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A Criminological Analysis on Burglary Related Environmental Factors in Sri Lanka

M. P. A. A. Buddhadasa*, K. G. N. U. Ranaweera, K. B. N. De Silva and R. M. D. A. Rathnayaka

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

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*Corresponding author
E-mail address: anuruddhika@sjp.ac.lk

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ABSTRACT

With the birth and growth of criminology related sub discipline, 'environmental criminology' or in other words, crime designated ecological perspective has gained a wide acceptance among the criminology academia. As a consequent, the immediate surrounding of an individual has been identified as a criminogenic factor. Criminology has been specifically focusing on the characteristics of offenders as well as offences and has been somewhat disregarding the criminogenic spatial factors of crime. Focusing and identifying the designated burglary related ecological factors have been the prime intention of this criminological research study. Thus, a purposive sample of 57 crime scenes under burglary has been observed during a period of two years (2017-2019) within the Western Province of Sri Lanka. Data were retrieved by using qualitative methodology. The research revealed three types of environmental factors linked with the burglary crime scenes namely, natural, built, and social. The built and social eco factors have been main criminogenic features in urban and semi-urban spaces. Specifically, weather, land usage and location could be identified as burglary related environmental factors. Apart from natural environmental factors, architectural and landscape features were recognized as associated-built environmental factors with housebreak. As this is a pioneering research study connected to the environmental aspect of crimes, the study has filled the existing research gap from the Sri Lankan perspective. Measures in controlling and preventing crime can be achieved through the management of environmental elements and using environmental designing with the advanced technology.

1. Introduction

Criminology has been specifically focusing on criminals and victim while creating a vacuum in criminogenic spatial factors of crime. This preoccupation with criminal disposition has created a skewed view of the causes of criminality. The specific criminological research gap has been filled by environmental criminologists. Individual behaviors are outcomes of interactions between person and surroundings. With the expansion of environmental criminology, the void has been filled and crime related ecological factors have been recognized in preventing and controlling crime.

As a behavioral social science, criminology maintains a multi-disciplinary approach in its research studies. Early research studies focused on biological, psychological, and social factors in revealing crime causal factors. During the 1970s, criminological scholars attempted to reveal criminogenic factors from an ecological perspective (Brantingham and Brantingham, 1981). This shift in criminological research studies has paved the way to a revolutionary transformation in the field of criminology. As a subfield of criminology, environmental criminology focuses on criminal patterns within particular environment and analyses the impacts of these external variables on people's cognitive behaviors. It forms a part of criminology's Positivist School in that it applies the scientific method to examine the society that causes crimes. The prime intention of criminology is prevention and control of crime, and when this relates to the ecological point of view, the environment can be separated into two broad categories; namely, natural and built environment. Identifying crime scene related environmental factors can be separated into three broad categories as natural, built, and social. Furthermore, built eco-factors can be separated into two sub-categories as architectural and landscape factors (See Figure 1).

