

**Research Article**

**Comparing somatic, conceptual, and functional problems related to intimacy in the architecture of female students dormitories of Qazvin Int'l University of Imam Khomeini and Shahrood University of Industries**

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**ABSTRACT:**

This study was performed aimed at investigating the problems related to intimacy in the architecture of female student's dormitories of Qazvin Int'l University of Imam Khomeini and Shahrood University of Industries. The research method was qualitative of content analysis sort based on in-depth interviews near saturation. The population sample of this research consisted female students of dormitories of Qazvin Int'l University of Imam Khomeini and Shahrood University of Industries. Research sample included 16 female students who were interviewed to the extent of near saturation. Some hinges put forth in this research included a sense of intimacy from female students' point of view, female dormitory facilities and its shortcomings, the most used and most favored spaces in the dormitory, quality of rooms available in the dormitory and description of an ideal room, the most usable space for studies and students' non-educational affairs, students' feeling toward the dormitory. Results showed that student dormitories of the university are not efficiently designed based on intimacy principles for girls.

**Keywords:** student dormitory, somatic problems, functional problems, girls

**INTRODUCTION**

University as the organization and center of the new science has always been one of the necessary bases of the society. Students as learners of this science, too, are considered as important members of this center (Ofoqi, Sadeqi, 2009:65). University students often leave the paternal house for the first time and acquire a good social adaptation if fulfilling the needs and their primary interest in caretakers is accompanied by feeling safe (Lajavardi, 2004:114).

Among the students' needs, shelter is the most fundamental, but the importance of shelter generally and student dormitory specifically is also because it can create a sense of safety and dormitory often is a safer place. Dormitory helps in educational progress and stabilizing

student life, but if this shelter fails to be satisfactory enough, it won't be able to add responsibility in acquiring knowledge and success to their experiences. In today's world, universities play a key and crucial role in society's development and eminence, therefore in many communities weighty steps are taken in order to quantitative and qualitative development of higher education centers. One of the cases that are of high importance in developing these centers, are welfare facilities and above all are to provide habitation for students (dormitory). We can dare to say, it is better if the authorities declare existence of a place called "student dormitory" as loose and consider them obliged to only provide the educational and cultural space for the students

than to regard the student dormitory as a place to sleep and more like a canteen. A student dormitory, taking into account what has been said about a student's identity, should respond to needs much more, and more complex than a habitation and a simple "dormitory". Despite some similarities, there are lots of differences between physical and mental characteristics of male and female students that results in creating spaces with distinctive features in dormitories. Intimate space is one of the features particular to female students and considerably affects their behavioral freedom. Eliminating vergency, creating spatial intimacy and vision control, generates an appropriate situation for moral, social, cognitive, and physical development and evolution for girls and allows them to act freely in private space of dormitory, far from alien's sight. Given the growing trend of student population in recent years and high percentage of exotic students, as well as female students outbalancing the male ones, the urgency of paying attention to this group's habitation shows its necessity more than ever. Since the formation of universities the necessity to establish student dormitories became noteworthy all over the world. Given the increase in number of applicants for education in universities in recent years as well as increase in female students compared to female counterparts, considering the designation of their dormitories is of great importance. One of the important factors in designing female students' dormitory, is observing intimacy for the sake of their convenience regarding a sense of intimacy from different aspects that will greatly influence doing educational and non-educational activities and forming their social behavior. Lack of enough knowledge about student needs, absence of framed qualitative and quantitative standards for designing dormitory spaces, lack of attention to female dormitories regarding intimacy observation in all spaces, are among cases that highlight the necessity of this research. While focusing on observing intimacy, female dormitory plan attempts in presenting and performing considerable points

in architectural designation using canonical standards and studies done on how to observe this principle in Iranian traditional architecture and today's facilities, in order for girls to feel intimate in the dormitory. Privacy as a basic interest of human is visible in every culture. This sanctum encompasses a place which contains some limitation and shouldn't be unduly invaded (Hashemi Toqroljerdi, 2011). This research intends to deal with the somatic, functional and conceptual problems in female students' dormitories with an approach to intimacy in aforementioned places, thus two universities of Qazvin Int'l University of Imam Khomeini and Shahrood University of Industries have been studied to analyze this problem.

