

Youth Housing Conditions in Tehran: Profiles and Challenges

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ABSTRACT As a specialist subject, sociology of housing seeks sociological explanations for a range of housing phenomena including patterns of housing and provision, patterns of inhabitation, household structures and the like. It also contributes much to housing management, urban sociology, policy studies and other related disciplines. The paper examines how the housing conditions are, and how planned housing could be provided in the growing city of Tehran. Due to the substantial economic and social decline in many rural and urban regions of the country, there has been a severe pressure of migration to Tehran in the past 3 decades, and the process has created the acute shortage of housing in the city with special reference to the youth who are not well-settled, and are of low-income social classes. Though well-planned housing can create conditions which are hygienic and environmentally conducive for healthy growth of human civilization, yet, Iran has a long time to go, to reach its objectives and thereby meet the housing needs of millions of inhabitants. On the contrary, unfavourable housing can lead to unlawful and unhealthy environment. However, the paper will explore how urgent the need to create a healthy housing atmosphere is in Tehran, especially among the youth. In the meantime, urban housing in Tehran assumes greater importance because of the various complex problems prevailing in the city. Some of such problems can briefly be summed up as: poverty and migration, squatters, dearth of land, lack of finance, violation of building regulations and so on. However, the unplanned and chaotic residential areas, if unable to cope with the surplus population, they are likely to convert into unhealthy squatters. So, the youth in Iran must tolerate the double pressure of housing provision, as well as marriage which cannot take place in time, due to the horror and shortage of housing.