

# Residential Satisfaction of Children in Rental House in Nirala, Khulna

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## Abstract:

Every kid is entitled to a standard of living that supports their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, and social growth. Food, education, and healthcare are no longer as crucial to children as shelter. Housing that is poorly built, overcrowded, and lacking municipal services is frequently dangerous (poor lighting, crowded space, unsafe play areas, etc.). This study examines children's perceptions of the features and setup of their homes and their contentment with them. The following aspects of children's lives: the number of rooms, the number of bathrooms, own's or shared bedrooms with own or shared beds; the availability of a space of study; the presence of water, light, and sewers in their homes; and the degree of satisfaction with the place they call home. By analyzing the effect of child-friendly places on overall residential contentment, the aim is to assess the elements of residential satisfaction of child residents residing in residential buildings in Nirala, Khulna, Bangladesh. It investigates how children's concerns are addressed and how their well-being is impacted to know what can be learned from children's activities and perceptions to provide a qualitatively better space to develop the rental housing sector.

**Keywords — Quality of life, Children's well-being, Childhood, Infrastructure's characteristics, Children-friendly spaces, Rental House.**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Rental households with children make up roughly one-third of the rental market (Bo'sher, Chan et al. 2015). They have recently begun to make up a higher part of rental households as their homeownership rates have fallen and account for nearly as many renters as single people (McCue 2016). However, in Bangladesh and other countries, providing appropriate housing remains one of the most difficult hurdles. A market led by the private developers offered units available only to a small portion of adequate households, leaving average citizens excluded. Children may have different

experiences in the rental housing market depending on their ages or the number of their siblings. Landlords might worry more about the possibility of excessive noise or wear and tear associated with tenants with young children or the possibility of vandalism and loitering with older youth. The fact that rental housing makes up a sizable and expanding portion of our country's residential landscape highlights the significance of figuring out what makes tenants satisfied. The majority of children in rental housing units are dissatisfied with their accommodations (Ukoha and Beamish 1997). Children will have more challenging and less predictable housing trajectories than in past decades

(Forrest and Xian 2018). Further, dissatisfaction has negatively affected educational outcomes for children (Adam and Chase-Lansdale 2002); (Eckenrode, Rowe et al. 1995). Children experiencing residential dissatisfaction have worse academic and social outcomes, including weaker vocabulary skills, more problem behaviours, higher grade retention, high school drop-out rates, and lower educational attainment than their other peers. Elementary school children are especially sensitive to poorer academic outcomes, but residential dissatisfaction is related to poor social development among children of all ages (Sandstrom and Huerta 2013).

This research discusses the characteristics of rental units in Nirala and the children's residential satisfaction with the impact of child-friendly spaces. The study analyses the following factors in children's lives: neighbourhood characteristics, building characteristics, community characteristics, and the level of satisfaction with the house they live in. This research examines how children's concerns are addressed and their impact on well-being. Therefore, understanding the factor of residential satisfaction of the target tenant group is a key consideration when formulating new housing policies.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **A. Residential satisfaction**

Housing comes in a variety of shapes, sizes, and designs, but whatever it is, it must be measured for quality to ensure that it meets the needs of the residents' families and cultures (Ukoha and Beamish 1997). Housing is commonly measured objectively, and it assesses physical aspects, amenities, services, and surroundings. Objective evaluation, on the other hand, is unable to investigate and explain the psychosocial aspects of residential contentment (Coley, Kull et al. 2014). Subjective assessment, which includes perception, satisfaction, aspiration, and disappointment, is inextricably linked to a person's psychosocial characteristics (Nurizan and Hashim 2001).

Housing satisfaction refers to the degree of contentment experienced by an individual or family about the current housing situation (Jiboye 2012). It is an index of the level of contentment with current housing conditions and refers to an entire continuum of satisfaction from "very dissatisfied" to "very satisfied" rather than just a state of being "satisfied" (Djebarni and Al-Abed 2000). It has been discovered that of the three housing environment factors (dwelling unit, neighbourhood, and community service), had the greatest impact on total housing satisfaction. (Mohit and Raja 2014)

