Risk Identification, Environment Design and Social Control on Fear of Crime in Inner Mongolia, China

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Abstract: *Currently, in China, criminal cases have been continuously declining for nearly a decade, and the sense of security among the public has remained high. These are achievements in building a safe China. However, some criminal cases that have caused a sensation throughout the country have also occurred, causing a great impact on people's fear of crime. This study explores the fear of crime among residents of Inner Mongolia, China, by examining factors such as risk identification, environmental design, and social control. Using a questionnaire survey of 402 residents, the research reveals high levels of victimization experience, concerns over safety in schools and workplaces, and significant fear of robbery. The study highlights the impact of media coverage on crime fear and evaluates the effectiveness of crime prevention through environmental design and formal social control measures. Based on the findings, an action plan is proposed to enhance crime prevention strategies and reduce the fear of crime. Respondents are generally concerned about the insecurity in schools or workplaces, and the highest risk assessment is for robbery crimes that infringe on both personal and property rights. At the same time, it is widely agreed that too many details of criminal cases have been disclosed by the media. The evaluation of disorder can be divided into spatial disorder and social disorder, with graffiti, dilapidated roads, and fighting being highly valued. In Inner Mongolia, China, crime prevention through environmental design has been well applied. This is mainly reflected in the installation of sufficient street lights and electronic monitoring equipment, as well as the implementation of good entrance control in residential areas. The effective execution of formal social control is achieved by prompt and concentrated police patrols and the extensive creation of police rooms. Studies indicate notable differences in risk recognition, environmental structuring, and social regulation based on gender, age, and experiences of victimization, with rural males, aged 36 to 45, who have suffered victimization over four times, assigning higher evaluations. There is a strong interconnection among these three elements. Stemming from these results, an action plan has been formulated to curb crime through the amplified use of crime fear. A proposed action plan has been developed based on research findings to prevent crime by strengthening the application of fear of crime.*

Keywords: Fear of Crime, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and Community Policing

1. Introduction

Fear of crime is a psychological state of concern among the public about the possibility of being harmed by crime, which is an emotional response formed based on the risk perception of criminal victimization events (Hart et al., 2022). Criminal fear represents a measurable metric for assessing crime's severity and effects, independent from any criminal events (Yang.2023). The dread of criminal activities impacts public life quality and erodes interpersonal trust, leading to social estrangement. Fear of crime not only causes individuals anxiety and anxiety, but also changes their innate living habits (Gu, & Song.2023).

China's government highly values its approach to development focusing on the people. The overall national security concept has been implemented. Initiatives are in progress to advance the advancement of the National Governance System and its governance abilities. In the past decade, the crime case count has decreased, and serious violent crimes have maintained a record decline in 22 years (Jin et al., 2023). The sense of security of the people has remained high for a decade (China Development Network, 2022). New progress was made in building a safe China and the rule of law and Ping an China is building to a higher level. According to the disclosure of government information by Neimenggu Gong'an Ting (2022), in Inner Mongolia, the number of public security cases decreased by 22, 729 compared to 2018, while criminal cases decreased by 4, 891, and the people's sense of security also remained high.

In 2022, the assault incident at a Tangshan barbecue restaurant not only ignited public opinion but also raised concerns about nighttime safety (Jin et al., 2023). In recent years, the shooting and killing of a mistress by the head of the Inner Mongolia Public Security Bureau has shocked the whole country, causing strong suspicion among the public about police protecting their safety. These cases, along with related cases, persist in diminishing the public's sense of security, serving as the primary obstacle to elevating China's security level and modernizing crime governance.

The construction of Ping An China and Ping An Inner Mongolia has achieved significant results, and the overall security situation is improving, but the crime situation and security needs are still relatively complex (Yang, 2023). In the face of this complex situation, it is also necessary to conduct more comprehensive research on safety. Introducing the idea of fear of crime helps in examining the determinants that drive this fear, and the subjective security can be evaluated more comprehensively, so as to provide theoretical support for people to improve their sense of gain, happiness and security.

At present, research on crime fear in the West is relatively mature and complete, and has been widely applied to evaluate the effectiveness of crime governance, playing an important role during the process of making decisions. However, the fear of crime in China is either nationwide or limited to big cities, such as Beijing, Shanghai and Nanning.

