

## Negotiating Privacy in Collective Housing: a Search for Balance in 800 neighbourhood Batna

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**Abstract :** This study delves into the intricate relationship between privacy and community engagement within a specific collective housing complex: the 800 neighborhood in Batna, Algeria. While collective housing fosters a sense of community, the inherent proximity and shared spaces can raise privacy concerns. Residents may feel their personal space is compromised by noise or limited control over common areas, potentially leading to isolation and reluctance to participate in community activities.

This study aims to explore how residents in the 800 and 1000 neighborhood navigate this interplay between privacy and community engagement. We investigate how feelings of security within their dwelling units influence their comfort level with participating in community life offered by the complex.

Our research will utilize a quantitative approach, employing a self-administered questionnaire distributed to residents. The questionnaire will be designed to capture resident experiences within the Algerian context. Data analysis will involve descriptive statistics to summarize resident characteristics and responses. We will employ a quantitative data such as observation to explore the relationship between feelings of security within the dwelling unit and comfort level with community activities. Depending on the data complexity, additional techniques like regression analysis may be used to gain further insights.

Through this investigation, we expect to gain valuable insights into resident perceptions of the privacy-community balance. The analysis may reveal how cultural values and specific design features of the complex influence this balance. We anticipate a correlation between feelings of security within the dwelling unit and a resident's comfort level with engaging in community activities. Additionally, the study may identify strategies that residents employ to navigate the privacy-community balance within this specific Algerian context.

**Keywords:** Privacy; Community Engagement; Collective Housing; Batna.

### Introduction:

One of the most important factors of housing is privacy. In the evolution of the housing environment, both social and economic as well as structural and technological influences affect its formation (Vanzande & Pouleurn ,2020);( Lee & Kim ,2018); (Zhang & Yan ,2023). Nowadays there is a critical need for evolving collectivist and activist trends to solve housing shortage and urban rationalization conflicts in long-life city scenarios in time and in a balanced way, setting up new organic models and principal roles (Yau,2010). Research aimed to approach and reflect offers models characterizing living habitat that opposes a logic focused only on retail market models,

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proposing a scheme where the individual dimension for relationships is combined with the collective dimension, aggregating the individual units in small community microsystems. It also investigates the concept of space and relational balance as a tool to face problems of community social life.

Collective housing presents a unique paradox. It fosters a sense of community by bringing residents together (Berg & al.,2021);(Czischke & al.,2020);(Falagán,2021), while simultaneously offering individual dwellings for privacy(Törnqvist, 2019). However, this very proximity and shared living arrangement can create challenges in balancing the need for individual privacy with the desire for community engagement (Sison,2018);( Sullivan,2016). This paper explores how residents in collective housing navigate this dynamic interplay. We investigate how feelings of security within their dwelling units influence their comfort level with engaging in community life.

The close proximity inherent in collective housing designs, with shared walls and common areas, can raise privacy concerns. Residents may feel their personal space is compromised by noise, limited control over common areas, or disruptions from neighbors. This can lead to feelings of isolation and a reluctance to participate in community activities (Dupéré & Perkins,2007).

This study hypothesizes that a strong sense of security within one's dwelling unit positively influences residents' comfort level with engaging in social activities outside their unit. Residents who feel secure in their private space may be more open to participating in community events and interacting with neighbors.

The need for collaboration and collective activities is no less important at the larger community and societal levels than it is within the small work group, and privacy remains no less important for successful community relationships than for organizational relationships (Marufa & al.,2021). Neighborhood relations also involve a variety of potential conflicts that reveal how privacy expectations may point in different directions within different relationships.

This study aims to analyze how residents in collective housing perceive the balance between privacy and community engagement. To investigate the relationship between feelings of security within their dwelling unit and their comfort level with participating in community activities. And to identify potential strategies residents employ to navigate the privacy-community balance within collective housing.

By understanding these dynamics, we can contribute to the design and management of collective housing environments that promote both a sense of community and individual privacy. This can lead to the creation of spaces that truly nurture a sense of belonging while respecting the need for personal space.

## **1. Literature review**

The debate on the values of privacy versus community has a long historical trajectory. Traditionally, the relationship between the two values has been addressed primarily in connection to collective housing. Privacy is a basic human requirement that encompasses the ability to control access to personal information, physical space, and social interactions (Westin, 1967). It is crucial for individual well-being, personal development, and social relationships.

Controlling access to one's physical space, social interactions, and personal information is all part of the basic human demand for privacy. Achieving a balance between community involvement and privacy in collective housing, where individuals live in close proximity and share common areas, is essential for social cohesiveness and individual well-being.

This study looks into how community involvement and privacy interact in Batna, Algeria's 800 neighborhood, a cooperative housing development.

Privacy is a complicated and comprehensive notion that differs among cultures and nations. In Western countries, privacy is often associated with individual autonomy and the right to be left alone, while in collectivist cultures, privacy may be more closely linked to family and social relationships (Altman, 1977). However, globalization and the spread of Western values have

influenced perceptions of privacy worldwide, leading to a growing emphasis on individual rights and personal space (Westin, 1967).