The level of contentment with one's neighbourhood was given more weight by the residents than in the other two categories (Coley, Kull et al. 2014). Privacy, school placement, and the availability of amenities were the most important elements determining contentment (Djebarni and Al-Abed 2000). The low-income families living in Boston, Massachusetts, Chicago, Illinois, and San Antonio, Texas, found that certain housing and neighbourhood characteristics were associated with emotional and behavioural problems among children (Park, Fertig et al. 2011). These characteristics included high cost, few housing problems and neighbourhood disorder, moderate residential instability, and homes that were mostly owner-occupied and private rentals (Elliott, Leventhal et al. 2016). A report on private low-cost housing in Malaysia highlights low tenant satisfaction due to inadequate neighborhood facilities, poor environmental conditions, limited public transportation, and the absence of children's playgrounds (Salleh 2008). (Ubanic and Nwauzoma 2018) and (Adewunmi, Omirin et al. 2011) also proposed an empirical approach to occupancy evaluation using major technical and functional criteria of performance on the facilities of a School hostel at the campus of Lagos, Akoka Yaba, Lagos, Nige. The collection of data was based on a survey through self-administered questionnaires in which users of the hostel were asked to report on their perceptions and experience of the facility. Based on student feedback on experience performance criteria gathered from a literature review and an interview with a member of the school's hall management committee, the user

satisfaction survey was created. The user satisfaction survey identified areas of deficiency, particularly in maintenance, and facilitated the evaluation of the overall performance of the building.

Several research studies concerned with the quality of the life of children in residential environments have reported less living satisfaction and social cohesion in high-rise in contrast to low rise settings (Wilcox and Holahan 1976). Crowding in house settings has been demonstrated to be related to increased stress along with decreased social contact (Langer, Saegert et al. 1977), more negative ratings of living space (Eoyang and Psychology 1974), and more negative interpersonal attitudes. It was predicted that according to previous research in residential environments, high-rise dormitories would be characterized by lower levels of satisfaction and friendship development than would low-rise. The interactions between type of environment and social competence would be of particular importance in predicting satisfaction affected by contrasting residential settings (Holahan and Wilcox 1978).

Besides these studies, others have explored the factors that stimulate residential satisfaction. For example, age is one of the most significant predictors of residential satisfaction (Mohit and Raja 2014). The former pointed out that people who are probably less satisfied with their housing conditions are the younger ones relative to the older people. In agreement with the preceding thought, believed that this is almost certainly because the younger people have greater aspirations and expectancy than the adult (Coley, Kull et al. 2014). It shapes individual satisfaction levels, as each tribe has its own hereditarily inclined housing norms, which could influence their views and attitude over their residential settings (Severcan 2020).

### ***B. Children's Satisfaction with Housing:***

Although the study of child well-being has been developing for 50 years (Land, Lamb et al. 2009), study showed it has connections to children's satisfaction of their living environments working on the lives of children would help to recognize, define,

and comprehend the territorial gaps and inequalities that boys and girls face as protagonists, with an emphasis on identifying circumstances of spatial injustice for these groups (Land, Lamb et al. 2009, Tonon and Mikkelsen 2022).

Analysing children's satisfaction with their housing allows to capture children's desires, aspirations, and conflicts with the spaces where they live (Tonon and Mikkelsen 2022). As pointed out, studies on the influence of housing on children have been limited and have been related more to the concerns of adults. Because children reside in different spaces, it's important to know how satisfied they are with their homes. In this view, the concept of territory becomes relevant as a social and historical construction apparent in the materialization of human actions. A proper area for a given social connection that shapes and maintains it, and as a kind of power. Considering the territory as a social product necessitates identifying a variety of supportive and opposing social representations within it (Coley, Kull et al. 2014, Tonon and Mikkelsen 2022). The territory is, at its core, an area defined and circumscribed by and from power relations. The main point here is not to demonstrate the geo-ecological characteristics and natural resources of a given area, nor to demonstrate what is produced or who produces in a given space, but to demonstrate the affective and identity links that exist between a social group and its environment (López de Souza 1995).

In this view, families should be considered a crucial element in studying and understanding children's well-being. Emphasis should be placed on a multi-scale approach that considers the locale, neighbourhood, and housing conditions (Tonon and Mikkelsen 2022).