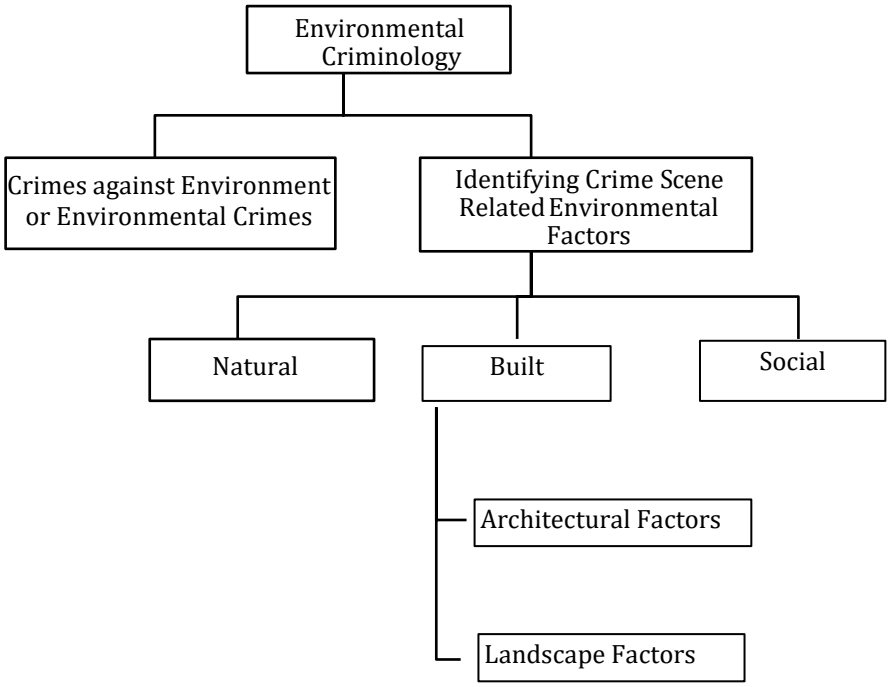


Figure 1. Scope of Environmental Criminology (Buddhadasa, et al., 2020)

Based on the criminological sub-field, environmental criminology, the research problem of the present study was to find out the burglaries related natural and built environmental factors. Hence, the prime objective was to prevent and control these property crimes through the management of revealed eco elements. The literature related to this aspect of previous research studies are being reviewed in the next section.

One of the most important, underdeveloped, and under-utilized forms of crime control and prevention approach is the management of the environment. With the rapid growth and expansion of cities, the size and density of urban areas have a kind of relation with increased crime and violence. Impoverished city development and management of the urban environment have placed city dwellers and their property at jeopardy. The composition and outline of townships have influenced the mobility of criminals as well as victims and openings for illegal acts. Based on natural as well as built environmental factors, this research study identified environmental factors contributed to crimes, specifically, related to burglary. Research studies elucidate the way cities, neighborhoods, public buildings, and private dwellings as well as the natural environment could contribute in controlling and preventing criminal incidents.

Consequently, spatial distribution of crime is not even (Fyfe, 2001). Hence, certain geographic localities are being identified as crime hotspots. In order to reduce criminal vulnerability, criminogenic ecological factors are to be managed and manipulated to ensure and create defensible spaces. Research studies on spatial distribution crime and criminality have made a significant impact on the development of crime prevention programs and target hardening strategies. The central idea of these plans is to design and utilize built environments in conjunction with new technologies (McLaughlin and Muncie, 1999). These measures are to decrease anxiety as well as the frequency of crime and intensify the quality of urban life.

Fear of crime is being identified as sensitivity to crime, which is related to emotional actions and reactions in response to a criminal event (Pain, 2000). The perception of fear of crime (FOC) construct is based on three dimensions: physical environment, social environment, and indirect victimization. This study was further expanded by Newman (1972), who introduced the defensible space theory through studies on the effects of environment and physical construction on acts of crime. Other researchers (Brown and Bentley, 1993; Shaw and Gifford, 1994) who followed the later focused more on factors believed to play the role of mediators in reducing acts of crime.

Fundamentals of territoriality which is named 'territorial functioning' is a social viewpoint which is related to the managing of a space that involves the owner's activities and obligation to guarantee that area is always cared by for revealing ownership features such as presenting signs of proprietorship, garden adornments, water features, landscaping and so on (Taylor and Nee, 1988). This territoriality spatial creation inflicts spatial boundaries of which are believed to aggravate protective actions by the owner in the incident of criminal intrude of ownership, by calling the police or the neighbors (Perkins et al., 1993).

Besides, Brown and Altman (1983) found that a house which has been burglarized most often possesses frail territoriality space qualities such as signs of non-occupancy. However, a study of council housing estates in Sheffield, UK, found that there is no noteworthy relationship between territoriality with fear of crime (Aldrin, 1999). This outcome was imagined having been impacted more by the owner's personalities' than their feeling towards spatial defense in preventing acts of crime (Aldrin, 1999).

The routine activities theory focuses on situations of crimes. It was first proposed by Marcus Felson and Lawrence E. Cohen (1980) and stated that scrutiny is the main regulating factor whether a criminal will or will not commit an act of crime. Surveillance can be accomplished through natural and mechanical means. Natural surveillance includes the local community actions, the buildings' physical openings, and police patrols (Cozens et al, 2005; Perkins et al., 1993). Mechanical surveillance, on the other hand, contains the use of surveillance apparatuses such as CCTV (Jensen and Anderson, 2004; Kajalo and Lindblom, 2010). Increased surveillance combined with lighting system at night will diminish moods of fear of crime (Perkins et al., 1993), as they generate pictorial precision to the adjoining area thus allowing defensive actions in the aspect of individual safety risks (Liebermann and Coulson, 2004). Maintenance at the dwelling area helps the owner to give out a signal to outsiders that his dwelling is always maintained and under watch (Cozens et al., 2005). Attention to the cleanliness of the dwelling and its surrounding areas expresses stronger place attachment, which is related to crime and incivilities (Brown and Bentley, 2004). A good appearance in terms of preservation in the neighborhood will generate a view that there are few social problems in the vicinity (Crowe and Zahm, 1994).

