

6. Family Housing

- 6.1 Concept and importance of housing
- 6.2 Types of Housing
- 6.3 Selection of site for a house

Can You Recall?

1. What are the basic needs of a human being?
2. Which of the basic need is fulfilled by a house?

You have learnt in your school days that all human beings share some basic physical needs. These are essential for survival of a human being and are listed as food, clothing and shelter. Apart from these many more have now been added to the list like- education, clean and healthy environment etc. But the basic needs remain unchanged. A house fulfils the need of shelter.

Pay Attention to the following :

- The house describes a particular building. It is a materialistic possession and an important investment of the family.
- Home is a place where a person lives and belongs to. The family members have a lot of emotional attachment to their home.
- A house can be acquired by buying a readymade flat, purchasing a plot and getting a house built on it or by renting a house. This decision depends on the family needs and the financial capacity of the family.

6.1 Concept and importance of housing :

Do you know ?

What does a house provides for?

1. **Physical facilities :** Complete the following table in respect to physical facilities by elaborating the given points in one sentence :

• Provision of shelter	
• Protection from natural elements	

• Protection from anti social elements	
• Taking care of physical and personal needs	

An ideal housing provides a physical shelter to family members. Family needs protection from the environment elements such as the sun, wind, rain, noise and pollutants. Family also needs protection from anti-social elements causing theft and nuisance. A house is a place that helps to fulfil physical needs like taking rest, sleeping, eating, dressing up, taking care of personal needs etc. This helps to maintain the health, comfort and safety of family members.

2. **Emotional environment :** A house is a place that provides good emotional climate where family members come together and share their day to day experiences, feelings, emotions like happiness, sadness etc.

Always remember that :

Some of the basic values like cooperation, support, encouragement, respecting individual differences etc. get developed in the family which help in the emotional development of an individual.

3. **Providing Intellectual environment :** Home is a place where an individual gets motivation, support, encouragement and guidance for the development of intellectual abilities. For

example, in a family, a child may be given motivation to train in classical music, dance or in skills like drawing and painting etc to develop such abilities.

Can You Recall?

Give another example from your family life?

- 4. Providing social climate :** Man is a social animal and cannot live in isolation. A house is a place where social development begins. Family is the first social group for a child to learn how to interact with others.

Let's discuss :

How the social development takes place in the family.

Gradually, the child learns to interact with neighbours, relatives and friends visiting the house. Children learn socially accepted behaviour patterns through these interactions and from good social habits. Participation in social activities and festivals in the community and nearby areas help in the social development of a person.

- 5. Providing economic security :** Owning a house is a good investment for a family. The value of property grows with time depending on the locality and amenities available. It gives more returns than other forms of investments in banks or post office. In times of crisis, some part of the house can be rented out to earn money. It can be mortgaged for taking loan from any financial agency.

6.2 Types of Housing :

Do you recall seeing various types of houses?

All over the world, various types of houses are observed. The commonly used terminology like cottages, studio flats, flats, row houses, bungalows, pent houses, etc. connote different meaning in different countries. In this unit, we shall discuss the terms with reference to Indian scenario.

A) Cottage : Cottage is a concept which is used commonly in our country. It originated in England. It indicates a structure having a living space on the ground floor and one or two bedrooms on the upper floor. Generally, it is a small single-storied house but sometimes larger structures are also found and termed as cottages. In modern times, the old-fashioned, modest, cosy houses generally found in rural or semi rural areas are indicated by using this term. Historically, it is a small house having a roof that is made from straw or other plant material. It is a house having thick walls and is generally constructed by using stones or bricks. Nowadays a small vacation house is indicated by the term cottage.



Cottage House

B) Studio Apartment : Studio apartment or studio flat is a very small flat having no separate bedrooms. Now a day this term is becoming popular among the young individuals who are working and living away from their families. Many such flats fulfil the wish of these people to have a cozy house along with all the necessary amenities provided in the same place. Such flats are taken by these individuals on rent. The studio flat consists of a single room with various sections which does not have barrier of walls or any other type of divisions.