The role of education is guaranteed and increased because housing serves as a refuge and a means of coming home and carrying out the duties prescribed by teachers in the family-school link. Similarly, it will be in the home where youngsters engage in playful activities. Children must be cared for by responsible adults in housing, and this care has an impact on their physical and emotional health,

resulting in critical long-term affective, warming, and restraint advantages (Tonon, Mikkelsen et al. 2017)

Children inhabit specific geographic areas, which helps us better comprehend quality of life research in connection to the unique living situations of the subjects (Elliott, Leventhal et al. 2016). In this sense, it is necessary to remember that the nearby territory, which became a place, in theoretical terms, implies a basic primary spatial unit (Barker, Weller et al. 2003). A specific position in the space where a series of spatial interactions operate and define not only the physical environment but also the identity of the subjects in it. The site participates in the construction of memories and projects a durability of time into the future (Salleh 2008). In this way, housing is a fundamental element of the subjects' quality of life; its layout characterizes it and serves as a haven, a location for family get-togethers, a place to enjoy life, a meeting spot, and a space for everyday experiences (Miller 1986).

School satisfaction may have a greater influence on the satisfaction of adolescents because they spend most of their daily hours either in school or in their neighbourhood (Hofferth and Sandberg 2001). Schools of choice have increased the number of options for families who want their children to attend public schools, though perhaps not the ones in their neighbourhoods (Rodríguez Domenech, Callejas Albiñana et al. 2020).

From the literature, the indicators of tenant satisfaction with housing are summarized:

TABLE I  
Indicators of tenant satisfaction

Categories	Factors	Indicators	References
Social	Neighbourhood characteristics	School placement	(Djebarni and
		Safety	

		Access to the Internet	Al-Abed 2000), (Holahan and Wilcox 1978), (Bacter, Săveanu et al. 2021), (Bagheri, Zarghami et al. 2022), (Miller 1986), (Salleh 2008)
Physical	Building characteristics	Place to study	(McCue 2016, Tonon and Mikkelsen 2022), (Bacter, Săveanu et al. 2021), (Severcan 2020), (Mohit and Raja 2014), (Miller 1986)
		Own bed room	
		Ventilation	
		Color of room veranda	
		Possession of toilet	
Socio-spatial	Community characteristics	Play ground	(Adewunmi, Omirin et al. 2011, Tonon and Mikkelsen 2022), (Bagheri, Zarghami et al. 2022), (Miller 1986), (Severcan 2020)
		Friendship development	
		Events participation	

Indicators of tenant satisfaction are categorized into social, physical, and socio-spatial factors. Social factors include neighbourhood characteristics such as school placement, safety, and internet access. Physical factors focus on building characteristics, including study spaces, personal bedrooms, ventilation, room color, verandas, and toilet access. Socio-spatial factors cover community characteristics like playground availability.

A house that does not meet the minimum requirements in terms of materials, dimensions, and sanitation is associated with higher morbidity rates. In this context, the unhealthy living circumstances in the homes have a detrimental effect on the children's health (Elliott, Leventhal et al. 2016).

### C. Children Friendly Environment

A Children Friendly Environment is one that prioritizes the well-being and development of children by creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive space. It fosters emotional, physical, and social growth through age-appropriate learning, play opportunities, and a nurturing atmosphere (Jansson, Herbert et al. 2022). This environment ensures that children feel valued, protected, and empowered, with access to resources that support their education, health, and personal development (Malone 2015). It promotes respect for diversity, encourages active participation, and involves families and communities in shaping a space where children can thrive and grow into confident, compassionate individuals (Horelli 1998). This concept is promoted by organizations like UNICEF, which works towards creating environments that support children's development in various settings, including schools, homes, and communities (Skelton 2013). UNICEF and the UN have published reports on the role of housing in children's lives (Land, Lamb et al. 2009, Salauddin, Dev et al. 2010, Coley, Kull et al. 2014, Tonon, Mikkelsen et al. 2017, Tonon and Mikkelsen 2022) and explored the relationship between housing and well-being. To build a child-friendly environment, an area or settlement must fulfill the needs of children. According to UNICEF, the city must ensure the rights of children as citizens (Clark, Coll-Seck et al. 2020).