At present, the study on fear of crime in Inner Mongolia is blank, and the study on the influencing factors of fear of crime lacks empirical research on Inner Mongolia localization, so effective regulation strategies cannot be put forward accordingly. This study is significant as it addresses a research gap in the localized assessment of fear of crime in Inner Mongolia, providing empirical data to inform crime prevention strategies and enhance public safety measures.

Based on the above theoretical background and practical background, special need to conduct a fear of crime assessment and study of influencing factors. In risk identification, environment design and social control How do these three variables affect the fear of crime, put forward targeted and operable policy guidance and suggestions, integrating the fear of crime into the evaluation system of subjective security to better play the practical role of subjective evaluation in social applications such as crime governance and help build a higher level of safe Inner Mongolia.

Risk identification involves identifying and assessing various potential factors and hazards that may raise concerns about crime. It often approaches it from a dual perspective, one is cognition, and the other is emotion, aiming to more scientifically and reasonably express an individual's level of fear of crime (Greve et al., 2018). The cognitive dimensions of fear of crime include perceived behavioral risk and perceived likelihood of being victimized. At the heart of the fear of crime notion lies the emotional intensity, primarily concentrating on the extent and regularity of adverse emotions and fears associated with various crime forms. Environment design encompasses the strategic planning, enhancement, and governance of a community city or other location's physical surroundings to mitigate crime risks and boost the residents' feeling of safety. The goal of environmental design is to diminish crime risks and enhance community safety by shaping public behavior and perceptions. The environmental design factors that generate fear of crime mainly refer to disorder and surrounding environmental factors (Mihinjac & Saville, 2019). It is believed that the window breaking effect and related factors in crime prevention theory through environmental performance affect the formation process of fear of crime. Social control refers to the process in which society regulates and manages individual behavior through various institutions, norms, and means in the context of risk society and social disorganization. Social control aims to encourage people to abide by social rules and reduce the occurrence of crime and inappropriate behavior through socialization, norms, and systems (Chriss, 2022)

Within criminology theory, the processes of identifying risks, designing the environment, and managing social dynamics are interconnected, collaboratively aiming to diminish both the incidence and fear of criminal activities. Through risk identification, crime risks can be better understood and evaluated, providing data support for environmental design and social control. Environmental design improves the physical environment, reduces crime opportunities, and enhances residents' sense of security. And social control maintains social order and prevents the occurrence of criminal behavior by strengthening social supervision and

norms. These three variables complement each other and together build a more comprehensive and effective crime prevention system.

The research normalizes the notion of crime fear and offers a conceptual structure. It defines fear of crime, analyzes its factors on three levels, and establishes a foundation for future research, making its analysis predictable and documented. The study also expands the evaluation method of fear of crime, measuring it scientifically across different demographics to enhance its practical application in crime control and governance. Furthermore, it tests criminology theories by empirically verifying factors influencing fear of crime, thus broadening criminology research and enriching its knowledge system. The goal is to enhance the accuracy of crime control and law enforcement in Inner Mongolia by analyzing fear of crime, pinpointing people with intense fear, and focusing on crucial criminal matters.

Objectives of the Study

This research aimed to conduct an empirical examination of how risk identification, environment design and social control impact criminal fear. Specifically, this identify risks in terms of behavioral risk, possibility of victimization, media factors, criminal case information; assess environment design in terms of disorder and environment performance; determine social control in terms of formal social control, social disorganization, risk society, and informal social control; test the variance in reactions when categorized by profile variables; test the relationship among risk identification, environment design and social control on fear of crime and finally, propose an action plan to prevent crime and strengthen the fear of crime.

2. Methods

Research Design

Descriptive research is a method of collecting data, analyzing data, describing the patterns and characteristics of objects, in order to obtain descriptive results. Quantitative descriptive studies can be used to explore the connections between independent and dependent variables, along with their interrelations. Descriptive research allows researchers to explore and document the perceptions and concerns individuals have regarding crime.

