

# Residential Model and the Role It Plays on Human Relations in Residential Complexes

(Case Study: Some Residential Complexes in Tehran)

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper deals with the concept of “residential models” and the role it plays on human relations in residential complexes. It intends to; review the concept of residence; understand how a residential model takes form; the influence of a residential model on future human interactions. To this end, having reviewed comments and viewpoints, focused on “what is residence? which factors may create the sense of residence and how an individual can choose his/her place of residence? Finally what are the factors affecting their choice?”. Then two residential models analyzed: balanced and unbalanced, and their effects on human relations. Afterwards the research hypothesis was posed: “residential model is an effective factor on human relations”. Whereas the above study is limited to a small number of complexes in Tehran, for the purpose of testing the hypothesis and, in turn, for determining sample population, the residential complexes were classified into three categories in terms of facilities, features and characteristics. From each category a sample was chosen for testing the hypothesis. It was eventually decided to test the hypothesis in Ekbatan, Behjatabad and Farhangian residential complexes. The results indicated a strong relationship between residential model and its impact on human relations: more balanced the residential model, stronger effects on human relations. On the other hand, more unbalanced the residential model, weaker effect on human relations.

**Keywords:** *Residence, Residential model, Behavior, Human relations.*

## INTRODUCTION

Residence has been the oldest, first and foremost human need which has been reformed and evolved continually, and has always been influenced, and continues to be influenced, by thousands of factors including environmental, cultural, social, psychological, and economic ones. But here is a question to be answered: how the people’s residential model is taking form nowadays? Which factors may affect it? What is its influence on human relations in residential complexes? These are the most complicated and fundamental questions in the realm of architecture of twentieth century. The residential model plays an effective role on human relations (Talebian, 2008).

The present research uses conceptual, deductive and experimental methods. In fact, a combinational method is used in this study. Hence, in the first section- conceptual and deductive methods- the scope of the study widened to determine all matters which are related to the subject of the study and continue to set goals and pose relevant questions and hypothesis. In second section the empirical method which is to be tested in the statistical population dealt (Marshall, 1998).

### Goals

Which factors may create the sense of residence and how an individual can choose his/her place of residence?

What are the factors affecting their choice?

How people choose their houses?

What are their criteria?

### Literature Review

Residence has been the oldest, first and foremost human need which has been reformed and evolved continually, and has always been influenced, and continues to be influenced, by thousands of factors including environmental, cultural, social, psychological, and economic ones. But here is a question to be answered: how the people’s residential model is taking form nowadays? Which factors may affect?

In Persian related literature it also implies a place where people can find peace; and “settlement” in its lexical meaning in Hamid Persian dictionary implies calm and peace (Sayyah, 1999). In Dehkhoda dictionary, this word, “Settlement”, has been regarded as “Residence and Peace” the lexical root of which is “Settlement” meaning residing at a home (Dehkhoda, 1994). Settlement means residing and in Persian it literary means calm and peace. The concept of residence is broader than that of house or home. It refers to a tie between an individual and his/her environment; and the sense of residence is the result of a mutual understanding between man and environment. Residence takes place when human being gets familiarity with the environment, where he can find all means of peace and tranquility. It is a place where humans can see anything which they can find in their inner world. And finds his deep inside by seeing outside. Such a mutual link is

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referred to as “settlement”; a sense of belonging; depicting oneself in it. Such an image is the result of a spiritual and psychological state; that is, having memory about it and a space common between humans and environment which creates sense of belonging in human being.

It seems that we reach to residence by building, and that the aim of building is residing. However, not all buildings are residential spaces. There is various forms of residence such as natural, complex, public and private in various areas including villages, urban spaces a review of the concepts on the residence is presented.

**Concept of Residence**

**Residence in Norberg-Schulz Thoughts**

In his “Concept of Residence”, Christian Norberg-Schulz writes: residence is beyond a mere roofed space limited to several square meters, but it is a meaningful link with a particular place”. Nowadays, the residence is considered only as a certain place, in the form of a shelter, with several square meters in area. This is nothing but a solely materialistic and quantitative understanding of residence. Norberg-Schulz adds an identity and a qualitative aspect to such an understanding, and describes it as residing at a particular place with a sense of belonging to that place. Residence in its qualitative sense can be regarded as primary prerequisite of being human. [Residence implies a meaningful link between human being and his environment. Such a link comes out of an effort to find identity- or feeling a sense of belonging toward a given place.] (Norberg-Schulz ,1978).

