



The Impact of the Housing Problem on Neighborly Relations in Algeria

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Abstract;

Adequate housing is considered a fundamental right and a key indicator of quality of life and well-being. Despite this, many countries struggle to provide suitable housing, especially for those relocated to new neighborhoods. These relocations often impact neighborly relations, as unfamiliar or newly settled neighbors may experience varying social interactions, leading to either harmony or conflict. This research aims to identify the primary issues new neighbors face, highlighting the housing problem and its effects on neighborly relations. Additionally, it will analyze the factors influencing these relationships and propose solutions, drawing on previous studies and research.

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1. Introduction

With the passage of time and the development of contemporary societies, the housing problem emerges as one of the major challenges facing these societies. Housing, as a basic need for every individual, constitutes not only a place to live and sleep but also an interactive environment that significantly affects the quality of life and social well-being. From this perspective, the housing problem falls within the important social issues that comprehensively impact the lives of individuals and communities.

The deterioration of housing conditions exacerbates many social problems, including its impact on relationships among neighbors in the residential area. When individuals live in unsuitable or deteriorated housing environments, they become more prone to tensions and conflicts, negatively affecting social relations within the local community. Therefore, the housing problem has multifaceted impacts that affect the entire neighborhood, highlighting the importance of social analysis of this phenomenon and the need to consider effective and sustainable solutions to overcome it.

2. Study Concepts

Concept of Social Relations: This term is defined as "a connection between two entities or phenomena that requires a change in one to result in a change in the other." (Sociology Plus, 2022).

Concept of Neighborliness: An informal main group that is a subset of a larger local community that occurs inside a small geographical unit is the concept of neighborliness. It is distinguished by comparatively direct and primary social ties as well as a feeling of oneness and local identity (Madrazo, 2019, pp. 70-81).

Definition of Social Conflict: The term "social conflict" describes the social process that occurs when two parties with opposing interests and objectives try to accomplish their goals and interests by any means necessary, whether legal or illegal (Jeong, 2010).

Concept of Housing: Many different meanings and applications of the term "housing" have been proposed. Areas of residence, public facilities, and material life are all typically included in the concept of housing. In Jelali Ben Omran's view, housing encompasses not just the physical structure that provides a place to live but also the infrastructure that surrounds it. Hobbs said that housing is a place that allows people to gather with their neighbors and friends, as well as for all things pertaining to play, learning, and caregiving. 'The dwelling and the surrounding environment that includes all service institutions' (Cornelissen & Jang-Trettien, 2023).

3. The Effects of Moving to New Housing on Social Relationships (Vasquez, 2014)

3.1 Context of Moving to New Housing

Governments and humanitarian organizations are making great strides to eradicate slums and improve poor living conditions, and one important component of these efforts is relocating residents to new housing. In most cases, these programs are put into action by building new homes that adhere to certain environmental, health, and safety regulations. Residents' quality of life is improved and they are shielded from the dangers of old, unhealthy housing as a result of the process of relocating to new, safer homes. Nevertheless, these procedures encounter novel social obstacles, which might influence the dynamics of the new neighborhood and impact neighborly relations.

Among the many potential social difficulties associated with relocating to a new home are:

3.1.1 Coexisting with New Neighbors

It may be necessary for residents to adapt socially and work together differently now that they are in a new place with strangers.

3.1.2 Competition for Resources

New homes could increase tensions amongst neighbors because of the potential for increased competition for scarce neighborhood resources like parking spots and green spaces.

3.1.3 Changes in Demographics

Relocation may result in changes in the composition of the new neighborhood's residents, which could affect the culture, customs, and community traditions.

In summary, the relocation to new housing alters neighborhood dynamics and develops neighborly relations, necessitating a deep understanding of the emerging social challenges and the development of strategies to enhance communication and cooperation among residents in this new environment.