An individual thus can use this room, for carrying out various activities like sleeping, entertaining, cooking etc. as a bedroom, a living room or kitchen.



Studio Apartment

C) Flat / Apartment : The simplest meaning of the term flat can be stated as; a self-contained housing unit occupying only a part of a building. In India, a building that has a number of flats is termed as an apartment building. It is an area in a building used by a family for living. This living area is divided into number of areas for the family members to carry out various activities comfortably like entertaining the guests, sitting together as a family group, taking care of personal needs, sleeping (taking rest), getting ready, studying, cooking, eating etc. Considering these needs, we find that a flat has a living room, bedroom, kitchen, study room, toilets etc. The family may go in for a one bed room, two room



Flat / Apartment

or three bed room flat depending on the factors like income, the number of family members, type of family (nuclear or joint) etc.

D) Row Houses : Row houses are single family housing units that are attached to each other by common walls. These are generally found in urban areas. They may be single storied or multi storied in nature and may be found in twin or multiple units. The design, appearance and the structure of all such houses may not be identical but it is very similar. These houses have open area in the front and back side which may be used as garden, parking area or any other purpose found suitable by the family members.



Row Houses

E) Pent House : The term pent house reflects an independent and a separate small house which is constructed on the roof of an apartment building. This simply means that it is constructed on the highest floor of an apartment building. In architecture, it indicates a structure constructed on the roof of a building that is not attached to the parapet walls. Such houses do not occupy the entire roof space which can be used as sit out, placement of potted plants etc. It generally has high ceilings, an independent access to the terrace through a separate elevator and the most expansive views of the

surrounding area.

They are generally the most expensive types of houses that are very big providing luxurious amenities for example, very costly appliances, very fine materials and fittings, luxurious flooring materials, terrace, more floor area, huge windows, etc.



Pent House

F) Bungalows : Bungalow is generally a small, single storied house having open space on all four sides. Generally, it has a porch with front steps leading up to the top floor. Cottage style houses were not found suitable in India because of their thick walls so bungalows were developed.



Bungalows

The word “bungalow” originated from the Indian word Bangla, and it referred to houses built in a Bengali style in the 19th century. They are spacious homes with an entrance through a veranda. In the old days, these were found to have sloping roofs and a skylight window fixed in the roof. Even in this century bungalows in villages and small towns are found to have sloping roofs. In the urban areas, due to the increasing shortage of available land, we may observe a bungalow with two stories. Normally a beautiful garden and parking area is observed in the front part and a garden and washing area in the back yard with an additional back entrance.

G)Eco friendly houses : In this century, sensitivity towards environment is increasing leading to popularity of eco friendly houses or green homes. People from our country are consciously using innovative techniques to construct more and more eco friendly houses. They are using sustainable technologies in construction for reducing impacts on environment. Some of the special

features found in such houses include recycling of water, use of huge panels of glass for windows, solar panels, efficient practices for waste management, using eco friendly building materials and renewable energy sources etc. The aim of such constructions is to create such designs in construction which would help to achieve efficiency and harmony

with the environment and reduce harmful effects on the environment.

Internet is my friend :

1. Find out some eco friendly house from your locality, plan a visit, study the special features and write a report about the same.
2. Find out information about eco house from the internet and write a report on it.

Use your brain : Identify the type of house indicated through the pictures given below and write down their names and peculiar characteristics in the box given.



Name of the house :

Peculiar characteristics :



Name of the house :

Peculiar characteristics :



Name of the house :

Peculiar characteristics :



Name of the house :

Peculiar characteristics :



Name of the house :

Peculiar characteristics :

Do you know but the scheme launched by the government for housing

Shelter is a basic requirement of each individual and family and so each citizen should be provided with at least a small house. With this objective, the government has launched a scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Programme' having a motto 'Housing for all'. It has a provision of making housing available for all by 2022, when the nation completes 75 years of its Independence.

