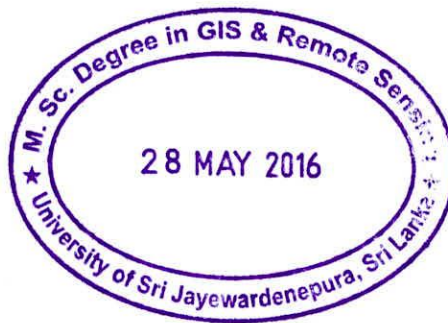


# **The Spatial Pattern of Robberies In Maharagama Police Area**

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**MSc.**



**2016**

# **The Spatial Pattern of Robberies In Maharagama Police Area**

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Registration No. - 5998 MD 2014 053

Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the Partial Fulfillment  
of Master's of Science Degree in GIS and Remote Sensing  
on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016

## DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE

I do hereby declare that work described in this thesis was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. D.P.S. Chandrakumara. and Dr. H.M. Ranjith Premasiri and report on this thesis has not been submitted in whole or in part to any University or any other institution for another Degree/Diploma.

Date. 27<sup>th</sup> March 2016.



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## **Acknowledgement**

I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to Prof. R.M.K. Ratnayake, Coordinator of GIS programmer, Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in University of Sri Jayawardanapura and former Coordinator Prof. C.K.M. Deheragoda, for the valuable support and guidance given to me in making this effort success.

Also wish to thank Dr. D.P.S. Chandakumara, Senior Lecture in Economics, Department of Economics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Dr. H.M. Ranjith Premasiri, Senior Lecturer, Department of Earth Resource Engineering, University of Moratuwa, for their dedicated supervision and helpful hands. I must thank again for their valuable guidance, comments and the encouragement given to me to complete this thesis successfully.

Special thank goes to Prof. Sunethra Thennakoon, Head of the Department of Geography University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and former Head of the Department, Rev. Dr. Pinnawala Sangasumana, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography University of Sri Jayewardenepura. I also wish to thank all the members of the academic staff of the GIS M.Sc. program of the University for giving me an opportunity to follow this Master's Degree. Last, but not least, I wish to thank all other members of the academic staff and the non-academic staff of the department of Geography, University of Jayewardenepura for their cooperation.

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# **The Spatial Pattern of Robberies in Maharagama Police Area**

**C.V. Weerasena**

## **ABSTRACT**

Similar to other developing countries, robberies in urban areas is one of the frequent problems of the residents of urban areas in Sri Lanka. Despite the government legal law enforcement actions, this problem still remains high. This study selected on urban area, Maharagama, and examined how the robberies are distributed within that area focusing on the reasons behind the existing pattern of robbery distribution and the changes occurred during the last five years. The methodology consisted of mainly GIS and other quantitative and qualitative techniques and used both primary and secondary data. The study revealing the hot-spots of robberies found that population density had a positive relationship with the robberies. Maharagama town GN division was the highest in occurring robberies. The most frequent robbery type of the area was the 'dragging jewelries and gold chains and running through the crowds. The women are the most vulnerable group of being victims. The robberies are high in the high density areas and low in low population density areas. Maharagama town, being the top high population gathering area, should be given more attention for controlling drag and run type of robberies. Foot patrol in high gathering times, education the society and fixing CCTV camera are suggested. Maharagama town, being the top high population gathering area, should be given more attention for controlling drag and run type of robberies. Foot patrol in high gathering times, education the society and fixing CCTV camera are suggested. Identification of the individuals and groups involved in robberies are also recommended. This will help identify the suspects for dragging them into legal actions. Educating of people on how to escape from robbers is also important. Especially as women are the most vulnerable group they should be educated about how to escape. Especially, if they can avoid wearing precious jewels, they can escape from that trouble. Taking steps to provide street lights in the high spot areas. Clearing unnecessary wild areas and abandoned buildings in the area and using watch dogs to secure home properties can be recommended as suitable methods to curtail robberies.