Developed areas, urban spaces and homes are residential places wherein residence conceivably takes place naturally, publicly or privately (Fig. 1 ). Residence in natural form took place for the first time in oasis. Oasis is referred to a region covering a specific area, which depicts a natural form of residence. In the light of human desire for social life, communities were formed. Urban areas provide ideal places for people to meet each other; where people can exchange their artifacts, thoughts and feelings. That is how the

residential areas took form. Upon formation of such public residential places, people reached widespread agreements.

Such an agreement represents the existence of common values and interests which render the membership in social groups possible. An important requirement for reaching such social agreements is existence of sufficient space for people to meet each other and common spaces among members of the society. These spaces are, in fact, the public places which are dominated by common values. Another kind of residence is privacy which is considered as one of the means that helps the formation and creation of identity. This kind of residence which exists away from others’ involvement is referred to as private residence.

**Residence in Heidegger’s Thoughts**

For Heidegger, residence is nothing but how people reside on the earth. In his paper “To build, To Reside, To Think”, he interprets the residence as being with things. He knows the residence as the most fundamental feature of human existence. He concludes “at the present time, everybody talks about lack of sufficient housing, but nobody does think of the real tragedy of residence”.

About residence, he writes: “modern people seem to forget how to reside, and it would follow that they shall forget how to be at home and how to build homes. They only exist without residing in real sense. As long as a person does not realize his deep inner identity, he will remain deprived of living at peace and enjoying fruitful residence.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Residence Model**

**What is “Residence Model” ?**

How the people’s model of residence is created and which factors may influence such a model?

As discussed earlier, “settlement” lexically means “residence, peace, and calm” it also means taking place; and it may be formed naturally, in complexes, public and private areas in environment. Home is the best place where residence can best

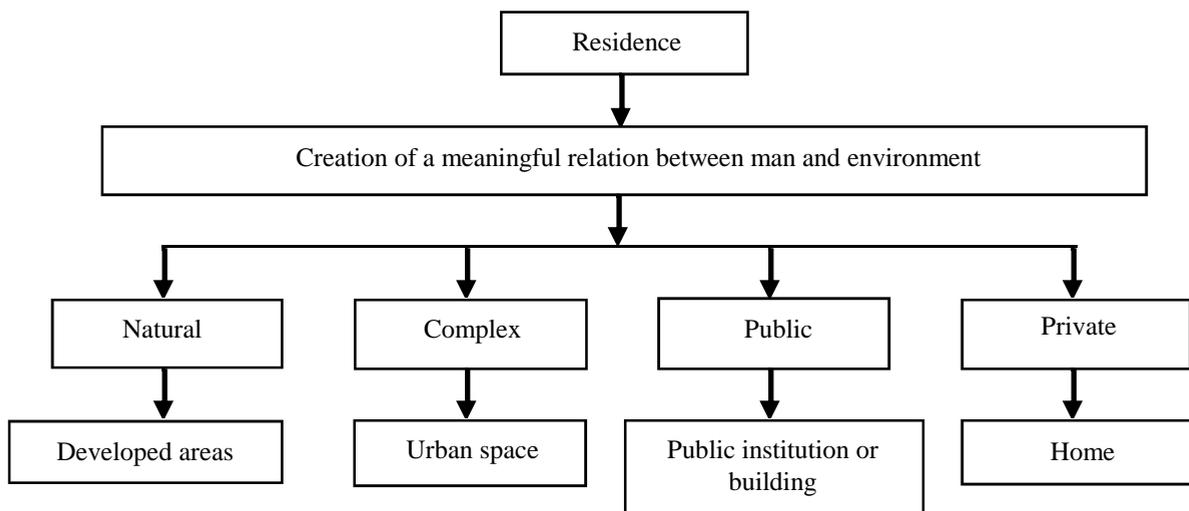


Fig. 1: Residence in Shultz thoughts

be seen. It is a private space just like a dominion which is exclusive of an individual. Home has been defined as the main social entity; a place wherein individual's identity and memories take form; a center of intimacy. Its importance is far beyond a mere shelter built solely for protecting individual from outside and/or a place for resting, but it has link with concepts which trace their roots in depth of human soul, and has given a privacy aspect to residence (Madanipour, 2008). However, how people choose their houses? What are their criteria?

