

HOUSING

“All places in which a group of people reside and pursue their life goals, the size of the settlement vary from a single family to millions of people”

SOCIAL GOALS OF HOUSING

Shelter: that the house should provide a sanitary shelter which is a basic need.

Family life: that the house should provide an adequate space for family life and related activities.

Access to community facilities: health services, schools, shopping areas, places of worship etc.

Family participation in community life:

Family is a part of wider community. Community is important to family in many ways- it can offer help in times of need. , it is an important source for friends.

Economic stability: housing is a form of investment of personal savings. It provides the economic stability and wellbeing of the family.

CRITERIA FOR HEALTHFUL HOUSING

1. Healthful housing provides physical protection and shelter.
2. Provides adequately for cooking, eating, washing and excretory functions.
3. Is designed constructed in such a manner to prevent the spread of communicable disease,
4. Provides protection from hazards of exposure to noise and pollution.

5. Is free from unsafe physical arrangements due to construction or maintenance, and from toxic or harmful materials.

6. Encourage personnel and community development, promotes social relationships, and promotes mental health.

HOUSING STANDARDS:

Site:

- elevated from its surroundings
- Independent access to a street of adequate width.
- Away from breeding places of mosquitoes and flies.
- Away from nuisance such as pollution, smoke, smell, excessive noise, and traffic.
- Pleasing surroundings.
- The soil should be dry and safe for founding the structure and should be well drained.

Set back: for proper lightening and ventilation there should be an open space all around the house this is called set back.

Floor: it should be impermeable so that it can be easily washed and kept clean and dry. The floor must be smooth and free from cracks and cervices to prevent the breeding of insects and rodents. The height of plinth should be 2 to 3 feet.

Walls:

- ✓ the walls should be reasonably strong
- ✓ Should have low heat capacity that is should not absorb heat and conduct the same.
- ✓ Weather resistant.
- ✓ Unsuitable for harborage of rats and vermin.
- ✓ Not easily damaged and smooth.

Roof: the height of roof should not be less than 10 feet. In the absence of air conditioning for comfort.

Rooms: the number of rooms should not be less than 2, at least one of which can be closed for security.

Floor area: the floor area of living room should be at least 120 sq.ft., for occupancy by more than one person at least 100sq.ft. for occupancy by a single person.

Cubic space: at least 500c.ft. per capita, preferably 1000 c. ft.

Windows: every living room should be provided with at least 2 windows
The windows should be placed at a height of not more than 3 feet. Window area should be 1/5th of the floor area. Doors and windows combined should have an 2/5th of floor area.

Lightening: the daylight factor should exceed 1percent over the half floor area.

Kitchen: each house must have a separate kitchen.

The kitchen must be protected against dust and smoke, adequately lighted, provided with arrangements for storing food, fuel and provisions.

Privy: A sanitary privy is a must in every house, belonging exclusively to it and readily accessible.

Garbage and refuse: These should be removed from the dwelling at least daily and disposed of in a sanitary manner.

Bathing and washing: The house should have facilities for bathing and washing belonging exclusively to it and providing proper privacy.

Water supply: The house should have a safe and adequate water supply available all times.

OVERCROWDING

It refers to the situation in which more people are living within a single dwelling than there is a space for, so that the movement is restricted, privacy secluded, hygiene impossible, rest and sleep difficult.

It may promote spread of respiratory infections such as influenza, TB and diphtheria.

Persons per room:

1 room- 2 persons

2rooms- 3 persons

3 rooms –5 persons

4 rooms-7 persons

5 or more rooms – 10 persons (additional 2 for each further room)

Floor space:

110 sq.ft or more – 2 persons

90- 100 sq.ft– 1 1/2 persons

70- 90 sq.ft–1 person

50- 70 sq.ft– 1/2 person

Under 50 sq.ft– nill

Rural Housing

1. There should be at least two living rooms.
2. Ample verandah space may be provided.
3. There should be separate kitchen with a paved sink or platform for washing utensils.
4. The window area should be at least 10 percent of the floor area. There should be a sanitary well or tube well within a quarter mile from the house.

Indicators of housing:

1. **Physical:** these are based on floor space, cubic space, room height, persons per room, room per dwelling, environmental cleaning.
2. **Economic indicators:** these are cost of the building, rental levels, taxes, expenditure on housing.
3. **Social indicators:** The following were inter regional.

Indicators related to prevention of illness:

- Frequency of illness due to inadequate sewage and garbage collection.
- Frequency of illness associated with contaminated water source.
- Frequency of insect borne diseases.
- Frequency of illness due to overcrowding.
- Frequency of illness due to accidents.
- Frequency of illness due to proximity of animals.
- Access to medical facility.

Indicators related to comfort:

- Thermal comfort.
- Acoustic comfort.
- Visual comfort.
- Spatial comfort.

Indicators related to mental health and social wellbeing:

- Frequency of suicides in the neighborhood.
- Neglected youth in the neighborhood.
- Drug abuse in the neighborhood.