

MAPPING HOMICIDE MOTIVES AND CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS IN KARACHI

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ABSTRACT

Karachi, the largest city of Pakistan faced worst crime incidents and law & order situation during the last decade. Business hub, of the country, Karachi is recognized as one of the world's largest cities in terms of population. Homicides, the most heinous manifestation of crimes, have been rampant during the study period 2009 until 2019, in Karachi, the business hub and largest city of Pakistan in terms of population of Pakistan. Mechanism of homicides, as categorized in the Karachi Police records range from bomb blasts, through accidental to extortion and land mafia, etc. In the present study, on the basis of analytical techniques with the GIS package, MapInfo Professional Version 15.2 and statistical package SPSS 20, motives for homicides have been identified, which has revealed the significance of geo demographic factors within the geospatial setting of Karachi. The 05 emergent factors explaining 84.09% of the variance include chiefly tribal culture and deprivation accounting for 27.20% of the variance followed by gang wars (20.69%), income disparities (14.68%), etc. Empowerment of local government at the local geospatial level can go, a long way in improving standard of living, hence quality of life in the city, paving the way for curtailment of crimes and homicides.

KEYWORDS: Geography of crimes, homicide, factors, tribal culture, gang war, Karachi

1. INTRODUCTION

According to the Smart City ideology, urbanization plays a prominent role in enhancing quality of life, thereby providing ample benefits to its living and working residents (Neuroni, et. al., 2019). Unfortunately, most of the developing countries lag behind in providing conducive environment to their nation, both at country as well as city levels (Draper and Selway, 2019). Crime is the cardinal culprit in hampering administrative functions and vice versa, thus having a seriously negative impact on quality of life. Varieties of human psychology, especially negative, are the cause of conflicts in society (Delanda, 2019). However, protection of fundamental rights through proper administration may prove helpful in fostering balanced thinking (Christensen, et. al., 2019). Inequality is created by failure of city administration in providing justice, thus perpetrating resistance to law, leading to all types of vices and crimes. According to

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researchers, occurrence and escalation of crimes may be due to improper guardian as well as their illegal orders (Kirhy et. al., 2018; Morselli et. al., 2017 and Gerland, 1996). Consequently, lawlessness follows inequality and injustice, leading to social disorganization (Wu et. al., 2019).

People affected by disorganization react negatively towards society (Wikstrom and Sampson, 2003). Crimes are a reflection of societal instability because it highlights the incompetency and injustice of administration (Levin and Sataroy, 2000). It has been observed that educational backwardness is responsible for a staggering society where demand for rule of law becomes acute (Amin, 2019), which is vividly witnessed in the developing countries, where absence of law and order create hurdles in educational promotion and achievement (Mbaku, 2019, Siddiqui 2019).

Karachi, the business hub and largest city of Pakistan in terms of population has reported serious crime incidents and law and order conditions, during the last decade (Khan, et.al., 2019). According to the Pakistan Census 2017 more than 16 million people live here on 3 600 km² occupied area, located between 24.750 to 25.656 north latitudes and 66.653 to 76.574 east longitudes on the Arabian Sea coast (PBS, 2017). Administratively, Karachi is still headed by the Commissioner as the Division guardian, assisted by Deputy Commissioners for districts i.e. South, East, West, Central, Malir and Korangi (Anwar and Viqar, 2014). Subsequently, the 06 Districts structured into 31 Sub-divisions are managed by their Assistant Commissioners, following the British colonial system (GoS, 2015).

Since the mid-1980s, Karachi has suffered endemic political conflict and criminal violence, which revolved around control of the city and its resources, putting it on record as one of the most violent cities of the country/world. Homicides have been one of the most deadly crimes recorded in significant numbers during 2009-2018 (Khan, et. al., 2019).

For an understanding of homicides an insight into its nature is essential. The reasons for homicides differ globally, being classified under the titles, First Degree, Second Degree murders. Voluntary Manslaughter, Justifiable Homicide, Excusable Homicide, etc (Fox et. al., 2018; Charette and Hickey, 2017). Motives directly concerned with demographic typology include role of society and its norms (Dabney, 2019; Broidy, et. al., 2006). Motives are sometimes reactions against society and the present paper indicates an overlap between the socioeconomic context and risk behavior of homicide offenders and victims in the purview of criminal justice. Motives also

evaluate guardian competency for crime perspective because homicide categories extend into new thoughts regarding killing.