In his research on the way people choose their houses in suburb of California, Karl Worthman, a sociologist of Berkley University, concluded that most of the people buy the houses that can show their personality and social status. In urban development of suburb of San Francisco, for example, it was found that businessmen choose houses with ostentatious appearance, imitating the style of Colonial period; while, ordinary people try to choose houses based on their taste and desire not on their financial situation. They prefer to have houses with proper style and architecture and design that can enliven them (Roy Al Kelley).

**What Are the Effective Factors on Formation of a Residential Model?**

Sometimes location of a house in downtown of a city with easy access to everywhere and easy access to social utilities, facilities and entertainment centers are main factors effecting people's decision on choosing their place of residence. Calmness and tranquility of an environment where one can spend pleasurable time is another factor that causes people to choose a particular place to reside. Size of house and sometimes good prices or social, religious and cultural links also may be factors to determine people's places of residence. It is obvious that there are a variety of factors that may influence our decision on place of residence. These factors can be classified into certain categories such as: cultural, historical, physical, economic and private factors (Zabihi, 2008). In fact, a residential model is created when a balance takes place among these factors. Such a model is regarded as a balanced model; however, if these factors are not balanced,

the resultant model would be an imbalanced one. In continue, these two models are explained more.

**Balanced Residential Model**

Balance, as the most significant feature which dominates human existence and is derived from justice, is firstly recommended to be observed in any plan and program. Secondly it can provide for representation of many values, concepts, criteria (Aliabadi, 2007). As to balance of effective factors on choosing place of residence, observance of such a balance creates sustainable residence.

In a balanced residential model, residence is influenced by cultural, historical, private, physical and economic factors (Fig. 2). Place and condition of an individual's residence is determined by one or more factors. A family usually exists and lives in a given place for several consecutive generations. This living would increase social relations and belonging sense among people and toward urban environments and their architectural features.

Sometimes, our belonging sense to our place of residence creates a sense of dominion over there and it, in turn, gives us a sense of privacy and personal identification toward that place.

Here, implying architectural values of historical towns will be very illuminating and will clear many issues in terms of residential pattern of individuals in old neighborhoods. In such cities, social, cultural, and religious belongings and communications have been the causes of permanent or coercive residence of individuals in different neighborhoods. Lives of generations of families of a tribe in each locality and its houses were being main incentive for creating beautiful houses and neighborhoods. It is obvious that, residential model of individuals will have many impact on interaction of them with their environment. Undoubtedly, those families whose residential models have been formed by cultural, private, economic and historical factors will be very different with those families whose residential model is formed by economic factors exclusively in terms of creating social relations with their peripherals (Fig. 3).

