ӨНӨӨГИЙН НИЙГЭМ БА ГЭМТ ХЭРГЭЭС АЙХ АЙДАС

FEAR OF CRIME AND CONTEMPORARYSOCIETY*

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Товч агуулга: Хүн бүр аюулгүй, тайван амьдрах эрхтэй байдаг. Иргэдийн гэмт хэргийн талаарх үзэл бодлыг бодитойгоор ойлгохын тулд тэдний гэмт хэргээс айх айдас (Fear of crime)-ын талаар судлах нь чухал байдаг. Учир нь иргэд гэмт хэргээс айх айдастай амьдрах нь нийгэмд сөрөг нөлөө үзүүлдэг ажээ. Иргэдийн гэмт хэргээс айх айдас, түүнд шууд болон шууд бусаар нөлөөлж буй хүчин зүйлсийн талаар олон тооны эрдэм шинжилгээ, судалгааны ажлуудыг дэлхийн эрдэмтэд хийж, өөрсдийн орны ард иргэдийн нийтийн аюулгүй байдал, хэвийн аж төрөх нөхцөл бололцоог хангахад ашиглаж иржээ. Гэмт хэргийн хохирогч судлалын (International crime victim survey) олон улсын тойм судалгааны арга зүйг ашиглан боловсруулсан асуулгаар Улаанбаатар хотын 683 иргэдээс авсан судалгааны дүнгээс үзэхэд, 2014 оны байдлаар нийт оролцогчдын 43.5 % нь оройн цагаар гудамж талбайд явахаас айж, болгоомжилдог; 63.5% нь ямар нэг төрлийн гэмт хэргийн хохирогч болсон; 36.5 % нь шууд бусаар гэмт хэргийн хохирогч болсон талаар мэдээлсэн байна. Ийм төрлийн судалгаа, шинжилгээний бүтээл манай улсад төдийлөн хийгдээгүй байгаа бөгөөд цаашид нарийвчлан судлах шаардлага тулгарч байгааг судалгааны үр дүн харуулсан болно.

Abstract: Citizens of a society have the right to live securely. Thus, the understanding of people's opinion about crime problem is vital to gain a broad and better knowledge of national crime problem. 'Fear of crime' is a major determinant of how much people feel secure or fearful in their society. This study analyzed survey data from samples of 683 individuals of the city Ulaanbaatar,by using survey questionnaires based on the international crime victim survey. The results showed that, approximately 43.5 per cent of respondents felt unsafe while walking on the street at night,a 63.5 per cent of respondents reported that they suffered from any kind of crimes, and a 36.5 per cent were victimized indirect way. Considering the lack of the prior literatures, the results of the study suggested investigating this issue more accurately.

Түлхүүр үгс: Гэмт хэргээс айх айдас, шилжилтийн нийгэм, гэмт хэрэгт хохирох байдал, эмх забраагүй байдал, тайлбарлагч хүчин зүйлс.

Key words: Fear of crime, transitional society, crime victimization, disorder, explanatory factors.

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I. Introduction

Fear of crime is defined as "…an emotional response of dread or anxiety to crime or symbols that a person associates with crime"[1]and it is a major problem in political and societal agenda[2]. In other words, it is, simply put of the emotional response to potential victimization[3]which is considered as a complex social phenomenon with important consequences, as well as, at both personal and societal level[4].Since the 1960s, fear of crime has been recognized as a social fact that is equally as important as crime itself[5]. Crime affects the whole community and subsequently creates a level of fear, which in turn may have an adverse impact on quality of life[6].

Citizens of a society have the right to live securely. Thus, the understanding of people's opinion about crime problem is vital to gain a broad and better knowledge of national crime problem. Therefore, 'Fear of crime' is a major determinant of how much people feel secure or fearful in their society. Its obviously, criminal victimization is a widespread feature of urban areas across the globe, while, there is no crime-free country[7].

As Shaw[8]noted that a rise of crime in periods of transition is a complex phenomenon and it's difficult to analyze because a statistical data on level of crime before and after the transition are difficult to come by, and when available, their accuracy may be open to question.

To date, extensive research has been provided to examine determinants which relate to fear of crime. The most of studies on the fear of crime have been conducted in the United States and Western societies, including some Asian countries, China, South Korea, and Japan.

This study is an initial effort of examination on fear of crime in contemporary Mongolian society, which attempted to disclose an understanding of fear of crime among citizens. In this study we used data from the survey which was executed in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, during autumn 2015.

