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Title

DOES SPATIAL USAGE AND PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF THINNAL, (HOUSE FRONT SIT OUT) PROMOTE PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOR OF THE OCCUPANTS: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION WITH REGIONAL CONTEXT

Author(s)

K. Premkumar

Associate professor,

Dept. of Architecture,

National Institute of Technology,

Tiruchirappalli

Abstract:

This study attempts to demonstrate that the spatial usage and physical attributes of Thinnai (house front sit-out) has the potential to promote prosocial behavior of the occupants. In pursuit of this, Darley and Latane's (1969) helping behavior model is applied and the findings revealed the potential of the physical setting in an objective manner. The research questions examined here are: 1) Does the spatial usage and physical attributes of Thinnai facilitate the occupants in providing help in way finding for a stranger. 2) Does the spatial usage and physical attributes of Thinnai facilitate the occupants to return the dropped wallet to the person 3) Does the spatial usage and physical attributes of Thinnai facilitate the occupants to return the dropped Voter's Identity card to the card holder. 4) Does the spatial usage and physical attributes of Thinnai facilitate the occupants in providing help by lifting and carrying the domestic load for the one who finds difficult to do so. Data collected with questionnaires completed by 143 respondents from rural residential setting were analyzed and the results indicate that The spatial usage and attributes of Thinnai is significant in promoting Helping behavior of the occupants besides the other uncontrolled variables.

1. Introduction:

Physical settings in which people inhabit, is a spatial arrangement that is organized by the people and for the people in order to satisfy the occupants basic and specific needs. Those needs, desires and beliefs are the nucleus of life. The settings that provide shelter, safety and satisfaction for the people would become the core of architectural manifestation. Essence of architecture is penetrated by the people not merely as spectators to be entertained, but as Contributors and participants that it accommodates.

Nevertheless, Architecture is inescapably a process for social cause which could have its effect at personal level and public level. Even though, there are many divergent ways in which architecture is used, the organization and disposition of places is so central and important to the ways in which people live. Thus people started making places in which they do things to sustain their lives —places to eat, to sleep, to shop, to worship, to argue, to learn, to store, and so on

.Over a period of time it has become more and more subjected to tradition and culture of the people.

The physical setting in which people live slowly transformed into people's setting with rich meaning and socio-cultural dimensions. The setting has built features of identity, characteristics and attributes which could support social transaction with the neighbors, community and the society at large. The way in which people organize their places is related to their tradition, beliefs, their aspirations, (Irwin Altman, 1967) and their world view. The pattern in which people transact in the social environment has relation to the built environment by its physical order and ambience of it. Overall physical settings have certain influence in what we tend to do in a specific context. All that we transact with other individual, group of people, a stranger or certain people in need of some help, happens in a physical setting on a day-to-day basis which we seldom recognize. Often, we fail to infer and recognize the potential of the physical setting that facilitates certain social activities which are pro social in nature. In light of this, it is overt, that the physical settings in which we live has definite function in offering and promoting social activities.

Therefore, it is obvious that the study of built environment in offering and supporting a range of pro social behavior will enrich the existing knowledge and provide deeper insights into this area of study.

1.1 Transaction between Built environment and Occupants:

In order to perform the activity which is in line with the socio-cultural norms of their community. People adapt, transform or change their environment in which they live. Nevertheless, the physical setting forms the building which is an assemblage of many sets of physical features, characteristics and attributes. Physical environments often serve as repositories of individual experiences and social relationships and are therefore, more than a cause of behavior and more than a behavior mechanism. (Irwin Altman, 1993) The fact that buildings are defined by many sets of physical setting attributes and the relationship between themselves has made the process of investigating Human behavior with in this context as rich, complex and undeniable in bringing out several theories and models. (Robert Gifford, 2000) which could lead to conceptualize a framework for better understanding of the impact of the physical setting

attributes in promoting the social behavior at large and in particular the prosocial behavior of the occupants themselves. In this situation it gives us hope to recollect the statement made by - Winston Churchill: “We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us.”

Though, the designers and planners have long been concerned about the effect of the built environment on human behavior. In the beginning of nineteenth century, there was a massive thrust on the effect of housing on the social interaction and well being of the community by the physical planning of the neighborhood and started searching for factors that could improve well being and social support among the residents of the neighborhood.

There were length of studies and volume of research done in this area .Currently, the planners and designers along with sociologist and environmental psychologist put in their efforts to bring out the desirable outcomes in a housing setting. In particular the design of the physical settings and their attributes are examined on how to nurture pro social behavior among the inhabitants and maintain social interaction and community well-being within the people’s setting.