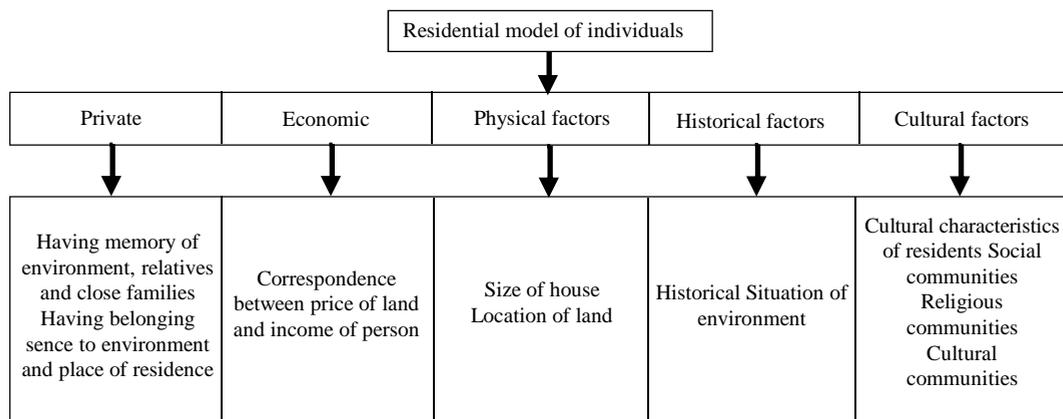


Fig. 2: People's residential model

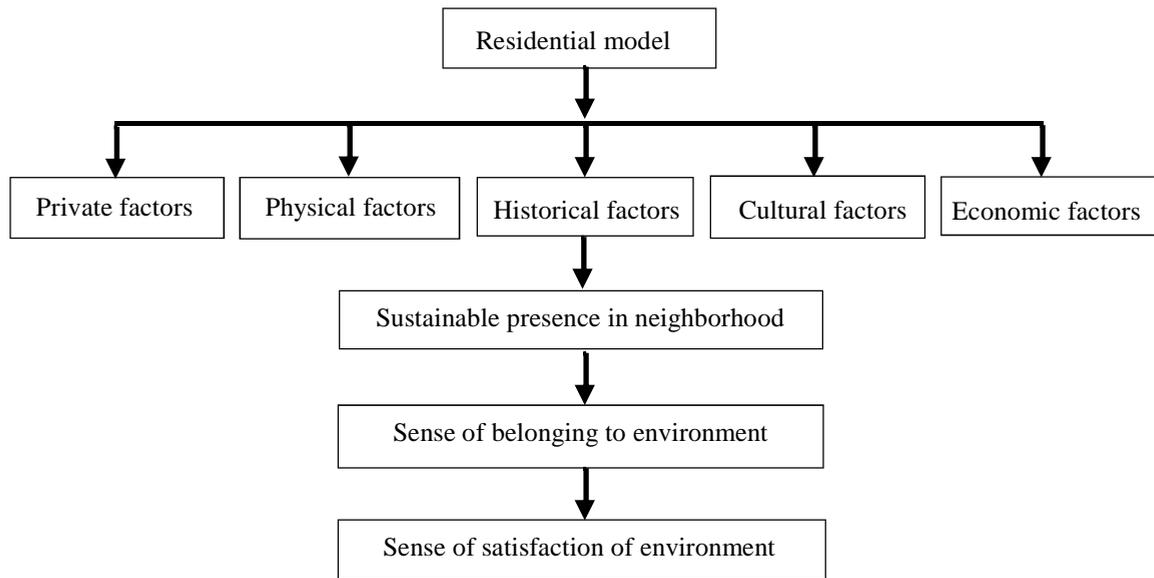


Fig. 3: Residential model and satisfaction sense

### Unbalanced Residential Model

In unbalanced residential model one or more factors effective on residence will play role in residence of individuals and some factors are ignored. For example, sometimes residential model of individuals will be formed on the basis of their financial capabilities. Therefore, those who reside in a neighborhood near each other exclusively belong to a social class in terms of economic status and sometimes we see no cultural, religious, historical ties and relations between them. Therefore, they may intend to dislocate to other places of the city after gradual improvement of their financial capabilities. Hence, this intention to interim or short-term residence in urban localities will impede tightness of social relations or sense of belonging to the city and its architectural characteristics. In many cases many problems seems to be in residential spaces the most important of which is indifference toward social participation (asociality) and accepting responsibility in social life at residential spaces. Human is a social being whose social evolution depends on the society and establishing appropriate relations with other members of the society. Unfortunately, in the modern world, advancement of science and technology hardly allows people to engage in emotional relations with each other. It has also lured them with externals. So many human rights have been forgotten, since most of the desires have their roots in human selfishness. As was mentioned earlier, unlike to previous ages, now neighbors have lesser ties with each other. Sometimes they may not know even the family names of each other; while humans always need to each other, the least of which is the emotional ties which have unfortunately been neglected.

We can imply the followings as characteristics of these relations:

- Human relations are formed very lukewarm and boring;
- Human relations are formed based on profit and needs;

Your future is not so important to others and people become indifferent toward each other;  
Human relations become hollow and far from depth.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Hypothesis Development

In order to reach to the goal of research- namely understanding the role of residential model in human relations, first the word “residence” defined and with determining the factors effective on the residence, we gain a proper definition of balanced and unbalanced models of residence. It seems that when a model becomes more balanced in a residential complex, people would feel stronger sense of belonging toward where they reside; they would feel more peace and tranquility of living in such place; they would feel stronger desire to live there forever; they would establish intimate relationship with others, and eventually their place of residence would exert positive influence on them.

On the other hand, when this model is unbalanced, people hardly feel a sense of belonging to their place of residence; they hardly find peace and tranquility there; their relationship with others turns cold and eventually their place of residence exerts negative effect on them.

