obtained for the questions pertinent to the number of crime perpetration and the reliability of the questions pertaining to recidivism was found equal to 0.73. The study population includes managers and experts from Kermanshah's municipality. The sampling method used was complete count and the study sample volume was comprised of 100 individuals.

Study Findings:

A) Descriptive Findings:

Table 1: frequency of the respondents based on gender

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	88	88
Female	12	12
Total	100	100

Table 2: frequency of the respondents based on education levels

	Frequency	Percentage
Diploma and below	3	3
Associate's degree	21	21
BA	60	60
MA and higher	16	16
Total	100	100

Table 3: frequency of the respondents based on position

	Frequency	Percentage
Manager	25	25
Expert	75	75
Total	100	100

Table 4: frequency of the respondents based on service years

	Frequency	Percentage
Below 10 years	21	21
10 to 20 years	43	43
Over 20 years	36	36
Total	50	100

Table 5: Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for investigating the variables' distribution normality

Variables	Significance level of Kolmogorov-Smirnov test
Increasing the effort required for crime perpetration	0.21
Increasing the risk of crime perpetration	0.33
Reducing the crime interests	0.25
Reducing the crime perpetration stimulants	0.41
Eliminating the excuses	0.30
Situational prevention	0.18

The test deals with comparison of the observed cumulative distribution function and the theoretical (expected) cumulative distribution function in terms of a rank variable. In other words, the test compares the distribution of an attribute in a sample with the presumed distribution of the same attribute. It can be inferred with the significance levels above 0.05 in this test that the distribution is normal and parametric tests can be used. According to the above test and significance level being found above 0.05 for the entire variables, it can be inferred that all the variables follow a normal distribution.



Table 6: one-sample t-test for the investigation of secondary hypothesis 1-1: how much is the municipality's use of the strategy of "increasing the efforts required for crime perpetration" effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah?

One-sample t-test:

Variable	Descriptive statistics table				
	Number	Mean	Standard deviation		Standard error
Increasing the efforts required for crime perpetration	100	3.51	0.70		0.02
	Inferential statistics table				
	t-test	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Means' difference	Upper/lower limits
	10.21	99	0.0001	0.51	0.20/0.41
Total test result	Hypothesis confirmed				

According to the above test, because the significance level in t-test table is equal to 0.0001 and it is smaller than 0.05 and, in other words, because t-statistic is equal to 10.21 and larger than 1.96, the above hypothesis is confirmed hence it can be concluded that the municipality's use of the strategy of "increasing the efforts required for crime perpetration" is effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah. The above descriptive statistics indicate that the mean value obtained for the whole sample is 3.51 which is larger than the population mean, 3, by 0.51. So, it can be concluded that the study sample volume is above average in regard of the foresaid strategy.

Table 7: one-sample t-test for the investigation of secondary hypothesis 1-2: how much is the municipality's use of the strategy of "increasing the risk of crime perpetration" effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah?

One-sample t-test

Variable	Descriptive statistics table				
	Number	Mean	Standard deviation		Standard error
Increasing the risk of crime perpetration	100	3.95	0.41		0.03
	Inferential statistics table				
	t-test	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Means' difference	Upper/lower limits
	12.36	99	0.0001	0.95	0.33/0.59
Total test result	Hypothesis confirmed				

According to the above test, because the significance level in t-test table is equal to 0.0001 and it is smaller than 0.05 and, in other words, because the t-statistic is equal to 12.36 and larger than 1.96, the aforementioned hypothesis is confirmed and it can be concluded that the municipality's use of the strategy of "increasing the risk of crime perpetration" is effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah. The above-presented descriptive statistics table shows that the mean value obtained for the sample is 3.95 that is larger than the population mean, 3, by 0.95. So, it can be concluded that the study sample volume is above average in regard of the foresaid strategy.

Table 8: one-sample t-test for the investigation of the secondary hypothesis 3-1: how much is the municipality's use of the strategy of "reducing the crime perpetration interests" effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah?



One-sample t-test

Variable	Descriptive statistics table				
	Number	Mean	Standard deviation	Standard error	
Reducing the crime perpetration interests	100	3.66	0.50	0.03	
	Inferential statistics table				
	t-test	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Means' difference	Upper/lower limits
	10.45	99	0.0001	0.66	0.33/0.62
Total test result	Hypothesis confirmed				

According to the above test, the above hypothesis is confirmed because the significance level of the t-test table is equal to 0.0001 and it is smaller than 0.05 significance level and, in other words, because the t-statistic is obtained equal to 10.45 and it is larger than 1.96 and it can be concluded that the municipality's use of the strategy of "reducing the crime perpetration interests" is effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah. The above descriptive statistic table indicates that the mean value obtained for the sample volume is 3.66 and it is larger than the population mean, 3, by 0.66, so it can be concluded that the study sample volume is above average in regard of the foresaid strategy.

Table 9: one-sample t-test for the investigation of the secondary hypothesis 1-4: how much is the municipality's use of the strategy of "reducing the crime perpetration stimulants" effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah?

One-sample t-test

Variable	Descriptive statistics table				
	Number	Mean	Standard deviation	Standard error	
Reducing the crime perpetration stimulants	100	3.82	0.49	0.04	
	Inferential statistics table				
	t-test	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Means' difference	Upper/lower limits
	10.97	99	0.0001	0.82	0.42/0.58
Total test result	Hypothesis confirmed				

According to the above test, the above hypothesis is confirmed because the significance level of the t-test table is equal to 0.0001 and it is smaller than 0.05 significance level and, in other words, because the t-statistic is obtained equal to 10.97 and it is larger than 1.96 and it can be concluded that the municipality's use of the strategy of "reducing the crime perpetration stimulants" is effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah. The above descriptive statistic table indicates that the mean value obtained for the sample volume is 3.82 and it is larger than the population mean, 3, by 0.82, so it can be concluded that the study sample volume is above average in regard of the foresaid strategy.