3.2 The Impact of Relocation on Social Relations

Relocating to new housing represents a significant change in individuals' lives, leading to various impacts on social relationships. This transformation can have substantial effects on existing social ties, potentially causing them to partially or entirely disintegrate. Among the main impacts of relocation on social relations are:

3.2.1 Loss of Old Connections

Individuals who move to new housing lose their existing social ties with former neighbors and friends, increasing their feelings of isolation and loneliness. They may have been accustomed to mutual support and assistance in their old neighborhood but now find themselves without this support in the new area.

3.2.2 Difficulty in Building New Relationships

Building new relationships in new neighborhoods requires significant time

and effort, as individuals need to get to know their new neighbors and establish cooperative relationships with them. Cultural and habitual differences among individuals can sometimes make it difficult to form friendly and sustainable relationships.

3.2.3 Impact of Isolation and Loneliness

The loss of old social connections and the difficulty in forming new ones can increase feelings of isolation and loneliness among individuals, negatively affecting their mental health and quality of life.

4. Security and Social Challenges

This issue opens an important avenue for thinking about developing new strategies to address the social and security challenges that arise from the lack of accurate studies to dismantle criminal elements and distribute them in a way that ensures the dismantling of gangs. It is crucial to recognize that these criminal groups have a significant impact on the social environment in new neighborhoods, potentially increasing tension and friction among new residents, complicating the building of positive neighborly relationships.

It is essential for governments and relevant institutions to be aware of the importance of dismantling criminal elements and providing necessary support to security authorities to achieve this goal. This can be accomplished through enhancing cooperation between different security agencies and effectively sharing information, along with directing joint

efforts to combat organized crime and dismantle gangs.

Additionally, significant importance should be given to prevention and awareness programs targeting youth in new neighborhoods, as they can play a crucial role in preventing them from slipping into crime and encouraging their participation in positive social activities. These efforts can be complemented by providing rehabilitation and employment programs for youth, helping them build a better future and actively contributing to the positive development of their communities.

4.1 Poverty, Crime, and Their Impact on Neighborly Relations

The relationship between poverty and crime is a well-known social phenomenon that significantly affects the social environment in poor neighborhoods. Poverty and unemployment are major factors leading to high crime rates in these areas, rooted in several factors:

4.1.1 Urgent Needs

Individuals in poverty face ongoing challenges in meeting their basic needs such as food, housing, and education, which may drive them to resort to crime as a means to fulfill their urgent needs.

4.1.2 Fewer Employment Opportunities (Sampson, p. 2013)

The effect of economic opportunities on neighborly relations is intimately tied to this topic. Rising crime rates and worsening social connections in low-income communities may be caused, in

part, by a lack of economic prospects. Tensions and strains in the community rise when residents are unable to escape the vicious cycle of poverty and joblessness caused by a lack of economic possibilities. Some people may turn to crime as a means of survival or improvement when they have no other legal options to improve their financial status.

As a result of the neighborhood's worsening economic status, the social fabric is suffering. As the crime rate rises, inhabitants' irritation and despair also rise, which has a negative impact on their social connections and interactions. People in the neighborhood start to feel even more alone and disconnected as they stop interacting with each other and stop helping each other out.

4.1.3 The worsening of social conditions

In low-income areas, crime and violence are more likely to occur due to the heightened social and psychological pressures caused by unemployment and poverty. People in these areas face heavy financial burdens, which exacerbate existing conflicts and make it hard for them to meet their most fundamental requirements. Because of these stresses, social tensions and fights break out in low-income areas, and some people may turn to crime as a means of obtaining basic requirements. And people's mental health can take a nosedive when they're under the emotional and mental strain of poverty and unemployment, which in turn increases their risk of criminal and aggressive behavior.

Governments and communities can help alleviate this problem by bolstering

economically disadvantaged populations, expanding economic prospects, and instituting social and psychological initiatives to lower crime rates and community tensions.

