

# STUDYING THE FAMILY’S INFLUENCES ON HOUSING DESIGN- A CASE STUDY OF HYDERABAD

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**Abstract:** Family involvement and its consequences plays an important role in designing the house, unfortunately we didn't pay attention towards the individual opinion while designing the house which after construction become problematic & the family members change them accordingly. House is the entity where the end users are mostly more than one, & the choice of every single person matter while designing it, but the middle-class families never take it into consideration, the idea is to research the involvement, family decision & making that happen while designing the house. The middle-class families just follow the trend with the help of contractor and while breaking all the rules, laws they also neglect family decision towards space planning & designing. For researching the particular problem, Author utilize quantitative, qualitative, rationalist & comparative research approach. That help in listing out the factors which influence the family opinions in house design, also in listing out the family's decision-making process while decorating & Designing the house. The study focuses on Hyderabad & will help in sorting out the problems faced by dwellers after the construction of houses where they can't perform any amendment in term of design and they always disown some of the spaces due to undesired design approach

**Keywords:** *Involvement; family members; designing; decision-making*

## 1. Introduction

House is the entity, where a family live together and stay together for life time. It is a place owned by its dwellers, the decision in designing house is not taken into any consideration, in under developing countries it is just a contractor or sometimes an architect who plan, design & construct the house according to the trends set in a particular region or area. Some people know the value of opinion of family members in designing & planning the house. But most of the time we can observe same space planning & Designing a house in a town, unit or area. In a male dominant society, most if the time only the male member of house seems to be in contact with the contractor throughout the process designing the house. None other family took interest or no decision making is done by them. Lawrence (1989) study attempted to simultaneously describe and explain a human-made object or event in a holistic way by considering the interrelations between tacit and manifest components. Rapoport (1982) suggested that changes in the organization of space also result in changes of behavior. Here, the underlying idea is that spatial organization affects behavior through representing expectations of certain behaviors. The environment provides cues in the form of differences, which are initially perceived by people, who develop associations. These associations]. construct the meaning that leads to responses— human behavior. Rapoport (1982) asserts that the environment provides cues for behavior, and aids other forms of interaction, communication, and co-action. Ease of Use

## 2. Identified Problem

Lack of research in Pakistan for this frame neglect the family participation & its impact on designing a house, Aspects of user participation within the current literature don't take into concurrence of every member of the family. Whereas collateral relationship between area and community endorse

that, every individual is a vigorous representative. Each family member has specific patterns of keeping & using the house. Even perception and privacy pertaining to their needs and requirements are different form each other, but still the opinion of every house member is not taken into an account, which results in continuous changing of space, furniture & placement of objects within the entity.

## 3. Aim of Research

### 3.1 Aim of research is to

Study the involvement of family members in designing the house & To investigate the effect of each family member participation on house design

## 4. Research Questions

Research Questions that would be answered through this study are:

- How do the family members participate in the decision making of house design specifically in Hyderabad?
- What are the roles of each member of the family in shaping the spaces?
- How does the design of a house influence by participations of each family member influences?

## 5. Material & Method

The methodology adopted by the researcher for this study is listed down in the table # 1

COMPARATIVE	QUALITATIVE	QUANTITATIVE
Analysis	Literature Review	Questionnaire survey
	Interview	Field survey
	Observation	Case studies

Table # 1: Research Methodologies

### 6. Comparative Analysis

Comparative analysis was done by the author among two types of families. One family was male dominant & other was female dominant. The description of both families is given below, where as table # 2 shows the comparative analysis of both families towards reshaping & designing the house in which they were living.

**Family # 1:**

This family is currently living in Qasimabad, in a house of 240 sq. yds, this family consists of 7 family members which

include Mother, Father, Grandmother, 3 child (boy) and girl child. Mother & grand mother are house females. All the children are school going, Father is a Business man.

**Family # 2:**

This family is also from Qasimabad, living in a house of 180 sq. yds, this family consists of 6 family members which include Mother, Father, 3 child (boy) and girl child. Mother is a working Lady, Children are school going, Father is a Government Officer.