- Be able to make decisions for the city or place where the children live;
- Convey ideas for the city or place;
- To be able to contribute in the family, community, and social life;
- Have the basic needs fulfilled, such as health and education;

- Have the appropriate clean drinking water and sanitation;
- Protected from exploitation and violence;
- Have a safe feeling when walking on a street;
- Meet and play with peers;
- Have open spaces for animals and pollution-free in pollution free place;
- Participate in social and cultural events;
- To have interaction with plants and animals.
- to access all the public services aside from race, religion, wealth, gender, and disability.
- To give children a proper place to meet and play.

### D. The Current State and Types of Rental Housing in Nirala

Khulna's southern region is known as the Nirala Residential Area. It is situated in Khulna City Corporation's Ward Number 24 next to the Sher-E-Bangla major road. Twenty inner roads and a maximum of three to five-story residential buildings make up this residential neighbourhood. The residential area of Nirala has several amenities, including a community center, market, bazaar, mosque, health clinic, and park (Ray 2012). The inner roadways are connected to each plot in this area. The residential area of Nirala is home to roughly 3000 people. The majority of the approximately 300 residential buildings are in the Nirala Residential Area (Salauddin, Dev et al. 2010). There are also two mosques, a big pond, and one playground in the Nirala residential area. This site is totally a residential area and has a lot of grocery shops. The Nirala residential area is planned for residential purposes, but some commercial activities are entering here (Shakil 2015).

### III. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

There are differences between adolescents and adults in how they factor in their assessments of residential satisfaction, revealing a broader gap in the satisfaction. It aims to analyse children's

perceptions of the house they live in. However, children may relate differently to their housing condition, and therefore, it is interesting that contributes significantly to their home satisfaction. Analysing the household conditions that meet the basic needs, as well as the neighbourhood that contributes to a better life and a good chance for the proper development of a child.

From the literature, the Psychosocial characteristics of Residential satisfaction of Children are summarized:

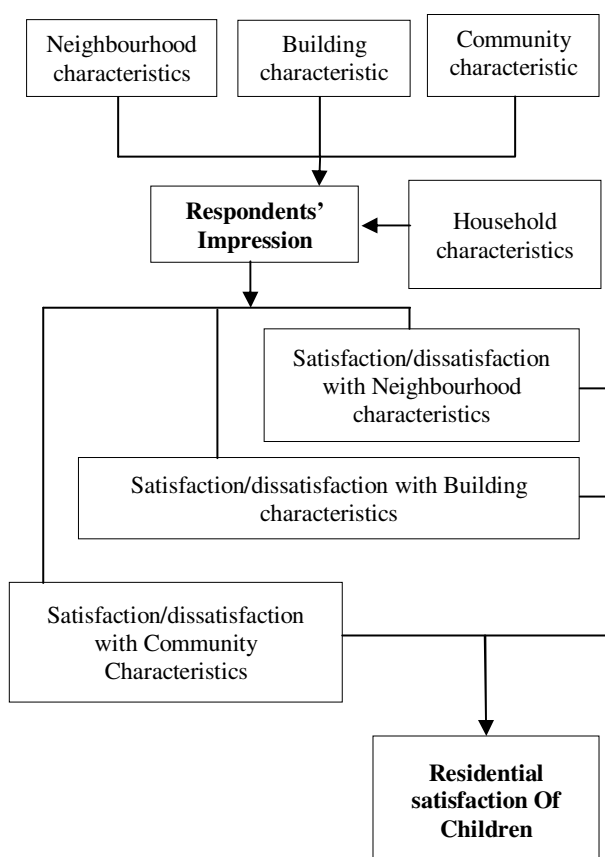


Fig. 1 Psychosocial characteristics of Residential satisfaction of Children

The research is based on using data analysis within surveys based on 200 samples data provided by children and adults in the household. The sample includes children in the 5 to 15 age group from Nirala.

TABLE II  
 Basic demographic information of respondents

Demographic Factor	Group	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	53%
	Female	47%
Age (years)	5	20%
	6-10	40%
	11-12	14%
	13-15	26%
Education	Pre School	20%
	Primary school	54%
	Secondary school	26%
Living hood time	1-5 years	25%
	5-10 years	45%
	10-15 years	30%

The goal of the questionnaire survey is to gather crucial data, including the socioeconomic status of the community's people, the children's leisure pursuits, the neighbourhood's play places, and the residents' perceptions of the state of their homes, playgrounds, facilities, and other areas. Combining stratified and systematic random sampling is the sampling technique employed for this study.