Stockholm's communal housing, while titled for collectivity, is prized for its individualistic bent. Residents enjoy privacy, independence and easy exits, not tight-knit solidarity. The study reframes this as "individualized collectivism" - a way to belong that fosters connections while still prioritizing personal space. It connects this to Sweden's existing social programs, arguing this "collective frame" allows residents to live their individual lives within a communal setting. This housing style is presented as a solution to the tension between individualistic societies and the human desire for community (Törnqvist, 2019).

Hanover Scotland worked with staff and residents to improve well-being and community connections for older residents. Staff learned about resident needs through resident stories. The project found that connections within the housing developments were important and is testing ways to address resident needs. Resident input is important but privacy must also be considered (Barrie & al. 2019).

Algeria, a North African country with a predominantly Muslim population, has a unique cultural context that shapes perceptions of privacy. In traditional Algerian society (Derbal & Tachrift, 2022), the family and community play a central role, and privacy is often viewed in terms of protecting the family's honor and maintaining social harmony (Bourdieu, 1979). However, rapid urbanization and exposure to Western media have led to a shift in attitudes, with younger generations placing greater importance on individual privacy and personal space (Nemouchi, 2005). Younger generations are placing greater importance on individual privacy and personal space due to globalization and exposure to Western values

Research on privacy in Algerian collective housing highlights the challenges residents face in balancing their need for personal space with the close proximity inherent in shared living arrangements (Benrachi & Lezzar, 2014). Studies have found that:

- Residents often feel their privacy is compromised by noise, limited control over common areas, and disruptions from neighbors in collective housing complexes ( Bourdieu,1963). This can lead to feelings of isolation and a reluctance to participate in community activities
- Cultural values in Algeria emphasize family and social relationships over individual privacy, which can create tensions in collective housing contexts (Benedjai, , & Bencherif, 2022).

The 800 neighborhood and the 1000 neighbourhood in Batna , Algeria, is a collective housing complexes that exemplify the challenges of balancing privacy and community engagement. The high-density living conditions and shared spaces can lead to feelings of compromised privacy, as residents may experience noise, limited control over common areas, and a lack of personal space These factors can contribute to social isolation and reluctance to participate in community activities (Benterki & Alkama& Hamouda., 2023)

Privacy is described as the capacity of people to control their personal information., physical space, and social interactions. Emphasize that privacy is a basic human need and an important component of personal well-being. Privacy problems are especially important in collective living, where inhabitants live close together and share shared spaces. Residents may feel their personal space has been violated, causing discomfort, tension, and social disengagement (Pyrrho & Cambraia& de Vasconcelos 2022).

Traditional codes of conduct in Algeria include an emphasis on family and social bonds, which can lead to problems in group living settings where individual privacy may not be respected.

Unresolved privacy issues might reduce citizens' motivation to connect with their community. Residents may retreat from social activities and contacts with their neighbors, preventing the

formation of a strong feeling of community inside the communal housing complex (Kokolakis,2017).

Handling privacy problems in collective living necessitates a balanced strategy that prioritizes individual needs while promoting a feeling of community. This balance is critical for supporting residents' well-being, social cohesiveness, and general quality of life in a shared living setting.

While the community engagement is the practice of incorporating members of communal housing complexes in activities, decision-making, and social interactions that foster a sense of belonging, shared responsibility, and mutual support within the community.

Fostering a strong sense of community is critical in communal housing contexts because it may lead to increased social cohesiveness, less isolation, and better well-being for inhabitants. Community involvement may also foster a sense of ownership and pride in the shared living environment (Nguyen& Levasseur2022).

Collective housing complexes in Algeria confront particular difficulties in increasing community involvement due to cultural differences, language constraints, and inhabitants' different socioeconomic origins. Furthermore, privacy issues and close proximity of housing arrangements might occasionally inhibit social contacts and community development.

Understanding community engagement in Algerian collective housing requires delving into the country's rich cultural fabric. Traditional values, particularly those emphasizing the importance of family and social relationships, have a significant impact on citizens' attitudes about community engagement. Various deeply embedded ideas have far-reaching consequences, influencing not just resident attitudes but also the most successful techniques for establishing a feeling of community within various living arrangements. Algerian society traditionally prioritizes the family unit. This emphasis can translate into a preference for private spaces within collective housing while still valuing strong social bonds with neighbors. The importance of social interactions encourages a natural desire to create intimate bonds with neighbors. However, the form of this interaction may differ from that found in other cultures, with extended family networks playing an important role.

The community engagement must be understood within the broader cultural context. Traditional values, such as the importance of family and social relationships, can shape residents' attitudes towards community engagement and influence the strategies used to promote it.

Collective housing depends on a strong feeling of community. Here, resident interaction takes on a distinct aspect. It is based on shared responsibility, in which inhabitants manage communal places, resources, and decision-making procedures for the greater benefit. This encourages social engagement, giving people opportunity to connect, establish friendships, and develop a feeling of belonging. However, in order to create a happy living environment, procedures for constructive conflict resolution must be put in place. Residents may handle problems and maintain a vibrant collective spirit within their shared walls by resolving issues respectfully and constructively.

