

Project title	Community Structure and Residential Satisfaction In A Transitional urban Environment: With the Emphasis on Residential Relocation June 1990
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Abstract

As a phenomenal result of the rapidly growing economy of Saudi Arabia during the last 20 years, settlements' structure has undergone dramatic change both socially and physically. This has appeared in the form of high urbanization rate as well as redistribution of population concentration within the urban centers leading to an explosive growth of residential areas. Unfortunately this development has been on the expense of the traditional pattern of living environment.

This study is an attempt to investigate the characteristics of Al-Hasa newly planned community and how it differs from the traditional environment in the old quarters in addition to its influence on residential satisfaction as well as residential relocation. Data was collected through a field survey of 100 households distributed between five neighborhoods; three have been developed mostly before 1980 and two have been developing after 1980. This is to focus more on the impact of the economic factor during the after the boom period. Using SAS computer program, Data was analyzed statistically based upon two major tests; ANOVA and the analysis of contingency tables.

The results that have been found here emphasize dramatic changes in Al-Hasa community both socially and physically:

- There is a decrease in the social interaction parallel with the decrease of adopting traditional housing pattern in the new areas.
- Very high polarization was documented based upon origin and kinship.
- Because the tendency of having large household size is prevailing in Al-Hasa community, it is proved – on one hand – that dwelling space is highly associated with residential satisfaction and hence residential movement. On the other the increasing rate of youthfulness in Al-Hasa community is high. Accordingly it is expected to lead a great demand of housing in near future.
- Generally, the number of residents in areas developed before 1980 who plan to move is higher than those living in areas developed after 1980, mostly looking for better living environment where more attractive neighborhood appearance, more friendly people and better housing design are expected.
- Individual socio-economic characteristics were found to have great influence on the tendency to move especially education level and income level.

Accordingly, authorities are recommended to consider providing adequate dwelling space to accommodate such big families in areas being planned to meet social and physical needs in order to achieve better level of residential satisfaction in future. At last, this study is just an introduction for further studies in this field especially with respect to measure the dimension of this change and to what degree its influence on appearing new social values as a response to the urbanization process that are similar to what have been found in Western communities.