### **Research Background**

In a research Tufan (2011) has described the concept of intimacy and women's position in relation to creating entrance space in the Iranian architecture. His research method was descriptive-analytic based on investigating the templates through architecture samples. Statistical sample included documents, maps, and graphs of traditional architecture of Iranian houses in various landmass of climate and samples were selected randomly. Architectural samples being studied were identified samples of traditional houses, approved and registered by valid organizations such as the Documents Center of Cultural Heritage and Maps Registration in the faculties of architecture. Analyzing architectural data had been done through modeling with AUTOCAD software and controlling spatial indices by compiling associated profiles. Among the most important findings of this research we could mention the close relationship between the hierarchy of intimacy in forming the skeleton of the entrance space, strong relationship between the value of woman and creating artwork with aesthetic and functional dimensions of entrance space of traditional houses, as well as the relationship between social importance of women and establishing the entrance space. The main conclusion of the research is outlined

in “transmutation of the art of Islamic architecture with transcendental concepts of Islam and sanctity to women.

Yazdanfar, Daadras, and Hosseini Yekta (2014) reported based on their research results that human’s physical and mental situation affects his trend in environmental factors. Hence, temperamental division of people in traditional medicine can influence their tendency toward architectural indices. In this research with qualitative method, library studies and distributing a questionnaire among 11 physicians, 9 effective indices were found to which tendency was influenced by people’s temperamental characteristics. To ensure this relationship, two questionnaires were distributed among 100 visitors to the clinic of the faculty of traditional medicine. The first questionnaire (medical standard questionnaire) was used to measure the respondent’s temperament and the second one was utilized with acceptable perpetuity and justifiability in order to investigate the extent of respondent’s tendency toward the 9 indices taken into account. According to the analytical comparison accomplished, people’s extent of tendency toward the effective indices in architecture differs based on their temperament. More ebullient people hold more tendencies toward indices of light, nature, humidity, and cheerful colors and their extent of patience and attention increases with the decrease in ebullience. Decrease in temperament humidity causes more sensitivity to sound, increasing tendency toward airy environments. No certain conclusion was acquired regarding tendency toward wind opposition. Given the temperamental differences of people we can consider different situations in architecture for them.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Qualitative method of in-depth interview kind was used in this research. That kind of interview containing the most characteristics of qualitative studies is in-depth, or “nonstructural” interview, which could also be referred to as “purposive interview” (Rafiey et

al. 2008), it’s not simply a way of documenting the data from the respondent, but a social interaction between two people in order for one (the interviewer) to understand the other (the interviewee); although the design and objective of the research is generally clear for the interviewer, but there does not exist a specific set of questions to be asked with special wording and arrangement (Bebbi, 2002). The prominent feature of in-depth interview is its dynamism. Interviewer’s only task is to introduce topics through the conversation paying attention to interviewee’s interests on one hand, and deeply identifying respondent’s mentality (study objective) on the other hand. Interviewee can state “whatever he wishes” and present his material in his favored way, but of course the interviewer shouldn’t be unaware of him, and in case of getting off the mainstream, should bring him back to the path. While the main topic is predetermined in in-depth interview, there is possibility to introduce subsidiary unpredicted issues, since the goal is to determine how the interviewee views the world, what his expressions and viewpoints are, and how his personal comprehension and experience. The basic principle of in-depth interview is providing a ground so that the respondent can mention his understanding of the world in his own language. In-depth interview can be considered an informal dialogue or negotiation having the following characteristics: unlike a questionnaire, in-depth interview is based on flexible, nonstructural questions. In-depth interview is not an ordinary or accidental conversation, and not a measurement, it is rather a guided negotiation where the interviewer has set the discussion topic and the path to get the answers to his own questions based on a series of descriptive objectives of the research. Interviewer has the authority to award the interviewee to some extent with the direction of the interview and let him organize his own responses. Yet, the goal, unlike the measurements, is not acquiring a simple response among several predetermined options, but it’s recognizing the depth and different dimensions of the topic via questions

and responses; an object never fulfilled in quantitative researches, and among the strengths of this method is that much of the information needed in the research can be collected through direct questioning of the respondents, a method with high flexibility and adaptable to interviewee's personal situations. Interviewer can deeply investigate the context of response (Rafiey et al. 2008).