II. Fear of crime and Explanatory factors

Fear of crime has been studied by many scholars mostly in Western societies. As defined as a social problem, researches on fear of crime have been developed its distinct models such as victimization model, disorder model, community concern/control model, risk interpretation model and subcultural diversity model in the theoretical frames of social disorganization theory, social capital theory, life style theory and social learning perspectives. Moreover, there are substantial amounts of studies examined correlates between fear of crime and neighborhood conditions, perception of the local police, crime victimization, perceived risks, community cohesion, media affects and socio-demographical characteristics as well.

Research on fear of crime has not been studied in Mongolia broadly. Furthermore, Mongolia had not long tradition in participating international crime victim survey and has not regular program on national

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crime victim survey. However, there are exists some studies as well.

Nyamsuren[9] noted that the result of the crime victimization research from 2003 showed the criminal victimization were 2.5-3 times higher than registered crime rates in the National Police Agency.

Recently, Davaa and Altangerel[10] provided a comparative analysis on fear in the Mongolian society. Two stages survey were collected in 2003 and 2013, with 1080 and 9000 samples. Final result showed that a 32.6 per cent of peoples are afraid of crime and a 57.4 per cent are afraid of strangers in their society.

"Fear of crime can be divided into a variety of aspects . . . risk assessment, feelings of insecurity, worry about becoming a victim of crime, ideas about how serious crime problems are in the neighborhood, and reaction to crime"[11]. To date, many researchers have been conducted numerous studies and reported in the literature relations between predictors and explanatory factors of fear of crime.

"The most common measures in the public surveys include items asking whether the respondents feel safe when walking in their neighborhood at night and whether respondents feel safe when they stay at home alone"[12]. Moreover, fear of crime has been considered as direct result of the experience of an actual occurrence of victimization. In this relation, many other predictors have been found to be related to fear of crime. These are including prior or vicarious victimization, neighborhood disorder, crime trend, community cohesion, collective efficacy, satisfaction with local police, and demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, income, marital status, and education.

Recognizing the lack of research on fear of crime among Mongolian citizens, this study aimed to examine the citizens' overall level of fear of crime in their society while providing theoretical explanations about its explanatory factors.

The prior victimization is defined in the literature in two ways: direct and indirect victimization. In one hand, people experience crime by directly encountering it as a victim, in other, by learning about it indirect way, as well as, from the mass media, family member, friends, and neighbors[13].

Some studies reported[14] prior victimization is directly related to fear, but other researchers noted previous victimization is related weaker[15]. Moreover, Ferraro critically noted relation between previous victimization and fear depends on the type of victimization.

In a case of perceived incivilities, the previous studies have noted that perceived disorders in neighbor area increase fear of crime[16]. Researchers have divided perceived incivilities into two conceptual categories, social and physical[17]. Neighborhoods high risk of social and physical conditions effect to high risk of victimization and a high crime rate. Therefore, residents are likely to perceive themselves as vulnerable and more fearful of crime. Social disorder refers to behaviors such as public drinking, loiterers, prostitution, unruly teenagers, etc. Physical disorder refers to disorderly surroundings such as abandoned cars, vandalized property,

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trash, vacant houses, broken streetlights, and deteriorated houses.

Social cohesion in neighborhoods plays an important role in the realization of informal social control[18]. On the other words, it refers to the emotional and social ties shared by residents in a neighborhood area. Those who are socially integrated within their neighborhoods experience lower level of fear of crime than those who are not as well integrated[19]. Moreover, residents in high crime rates area report greater fear compared to people living in low crime rates area[20].

The concept of collective efficacy emerged out of the social disorganization literature and it means social control exerted by cohesive communities, based on mutual trust, including intervention in the supervision of children and maintenance of public order[21]. Collective efficacy refers to a collective ability of residents to produce a social action to achieve common objectives and preserve shared values. Previous researches reported that an erosion of social control[22], social instability, and moral decline[23] facilitate fear of crime and social ties or social integration[24], neighborhood collective efficacy[25],

and confidence in the local police[26]inhibits fear of crime.

People's satisfaction with local police is one of the powerful indicators on fear of crime. As Jang et al noted[27] "The police are required to protect citizens and democratic values in the society while they fight against crime". Previous studies have suggested that, increased interaction within police and community members and institutions is expected to inhibit fear of crime by increasing police presence, responsiveness, and residents' satisfaction with police services[28].

