



ASTUDY OF CRIME BEHAVIOR TOWARDS CRIMES AND MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to provide light on the aetiology (origin), prevalence (size of the problem), and character of crime in modern societies via the lens of criminology. It is primarily a multidisciplinary field that draws from fields such as sociology, criminology, politics, psychology, economics, and even the natural sciences. Part of the larger science of criminology, theoretical criminology seeks to define crime, explain why it occurs, and provide insight into criminal minds. A crime is a knowing and wilful breach of criminal law that is punished as a felony or misdemeanour by the state. This is real-time study of criminal activity, in which trends, patterns, sprees, hot spots, and hot dots that are currently influencing the jurisdiction are sought for. In addition to the date, time, place, and kind of location, other details regarding the crime, such as the mode of entrance, point of entry, actions of the suspects, type of victim, type of weapon used, and so on, are emphasised in a tactical crime analysis. Field information such as suspicious activity calls for service, criminal trespass warnings, and people with scars, markings, or tattoos gathered by authorities is also used in the research. While studies on crime date back nearly two centuries, it was only recently that professional geographers began to contribute. Research in criminology, sociology, and law has, unsurprisingly, dominated the study of crime, but after some time had passed, professional geographers entered the field to examine crime from a spatial and ecological viewpoint.

KEYWORDS: Crime Behavior, Crimes and Management, modern societies, criminal activity

INTRODUCTION

The traditional and age-old system of intelligence and criminal record maintenance has failed to live up to the requirements of the existing crime scenario. Manual processes neither provide accurate, reliable and comprehensive data round the clock nor does it help in trend prediction and decision support. It also results in lower productivity and in effective utilization of manpower. The solution to this ever increasing problem lies in the effective use of Information Technology. Geographic Information System (GIS) uses geography and computer generated maps as an interface for integrating and accessing massive amounts of location based information. GIS allows police personnel to plan effectively for emergency response, determine mitigation priorities, analyse historical events, and predict future events. GIS can also be used to



get critical information to emergency responders upon dispatch or while en route to an incident to assist in tactical planning and response. GIS helps identify potential suspects to increase investigators suspect base when no leads are evident. Web-based GIS is an exciting new method of disseminating information organized using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It became possible and popular due to the fast growing Internet technology and became a good source of providing better decision support in land use and environmental protection since mid-1990s. Many research activities and commercial efforts have been put into this field.

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIME BEHAVIOR

Crime has the power to disrupt our communities in many ways. It unearths feelings of anger and fear, promotes vulnerability, and often results in effects that remain long after the crime has been committed. Those enlisted to protect society attempt to target criminal acts before they occur, and often employ tactics that predict future criminal behavior. It often seems that officers have solved a particular issue and extinguished crime in a problem area, but discover it was only pushed into another community. This compilation of research analyzes the nature of crime and attempts to provide solutions for the ongoing study and implementation of new policies. This review focuses on the importance of crime mapping and hotspot policing, while better defining circumstances in which crime plagues a community, city, or country. More importantly, this review delves deeper in defining hotspot policing, and crime mapping; it is to establish a relationship between the distinguishing factors of crime and where law enforcement officials can intervene.

Criminology as defined by Siegel (2003) is the scientific approach to the study of criminal behavior. Criminology explains the etiology (origin), extent and nature of crime in society. It is essentially an interdisciplinary science, consisting mostly of sociology, but also criminal justice, political science, psychology, economics and the natural sciences. In the researcher's view the natural sciences, with the stress on geometrics, can be combined with criminological principles to explain the relationship between human behavior (land use) and criminal behavior.

CRIME AND RISK FACTORS

Factors that contribute to crime were grouped into five categories of risk factors according to Alice Mare that were determined during various foreign studies. These risk factors are family/home factors, community factors, school factors, extra family relationships and personality factors (Huizinga et al., 1995). Overall research findings support the conclusion that no single cause or risk factor accounts for offending and that no single pathway leads to a life of crime. Nine associations have been identified by various analysts as contributing to crime, regardless of their field of expertise. These associations are population demographics, uncontrolled urbanization, economic strain and deprivation, substance abuse, education level,



past experience of criminal activities, cultural activities and crime opportunities (Hough, du Plessis 2003).