In the context of maintenance, it was stated in the broken windows theory that a poorly maintained neighborhood conveys a signal that attention is absent by occupants, thus giving rise to other environmental concerns (Wilson and Kelling, 1982). Furthermore, poor maintenance is believed to induce targeting of crime (Crowe and Zahm, 1994; Wilson and Kelling, 1982). Clontz (1995) found that a residence which is poorly maintained has three times higher threat of being burglarized than a dwelling with a better appearance and which is better maintained. In terms of maintenance (Brown and Bentley, 2004) found that physical discourtesies such as inappropriately disposed waste are "important" signs of acts of crime either in dwellings or in neighborhoods. Research has exposed that poorly maintained neighborhoods are recognized as spaces that are less defended and more liable to acts of crime.

Access control is an approach aimed at reducing occasions for commission of acts of crime by giving an awareness to offenders of the dangers they will confront (Brantingham and Brantingham, 1993; Cozens et al., 2005). These obstructions of focused on areas that are in the form of fencing, solid walls, automatic lock padlocks and alarm systems that hinder and hamper burglary (Hirschfield et al., 2004). Numerous studies have established that unsafe residences or belongings have three times (Budd, 1999), and six times (Clontz, 1995) higher probability of being burglarized than properties with basic security equipment.

This is related to the management of a space that entails the owner's actions and responsibility to ensure that space is always cared by displaying ownership characteristics such as displaying signs of ownership, garden decorations, water features, landscaping and so on (Taylor and Nee, 1988). This territoriality spatial formation enforces spatial limits of which are believed to provoke defensive actions by the owner in the event of criminal trespass of ownership, by calling the police or the neighbors (Perkins et al., 1993).

Based on the foregoing discussions of study findings, no assertive conclusion could be made as to the relationship between Crime Prevention through Environment Design (CPTED) and fear of crime. Research has shown that some elements of CPTED were able to reduce or mitigate acts of crime (Brown and Bentley, 2016; Crowe and Zahm, 1994; Kajalo and Lindblom, 2010; Perkins et al., 1993; Taylor and Nee, 1988; Wilson and Kelling, 1982) which were also perceived to reduce fear of crime (Newman, 1972). Recent

research discussing the relationship between CPTED and fear of crime are by Hedayati et al., (2012), as well as Minnery and Lim (2005) which found that fear of crime does not have a significant relationship with CPTED in dwelling areas. According to Hedayati et al., (2012) this finding could be related to other factors such as speculations on crime, and social and psychological factors that have higher influences on fear of crime. In this context, it can be seen that elements of physical environment have the ability to mitigate and prevent the commission of acts of crime.

Studies conducted in few Latin American countries have revealed that city growth and expansion have contributed for the increment of crimes in urban areas. This progress has mounted pressure on law enforcement officers in performing their duties. According to the estimates made by various researchers, 10 to 15 percent of crimes have taken place due to poor designing and managing ecosystems (UN-HABITAT, 2009).

Ekanayake (2016) in the article, "Structural Transformation of Society and Development of Criminality: A Case Study from of Sri Lanka", explains numerous socio-cultural, economic and political factors as well as forces that molded the criminal acts which are being reported during the last 30 years of the civil war. Moreover, crimes related to political activities, specially, drug-related organized crimes are being discussed. Diverse forms of issues linked to the Sri Lankan legal system and punitive methods are being identified. With the rapid urbanization and development, the widening gap between the urban poor and rich is being highlighted and recognized as crime contributory factors in Sri Lanka (Ekanayake, 2016). Ekanayake (2016) has failed to focus on the environmental aspect of criminal behavior in identifying the Sri Lankan crime trends and patterns.

In the literature review, Rathnayake (2013) stresses the significance of ecological factors in preventing and controlling crimes. Research studies conducted in the area of fear of crime has been highlighted and recognized either eco-evidence or socio-cultural variations as crime-fear causal factors (Rathnayake, 2013). Rathnayake, (2013) recommends a holistic perception in eliminating the fear of crime merged with 'ecological and social approaches' based on 'prospect and refuge theory'.