Comparison of family's participation towards designing house:

Questions	Family # 1			Family # 2		
	Wife	Husband	Child	Wife	Husband	Child
Interest in designing & decorating house?	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
Decorate your own space?	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Were you the part of designing this house?	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Rearrange things at interval?	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Do you incorporate changes according to your desire?	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Do you have your own desired space designed properly?	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y

Table # 2: Comparative Analysis

### 7. Literature review:

Characteristic stems from the fact that the concept of participation reflected the ideological range of interpretation of development and different approaches to planning (Moser, 1989). Participation is seen as means, and for others as an end for some the emphasis is on cooperation and coordination between the community and the central power, and for others on conflict and social struggle (Fiori, 1983). According to Douglas (1983) and Mangleburg (1990), family decisions are dynamic and interrelated, therefore, they suggest that the decision-making process should be studied across decisions rather than in relation to a given decision independently. Toker and Toker (2003) in their study about the family formation and spatial changes in Turkish houses observed that, it was possible to argue that the women's status in family structures has improved from the late nineteenth century to the early and late twentieth century. Johnson (2007) discusses the various developments over the decades in the Australian houses. The assumption was clear that kitchen space is for women, regardless of the supposed rationality and universality of its planning or domestic equipment.

### 8. Observation Based Data

The author observed behavior of each family member towards house design & the observed data is discussed below:

**Observing behavior of Wife in House:**

The wife or female of the house was inclined towards decorating the kitchen & lounge space and wanted to merge these both in a way that these two spaces must be in her range so they can work easily. Kitchen was the dominant feature for the female where as 50% female also shown interest in designing the drawing room so that they can show their guests their designing capabilities. Laundry space was needed near the bedroom or kitchen in order to maintain the flow of work by the Lady of house. Parking was neglected by the lady as she doesn't take interest in driving or decorating parking lot. The changes made by the lady of house include separating dining & drawing through partition walls, enlarging of lounge in order to accommodate all the aesthetical features in term of furniture & decorative pieces.

- **Observing behavior of Husband in House:**

Husband shows interest in designing a large parking lot in order to accommodate his vehicles. 100% of the husband were involved in design process of their house. Most of them don't take interest in reshaping or decorating the house once after the construction is done. They lack interest in lounge as the male of the house mostly want to spend time alone in front of the TV in his own bedroom without any interruption.

- **Observing behavior of Child in House:**

Child of the house was one of the most neglected members of family while designing the house. The child pays keen

interest towards lawn & open spaces due to his or her independent nature towards gaming. The inclination towards study shows the behavior of isolation of children while studying.

**9. Data from Questionnaire Survey:**

10 questions were asked during questionnaire survey, the questionnaire was distributed among 20 families, in which all the family members were involved. The table # 3 below shows the response of individual towards each question.

Question	Responses (%)					
	Wife		Husband		Child	
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Do you take interest in designing & decorating the house?	100	0	30	70	0	100
Do you decorate your space accordingly?	80	20	20	80	0	100
Were you the part of decision-making while planning this house?	20	80	10	0	0	100
Do you change the spaces after intervals?	85	15	0	100	0	100
Do you have your own designed space in this house	25	75	20	80	0	100
Do you want to still incorporate some changes into it?	100	0	30	70	80	20
Is there any space which you want to exclude from the house?	80	20	50	50	80	20
Is there any space which you want to Include in house?	80	20	80	20	80	20
Is there any space which you want to enlarge in house?	80	20	70	30	80	20
Do you like the house overall?	100	0	95	5	85	15

Table # 3: Responses of Questionnaire Survey

**10. Field Survey:**

The research shows the inclination of every family member towards designing a particular space. Table below shows the % of inclination of family members towards particular space, the data was collected by the author at the time of survey. At the time of survey, 15 houses were visited at Hyderabad & an unstructured interview was taken which then converted into tabular form:

Space	Wife	Husband	Child (Girl)	Child (Boy)
Parking	0%	80%	0%	20%
Lawn	30%	35%	80%	10%
Drawing room	45%	80%	30%	25%
Dining room	50%	20%	59%	0%
Kitchen	95%	35%	70%	0%
Bedroom	70%	80%	60%	78%
Lounge	74%	35%	30%	0%
Common washroom	80%	60%	0%	0%
Store	80%	0%	0%	0%
Study	25%	30%	52%	35%
Play area	20%	0%	79%	60%
Laundry	89%	25%	0%	0%
Balcony	65%	20%	70%	0%

Table # 4: Interest of each family member towards particular space

**11. Case studies:**

For exploring the family’s behavior towards designing the house, 1 case study was taken, the house was designed by Architect under the supervision of male of the house but at the construction site, during construction & after construction every family member incorporate his opinion into it and hence the whole house design changes. House along with the details of family participation are discussed below:

**CASE STUDY # 1- House at Qasimabad:**

The house measures 22’6” X 48’-0”, figure # 1 shows the proposed plan of house by Architect while designing architect discussed the plan & spaces with the Father & after his interpretation the following plan was decided to be constructed on the site. The requirement of client for ground floor was:

- 2 bedrooms
- Attach bath
- Open car porch
- Stairs from outside
- Kitchen & lounge parallel
- Drawing room
- Common washroom

Whereas the required spaces for 1<sup>st</sup> floor for the same house include:

- 3 bedrooms with attach bath
- Balcony
- Kitchen
- Living room

**Problems identified at the time of construction:**

At the time of construction, all the family members visited and pointed out more than a single issue with the proposed plan and they all give suggestion & opinion so that the house can be altered according to their demand. The problems which were identified & pointed by family at the time of construction include:

- Ventilation
- Privacy
- Less open space
- Poor ventilation at kitchen
- No open space at ground floor