Participants of the Study

In Inner Mongolia, the researcher has chosen three cities, namely Tongliao, Ordos, and Hohhot, located in the eastern, western, and central regions respectively, with a total population of 858.64 million people. These three cities are representative in Inner Mongolia. Based on the Raosoft sample calculator, which has a 95% confidence interval and a 5% error margin, it's estimated that the respondent count is at least 385. Building on the results of the preliminary research, the developed scale was employed for data collection and obtained consent before administering the questionnaire. In this study, the online survey tool "Wen Juan Xing" was used.410 online questionnaires were distributed in Inner Mongolia, China, resulting in the retrieval of 402 valid responses. The questionnaire's response rate was 97%, and all collected responses were deemed valid.

Data Gathering Instruments

Questionnaires were designed including the three variables of risk identification, environment design and social control to understand fear of crime in Inner Mongolia, China.

Part 1 aimed to identify the participants' perspectives on crime fear, adapted from a study developed by Li (2022) based on fear of crime in Shanghai, China. This questionnaire is a Likert scale with 2 main dimensions, 24 statements. Part 2 explored how environmental design affects crime fear, based on Yang's (2023) study that evaluates and affects crime fear factors across China. Part 3 primarily examined the determinants of crime fear within the framework of risk society and societal chaos, encompassing both formal and informal forms of social control. This questionnaire is sourced from the Yang's (2023) paper assessing and influencing factors for fear of crime in China nationwide. The questionnaire was a Likert scale, which mainly included 4 dimensions and 23 statements. Based on the reliability testing, all variable test results are above 0.7. The highest achievement is social disorganization (0.903). Therefore, this questionnaire has good reliability.

Table 1: Reliability of Pilot Test Result

Indicators	Cronbach Alpha	Remarks
Behavioral Risk	0.869	Good
Possibility of victimization	0.898	Good
Media Factors	0.878	Good
Criminal Case Information	0.822	Good
Disorder	0.853	Good
Environment Performance	0.833	Good
Formal social control	0.837	Good
Social Disorganization	0.903	Excellent
Risk in the Society	0.846	Good
Informal social control	0.755	Acceptable

Data Gathering Procedure

Based on the content and purpose of the dissertation, the author prepared a questionnaire, and after obtaining permission, collected 30 pieces of data to conduct reliability tests on the questionnaire. The questionnaire will be translated into Chinese and the respondents will be informed of the objective of the questionnaire to help them better understand. The online software "Wenjuanxing" has been used and released in Inner Mongolia. Initially, the participants were briefed on the document's intent and confirmed their voluntary involvement. This questionnaire is anonymous to protect the privacy of respondents and ensure that they can express objective and genuine opinions.

Data Analysis

The collected questionnaires underwent encoding, analysis, and enumeration through weighted mean, and ANOVA, all aimed at achieving the study's objectives. Three variables, risk identification, environment design and social control, and each dimension within the variables were evaluated using weighted averages. The data was subjected to normality testing to determine whether parametric or non - parametric testing is required.

Ethical Considerations

First, it was ensured that all participants are informed. Before collecting sensitive information from the individual, researchers must obtain participant approval. The security and confidentiality of the participants' information were absolutely guaranteed. During data processing and storage, appropriate steps must be taken to ensure appropriate protection to effectively block any unauthorized access or abuse of data. Furthermore, the rights of the participants were maintained over the full course of the study. This encompasses their liberty to opt out of the research and reduces possible unease or hazards. Finally, ensuring no harmful consequences for the participants and maintaining the credibility and reliability of the study was made necessary.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 2: Summary Table on Risk Identification

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1.Behavioral Risk	2.63	Agree	3.5
2.Possibility of Victimization	2.67	Agree	1
3.Media Factors	2.63	Agree	3.5
4.Criminal Case Information	2.64	Agree	2
Composite Mean	**2.64**	**Agree**	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Strongly Agree; 2.50 – 3.49 = Agree; 1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree; 1.00 - 1.49 = Strongly Disagree

Table 2 provides an overview of the risk identification that affects fear of crime. The overall average of 2.78 indicates that they have reached a consensus overall.