Definition and distinctions:

The context : *Context is any information that can be used to characterize the situation of an entity. An entity is a person, place, or object that is considered relevant to the interaction between a user and a function, including the user and function themselves.*

Brown (Brown 1996b) defined context to be the elements of the user’s environment.They include the following facet of the environment:

- *Collective environment*: available spatial order, physical settings of permanent feature variable, semi permanent feature and ambience to carry out the function in the physical space
- *Social environment*: location, collection of nearby people, and social situation social, emotional or informational state.
- *Physical environment*: Objective measures of the physical space, and qualities of the space, lighting and noise level.

With the above specificity, the study is carried out in the context of a specific residential setting that is traditionally called as “Thinnai” (House front sit-out),(Thinnai – Vernacular architectural term- 1990). These physical settings are an essential feature of any traditional

residential setting in Tamilnadu and southern region of Indian rural Dwelling units. Though, thinnai has been the symbol and functional component of the residential settings, its functional benefits and affordances in terms of possible actions that it could offer for the benefit of the occupants are not explored much in a systematic way (K.Premkumar 2010). In light of this background and context, this particular setting is investigated for the kind of social benefits it could offer and facilitate in a spontaneous and informal manner. For this study Helping behavior model developed by Darley and latane (1969) is used to examine how the physical setting Thinnai (Refer Fig :) could promote each stage of helping as proposed by Darley and latane (1969) model for a range of prosocial behavior of the occupants of the house.

Traditional Architecture:

Tradition (Sowell T, 1980) is a practice, custom, or story that is memorized and passed down from generation to generation, originally without the need for a writing system. Tools to aid this process include practice of design of Built environment.

The art of building design that includes skills and techniques handed down from one generation to another generation are referred to as tradition, and their output would be termed as traditional architecture. Traditions are often presumed to be ancient, unalterable, and deeply important, though they may sometimes be much less "natural" than is presumed. Some traditions were deliberately invented for one reason or another, often to highlight or enhance the importance of a certain institution. Traditions may also be changed to suit the needs of the day, and the changes can become accepted as a part of the ancient tradition. In our region of Tamilnadu Traditional architecture is a system and way of living in harmony with nature and creates opportunity to nurture desirable emotions and behavior among the inhabitants.

2.1. **Spatial usage and Physical setting attributes:**

The term Physical space is an outcome of a Built environment which refers to the man-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, ranging in scale from personal shelter to neighborhoods to the large-scale civic surroundings. The spatial usage include land use patterns, the transportation system, and design features that generate needs and provide opportunities for Habitation and life activities on a daily basis.

Physical attributes refers to the basic features of the built setting for a space including forms, proportion, area, openness, enclosure, levels of spaces, articulation of the spatial order, texture, scale, safety, protection, materials used and the finish of the setting.

2.1.1 Purpose of Built environment:

The Built environment encompasses all buildings, spaces and products that are created, or modified by people in the form of 'Shelter' – a prime need of human. The purpose of built environment is to protect its inhabitants against unwelcome outside forces and offers them a congenial internal environment. On the other hand, it tries to create an exterior, physically adopted to its functions and visually impressive. Further, it provides a congenial surrounding with physical setting attributes that provokes appropriate behavior in the social environment.

However, every built environment attempts to create an order which is socially identifiable and interactive with the members at large so as to get the endorsement of the society that transact with the setting.

2.2 Prosocial behavior :

Prosocial behavior refers to voluntary actions that are intended to help or benefit another individual or group of individuals (Eisenberg and Mussen, 1989).

According to Mussein (1989), the term pro social behavior means positive actions that benefit others, prompted by empathy, moral values, and a sense of personal responsibility rather than a desire for personal gain. The activities of prosocial behavior can be sighted as helping, sharing, comforting, rescuing and cooperation.

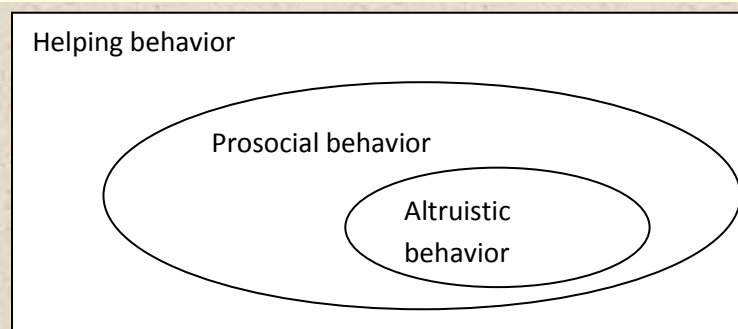


Fig 1. shows the Relationships between the concepts of helping, prosocial behavior, and altruism. Bierhoff, H.W. (2001a). prosocial behavior. In M. Hewstone & W. Stroebe (Eds.), introduction to social psychology (3rd edition). Oxford Blackwell.

The terms “helping behavior, “pro social behavior”, and altruism are frequently used interchangeably. However they may be distinguished for analytic purposes. (Bierhoff, H.W. 2002) “helping’ is the broadest term, including all forms of inter-personal support.

