

HARAMAYA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**SOCIAL INTERACTIONS AND SOCIAL TIES AMONG CONDOMINIUM
NEIGHBORHOODS: THE CASE OF HARARI REGION CONDOMINIUM SITE**

A Thesis Submitted to Haramaya University, Department of Sociology,

In Partial Fulfillment of MA Degree in Sociology

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APPROVAL SHEET

I hereby certify that I have supervise, read, and evaluated this thesis entitled “Social Interactions and Social Ties among Condominium Neighborhoods: The Case of Harari Region Condominium Sites ” I recommended this thesis be submitted for oral defense.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Ethiopian National Defense Force, whose unwavering support and discipline shaped my path and purpose.

STATEMENT OF THE AUTHOR

By my signature below, I declare and affirm that this thesis is my own work. I have followed all ethical and technical principles of scholarship in the preparation, data collection, data analysis and compilation of this Thesis. Any scholarly matter that is included in the Thesis has been given recognition through citation.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR

My name is Afework Demu Tura. I was born on September 7, 1983, in Ilu Ababor Zone, Ethiopia. I grew up in Selale Gohatsion, located in the Shewa region, where I spent most of my childhood and early years.

I began my education at Hosse Elementary School. For my secondary education, I attended Gohatsion High School from Grade 9 to Grade 10. Due to family challenges, I transferred to Akaki Comprehensive Secondary School, where I completed Grades 11 and 12.

After completing high school, I joined the Defense University in Bishoftu , where I earned a Diploma in Human Resource Management. Following this, I began my professional career by joining the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), where I was assigned to the Eastern Headquarters as military personnel.

Despite the demands of military life, I continued my education. I enrolled in the Continuing Education Program (CEP) In 1999 E.C at Haramaya University, Harar Campus, and successfully graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management in 2000 E.C. (Ethiopian Calendar).

Over the course of my career, I have proudly served in various roles within the Ethiopian National Defense Force. I currently hold the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, a position I earned through dedication, discipline, and a deep commitment to serving my country.

My journey, both in education and in service, reflects my belief in perseverance, responsibility, and lifelong learning. I am honored to have contributed to the defense and development of my nation, and I remain committed to upholding the values and duties entrusted to me.

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ABBREVIATIONS

FGD - Focus Group Discussion

HRSHA - Harari Regional State Housing Agency

IHDP - Integrated Housing Development Program

SNT - Social Network Theory

UN-Habitat - United Nations Human Settlements Programs

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Abstract

This research assesses the social interactions and relationships among residents of condominiums in Harar City, Ethiopia, created under the Integrated Housing Development Program (IHDP). As urbanization accelerates and high-rise condominiums become more common, traditional community dynamics are disrupted, raising concerns about social cohesion and neighborly connections. Using Social Network Theory and Symbolic Interactionism, this study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining surveys, focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and observational data and thematic analysis to understand how factors like demographics, culture, environment, and behavior influence social ties in these condominium settings . Findings from 170 survey participants indicate that while some residents manage to maintain family and neighborly bonds, levels of social trust, collaboration, and shared activities are notably low. The research highlights challenges such as poor building designs, noise issues, privacy concerns, increasing population density, and the social effects of khat consumption. Although traditional social organizations like iddir and Iqub still exist, their influence has diminished. In conclusion, the study finds that social connections in condominium neighborhoods are often weak and fragmented, lacking the continuity of earlier communal living arrangements. To address these issues, the research recommends policies that promote community-building initiatives, such as organizing social events and creating shared spaces. Additionally, inclusive urban planning should prioritize designs that enhance privacy while fostering interaction. Implementing participatory governance can also empower residents, encouraging them to take an active role in shaping their community. These measures aim to strengthen social ties in rapidly changing urban environments and promote a sense of belonging among residents.

Keywords: community dynamics, condominium, integrated housing development program, social interaction, social ties.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Urbanization is a global phenomenon defined by the rapid growth of cities, driven by population migration and natural increase. The phenomenon is real in terms of challenges, particularly in the area of housing demand and infrastructure construction. In Ethiopia, the challenges are particularly sharp with the population growth in the cities made worse by a shortage of land for expansion. The nation's housing industry has been unable to keep up with this increasing demand, and it has created a large housing deficit of between 900,000 and 1,000,000 units (Library, 2013) .