The previous literatures also suggest that home ownership or investing in the neighborhood is one of the indicators of fear of crime and it significantly affects reducing fear of crime. Moreover, home owners tend to be more socially integrated in their communities. For example, Kasarda and Janowitz[29] reported that length of residence and home owners are more likely to know their neighbors, therefore, they do have close relation in their local community. Similarly, Hunter[30] reported that long-term residents and home owners not only know their neighbors well but also they do have friends in the neighbor area.

Life satisfaction relates to how people evaluate the overall quality of their lives[31]. "Stress theory argues that life strains or chronic stressors, such as fear of crime and perceived vulnerability, can have both direct and indirect effects of subjective

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well-being"[32]. In this relation, life strains may directly effects to life satisfaction. In addition, Adams and Serpereported that feelings of vulnerability and fear of crime have an impact on life satisfaction indirectly by decreasing people's sense of control over their lives.

Finally, socio-demographic factors, such as age, gender, marital status, income, and education have often been identified as significant predictors of fear of crime. Baumer[33]noted that the effect of age on fear of crime is less consistent and considerably weaker than that of sex. Most researchers reported that the elderly are more fearful of crime due to physical disabilities as a result of their age[34]. In the case of gender, most previous studies identified that females expressed higher level of fear than men[35]. The role of marital status with relation to the fear of crime is mixed. Some researchers reported that single persons are more fearful[36], while others found separated or divorced persons are more likely to be fearful[37].The previous studies also examined the role of income. For example, Parker[38]reported that low income groups express higher fear of crime that high income groups. In the case of education, prior studies reported that individuals with lower levels of education tend to be more fearful of crime than those with higher levels of education[39].

III. Research method

The data of this study comes from the survey titled as "Fear of crime among Mongolian citizens". The survey was executed in the capital city Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia during September 2015 by using a stratified random sampling method. The survey was based on door-to-door interviews with family members14 years of age and above. Researchers selected six most densely populated districts out of nine. After selecting districts, researchers selected five main sub-districts of each. Before running the survey a short term advisory-training was provided to the research staffs. The questionnaires were originally built up in English and later was translated into Mongolian language by bilingual scholars and reviewed by university level linguists. More than 700 questionnaires were distributed within selected sub-districts and in total 683 responds were retrieved.

In the current study we deployed the global measures of fear of crime. The items which utilized to investigate overall fear of crime level were based on the international crime victim survey. Some of the recent findings on fear of crime reported in the Western societies and other nations are based on crime-specific measures of fear, whereas the current study is based on a non-specific measures, which were using the questions "How much are you fearful when you are staying home alone at night?" and "How much are you fearful when you are walking alone on the neighborhood street at night?". These measures comparable with that have been used in many previous studies on fear of crime. As earlier noted the goal of this study is to find from respondents their overall level of fear of crime in their community.

IV. Findings

As Shaw[40] noted that most transitional

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societies experience an increase in crime rates. In this relation, the increment of crime might cause the increment of fear of crime among inhabitants. Mongolia has radically adopted democratic values since 1992 and right after the communist regime has been broken down, it lost its formal social controls over the society. Such sudden changes resulted in the decrement of the former social controls and, instead, increased social disorder. The previous studies[41]* reported that significant increase in recorded crime rates in Mongolian society, since 1990 and crime rates peaked up until 1997. Moreover, the average index of crime rates per 100,000 for the entire nation was 769 within 2003 and 2014. Official data showed significantly high volume of crime in the capital city more than in any other areas throughout the country. According to the NPA report[42], on the average, 54.2% of entire registered crimes between 2003 and 2014 were committed only in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar.

Socio-demographics

Age of the respondent is distributed between 14 and 87. The mean age was 34.3. The ratio of gender is 46.2 vs 53.8. Female is a little bit more representative. A 62.6 per cent of respondents reported that they are married. The mean of family income level of the respondents was 2,000,000-3,000,000 Tugrug. More than an 80.0 per cent of respondents reported that they own their homes