Possibility of victimization ranked first, with a composite average of 2.67. Possibility of victimization can be identified by describing the overall level and frequency of crime fear among respondents, as well as distinguishing the fear of different types of crime, in order to identify crime issues that the public is particularly concerned about and improve the accuracy of crime control and governance. Following the results of the investigation and analysis, strategies can be developed to efficiently manage significant criminal matters of public interest and concentrate on combating crimes that evoke intense fear. For example, the focus should be on cracking down on the types of crimes that cause the highest level of fear among individuals, and special rectification should be carried out on the types of crimes that cause a significant increase in fear of crime (Yang, 2019). This study found that crimes such as intentional injury and intentional homicide that infringe on the personal rights of offenders are still the types of crimes with high levels of fear among the current public. Based on relevant research results, key criminal issues can be identified, and relevant crime prevention and governance measures and means can be updated in a timely manner.

Criminal case information ranked second with a comprehensive average score of 2.64. Criminal case information is a joint examination of how the criminal case itself affects the public's fear of crime from two aspects: physical proximity and social proximity. The occurrence and formation of criminal acts have obvious regional distribution characteristics, and the occurrence of specific crimes forms a micro regional agglomeration. The occurrence of criminal acts always gathers in specific areas, that is, certain or several types of criminal acts repeatedly occur within a specific area (Tu, 2019).

Behavioral risk and media factors ranked third with a comprehensive average score of 2.63. The online public opinion supervision of criminal cases, especially those that affect major criminal cases, should be strengthened. Research has found that the coverage of mass media directly affects the fear of crime. Content pertaining to violence, crime, the regularity of reporting crimes, how often case information is received, the level of detail in case coverage, and the extent of exaggeration in mass media case stories collectively contribute to a rise in public fear of crime, albeit to differing extents. Therefore, in terms of publicity and public opinion guidance for publishing cases, it is necessary to strengthen the guidance and management of mass media and self - media (Yang, 2023).

Behavioral risk refers to the risk of people taking preventive measures or avoiding certain behaviors in their daily lives to reduce the risk of becoming a criminal target. This includes behaviors such as avoiding going out alone at night and avoiding areas with poor security. The perception of behavioral risk mainly involves an individual's understanding of how their behavior affects their safety. The possibility of victimization refers to the perceived likelihood that people will become victims of crime. This is a more direct expectation or fear of being violated by a crime, usually related to their overall assessment of the safety status of the surrounding environment. The perception of behavioral risk is often based on specific behavioral choices and preventive measures. Therefore, people may believe that by taking specific actions, they can significantly reduce the risk of being victimized by crime. This perception of control may make them feel that the behavioral risk is lower (Tang & Wang, 2023).

Relatively speaking, the possibility of victimization is a more abstract and extensive perception, involving the evaluation of various uncontrollable factors in the environment. People may feel that despite taking preventive measures, the possibility of becoming a victim cannot be completely avoided. Consequently, their evaluation of the probability of being a victim might be more elevated. Media reports, social circles, and individual experiences frequently shape how one perceives the potential for victimization. These sources of information often emphasize the frequency and severity of criminal incidents, which may lead to a higher assessment of the likelihood of victimization (Tang & Wang, 2023).

Behavioral risk relies more on individual experience and daily observations (Maier & DePrince, 2020). Due to individuals being able to reduce risks through practical actions, their perception of behavioral risks may be relatively low. Psychological research shows that people often overestimate their ability to control risks. This "control illusion" may lead them to underestimate behavioral risks because they believe that taking appropriate actions can effectively avoid danger.

Table 3: Summary Table on Environment Design

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. Disorder	2.63	Agree	1
2. Environment Performance	2.62	Agree	2
Composite Mean	**2.63**	**Agree**	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Strongly Agree; 2.50 – 3.49 = Agree; 1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree; 1.00 - 1.49 = Strongly Disagree

Table 3 exhibits the assessment of the respondents on environment design. The composite mean of 2.63 means that they agreed in general.