Research sample included 16 female students from Qazvin Int'l University of Imam

Khomeini and Shahrood University of Industries who were interviewed to the extent of near saturation.

### Findings

Findings from in-depth-near-saturation-interviews with students in female student dormitories in tables 1-3 and 4-6 are related to Qazvin Int'l University of Imam Khomeini and Shahrood University of Industries, respectively.

**Table 1.** Somatic problems in female dormitory of Qazvin Univ. Imam Khomeini

small dimensions of the rooms	not observing coordination between dimensions of rooms and the number of people inside, caused an increase in aggregation, students coping with shortcoming of enough space
not predicting the locker space inside the room	because of not predicting the space of the locker inside the room, lockers are located on the pathway disturbing the arrangement of the room
inappropriate place of bathrooms location	in order to solve the problems with bathroom, installation crew should pass along the corridor through the stairway to get to the bathroom, bothering the students
	bathrooms being located in the yard resulted in students' dissatisfaction especially in the winter, since in addition to chill and access problems, cats entering inside has also made them difficult to use.
inappropriate circulation	there is no median between the entrance and the street inside the university and lack of entrance hierarchy has made hijab mandatory as soon as exiting the dormitory building, not existing a diffident cite for students
large number of stairs	it is difficult to access the rooms on fourth floor because of too many stairs and students sustain great pressure to carry their suitcases, added to problems in haunting
inappropriate lockers	lockers are metal wardrobes unable for clothes to be hung
inappropriate beds	beds are obsolete and noisy

**Table 2.** Functional problems in female dormitory of Qazvin Univ. Imam Khomeini

small dimensions of the rooms	not observing coordination between dimensions of rooms and the number of people inside, caused an increase in aggregation, students coping with shortcoming of enough space
not predicting the locker space inside the room	because of not predicting the space of the locker inside the room, lockers are located on the pathway disturbing the arrangement of the room
inappropriate place of bathrooms location	in order to solve the problems with bathroom, installation crew should pass along the corridor through the stairway to get to the bathroom, bothering the students
	bathrooms being located in the yard resulted in students' dissatisfaction especially in the winter, since in addition to chill and access problems, cats entering inside has also made them difficult to use.
inappropriate circulation	there is no median between the entrance and the street inside the university and lack of entrance hierarchy has made hijab mandatory as soon as exiting the dormitory building, not existing a diffident cite for students
large number of stairs	it is difficult to access the rooms on fourth floor because of too many stairs and students sustain great pressure to carry their suitcases, added to problems in haunting
inappropriate lockers	lockers are metal wardrobes unable for clothes to be hung
inappropriate beds	beds are obsolete and noisy

**Table 3.** Conceptual problems in female dormitory of Qazvin Univ. Imam Khomeini

small dimensions of the rooms	not observing coordination between dimensions of rooms and the number of people inside, caused an increase in aggregation, students coping with shortcoming of enough space
not predicting the locker space inside the room	because of not predicting the space of the locker inside the room, lockers are located on the pathway disturbing the arrangement of the room
inappropriate place of bathrooms location	in order to solve the problems with bathroom, installation crew should pass along the corridor through the stairway to get to the bathroom, bothering the students
	bathrooms being located in the yard resulted in students' dissatisfaction especially in the winter, since in addition to chill and access problems, cats entering inside has also made them difficult to use.