Moreover, the concentration of the city composition, illumination and social characters such as attendance of people and movement are being conjointly recognized as eco elements that researchers as well as planners should concentrate in diminishing urban fear of crime (Rathnayake, 2013). Overall, the research study by Rathnayake, (2013) has proved the significance of the environmental elements in reducing fear of crime.

Nevertheless, burglary, is the highest recorded crime in Sri Lanka (see Table 1) and the burglary rate for the year 2018 was 38.1 cases per 100,000 population (WORLD DATA ATLAS SRI LANKA CRIME STATISTICS, 2018). Conversely, house- breaking as the most reported offence has not been specifically focused from an 'eco-criminological' perspective and this existing research gap is being narrowed down up to a certain extent by the present research study.

Accordingly, similar research studies have not been conducted from a Sri Lankan perspective and the present research study has managed to fill the existing research gap in the sub field of Sri Lanka environmental criminology. **Hence, the research question of this exploratory study was: "What are the burglaries related natural and built environmental factors"? The main objective of the current exploratory study was to emphasize the significance of the ecological dimension of criminality with special reference to "burglary" and to**

highlight the importance of crime prevention and control through the management of criminogenic environmental factors.

Table 1. Recorded Burglaries/House Breakings in Sri Lanka

Year	Recorded Grave Crimes	Recorded Burglaries	Percentages of Recorded Burglary
2015	40,188	12,707	31
2016	36,937	10,287	28
2017	35,978	8,913	25
2018	36,355	8,085	22
2019	34,578	8143	24

(Source: https://www.police.lk/index.php/library/item/138)

Burglary or house breaking has been the most frequent property crime in the Western Province of Sri Lanka (see Table 1). Through the management of burglary generating environmental factors, fear of crime can be reduced and as a result of this, the quality of daily lives of individuals is certain to be enhanced. Moreover, the management of crime breeding environmental causes, not only raises the quality of human life, but also, creates an atmosphere that is conducive in enhancing interpersonal relationships based on various variables such as education, economy, politics, law, religion and race.

In any given society, there are various types of individuals who need some kind of assistance in their day-to-day lives. For example, patients, children, adults, invalid individuals, women. These categories of individuals are to be lived in free of crime fear. This research study was an academic contribution in this regard through the utilization of management of crime related environmental factors. Finally, they are to enjoy physical as well as psychological well-being.

Generally, traditional punitive methods discourage future crimes in prospective offenders. However, in this research, crime prevention and control is to be encouraged through hardening anticipated burglary targets and making potential criminals strenuous to reach the targeted property. Finally, the research study expects to experiment novel way of crime preventive as well as controlling measures and motivates similar ways to be included in policy making and implementation levels.

2. Materials and Methods

As the study focused on the reported burglary incidents during the 18-month data collection period (2017-2019), the research data were based on the purposive sample related to burglary crime scene observations in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. With the assistance of law enforcement officials, crime scenes were examined in order to get a better understanding of what had exactly happened.

During the crime scene observations, crime contributory natural and built ecological factors were being identified. Using cameras, these criminogenic environmental features were being photographed for the purpose of data analysis. Besides crime scene photograph observations, informal interviews with the victimized parties were used to collect data and utilized as qualitative and simple quantitative methods for the purpose of data analysis.

Crime scenes related to burglaries were observed for 18 months, commencing from 2017 within the Western Province of Sri

Lanka. The number of observed burglary crime incidents was 57. Whenever a burglary incident was reported to a police station in the Western Province, the Crime OIC of the respective police station contacted the research team to inform the burglary case. At the crime scene, the associated eco-factors were being photographed and informal interviews were being held with the victims by the members of the research team. Besides, informal discussions were done with the police officers at the burglary crime location as a way of gaining a range of details related to the specific burglary incident.