The top item was disorder, with a combined average of 2.63. In the scholar's research, Yang (2023) used regression analysis to analyze the influencing factors of crime fear in China. The disorder of physical and social spaces can directly lead to an increase in people's risk perception level, and on the other hand, it can further cause a significant increase in fear emotions. A living environment with chaotic physical space and frequent social deviant behavior will lead to a significant increase in fear among the public. The inference drawn here is that the apprehension of criminal acts plays a crucial role in triggering the window breaking phenomenon, with the diverse adverse impacts of personal fear - driven emotions serving as the foundation for the intensification of grave criminal activities. Concurrently, the influence of social chaos on crime fear is more pronounced than that of physical space disorder. Consequently, to counteract the phenomenon of window breaking, greater focus should be given to addressing social disorder occurrences.

Next, the comprehensive average values of environment performance was 2.62. CPTED is considered an effective measure to prevent crime and fear of crime. Many developed countries have begun to incorporate crime prevention and fear of crime into the formulation and implementation of urban norms, forming various organizational structures. CPTED mentioned improving and adjusting relevant environmental factors during the spatial environment planning and design phase to achieve the effects of crime prevention and strengthening public safety (Lee et al.2016). In the U. S., Shariati and Guerette (2019) carried out a box survey to measure and assess student safety awareness (N=100) across two distinct residential designs at a major public research university in the southeastern region. Findings from the survey reveal that inhabitants of facilities with high CPTED exhibit greater safety consciousness compared to those in facilities with low CPTED.

Table 4: Summary Table on Social Control

Indicators	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. Formal Social Control	2.39	Disagree	4
2. Social Disorganization	2.60	Agree	1
3. Risk in the Society	2.59	Agree	2
4. Informal Social Control	2.58	Agree	3
Composite Mean	**2.54**	**Agree**	

Legend: 3.50 – 4.00 = Strongly Agree; 2.50 – 3.49 = Agree; 1.50 – 2.49 = Disagree; 1.00 - 1.49 = Strongly Disagree

Table 4 shows the evaluation of social control by respondents. The comprehensive average of 2.54 indicates that they have reached an overall consensus. The top item was social disorganization, with a combined average of 2.60. The core viewpoint of social disorganization theory is that the differences in crime rates within communities are mainly caused by the disorganization or disorder of social structures. Specifically, social disorganization refers to the

disorganization or failure of social systems within a community, including social control, social connections, and insufficient community resources. This state of disorganization may lead to a lack of mutual trust and social cohesion among community members, making criminal behavior more likely to occur (Yuan & McNeeley, 2018).

Traditional social bonds are not tightly connected, social control is reduced, and it is difficult to solve traditional illegal and organized crime problems together through social forces. The higher the degree of social disorganization, the stronger the population mobility and ethnic heterogeneity in areas (Krulichová et al, 2019). If the relevant community can have higher collective efficiency, then the community has stronger resilience, so there will not be a high crime rate.

However, in Yang's (2023) study, it was concluded that in the context of social disintegration, the intimacy of interpersonal communication decreases, and the degree of social integration and collective efficacy also decrease. Although this phenomenon may lead to an increase in public risk levels, the decrease in social integration and collective efficacy brought about by social disintegration does not cause a significant change in public fear emotions.

Next, the comprehensive average values of risk in the society was 2.59. The risk society theory provides an important perspective for us to understand the fear of crime. Concerns about crime stem not just from real criminal acts but are also profoundly shaped by societal risks, encompassing advancements in information technology, societal disparities, and inequality (Krulichová, 2019). Yang (2023) concluded in his paper that the conceptualization of risk by the public in the context of a risk society is highly likely to lead to an increase in their fear emotions. The idea of crime fear serves as a channel for the public to express negative feelings like anxiety and discomfort; conversely, the public's tangible grasp of risks has subtly heightened their perception of risk and triggered an upsurge in fear - related emotions.

The weighted average obtained for informal social control are 2.58. Informal society control is a governance mechanism of "state assistance" and "social participation". Its core is to improve the level of public participation and the ability to self - stabilize community order (Jie, 2023). Informal social control is a measure taken to compensate for the inability of formal institutions to effectively intervene in society during the process of social transformation. In practice, social order is not the result of a one - way social control, but rather the joint construction of social control mechanisms of different natures. Foreign scholars define informal social control as control based on moral ethics and adopted by unofficial control groups (Lanfear et al., 2020). The unwritten mutual restraint relationship formed among residents indirectly regulates people's behavior, making them behave in accordance with moral standards and becoming habits, infiltrating, surrounding, and persuading residents, and exerting a subtle influence. An increase in informal soft control correlates with a decrease in crime fear (Jie, 2023).

