

Mapping the subscales: Towards developing an assessment tool for Fear of crime in Tourists in India

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ABSTRACT

The present study's aim is to present the subscales mapping for fear of crime in tourists in India while developing a fear of crime tool for tourists in India. This tool development is based on the theoretical framework by "Scale development; theory and applications, fourth edition" by Robert F. DeVellis. The results of the tool will provide the degree of fear of crime in tourists, which was scored across seven subscales.

The present paper highlights seven subscales, namely; Safety and security concerns, geographical conditions, political stability, personal care, crimes reported, terror threats, and perception behaviour identified after a preliminary pilot study. The study was conducted on Indian Non-clinical population sample using the data collected from 600 participants (age range 20–70 years).

Keywords: Psychological test, fear of travelling, tourists, safety and security

I. INTRODUCTION

Being safe on holiday is an expected requirement. Places that develop an unsafe reputation are often substituted by alternative destinations that may be perceived as safer for tourists. Beyond the dangerous places in the world, where governments advise against travel, individuals must make up their minds about where to go on holiday. One of the unique descriptions of the tourism industry is that we cannot 'test-drive' a holiday in advance. Judgments about where to travel are often made based on imperfect knowledge and generalisation, and tourists learn about destinations from brochures, adverts, and the media.

[1]

People may travel for different purposes like to destress, to relax, to explore new places and destinations, for leisure and adventure, to know about various cultures, traditions, customs, and experience varieties of cuisines. Apart from this, people may have specific reasons to

travel like research, wildlife, medical, spiritual, Ayurveda, yoga and rich historical heritage. Accordingly, the following role products have been identified by the Ministry of Tourism for development and promotion: i. Cruise ii. Adventure iii. Medical iv. Wellness v. Golf vi. Polo vii. Meetings Incentives Conferences & Exhibitions (MICE) viii. Eco-tourism ix. Film Tourism x. Sustainable Tourism. ^[2]

Fear of crime has always been a severe social setback. When crimes occur against a tourist, other tourists and the society's attention naturally focuses on the victims and their material losses. Beyond the immediate, tangible losses of crime victims, however, is a different, more abstract crime problem which is that of fear.

Many scholars have defined fear of crime, but there is no standard definition for the same. Garofallo in 1981 described it as "emotional reaction characterised by a sense of danger and anxiety produced by the threat of physical harm elicited by perceived cues in the environment that relates to some aspect of crime". ^[3]

Fear of crime is complex, in that some people may be afraid of particular types of crime but not of others. Moreover, some individuals may be fearful of crime in their home but not in public places.

Many previous research findings indicate that males are more victimised in all kinds of street crimes except the sexual assault and intimate partner violence. ^[4] Males are at two times more risk of homicide, assault, robbery, and being violently victimised by strangers ^[5-6] whereas females are more at risk of sexual assault, intimate partner violence and stalking. ^[7] Research showed that females are at four times more risk of intimate victimisation and sexual assault. ^[8-9-10] Although females are much less victimised in street crimes compared to males, the level of fear of crime in them is much higher than males. ^[11-12-13] Notably, research also indicates that a difference of fear of crime between females and males depends on the kind of crime. For example, there was not much difference in fear of burglary and robbery between females and males. However, in sexual assault, females had a much higher fear of crime compared to males. ^[14]

The problem that arises is that tourists may become too scared to travel to tourist spots and destinations if they have been declared high-risk zones resulting in a massive impact on that particular destination's economy since there are multiple countries that generate most of their income through tourism especially many Third World countries. ^[15]

Tourism-related fears are elicited from the tourism marketplace to gain insight into the precise risks today's tourists perceive. Within the area of tourism, several studies have investigated perceived risk and its role in travel-related decision making.

Coming to the relationship between tourism and crime, there are two generally accepted points of view: The first explains a direct link between the increase in crimes with the increase of tourists at the destination; the second considers that an increase in crime can be

directly linked to the type of tourists found in the destination since this typology is essential in the categorisation of tourist experience and security aspects. Mass tourism is a good example of this like Kumbh Mela's in every four years, desert tour in the winters which are planned, organised and expected heavy tourist footfalls. There are also other important factors in the victimisation of tourists, such as ethnicity, the choice of accommodation type, age, whether one is travelling alone or accompanied with friends or family, gender, and nationality. It should also be noted that studies of the relationship between crime and tourism seasonality have concluded that crimes such as thefts, robberies, kidnappings, and murders increase dramatically during 'high season' periods when compared to other times of the year.^[16]