Comparing somatic, conceptual, and functional problems related to intimacy in the architecture of female students dormitories

inappropriate circulation	there is no median between the entrance and the street inside the university and lack of entrance hierarchy has made hijab mandatory as soon as exiting the dormitory building, not existing a diffident cite for students
large number of stairs	it is difficult to access the rooms on fourth floor because of too many stairs and students sustain great pressure to carry their suitcases, added to problems in haunting
inappropriate lockers	lockers are metal wardrobes unable for clothes to be hung
inappropriate beds	beds are obsolete and noisy

**Table 4.** Somatic problems in female dormitory of Qazvin Univ. Imam Khomeini

small dimensions of the rooms	not observing coordination between dimensions of rooms and the number of people inside, caused an increase in aggregation, students coping with shortcoming of enough space
not predicting the locker space inside the room	because of not predicting the space of the locker inside the room, lockers are located on the pathway disturbing the arrangement of the room
inappropriate place of bathrooms location	in order to solve the problems with bathroom, installation crew should pass along the corridor through the stairway to get to the bathroom, bothering the students
	bathrooms being located in the yard resulted in students' dissatisfaction especially in the winter, since in addition to chill and access problems, cats entering inside has also made them difficult to use.
inappropriate circulation	there is no median between the entrance and the street inside the university and lack of entrance hierarchy has made hijab mandatory as soon as exiting the dormitory building, not existing a diffident cite for students
large number of stairs	it is difficult to access the rooms on fourth floor because of too many stairs and students sustain great pressure to carry their suitcases, added to problems in haunting
inappropriate lockers	lockers are metal wardrobes unable for clothes to be hung
inappropriate beds	beds are obsolete and noisy

**Table 5.** Functional problems in female dormitory of Qazvin Univ. Imam Khomeini

small dimensions of the rooms	not observing coordination between dimensions of rooms and the number of people inside, caused an increase in aggregation, students coping with shortcoming of enough space
not predicting the locker space inside the room	because of not predicting the space of the locker inside the room, lockers are located on the pathway disturbing the arrangement of the room
inappropriate place of bathrooms location	in order to solve the problems with bathroom, installation crew should pass along the corridor through the stairway to get to the bathroom, bothering the students
	bathrooms being located in the yard resulted in students' dissatisfaction especially in the winter, since in addition to chill and access problems, cats entering inside has also made them difficult to use.
inappropriate circulation	there is no median between the entrance and the street inside the university and lack of entrance hierarchy has made hijab mandatory as soon as exiting the dormitory building, not existing a diffident cite for students
large number of stairs	it is difficult to access the rooms on fourth floor because of too many stairs and students sustain great pressure to carry their suitcases, added to problems in haunting
inappropriate lockers	lockers are metal wardrobes unable for clothes to be hung
inappropriate beds	beds are obsolete and noisy

**Table 6.** conceptual problems in female dormitory of Shahrood Univ.

small dimensions of the rooms	not observing coordination between dimensions of rooms and the number of people inside, caused an increase in aggregation, students coping with shortcoming of enough space
not predicting the locker space inside the room	because of not predicting the space of the locker inside the room, lockers are located on the pathway disturbing the arrangement of the room
inappropriate place of bathrooms location	in order to solve the problems with bathroom, installation crew should pass along the corridor through the stairway to get to the bathroom, bothering the students
	bathrooms being located in the yard resulted in students' dissatisfaction especially in the winter, since in addition to chill and access problems, cats entering inside has also made them difficult to use.
inappropriate circulation	there is no median between the entrance and the street inside the university and lack of entrance hierarchy has made hijab mandatory as soon as exiting the dormitory building, not existing a

	diffident cite for students
large number of stairs	it is difficult to access the rooms on fourth floor because of too many stairs and students sustain great pressure to carry their suitcases, added to problems in haunting
inappropriate lockers	lockers are metal wardrobes unable for clothes to be hung
inappropriate beds	beds are obsolete and noisy

**CONCLUSION:**

Student dormitories at first glance seem to be gathering space for social relations, but sometimes And dissatisfaction with the existing problems, the reactions against compulsory social relationships and lack of opportunity for only And privacy arises. Consultants in the Private spaces to separate houses. There is clearly private and semi-public. Student housing spaces due to Constant furnishings and how the placement of doors and windows to create a private sphere slowly changing. In this study, 94% of the study called for the release, (UC Berkeley dormitory Vandrayn and Silverstein (1976) Most of the hostels were to create a private sphere Satisfaction of residents in student dormitories Control of territory affected locations. It is difficult to create distinct domains room for two students The room furniture is fixed in such a way that access to different areas of the room uncontrollable and It is not clear which of the inhabitants of each constituency Space room (Summer, 1974). Not only must hostels The desirable places to sleep, they must have reasonable chances for personal and educational growth . (Students provide (Astrda et al, 2008).