Factors that Influences Helping : there are significant factors that influence a persons helping tendency , It includes the following : Personal influences : Genetic factors in Helping, Emotional factors in Helping. Motivational factors in helping .

Interpersonal influences : Perceived characteristics of the person in need.

The fit between giver and receiver.

,Situational Influences : Models, Norms, Rewards.

The place where we live: Residents of densely populated urban areas are less likely to provide spontaneous, informal help to strangers than are residents of smaller or less densely populated communities. (Milgram 1970). Though ,the above mentioned influencing factors are personal & interpersonal influences. The execution of all the helping behavior by the individual happens in a physical setting which has potential in influencing the behavior in a direct or indirect manner.

Helping behavior model Fig:2

Latané & Darley (1969) developed a model on helping behavior decision. According to this model, a bystander goes through a five step decision tree before help is provided in fig :2

1. The bystander needs to notice that an event is taking place, but may fail to do so and not provide help;
2. The bystander needs to identify the event as some form of emergency. The situation may be ambiguous, preventing from help being given;
3. The bystander needs to take responsibility for helping, but might avoid taking responsibility by assuming that some- body else will (diffusion of responsibility);

4. The bystander needs to decide on the appropriate helping response, but may not believe themselves to be competent to do so;
5. The bystander needs to implement that response, but this may be against their interest to do so, specially in dangerous situations.

3. **Scope of the study:**

The prime motive of this research is to investigate the influence of the situational aspect that influences the helping behavior of the occupants in a spontaneous and informal way at mild emergencies. In particular this study explores the situation of people using the built Environment of their dwellings in a day to day manner and how does that physical setting in context i.e. Thinnai (house front sit-out) could be supportive in promoting prosocial behavior focusing Helping the stranger who are need of help as they pass by their house front.

The various studies related to prosocial behavior has been approached from many directions, but the correlation between prosocial behavior and built environment has not been investigated systematically. The potential for further scope of the research in prosocial behavior is found to be high because the issues related to the Prosocial behavior is not dealt with many situations. It found that the previous studies related to prosocial behavior pertaining to built environment has not been documented by applying specific theory towards the study. Hence, this study has been carried out to address the issues related to prosocial behavior in the realm of built environment with special reference to Tamilian traditional rural residential settings by applying Latané & Darley's (1970,) Helping behavior model. In this context a range of helping behavior situations for the occupants of the selected village were empirically investigated.

.Since this is applied for the rural traditional settings alone the findings and the results are more specific in nature and the same theory can be applied to urban setting also with appropriate research design.

3.1 Historical background of Traditional settings of Tamilnadu- Thanjavur region:

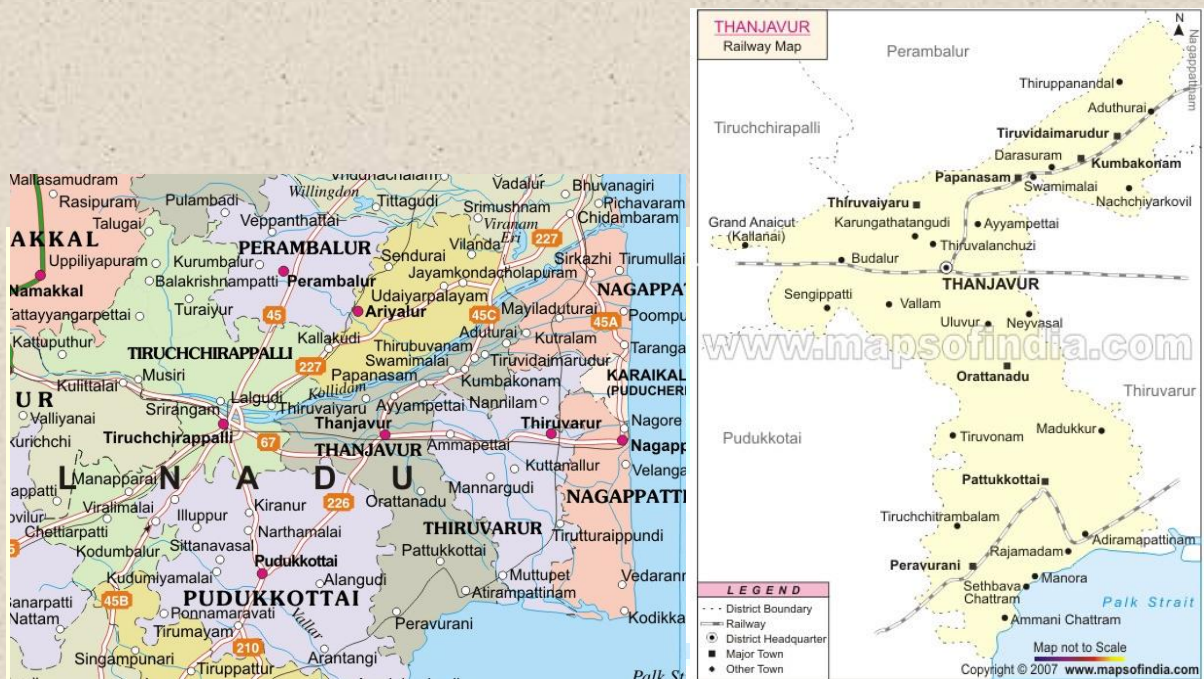


Fig: 3 map showing the regional setting of the study area – Thanjavur.