Several studies on homicides have indicated the significance of motives in crime analysis (Higgs, et. al., 2017; Anderson 2015; Kleck, et. al., 2016). The motives of homicides in Karachi have been categorized as per Karachi Police Reports being bomb blast, target killing (sectarian, political and gangster), suicide attacks while personal enmity, honor killing, accidental, robbery, extortion, land mafia and unknown reasons. All these motives point towards the role of guardian competency both in the occurrence as well as prevention of crimes. In the study area, rare cases recorded pertain to illicit relationships of spouses, etc.

The geo demographic perspectives in Karachi reveal the significance of ethnicity and culture as causes of crimes. The real causes of homicides in Karachi, however, as revealed from the FIRs (First Information Reports) have been considered as reliable data. The role of geography and administration, have nonetheless been recognized as significant in various studies (Ruffell and Barry, 2019; Ng, et al., 2016). In developing countries like Pakistan, socioeconomic inequalities have created instability in society (Ihsan and Aziz, 2019). Societies have been classified into various socioeconomic and power groups (Miandad, et. al., 2016; Huda and Burke, 2011) and disparities between rural and urban quality of life are also revealed in their thought processes and activities.

The socioeconomic dilemmas are manifested in negative pursuits as begging, snatching, robbery, etc, mounting to homicides (Khan et. al., 2019). The need of the hour is to investigate the impact of economic zones as shopping areas, as well as planned and unplanned residential areas, road network geometry with special reference to junctions and edges, number of casualties due to ethnicity in connection with homicide motives at subdivision levels, in the study area. The purpose of the present study is to investigate factors for occurrence of homicides on the basis of police designated motives.

1.1. Hypothesis and Objectives

The objectives of the study include study of the role of gangsters, turf wars, land grabbing and other crimes on economic volatility and social disorganization along with failure of police in controlling crimes. The hypothesis of the present study is that escalation of homicides indicates malfunctioning of the city administration.

2. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

Homicide data under different motive heads e.g. pertaining to deaths in terms of major ethnicities like Sindhi, Balochi, Punjabi, Urdu, Pashtun, Others and number of police posted was obtained from the KPO(Karachi Police Office) and from FIRs of Police Stations for the period under investigation i.e. 2009-2019. For scientific analysis, all data were converted into geospatial format. Administratively, subdivisions were selected as the study unit because they were the smallest revenue jurisdictions. The demarcation of subdivision boundaries was incorporated through census maps, available at the PBS (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics). For placing of Sub-division layer, data were segregated with the help of geo-coded numbers. Other data, also at subdivision level e.g. percentage of shopping area, planned and unplanned area, junctions and edges were extracted from Google Earth Satellite images 2018.



Fig.1: Karachi Sub-divisions- Study Area

2.1. Analytical Techniques

All spatial data development and analysis was executed with the help of GIS package, Mapinfo Professional Version 15.2, while for statistical analysis SPSS 20 was employed. Multivariate Analysis was used for identification of interconnection among variables. Factor Analysis (FA) based on Principal Component Analysis (PCA) applied to the large volume of data helped in compaction of variables into explanatory factors on the basis of identification of multiple relationships (Huda et. al., 2011).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Homicide incidents in Karachi maybe explained on the basis of 05 extracted factors based on 19 selected variables, shown in the Correlation Matrix, Table 1. Based on the Varimax Criteria Rotation of Loadings, 05 factors explaining 84.09% emerged as shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Correlation Matrix

	T	P	C	A	D	D	D	O	S	J	E	P	U	S	B	P	U	P	O	P
		E	D		R	E	L		A				P	D	D	D	D	a	D	P
						G	G	(k)		
T	1	.6	.4	.6	.6	.4	.4	.8	.1	.6	.6	.2	.3	.6	.4	.8	.7	.7	.9	.5
P		1	.7	.4	.6	.0	.6	.7	.1	.7	.7	.4	.0	.7	.2	.6	.5	.9	.8	.4
C			1	.2	.6	.2	.3	.5	.2	.6	.7	.4	.0	.3	.1	.3	.4	.7	.5	.1
A				1	.5	.7	.0	.8	.1	.3	.3	.1	.3	.3	.7	.5	.3	.3	.7	.5
D					1	.0	.3	.5	.1	.5	.6	.4	.2	.4	.0	.6	.7	.5	.6	.5
D						1	.2	.6	.2	.0	.0	.2	.1	.1	.0	.1	.0	.0	.4	.3
D							1	.3	.2	.5	.5	.2	.2	.6	.0	.3	.3	.4	.4	.0
O								1	.1	.6	.6	.1	.1	.5	.7	.5	.5	.7	.9	.4