### Statistical Population and Sample Population

Considering the subject of the research (residential model and the role it plays on human relations in residential complexes), statistical population will comprise all residential complexes. However, because this discussion was limited to certain complexes in Tehran, the statistical population was set to be all residential complexes in Tehran. A sample is a part of population which is selected to give us information for generalizing it to the entire statistical population. Subsequent to the consideration, Ekbatan, Behjatabad and Farhangian residential complexes were chosen as

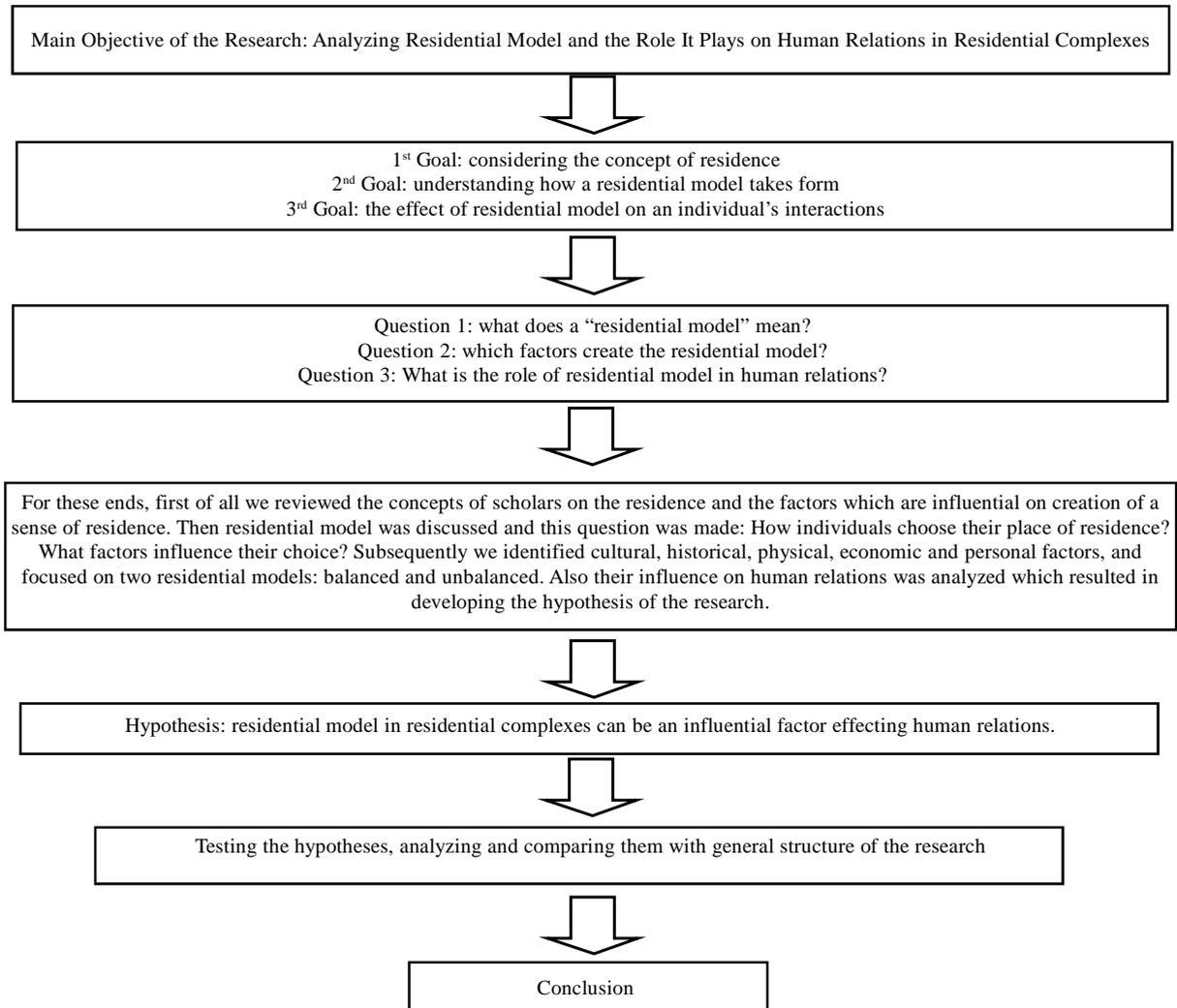


Fig. 4: Hypothesis development (Model of residence in residential complexes is an effective factor on people and their relations)

representatives of Tehran residential complexes for testing the research hypothesis.

Whereas the number of families residing at the residential complexes under study is great and it is impossible either to consider their comments and views and to gather their information, sample for more efficiency in study is taken.