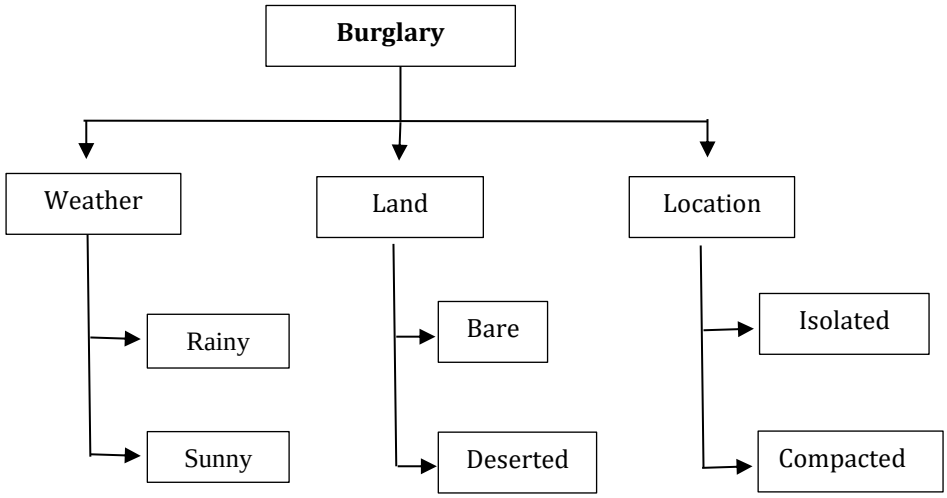
Table 2. Methodology

Nature of the Collected data	Method of data collection	Method of data analysis
Visible environmental factors in the crime scene (when a crime occurred)	Observation Photographs	Qualitative
Environmental factors at the time of crime occurred	Interviews with the victims and police officers	Qualitative Quantitative

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019)

3. Results and Discussion

Research information revealed that the burglary-based eco-factors can be sub-divided in the following manner (see Figure 2).



(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

Figure 2. Burglary based eco factors

As revealed by the gathered information (see Figure 2), the rainy weather had created an advantageous situation for burglars. The wet weather made the neighbors to be in their own residences, and the noise of the rain with thunder made the culprit to reach the target with much ease. However, during the sunny days, too, housebreakers were active owing to other contributory environmental factors. Most (85.7 percent) of the burglary cases have taken place on sunny days (see Table 3). The interviews with the victims have revealed that they were away from their residences in order to attend for weddings, gone on a family trip during a long weekend and/or in the New Year holiday season. Moreover, during the Vesak holidays, the intruders have entered when the residents were away to view vesak pandals and other related decorations.

Table 3. Burglary based eco factor 01- Weather

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	Rainy	9	15.8
	Sunny	48	84.2
	Total	57	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

Another natural ecological factor that contributed to the observed burglaries was the land usage (see Table 4). Accordingly, bare or deserted lands were found adjacent to the observed crime scenes and had assisted as an entry and/or exit point to the offender.

Table 4. Burglary based eco factor 02 - Land usage

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	No	46	82.1
	Yes	10	17.9
	Total	56	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

The third natural ecological factor related to the observed housebreaking scenes was the location of the crime target (see Table 5). However, in an urban setting, many houses were situated in compact localities, and 08 of the visited burglary crime scenes were in somewhat in isolated settings.

Table 5. Burglary based eco factor 03- Location

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	No	48	85.7
	Yes	8	14.3
	Total	56	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

The next main ecological factor relevant to the visited burglary incidents was the social environmental elements. The two sub-features that came under this category; namely, time and day on which resident's routine activities were being based on (see Table 6). The research data describe that 18 burglaries had been taken place between 6.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. when the residents were away attending to their routine activities. Another 11 burglaries had been committed at night when the targeted houses were unoccupied as the residents were away for attending function or religious activity (see Table 7). These specific trends were visible during the festive season (April-May) as well as through long weekends (see Table 7).

Table 6. Burglary based eco factor 04 - Time

		Frequency	Valid Percentage
Valid	Unable to mention	27	48.2
	Early morning (12am-6am)	9	16.1
	Morning (6am-12pm)	5	8.9
	Afternoon (12pm-3pm)	3	5.4
	Evening (3pm-6pm)	1	1.8
	Night (6pm-12am)	11	19.6
	Total	56	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

Table 7. Burglary based eco factor 05 - Special occasion

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	Vesak	9	47.4
	New year	10	52.6
	Total	19	100.0