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SA (km)	1	-	-	.	-	-	-	.2	.4	-	-	.4
J		1	1.	.5	.0	.5	.0	.5	.5	.7	.6	.3
E			1	.5	.0	.5	.0	.5	.5	.7	.6	.3
P				1	.0	.5	-	.3	.1	.3	.2	.4
UP					1	.3	.0	-	-	.1	-	-
SD						1	.3	.5	.2	.5	.7	.4
BD							1	.1	-	.1	.5	.3
PD								1	.6	.5	.7	.5
UD									1	.5	.5	.2
Pa D										1	.7	.3
OD											1	.5
PP												1

Table 2: Rotated Sums of Squared Loadings

Total Cumulative%	% of Variance
05.44	27.20
27.20	
04.14	20.69
47.89	
02.94	14.68
62.57	
02.54	12.72
75.29	
01.76	08.80
84.09	

Extraction method: Principal Component Analysis.

Table 3: Rotated Component Matrix

	Factor I	Factor II	Factor III	Factor IV	Factor V
Terrorism	0.43	0.52	0.47	0.47	0.05
Personal Enmity	0.72	0.19	0.09	0.50	0.19
Culture Disputes	0.91	-0.05	0.01	-0.01	0.08
Accidental Deaths	0.26	0.81	0.31	-0.02	0.20
Deaths due to robbery	0.62	0.13	0.44	0.12	0.32
Deaths due to extortion	-0.12	0.95	-0.10	-0.07	0.00
Deaths due to land grabbing	0.29	-0.13	-0.06	0.86	-0.06
Others/Ascertain	0.55	0.73	0.20	0.25	-0.05
Shopping Area (km ²)	-0.29	-0.16	0.74	-0.10	0.29
Junctions	0.83	0.08	0.04	0.25	0.21
Edges	0.85	0.07	0.03	0.24	0.20
Planned Area	0.42	-0.17	-0.06	0.06	0.77
Unplanned Area	0.01	-0.12	-0.79	0.22	0.05
Sindhi Deaths	0.32	0.25	-0.15	0.72	0.45
Balochi Deaths	-0.05	0.97	-0.12	0.04	0.00
Punjabi Deaths	0.35	0.22	0.62	0.43	0.20
Urdu Speaking Deaths	0.50	-0.02	0.76	0.21	-0.12
Pashtun Deaths	0.79	0.19	0.05	0.37	0.00
Others Lingual Deaths	0.52	0.61	0.28	0.43	0.17
Police Posted	0.09	0.38	0.34	0.10	0.72

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

3.1. Factor I- Tribal Culture and Deprivation

Factor I which accounted for 27.20% of the total variance of 84.09% has shown close affinity of homicide motives with the study area in the inhabitant's own geographic environs (Table 3). Highest positive loadings having been recorded for death due to culture disputes (0.91), followed by that for edges (0.83), junctions (0.83), and number of Pashtun deaths (0.79), high loadings for homicides due to personal enmity (0.72), deaths due to robbery (0.62), while moderate loadings for ascertain deaths (0.55), Other lingual groups' deaths (0.52) and Urdu speaking deaths (0.50).

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Insight into these positive variables revealed not only close connection of the inhabitants' daily lives with their geographic set up but also that the aspects related to uneven geo-demographic conditions emerged as fundamentally responsible for the occurrence of homicide incidents in Karachi (Fig. 2). High positive loadings of Factor I revealed that homicides in Karachi occurred chiefly under the influences of tribal culture and deprivation.