In parallel, the weighted mean of formal social control was

2.39, and respondents disagreed with the assumption that there was little formal social control around them. The research conclusion of Yang (2023) indicates that in the current context of Chinese society, the enhancement of formal social control can effectively reduce people's fear of crime. The perception of police inefficiency and inadequate formal social control among residents can lead to a heightened sense of danger and inadequate protection, escalating their fear of criminal activities. When residents believe that the formal level of social control is high, that crimes can be detected and dealt with in a timely manner, and that the police can effectively prevent and control crimes, their own or others' efforts to stop crimes and deviant behaviors can be supported by formal control in a timely manner. The enhancement of formal social control can be achieved through increasing the visibility of patrol police, the establishment of convenient police stations or police stations, and the expansion of victim prevention propaganda forms, in order to continuously enhance social formal control and reduce public risk perception and fear (Kim et al., 2021).

First of all, by increasing the visibility of the patrol police, the society can greatly improve the effect of public security management. High frequency and high coverage patrol activities can make community residents feel safer and effectively alleviate their concerns and fears about crime. Secondly, the establishment of convenient police stations or police stations is one of the important measures to enhance social control (Yang.2023). These facilities not only provide a convenient place for residents to seek help and report crimes, but also serve as key points of contact between the police and the community. Furthermore, expanding the form of victim prevention advocacy is also crucial. Knowledge and skills in crime prevention can be disseminated through diverse advocacy approaches, such as lectures, leaflets, social media, community events, etc. (Sargeant et. al., 2023).

Table 5: Relationship Between Risk Identification and Environment Design

Behavioral Risk	r - value	p - value	Interpretation
Disorder	.797**	0.000	Highly Significant
Environment Performance	.754**	0.000	Highly Significant
Possibility of Victimization			
Disorder	.817**	0.000	Highly Significant
Environment Performance	.756**	0.000	Highly Significant
Media Factors			
Disorder	.792**	0.000	Highly Significant
Environment Performance	.752**	0.000	Highly Significant
Criminal Case Information			
Disorder	.782**	0.000	Highly Significant
Environment Performance	.751**	0.000	Highly Significant

Legend: Significant at p - value < 0.01

Table 5 presents the relationship between recognizing risks and designing environments. The determined r - value indicated a robust direct relationship, with the resulting p - values falling below the alpha threshold. This indicates a notable correlation, with higher risks leading to more thorough evaluations of environmental design. Researches have shown that in the field of risk identification, the majority of respondents feel that a dimly lit environment can lead to higher levels of risk (Collantes & Diaz Rozas, 2022). The CPTED theoretical model posits that environmental

physical traits can shape human actions, consequently impacting the probability of criminal activities. In risk identification, an important factor that affects risk assessment is the information of the criminal case itself, and the geographical proximity of the case represents higher risk (Wang & Zhang, 2019). So, environmental design can be used to transform and design places where crime often occurs. Firstly, it is necessary to improve and manage the physical environment. This may include increasing lighting, cleaning debris, repairing damaged buildings and facilities, etc., to improve the cleanliness and safety of the environment. Increasing the natural monitoring of the environment is also an effective strategy. This can be achieved by pruning trees, clearing shrubs, removing obstructions, etc., to improve people's visibility of the surrounding environment. Promoting community participation and cooperation is also key to preventing people from coming into contact with crime prone areas.

Table 6: Relationship Between Risk Identification and Social Control

Behavioral Risk	r - value	p - value	Interpretation
Formal Social Control	- .767**	0.000	Highly Significant
Social Disorganization	.772**	0.000	Highly Significant
Risk in the Society	.749**	0.000	Highly Significant
Informal Social Control	.774**	0.000	Highly Significant
Possibility of Victimization			
Formal Social Control	- .764**	0.000	Highly Significant
Social Disorganization	.755**	0.000	Highly Significant
Risk in the Society	.750**	0.000	Highly Significant
Informal Social Control	.760**	0.000	Highly Significant
Media Factors			
Formal Social Control	- .786**	0.000	Highly Significant
Social Disorganization	.752**	0.000	Highly Significant
Risk in the Society	.742**	0.000	Highly Significant
Informal Social Control	.751**	0.000	Highly Significant
Criminal Case Information			
Formal Social Control	- .726**	0.000	Highly Significant
Social Disorganization	.736**	0.000	Highly Significant
Risk in the Society	.747**	0.000	Highly Significant
Informal Social Control	.740**	0.000	Highly Significant