Turning the pages of past history of Tamil Nadu begins with the 3 kingdoms, Chera, Chola and Pandya, which are referred to in documents of the 3rd century BC. In the middle of the 9th century, The Chola rulers established what was to become one of India's most outstanding empires on account of its administrative achievements (irrigation, village development) and its contributions to art and literature. The Age of the Cholas is considered the golden age of Tamil history. Thanjavur was the capital of imperial Cholas.

The ancient Tamilian believed and practiced that the habitual setting environment make their life secure, manifest the culture, enhance support for appropriate behavior, provide desirable emotions and social interactions. The heritage of Tamil culture has been practiced to transform the articulated believes of their original customs, religious system which was with physical milieu in the man-made habitat continued by handing down from one generation to another generation is strongly manifested in the traditional houses of Thanjavur in Tamilnadu even today.

Such traditional house settings in rural area pave many opportunities to enhance social interactions. Though several studies have been demonstrated with reference to physical setting and social behavior, inquiring the issues related to the various attributes of the traditional house settings of specific place (Thinnai, Kollaipuram, Mutram and Chutrukattu) has got a greater potential for further probing.

3.2. Traditional settings and their description:

The specific place of the study area in the traditional house setting for the research was selectively chosen so as to focus on Helping behavior. It is the House front sitout see fig: 4 (Thinnai), Though the other spaces of the houses like Courtyard (Mutram), Space adjacent to courtyard (Sutrukattu) and Backyard (Kollaipuram). Has potential in supporting the prosocial behavior of the inhabitants (K.Premkumar ,2010) . This study focus only the spatial usage and physical attributes of Thinnai for examining the Helping behavior of the occupants by applying Darley's (1970,) Helping behavior model .

Since this study investigates whether the spatial usage of thinnai and its physical attributes can promote the helping behavior of the occupants it is expected to describe the details of Thinnai. To substantiate, the front sitout (Thinnai) is in the form of rectangular or square that is supported by timber or stone pillars with flat or slop roofs. And it offers space for sitting, resting, group forming, help in way finding, gazing, as well. The previous studies related to architectural theory evidently proves that the study related to find the interaction effects of prosocial behavior and the traditional residential settings is exceptionally rare and not much explored. Point to ponder here is that this research focuses on the impact of physical order of specified study settings to a specific prosocial behavior of the inhabitants. Inorder to demonstrate that Helping behavior is a function of the spatial usage and physical attribute of the Traditional residential setting like Thinnai, The five stages of helping behavior model proposed by Darley's (1970,) Helping behavior model is applied . Further, it provides scope for proving the causal connections between the physical settings and the helping behavior.

4. Review of past studies:

The literature in this area is at an early stage of development, although it is growing rapidly. Results of this research to date, which has been largely cross-sectional, provide a growing body of evidence that shows an association between the built environment and prosocial behavior levels.

Milgram (1970) has suggested that urban dwellers are over loaded with sensory input. This would cause urban people to be anonymous, and possibly affect their willingness to involve in prosocial activity or help others.

In this context the recent line of pro social behavior study has focused on aiding as function of race of victim and bystander. In early investigations of this type (e.g., Bryan&Test, 1967;Piliavin, Rodin,& Piliavin,1969), the study suggested that bystanders are likely to help their own race.

The role of physical setting in the support (or non support) of social interaction has been known in the literature for some time, for example in a seminal study Festinger et.al.(1950) demonstrated that one's friends are drawn from the population of people one has met, and the probability of meeting is directly related to the contiguity of residential entrance ways.



Schematic representation of relationship (Irwin Altman 1967)

Besides acting as a communicating medium, spatial layout or an architectural arrangement can also signal the appropriate social roles and responsibilities, for example, jury members seated at the head of a rectangular table assume leadership roles and participate more than members seated on the sides (strodbeck and hook 1961). The physical setting and spatial arrangement of the residential space also plays an important role in regulating social interaction within and between the settings for example, proximity of work spaces has been linked to the

occurrence and frequency of both formal communication (conrath 1973), and informal , face-to-face communication (Homans 1954; conrath 1973). By creating greater visual accessibility, open types of workspaces facilitate communication (Lorenzen and jaeger 1968).