In reply, in 2004, the Ethiopian government initiated the Integrated Housing Development Program (IHDP) whose objective is to ease the housing shortage through the development of condominiums. The multi-story, high-density buildings purport to maximize land use, provide affordable housing, and address the growing number of urban residents. The 2019 UN-Habitat report, in addition, the program further offers home ownership, especially among residents who had lived in slum settlements, thereby increasing their living standards.

In Harar, while condominium housing brought visible improvements like better infrastructure and easy access to services the social implications of this transformation are as yet uncertain. Moving from informal neighborhood locations where people used to know one another extremely well and freely interacted with one another, to formal, and high-rise condominiums changed the manner in which people interact with one another. With these new circumstances, the familiarity and regular contact which previously dominated community life can be harder to maintain. Some residents can, therefore, find it difficult to form close relationships or feel as much at home as before in their previous surroundings this study aimed to examine such social changes in the context of the Harari region's project districts in Harar city. It aimed in particular to understand how the establishment of the IHDP and condominium neighborhoods impacted social interaction and relationships among residents. The study examined how changes in residential conditions impacted community relationships, the creation of new social networks, and the extent to which such condominiums promoted or restricted social integration.

Social factors are determinants of urban housing scheme success because social cohesion is directly proportional to the quality of life in the neighborhoods. Previous research (Megerssa, 2020); (Brief, 2022) has suggested that social interactions and community ties are closely linked with the mental and emotional stability of the inhabitants, which contributes significantly to the overall livability of cities. It is not just required to comprehend these social changes to consolidate the success of the IHDP, but also to promote social stability, cohesion, and integration in the urbanizing areas rapidly.

In urban areas like Harar, where urbanization is progressing quickly, such social processes are yet to emerge and therefore ought to be researched. It is the intention of this research to have an understanding of how urban housing plans can bring more integrated social relationships and neighborhood participation so that such plans react not only to the physical housing demand of urban dwellers but also help build the social life of neighborhoods.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Social interactions and ties appear to be marginalized in contemporary urban neighborhoods (Donald, 1985). Numerous studies have found that technology has altered the nature of urban neighborhood social ties such as communication and transportation. Because of the growing number of relationships outside the neighborhood, local neighborhood social ties may be losing importance. Such interactions are affected by problems such as safety, density, crowdedness, proximity, traffic volume, and a lack of homogeneity in lifestyle, life-cycle, and background among neighbors (Appleyard, & Lintell, , 1972). However, proximal neighborhoods still have a very important place in many people's lives (Unger, 1985)

Many studies have been conducted in the world on the social aspects of modern city residential areas. According to these studies, social interaction is an essential component of a community. Daily social interaction contributes significantly to the richness and vibrancy of social life. It can also boost people's happiness and well-being. In terms of social interaction in the neighborhood, the built environment can play an important role in

inviting residents to come outside their private territories and, as a result, support communication among residents (Argent, 2008).

As urban populations continue to grow and space is limited, vertical buildings play an important role in the city development. Specific studies on high-rise apartment buildings, however, conclude that they ignore their residents' needs and lifestyle habits (Hubbard, 2004) (Parker, ., & Wood,, 2013). Moreover, this building have caused a variety of issues, including behavioral issues, helplessness, poor social relations, mental health issues, and hampered child development (Gifford, 2007b). Crowding in high-rise buildings makes it difficult to control social interaction potentially isolating people from one another (Evans, , Wells,, & Moch, , 2003), As a result, people who live in high-rise buildings are thought to have weaker social relationships, either with their neighbors or with outsiders (Gifford,2007b).This also supported by the study conducted in America Georgia focused on neighborhood social interaction using public housing residents' relocations found that relocated residents have lower social interaction than previous settings (Christopher, 2012). Similarly, another study found that social interaction and ties between condominium housing residents are low due to a lack of social awareness in the community of relocated residents on how to use social value and neighborhood communication techniques in relocated residents (Wosenyelsh, 2017)