The existence of crime is as old as the creation of man itself and man has always looked for ways to combat it and reduce it as much as possible. The occurrence of criminal activity in the form of thefts, assaults, homicide, etc is something that takes place every day in almost all reaches of our world. There is a great deal of debate on the causes of crime. In the 1980s, the rate of crime occurrence grew sharply to nearly epidemic proportions, particularly in Lagos and other urbanized areas due to population explosion by stark economic inequality and deprivation, social disorganization, inadequate government service and law enforcement incapability, unemployment, socio political conditions etc. (Murray et al, 2001). A community with a high rate of criminal activities is unattractive or less attractive to both local and foreign investment and this is the present situation that prevails in parts of Nigeria. The Nigerian security agents, especially Nigerian Policemen, are not particularly effective in foreseeing where and when specific future crimes will take place.

The assessment of criminogenic risk with the aim of developing crime reduction strategies led criminologists to develop many different theories to explain crime. These can be broadly divided into individual centered theories and milieu-centered theories. Whereas milieu-centered theories highlight social phenomena in the individual's personal environment, individual-centered theories see crime as the result of faults in the individual which are mostly attributed to biological and psychological irregularities which the individual cannot control. But crime is not fully explained by any one theory. Consequently, a variety of approaches are integrated to supplement each other so that a more comprehensive understanding of criminal behavior can be attained and effective prevention and intervention programmes developed (Hough, du Plessis 2003). According to Schmallegger (1999), a theory is described as a series of interrelated propositions that attempt to describe, explain, predict and ultimately to control some class of events. A theory gains explanatory power from inherent logical consistency and is 'tested' by how it describes and predicts reality.

An integrated theory is an explanatory perspective that merges concepts drawn from different sources. Williams and McShane (1999) emphasize the importance of the integration of criminological theories. As long as people see each theory as separate and distinct, there will be little progress in criminology.

Criminal activities are important concerns in the public safety of a contemporary society. Today many countries are faced with high levels of offences and crime rates. Clarifying where different types of crime and other incidents occur is one of the many important functions of crime analyses. There are different types of crime analysis. Many of the researches and practices are oriented to tactical, strategic, and investigative types of crime analysis. The aims of these



applications are to detect the distribution and clustering of crimes, and to identify high rate regions to implement precautionary measures and provisions by crime agencies for public security (Mostafa, 2003). However, administrative type of crime analysis focuses on providing summary data, statistic, and general trend information to managers. This type of analyses interest with the study of crime and law enforcement information integrated with socio demographic and spatial factors to determine long-term patterns of activity to assist problem solving.

CRIME AND CRIME MAPPING

Macro level crime mapping studies that fall within administrative type of crime analysis have advanced knowledge of how crime is distributed over large areas with the availability of crime data for the public. Crime mapping is the key concept in these analyses to understand the spatial and temporal occurrence of crime, but it is only the first step. The next step is the usage of geographical information systems (GIS) and spatial statistics to detect the spatial temporal clustering of crime patterns for proper social and criminal precautionary measures.

GIS ADVANCEMENT

Advances in the field of information system technology over the last 30 years have provided powerful abilities. Therefore, GIS have been begun to use to measure and represent the spatial relationships in the data in crime analyses and prevention programs. GIS aided spatial analyses identify the crime patterns and suggest reasons for crime characteristics (Cracolici and Uberti, 2008; Neapolitan, 1998).

The distribution of crime across the landscape is geographically random since crimes are human phenomena. For crimes to occur, offenders and their targets the victims and/or property - must exist at the same location for a period of time. Several factors, including the lure of potential targets and simple geographic convenience for an offender, influence where people choose to break the law. Therefore, geography plays an important role in law enforcement and criminal justice. A popular slogan says criminals are not spirits. They move from one place to the other, and live in the society just like every one of us (GIS team, 2005).

This study introduces remote sensing technology integrated with geographical information systems (GIS) that are overlaid with geo-coded crime data to provide a spatial technological basis to analyze and combat crime in an improved scientific way. The methodology applied in this study requires a multiskilled resource consisting of remote sensing, GIS and the understanding of crime to allow the diverse scientific fields to be integrated into a consolidated process that can contribute to the combating of crime in general.



This study is based on a solid platform of knowledge of the core criminological theories and how to apply the theory in practice through the integration of spatial technologies for visual illustration. Criminology is the scientific approach of the study of criminal behavior (Siegel 2003). Criminology explains the etiology (origin), extent and nature of crime in society. In the Researcher's view, natural science, with the stress on geomatics, combined with criminological principles to explain the relationship between human behavior (land use) and criminal behavior will provide a significant contribution to the science of criminology.