The fear of crime is negatively impacting the tourism industry and the millions of people who are directly / indirectly associated with this industry. Tourism in India has potential considering the rich cultural and historical heritage, variety in ecology, geographical terrains and places of natural beauty spread across the country. The Indian tourism sector welcomed 10.56 million (Provisional) tourists in 2018, with a growth of 5.2% over the previous year and Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) in 2018 were Rs. 1,94,892 crores (Provisional estimates) with an increase of 9.6% from a year earlier. FEEs in 2018 were US\$ 28.592 billion (Provisional forecast), with a growth of 4.7% over the previous year.^[2] Many evidential incidences indicate that tourists are victim to crimes ranging from minor to brutal over the years in India, and it actively leads to fear of crime in tourists. The progressive industry linking millions requires timely action to understand if there are specific reasons for the popularity and so the threat.

1.1 *Need for study*

Despite the growing significance of psychological tests worldwide and their increasing usage in the industries, organisations, and institutions, there is a lack of availability of a specific and focused tool. This paper is a part of a study aimed to develop a psychological assessment tool to measure fear of crime in tourists in India. The construction of a standardised assessment tool will help in finding out the level of fear of crime in tourists in India.

Measuring fear of crime will be useful, but no such research has been undertaken with specific reference to tool construction. Psychological tests have wide applications in business, industry, recruitment, personnel selection, training, team building, management progress, and job placement, educational testing, screening, different learning styles, enabling career choices, profiling or group behavioural assets, and deficits. In recent times, it is being applied to the field of health, illness, disease, disability behaviours, disorder intensity and the progressive outcome of treatment.^[17]

With the increasing significance of psychological tests worldwide and its usage in every industry, organisation, and institutions, yet the lack of availability of specific and focused tool results in discussions regarding these issues only in such areas, which are closely connected socially, financially, and psychologically.

The above mention subscale associated with the fear of crime for tourists in India, this study is an attempt by the researcher at mapping the subscales responsible for Fear of crime in Tourists in India; while developing a tool that can access the fear of a tourist while travelling in India with various objectives. Based on the theoretical framework, deducted subscales included are described in figure 1.

Sr. No.	Factors	Description
1	Safety & security concern	Safety and security are essential to provide in tourism. More than any other economic activity, the success or failure of a tourism destination depends on being able to provide a safe and secure environment for visitors” ^[18]
2	Geographical conditions	The coastal tourism destinations are incredibly susceptible to climate change risks for the tourist, counting sea level rise, flood, and extreme weather events. ^[19]
3	Political stability	The political actions such as a coup and core political disturbances have more severe impacts on the level of tourism activity and growth. ^[20]
4	Personal care	Several personal factors, such as nationality and previous experience of crime, were also found to affect the respondent’s perceptions of safety and security for fear of crime. ^[21]
5	Crimes reported	Social and physical incivilities and the presence of serious crime may act to increase the fear of crime. ^[22-23]
6	Terror threats	Terrorism, war, and criminal activity directed against tourists have affected many destinations. ^[24]
7	Perception	Alongside these wide-ranging physiological and psychological effects, fear of crime can prompt people to change their behaviour. At the level of the individual, people generally respond to the fear of crime by adopting protective or avoidance behaviours. ^[25-26]

Figure 1 indicates seven subscales with operational definitions

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The primary objective of the review of literature is to gather knowledge about fear of crime among tourists. Existing knowledge serves as the guiding factor for any research. Successful research cannot be accepted without significantly reviewing the literature that already exists in relation to the topic in the form of either general literature or specific studies.

The tourist has been a potential victim of crimes and is more likely to suffer from the same than residents. ^{[27][28]}

Cohen in 1972, identifies two broad types of tourists: the institutionalised and the non-institutionalised. The former heavily relies on intermediaries for various aspects of their travel ranging from making arrangements through movement to the destination. The non-institutionalised tourists rarely rely on travel intermediaries, prefer to organise their trips and move either alone or in small groups at the destination. Cohen in 1987, points out that there are reasonable grounds to assume the tourist will be victimised because she/he is a highly visible temporary stranger, ignorant of the customs and laws of the host country and is socially isolated. ^[29]

A crime is an act or omission, which is prohibited by law. The commission of crime leads to prosecution and further trial in the name of the state. Every crime considered as committed against the state rather than a person results in the convicted undergoing either punishment or the payment of compensation or both as decided by the court. From past to present, no society has accepted any criminal activity/behaviour. Durkheim (cited in Ferraro, 1995: 1)^[11] suggests that the existence of crime in society is normal because the removal of crime from the community is utterly impossible. Crime is an inevitable feature of civilisation.

