Security Management # 7

# How would you evaluate the usefulness of both natural and structural barriers in crime prevention? Provide examples or illustrations of appropriate uses.

Crime prevention has been an issue of concern through human history, with changing times, humans have employed different techniques to limit crime. In modern times, crime prevention is achieved by adopting more modern means. For example, in today’s world, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) is the most used method. It helps to deter potential criminals by adjusting the surrounding environment. It rests on the belief that urban psychology influences human thinking, thus resulting in an environment feasible for the surrounding societies. The fear of crime is brought at lower levels by adjusting the physical conditions of the neighborhood which ultimately brings the level of fear at the lowest level.

The natural barriers remain useful in crime prevention as in the first instance it creates hurdles for the criminal to impede into the restricted area. They can be more useful if such areas are kept well lit (Natural Barrier - an overview | ScienceDirect Topics n.d.). For example, natural barriers like sand dunes, small hills, bushes, and dumpsters, etc discourage criminals in the first place and do not offer an upper hand to the criminals when approaching a facility. The criminal statistics suggest that criminals avoid obstructing vicinities covered with natural fences. Such statistics are enough to gauge the usefulness of natural barriers in crime prevention.

Structural or man-made barriers remain more useful for crime prevention. Since they are developed considering the human psyche and the physical requirement of the territory, therefore, they serve the purpose of security far better than the natural barriers (How to Prevent Crime Through Environmental Design n.d.). The man-made barriers ease the target hardening process. The timely maintenance and the security signage at the entry points alert the intruders in the first place, and this is how the human movement remains easy to monitor.

# References:

“How to Prevent Crime Through Environmental Design.” https://www.thebalancesmb.com/crime-prevention-through-environmental-design-394571 (October 8, 2019).

“Natural Barrier - an Overview | ScienceDirect Topics.” https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/computer-science/natural-barrier (October 8, 2019).