Legend: Significant at p - value < 0.01

Table 6 illustrates the relationship between recognizing risks and having social control. The determined r - value indicates a significant direct relationship, and the resulting p - value falls below the alpha threshold. This suggests a notable correlation, implying that increased risk correlates with higher assessments of social control, whereas heightened risk leads to a reduced evaluation of formal social control.

In identified high - risk areas, more social control measures are often invested. Strengthening police patrols and responses in high - risk areas is an important measure to prevent people from coming into contact with these areas (Avdija, 2020). Increasing police force and resource investment, strengthening patrols and patrols in these areas, and timely detecting and stopping potential criminal activities can enhance public security.

Conducting information dissemination and education through the media, conveying information about risks to the public, and increasing public awareness and vigilance towards these areas are important means of risk prevention and crime prevention (Teng, 2020). The police and media can convey relevant information to the public through warning signs, safety tips, community meetings, and other means to help people avoid unnecessary risks. Media serves a crucial function in casual social regulation and stands as a primary conduit for disseminating information. It conveys information about risks to the public through reporting events, issuing warnings, and other means. When the media reports on safety related events, such as accidents, disasters, criminal cases, etc., they not only provide facts and data, but also raise public awareness and awareness of risks (Chriss, 2022).

Table 7: Relationship Between Environment Design and Social Control

Disorder	r - value	p - value	Interpretation
Formal Social Control	- .785**	0.000	Highly Significant
Social Disorganization	.806**	0.000	Highly Significant
Risk in the Society	.792**	0.000	Highly Significant
Informal Social Control	.800**	0.000	Highly Significant
Environment Performance			
Formal Social Control	- .733**	0.000	Highly Significant
Social Disorganization	.755**	0.000	Highly Significant
Risk in the Society	.740**	0.000	Highly Significant
Informal Social Control	.732**	0.000	Highly Significant

Legend: Significant at p - value < 0.01

The correlation between environmental planning and social governance is depicted in Table 7. The determined r - value indicates a significant direct relationship, and the resulting p - value falls below the alpha threshold. This suggests a notable correlation, indicating that a more extensive assessment of environmental design correlates with a higher appraisal of social control, whereas a more thorough evaluation of environmental design leads to a lesser appraisal of formal social control.

There is a negative correlation between disorder and formal social control, and insufficient formal social control is an important reason for the occurrence of disorder. The disorder of society has stimulated the public's demand for formal social control. When social disorder occurs frequently or seriously affects public safety and order, the public often calls on the government and law enforcement agencies to take more powerful measures to respond, in order to restore normal social order and peace. Formal social control, to some extent, can reduce the occurrence and spread of disorder (Atkinson & Millington, 2018). By strengthening police deployment, improving public security management, and cracking down on criminal activities, measures can effectively curb the spread of disorder, improve social stability and sense of security. Informal social control is mainly implemented by community residents, business operators, and other members of society. They actively participate and cooperate to jointly maintain the safety and order of the community (Lloyd, 2023). Community residents and business operators can prevent crime and effectively supervise and manage the environment through community patrols, neighborhood defense, installation of monitoring equipment, and strengthening community publicity.