**Keywords:** Robbery, dragging and running, urban areas, GIS mapping, vulnerable groups.

## CHAPTER ONE

### Introduction

#### 1.1. Background of the Study.

Robbery in urban areas is one of the frequent problems of the residents of urban areas especially in developing countries. People get much suffered due to this problem and devote their time and resources due to robberies. As such, governments in developing countries have strengthened the law and law enforcement system in their countries. Sri Lanka also has directed the system of law and law enforcement to control the robberies among the main activities of that system. However, it seems that robberies in Sri Lanka especially in urban areas still remain high.

When considering urban, rural and estate sectors in Sri Lanka, it shows that urban robberies are very much complicated. Being the economically active population, most of the residents in urban areas travel to work from their homes to working places. Due to this process, in one hand, they are become absent at home and homes become exposed to robberies. On the other hand they themselves are exposed to robberies on roads. In addition, they are exposed to robberies during night even if they are at home. By and large robberies have become one of the main hindrances to the urban residents. As such, in order to control urban robberies, it is necessary to study how these robberies are happened in urban areas. However, still there is no systematic study have been conducted to analyze this problem. Therefore, this study intends to fill this gap.

Robbery is a robbery against your person rather than against your property. If someone breaks into your home or business and takes property from the premises, the robbery is called a burglary. However, if you are confronted by an individual on the street or in your home, car or business and force is used or threatened against you, you have become the victim of a robbery.

In any country there are many kinds of robberies. Such as:

- i. Street Robberies.
- ii. Bank Robberies.
- iii. Automated Tayler Machine Robberies.



iv. Business place robberies.

The street robberies are highly doing at the well-populated places at well-populated times. That can be pick pockets, money robberies, chain theft, and gold theft. In whole world this robberies will be mostly doing at the same time periods. They are Morning 7.00.to 10.00.and evening around 3.30.to 7.00. The robbers will be do their robbery and run away from the robber place immediately. Or they do the robbery by overawe the civilian. These types of robberies are mostly same to all countries and usually the police can catch the robber easily.

The bank robberies are doing many paths in the world. The bank robberies are very uncommon. Only about 2 of every 100 robberies are of a bank. Although violence is rare, employees and customers are at some risk of injury. If nothing else, being victimized can be terrifying. In addition, bank robberies can invoke fear in the community at large, as most are well-covered by the media. And in fact, a distinctive bank robbery such as the fatal shoot-out between police and two bank robbers armed with assault weapons can influence public images of robbery for many years.

Because of the potential for violence, police always respond quickly to a bank robbery in progress. As police commander said, "When a bank robbery goes down, all hell breaks loose in a police department."

The likelihood of catching a bank robber on or near the scene is higher than for other robbery. This is because most bank robberies are reported very quickly, most occur during daylight hours, many have multiple witnesses, and some produce photographic images that can be used to canvass the surrounding area for suspects. Consequently, many robbers are caught the same day. In fact, the clearance rate for bank robbery is among the highest of all robbery nearly 60 percent.

Understanding the factors that contribute to your problem will help frame local analysis, determine good effectiveness measures, recognize key intervention points, and select appropriate responses.

Increases in bank robberies can largely be explained by three factors.

1. More bank outlets and extended hours increase opportunities for robberies.
2. Banks remain the most lucrative of all robbery targets; moreover, 80 percent of stolen money is never recovered.
3. Bank robberies are usually fast, low risk robbery, because employees are trained to comply with a robber's demands. Moreover, although the risk of arrest is high, much of this risk is short term, and risk, as reflected by clearances, has declined over time.

Although arrest is the primary risk to a bank robber, most do not believe they will be caught. Indeed, most bank robberies are successful, at least initially, about 10 percent of all bank robberies fail, and that is, the robberies are not completed. The failures no doubt contribute to the 15 percent of bank robbers who are arrested at the scene and the one-third of bank robberies that are solved the same day. Overall, 60 percent of bank robberies are solved and about half are solved within 30 days. However, it takes up to 18 months to catch 75 percent of the suspects who will eventually be arrested. As with other robbery, bank robberies that are not solved quickly are less likely to be solved at all.

Although the clearance rate for bank robbery is among the highest for all robbery, the rate has declined. In the United States, bank robbery clearances have dropped from 80 percent in 1976 to 58 percent in 2001;<sup>25</sup> clearances vary by region, from as low as 34 percent to as high as 80 percent. In Canada and Germany, 60 to 70 percent of bank robberies are cleared.