Table 10: one-sample t-test for the investigation of the secondary hypothesis 1-5: how much is the municipality's use of the strategy of "eliminating crime excuses" effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah?

One-sample t-test

Variable	Descriptive statistics table
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Reducing the crime perpetration stimulants	Number	Mean	Standard deviation		Standard error
		100	3.75	0.31	
Inferential statistics table					
	t-test	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Means' difference	Upper/lower limits
	11.03	99	0.001	0.75	0.35/0.60
Total test result	Hypothesis confirmed				

According to the above test, the above hypothesis is confirmed because the significance level of the t-test table is equal to 0.0001 and it is smaller than 0.05 significance level and, in other words, because the t-statistic is obtained equal to 11.03 and it is larger than 1.96 and it can be concluded that the municipality's use of the strategy of "eliminating the crime perpetration excuses" is effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah. The above descriptive statistic table indicates that the mean value obtained for the sample volume is 3.75 and it is larger than the population mean, 3, by 0.75, so it can be concluded that the study sample volume is above average in regard of the foresaid strategy.

Table 11: one-sample t-test for the investigation of the main hypothesis 1: the municipality's use of the situational crime deterrence strategies is effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah.

One-sample t-test

Variable	Descriptive statistics table				
	Number	Mean	Standard deviation		Standard error
Reducing the crime perpetration stimulants	100	3.73	0.36		0.04
	Inferential statistics table				
	t-test	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Means' difference	Upper/lower limits
	11.16	99	0.0001	0.73	0.31/0.45
Total test result	Hypothesis confirmed				

According to the above test, the above hypothesis is confirmed because the significance level of the t-test table is equal to 0.0001 and it is smaller than 0.05 significance level and, in other words, because the t-statistic is obtained equal to 11.16 and it is larger than 1.96 and it can be concluded that the municipality's use of situational crime prevention strategies is effective in crime prevention in Kermanshah. The above descriptive statistic table indicates that the mean value obtained for the sample volume is 3.73 and it is larger than the population mean, 3, by 0.73, so it can be concluded that the study sample volume is above average in regard of the foresaid strategy.

Table 12: one-sample t-test for the investigation of the main hypothesis 2: the municipality's performance in the area of situational crime deterrence in Kermanshah is favorable.

How do you evaluate municipality's performance in crime deterrence in general?

One-sample t-test

Scattering of the responses	Observed frequency	Significance level
Positive responses (p)	23	0.29



Negative responses (q)	77	
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According to the above test, the foresaid hypothesis is rejected because the significance level is equal to 0.29 and it is larger than 0.05 so it can be concluded that the municipality's performance is not in an optimum level in the area of situational crime prevention in Kermanshah and according to the observed frequencies and the obtained percentages of the test, as well, it can be inferred that 23% of the respondents have expressed their agreements to the above-cited question and 77% have provided negative answers.

Table 13: Friedman's test for investigating and ranking the municipality's use of situational crime deterrence strategies

Variable	Rank
Increasing the efforts required for crime perpetration	5
Increasing the risk of crime perpetration	1
Reducing the crime interests	4
Reducing the crime perpetration stimulants	2
Elimination of excuses	3

Friedman's Test:

Number	100
Degree of freedom	2
Significance level	0.0001

According to the results of Friedman's test, the situational crime prevention strategies used by the municipality are ranked by an order of importance as follows:

- 1) Increasing the risk of crime perpetration
- 2) Reducing the crime perpetration stimulants
- 3) Elimination of excuses
- 4) Reducing the crime interests
- 5) Increasing the efforts required for crime perpetration

RESULTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

Results:

According to one-sample t-test that was used for the verification of all the hypotheses, all of the assumptions (two primary hypotheses and 5 secondary hypotheses) were confirmed. The municipality's use of situational crime prevention strategies is effective in Kermanshah. The mean value obtained for the study sample volume is 3.73 and it is larger than the population mean, 3, by 0.73 so it can be concluded that the municipality's use of these strategies is in a level above intermediate. According to the results of Friedman's test, the situational crime prevention strategies used by the municipality are ranked by an order of importance as follows:

- 1) Increasing the risk of crime perpetration
- 2) Reducing the crime perpetration stimulants
- 3) Elimination of excuses
- 4) Reducing the crime interests
- 5) Increasing the efforts required for crime perpetration

Applied Suggestions:

According to the study findings, the municipalities are recommended to consider the following cases in line with situational crime prevention and do their best to enforce them more optimally:

- 1) Improving the streets and pavements
- 2) Paying essential attention to the urban furniture and appropriate positioning of them
- 3) Streets and alleys' lighting
- 4) Taking care and supervising the greeneries
- 5) Appropriate management of urban decays
- 6) Creation of art academies and educational centers
- 7) Installation of CCTVs in other spots of the cities
- 8) Supervision of the abandoned and unowned buildings
- 9) Practical supervision on constructions
- 10) Supervision of bridges and underpass
- 11) Supervision of the building image
- 12) Holding conference in line with crime prevention in cooperation with other institutions by the municipality
- 13) Preventing the construction of buildings with lost and invisible spaces

Suggestions for Future Research:

The researchers are advised to deal with the following issues in their future and further researches:

- The role of municipalities in social crime deterrence.

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