Table 8: Proposed Action Plan to Prevent Crime and Strengthen the Fear of Crime

Key Result Area	Objective	Activities /Strategies	Persons involved	Success Indicator
• Risk Identification • (Behavioral Risk)	• To identify and assess crime risks in Inner Mongolia	• Conduct comprehensive surveys, • Analyze crime statistics, • Use GIS mapping to identify crime hotspots	• Researchers, • Local police, Community leaders, • Academic institutions	• 90% of the risks will be identified earlier, • Comprehensive crime risk assessment report; • Identification of high - risk areas; • Data - driven crime prevention plans
• Environmental Design • (Environment Performance)	• To design safer urban environments to reduce fear of crime	• Implement CPTED principles, • Improve street lighting, Enhance public spaces, install surveillance cameras	• Urban planners, Architects, local government, Safety consultants	• 90% of reduction in reported crimes; • 90% of increased use of public spaces
• Environmental Design • (Technology Integration)	• To utilize technology to aid in crime prevention and community safety	• Develop and implement crime reporting apps, • Use data analytics for predictive policing, Integrate smart city technologies	• Tech companies, Local government, Police departments	• Effective use of technology in crime prevention; • Reduced response time to incidents; Enhanced data collection
• Social Control • (Informal Social Control)	• To enhance community - based social control to mitigate fear of crime	• Establish neighborhood watch programs, • Promote community policing, • Organize regular community meetings	• Community members, • Local police, NGOs, • Social workers	• 90% increase in community participation; • 90% increase in neighborhood cooperation trust; Strengthening trust between police and communities
• Social Control (Community Education and Awareness)	• To increase public awareness and knowledge about crime prevention strategies	• Host educational workshops, • Distribute informational pamphlets, • Launch media campaigns, Use social media for awareness	• NGOs, • local media, community leaders, schools	• Higher public participation in crime prevention programs; Increased awareness of crime prevention measures

4. Conclusions

The study found that the fear of crime among residents of Inner Mongolia is significantly influenced by victimization experiences, environmental design, and social control measures. Effective crime prevention strategies should include improved street lighting, enhanced media regulation, and increased police presence. Implementing these measures can help reduce crime fear and enhance public safety in Inner Mongolia. Crime prevention through environmental design has been well - applied as mainly reflected in the installation of sufficient street lights and electronic monitoring equipment, good entrance control in residential areas. Formal social control is well - implemented through police patrol on time and with focus, and police rooms being widely set up. Risk identification, environmental design, and social control are interrelated and are highly significantly related. A proposed action plan has been developed based on research findings to prevent crime by strengthening the application of fear of crime.

5. Recommendations

Organizations and departments such as the China Concern for the Next Generation Working Committee, the National Health Commission, and the Women's Federation may actively carry out victim prevention work especially among minors, the elderly, and women, as groups with high potential risk of harm, may be given priority care. Personalized and refined work may be carried out to address the high risk of being victimized, and the channels for relief after being victimized may be expanded to avoid being victimized again.

Academic institutions or police departments may identify the main areas of crime of public concern. This may update the crime prevention and governance measures and means for such crimes. Media regulatory authorities may strengthen the review and guidance of media coverage of criminal cases. Standardize the management of mass media and self - media, avoid the spread of false reports and rumors, reduce negative impacts on the public. In addition, official media reports may to be more credible and timely, accurately disclose the situation of cases with significant influence.

Urban management departments and community leaders may actively promote the creation of civilized cities and eliminate disorder. The environmental design - based crime prevention theory suggests enhancing street light coverage, improving street cleanliness, curtailing uncivilized actions like disputes and brawls in public areas, and lessening the occurrence of "broken windows" in urban and community spaces.

The public security organs may continuously promote the construction of smart platforms to enhance formal social control. The work model of smart community policing may be improved, including: fine management of community population, control of begging and performing arts along the street, increasing the monitoring coverage density of crime hotspots, and continuously improving the 110 time limit attendance rate.

Grassroots autonomous organizations and community workers may improve their social governance system, establish neighborhood watch plans, promote community security, and regularly organize community activities with the aim of increasing cooperation and interaction among neighbors. The local police department may reduce warning signs and slogans with safety and criminal risks, and appropriately reduce the rate of seeing police officers with the aim of increasing crime awareness.

The proposed action plan of the researcher may be considered for implementation of the concerned work units to strengthen the crime prevention. In the future research and practice an official, specialized research institution or independent crime investigation agency may be established with the aim of conducting scientific investigations on fear of crime in China. A set of measurement standards suitable for the whole country may be developed. The main content of a crime fear survey may include the risk perception and fear emotion dimensions of crime fear, influencing factors, and the impact of crime fear on the public.

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