

Review of: "The Relationship Between Overpopulation and Crime Rates in San Andres Island"

Ofelia Pérez Montero¹

¹ Universidad de Oriente

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Sigifredo Castell-Britton,

When I read your article entitled "The Relationship Between Overpopulation and Crime Rates in San Andres Island," it piqued my interest. I decided to make some comments, but my busy daily schedule postponed the writing of these brief suggestions. I apologize for that.

Your article is an interesting study on an important topic that is recurrent in contemporary Latin American studies. Demographic problems, the use of space and natural resources, as well as delinquency and criminality, are sociological issues that require a scientific interdisciplinary perspective. Undoubtedly, the results of scientific research should contribute to the improvement of public policies aimed at eliminating the underlying causes of these issues.

I would like to make some comments on the article, solely in the interest of making it more comprehensible to a wider reading public:

On the Introduction:

You could position your research topic within the context of national and international literature on the subject. There is an abundant bibliography that you could synthesize in this section, offering the reader an overview of the international state of the art on the topic. Additionally, you could refer to the research background of the topic in your country. How is this background linked to public policy? What are the predominant approaches in the country to address this problem? What are the statistical trends regarding the behavior of the phenomenon studied in recent years? Latin American literature could also be considered in explaining the phenomenon studied, which would strengthen the importance and timeliness of your research.

Materials and Methods:

It would be beneficial to contextualize San Andres Island with physical-geographical, economic, social, and cultural data. This would help foreign readers understand the social, economic, and environmental complexity of the study area. Incorporating a map and relevant data about the study area would facilitate contextualization for the reader. Additionally, consider whether there are previous studies on the topic in reference to the island. What approaches have been followed

by these studies?

Some clarifications in the text would aid in better understanding for those who are not familiar with the study area. For example, it would be interesting to know the causes of overpopulation on the island, the sociodemographic characteristics of the population that moves to the island, and the socioeconomic conditions that make it an attractive destination for migrants. What is its carrying capacity?

Other aspects that are not revealed in the text: When discussing population density, does it refer to the population with permanent residence on the island, or does it also include tourists?

The study reveals a positive correlation between population density and crime. This is a statistical inference, but it is not the same as a cause-and-effect relationship. The underlying causes are more complex and are not addressed in the article. I believe that the phrasing of the results in this regard should be more precise.

Discussion of the results:

The article would benefit from a comparison of your results with other national and international studies. You dedicated two paragraphs to the discussion but missed the opportunity to relate your findings to existing research and highlight their novelty, especially in terms of decision-making in public policy. I believe this is an opportunity you can take advantage of to better showcase your results.

Conclusions:

It is important that you explicitly present the valuable recommendations for San Andrés' policy that your study offers.

Without further ado, I wish you success in your research, as well as health and personal prosperity.

All the Best,

Ofelia.