Collectively designed spaces that cater to residents' needs and encourage interaction are fostered in collective housing projects worldwide through resident collaboration with architects and developers. This sense of ownership and shared responsibility is further nurtured by resident-led committees managing finances, organizing events, and overseeing maintenance, all complemented by shared resources and activities like community gardens, workshops, or recreational facilities that naturally promote interaction and a collaborative spirit.

In Algerian collective housing, community engagement takes on an even richer dimension due to the nation's unique cultural background. Here, activities must respect the importance of family life, offering opportunities for both family gatherings and broader community events. Additionally, leveraging the existing strong social networks within Algerian society fosters connections amongst residents. Finally, facilitating dialogue and collaboration between different

age groups is crucial, ensuring the wisdom of elders is valued alongside the energy of younger residents.

Citizen and resident engagement in public interests has gained prominence over the previous two centuries, and by the end of the twentieth century, it had become crucial to debates surrounding the subject of urban governance, particularly social and urban development initiatives. (Yelles., & Khalfallah.,2023)

Social housing offers stability and reduces social issues, but short leases in Taiwan (6 years max) might discourage residents from getting involved in community building. This study explores this concern and finds residents prioritize safety and environment over lease length. Time spent participating is a bigger factor, but incentives and positive community relationships do increase willingness to contribute (Hui Chun & Ko-Chiu & Kuang-Hui , 2021).

A study examined what makes neighborhoods work together effectively. Residents' involvement in community activities (civic engagement) and strong social bonds (trust and shared values) were both linked to a neighborhood's collective ability to address local issues. Interestingly, strong social bonds partly explained why involvement helps neighborhoods work together. These findings suggest that building trust and connections alongside community activities can empower neighborhoods. (Collins & Neal & Neal 2014).

Social assistance is crucial to people's health and well-being. Neighbors may be a valuable source of help. Future neighbors meet during the development phase of collective self-build housing complexes. This sort of development may lead to a better level of local togetherness, making it an intriguing type of development in which neighbors help one another. So far, little quantitative research has been undertaken in the field of collective self-building. The results show that getting to know prospective neighbors throughout the collective self-build process plays an essential role in neighborhood cohesiveness and access to neighbor assistance.( Berg & al.,2021).

Privacy, a basic human right, is critical to psychological well-being, personal growth, and social interactions. In Algeria, privacy is fundamentally linked to traditional values such as family honour and collaborative harmony. Community, established through societal interactions, shared duties, and collective choice-making, is a key element of Algerian culture, profoundly based in familial relationships and more expansive social networks. Collective housing, generating a unique atmosphere in which numerous homes utilize shared areas, presents both barriers and potential for reconciling individual privacy and community life.

A socio-cultural approach is an appropriate perspective for investigating the complex interplay of privacy, community, and social housing. This paradigm highlights the role of cultural, social, and environmental elements in shaping individual behavior and group dynamics. Place attachment, social capital, boundary management, collective efficacy, and cultural values are all key theoretical notions.

Place Attachment: Individuals form psychological and emotional relationships with their living environment. This relationship can shape their sense of privacy and desire to participate in community activities.

- Social capital: is the network of ties as well as assets entrenched in a community. It can promote social cohesiveness, trust, and collaboration while also creating problems over privacy expectations.
- Boundary Management: both Individuals and groups set and maintain boundaries to defend their privacy and autonomy. In communal housing, boundary management is an essential component of human relationships and community dynamics.
- Collective Efficacy: The inhabitants' shared sense of accomplishment may collaborate effectively for their common objectives. It is critical for building a feeling of community and tackling shared difficulties, such as privacy concerns.

- Cultural values encompass ideas, conventions, and practices that influence individual and group actions. Algerian cultural values, which prioritize family, honor, and social peace, have a considerable impact on citizens' conceptions of privacy and communal involvement.

In conclusion, fostering community engagement in Algerian collective housing necessitates a culturally sensitive approach. Understanding the emphasis on family and social networks is crucial. Collective spaces that cater to both family gatherings and broader community events are essential. Leveraging existing social networks and facilitating intergenerational collaboration can further strengthen this unique community spirit.

## **2. Research methodology :**

This section details the statistical analysis procedures employed in this research using IBM SPSS Statistics version 26. The data collected through the survey was exported from the survey distributed by the researchers into a format compatible with SPSS, Data cleaning was then performed to identify and address any inconsistencies, missing values, or outliers within the dataset. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the socio-demographic characteristics of the sample (e.g., age, family situation...etc) and resident responses on the various scales within the questionnaire.

To provide a comprehensive overview of the sample population, descriptive statistics were calculated for socio-demographic variables such as age and family structure. Similarly, resident responses to questionnaire scales were summarized using descriptive measures. It is essential to note that the focus of this study was exclusively on household heads, aligning with the number of dwelling units.