Bank robbers are predictable, as they continue to rob, often on the same day, and employing the same modus operandi in successive robberies. It is often this repetition the use of particular signature or trademark, such as a distinctively worded note or a similar disguise that leads to their apprehension. As a result, a single arrest may clear numerous bank robberies. In London, for example, the arrest of each bank robber clears an average of 2.8 bank robberies.



Bank robber's face risks of injury or death during the commission of the robbery; in fact, the robber is the person most often killed. Failure rates vary over time. In the U.S., the percentage of failed robberies within a year has climbed higher than 25 percent. In Australia, 11 percent of bank robberies failed in 1991; the rate more than doubled by 2002. Failure rates reflect the impact of robbery prevention efforts. For example, higher failure rates have been observed at banks with bandit barriers and at banks where employees resist the robbery attempt.

In the United States, the FBI reports solution rates for bank robberies; these are similar to the clearance rates that are defined for local police by the Uniform Robbery Reports. Solution and clearance rates do not take into account how an offense was solved. For example, where a bank robber has committed numerous robberies before being apprehended, a single arrest will clear multiple robberies, including offenses in different jurisdictions. Many of the latter will likely be cleared exceptionally by agencies in those jurisdictions, as reasons outside their control prevent the individual from being prosecuted for each offense. When robbers are arrested, multiple witnesses, surveillance images, and physical evidence contribute to high prosecution and conviction rates. In the United States, where most bank robberies are federal offenses, 93 percent of bank robbers tried in U.S. district court in 1990 were convicted and sentenced.<sup>30</sup> Federal sentencing guidelines result in a 20-year sentence; sentences can be increased by five years if a weapon is present during a robbery.

This kind of robberies are very rare and only about 1 of every 10000. The robbers are not able to do this kind of robberies as they can't do their work against to the ATM security system. The main thing is they can't do anything without showing their face. They must enter to the ATM without helmets and sunglasses. So their face coughed to the CCTV camera. By that the police can catch the robbers very soon. But in U.S.A. some robbers are theft the ATM cards from civilians and put the card to ATM and get money without any pin. They do this by their knowledge. They hacked the system of the ATM and get money.

This type of robberies is very common and the way of this robberies are usually same. These robberies are usually done at the time which the business place closes. Those robberies do at that time because,

- a. The businessman has big amount of money at that time.
- b. Manu people are not at the business place at that time.

Usually the robber fearful the businessmen and get the money from him/her. Sometimes the businessmen not give the money to the robber. At that time the robber can be injured the businessmen. The robbers sometimes kill the businessmen as he is a very good victim to catch the robber. These robberies are well planned before the work. Usually about five people are getting together in these robberies. They planned how they go to the business place, how they rob the place and how they get away after the robbery. Usually the police can catch these robbers immediately or sometimes they can't. The businessmen can reduce the robberies by doing their work according to this.

- Keep your front doors and windows clear of signs and posters to allow well, two way visibilities. Employees can see suspicious persons outside. Passers-by and police can see inside.
- Keep the outside of your business well lit at night.
- Make sure your cash register area is clearly visible to outside observers.
- Practice good cash control. Keep a minimum amount in your cash drawer and make regular drops into a safe.
- Advertise outside that you keep a minimal amount of cash in the register and that you will not accept large bills.
- Don't keep large bills under the cash drawer. If you don't have a safe, find a less obvious place to hide your extra cash until you go to the bank.
- Use a safe that the clerk cannot open alone or that requires two keys. Post that fact conspicuously, including on the safe itself.
- Use video camera surveillance and make it well known.
- Always have at least two clerks working at night.



- Vary your banking routine. Carry cash in a variety of ways - a lunch sack, attaché case, flight bag, pocket, etc. Money bags are pretty obvious.
- Vary the times and routes that you use to go to the bank.
- Make deposits as often as possible, never less than once a day.
- Be alert for "customers" who seem to be loitering or glancing around the store while appearing to shop or browse through a magazine.
- Watch for suspicious persons outside the business - especially in parked cars and around telephone booths.
- If you see someone who is acting suspicious inside or outside, call the police to have them checked out.
- Two persons should be on hand at opening and closing times.
- At opening time, one person should enter the store and check to see if it has been disturbed.
- Before closing, one person should check the office, back rooms and rest rooms to make sure no one is hiding inside.
- Keep side and back doors locked. Have employees use the main entrance, if possible.
- Place markers at the main entrance that employees can use to help gauge the height of a robber as he leaves.