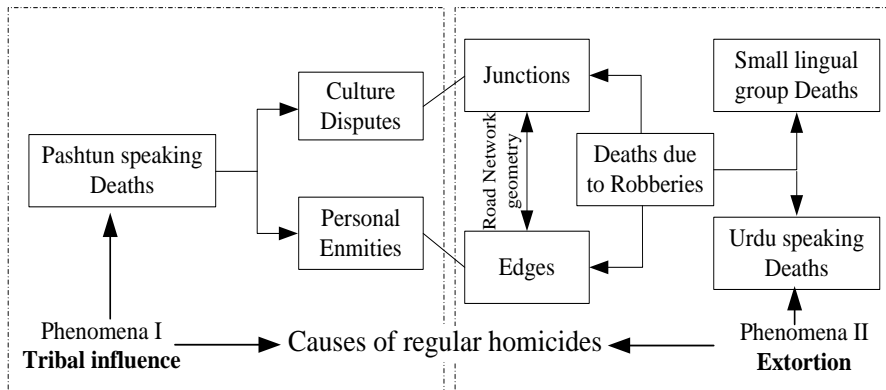


Fig. 2 The Vicious Cycle of Homicides in Karachi.

According to factor scores portrayed in Fig. 3, based on Thematic Map equal range technique, the most disturbed areas were Manghopir and Ibrahim Hyderi preceded by Baldia, Mominabad and Korangi subdivisions. Ethnically, these localities are widely recognized as complex areas because of their population configuration comprising on different lingual groups compared to other subdivisions of the study area and Pashtun residents being found in significant numbers. Several researches have observed the Pashtun as having more warrior like violent culture in comparison to other lingual groups (Haroon, 2017; Benson & Siddiqui, 2014; Alley, 2012 and Hawkins, 2009).

Personal enmity and culture dispute related crimes in Karachi, were recorded mainly in the dwelling areas of the Pashtun (Khayyam, 2016 and The Express Tribune Pakistan, 2018). Historically, originated from Afghanistan, they have a long standing tradition of following their *Jirga* i.e. Tribal Council, not only to lay down social principles but to finalize and enforce their decisions along with resolving their conflicts. Land disputes and empowerment of women rights are key causes of personal enmity. The Pashtuns' warrior nature identifies and segregates them from other ethnic and lingual groups. Most of the Pashtuns, migrated from their home towns to urban areas as Karachi, try to live among their clan (Hussain, and Shelley, 2016).

Pashtun residential areas are very congested in terms of housing and population, so other groups of people, especially the literate avoid living with them. Due to their irregular unplanned localities, with narrow streets, their residential areas become No Go Areas for police as well as other lingual groups. The road geometry of the unplanned settlements provides support to those who adhere to the backward tribal system which stagnates the economic and societal change which may have been possible through the integration of multi cultured people, the reason for these uneducated, illiterate groups being unaware about quality of life. This phenomenon of usurping land by dint of clan powers also creates jealousy among other groups who have to struggle to earn a better standard of living; thus leading to crimes.

Variation in culture sophistication among ethnic groups creates economic classes because the highly literate classes achieve a better quality of life. They maintain their lives in planned areas with greater semblance to civility as compared to the tribal way of life of the Pashtuns. Urdu and Other lingual groups such as Memons, Parsi, Ismailis, Bohris, etc. mostly faced disturbance regarding crime related issues. First degree murder is a form of criminal homicide, where killings are pre-meditated or planned. These are acts involving the death of someone in 'cold-blood'. Also if a murder is committed during a felony (such as robbery, kidnapping or arson), even if the killing is unplanned, it is deemed first degree murder, and Factor I has highlighted this heinous crime and its prime causes in Karachi.

3.2. Factor II- Gang wars

Factor II accounting for 20.69% of the total variance, reveals highest positive loadings for Baloch speaking deaths (0.97), deaths due to extortion (0.95), accidental deaths (0.81), high loadings observed for ascertain deaths (0.73), Other lingual groups deaths (0.61) and low loading for terrorism (0.52) (Table 3).

Fig. 4, revealing homicide motives shows that there are groups operating in the city whose affairs are beyond the law. In cities where overwhelming majority of immigrants from other areas dominate over the local people, it indicates they are reluctant to change over time, the reason for their backwardness. As a result, their residential areas become further depleted. Prosperous people move away from their native brethren, which in turn reduces the role of locals in society. Such conditions lead to economic decline ensuing from low school turnouts of children of the local population. As their environment is isolated from the surrounding areas, government inaction has increased, resulting in a struggle by locals to gain power and money to control these residential areas. All principles of humanity are set aside and a new world of crime sets in.