Use of ICT :

Search on the net for the scheme provided by the government for urban and rural families

6.3 Selection of site for a house :

Housing is an important part of family life, where family members spend greatest span of their life. A house is a place for all family centred activities. Purchase of a house or getting a house built is a major decision of a family. It is a huge investment for a life time so the decision needs to be taken very carefully by involving all family members and taking proper guidance from experts. One needs to collect a lot of information about the available house, its design, physical facilities and think about whether the needs of the family members will get fulfilled. Comfort and fulfilment of various needs of the family members is of utmost importance. A family cannot change the house very often so the selection should be done very carefully by taking certain factors into consideration :

Physical Features :

Remember the following while selecting a plot for house.

- Check whether exact boundaries are demarcated and marked on the plot to avoid disputes and legal matters in future.

- The plot should have a regular shape. A rectangular shape is considered good for planning. If the shape is not regular, some space may be wasted.
- The plot should have slight slope towards the road so that the rain water will drain away easily from the house and the surrounding area of the house will not remain wet causing unhygienic condition. At the same time laying the drain lines becomes easy.
- A house should be on an elevated ground as it gives a beautiful view of the surrounding area.
- Preference should be given to a house which possesses some object of natural beauty like the view of a hill, lake etc.
- It should have possibility to admit plenty of fresh air and light. If there are plenty of dense trees, the admittance of sunlight may be cut off.

b) Location : Location of the site of a house must be studied carefully. A family may go in for a house on rent, may purchase a readymade flat or may purchase a plot and get a house constructed on it.

Always remember :

The following guidelines.

- It must be an area where basic facilities are available. The facilities, such as good transportation, good roads, markets, clinics, schools, etc should be within easy reach.
- Good neighbourhood and surroundings are of utmost importance as children are going to grow up here. From this point of view, if it is a rental house, the family has a choice of moving out if it is not found suitable but if it is going to be an own house this point becomes

all the more important as the family is going to live there for the life time. So consider the class and sort of people living in the area.

- It should be away from industrial zones which emit fumes leading to pollution of air. It should also be away from railways, main roads and high ways due to the high noise level and vibrations coming towards the house.

c) Soil Condition : One needs to get the nature of soil checked from the experts. This will determine the type of foundation required and affect the cost of construction. The land/plot may be found to have various soil conditions which may be as follows :

Fully Rocky soil :

Advantages	Disadvantages
• This soil gives firm foundation	• It gets hot by the day and does not cool by night especially during summer.
• It does not absorb water and become water logged	• If excavation or site leveling is required, it creates problems.
	• Laying of drain lines is difficult.
	• It poses a problem in developing a garden and growing trees.

Because of the above mentioned disadvantages it may not be considered good for construction of a house.

Loose ground : The land should not be loose ground or a 'made soil' or reclaimed ground which means, ground which was once a depression and has been filled up afterwards with refuse. Such soil has many disadvantages

which can be listed as given below :

- Loose ground presents foundation problems.
- The land absorbs water, becomes water logged and hence becomes unhygienic.
- There is always a danger of such a soil settling down unevenly and obstructing drainage.
- A problem of development of cracks in buildings built on such lands is common.

Thus it is not considered as a good soil for construction of a house.

Black cotton soil : It is good from the point of view of a garden but has following disadvantages.

- It poses problems of foundation.
- It cannot support the construction of a house so advanced technique of preparing foundation like 'Pile foundations' will become necessary on such land, which can prove to be costly.

Good soil for house construction : There should be firm soil, murum or rock within a depth of 2 to 5 feet below the surface for a good foundation. This soil gives following advantages :

- This soil makes it easy to lay the drainage lines.
- It turns out to be good for developing a garden.
- The construction of foundations is not difficult or costly.

d) Hygienic conditions : For the purpose of maintaining hygienic conditions, certain points should be considered in planning a house. These are as follows.