In Sri Lanka, there are only a few kinds of robberies. They are,

- a. Street Robberies.
- b. Business place Robberies.
- c. Bank Robberies.

Street robberies are the most common robberies in Sri Lanka. This type of robberies is mostly doing in buses and towns at office times (7.00 a.m.-9.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.-7.00 p.m.). The robbers are loitering at the towns, bus stops, railway stations and the road. They theft anyone' money or other thing and run away. They usually theft money, gold chains, pendants and mobile phones. Most times anyone can't catch the robber. Usually the police can't get enough information about the robber as anyone can't see him/her well. Sometimes the robberies are abortive by the policemen at roads. They try to reduce the robberies at streets. Another street robbery kind is vehicle theft. The robbers

are theft the vehicles which parked in the car parks or a roadside. They theft the vehicle by unlocking it by using a false key. Or the robber fearful the civilian and theft his/her vehicle. This all robbers can catch by police. These robberies are mostly doing by the people as they haven't enough economy to live.

These robberies are doing by robbers with well plan. They plan the robbery before about one month for the robbery. They study the background of the place and about the place. They also study about the businessmen, the security system of the place. By their knowledge about the place, they built a plan to rob the business palace. In Sri Lanka mostly robbing business places are the Jewelry Shops and small shops (groceries, hardware's). The robbers who rob a jewelry shop, they send their friend to the jewelry shop and get information about the inner condition of the shop. After that they enter to the shop and fearful the people in the shop and rob their properties and the jewelries in the shop. The other place is the small shops. These places also rob by robber team. They also planned about the robbery before the robbery. But they rob the shops at night. Police can catch the robbers, if they can get enough information about them. The most effective way to get a security from robber is, the shop powered by a CCTV system.

In Sri Lanka, Bank Robberies are very rare robbery type. But in past (within 2000-2005) there were some bank robberies. But they were done on the way of the bank money transport. It wouldn't be well planned and the robbers were caught by police immediately.

In urban areas, there are the all kinds of robberies in Sri Lanka. Some people in urban areas are rob to get money to live. Robbers are live in alleys in urban areas. They did rob and escape to the alleys. The people can't go there or police can't catch the robber as the alleys are situated very closely. So the robber lives there without any risk and they do their work fast. So the robberies in urban areas, very hard to reduce.

Robberies are big disaster to the whole world. So many countries were make solutions to reduce this. The police in America was introducing an alarm system for the people. By that the people can inform about robberies immediately to the police. The American police also do the classes to give the information about the robberies which was done



there. They circulate magazines to people to be conscious about the robberies. The people in there also give their full support to the police to reduce the robberies. The American police trace all people in their police area and if there anyone loitering big time without any work, the police will go there and question him and check him/her or arrest him/her.

In England a policeman always on duty at all the streets. If there is any robbery people can inform about that to the policeman immediately. All people have a police whistle and they can ring it and call to a policeman. They also circulate a magazine about self-security and the people can get information from that, the people also try to reduce the robberies and they give their full support to that.

The Portland Police Bureau circulates a magazine to their citizens to reduce the robberies. They give two important things that the citizens must remember, they are,

- Robbers want one thing – your money or your property – and they want it quickly.
- Robbery is a risky business and robbers are usually nervous. You do not want to delay a robbery in any way and increase the potential for violence. Give the robber what he or she wants and do it quickly. Do not risk your life, or another person's life, for property.

And they also give some instruction to the people to reduce the robberies and how can they get their self-security. They give a very big list of instructions to the people how they work at a robbery, after a robbery and how they can reduce a robbery before a robbery. They give an emergency number and non-emergency number to people to inform about the robberies to the police.

The main countries in Europe were get together and made some legal agreements to reduce the robberies in their country. And they all support to reduce the robberies and robbery forms their countries. But in South Asia there are no any agreements or any