The query is done only with the household heads that are equal to the number of dwellings. The first case study 800 dwellings contain 46 blocks, with R+4 The stairwell serves 2 dwellings per landing, each floor has 9 dwellings (the top floor contains one dwelling and a terrace), we find that the target population is:  $46 \times 9 = 414$  heads of household. For probability sampling The size of the sample is defined by the population size, which ranges from a few hundred to several thousand elements. The sample equals 10%. of the total population to be studied, or 40 units. In our case study of 800 dwellings we distribute 104 questionnaires to avoid the loss of eliminated cases. We collected 100 forms; after assessment we obtained 40; we consider this population number to be representative for our survey.

The second case study 1000 neighbourhood, distributed over 32 blocks at different heights, so the sample has 100 units. We distribute 250 forms. we consider this population number to be representative for our survey.

The survey was selected as an instrument of investigation, it is a statistical and descriptive analysis relates to the quantitative and qualitative data collected using SPSS version 26 statistical software; The appropriate technique is "probability sampling," whereby each element has an equivalent chance of being selected, created to enable us to estimate the sample's representativeness and generalize it; A cluster sampling method was used for our topic. Cluster sampling considers various portions of the population as clusters (which are the floors). Residents are selected as participants from each cluster (whose are the households). Only one parent is questioned, and the number of units is equal to the number of participants.

In January 2022, a pilot survey was launched with a small number of inhabitants of city of 800 dwellings and 1000 dwellings, to see the degree of resonance of the questions, the questions were asked in Arabic and in French (at choice). We deleted, adjusted and merged several questions, single or multiple choice, Likert scale. The language chosen at the end was Arabic. The forms were distributed a second time at the end of February 2022, and were retrieved in early March 2022.

To investigate the hypothesized relationship between the need of privacy within the dwelling unit (independent variable) and residents' comfort level with community engagement (dependent

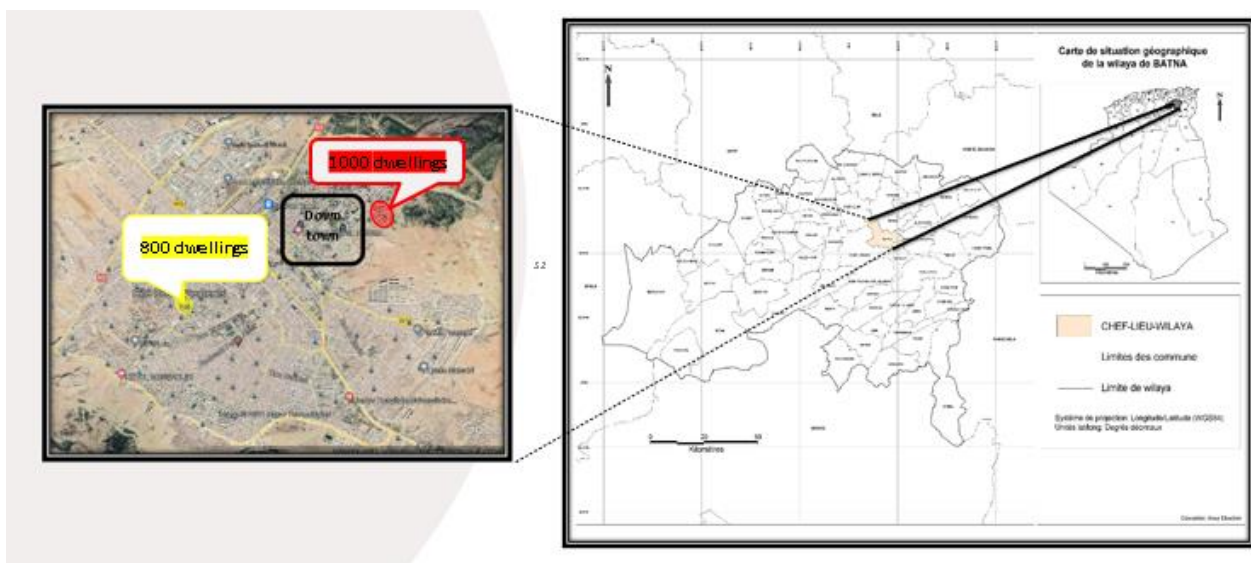
variable). The specific measures we used is percentages. This questionnaire aimed to identify and understand the reasons behind residential individuality and the lack of social life in housing communities. Based on the exploratory observation and analysis, we elaborated a questionnaire that we have addressed to the inhabitants of the 2 selected case studies.

Observational fieldwork was conducted within the collective housing complex to understand residents' perceptions and experiences of privacy, security, and community engagement. The findings reveal a complex interplay between these factors.

### 3. Case study :

The research was conducted in the city of Batna. The wilaya of Batna covers a surface area of 12.038,76 Km<sup>2</sup> and is located in the eastern portion of the nation (North-East) between 4° and 7° East longitude and 35° and 36° North latitude. It currently comprises 21 daïras and 61 communes. The 800 homes neighborhood is situated in the southwest part of the city, covering an area of 5.83 acres.. ( see Fig.1.)