General fear of crime

The respondents reported that they felt less fearful at home than on walking at the street in neighborhood area at

night. Figure 1 shows that, approximately 43.5 per cent of respondents felt unsafe while walking on the street at night in their neighborhood area, whereas 82.8 per cent of respondents felt safe while staying at home. In other words, respondents expressed that they perceived higher victimization risk while walking on the street at night in their neighborhood than stay at home.
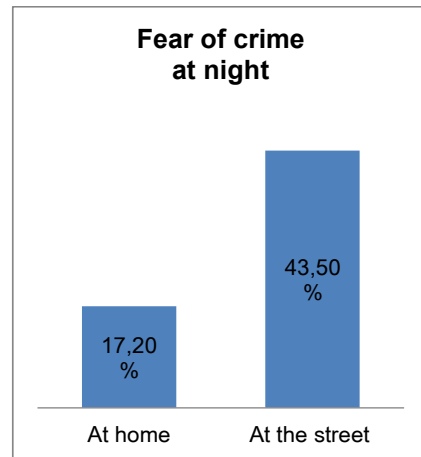

Fear of crime at night

17,20 % — At home
43,50 % — At the street

Figure 1: Fear of crime at night
Victimization experiences

The link between political transition and crime is quite complex, while level of certain types of crime may grow, other forms of criminality may not increase but instead become more visible in the public eye in the post transition period[43]. Mongolian National Police Agency's statistics[44]showed that, among all registered crimes property crimes were existed a 33.4 per cent between 2003 and 2014.

As earlier literature suggested the direct victimization experience includes property and violent crime victimization. In this study the previous criminal victimization experiences were asked into property and violent crimes in each of the eight types of crime, such as fraud, theft, burglary, vandalism, assaulted/

Societies. "Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa, 49:1-24.

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threatened/robbed at places, assaulted/ threatened/robbed with tools, assaulted/ threatened/robbed by acquaintances, and unwanted sexual contact by force during the past year, 2014. The former four items are for property crime victimization while the latter four items are for violent crime victimization. All these "crimes have the potential harm being inflicted, which would instill fear"[45]. According to the collected data (Figure 2), in 2014, a 63.5 per cent of respondents reported that they suffered from those kinds of crimes which noted above. Total number of crime victimization accounted for 382 cases. The respondents experienced more property crime victimization than violent crime in 2014. In the case of indirect victimization, a 36.5 per cent of the respondents expressed that they were victimized indirectly.

The results of the study showed that previous direct victimization had an effect in facilitating fear of crime and indirect victimization had less effect on fear of crime in both, at home and in the street. Approximately a 55.2 per cent of respondents reported that they are victimized by property crimes, whereas a 44.8 per cent reported that they were victimized by violent crimes (Figure 3).
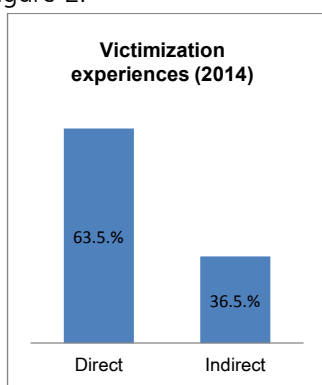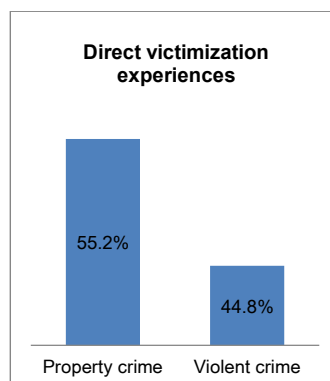
Figure 2:

Victimization experiences (2014)

63.5.%   36.5.%

Direct   Indirect

Figure 3:

[45] Hwang, E. G. (2015)."A Bi-National Comparative Study about the Fear of Crime among Korean Immigrants in the Detroit Metropolitan Area, USA, and Native Koreans in Seoul, South Korea."Journal of policing3: 231-275.

Direct victimization experiences

55.2%   44.8%

Property crime   Violent crime

Perceived incivility

"Perceived incivility" is an indicator, which is a measure of citizens' perceptions in their neighborhood, about physical and social disorders. A 61.5 per cent of participants expressed that they are living in the physical or social disorder which indicate significant relation to fear. In other words, who perceived higher level of social and physical incivilities, expressed higher level of fear of crime and who perceived high crime rates in neighborhood expressed high crime risk of victimization.

Crime trend in the neighborhood

In the case of awareness of crime trend, a 55.5 percent of the people responded that the crime rate in their neighborhood will increase. It means, who perceived higher level of crime increase expressed high crime risk of victimization in their neighborhood.