Fear of crime varies from one group to another and depends upon many variables like age, sex, gender, relation etc. According to Clemente and Kleiman (1977), sex and size of the neighbourhood were two significant variables in predicting the fear of crime. Clemente and Kleiman (1977) study used multivariate analysis on fear of crime, including independent variables such as sex, race, age, income, socioeconomic status, and the size of their community. ^[30]

Pizam (1982) by using ten socio-demographic variables and tourism expenditures empirically attempted to test the relationship between tourism and crime on a national level. The results showed that tourism had a minimal effect on crime levels. Pizam (1999), created a typology and classified acts of tourist crimes by the nature of the criminal/violent act, namely – ^[31]

- Motive: was divided into four categories: economic (theft, robbery, and burglary were considered nonviolent criminal acts, which are committed with economic motives), social (theft, burglary, vandalism, or arson are committed to right some perceived form of social injustice that was committed against the criminal's group), Political and religious (often associated with terrorist acts), personal motive (fueled by the fact that the victim and the criminal know each other and have some personal relationship).
- Victim: victims of crime into resident, political figures, famous personalities, tourists, and businesses. Crimes at tourist destinations against all these types of people can affect the image of that tourist destination.
- Location: Location was divided into off-tourism business premises and on-tourism business premises.

- Severity: severity of the act in terms of the loss of property, bodily harm, loss of life, and mass destruction of life and property.

According to Tarlow (2011), finding out about the crime rate against tourists is challenging as most of the crimes committed against tourists go unreported because almost all tourists are not immediately conscious about being victims of crime like that of pick-pocketing. Secondly, the unfamiliarity of the reporting agency and they also don't know what to do after the commission of a crime. Mostly the victims are convinced that they will not regain the stolen items, so it is useless for them to report the incident. ^[32]

III. METHOD

The mapping of subscales includes a detailed review of the literature and statistical methods. This model is based on theory and previous analytic research. More than 15 incidences and scenarios and 150 items were analysed to identify the most effective ten subscales which are closely associated with tourist worries before and during the travelling. Confirmatory Factor analysis (CFA) method was used to finalise seven subscales.

3.1 *Sample profiling*

The test was designed for adults who are financially stable and can afford to travel for fun and leisure with their friends and family group. As such, the samples selected at the different phases of the test development (Pre-tryout, Tryout, etc.) were deliberately restricted within a particular stratum (of the population) having the necessary characteristics of the research.

Criteria's considered in this study are:

Inclusion (1) Female and male tourists who travel with family and friend groups, (2) Tourists whose primary and only purpose is leisure, fun, and enjoyment (3) Tourists who could read and write English conveniently, and (4) Tourists who were willing to participate in the study before and during the tour.

Exclusion (1) Those who refused to give informed consent, (2) Undergraduate students, (3) Medical, religious, and business purpose of travelling, (4) Solo, backpacker, and adventure tourists.

The sample is a tiny portion of the specific population or universe as a representative of that particular population. The questionnaire was distributed to the tourists, after eliminating incomplete forms, exclusion criterion and non-eligible participants sample size comprised of 600 tourists in India. The age range of the participants varies from 20 to 70 year age groups. The participants were drawn using a non-probability convenient sampling procedure.

Table 1 Age and gender distribution of the sample population of n=600

Age & Gender distribution				
Age group	Female	%	Male	%
20 – 26	105	17.5	68	11.3
27 – 33	87	14.5	99	16.5
34 – 40	43	7.2	66	11.0
41 – 47	17	2.8	38	6.3
48 – 54	13	2.2	17	2.8
55 – 61	19	3.2	8	1.3
62 – 68	4	0.7	11	1.8
69 <	0	0	5	0.8
Total	288	48.0	312	52.0

Table 1 indicates the age and gender of the sample population of 600.

This table 1 indicates the age groups of the sample population of 600 tourists between the age of 20 to 70 years. The table also shows the gender distribution of the sample population of 600 in which 288 (48.0%) were females and 312 (52.0%) were males.

