

CPTED IN SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT: case study of an urban village in Delhi, India

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ABSTRACT

Urban spaces have a lot of accidental spaces- hidden and neglected, acting as breeding ground for criminals and drug addicts or dumping ground for garbage. Such is a case of Hassanpur-Delhi, a small urban village in the suburbs of the city.

These neglected spaces are insecure and have a negative impact on youth and the society. An extensive study was done understanding the chosen site and its context, issues and needs of the people were identified. The study indicated that the problems may be tackled just by a few interventions based on the concepts of CPTED.

These interventions were done with the community participation and the results were taken up for a threadbare analysis. The before- after scenarios were studied and residents' responses

evaluated. It was enlightening how simple interventions helped transform gloomy dysfunctional public spaces into celebrated community spaces increasing livability and quality of life.

The research team conducted systematic surveys, interviewed the stakeholders and interacted with the municipal authorities. The layout plans were studied and reduced to the CPTED elements, their activation and impact. The impact of such seemingly minor adjustments to the global CPTED principles and the role of the community was the transformation of a neglected underbelly of the city into a secure public space.

The long term impact will be studied over the years but the immediate short-term impacts are visible enough. It was interesting to note that children and elders were able to reclaim their spaces from the clutches of drug addicts. The garbage bins replaced the heaps of garbage just as despair made way for hope.

The dump is now a place for festivities where they celebrate festivals like Diwali and Independence Day. The village is a more secure place to bring up the country's future and a place where the women and seniors feel secure. The elimination of fear and reduction in crime has seen other consequent results and impacted each and every life of its inhabitants.

For the authors this was an eye-opening experience on how simple and universal the CPTED principles are. Even more heartening is the long term impact as it unfolds on the present and future generations involved. While this may be an extreme manifestation of CPTED interventions in the global scenario, it demonstrates new directions that this science is capable of.