Community cohesion / Collective efficacy

Higher community cohesion can cause the crime reduction. In the case of community cohesion, only a 55.0 per cent of people expressed that they satisfied with their community ties, which means approximately 45.0 per cent people are not satisfied with their community ties. The collective efficacy was the only one predictor which was significantly inhibited fear of crime in both levels, as well as, at home and at the street. More than a 60.0 per cent of the respondents expressed that they trust their neighborhoods' collective abilities.

Confidence in the police

The perceptions on effectiveness of police services showed a significant factor on crime victimization. People's trust to the police was a 61.0 per cent which means satisfaction with police services was slightly over half respondents. Cao et al[46] reported that 58% of people from 50 countries selected either quite a lot or great deal of confidence in their local police. Therefore, the Mongolian people's trust in the police showed slightly higher level than the world average.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This study was an initial attempt to explore an understanding of fear of crime among Mongolian citizens. Public opinion on issues of crime in transitional societies is critical[47]. In this respect, the result of current study may offer to understand public opinion toward crime and might support for policy implications for law enforcement in Mongolia. Building on previous studies, a modified version of international crime victimsurvey questionnaires was used to collect data on fear of crime among Mongolian citizens.

The findings of the study are insightful, because, in this study we utilized non-specific measures of fear of crime, which were the questions "How much are you fearful when you are staying home alone at night?" and "How much are you fearful when you are walking alone on the neighborhood street at night?"

The most of previous studies reported that women are more fearful of crime than men[48]*. The findings of current

study show that gender (female) is the most powerful predictor of fear of crime in both level, as well as, at home and on the neighborhood street at night. However, it might, many violent crimes against women in Mongolia are not reported or documented.

As noted above, it's important to understand public's overall level of fear of crime, victimization experiences and confidence in the local police for determining proper policing policy in the society. Crime may contribute directly to increased fear and higher crime may be accompanied by higher rates of other disorderly behaviors[49].

Official statistic[50] showed that crimes committed by drunkenness in 2014 had increased a 4.4 per cent and crimes committed at the street a 4.8 per cent from 2013. Moreover, overall index crime in 2014 had increased by 1956 cases, a 7.7 per cent for entire nation and 1725 cases, an 11.2 per cent for Ulaanbaatar over 2013.

Results of the current study showed that almost fifty per cent of the respondents reported that they felt fearful on walking at the street at the night, which means people perceived higher victimization risk while walking on the street at night in their neighborhood area. In the case of victimization, respondents experienced more property crime than violent crime victimization. This is consistent with previous studies and similar withNPA's report, 2015. Obviously, the prior victimization had powerful facilitating effect to the fear of crime and vicarious victimization had less significant relation to fear of crime.

One of the important findings was an effect of perceived incivilities. A 61.5 per cent of participants expressed that they are living in the physical or social disor-

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der, which means people are living in high risk of victimization. Because, disorderly urbanization process is highly related an increase of crimes. In addition, a negative social phenomenon such as increased poverty[51], high unemployment rate[52], alcohol and illicit drug uses are also facilitate an increase of crimes.

An effect of community cohesion was interesting. While previous literature suggested that higher community cohesion can cause the crime reduction. However, individuals expressed they felt unsafe while walking on the street at the night, they expressed high level of trust to their neighborhoods' collective abilities. Moreover, over half of the people expressed that they satisfied with their community ties which means, who satisfied with their community ties, perceived less fear and who trusted their collective abilities, expressed lower level of crime victimization.

Another important finding was peoples' trust to the police. "Transitional societies, which have moved from authoritarian forms into democracies, have experienced increases in crime levels"[53] and police are required to ensure public order as well. However, people expressed high level of crime increase in their neighborhood, more than sixty per cent of them expressed that they satisfied with police services.

In the conclusion, this first attempt of research tried to find from respondents their overall fear of crime in their community. Clearly, this study shows that with a traditional society such as Mongolia, there are not only significant differences, but also similarities in comparing to western/industrialized societies. Hopefully, this study makes its significant contribution to understanding aboutfear of crime among

inhabitants and findings of the current study ought to support future researches on this topic.

One of the limitations of the current study would be the usage of small sized data which collected only from the capital city Ulaanbaatar. Also, a lack of previous study on fear of crime and lack of national crime victimization survey are also might be kindly justified as another limitations. Finally, would like to note that in contemporary Mongolian society requires investigating this issue in a national level by using more accurate data set with large samples.

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