Determining size of the sample using this formula:

$$n = \frac{NT^2S^2}{d^2(N-1) + T^2S^2}$$

Where:

N is statistical population; T is reliability of 95%; S<sub>2</sub>: variance pre-estimation; D is probable desired precision

Statistical population: 900+296+450=1646

Number of samples:

$$n = \frac{1646 \times (2/58)^2 \times (1/85)^2}{(0/05)^2 (1645) + (2/58)^2 \times (1/85)^2} = \frac{37497/3}{26/894} = 139/4 \approx 140$$

It is seen that the size of sample was determined to be 140 families which is increased to 180 families by the rate of 25% for increasing the reliability coefficient.

The present research uses questionnaire and observation method. Questionnaire preparation: for the purpose of testing the hypothesis, the following eleven questions were put into the questionnaire and their data obtained from the 180 families in the aforesaid three residential complexes were evaluated and the result thereof was analyzed in the form of 1980 statistical data using SPSS software (Table 1).

#### Data Analysis

**Question 1B)** In selecting your current residential place how much the economic factors were effective? (Table 2)

**Question 2B)** How important was such personal matters as feeling sense of belonging to close fiends, relatives and the place and ... when choosing a place to reside? (Table 3)

**Question 3B)** How much do you feel sense of belonging to your place of residence? (Table 4)

**Question 4B)** How much do you feel pleasure in living your residential complex? (Table 5)

Table 1: Questionnaire method

Hypothesis: residential model can influence the human relations in residential complexes
The following questions were developed for examining the above hypothesis
1B) In selecting your current residential place how much the economic factors were effective?
2B) How important was such personal matters as feeling sense of belonging to close fiends, relatives and the place and ... when choosing a place to reside?
3B) How much do you feel sense of belonging to your place of residence?
4B) How much do you feel pleasure in living your residential complex?
5B) In case of improvement of your standard of life, how much would you be serious to change place of residence?
6B) How much your place of residence meets your desires for residing in an ideal residential complex?
7B) How much has your residential complex exerted positive effect on your behavior with others?
8B) How much has your residential complex had positive effect on improvement of the quality of your relations within your family?
9B) How much has your residential complex had positive effect on improvement of the quality of your relations with your relatives and friends?
10B) How much has your residential complex had positive effect on your behavior with your neighbors?
11B) How much is your relation with your neighbors?

Table 2: Analysis of Question 1B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.7	3.45	4.17	3.72
Standard Deviation	1.07	0.76	0.93	0.98
Variance	1.14	0.59	0.86	0.96
Total scores	296	207	167	670
Score out of 100	74	69	83.5	74.4

Table 3: Analysis of Question 2B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.38	3.35	2.57	3.19
Standard Deviation	1.41	1.14	1.17	1.31
Variance	2.01	1.31	1.37	1.73
Total scores	271	201	103	575
Score out of 100	67	67	51.5	63

Table 4: Analysis of Question 3B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.59	3.59	2.82	3.41
Standard Deviation	1.08	0.80	0.90	1
Variance	1.18	165	0.81	1.01
Total scores	278	215	113	615
Score out of 100	71.7	71.6	56.5	68

Table 5: Analysis of Question 4B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.68	3.50	2.65	3.29
Standard Deviation	0.94	0.81	0.83	0.96
Variance	0.90	0.66	0.69	0.93
Total scores	295	210	106	611
Score out of 100	73.7	70	53	67.8

Table 6: Analysis of Question 5B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.08	2.86	4.42	3.3
Standard Deviation	1.30	0.98	0.95	1.28
Variance	1.70	0.96	0.91	1.65
Total scores	267	172	177	597
Score out of 100	61.75	57.3	87.5	56.8

Table 7: Analysis of Question 6B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.27	3.11	2.55	3.06
Standard Deviation	1.15	0.78	1.06	1.05
Variance	1.34	0.61	1.12	1.11
Total scores	262	187	102	551
Score out of 100	65	62.3	51	61.2

Table 9: Analysis of Question 8B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.25	2.90	2.25	2.94
Standard Deviation	0.85	0.68	0.63	0.85
Variance	0.72	0.46	0.39	0.73
Total scores	266	174	90	530
Score out of 100	66.5	58	45	58

Table 11: Analysis of Question 10B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.18	3	2.4	2.9
Standard Deviation	0.85	0.80	0.67	0.85
Variance	0.73	0.64	0.45	0.72
Total scores	255	180	96	531
Score out of 100	63.7	60	48	59

**Question 5B)** In case of improvement of your standard of life, how much would you be serious to change place of residence? (Table 6)