Latané & Nida (1981) are pessimistic about the possibility of generating practical outcomes of the helping behaviour experiments. The significance of these experiments are of a more philosophical than practical nature. One important aspect of the helping behaviour research is that it shows that our moral behaviour is not governed by moral virtues or character

traits, but by much more mundane social mechanisms (Harman, 1999). When things go wrong, it is usually the bystander who is being blamed for failing to act morally.

We attribute these failures, like in the Genovese case, to expressions of bad character traits.

Experiments in helping behaviour are valuable in that they can provide a greater understanding of why people fail to do what is morally expected and thus lead to a greater tolerance and understanding of others (Harman, 1999).

All that happens in the world of human beings will definitely happen in a spatial setting and the design of the setting has a deep and assisting influence on the people in that setting..

The spatial usage, articulation and physical setting attributes within traditional rural settings manifests moods, communicates messages and remains relevant on the following aspects:

Organization of spaces, change in the levels of height and quality of light is gradually to understand the functionality of the settings and it provide us information on automatically detective function of the settings. It immediately provides clues and informed choices for individuals' preferences and personal pursuits. Though the range of prosocial behavior activities are likely to happen at different levels like Neighborhood level, Community level, Street level, and building level .For our study purpose prosocial behavior activities at Building level is examined. Specifically the spatial usage and physical setting attributes of Thinnai is studied whether it could be a situational setting factor in facilitating the occupants of the space to provide help for those who need their support on little emergencies.

In pursuit of this investigation, our literature study clearly shows that there is a substaniate gap in this area of research involving the spatial usage and physical setting attribute for assessing the

helping behavior of the occupants having the setting as the Facilitator in promoting the helping behavior of the people and in providing help to those who are in need. In light of this the study is carried out by applying Darley and Latane's (1969) Helping behavior model which states that there are five stages to provide help. Therefore this study has formulated hypothesis based on five stages to examine how far each stage of the model in providing help is supported by the spatial usage and physical setting attributes of Thinnai. As an outcome the following hypothesis were formulated and examined.

5. Study Hypothesis:

H1 : Spatial usage of my Thinnai facilitates me to offer help in way finding for a stranger

H2 : Spatial usage of my Thinnai facilitates me to return the dropped wallet to the possessor

H3 : Spatial usage of my Thinnai facilitates me to return the lost voters ID card to the possessor

H4: Spatial usage of my Thinnai facilitates me in helping to carry domestic load for a stranger.

5.1. Research Methodology:

To achieve the above objectives the research methodology consists of the following stages: 1) Naturalistic observation in order to capture the prosocial behavior in the daily routine of the family of the residents itself.

2) Data collection by self-report method by administering questionnaires on pro social behavior .

3) Applying Darley and Latane's (1969) Helping behavior model which states that there are five stages to provide help behavior of the inhabitants.

4) Analyze the data to test the research hypotheses.

5.2 METHOD OF STUDY

8.1.1 Sample: A random sample (F.G.Kaiser,2000) of 247 were observed, interviewed and examined by self report method for the study. Of the 247 questionnaires that were set out 223 were returned giving a return rate of 90%. Some questionnaire contained considerable missing data and were excluded. Thus 215 subjects who provided complete data were considered for the study. Among them 123 are women 92 were men with a mean age 40 years. The sample was 100% rural with 63% literate from three villages Eachangudi, Ganapathi agrapharam and Aduthurai in Thanjavur region in Tamilnadu. See Fig:5

5.3. Procedure: Before handing out the questionnaire to the subjects they received a short description about the objective of the study. In certain cases subjects were helped to clarify some of the items of the questionnaire the respondents required about 10 minutes to complete.

5.4 . Instrument: First, item pools of 30 questions (F.G.Kaiser,2000) were created. Most of this was based on the helping behavior model (Darley and latane 1969) spatial physical setting and its affordances in promoting Helping behavior constructs like Help in way finding , return of the dropped wallet, return of the dropped Voters Identity card, Helping to lift/carry domestic load from the physical setting component Thinnai, Ten items were eliminated as it does not fit into the above construct. Finally a set of 20 questions were construed for the survey.

The second step involved asking 8 subjects (four males, four females; age ranging from 22 to 50 years) to read and answer the questionnaire by speaking aloud while answering. When the subjects stopped or hesitated in answering, the experimenter inquired why, and later changed the wording of some items. This procedure yielded a more comprehensible version of the questionnaire.

Finally to get the response from the local subjects the questionnaire translated in Tamil is administered.

Thereafter, statements are framed in a yes or no pattern questions and their response is recorded. Under the components 1)Helping in way finding for a stranger , 2) return of a dropped

wallet to the person 3) Return of the dropped voters Identity card 4) Helping in lifting of domestic load .