**Fig. 1. The situation of the case studies**

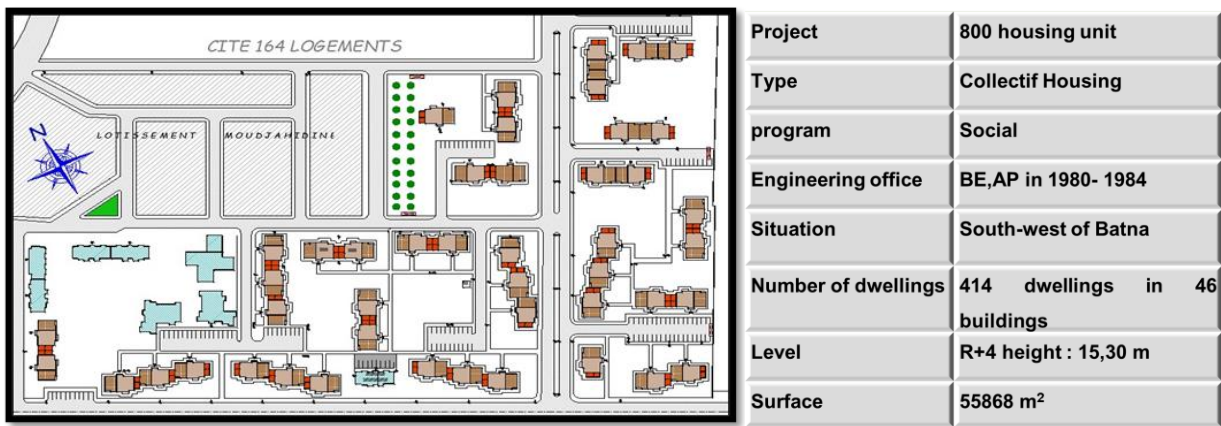


Source: author , 2022

The 800 neighbourhood is a part of social housing programs, it give the aspect of big groups with monotonous forms which use few architectural variants; 414 dwellings in 46 buildings, constituted of alignments of small buildings of 4 levels with a height of 15.30 m. In this part, the study discusses the actual circumstances of this neighbourhood, which present dominant conflicts of use after a pre-survey among the inhabitants. And that we must take this problem seriously as soon as possible. The occupants' living circumstances have deteriorated , and that is likely to generate many social problems and to disturb the social relations between the users as time goes by. ( see Fig.2.)



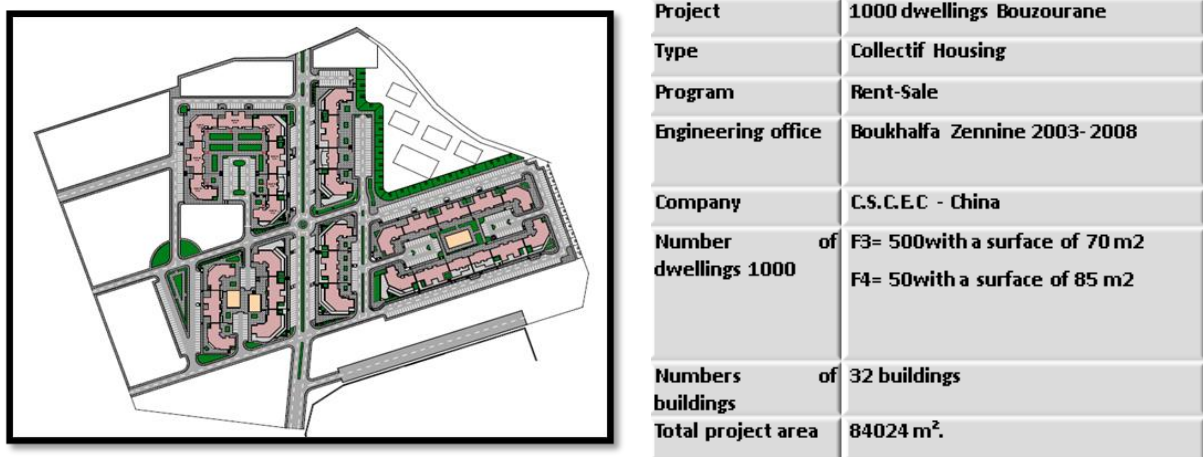
**Fig. 2. Key project Data of the 800 neighbourhood**



Source: author , 2022

The 1000 dwellings neighborhood located in the north-eastern part of the city of Batna, The project is implanted on a surface of 84000 m<sup>2</sup>. It contains 1000 unit, 32 buildings each floor contains 2 /4 housing units of 3 and 4 type; constituted of assemblies of 5; 7; 9; levels. ( see Fig.3.)

**Fig. 3. Key project Data of the 1000 neighbourhood**



Source: author , 2022

Through our presentation of the two residential housing units, we conclude that there is a variety concerning the corpus to be analyzed, the collective housing in Batna present dominant conflicts of use after a pre-survey among the inhabitants. And that we must take this problem seriously as soon as possible. The degradation of the living conditions of the inhabitants is likely to generate many social problems and to disturb the social relations between the users as time goes by. The 2 selected case studies present the problematical of the lack of security and privacy in the collective housing. It is thus a projection of the matter collected in the theoretical part on field.