**Question 6B)** How much has your residential complex exerted positive effect on your behavior with others? (Table 7)

**Question 7B)** How much your place of residence meets your desires for residing in an ideal residential complex? (Table 8)

**Question 8B)** How much has your residential complex had positive effect on improvement of the quality of your relations within your family? (Table 9)

**Question 9B)** How much has your residential complex had positive effect on improvement of the quality of your relations with your relatives and friends? (Table 10)

**Question 10B)** How much has your residential complex had positive effect on your behavior with your neighbors? (Table 11)

**Question 11B)** how much is your relations with your neighbors? (Table 12)

### Testing the Hypothesis

Hypothesis: residential model can influence the human relations in a residential complex.

There is no meaningful relation between residential model and individuals relations in residential complexes:  $H_0$  (Table 13)

Table 8: Analysis of Question 7B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.28	3.08	2.42	3.02
Standard Deviation	0.88	0.56	0.74	0.82
Variance	0.78	0.31	0.55	0.68
Total scores	263	185	97	545
Score out of 100	65.7	61.6	48.5	60.5

Table 10: Analysis of Question 9B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	3.36	2.98	2.52	3.05
Standard Deviation	0.93	0.70	0.90	0.91
Variance	0.86	0.49	0.81	0.82
Total scores	269	179	101	549
Score out of 100	67.2	59.6	50.5	61

Table 12: Analysis of Question 11B

	Ekbatan	Behjatabad	Farhangian	Total
Average	2.47	2.51	2.45	2.48
Standard Deviation	0.92	0.72	0.84	0.84
Variance	0.86	0.52	0.71	170
Total scores	198	151	98	447
Score out of 100	49.5	50.4	49	49.5

There is meaningful relation between residential model and individuals relations in residential complexes:  $H_1$

By this hypothesis we seek to focus on as much as more balanced a model of residence is in a residential complex, it will be more effective on the relations of individuals. Hence, first of all, we start to consider the residential model in Ekbatan, Behjatabad and Farhangian complexes. The results indicate that these residential complexes have scored 68/97, 66/08 and 53/3 respectively out of the maximum score of 100. It suggests that the residential model is more balanced in Ekbatan in comparison with the two other complexes and this model is more unbalanced in Farhangian in comparison with the other two complexes.

In continue we will focus on the effects of such residential complexes on human relations.

We see that maximum score is 100 and the scores of each residential complex in terms of their effects on interpersonal relations of their residents are 62/38 for Ekbatan, 58/04 for Behjatabad and 48/7 for Farhangian. We can see Ekbatan has more effect in this regard. Farhangian has least effect. We see, therefore, a relationship between the individual's residential model and their interpersonal relations. We shall consider it using SPSS software and calculate correlation coefficient of each of the three complexes in subsequent sections (Table 14).

Table 13: Analysis of residential model in residential complexes

Questions	Ekbatan		Behjatabad		Farhangian		All the three complexes	
	average	score	average	score	average	score	average	score
1B	3.7	74	3.45	69	4.17	53	3.72	65.3
2B	3.38	67	3.35	67	2.57	51	3.19	63
3B	3.58	71.7	3.59	71.6	2.82	56.5	3.41	68
4B	3.68	73.7	3.5	70	2.65	53	3.39	67.8
5B	3.08	61.75	2.86	57.3	2.42	57.5	3.3	58.85
6B	3.28	65.7	3.08	61.6	2.42	48.5	3.02	60.5
Total	20.7	413.85	19.82	396.5	19.05	320	20.03	383.45
Average	3.45	68.97	3.30	66.08	3.17	53.30	3.44	63.9

Table 14: The effect of residential complexes on interpersonal relations

Questions	Ekbatan		Behjatabad		Farhangian		All the three complexes	
	average	score	average	score	average	score	average	score
7B	3.27	65	3.11	62.3	2.55	51	3.06	61.2
8B	3.35	66.5	2.90	58	2.25	45	2.94	58
9B	3.36	67.2	2.98	59.6	2.25	50.5	3.05	61
10B	3.18	63.7	3	60	2.4	48	2.9	59
11B	2.47	49.5	2.51	50.3	2.45	49	2.48	55.5
Total	15.63	311.9	14.5	290.2	12.17	243.5	14.43	294.7
Average	3.126	62.38	2.9	58.04	2.4	48.7	2.88	58.94

Table 15: Result Analysis of Ekbatan Residential Complex

Variable	Variance	Standard Deviation	Pierson Correlation Coefficient	Total Data	Sig	Ekbatan Residential Complex
Residential model and its effect on interpersonal relations	13.424	3.665	0.553	80	-	

As it can be seen in the Table 15, Pierson correlation coefficient value has been calculated 0.553 indicating a direct and meaningful relation between residential model in Ekbatan residential complex and its effect on the interpersonal relations ( $-1 < p < 1$ ).