There is so little empirical research on this topic with young people that it was challenging to construct a suitable instrument for examining the home satisfaction of children aged 5 to 15. The survey's first section asked children to provide their details, including age and gender.

The topic covered children's satisfaction with their home and area. Children were asked to answer questions regarding why they were satisfied or dissatisfied with these settings, as well as to describe their homes. A five-point scale was utilized, with one representing "not at all satisfied" and five representing "extremely satisfied." The kids were also asked open-ended questions about anything else that makes them feel content or dissatisfied with their surroundings, as well as about their years of residency in their present home, neighbourhood, and city.

TABLE III  
 The level of respondents' satisfaction with living in Nirala in the obtained ranges from the Likert scale.

Answer	Quantitative Equivalent	Range of scores
Very high	+5	4.21 - 5
High	+4	3.41 - 4.20
Moderate	+3	2.61 - 3.40
Low	+2	1.81 - 2.6
Very low	+1	1 - 1.80

Following questionnaire sorting, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to code and analyze reliable data.

**IV. RESULTS**

The three categories of variables are physical factors, socio-spatial factors, and social aspects, which were used to classify the determinants of residential satisfaction. To evaluate how much each group influences satisfaction levels, the connection between each group and the dependent variable, satisfaction level, was investigated.

The Pearson correlation test was employed in SPSS software to ascertain the kind and strength of the association between the factor groups and satisfaction levels, as the variables have a normal distribution and a large dataset. The table below presents the Pearson correlation values and significance levels for each category.

TABLE IV  
 Pearson correlation between factor groups and satisfaction in Nirala

Variable	Significant level (P value)	Correlation value (r)	Correlation type and intensity
Physical factors	0.00	0.76	Strong Positive Correlation ( $0.75 < r \leq 1$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Social factors	0.00	0.60	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Socio-spatial factors	0.00	0.58	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )

The significance threshold for each factor group is below 0.05, indicating a significant association between each group and satisfaction level. A p-value of 0.00 indicates a highly significant correlation ( $p < 0.01$ ). Additionally, the positive correlation values for each factor ( $r > 0$ ) suggest that all factors demonstrate a positive relation towards satisfaction. Among them, physical factors have the strongest association, followed by social

aspects and socio-spatial factors (Lind, Marchel et al. 2010).

TABLE V  
 Pearson correlation between physical factors and satisfaction in Nirala

Physical factors	Details	P value	r	Correlation type and intensity
Own bed room	Adequate Bedroom	0.001	0.88	Strong Positive Correlation ( $0.75 < r \leq 1$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Ventilation	Adequate daylight & natural air flow	0.001	0.81	Strong Positive Correlation ( $0.75 < r \leq 1$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Color of room	Color preference	0.00	0.70	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Place to study	Adequate Space, calm, quiet, no noise pollution	0.00	0.59	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
veranda	Number & size of veranda	0.00	0.80	Strong Positive Correlation ( $0.75 < r \leq 1$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Toilet	Number & size of Toilet	0.00	0.78	Strong Positive Correlation ( $0.75 < r \leq 1$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )

The analysis of physical factors influencing residential satisfaction reveals that all examined variables have a significant and positive correlation with overall contentment. Among these factors, having one's own bedroom exhibits the strongest correlation (Lind, Marchel et al. 2010), highlighting its fundamental relation towards shaping overall satisfaction. Additionally, adequate ventilation and the availability of a veranda also show significant association to residents' well-being. This finding underscores the importance of well-ventilated and spacious living environments, particularly for children in rental housing, as these factors enhance comfort, privacy, and overall quality of life.

TABLE VI  
Pearson correlation between social factor and satisfaction in Nirala

Social factors	Details	P value	r	Correlation type and intensity
School placement	accessibility to preferred school	0.001	0.61	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Safety	Lack of crimes and social problems,	0.00	0.59	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Access to the Internet	Easy internet connection	0.00	0.59	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )

The analysis of social factors highlights the role of school accessibility, safety, and internet connectivity in determining residential satisfaction. Among these, school placement has the strongest positive correlation (Lind, Marchel et al. 2010), indicating its key association to children's overall contentment. Additionally, Ensuring a safe neighborhood and reliable internet access are moderately related to children's well-being in rental housing environments.