**4. Interpretation of results:**

Based on the observation the residents expressed a strong desire for privacy within their dwelling units. Architectural features such as the layout of apartments influenced their sense of personal space. Noise levels from neighbors, particularly during evening hours, were a common source of frustration, impacting residents’ perceived privacy.

Security was a primary concern among residents. While the physical structure of the complex offered a sense of safety, residents expressed anxieties about the presence of strangers



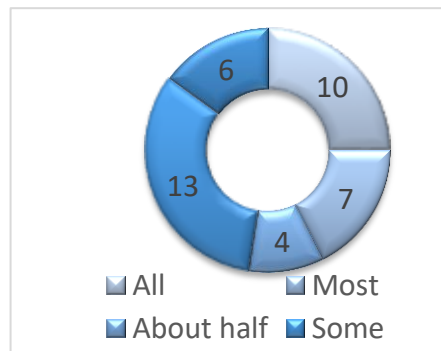
within the shared environment. This impacted their overall sense of well-being and influenced their willingness to engage in communal activities. Interestingly, the pursuit of privacy often seemed to conflict with fostering a sense of community engagement. Residents expressed a desire for social interaction and a sense of belonging, yet they also valued their personal space. The design and atmosphere of common areas played a crucial role in facilitating or hindering social interactions.

In conclusion, the observational data indicate that privacy, security, and community engagement are interconnected factors within the collective housing context. Balancing these competing needs is essential for creating a harmonious living environment. Understanding residents' perspectives on these issues is crucial for developing effective strategies to enhance both individual well-being and collective thriving. Now we move to the quantitative interpretation.

**a. Degree of knowledge among neighbours:**

As for the first case study 800 neighbourhood, the question in the survey "Do you have knowledge of your neighbors within the building: All; Most; About half; Some; Nobody?", individuals who believed "some" obtained the highest proportion (32.5%). while only 25% answered with: all; followed by those who know most with 17. 5%, We observe that the occupants who lack knowledge of any neighbor show a significant percentage of 15%, and finally, it is 10% for those who know approximately half of the residents of the same building. The thing that explains the lack of knowledge and anonymity between residents. (see Fig.4.)

**Fig. 4. Neighborhood relations of the 800 neighbourhood respondents.**



Source: author , 2022

While in the 1000 neighbourhood, When asked about their familiarity with neighbors, the survey respondents primarily indicated a partial acquaintance. Approximately 42% of residents reported knowing some of their neighbors, while 22% claimed to know most of them. (see Fig.5.)

**Fig. 5. Neighborhood relations of the 1000 neighbourhood respondents.**

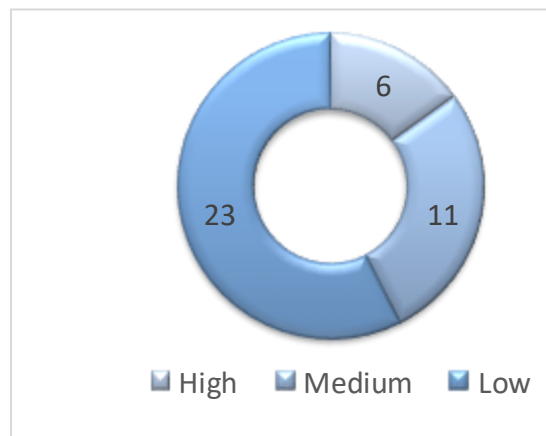


Source: author , 2022

**b. Relationship status of residents in the same building:**

In the 800 neighbourhood according to the results obtained In response to the question "Do you believe how you interact with your neighbors in the building: strong, average, or weak," we determined that 58% of residents in the same blocks consider their connections to be weak, despite living in the same building for a minimum of twelve years, regarded as sufficient time to form strong bonds. 27.5% consider their relationships average, and only 15% consider them strong. (see Fig.6.)

**Fig. 6. Neighborhood relationships's status of the 800 neighbourhood's respondents.**



Source: author , 2022

In response to the question "Do you examine how you relate with your neighbors: low, medium, or high," 55 percent of respondents consider their relationship with neighbors to be average, followed by 23% who consider it low, and only 22% who consider it high. (see Fig.7.)