- House should not have open drainage in the vicinity. The area should have proper drainage facility provided by

the corporation or the local authority.

- There should proper be arrangement for the rain water to be drained off. Water should not get accumulated in nearby the house.
- The plan of a house should be such that all the rooms, bathrooms and W.C. would receive ample amount of light and ventilation. For this purpose sufficient number of windows should be provided.
- Cross ventilation should take place in all the main rooms. As a thumb rule for the rooms, minimum area of the windows should be one seventh of the floor area and for bathrooms and W. C. it should be one half.

e) Practical considerations : Site of the house should be in a developed area where various services are made available for carrying out day to day routine activities smoothly.

List at : Various services considered essential for a house :

Following services are considered essential for a house :

- The most important services are electricity, water supply and plumbing. No one can even imagine life without the use of these services. In the present era the dependence on these services is so much that even if their supply interrupts for a few hours, people get restless and agitated.
- Some other services include schools and cottages, telephone and internet service, post office, banks, police stations, fire brigade, hospitals, shopping centres, recreational centres, places of worships etc. should be within easy reach.

Can You Recall?

- Housing helps to fulfil the basic need of shelter of the human being.
- A home is the basic centre of family life and forms the basis of all the family centred activities.
- An ideal housing provides physical facilities, conducive emotional environment, intellectual environment, social climate and economical security to the family members.
- There are various types of houses like cottages, flats, row houses, bungalows, pent houses, studio flats, etc.
- Indian citizens have started becoming sensitive toward the environmental issues and thus Eco friendly houses are becoming more and common in our country.
- A family cannot change the house very often and it is a life time investment involving huge amount of money so the selection of site for a house should be done very carefully by taking certain factors into consideration. These factors include physical features, location, soil condition, hygienic conditions and practical conveniences.

Exercise

• Objective questions :

1) Complete the following sentences by selecting appropriate words from the bracket : (renting, cottage, row houses, loose ground, pent house, eco friendly)

1. A house can be obtained by a family by buying, getting it constructed or _
2. The type of structure generally termed as a vacation house is _
3. The houses that are attached to each other are termed as _
4. The type of soil that may settle down unevenly and develop cracks in a building is _
5. The type of house that is constructed on the terrace (roof) of a building is called as _
6. The house that aims at conservation of environment is called as _

2) Give the meaning of the following terms in one sentence.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| a. Flat | b. Cottage |
| c. Bungalow | d. Row house |

• Short Answer Questions :

1) Answer the following questions in brief.

- a. How does housing fulfil the need of providing physical facilities, emotional and intellectual environment?
- b. Explain how housing is important in social development of a person and provides financial security?
- c. What is a bungalow? What are its peculiarities?
- d. What points should be considered in physical features of the site while selecting a house?
- e. What points should be considered in hygienic conditions while selecting a house?

- f. What points should be considered in practical conveniences while selecting a house?

2) Differentiate between the following

- a. Bungalow and row houses
- b. Flats and apartments
- c. Bungalows and cottages

3) Write short notes on the following

- a. Physical features in selection of a house
- b. Location of a house
- c. Practical conveniences in selection of a house
- d. Cottages and bungalows
- e. Flats, row houses and pent houses
- f. Studio flats and eco friendly housing

4) Give reasons for the following

- a. A house having slight slope towards the road is considered good.
- b. It is important to consider neighbourhood and surrounding in selecting a house.

• Long answer questions :

- a. What is the importance of family housing? Describe the various needs that get fulfilled through a good housing?
- b. List out the factors to be considered in selection of a house and describe any one of it.

Projects/Assignments :

- a. Collect pictures of various types of houses from news papers, magazines, pamphlets etc. and prepare a scrap book by sticking them neatly.
- b. List out the various amenities available for your house.
- c. Find out some eco friendly house from your locality, plan a visit, study the special features and write a report about the same.