In terms of the overall privacy and confidentiality mainly internal spaces seen as part of strangers, in First priority. While the distinction between public and private as well as the confidentiality of space, The next degree is of paramount importance. This reflects the important role of physical space designed to ensure confidentiality Are. In terms of privacy, control the person's relation to others, has a decisive role. The observance Privacy of individuals in relation to others, mainly private function depends mainly software. Border Set mostly goes into believing community, providing realm is individual in society. Society and in Cultures, introversion

and extraversion in the community has a decisive role. For example, the physical structure for Introversion supply in desert cities, with that in tissues of the Caspian Sea, which is a major difference Intense cultural communities is affected by it. In addition to the physical components of the functional hierarchy input Generally in physical structures, global function and ensure confidentiality in discussing this matter in the same role To major. Finally, we can say that culture is the main factor in determining compliance in Vngray and Extroversion in terms of physical means of pop-up, arrangement of spaces, etc., in the development and promotion structures privacy Physical dormitories. The effects of culture, meaning the territory of the former mainly common definition of privacy and solitude in society also affected students communicate their culture and subcultures. There is a second, the definition and recognition. Respect for hierarchy in achieving physical space from outside Inside, provided appropriate input, protects the interior of the house from a non-layout and content of the openings, the Bashd.hs dormitory space is required in the design of physical space that is generally considered a holistic concept in Format, man feels locations, Adra them, and the meaning and value to an attached Them. Understanding the different spectrums comprising the sense of place and attachment to the place and the people understand how Tendency of people to that location can be useful in creating new places. Attachment to Place and space that surrounds refers to the relationship between emotional and human performance in the field of psychology The environment is studied in different spatial levels. According to the interviews, People's sense of place, the overall feel and compared to their original location that is positive and Over time it can become a place of attachment

and may be negative in disgust Lead to the place. Accordingly, it can be concluded, therefore, that attachment to place, continued Is a sense of place and its subsidiary. Based on these definitions, we can compare these two Achieved concept, sense of place and character as a place where the truth is. If aspects This positive feeling in the physical environment is created, a sense of belonging to the place that takes shape over time The attachment is a place we can conclude, therefore, that sense of place and sense a connection General emotional between the individual and the place where the first human to enter space is formed. Behbahani B. et al. (2011) reported that students, regardless of cost, type of accommodation, based on the most personal space) Less congestion and conditions for their study and relax. According to the preferences of students.

Different educational levels and taking into account their age and emotional two different patterns for the design of the accommodation Of graduate students and lower sections suggest that this may make them feel important privacy The hostel also increase. Student dormitories as a physical base in various countries including residential buildings Dissatisfactions that in most cases they are located. But the fact that in Iran Many existing dormitories and students' needs, regardless of the type of use that are designed or Buildings built from scratch without the user hostels for students used settlement, the The problem is more significant. Rooms with an area of low and many people are together and services, living room and kitchen, which all students are required to use a hostel common than they are, where That measures such as privacy, relaxation and comfort, congestion, etc. are affected. Also, stop paying attention to gender differences in mentality in terms of both sexes and different groups Study of the factors affecting the design of houses can be life-campus students.

Because The study students' satisfaction with the status quo from the perspective of

environmental psychology forum can Useful for designers understand the weaknesses in the design and environmental psychology dormitories and Is to raise the quality of living conditions of students in dormitories. What the findings show is that Student dormitories is based on the principles of privacy policy is not designed for girls Training military planners should increasingly important so pay attention.

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