**Fig. 7. Neighborhood relationships's status of the 1000 neighbourhood's respondents.**

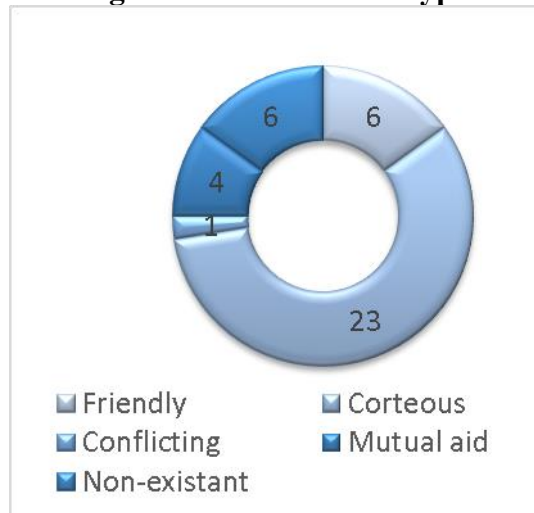


Source: author , 2022

**c. Type of Neighborhood Relationships:**

As for the question: "Are your relations with your neighbors: Friendly; Courteous; Conflictual; Mutual aid; Non-existent", it turns out that the majority of respondents, 57.5% of respondents report just cordial interactions with their neighbors, whereas 6% report pleasant interactions. , the same percentage concerns those who do not . have relations with their neighbors, only 10% who consider their relations as Mutual aid, and 2.5% stipulate that the relations are conflictual. (see Fig.8.)

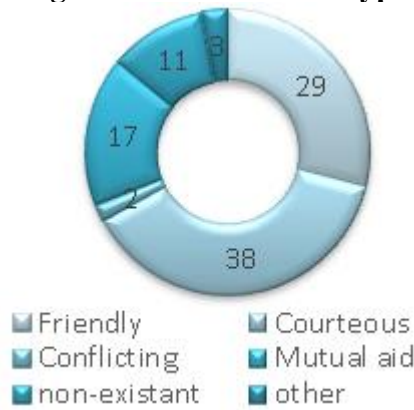
**Fig. 8. The 800 neighborhood relations' Type in the building.**



Source : author , 2022

When asked if their relationship with their neighbors is pleasant, polite, conflictual, mutual help, or non-existent, the majority (38% of respondents) said it is courteous, followed by friendly (29%). (see Fig.9.)

**Fig. 9.The 1000 neighborhood relations' Type in the building.**

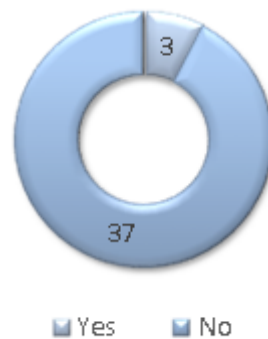


Source : author , 2022

**d. Sharing talents and interests:**

In the question "Do you exchange your skills or hobbies with your building neighbor?", 92.5% of respondents said no, and keeping a considerable distance from them. (see Fig.10.)

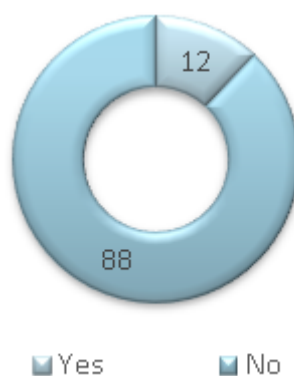
**Fig. 10.Sharing talents and interests among building neighbors in 800 neighbourhood**



Source: author , 2022

It is interesting to point out that among the respondents who see that they should not share their interests with their neighbors, we count 17 of 20 men and all women. We are left with 7.5% of the total inhabitants who do not see any problem in sharing a collective life in the building. (see Fig.11.)

**Fig. 11.Sharing talents and interests among building neighbors in 1000 neighbourhood**



Source: author , 2022

Approximately 88% of residents in the building do not have common skills or hobbies. This implies a tendency for more individualism.

### **The privacy concerns in the two selected case studies:**

The main privacy concerns in the 800 neighborhood and the 1000 neighborhood collective housing complex in Batna, Algeria are:

- Residents in collective living may have restricted personal space owing to shared areas and proximity. This might make people feel like their privacy has been invaded.
- Residents may have little control over common areas due to several houses sharing them, making it challenging to preserve privacy. This might lead to a sense of privacy violation.
- - Some residents may feel socially isolated due to privacy issues and limited personal space in the complex.
- Some individuals may be hesitant to engage in community events due to their need for privacy and personal space.

The statistics offer a fascinating glimpse into the privacy dynamics of the 800 Batna neighborhood. While a strong preference for privacy is evident, it seems to come at the expense of fostering closer relationships between residents.

Most inhabitants only know a portion of their neighbors, and a significant number don't recognize everyone in their building. This suggests a general feeling of anonymity, even after residing in the same building for over a decade. Despite this shared living space, relationships with neighbors tend to be courteous but distant, with nearly 60% describing them as weak.

This lack of connection extends further. The vast majority of residents choose not to share their talents or interests with neighbors. Notably, all female respondents and most men prioritize privacy in this regard. This preference for privacy can be a double-edged sword. While it protects personal space, it can also lead to a sense of social isolation. The limited personal space inherent to collective living, coupled with the desire for privacy, might contribute to feelings of being cut off from the community. Additionally, this focus on privacy could discourage participation in neighborhood events, further hindering opportunities for connection.

The research findings provide light on the complex interplay between privacy and community participation in common housing environments. While inhabitants value the benefits of shared living, a strong focus on personal space might stymie the development of a strong community spirit. This study emphasizes the need for a rethinking of collective housing design and administration in order to establish a harmonic balance between individual demands and communal goals.