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Figure 5 explained second factor scores at subdivision level. Lyari the oldest town of Karachi, recorded highest homicides under the heads, incidents entitled motives of deaths due to extortion, accidental and ascertain. These motives have been found to be strongly correlated with Baloch speaking deaths, who are a threatened community by the drugs mafia who take recourse to gang war (Kirmani, 2015). Due to ethnicity and political marginalization, various power groups have created their own mode of governance which is emerging in a context where the state's role in the provision of municipal services and city-making remains contested and ambiguous, and the rule of law is seen to have become compromised or absent (Viqr, 2014; Kirmani, 2015). Lyari subdivision, occupying an area of 1 720 acres of Karachi's District South is the oldest known town of Karachi with a population of around 0.66 million, a densely populated, multi-ethnic town largely comprising of working class inhabitants (PBS, 2018).

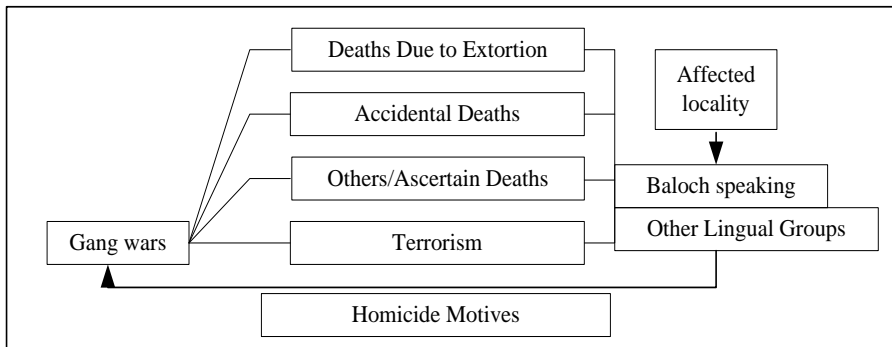


Fig. 4 Major Contributions to Homicide

Urban based localized conflict in Lyari, fueled by cross-border smuggling in weapons and drugs are significant sources of revenue for the criminal gangs. In addition, major gangsters operate their activities from abroad, particularly from the Middle East and Iran. Lyari is the product of multiple waves of migration, with many residents tracing their roots across the entire Indian Ocean into what is now India and Iran and as far as Africa for those whose ancestors were brought to the subcontinent as slaves. Karachi's contemporary conflicts may be conjuncted to urban space and resources among various groups claiming their 'right to the city' (Kirmani, 2015; Harvey 2008; Lefevbre, 1968).

Garden and Ibrahim Hyderi subdivisions also emerged as gangster influential areas. Many residential areas of Garden comprise the old population. However, some sections of the clan are economically well settled due to which abduction and extortion are common. Ibrahim Hyderi

is also a subdivision characterized by a mixture of low and middle profile areas where Baloch and Pashtun live in significant numbers among major lingual groups of the study area. All remaining subdivisions experienced lesser horror and fear due to gang wars.

3.3. Factor III-Income Disparities

The third significant factor explaining 14.68% of the total variance divulges positive loading on Urdu speaking deaths (0.76), shopping area to total subdivision area (0.74), Punjabi speaking deaths (0.62), terrorism (0.47) and deaths due to robbery (0.44), these being balanced by high negative loading for percentage of unplanned area to total subdivision area (-0.79). The nature of loadings, both positive and negative, viewed in a general perspective prompted the naming of this factor as Income Disparities (Table 3).

The third factor portrays the main reasons for killings, being social discrimination. Along with terrorism, dacoity has an important role in the killings in Karachi. The Factor reveals that areas of the city where there are economic activities are prone to looting. The negative loadings of unplanned areas i.e. the slum dwellers are indicative of the fact that killings due to looting occur mostly in areas where quality of life is good. In terms of vulnerable populace the factor reveals that the economic and social status of Urdu and Punjabi speaking being economically better than those of Other language groups, the number of Urdu and Punjabi speaking persons' killings having emerged as prominent.