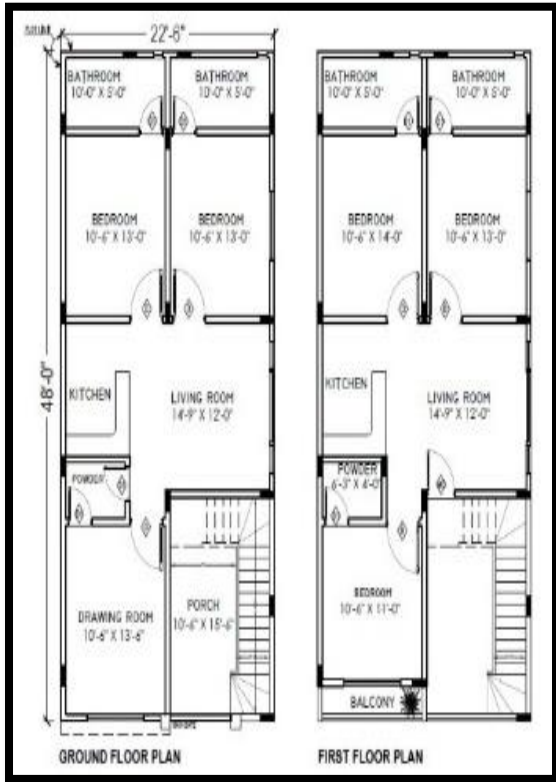


Figure # 1: Proposed ground & First floor plan of house

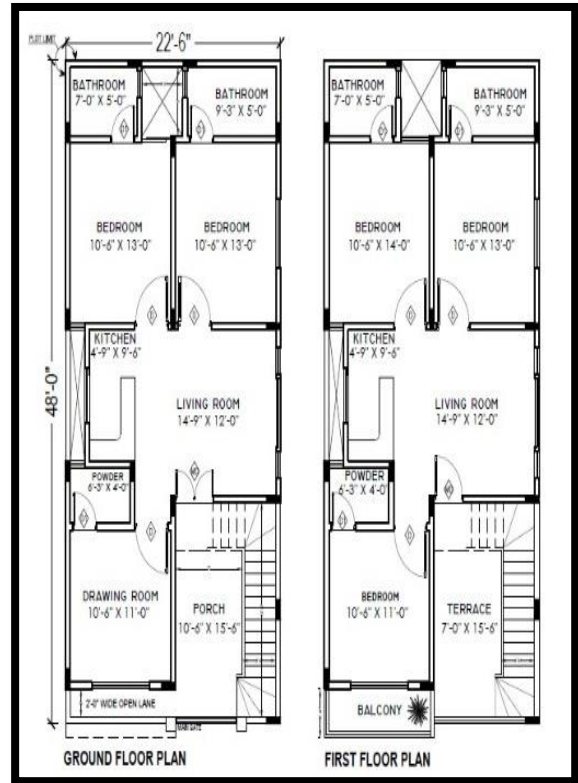


Figure # 2: Altered plan

After keeping the suggestions of all family members, the plan was altered & constructed according to the demand of family members. Figure # 2 shows the altered plan on which it was constructed. Table # 5 below shows the comparison of both the plan according to the space planning, facilities & features.

Facilities	Proposed plan	Altered plan
# of rooms	6	6
Open space for washroom ventilation	No	Yes
Ventilation for room	No	Yes
Parking area	open	Covered
Common washroom	Yes	No
Ventilation for kitchen	No	Yes
Open space	No	Yes

Table # 5: comparison of available facilities in both proposed & altered plan.

### 12. Result & Discussion:

The researched area helps in listing out the factors effecting family’s influence on house design. Table # 6 below shows the list of all these factors.

Serial #	Factors effecting family’s influence on house design
1	Income
2	Level of Education
3	Dominancy of gender
4	Trends

Table # 6: family’s influence on designing house

### 13. Answering research questions:

How do the family members participate in the decision making of house design specifically in Hyderabad?

The family members participate differently in designing the house.

- Wife- Participate in designing the house continuously
- Husband- Finance provider for any design & reshaping of house
- Child- participate in some areas specially play area, lawn, outdoor spaces.



What are the roles of each member of the family in shaping the spaces?

The role of each family member in shaping the house is different, it varies from person to person, area to area even family to family but here some general roles of each family members can be seen. table # 7 shows the role of each family member.

Family Member	Role
Mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designer after the construction of house</li> <li>• Reshape house according to the demand of every member with some of the personal interpretation</li> </ul>
Father	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial provider of construction</li> <li>• Decision maker in designing the house</li> </ul>
Child (boy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack interest in designing of house</li> <li>• Reshape some of the parts of house temporarily according the need of hour.</li> </ul>
Child (girl)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Took interest in decorating indoor areas</li> </ul>

Table # 7: Role of each family member towards designing the house

How does the design of a house influence by participations of each family member influences?

The participation of each family member effect the design of house, in a way that we observe versatility in a house which was the result taking opinion of every family member into notice. We can see a flow and monotony is houses where all the family members were not the part of decision-making in designing & the whole house was designed under the supervision of single family member either mother or father.

#### 14. Research scope:

The scope of study is limited in term of area which was studied, Only Hyderabad was focused, the family participation & its effect on designing the house was studied.

#### 15. Future recommendation:

In the line of this research, author would like to recommend:

- The study of different residential areas with the same context
- Comparative analysis of two different areas with same contents
- Study of same areas with different family pattern in term of house design.

#### 16. Conclusion

This research revealed that the roles of housewives in the modern houses in Hyderabad, are more significant compared to the traditional families. Women have important roles in the decision-making process of the houses. However, it is the husband that makes the final decision in the designing of the houses. Through the influence of the wives, the husbands

had to change some of the spaces to accommodate for the expectations of the wives. It is discovered that most of the changes were done on internal spaces of the house. It can be assumed that this was due to financial reasons i.e. to avoid heavy financial burden the renovation was done on the external space. It seems that families are not trying to reduce the size of their houses and are not trying to remove the unused spaces. Instead, families tried to create more useful spaces in the house. The families have tried to create a special space for the guests who visited the house. Through studies it is also revealed that the children do not play part in designing house and their opinion is also not taken into consideration by the parents, just parents themselves keeping some universal design in mind according to the gender of their child, design the room which include color combinations, furniture & placement of their toys etc.

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