To address the issues of high-density living, urban planners should promote mixed-density buildings that include a diversity of dwelling typologies. This method can reduce strain on common areas while also providing inhabitants with a larger selection of living options. Furthermore, the construction of bright and easily accessible public areas within and outside communal housing complexes is critical for encouraging social interaction. These areas should be properly constructed to accommodate various community members and activities. Empowering citizens via participatory planning and decision-making processes is critical for instilling a feeling of ownership and increasing community participation.

Architectural design plays a critical role in influencing resident experiences. Flexible space layout, efficient soundproofing, and the availability of semi-private outdoor places may all improve inhabitants' privacy and well-being. Furthermore, providing a variety of unit types to meet different household sizes and privacy requirements might help to create a more inclusive and enjoyable living environment.

Community development initiatives should prioritize fostering social relationships among inhabitants by implementing shared activities, events, and volunteer opportunities. Empowering

people to take ownership of their neighborhood by forming resident groups or committees is critical for instilling a sense of belonging and collective efficacy. Furthermore, it is critical to create community development efforts that are strongly entrenched in local cultural values and traditions in order to foster a shared feeling of belonging.

collectivist cultures that prioritize communal harmony may exhibit different approaches to privacy compared to individualistic cultures. The concept of "shared space" might be more readily accepted in collectivist contexts, potentially influencing residents' tolerance for noise levels and shared amenities. Conversely, individualistic cultures may place a higher premium on personal space, leading to increased expectations of privacy within dwelling units. Security concerns can also be culturally influenced. Cultures with a strong emphasis on hierarchy and authority may exhibit higher levels of trust in formal security measures, while those with more egalitarian values might rely on informal social control mechanisms. Moreover, cultural perceptions of risk and vulnerability can shape residents' security behaviors and expectations. Community engagement is significantly shaped by cultural factors. Collectivist cultures often foster stronger bonds and a greater sense of belonging, leading to higher levels of participation in communal activities. Conversely, individualistic cultures may prioritize personal interests over collective well-being, potentially impacting community cohesion. It is essential to recognize that these cultural influences are not static but rather dynamic and interconnected. They intersect with other factors such as socioeconomic status, age, and gender to create complex and multifaceted experiences within the collective housing environment. A nuanced understanding of these interactions is crucial for developing effective strategies to enhance residents' quality of life and foster inclusive communities.

In conclusion, the statistics reveal a neighborhood where privacy reigns supreme. However, this preference comes at a cost. The desire for personal space seems to create a barrier to building stronger relationships and fostering a sense of community among residents.

### **Conclusion :**

This study investigated the delicate balance between privacy and community engagement in collective housing. The 800 neighborhood in Batna, Algeria, served as a case study, exploring how residents navigate the inherent tension between a desire for personal space and the potential for connection fostered by shared living.

The research employed a quantitative approach, surveying residents to understand their experiences within the complex. The findings revealed a fascinating dynamic. While residents enjoyed the benefits of collective housing, a significant portion reported only knowing a limited number of neighbors. This suggests a general feeling of anonymity despite shared living arrangements. Further, relationships with neighbors tended to be courteous but distant, with most residents describing them as weak. This lack of connection extended to shared interests, with the vast majority choosing not to share them with neighbors. Notably, a strong preference for privacy was observed, particularly among female respondents.

These findings hold significant importance. On one hand, privacy is a fundamental human need, and its presence within collective housing is crucial for individual well-being. However, a strong focus on privacy could hamper the establishment of a strong feeling of community, perhaps leading to sensations of isolation and a reluctance to engage in communal events. This is especially applicable in the Algerian culture context.

where a balance needs to be struck between the emphasis on family and social relationships and the need for individual privacy within collective housing settings.

The initial hypothesis of the study, which proposed a positive correlation between feelings of security within the dwelling unit and residents' comfort level with engaging in social activities

outside their unit, requires further investigation. While the data suggests a preference for privacy, a more nuanced understanding of how this preference interacts with feelings of security and ultimately impacts community engagement is needed.

The provided data indicates a potential correlation between residents' feelings of security within their dwelling units and their inclination to engage in community life. While the study primarily focused on privacy and its impact on community engagement, it hinted at a deeper underlying factor: the sense of security within one's home. A secure dwelling can be seen as a foundation for psychological comfort. When residents feel safe and protected within their private spaces, they are more likely to venture out and interact with their neighbors. Conversely, a lack of security within the home may foster a sense of vulnerability, leading to a withdrawal from communal activities.

This study offers valuable insights but has limitations. The research focused on a single case study, limiting the generalizability of the findings. Additionally, the quantitative approach provided limited understanding of the underlying reasons behind residents' privacy preferences and their impact on community engagement.

Future study might investigate these limits using mixed-method techniques that combine survey data with interviews of qualitative nature. Expanding the scope to include additional collective housing projects across Algeria and other cultural contexts would enhance the generalizability of the findings. By delving deeper into the resident experience, future research can inform the design and management of collective housing environments that promote both a sense of community and individual privacy.

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