Despite the fact that previous researches have looked at the relationship between high-rise neighborhoods and social interaction and social ties (Kearns, , Whitley, , Mason, ., & Bond, , 2012); (Ghosh, & Research,, 2014); (Danielski, , Petzold, , R  ther, , & Rohde, 2016), little attention has been paid to factors that influence the social interaction and social ties in this living environment. These studies have focused on the significance of spatial and environmental aspects of neighborhoods, but they have not provided a detailed assessment of the relationship between socio-economic and demographic characteristics with their living environments, as well as the impact they have on social interaction and ties. Furthermore, the majority of recent studies on apartment buildings have focused on the physical characteristics of living environments, such as sustainable apartment design (energy efficiency, design and spatial structure) (Ha, 2018) ; (Nguyen, , Reiter, , & Buildings,, 2012); , apartment living and fire safety (Vong, 2019), housing satisfaction in apartment buildings and its correlates (Nguyen, 2018); (Choi, 2014)

While residing in a condominium in Harar, the researcher observed distinctions in social interactions and ties between condominium neighborhoods and traditional neighborhoods. Despite Ethiopia's cultural diversity, many neighborhoods exhibit commonalities in their social dynamics. As a result, the researcher seeks to explore nature of condominium neighborhoods and factors that influence social relationships among them. Besides the physical aspects of the condominiums, cultural practices and traditions can play a role in shaping community spaces. However, there is still a lot we do not know about how specific elements affect social interactions and ties in condominium communities, particularly in the Harar context.

Although previous empirical studies provided valuable insights into social interaction phenomena (Abenezer, 2019); (Christopher, 2012); (Khalil, 2016); (Lindsay, 2022); (Matthew, 2003); (Wosenyelesh, 2020)), there were notable limitations in terms of fully understanding the factors influencing social ties and interactions in specific settings. Most of these studies either offer a broad exploration of social interactions or focus on general neighbourhood contexts without accounting for the unique dynamics present in condominium environments. They fail to adequately explore how such as shared spaces, and community management affect the nature and strength of social interactions and ties among residents. Furthermore, previous researches often overlook the specific socio-cultural context of regions like Harar city, which may have distinct influences on social cohesion. Most of the literature also lacks a focused investigation into how these condominium-specific factors, such as proximity and the potential for shared experiences, influence the development of social networks within these urban spaces. As such, the gaps in the current literature include the need for a deeper understanding of the unique dynamics of social interaction in condominium settings, especially in Harar, and an exploration of factors that either foster or hinder social cohesion in these residential environments.

This study aimed to bridge these gaps by providing a focused analysis of the nature of social interactions and ties among condominium residents in Harar city. By examining factors such as the physical layout of the condominium, shared communal areas, and local socio-cultural influences, the study seeks to uncover the specific elements that influence social engagement in this context.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General objective

The general objective of this study was to assess the nature of social interactions and social ties among residents of condominium sites in Harar City and the factors that influence them.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- Asses the nature of social interactions and ties
- Examine the changes and continuities in social interactions and ties; and
- Identify major factors that affect social interactions and ties

1.4 Research Question

The basic research questions of the study are the following.

1. What is the nature of social interaction and ties?
2. Which aspects of social interactions and ties evolved over time and which ones have remained unchanged?
3. What are the major factors that affect social interactions and ties?

1.5 The Scope of the Study

This research focused on investigating social interactions, social ties, and the social dynamics within condominium housing in Harar, Ethiopia. The study assesses the factors that influence social interaction and ties among residents in these high-density living environments, especially those who have moved from informal settlements to more structured, high-rise condominiums as part of the Integrated Housing Development Program (IHDP).

Study Area: The research was conducted in the condominium neighbourhoods of Harar City.

Target Population: The study specifically targeted residents of condominium buildings in Harar, focusing on the social dynamics, cohesion, and integration within these newly established housing areas.

Conceptual Scope: The study centred on social interactions, social ties, and community cohesion within condominium neighbourhoods. It aimed to identify the various factors influencing social relationships among condominium residents, including socio-economic background, demographic features, building design, and cultural influences. The emotional attachment of residents to their communities and the role of communal spaces in facilitating social interaction were also explored.

Theoretical Framework: The research applied Social network theory and Symbolic Interactionism to analyze how community engagement, trust, and social networks are built and maintained. These frameworks help explain how social interactions shape individuals' sense of belonging and integration within their condominium communities.

Time Frame: The study took place from March 23, 2024, to Sep 25, 2025.