3.2 Instrument and Procedures

A structured questionnaire developed after initial filtration based on the frequency choices of the experts was comprised of 49 items of Tourists' fears of crime scale. The statements included in the tool were presented on a five-point Likert scale (strongly agree, Agree, neither agree nor disagree (Can't Say), Disagree, and strongly disagree). Initial pilot survey, circulated among

Table 2 Descriptive statistics subscale wise

Descriptive Statistics			
Name of the subscales	Mean	Std. Deviation	Loadings % of Variance
Safety Security concern	32.66	5.95	6.23
Geographical conditions	23.24	5.48	4.22
Political stability	19.53	3.28	3.92
Personal Care	23.94	4.82	3.86
Crimes reported	21.76	4.04	3.60
Terror threats	26.07	4.91	3.21

Perception	26.38	5.89	2.96
Valid N	600		

Table 2 Descriptive statistics of seven Subscales

Table 2 indicating the mean, standard deviation and Loadings subscale wise of the sample population. Safety and security concern subscale have 32.66% of the mean score and 5.95% of SD score. Political stability subscale has 19.53% of the mean score and 3.28% of SD score, which is the lowest among other factors.

IV. DISCUSSION

This paper is a part of research work aimed to Map the subscales responsible for Fear of crime in Tourists in India while developing the Fear of crime tool of tourists in India which can help in measuring fear of crime in the domestic travellers in India. The paper also highlights the importance of measurement of the same in tourism and the stakeholders to review and upgrade the importance of fear of crime issues related to the industry. The literature confirmed that no such measurement tool had been developed to find out fear of crime for the people in India.

The tool measures fear of crime across seven subscales namely; Safety & Security concern, Geographical conditions, Political stability, Personal care, Crimes reported, Terror threats and Perception as leading causes reported by the non-clinical population.

In Table 2 shows safety and security concerns have been the primary cause of worry as per data available, 32.66% of the mean score of safety and security measures indicates that tourists in India having a higher fear of crime in before and during travelling. Whereas political stability is the comparatively lower 19.53% mean score shows political stability does not lead to fear of crime. The subscales like Terror threats and Perception can be considered as second important causes with 26.07% and 26.38% for tourists to have a fear of crime.

In the recent Covid-19 pandemic situation, the fear of infection spread and following health care protocols are also the critical cause of stress and worry as it is impacting the industry globally.

It has been observed that safety and security measures are the necessity for keeping oneself safe and loved one's safety. In the Other subscales also contribute less than equal for the tourists to be fearful even to postponing or cancelling the travel plans. By identifying fear of crime, individual and tourism stakeholders also can initiate the movement towards reducing fear of crime and make the trip enjoyable and memorable as per the plans to be.

V. CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The paper attributed to seven subscales in the process of tool development for the assessment of fear of crime in tourists in India by the non-clinical population; In future studies expansion of the factors can be added to factors related to children related crimes, cybercrime, health-related threats like COVID-19. As we know that with social-economic changes, new

subscales will keep contributing towards growth and development and likewise for the fear which tourists may have regarding leisure travel. The paper does not address current warfare and pandemic COVID-19 conditions in the globe, though for the time being, it costs heavily to the Tourism industry. However, the periodic phase cannot rationalise with regular travel issues and the research area of the study.

Although, it is unlikely that the insights gained from the current or new knowledge about fear of crime among tourists, the measurement will be sufficient by itself to bring about a transformation in the assessment as described in this study. If the tourists are aware of the fear of crime associated with tourism, then it shall help them to reduce this fear. The identified subscales will be valuable for both diagnostic and corrective measures at individual and society levels in the tourism industry; measures can be taken to create a supportive, protective and proactive environment for domestic tourists. The identified subscales can be significant causes for the psychological tool to measure fear of crime in Tourists in India. All the tourism stakeholders and psychology practitioners to find out the degrees of the fear of crime in an individual.

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VII. ABBREVIATIONS

FEE	-	Foreign Exchange Earnings
CFA	-	Confirmatory factor analysis
UNWTO	-	United Nations World Tourism Organisation
WTTC	-	World Travel and Tourism Council
COVID-19	-	Corona Virus Disease – 2019

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IX. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Both authors confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere, nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Informed consent was obtained from all the participants prior to the collection of data. The privacy rights of human subjects have been observed throughout the process. The work submitted, and entire data collection procedure is fully complied with all the relevant guidelines and met all ethical publication standards, that is, data is not fabricated, the study is not plagiarised, all authors take responsibility and credit only for their substantial contribution, data is original and has not been published previously or duplicated, data will be shared for verification if requested. This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors. The authors declare they have no financial or academic Conflict of Interest.