4.1.4 Inadequate Access to Social and Educational Resources (Sharkey, 2015)

There are a number of interconnected elements that contribute to the correlation between high crime rates and low levels of social and educational services in low-income communities. People are more likely to become mired in poverty and joblessness when educational services are inadequate since fewer possibilities are available to them to further their education and careers. When people do not have access to quality educational resources, they are less likely to develop a healthy moral compass and to act in accordance with established norms of social conduct. Another consequence of underfunded social services is that people are less likely to have the social and psychological resources they need to deal with the stresses of daily life. Many people turn to crime as a means of escaping the high levels of stress and psychological pressure that might result from not having this support system in place.

Crime rates are disproportionately high in certain areas because people are more likely to resort to criminal behavior as a coping mechanism for the extreme hardships they face, such as high unemployment, low wages, and social isolation. Reducing crime rates and boosting well-being in these neighborhoods requires fundamental social

services to be provided and made more accessible, as well as educational and economic opportunities.

4.2 The Impact of Crime on Neighborly Relations

A major problem for communities is the rise in crime rates, which has an impact on people's ability to trust one another and form meaningful relationships. Anxieties and frictions in the social environment are exacerbated when people are constantly on edge because they don't trust their neighbors. As a result, people are less likely to talk to one another and more likely to live alone, which hinders their capacity to work together and find solutions to issues. In actuality, people don't engage with their neighbors or take part in community events because they're afraid of being a victim of crime. Members of the community are less able to work together to address common issues because of the social isolation that prevents them from forming strong and lasting ties (Skogan, 2017, p. 65).

Additionally, the community's ability to mobilize and develop is badly affected by this social isolation. This is because individuals are unable to effectively collaborate in order to make progress and development. When people stop believing in one another, they are less likely to collaborate on solutions to problems and achieving economic and social objectives. Consequently, the difficulties caused by rising crime rates can only be adequately addressed by strengthening societal trust and engagement. This necessitates not only the development of strong neighborly connections but also the implementation of

efficient measures to increase security and attain social fairness. More stable and cooperative communities can be formed as a result of these endeavors because they improve the social environment by encouraging community members to engage and work together (Putnam, 2015, pp. 191-192).

5. Class Disparities Among Residents and Their Impact on Neighborly Relations

5.1 Class Disparities in Residential Neighborhoods (Seaman, 2010)

Class disparities among residents in new neighborhoods can lead to conflicts and tensions. When neighbors come from different social and economic backgrounds, disputes may arise due to differing values and expectations.

5.2 Consequences of Class Disparities on Relationships

Poor relations between neighbors result in a lack of mutual social support. The absence of cooperation and support makes resolving common problems more difficult and negatively affects the ability to improve the quality of life in the community.

5.3 Effects on Quality of Life and Well-being

5.3.1 Poor Living Conditions

Living in inadequate housing can lead to a range of health and psychological problems. Unhealthy environments result in higher rates of illness among residents, affecting productivity and daily activities.

5.3.2 Impact of Living Conditions on Well-being

The impact of living conditions on well-being cannot be overlooked, as poor living conditions are among the main factors affecting individuals' mental and physical health. Here are some key effects:

A. Depression and Anxiety (Lister, 2021)

Individuals living in poor living conditions suffer from psychological issues such as depression and anxiety more than others. Continuous stress and anxiety due to the lack of security and stability in the surrounding environment can be significant factors.

B. Chronic Stress

Living in an unsuitable environment leads individuals to experience chronic stress, a type of stress that persists over long periods and can lead to a decline in overall health and an increased risk of chronic diseases.

C. Physical Effects

Stress and psychological pressures can lead to negative physical effects such as increased blood pressure, deterioration in sleep quality, and abnormal hormone secretion levels, increasing the risk of cardiovascular diseases and other health conditions.

6. Family Disruption and Loss of Family Ties

6.1 Impact of Housing Instability on Families

Housing instability leads to family disruption, forcing family members to relocate frequently, which affects strong family bonds. Children, in particular, suffer from frequent relocations as it impacts their education and psychological stability.