6. Analyzing data:

The set of 20 questions are rated in a bipolar scale with the scores of ‘No’= 0 and ‘yes’= 1. Therefore a maximum total range of score will be 20 which recorded for all the components put together as mentioned earlier. Thus the score of 20 shows a strong intention for pro social behavior Here, for the purpose of studying the role and influence of the components in a distinctive way the components are segregated into 4 parcels and Each parcel share a score of 5 points and obtaining full 5 points in the respective parcel shows significant influence again reveal definite intention of the inhabitants towards providing help to others. A score of 3 discloses the moderate relation towards prosocial behavior and less than 2 shows lower relation towards prosocial behavior. And a score of 0 reveals that it is not significant and reveals anti-social behavior of the inhabitants.

- The following are the statements of the prosocial behavior of the inhabitants’ that are construed based on the spatial usage and physical attribute of thinnai . 1) Helping in way finding for a stranger. 2) Return of the dropped wallet to the person.3) Return of the dropped voters Identity card to the card holder.. 4) Helping a stranger in lifting and carrying domestic load that are administered for the questionnaire survey. Details of the questionnaire format for this study. Is provided in appendix-A

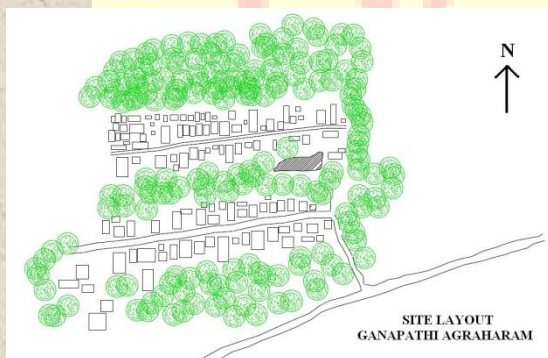


Fig: 5 site layout of the village



Fig: 6 Aerial view of the village



Fig: 4 A View of the traditional residential setting

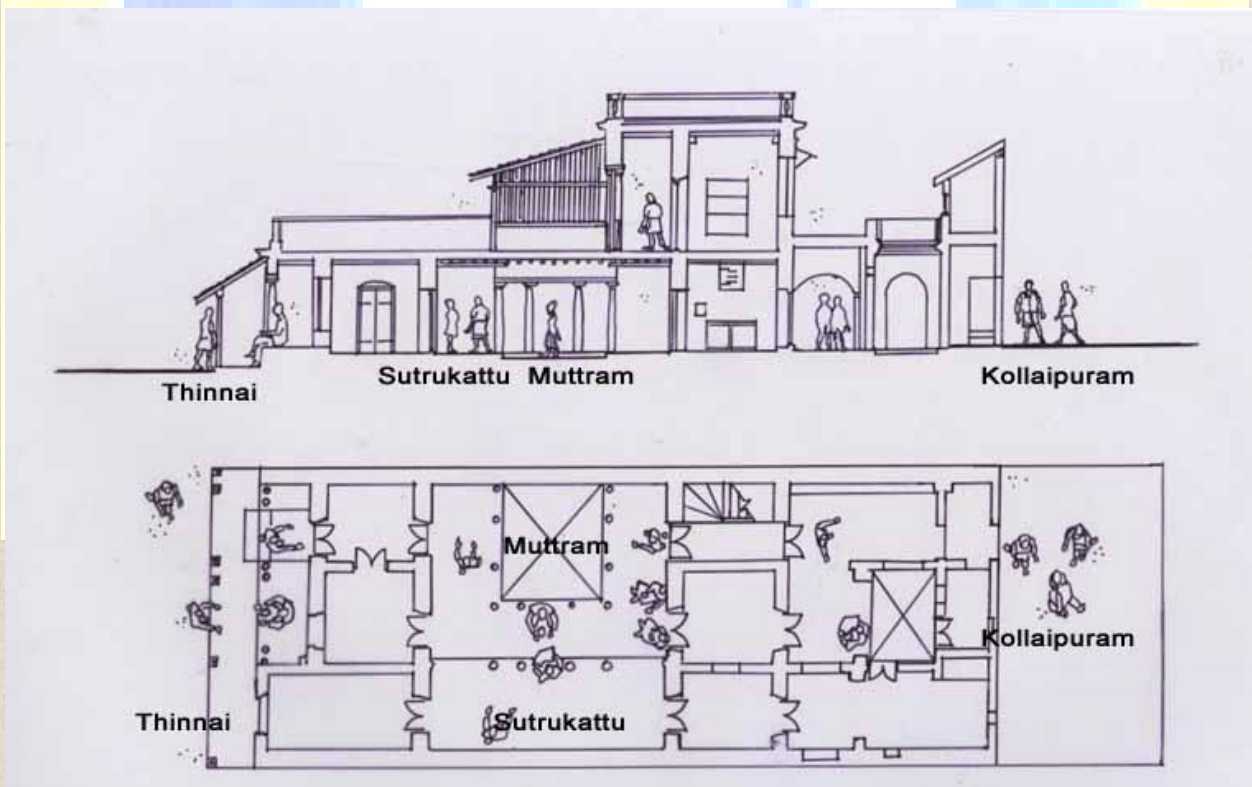


FIG:4 B showing the typical plan and section of traditional house with specified settings.