Inefficiency of the administration can be gauged from the fact that no regular planning is implemented in the city. There is no arrangement of affordable housing for the low-income class justifying the poorer communities managing their accommodation wherever they can capture it; which causes illegal residential areas where criminals also benefit by security afforded by the faulty road geometry, which camouflages their hideouts. Such killings also sometimes involve elements of intentional killing but the majority plan to kill the survivors, with no intention of indiscriminate murder. Therefore, such incidents of robbery killings may be considered second-degree murder. According to Fig. 6, Factor 3 shows that most affected areas include North Nazimabad, Gulberg, Nazimabad, Jamshed Quarters, Garden and Gulzar-e-Hijri sub-divisions, preceded by Ferozabad, Civil Lines, Saddar, Korangi, Liaquatabad, SITE, Orangi and Mominabad sub-divisions.

3.4. Factor IV- Land Mafia

Factor four explaining 12.72% of the variance, loading highly positive for deaths due to land grabbing (0.86), followed by Sindhi speaking deaths (0.72), along with low loadings for personal enmity (0.50) and terrorism

(0.47) have prompted its designation as Land Mafia (Table 3). The suburbs of Karachi are attractive for the land grabbing mafia due to obstacle of high density population pressure in the inner city. The variables of factor four reveal the role of land mafia in Karachi killings.

Resistance from the indigenous people towards land grabbing does not deter the powerful land mafia from killing them. Apart from this, backwardness also attracts terrorists to establish their hideouts in such areas which lead to terrorism because of their nascent conflicts. The people of the rural areas of Karachi are under the influence of the Baloch tribal system which is controlled by a powerful chieftain. An environment of depression is on the rise due to poverty. Bloody hostility on slightest provocation is normal. This being the reason of killings of personal enemies in the residential areas of the tribal-speaking people of Karachi, which negatively affects urban life. Land mafia also capture land of the city earmarked for welfare work, parks or playgrounds i.e. (Amenity Plots) shown on the Master Plan, which are sold to builders in various shady ways. Rift between land mafia groups has been highly responsible for spates of killings in Karachi. Figure 7, has revealed subdivision Gulshan-e-Iqbal having highest rate of homicides due to land mafia, followed by Liaquat abad, Gulzar-e-Hijri and Orangi which recorded moderate number of death tolls at the hands of land mafia.

3.5. Factor V- Guardian Surveillance

With high positive loadings for variables entitled percentage of planned area to total subdivision area (0.77), followed by Police posted (0.72), the fifth factor may be labeled Guardian Surveillance explaining 08.80% of the variance (Table 3). Variables for factor five indicate that some of the killings in Karachi occur in the areas where quality of life is slightly better. However, the availability of police in these areas also is much better than that in other sub-divisions, which in conjunction with the death toll of Sindh-speaking people indicates the peculiar relationship between the government and opposition in this city; the guardians facilitating the local government when they want to start a riot. The social and economic disparities of people in this city on the basis of languages have always been one of the prime causes of homicide escalation; explaining the temporal fluctuation of death rates over the past decade in the study area.

According to Fig. 2, Civil Lines, Gulberg and Ibrahim Hyderi emerged as better positioned than other subdivisions in terms of police availability. Civil Lines is known as the area of Karachi's elite and influential authorities, as well as Gulberg, which has a good reputation with reference to economic stability except for a part of Musa Colony and some *kacchi abadi* populations adjacent to *Gujjar nala*, where the average population income

is closer to the poverty line. Ibrahim Hyderi, sub-division, along the coastal belt is the center of fishermen’s economic activities. Here the law of the influential people is the writ of the area rather than that of the police, who also are in substantial numbers. Improved police numbers are indicated at the Airport, Ferozabad and Saddar sub-divisions.