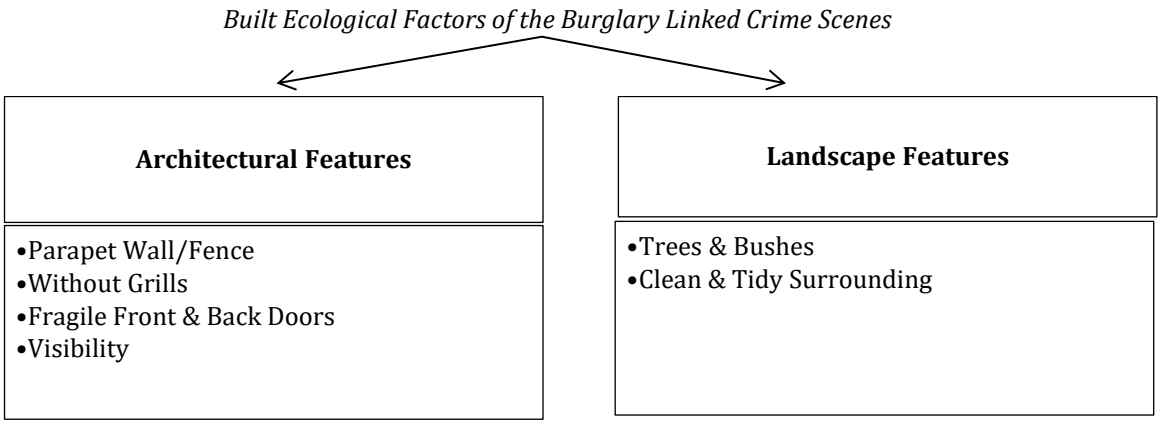
(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

The most prominent ecological factor related to observed burglaries was the built environmental component. According to the derived data, subcategories of the man-made burglary eco-factors can be identified as following (see Figure 3). Accordingly, the dominant eco-factor contributed towards the observed burglary scenes was the built environmental element. This aspect of the burglary targets can be sub-divided into two sections, namely, the architectural attributes and the landscape traits (see Figure 3).

The obtained facts confirmed the dominance of architectural features in burglary victimization and the strength of the doors and windows, windows fixed with strong grills and locks, the visibility of the residence, and the height and the level of the parapet walls and the structural obstructions of the residences and the easy access to the roof through various supportive structures (lamp posts, trees and their branches, parapet walls, water storage tanks, roofs, etc.,).

As indicated in Table 8, 'the strength of two main doors of a residence is a determinant feature related to observed burglary crime scenes. The residents' ignorance is clearly visible regarding their rear door. The occupants with a 'decent' income too have not paid much attention on to this aspect of their

dwellings. This witlessness has created a built criminogenic eco factor in burglary cases (see Table 8).



(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

Figure 3. *Built Ecological Factors of the Burglary Linked Crime Scenes*

Table 8. Burglary based eco factor 06 - Strength of the doors

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	Both front and back doors are fragile	16	28.6
	Front door is strong; back do is fragile	24	42.9
	Both doors are strong	16	28.6
	Total	56	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

Table 9. Burglary based eco factor 07- Windows with grills

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	No	36	64.3
	Yes	16	28.6
	Half done	4	7.1
	Total	56	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

Table 10. Burglary based eco factor 08 - Covered with buildings

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	No	47	83.9
	Yes	9	16.1
	Total	56	100.0

(***Source:*** *Buddhadasa, et al., 2020***,** *Field Research, 2017-2019*).

The victims regretted over their failure to fix grills for windows. They assumed that grills would hinder the aesthetic appearance of their residence and avoided fixing iron barriers. However, this was different with the low income residents. According to them due to financial constraints they had to delay this type of "additional" work (see Table 8). Incomplete homes were also being burgled and had removed various accessories from the store rooms with fragile locked doors (see Table 9).

Mainly, the research area was either an urban or a semi-urban setting and the surrounding of the some of the burgled sites was 'concealed' behind buildings (see Table 10). In other instances, the burglar's entry and exit points were unseen or else obscured due to architectural design (see Table 11 and Table 12).

Table 11. Burglary based eco factor 09: Availability of wall or fence

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	No wall	13	23.2
	Short wall	33	58.9
	High wall	7	12.5
	Fence	3	5.4
	Total	56	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

Table 12. Burglary based eco factor 10: Structural obstructions of the residence/building

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	Single floor	33	58.9
	Two floors	23	41.1
	Total	56	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

Table 13. Burglary based eco factor 11: Easy accessibility of the roof through supportive structures

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	No	37	66.1
	Yes	19	33.9
	Total	56	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

Table 14. Burglary based eco factor 12: Covered with trees and bushes

		Frequency	Percentage
Valid	No	18	32.1
	Yes	38	67.9
	Total	56	100.0

(Source: Buddhadasa, et al., 2020, Field Research, 2017-2019).