Fig : 7 ELEVATION

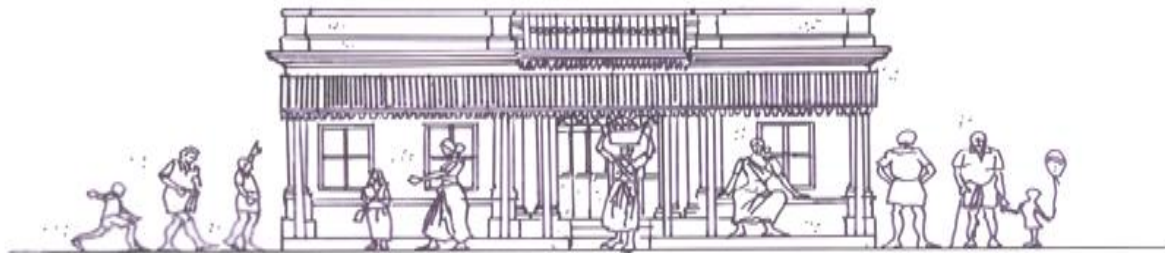


Fig: 8 ELEVATION

7. INTERPRETING RESULTS:

The empirical results are tabulated in two phases :

Phase I : this provides the Tabulated results for each helping behavior stated in the research hypothesis:

Range of Scores;

20-15	-	Strong in prosocial behavior
14-10	-	Moderate in prosocial behavior
9 - 4	-	Low in prosocial behavior
3 - 0	-	Insignificant in prosocial behavior

This study has come out with guidelines based on the findings under essential issues of the prosocial behavior that has been suggested below in order to improve the existing situation:

TABLE - 1

Stages of the Helping behavior model	Notice	Interpret event	Taking responsibility	Decide to help	Provide help	sample
Distribution	80%	74%	62%	59%	56%	215
Prosocial Behavior in question:	Does the Spatial usage of your thinnai Facilitate you to help in way finding for a stranger					

❖ Note: Percentage distribution shows that Thinnai has higher significance in supporting prosocial behavior of the inhabitants .

TABLE - 2

Stages of the Helping behavior model	Notice	Interpret event	Taking responsibility	Decide to help	Provide help	sample
Distribution	77%	71%	60%	51%	44%	215
Prosocial Behavior in question:	Does the Spatial usage of your Thinnai facilitate you to return the dropped wallet to the possessor					

TABLE-3

Stages of the Helping behavior model	Notice	Interpret event	Taking responsibility	Decide to help	Provide help	sample
Distribution	78%	74%	59%	50%	41%	215
Prosocial Behavior in question:	Does the Spatial usage of your Thinnai facilitate you in helping to return the lost Voters Identity card to the card holder.					

TABLE-4

Stages of the Helping behavior model	Notice	Interpret event	Taking responsibility	Decide to help	Provide help	sample
Distribution	82%	76%	73%	70%	70%	215
Prosocial Behavior in question:	Does the Spatial usage of your Thinnai facilitate you in helping to carry domestic load for a stranger.					

Phase-II

TABLE-5

		Prosocial Behaviors				
Range of scores		Way finding	Lost wallet	Lost voters ID	Carry domestic load	sample
20-15	strong	73%	57%	58%	71%	215
14-10	Moderate	19%	25%	23%	18%	215
09-05	weak	5%	10%	11%	6%	215
04-0	Insignificant	3%	8%	8%	5%	215
Physical setting for investigation		Spatial usage of Thinnai (House front sit –out)				

Range of Scores;

20-15	-	Strong in prosocial behavior
14-10	-	Moderate in prosocial behavior
9 - 4	-	Low in prosocial behavior
3 - 0	-	Insignificant in prosocial behavior

Note: Percentage distribution shows that thinnai has higher significance in supporting Helping behavior of the occupants specifically on wayfinding and carrying the domestic load

This study has come out with guidelines based on the findings under essential issues of the prosocial behavior that has been suggested below in order to improve the existing situation:

8. Findings :

The results of this study evidently supports the fur research Hypothesis made for the investigation. Further with 73% of the sample involved in helping others because of Thinnai in their house and 71% of the sample involved in helping the neighbors for carrying domestic load clearly suggest that there is a definite causal connection between the built environment and the helping behavior of the inhabitants for specific behaviors in question and overall, thus spatial usage and physical attributes of Thinnai (house front sit-out) proves to be the driver in promoting prosocial behavior of the occupants in this context.

