

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

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript exhibits laudable ambition by attempting to investigate the spatial aspects of crime hotspots, specifically concerning drug-related incidents near schools in Kerala. While the study's focus on the importance of location over individual behavior offers a fresh lens through which to explore criminology, the paper currently falls short of academic rigor. Chief among its shortcomings is a lack of scientific foundation; it presents claims without adequate empirical evidence or theoretical scaffolding. The text tends to disperse its focus, covering multiple subjects without offering sufficient explanation or substantiation, leading to an overall lack of coherence and structure. Additionally, there is a conspicuous absence of supporting literature, making the article's contribution to existing research unclear. A crucial point of concern is the paper's geographical scope; it makes broader claims about Kerala while only analyzing a single ward, a methodological limitation that needs to be addressed. In its current form, the manuscript requires significant revisions, including but not limited to: fortifying the theoretical framework, providing a more structured argument with clearly defined sections for findings and discussion, substantiating claims with empirical evidence, and resolving issues related to the paper's geographical scope. Only after such comprehensive revisions can the paper hope to make a meaningful academic contribution.