The trees and bushes had made an easy entry and/or exit points as well as concealed spots in the observed burglary scenes. Whenever the surrounding was cluttered, the burglar had taken the benefit of that. For instance, half-completed residences were more liable in becoming burglary targets. Moreover, in some burglary sites, lamp posts, mango trees, coconut trees, etc., were visible as 'convenient' entry and exit channels for the burglar (see Table 14).

A property at a dead-end of a road which is covered with foliage had a higher risk of becoming a burglary victim. The risk could be higher if the targeted property is surrounded with abandoned lands and/or houses. Also, if it was concealed with trees and bushes (see Table 14).

The informal interviews with the victimized parties revealed that many of them assumed that their own home was 'secure'. However, the residents' irresponsible and negligent actions lead them to become burglary victims. For instance, avoiding the doors and windows locking secularly; ignoring when the dog barked; neglecting the rear side of their homes; distance social relations with the immediate neighbourhood; concentrating only on aesthetic aspect of the residence, etc.

On the other hand, burglars were sharp-witted individuals to identify the best and the safest entry and exit points of their crime target. As disclosed through the informal interviews with the police personnel, burglars conduct a pre-survey on their selected burglary target and assess the risk as well as the best time to commit the criminal act. It may take a day or days to come to the final decision in housebreaking. Besides, few burglars possess their own way of committing housebreaks. For example, one would reach the target only through the roof and that type of a 'habitual' burglar never attempts to use neither doors nor windows as entry points. Based on the above described burglary-based crime scene research data, the following conclusions as well as recommendations can be made.

4. Conclusion & Recommendation

As an exploratory study on burglary, the purpose of the present study was to identify the burglary causal natural as well as built eco factors and to prevent and control house-breaking crimes accordingly. However, the gathered data confirmed that the social environmental factors were vital for burglary occurrences. Therefore, crime contributory eco-factors can be categorized into three main clusters: namely, natural, built and social.

As the house-breaking crime scene observations were done within the Western Province of Sri Lanka, which has urban and semi-urban settings, the dominant eco factor types were built and social features. Strained social relations with the immediate neighbourhood can be mentioned as the main social aspect of burglary victimization of the study area. This must have created an advantage for the burglar. In semi-urban settings, natural eco elements were burglary causative, together with the other two types of environmental factors, namely, built and social factors.

Each observed burglary scene had dominant built and social eco factors, and it varied according to weather, crime location, land

usage, built eco factors (architectural and landscape) and social elements. Many of the burglary victims concentrated on the aesthetic attributes of their residence and ignored the 'secure home' concept by becoming house-breaking victims. At the same time, ignorance and carelessness of occupants, have contributed for them to become burglary-victims.

On the other hand, architectural designs and landscape features were to be used as burglary preventive and controlling strategies as there were many instances similar 'flaws' had paved the way for burglary victimization of the residents. Hence, as a way of eliminating 'fear of crime' of the occupants, architects may utilize the findings of these types of research studies.

In burglary preventing and controlling, one could consider of manipulating built eco factors through architectural as well as landscaping designs. As a way of enhancing the quality of human life and reducing the costs attached to the burglary crime factor, criminologists and architects can work together to alleviate the associated 'Fear of Crime (FOC)'.

The informal interviews with the law enforcement officers at the observed house-breaking crime scenes have proposed to utilize biometric features in the Sri Lankan national identity card. Through a network of individual biometric information there is a straightforward way of tracing and apprehending burglary suspects.

Besides, these officers elaborated the decrease in criminal acts related to fraudulent passport possession by issuing 'biometric' Sri Lankan passports. Hence, implementing similar suggestions in combination with further research studies will definitely pave the way in introducing eco-based novel measures to prevent and control burglaries and create a secure domestic atmosphere.

As a pioneering research study connected to the environmental aspect of house-breaking, this study has filled the long-existed research gap from the Sri Lankan perspective. Henceforth, further in-depth research studies with a considerable large number of burglary scene observations are recommended. Measures in controlling and preventing burglary can be achieved through the management of all socio-environmental elements and utilization of ecological designing together with the advanced technology.

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