Abstract- High-rise residential buildings impact on resident’s life, its livability perception among residents, and architects’ efforts to increase its livability by providing socially interactive spaces on their designs are main issues discussed on this paper. The paper revised different scholars research work to bring the overall understanding about high rise residential buildings positive or negative impact on the resident’s life, and later, made few case studies to find out how architects from different part of the world attempted to solve the livability issues on their designs. The researches revised on this paper indicated that the impact of the high-rise building varies based on different cases, like floor location, number of family in a unit, age etc. While the explored case studies showed that there are some design attempts being applied on those tall buildings to strengthen the social relation and interaction of the residents. Most of these design attempts are characterized as Facilities and Open Spaces located on various parts of the building to encourage the possibility of residents’ frequency to meet and spend time together. The paper further tried to provide recommendable design ideas that are learned from case studies for those developing countries currently are engaged on constructing residential high-rise buildings, which in this paper case is Ethiopia.

Key words- High-rise building, Social space, interactive space, Social interaction, livability,

Introduction

High rise residential structures are the most common solutions of housing shortage in many developed countries. Due to their advantage of small footprint with large number of units and their higher contribution for cities attractive skyline plus modernity, they are often chosen as smart way to overcome the problem of housing shortage. Most cities in developing countries like Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, are trying the same system to respond for their overwhelming housing backlog. However, there are lots of concerns raising about its negative impact of living in such tall structures. Researches in different fields of study, like Sociology, Psychology and of course Architecture tried to examine the impacts of living in high rise residential. In which they found the negative contribution of the structure on resident’s Social, Cultural, health/Psychological, and related problems.

Problem Statement- The age of large scale housing development in Ethiopia is not far more than a decade. It started in early 2000’s as low-cost housing of ground plus 2 to 3 condominiums building and continued to construct better quality and higher storied buildings of up to 12 stories until recent year. This development scheme contributed tremendous advantage for both the cities slum reduction plan, which was one aim of the development program, and for the citizen’s housing shortage problem by providing an owner ship of a unit by a lottery system. Despite its positive contribution, the multi storied housing life style brought a totally new way of living for most residents who were living in a very dense, structurally deteriorated, unhealthy but having strong socially related community to more individualistic life style. In which it is considered as a trait for the strong social and cultural trends and can be factor for un healthy community interaction. Researches by Alazar Ejigu, 2012; and Samuel Sahle, 2016, also reflected the short comings of the condominium on social behavior of the residents in the country.

Objective- This research paper has two main objectives, from which the first one is to compile and create a revised document that broadly discuses about the effect of living in high-rise residential building which in this case the focus is to give an extended information for those people who are not familiar with the life style of high-rise residential building who were living in very dense and very low-quality houses. And by doing so, it is expected that the study will provide some insight about the effect of living in high-
rise residential buildings and allows the resident to re-think and take care of the issues that are coming along with living on those top floors of such buildings. Secondly, the study aims to explore and make a case study on existing high-rise residential buildings to find out how Architects from different part of the globe tried to provide a design solution for the social relation issue on such tall residential buildings. And at the end, the studied cases will be discussed with respect to subject country’s social, cultural and other related contexts to select and recommend the adoption of such solutions in future high rise residential designs of the country.

**Methodology**- In order to meet the two objectives, set above, Personal observation at closer sites, case studies and desk top studies are conducted as methodology.

**Research Discussion**

**Literature Review**- livability of high-rise residential building is one aspect of interest for many researchers in fields of architecture and other interdisciplinary subjects. The general argument lays around weather high-rise residential buildings are good or bad for living. But there is no research that could conclude the building as bad or Good, besides, most of the researches tried to indicate the positive or negative impact by comparing with low rise residential buildings and by studying on determining factors such as general perception of the residents, Social behavior, Satisfaction, Mental health, Suitability for children, crime etc. However, most of the researchers agree that high rise buildings are less satisfactory than other housing types for most people by mentioning their negative side as they are very loose and less in social relation, have less helping behavior, have less comfort for children, less safety, fear of crime etc. Another writer also emphasized the negative impact by mentioning the fact that the building separates people from the street, that it radically reduces chance encounters, and leads to health problem by keeping people from exercise because of the need of the extra effort to go outside. Therefore, the literatures reviewed for this study mostly concludes that the negative impact of high rise residential building is higher than that of the traditional low-rise housing typology.

**Case studies**- The case studies conducted for this research are five in number. They are selected from different countries with varies design attempts that aims to strengthen the social relation of the resident. The spaces provided on each building are different in location and character all over the structure. One or two open space for every floor is provided in some building while the others locate these common spaces at mid-way or at top of the structure. One of these cases on the other hand tried to create a mini community by grouping similar apartment styles as families or students and letting them to share balcony spaces, winter gardens, and separate public dining area. The case studies in general were helpful to understand and notice how efforts are being made to increase the positive impact of the high rises for their residents.

**Conclusion and Recommendation**

Living in high-rise residential building is not as fully comfortable as it looks from outside. The impacts and complexities vary based on personal, social, cultural, age, and other determining factors. Based on the literature reviewed on this paper, it is possible to say that the negative impact on Social relation and Psychological health are relatively high in high rises as compared to low rise residential buildings. Therefore, developing countries engaged in construction of high rise building should consider design solutions by including spaces that can reduce such problems before they really happen.

**Reference**

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