

# Review of: "Safe City Concept in Smart City Planning"

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Whenever I review a text, I want to learn something new. The following states, 'Urban safety and security deals with both Physical threats as well as Intangible threats. Physical threats include violence, traffic accidents, robberies etc whereas Intangible threats include terrorist attacks, wars, disasters etc'. I am not sure about this analysis. I would have thought that physical threats include both what is stated but to include 'wars and disasters'. What I think the authors are trying to do is differentiate the variables or factors that are dependent as opposed to being independent. That may be a safer concept to pursue which, ultimately, would lead to conclusions about urban resilience - whether the variables are controllable or not. Then on GIS, the paper states, 'Geographic Information Systems aid in identifying unsafe areas via participatory planning, ensuring holistic urban security'. This is true. The irony is that unsafe places can often be the places that local businesses want to operate in. One example was in Cape Town, near the airport. The planner (who showed the Kenya Municipal Project delegation around), cited that concepts of defensible space and streets and footpaths where people could see what was going on, yielded significant improvements: removal visual obstacles, improving sight-lines for example. A sad conclusion is that 'The study highlights that safety and security issues remain largely unaddressed in the planning of Indian smart cities'. Figure 8.1 then introduces 'resilience' with Figure 8.2 highlighting the need for local crime prevention actions through design. The cursory review of the case studies merely whets the appetite for a deeper presentation of the analysis. For this comment and given the fact that the main text is only 2,500 words, I rate it as '4 stars'. The paper will be good for undergraduate town planning students or post-graduates moving into town planning from a related discipline. One final comment may be to explore the 15-20 minute neighbourhood concept. It is certainly vexing minds in local government in UK. Some think that this is a matter of 'control'. The enlightened know that it is a matter of design!