CRIME MAPPING IN 21ST CENTURY

The use of technological resources has moved the crime mapping and monitoring into the 21st century of law enforcement. Available devices enable both operational and tactical components of strategic planning to effectively apprehend and accurately track the criminals and pattern of the modus operandi. National security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic, military, political power and exercise of diplomacy in which space technology plays a pivotal role in its attainment. This research is aimed at identifying the crime hotspots in the residential districts of Abuja Phase-I. Several objectives were pursued in the course of the study and these include; to create hot and cold spots maps of the study area; to identify the relationship between the police divisional stations and the crime hotspots areas; to assess the relationship between slummy settlement and crime hotspots areas; and finally to assess the relationship between parks and gardens and crime hotspots areas.

Crime is a multifaceted concept that can be defined in legal and non-legal sense. From a legal point of view, it refers to breaches of the criminal laws that govern particular geographic areas (jurisdictions) and are aimed at protecting the lives, property and rights of citizens within those jurisdictions. Most of the crimes with which the criminal justice system is concerned involve breaches of State/Territory legislation that cover most offences relating to persons (for example, murder and sexual assault), property (for example, theft and property damage) and regulation (for example, traffic violations). Commonwealth legislation relates primarily to matters such as trade and commerce, importation/exportation, taxation, defense and external affairs. As the moral principles that underpin the notion of crime are subject to gradual change over time, the types of behavior defined by the legal system as criminal may also change. Examples of behaviors that have been de-criminalized in some jurisdictions include prostitution, abortion, attempted suicide and homosexual intercourse. Other behaviors, such as tax evasion or credit card fraud, have been criminalized over time. The distinction between these two points of view is important. While criminal justice agencies' crime data will be based upon the relevant legal definition of crime, data collected via victimization surveys may be based upon an individual's interpretation of crime, rather than upon existing



legal definitions. This potential disparity is more likely to affect the less serious end of the 'crime' spectrum.

CRIMINOLOGY

Criminology is the scientific study of criminal behavior and explains the etiology (origin), extent and nature of crime in society. It is essentially an interdisciplinary science, incorporating mostly sociology, but also criminal justice, political science, psychology, economics and the natural sciences (Siegel 2003).

Theoretical criminology is a sub-field of general criminology, which describes crime and its occurrence, and posits explanations for criminal behavior (Schmallegger 1999).

Crime is an intentional act in violation of criminal law committed without defense or excuse, and is penalized by the state as a felony or misdemeanor (Brown, Esbensen and Geis 1998).

A criminologist is one whose professional training, occupational role and pecuniary reward are primarily concentrated on a scientific approach to, and study and analysis of, the phenomenon of crime and criminal behavior (Howitt 2002).

The unlawful killing of one human being by another with malice aforethought constitutes murder (Brown et al. 1998).

Burglary is generally defined as a crime against a dwelling. A burglar is a person who breaks and enters the dwelling house of another with the intent to commit a felony therein (Brown et al. 1998).

Robbery is the felonious taking of money or goods of value with intent to steal from the person of another, or in his presence, against his will violence or putting in fear (Brown et al. 1998).

The definition of rape has expanded in scope from just a violent crime against a female to a violent crime that includes homosexual rape, sexual assault of females upon males, and forced sexual activity other than penilevaginal intercourse (Brown et al. 1998).

CONCLUSION

Crime hotspot maps are efficient method of mapping high intensity of crime prone areas and the use of GIS/RS techniques in spatio-temporal analysis proved as an effective tool to comprehend the implicit correlation among events. The results of the spatial analysis proved that districts such as Wuse and Garki areas of the city are the major hotspots where there are higher concentrations and incidences of crime within the city. Maitama and Asokoro districts are the safest as revealed from the cold spots maps. It is pertinent to note that more crimes occur



frequently in high and medium densities areas of the city. It is hereby recommended that the government should carryout cities and nation-wide crime mapping and analysis in the face of current security challenge facing the whole country for an effective policing. Also, adequate resources such as budgetary allocation, personnel recruitment and training should be given priority by the government for the police and other law enforcement agencies to perform better in ensuring safety of lives and properties. Modern sophisticated gadgets should be provided to have a responsive police that can tackled the treat that has become potent to peaceful living at the hotspots. Crime data should be made available as well as training of police officers in crime mapping should be encourage to aid decision making process, once the law enforcement officers are taught spatial techniques of crime hotspots analysis, it will assist them in performing spatial analysis functions queries to display crime prone areas in order to maximise available resources to abate crime.

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