6.2 Breaking Family Bonds (Desmond, 2016, pp. 245-247)

Families that rent rather than own their houses experience frequent relocations, which can disrupt family relationships and harm family cohesion. If people don't have someone they can lean on for support, they are less likely to have strong social networks, which can have a negative effect on their mental and emotional health.

5.2.1 Difficulties in Building New Relationships

Living in inadequate housing can lead to

6.2.2 Difficulties in Building New Relationships

Each time individuals move to a new place, they face difficulties in building new relationships with neighbors and the local community, which can affect their sense of belonging and integration.

6.2.3 Distance from Work or School

Frequent relocations can sometimes result in individuals being farther from their workplace or the school their children attend, increasing challenges related to daily commuting and organizing daily life.

6.2.4 Impact on Children's Education

Frequent relocations cause children to change schools repeatedly, which can affect their ability to form friendships and achieve academic progress.

6.2.5 Disruption of Family Bonds

Frequent relocations lead to the severance of strong family ties, as individuals find themselves losing the family support, belonging, and stability provided by a permanent home.

6.2.6 Increased Feelings of Isolation

Frequent relocations can increase feelings of isolation and loneliness among family members, as they find themselves missing strong ties and continuous social support.

6.2.7 Effects on Mental and Social Well-Being (Shonkoff, 2012)

The mental health and general well-being of family members can be negatively impacted when strong family relationships are severed, which in turn causes a decline in their emotional and social stability.

7. The Strategy for New Residential Neighborhoods

With the worsening housing crisis in Algeria due to various factors, notably rapid urbanization and high internal migration rates, coupled with a clear shortfall in formulating a comprehensive housing policy, the neglect of the housing sector post-independence becomes evident. The Algerian state prioritized productive sectors, considering them as core sectors, thus neglecting the housing sector,

mistakenly believing that the colonial legacy could meet the housing needs.

The state's focus on the industrial sector and its relocation to city centers resulted in intense and violent modernization, significantly impacting the social equilibrium. This situation created a new social reality, manifesting in the emergence and widespread proliferation of informal settlements and shantytowns in many parts of the city.

This situation forced the state to adopt new strategies in the housing sector, especially with the increasing demand for housing, which became an imperative and necessity to maintain the country's security and stability. The state resorted to accelerating the process of housing and rehousing community members by constructing new residential neighborhoods. However, this process was marked by improvisation and randomness without considering the consequences of lacking integration in all housing components.

Housing is not merely designs and structures; it represents a comprehensive life environment where individuals grow and develop their personalities, reflecting on their behavior. The components of housing, far from being an area characterized by harmony and providing comfort, security, and stability to its residents, have failed to perform their functions. The new neighborhoods, considered social units within the urban fabric, supposed to impart a special identity to their inhabitants, have failed in their roles. They have transformed from places of social solidarity and relationship

building to areas where respect and cooperation diminish, and conflicts and violence of various forms increase.

Thus, the process of crowding individuals into an environment without sociological connections contributed to the creation of all kinds of deviations. The rehousing process or housing community members from various housing and social situations, though somewhat successful in eliminating or reducing the housing problem by providing necessary structures and equipment, neglected the social dimension of these residents.

From the aforementioned, it is of utmost importance to consider the integration of all housing parts and components to create an environment through which individuals can integrate and adapt to their new situations. This will allow them to establish social bonds and relationships that enhance and strengthen their connections with each other and with the new neighborhood, aiming to achieve security and social peace within these residential neighborhoods.