8.1. Conclusions:

Although this study is done in a traditional settings context, the results indicate that the Built environment can facilitate or constrain prosocial activity. Likewise, the built environment can be structured in ways that give people more or fewer opportunities and choices to be prosocially active. The characteristics of the built environment that facilitate or constrain prosocial activity may differ depending on the purpose of the activity. for example: ready access to outdoor environment – streets, neighbors and in our daily routine which in turn improves social well being in the community depending upon the scale of the built environment.

Built environments that facilitate more social activity and reduce barrier to social interaction are desirable because of the positive relationship between prosocial behavior and social well being .Opportunities to increase pro social activities levels exist in many settings at home, at work, at school, in travel and in leisure; the built environment has the potential to influence prosocial behavior in each of these settings.

The author believes that research on the relationship between built environment and prosocial behavior is at a pivotal stage. These types of investigations are highly adaptive in nature and paves way to carry out similar studies in urban context depending on the type of pro social

behavior and the built setting. The number of investigators and studies are growing rapidly: Nowadays, interdisciplinary approaches are being encouraged; and technologies such as the global positioning system and geographic information systems, and closed circuit television, system are now available to provide and link more objective and detailed measures of both built environment and pro-social behavior levels in urban context too.

This empirical evidence designates built environment as a tangible casual agent in promoting prosocial behavior.

9. Future direction of research:

This research reveals that the importance of nurturing prosocial behavior among the residents warrant a strong and continuing research effort to further understand the relationship between the built environment and pro social behavior , if the field is to move forward , however different kinds of collaboration and research are needed . More interdisciplinary approach to research would help bring together the needed expertise of the public behavior, social psychologist, urban planners, architects, among others, the research found that the interdisciplinary character of its own membership shall greatly facilitate its understanding of the issues. A lot of longitudinal studies should be carried out in order to measure full range of prosocial behavior at different context like, semi-urban, urban and cosmopolitan. Likewise rapid-response capability to evaluate natural experiments. Intensification and expansion of national databases are essential if important causal connections are to be researched. Integrating prosocial activity is important for social well-being and instigating social support within the neighborhood. Built environment and its settings are the major catalyst in creating socially friendly environment at all levels of the neighborhood.

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APPENDIX –A

QUESTIONNAIRE FORMAT

Spatial usage of Thinnai in Way finding :

- 1) Do you think that the usage of your house thinnai facilitates visual access and enables to notice a stranger who lost his way ?

YES	NO
-----	----

2) Is your thinnai space helps you to interpret the event for helping a stranger in way finding?

YES	NO
-----	----

3) Does the physical attributes of your house thinnai facilitates you to take responsibility in helping stranger in way finding?

YES	NO
-----	----

4) Is the spatial configuration of your thinnai supports to decide upon offering help to stranger?

YES	NO
-----	----

5) Did you feel that Your Thinnai space has become a significant component in providing help to stranger?.

YES	NO
-----	----

Spatial usage of Thinnai in return of the dropped wallet :

1) Do you think that the usage of your house thinnai facilitates visual access and enables to notice a wallet dropped by a person walking on the street in the neighborhood.

YES	NO
-----	----

2) Is your thinnai space helps you to interpret the event for helping.the person?

YES	NO
-----	----

3) Does the physical attributes of your house thinnai facilitates you to take responsibility in helping others?

YES	NO
-----	----

4) Is the spatial configuration of your thinnai supports to decide upon offering help to others the neighbors ?

YES	NO
-----	----

5) Did you feel that Your Thinnai space has become a significant component in facilitating help to others?.

YES	NO
-----	----

Spatial usage of Thinnai in returning the lost voters ID:

1) Do you think that the usage of your house thinnai facilitates visual access and enables to notice the need for helping others to carry domestic load?

YES	NO
-----	----

2) Is your thinnai space helps you to interpret the event for helping.others?

YES	NO
-----	----

3) Does the physical attributes of your house thinnai facilitates you to take responsibility in helping others?

YES	NO
-----	----

4) Is the spatial configuration of your thinnai supports to decide upon offering help to others the neighbors ?

YES	NO
-----	----

5) Did you feel that Your Thinnai space has become a significant component in facilitating help to others?.

YES	NO
-----	----

Spatial usage of Thinnai in Helping to carry domestic load :

1) Do you think that the usage of your house thinnai facilitates visual access and enables to notice the need for helping others to carry domestic load?

YES	NO
-----	----

2) Is your thinnai space helps you to interpret the event for helping others?

YES	NO
-----	----

3) Does the physical attributes of your house thinnai facilitates you to take responsibility in helping others?

YES	NO
-----	----

4) Is the spatial configuration of your thinnai supports to decide upon offering help to others the neighbors ?

YES	NO
-----	----

5) Did you feel that Your Thinnai space has become a significant component in facilitating help to others?.

YES	NO
-----	----

Latané and Darley's Model of Helping Behavior

In order to provide help, one must:

Fig: 2

