

Review of: "Drug-Free School Locality through Crime Prevention Strategies – The Case of Kerala"

Santhakumar Aridoss¹

¹ National Institute of Epidemiology

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This study investigates spatial aspects linked to criminal activities, particularly drug peddling near school localities within the urban context of Kerala, India. The Central Government School, East Fort, Kerala, along with its immediate 500m vicinity, were studied in depth, identifying the transit area near the school as an epicenter of drug-related incidents. Factors like nearby beverage outlets, vacant spaces, unauthorized vendors, unmaintained dumping areas, and parking lots are pointed out as facilitating illegal dealings. To counteract this, the paper proposes strategies like enhanced surveillance, pathway segregation, and establishing territorial boundaries. Take into account that the study was limited to reported crimes. Creating safer schools and enabling safe routes for students are central to the goals of this study. It underlines the importance of establishing a secure atmosphere for children from their homes to their schools and vice versa.

Also, this study appears to be focused on analyzing the likelihood of illicit drug dealing near school vicinity in Kerala, India, and suggesting potential solutions to mitigate these issues.

Key insights include the identification of certain risk factors, such as unmaintained spaces, nearby beverage outlets, and unauthorized vendors. Solutions proposed are increased surveillance, pedestrian and vehicular segregation, maintenance of existing infrastructure, and establishment of more recreational spaces. Factors of ambiguity could occur if there were unexplained terms, lacking context, or unclear study parameters, but these do not appear to be present in the given information.