8.Theoretical Approach

Almost every sociological research relies on some aspect of social interactions as a basis for analysis, making the study of social ties and relationships a cornerstone of sociology. Many concepts and theories, representing different points of view and schools of thought on the nature of knowledge, may be reviewed and revised within this framework. As a result, there are those who see sociology as a study of human connections. It is vital to draw attention to the leading philosophers who

have approached the idea of social ties and connections from various angles. Among these intellectuals are: Khaldun, Ibn: He said that people need to work together and engage socially in order to attain their goals, and that this necessity gave rise to human society. Despite his emphasis on "asabiyya" (social cohesiveness) as a connection, he saw it as a societal notion that impacts the development and evolution of communities (Turner, 2013, pp. 97-98). For Ibn Khaldun, "asabiyya" refers to the reason that connects individuals with shared goals.

was of the belief that in order to understand how civilizations develop through time, it was necessary to break down each stage into its own set of challenges and issues. Comte spoke on social solidarity and the division of work in society (Comte, 2015, p. 127).

His propositions suggest the necessity of studying the phase of positional change to identify the comprehensive characteristics of the residents of new neighborhoods. This would enable the development of solutions and proposals to explain the causes and underlying factors for the emergence of these new forms of social relationships.

Émile Durkheim: Many of his theoretical and intellectual contributions paved the way for subsequent studies that influenced scientific knowledge. In his work on the division of labor in society, Durkheim addressed social relationships by discussing organic and mechanical solidarity. In an urban society based on occupational specialization, the gap

between neighborhood residents widens, as individuals form relationships based on professional specialization rather than organic bonds.

Ferdinand Tönnies: Tönnies emphasized that society transitions from a local system to a contractual society. This transition forms strong relationships within a community and a life dependent on impersonal relationships, even among individuals with no kinship ties. This underscores that relationships in urban society are based on mutual interest. The necessity and urgent needs of residents in new neighborhoods will inevitably drive them to exchange interests. Tönnies, therefore, divided social relationships into those based on natural will and those based on rational will, where individualism, caution, anxiety, and the pursuit of personal interests prevail, as observed in new residential neighborhoods.

Max Weber: According to Weber, we may learn from observational data that all preexisting structures are structured to conform to the goals of evolutionary theory, which emphasize variety and seek to foster progress. A sense of belonging is fostered by every interaction that is founded on resemblance, according to him. According to Weber, the field of sociology is essentially concerned with human behavior and its analysis and interpretation in its abstract forms (Weber, 2013, p. 24).

Talcott Parsons: Parsons proposed a framework for studying social

- Improving Infrastructure: Investing in improving the infrastructure of residential areas can contribute to

relationships based on five types: affectivity versus affective neutrality, self-orientation versus collective orientation, universalism versus particularism, performance orientation versus ascription, and specificity versus diffuseness.

These theoretical perspectives provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics and complexities of social bonds and relationships within the context of new residential neighborhoods, emphasizing the importance of considering both social and structural components in addressing housing strategies.

7. CONCLUSION

The housing problem has widespread effects on social relations and quality of life. Relocation from slums, poverty, crime, and class disparities among residents are all factors that lead to the disintegration of communities. It is necessary to study these effects more deeply to develop effective strategies to improve housing conditions.

8. Recommendations

- Providing Adequate Housing: Governments and non-governmental organizations should work on providing adequate and affordable housing to ensure family stability and enhance social ties. This includes building new housing and improving existing ones, while considering health and environmental standards.

creating safer and more stable environments, which enhances relationships between neighbors.

Public facilities such as schools, hospitals, and recreational amenities should be improved, along with providing basic services like water and electricity.

– Promoting Social Programs:

Developing social programs aimed at enhancing social cohesion and cooperation among neighbors can help build more cohesive communities. These programs can include community activities, workshops, and joint cooperation initiatives, which contribute to building bridges of trust and cooperation among residents.

- Supporting Relocated Families: (Hesseling, 1994) Providing necessary support to relocated families, including financial assistance and legal advice, can reduce the impact of relocation and maintain social ties. Policies should be put in place to protect residents' rights and prevent unwarranted displacement, with a focus on providing alternative and sustainable housing solutions.

By adopting these recommendations, communities can work towards improving housing conditions and enhancing social relations, contributing to the creation of more stable and prosperous environments for everyone.

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