1.6 Limitations

Due to time and financial constraints, the study focused solely on the condominium neighbourhoods of Harar and did not extend to other urban areas in Ethiopia. Another limitation lies in the reliance on self-reported data from surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions. While these methods provide valuable insights into residents' perspectives, they are subject to biases such as selective memory, exaggeration, or reluctance to disclose sensitive information particularly on issues like *khat* consumption or neighborhood conflicts. Although efforts were made to include diverse residents across socio-demographic groups, some populations such as transient tenants, informal workers, and women with heavy household responsibilities were less represented in data collection. Their limited participation may have constrained the comprehensiveness of the findings.

1.7 Significance of the study

This research is of paramount importance as it sheds light on the implications of urban housing policies and the social fabric of emerging neighborhoods. The study aims to assess these dynamics by examining how living in condominiums influences social interactions, community engagement, and overall satisfaction among residents, thereby informing urban planning and housing policies to foster more cohesive communities

1.8 Operational Definitions of Key Terms

Social interaction: For this particular study, social interaction involves social relationships that exist among the residents of condominium housing in Harar town and various ways residents engage and communicate with each other.

Social ties: Social ties in a condominium setting are the connections created among residents. These ties can range from casual acquaintances to close friendships and can significantly impact the sense of community and overall living experience.

Factors affecting social interactions and ties: For this particular study, factors refer to variables that can either facilitate or hinder the development of strong social interactions and ties among residents. These are socioeconomic, demographic, cultural and spatial etc.

Nature of social interactions and ties: According to this particular study, this notion refers to the quality and characteristics of the relationships and connections between individuals within a community or group. It involves how people engage with each other, the frequency and depth of these interactions, and the emotional, social, or functional bonds they develop over time. Social interactions can be either strong (characterized by close relationships, frequent communication, mutual support, and trust) or weak (marked by limited engagement, infrequent communication, and a more superficial level of connection).

1.9 Organization of the Thesis

There are five parts in this thesis. The first part begins with introductory outlines in which an overview of the topic is presented, followed by a description of the problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, and scope of the study. The second part is a review of related literature, and the third part is an outline of the research methodology. The fourth part is result and discussion and the final part is summary, conclusions and recommendations.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This literature review aims to assess social interactions and social ties within condominium neighborhoods, focusing specifically on Harar, Ethiopia. The review synthesizes existing literature to identify gaps in knowledge regarding how social dynamics operate in these settings and to clarify the factors influencing these interactions.

2.2 Understanding the Concept of Social Interaction and Ties

Social interaction encompasses the ways individuals communicate and collaborate within their communities. It is essential for fostering a sense of belonging and improving overall quality of life. In condominium settings, where residents share common spaces, understanding the nature of these interactions becomes crucial for community cohesion.

(Putnam, 2000) emphasizes the significance of social networks in our lives, stating, “Social networks are important in all our lives, often for finding jobs, more often for finding a helping hand, companionship, or a shoulder to cry on” (Putnam, 2000). This personal experience reflects the types of social relationships that individuals cultivate. Researchers argue that everyone requires additional support to develop these networks, which can be instrumental in facilitating access to employment opportunities, housing options, and companionship.

According to (Matthew *et al.*, 2003). , social interaction is defined as the way individuals coexist in a well-organized and healthy manner. Society can be characterized as a self-sustaining group of individuals inhabiting a relatively defined territory, engaging in systematic interactions, and possessing distinct cultural practices and institutions. The study revealed that detached houses, which are not physically connected to neighboring homes, offer expansive outdoor spaces. Furthermore, these residences provide residents with a level of independence and privacy that is often not achievable in condominium housing (Matthew *et al.*, 2003).

Society is defined as any self-perpetuating human grouping occupying a relatively bounded territory that interacts systematically and has its own culture and institutions. The city can be seen as serving a specific function in that it allows people to experience social diversity and gain a better understanding of one another by sharing the same space

(Mathew, Understanding community and interaction in urban society, 2003); (Sergio, , Marco, , & Francesco, 2018); (Tassinari, 2004); (Zerihun, 2005).

Housing is the most basic need of people to build social institutions in society. Condominium housing is a collective term for the public service provision of decent and safe, subsidized shelter for eligible low-income families or other vulnerable groups in a society, such as the elderly and people with disabilities. The concept of the condominium is a type of joint ownership of housing on a limited amount of land. Housing is the living accommodations available to the residents of a community (Belinda, 2011); (Dana, 2014); (UN-Habitat, Affordable land and housing in Africa. United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2011).

