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A Spatial Framework For Exploring The Sense Of Community In Residential Environments

Loneliness, living alone and poor social connections are as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day & increase your risk of death by 29%. (Holt-Lunstad, 2010). According to Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, the need for being loved, belonging, and inclusion are given great significance to attain self-actualization. All these factors elevate the need for a Sense of Community (SOC). Every human being desire belonging to a group in which their needs will be met within their communities.

But presently, there is concern about a decline in sense of community due to the urbanization of communities leading to an increase in fear of crime. (Wilson-Doenges, 2000) The rising urban problems are indicted on a declining SOC. This study intends to find the possible spatial elements that can promote a sense of community which has been in a declining state.

This research is driven by the point that a sense of community is vital to positive intellectual health. It involves understanding the concept of sense of community and identifying its contributing spatial and non-spatial parameters. This will help in the effective planning process of residential areas and promote the living conditions of a community.

This study also critically analyses the planning principles, design approaches and factors of improving sense of community in planned residential areas.

Key words: *Sense of community, spatial parameters, neighbourhood, community*