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

José L. Hernández

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors prepared an article about the analysis of the integration of safety concepts within the Smart City to improve the security based on multiple strategies. For that end, various case studies are analysed both Indian cities and International ones.

However, there are some points with improvement potential as follows:

- Introduction would need to be extended with the hypothesis of the work, as well as the state of the art. Currently, there is no research about the state of the practice and the contribution of the paper to the scientific community is not clear.
- The methodology establishes the workflow. Nevertheless, some of the steps are not identified in the paper, such as the background study (with references and previous researches), the identification of data gaps or research question (linked to the previous comment about the introduction section). Moreover, the aim and objectives are not clearly stated in the paper, which would require a rewording of the introduction section. Similar is happening with the literature review, where the state of the art is not included in the current version of the paper, being difficult to set and know the current state of practice.
- It is mentioned the use of GIS as tool for identifying unsafe areas in the cities, but it is not explained how this technology is being exploited in the smart cities.
- Section 2.4 expects a set of indicators, but, instead, it explains some general concepts, without clearly defining the indicators that will be analysed across the paper. In fact, the further analysis does not properly use indicators to compare the safety levels in the cities.
- Smart city outcomes define liveability, economic ability and sustainability. What about the safety itself, which is the main topic of the article?
- The case studies section, both Indian and international cities, it is just based on bullets with actual problems of safety in the cities and undertaken actions. However, the actions are not analysed properly. How are these actions improving the safety? There are no objective and quantitative indicators to demonstrate the achievement. Furthermore, many of the actions are "typical" strategies in the Smart City, but which of them are beyond the current practices?
- The analysis, as mentioned before, is not based on objective indicators, but just the implementation of the actions, which is not research. As well, the findings just state that the cities are far from the large safety, which is "superficial" finding. The reasoning is the lack of use of indicators to properly find conclusions and real improvements or recommendations.