A social tie refers to the connection or relationship between two distinct actors, particularly in the context of neighborhood effects that foster increased interpersonal relationships. Specifically, it denotes the relationship between individuals residing within the same community. Theories regarding social networks and neighborhood effects posit that these social ties serve as a mechanism through which individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds are adversely affected by their living conditions in impoverished neighborhoods (Wasserman, , & Faust, 1994).

Research indicates that the dynamics of social ties can significantly influence individual behaviors and outcomes, particularly in contexts where neighborhood conditions are detrimental. For instance, studies have shown that residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods often experience weakened social cohesion, which can lead to increased antisocial behavior (Browning, 2004); (Rountree, , & Warner, , 1999). This relationship underscores the importance of social ties in mediating the negative impacts associated with living in such environments (Lindsay, 2022)

Nature of Social Interaction and Ties in a Condominium Neighborhood

Condominiums often feature unique spatial configurations that can influence social interactions among residents. Many condominiums are designed with community spaces intended to foster social engagement; however, the effectiveness of these spaces varies. For example, (Bandara, 2020) found that community spaces in luxury condominiums in Colombo have a limited impact on promoting meaningful social interactions among residents. This suggests that while physical spaces may exist for interaction, they do not necessarily translate into strong social ties.

The phenomenon of gated communities, which includes many condominiums, has been associated with social segregation. Research indicates that residents of gated condominiums often experience limited interactions with their neighbors due to physical barriers and differing lifestyles (Davidson, 2010). In Bangkok, for instance, condominiums situated in older residential areas were found to maintain significant social and symbolic divisions between residents of different socioeconomic backgrounds (Wissink, , & Hazelzet,, 2016). These divisions can hinder the development of a cohesive community atmosphere.

Open spaces within condominium developments play a crucial role in facilitating social interaction. (Carr, 1992)Emphasize that well-designed public spaces can enhance community life by providing opportunities for engagement and relaxation. However, the quality and accessibility of these spaces are critical. (Moughtin,, & Mertens,, 2003)Argue that the spatial configuration of urban environments significantly affects human exchange and community dynamics. Inadequate or poorly designed open spaces may limit resident interactions, leading to weak social ties.

Social interaction informs residents about their neighbors and the social structure of the community, thereby supporting the primary process in the development of neighborhood communities; (Grannis, 2009). This, in turn, creates friendship patterns and social connections, as well as community rules (Pretty, ., & Ward,, 2001). People can feel socially integrated with a certain level of social interaction, which can reduce feelings of loneliness. According to (Chile, 2014), the main cause of social isolation for inner-city high-rise apartment residents is a lack of social contact with other members of the community (Black, 2014). Neighborhood contacts, according to scholars, can improve social cohesion and a sense of community (Reid, 2015); (Kelly, 2012); (Lewicka, 2010a), life satisfaction, and social well-being; (Weijs-Perrée, 2017). Interacting with neighbors, such as exchanging interests or having small talk, has been shown to improve people's happiness, health, and well-being (Delmelle, , Haslauer., & Prinz, 2013)). Cultural factors also shape the nature of social interactions in condominium neighborhoods. For example, in São Paulo, residents valued the isolation provided by gated condominiums, indicating a preference for privacy over community engagement (Caldeira, 2000). Similarly, in Hong Kong, younger households prioritized familial bonds over neighborhood ties, resulting in weak connections among condominium residents (Forrest, 2002). These cultural

preferences highlight the variability in how individuals perceive and engage with their neighbors.

Integrated Housing Development Program (IHDP) has brought about significant changes in the urban living environment in Ethiopia, specifically for condominium housing residents in cities like Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, and Harar. The program was intended to enhance the housing situation, but it has, unintentionally, while doing so, eroded the strong sense of community that used to exist in informal settlements (UN-Habitat, 2010) ; (Gebremariam, 2016). In these new housing environments, social bonding is being tested by such things as noise pollution, overcrowding, lack of privacy, and differences in behavior such as public chewing of khat (Tegen,, & Melese, 2019) . All these factors have been unfavorable for neighbors in the establishment of close relationships. But older social institutions like Idir (funeral associations) and Iqub (rotating savings group) assist in bringing people together, albeit their strength is somewhat diluted in the condominium environment (UNDP, 2014) ; (Gebremariam, 2016) . Still, strong ties among relatives and the tradition of visiting neighbors aid in preserving some level of socialization (Tegen, , & Melese, 2019) .