Also (Sig=0) i.e. significance level of the model is less than 0.05; that is, statistical hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) with 95% reliability is rejected and the hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) is accepted.

In accordance with the Table 16, Pierson correlation coefficient value has been calculated 0.567 indicating a direct and meaningful relation between residential model in Behjatabad residential complex and its effect on the interpersonal relations ( $-1 < p < 1$ ).

Also (Sig =0) i.e. significance level of the model is less than 0.05; that is, statistical hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) with 95% reliability is rejected and the hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) is accepted.

As it is reveal in the Table 17, Pierson correlation coefficient value has been calculated 0.632 indicating a direct and meaningful relation between residential model in Farhangian residential complex and its effect on the interpersonal relations ( $-1 < p < 1$ ).

Also (Sig =0) i.e. significance level of the model is less than 0.05; that is, statistical hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) with 95% reliability is rejected and the hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) is accepted.

As it can be seen in the Table 18, Pierson correlation coefficient value has been calculated 0.602 indicating a direct and meaningful relation between residential model in all the three residential complexes and its effect on the interpersonal relations ( $-1 < p < 1$ ).

Also (Sig =0) i.e. significance level of the model is less than 0/05; that is, statistical hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) with 95% reliability is rejected and the hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) is accepted.

Table 16: Result Analysis of Behjatabad Residential Complex

Variable	Variance	Standard Deviation	Pierson Correlation Coefficient	Total Data	Sig	Behjatabad Residential Complex
Residential model and its effect on interpersonal relations	1.832	2.683	0.567	60	-	

Table 17: Result Analysis of Farhangian Residential Complex

Variable	Variance	Standard Deviation	Pierson Correlation Coefficient	Total Data	Sig	Farhangian Residential Complex
Residential model and its effect on interpersonal relations	10.705	3.272	0.632	40	0	

Table 18: Result Analysis of All the three Residential Complex

Variable	Variance	Standard Deviation	Pierson Correlation Coefficient	Total Data	Sig	All the three Residential Complexes
Residential model and its effect on interpersonal relations	12.402	3.522	0.602	180	0	

## CONCLUSION

### Result of Hypothesis Testing

The result of this research suggests that when the residential model is balanced people feel stronger sense of belonging to their place of residence and they will enjoy more calmness by staying there, and they shall feel consent of staying there forever. Also it makes the interpersonal relations

more intimate and closer. On the other hand, when the residential model is unbalanced people may hardly feel stronger sense of belonging to their place of residence and they hardly gain more calmness by staying there. Therefore, their interpersonal relations will be more boring, apathetic and lukewarm.

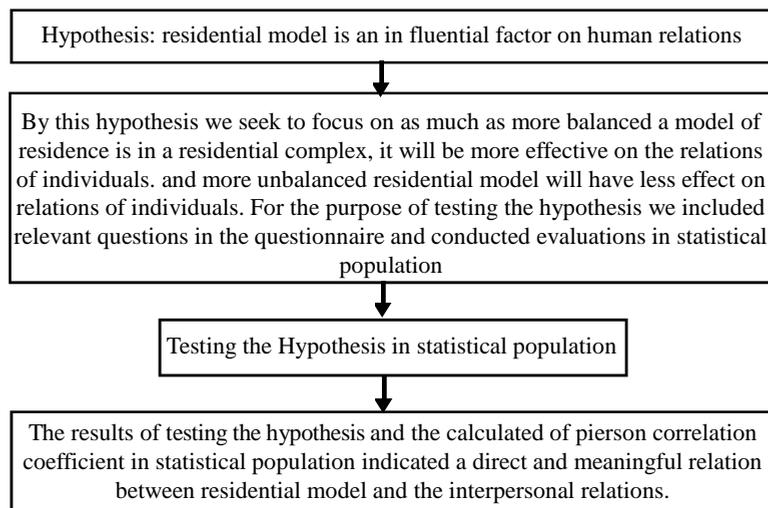


Fig. 5: Result of hypothesis testing

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