

Review of: "Analysing the conglomeration of various urban pockets through the lens of environmental design for crime prevention: A case of Kolkata"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review of the manuscript "Analysing the conglomeration of various urban pockets through the lens of environmental design for crime prevention: A case of Kolkata"

Overall:

The research is a good attempt at investigating urban safety in some Kolkata neighbourhoods, but reads disjointed and inconsistent. It seems to be written by different people at different points in time. For example, 'place making' appears and then disappears; '*dalan*' is introduced in the abstract itself, but makes its appearance in the main text only towards the end. All these interrupt the flow of the paper, making it a bumpy and incomprehensible read, obstructing full appreciation of the contents.

The paper has the potential in contributing to the understanding of people's perception of safety in some specific urban settings and what works best in that built environment.

However, it needs major revision, as detailed below.

Abstract:

The abstract should be crisp and comprehensive, covering the aim, scope, methodology, and results/ findings of the study. The first paragraph seems particularly irrelevant and needs thorough modification.

Introduction

The introduction should cover the backdrop and rationale, set the right context and present the importance of the topic. In its current form, the introduction fails to present a compelling argument in favour of the paper, primarily because it lacks focus.

Literature review

Needs to be more inclusive. It should inspect studies related to EBS, as well as other Indian case studies that are already published. This section has a lot of scope to be strengthened by relevant literature in the field.

Methodology

A comprehensive methodology flow chart and discussion of the methods should precede the description to the sites and their selection criteria. The site selection criteria currently comes much later. The key highlights of the questionnaire survey should be provided. The parameters of the CPTED principles considered for the study should also be mentioned or at least a reference to the table 1 should be given.

The last paragraph of literature review seems more appropriate for the methodology section. The first part of the 'Results and Discussions' section should also be part of the methodology description. Similarly, much of the conclusion is actually part of the 'Results and Discussions'.

Results and discussions

The radar charts are the main constituents of this section and need to be explained at length and depth. For example, the reader is not informed about the performance of the individual sites in crime prevention / safety perception. It is also not clear what role is played by the educational institutes included in the study sites, and therefore, the logic of having this land use in the study. How different would the results be, if the study was conducted solely in the residential neighbourhoods?

Conclusion

Should be rewritten and clearly mention the achievements of the study in both local as well as wider contexts.

Others

- i. The photograph titles are missing. These should be added. The road in the photograph must be highlighted in the map.
- ii. Reference to figures, photographs and tables should be appropriately mentioned in the main body of the paper.
- iii. Too much text in the radar charts should be avoided and rather be included in the paper.
- iv. Citations are missing in many places - should be added.
- v. There are unnecessary capitalized words in the middle of many sentences as well as incomplete sentences.
- vi. Fine editing and proof reading are required.