2.3 Factors Influencing Social Interaction and Social Ties among Condominium Neighborhoods

The architectural design and spatial configuration of condominiums play a crucial role in shaping social interactions among residents. Research indicates that proximity to neighbors, the arrangement of communal spaces, and the presence of shared amenities significantly affect the frequency and quality of social interactions. For instance, (Bouma, , & Voorbij, 2009) found that physical characteristics such as the division of space, buffer zones between private and communal areas, and accessibility to communal facilities can either facilitate or hinder social engagement within cohousing communities. Similarly, (Wosenyelesh, 2020) noted that poorly designed condominium layouts could negatively impact residents' social interactions by limiting opportunities for spontaneous encounters.

Individual factors such as age, lifestyle, and mobility also influence social ties in condominium settings. Older adults often rely more heavily on neighborhood interactions for social support (Völker,, & Flap,, 2007). The availability of transportation options can affect residents' mobility, thereby impacting their likelihood of engaging with neighbors (Kowald, 2013). For example, individuals with longer commuting times may have less

time available for local interactions, leading to weaker social ties (Delmelle, 2013). Furthermore, personal preferences for privacy or communal living can dictate the extent to which individuals engage with their neighbors (Caldeira, 2000) .

The social fabric of condominium neighborhoods is also shaped by community dynamics, including the turnover rate of residents and the presence of formal associations. In some cases, high turnover rates can lead to fragmented communities where long-term relationships are difficult to establish (Hickman, 2013) (Bouma, , & Voorbij,, 2015)highlighted that the transient nature of residents often results in diminished communal bonds and a decline in traditional forms of mutual aid. Conversely, stable communities with active resident associations tend to foster stronger social ties through organized events and shared responsibilities (Williams, 2005)

Cultural backgrounds significantly influence how residents interact within condominium neighborhoods. For instance, research conducted in Ethiopia revealed that new condominium residents exhibit more individualistic behaviors compared to their previous communal living situations (Wosenyelesh, 2020) .This shift towards individualism can reduce opportunities for social interaction and weaken community ties. Additionally, cultural norms regarding privacy and neighborly engagement can dictate how residents choose to interact with one another.

2.4 Theoretical Framework of the Study

2.4.1 Social Networks Theory (SNT)

Social Network Theory (SNT) is crucial for understanding social interactions and relationships within condominium communities. It highlights the significance of social connections in shaping individuals' lives and well-being (Study.com, 2024), In the context of high-density living environments like condominiums, SNT helps explain how the nature and structure of social networks influence residents' engagement with one another and their sense of belonging within the community (Putnam, 2000) .

SNT offers valuable insights into how condominium residents form and maintain social networks. The strength and closeness of these networks directly affect residents' social behaviour and the overall community dynamic. When social ties are strong, they help build a supportive and stable community atmosphere. However, when the networks are more

fragmented, residents may experience weaker social bonds, which can result in feelings of isolation and disengagement, ultimately affecting their emotional health and access to important resources like housing, employment, and social support (Bourdieu, 1986) .

2.4.2. Social capital and Reciprocity in Condominium Communities

A central element of SNT is social capital, which refers to the benefits people derive from their social networks, such as emotional support, job leads, and help with daily tasks (Putnam, 2000). In condominium settings, social capital is essential for creating a sense of community and fostering mutual support among residents. It enables individuals to rely on their networks for assistance, enhancing both personal and collective well-being.

Another key concept in SNT is *reciprocity*, which involves the mutual exchange of help and trust, forming the foundation of strong relationships. In condominium communities, reciprocal exchanges strengthen the social fabric and contribute to the overall health of the community. When residents engage in give-and-take relationships, they not only benefit themselves but also help maintain a cohesive and supportive environment for everyone.

2.4.3. Impact of Social Networks and the Physical Environment on Social interaction and Ties

SNT also emphasizes how both physical surroundings and social norms influence relationships. In condominiums, the design of shared spaces and the proximity between residents play a crucial role in enabling social interactions. Well-designed communal areas promote socializing, which in turn strengthens the social networks and sense of community. The physical layout, along with the ability for residents to interact easily, shapes the dynamics of social ties.