TABLE VII  
Pearson correlation between Social-spatial factors and satisfaction in Nirala

Socio-spatial factors	Details	P value	r	Correlation type and intensity
social participation	participation in public affairs	0.001	0.55	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Friendship development	Strong neighbourhood connections	0.00	0.57	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )
Play ground	Safe and easy to access	0.00	0.62	Moderate Positive Correlation ( $0.5 < r \leq 0.75$ ) - Highly Significant ( $p < 0.01$ )

The analysis of socio-spatial factors reveals a significant positive relationship between social participation, friendship development, and

playground accessibility in respect to residential satisfaction. Among these, playground availability exhibited the highest correlation, emphasizing the importance of secure and easily accessible recreational spaces for children's overall well-being in rental housing. Additionally, fostering strong neighborhood connections and encouraging community involvement could play a crucial role in enhancing overall satisfaction levels.

To further determine which factors most significantly influence satisfaction, a multiple regression analysis was conducted.

TABLE VIII  
Multiple Regression Analysis for Factors Influencing Residential Satisfaction in Nirala

Predictor Variable	Beta Coefficient ( $\beta$ )	Significance (p-value)
Own Bedroom	0.42	0.001
Ventilation	0.36	0.001
Playground	0.51	0.000
Internet Access	0.29	0.000

Though all the predictors are found to have significant impacts but playground accessibility remains as the most influential factor affecting residential satisfaction, followed by having one's bedroom and proper ventilation. Internet access also plays a significant role, reflecting the importance of digital connectivity.

## V. DISCUSSION

From the overall study, it is clear that housing plays a critical role in a child's development, learning, and overall well-being, making a safe, comfortable, and stimulating environment essential for proper growth. This study evaluated children's satisfaction with their living environment by examining three primary factors: Physical Factors, Social Factors, and Socio-Spatial Factors. The results from the Pearson correlation analysis and Multiple Regression Analysis indicate that all three groups have significant impacts on residential satisfaction. Physical factors demonstrated the strongest positive relationship with satisfaction, particularly regarding



having one's own bedroom, adequate ventilation, and playground access. Providing conducive learning environments and personal spaces were found to enhance satisfaction. Social factors showed a moderate positive correlation, with school placement, safety, and internet access being critical components affecting satisfaction. Safety concerns related to crime, vandalism, and inadequate security measures significantly lowered satisfaction levels. Socio-spatial factors, including playground availability, friendship development, and social participation, demonstrated a moderate positive correlation, highlighting the importance of accessible play areas and strong social connections in enhancing satisfaction. The Multiple Regression Analysis confirmed that Playground Access had the most substantial impact on satisfaction, followed by having one's bedroom and ventilation. Additionally, internet access emerged as an essential factor, likely due to its importance in education, entertainment, and socialization. The findings emphasize the need for child-friendly housing policies that prioritize safety, privacy, and recreational facilities. Encouraging community involvement and improving neighborhood relations through participatory redevelopment strategies could significantly enhance satisfaction levels. Addressing security concerns through effective policing and monitoring is also crucial for creating supportive living environments for children.

## **VI. CONCLUSIONS**

Housing serves as the foundational environment where children socialize, develop, and learn to navigate societal norms. It is essential to create residential settings that support children's well-being and overall development. This study demonstrated that residential satisfaction among children is significantly influenced by physical, social, and socio-spatial factors. The findings highlight that providing safe and accessible playgrounds, private bedrooms, and proper ventilation are the most influential factors enhancing satisfaction. Additionally, factors such as school placement, neighborhood safety, and internet access also play crucial roles in determining satisfaction levels.

The results suggest that a holistic approach to housing studies is necessary, one that concurrently assesses various factors supporting or restricting children's development within their living environment. Ensuring that children have access to adequate housing conditions can positively impact their well-being, school performance, and social integration, thereby promoting their growth into responsible and compassionate individuals.

Future research should focus on expanding the scope of housing studies related to children's health and satisfaction, considering broader demographic and socioeconomic variables. Additionally, developing child-friendly housing policies that address safety, privacy, recreational facilities, and educational accessibility is essential to enhance children's residential satisfaction and overall quality of life. By prioritizing these elements, housing policies can ensure children's right to grow up in supportive and nurturing environments, ultimately benefiting society as a whole

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