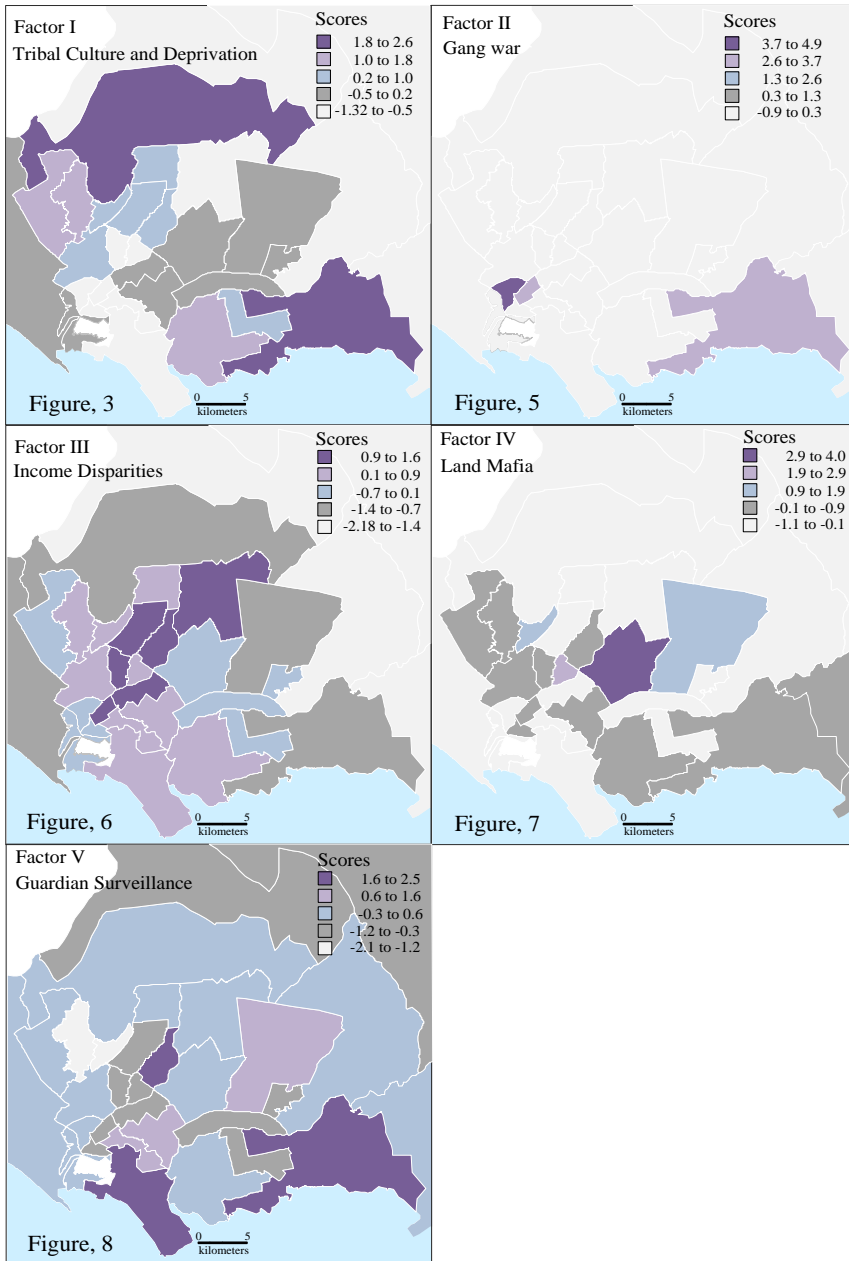


Fig. 3 to 8: Rotated Component Matrix of 5 factors

4. CONCLUSION

Unrest culminating in homicides in the cosmopolitan city of Karachi may be traced to the waves of in migration leading to anomie, along with income disparities and all types of deprivation in the society. The incompetency of the administration to manage the voluminous cohorts of tribal in migrants into the city, who have more of brawn power as against brain power, is a serious issue in the area. The original residents of Karachi, the capital of Sindh province being highly impressed by the erstwhile colonial system adheres to their norms, especially the administrative norms, as a surety for their protection. Even in the twenty first millennium, decision making process is based on lingual affiliation, ethnicity and tribal system as against competency and meritocracy in society and corruption is still an inherent part of the system, lending inertia to crimes. Economic deprivation and vulnerability in the city are heightened by tribal and linguistic forces and features.

To ensure a stable society, it is deemed necessary to establish support and empower local government system, because decision making should be ensured at the grassroots level by the municipal government. Sustainable approach, a concrete strategy and decision making by municipal government are crucial for ensuring better law and order as it ushers the involvement of the local, common people. Empowerment of the local government is the only way to improve the cultural values of the backward ethnic group. Administrative power devolution not only strengthens the confidence of the local people, but inculcates a sense of ownership, thus helping promote better quality of life. In addition, empowerment of the local government especially Union Councils, as demanded by the Constitution of Pakistan may ensure better collection and utilization of revenue, thus improving standard of living in the city and decrease of corruption, hence curtailment of all types of crimes.

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