Moreover, SNT suggests that social networks in condominiums are influenced not just by physical proximity but by the social norms and behaviours that emerge in the community. This study will explore how the design of living spaces, along with the social interactions and engagement of residents, contributes to the formation of supportive networks and strong community bonds (Putnam, 2000). The findings will offer a deeper understanding of how the physical and social environment intersects to shape social relationships within condominium communities.

2.5. Symbolic Interactionism

Symbolic Interactionism is a sociological approach that focuses on the meanings people create and communicate through their social interactions. It emphasizes how individuals form their self-concept and understand their surroundings through relationships with others (Blumer, 1969). In condominium communities, this theory helps to explain how residents interpret their social environment, build relationships, and shape community dynamics based on their interactions and shared meanings.

2.5.1. Social Interactions in Condominium Communities

Symbolic Interactionism is highly useful in understanding the behaviours and relationships within condominium communities. This theory suggests that people attach meanings to their interactions, which in turn influence how they act and react in their social spaces. For example, residents' perceptions of their neighbours' behaviours whether they are warm, distant, or neutral can significantly affect how they interact. People are likely to respond according to how they perceive and interpret these social cues (Goffman, 1959). In a condominium setting, the nature of these interactions is influenced by factors such as physical proximity, shared activities, or mutual responsibilities. These perceptions and behaviours determine whether residents develop a sense of connection and cooperation or experience feelings of alienation (Blumer, 1969). Symbolic Interactionism reveals how individuals actively shape their social reality through their interactions, which can either promote a sense of belonging or hinder strong social ties.

2.5.2. Identity and Social Roles in Condominium Communities

Symbolic Interactionism also helps to understand how individuals construct their social identities and roles within condominium communities. According to this theory, people see themselves and others through the roles they assume in their social contexts (Goffman, 1959). For example, a resident might view themselves as a "community organizer" or as someone who regularly attends neighbourhood gatherings. These roles not only influence their own behaviour but also shape how others respond to them, impacting the social structure of the condominium community.

In condominium settings, residents' identities are formed through their interactions with neighbours, and these roles may evolve depending on how they engage with the community. If residents feel disconnected from the shared symbols and social norms, they may become less involved in community.

2.5.3. Building Social Cohesion

A key idea within Symbolic Interactionism is the role of shared symbols and meanings in fostering social cohesion. In condominium communities, communal events and shared symbols like neighbourhood activities or common spaces serve as opportunities for residents to build stronger bonds. These interactions help create a collective understanding of what community life means and can enhance the sense of belonging (Blumer, 1969).

As residents interact and share common experiences, they form collective meanings that influence their behaviour and relationships. These shared understandings help establish the neighbourhood's identity, promoting unity or, in some cases, division (Goffman, 1959).

2.6. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework illustrates whether condominium neighbourhoods exhibit strong or weak social interactions and ties. It is adapted and modified from (Anderson, 1995)socio-behavioural model. In this context, these neighbourhoods can display either weak or strong social interactions or connections. Social relationships are shaped by a variety of factors, including individuals' demographic characteristics, cultural influences, and their physical environments. These elements interact in complex ways, affecting how people connect, communicate, and build relationships with one another. Additionally, behaviours, social cohesion, and social support are identified as key attributes of neighbourhoods. Drawing from the literature review, the researcher has developed the conceptual framework for the study as follows.

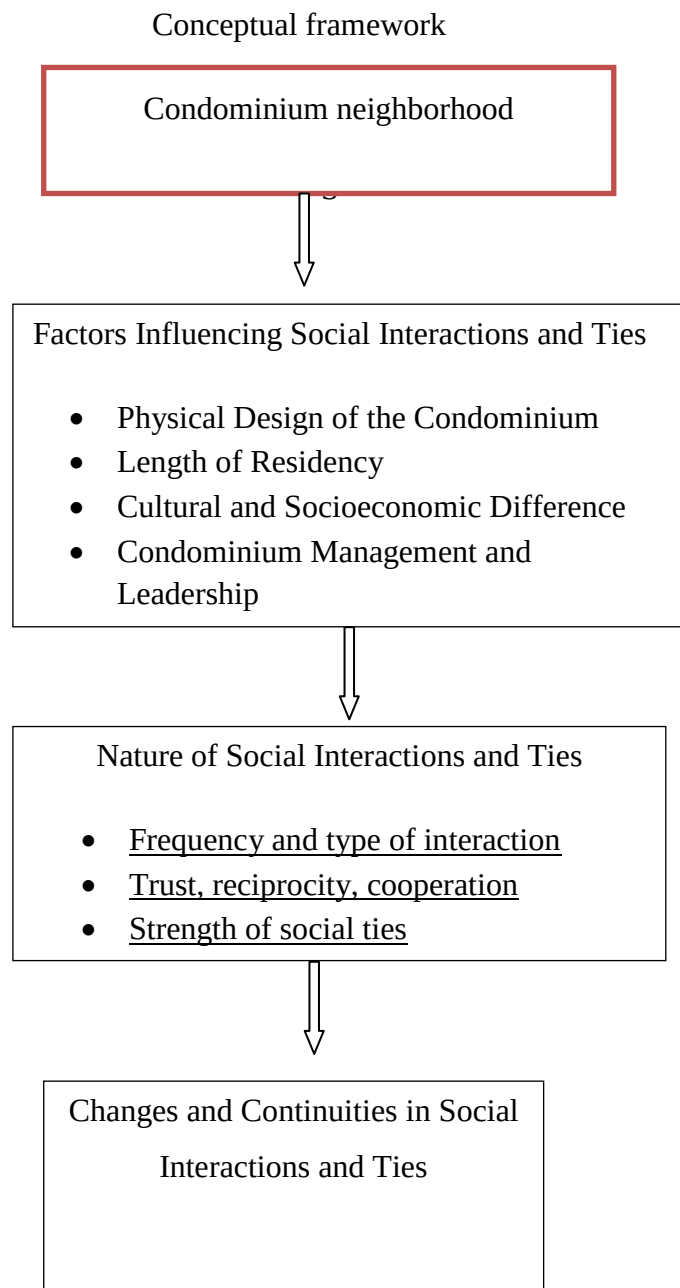


Figure 1: Conceptual framework.

Source: Developed by the researcher from the literature review

✚ Independent variables

- ✓ Physical Design of the Condominium
- ✓ Length of Residency
- ✓ Cultural and Socioeconomic Difference
- ✓ Condominium Management and Leadership

✚ Dependent variables

- Frequency and type of interaction
- Trust, reciprocity, cooperation
- Changes and Continuities in Social Interactions and ties

2.4.2 Discussion of the Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for understanding social interactions and social ties among residents in condominium neighborhoods revolves around several key factors that are closely linked. At the center of this framework are the independent variables that significantly shape the social environment. One of the most important factors is the design of the buildings. When architectural layouts lack communal spaces or create isolated areas, they can really limit opportunities for residents to connect with one another. This issue is further compounded by isolation from neighbors, where physical barriers like walls and fences restrict casual encounters. Many residents also express privacy concerns, often valuing their personal space over socializing, which can lead to fewer interactions and weaker community bonds. Additionally, noise levels in these settings can greatly affect daily life; high noise from traffic or shared areas can disrupt comfort and make residents less inclined to reach out to their neighbors.

These independent variables have a direct impact on the dependent variables, which reflect the outcomes of social interactions. The nature of these interactions can vary widely; some residents may engage in frequent, lighthearted conversations, while others might develop deeper, more meaningful relationships. The presence of trust, reciprocity, and cooperation among residents is crucial, as building trust creates a supportive atmosphere that strengthens social ties. Furthermore, examining how these interactions change over time provides valuable insights. The changes and continuities in social interactions reveal how community dynamics can shift, especially for those transitioning from informal living situations to more structured environments.

In essence, this framework illustrates the intricate relationship between environmental factors and social connections. It helps us understand the various elements that influence how residents engage with one another and support each other, ultimately enhancing the overall quality of their social experience in condominium living.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Description of the Study Area

Harar, a city with deep historical importance in eastern Ethiopia, is located 525 km east of Addis Ababa. The population of Harar is estimated to range between 200,000 and 250,000, made up of various ethnic groups such as the Oromo, Amhara, and Harari and others. Over time, the population has grown due to both natural growth and migration (Population., 2021) . The city is divided into Jugol, the historic old town, and the modern city. Jugol, which is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is known for its traditional stone walls and historic buildings. The modern section of the city, developed during the Italian occupation (1928-1933), features contemporary housing, including modern condominium buildings (Abenezer, Housing and urban development in Harar during the Italian occupation (1928–1933): A historical analysis, 2019) .

Harar's housing landscape is a mixture of traditional and modern structures. Older areas, particularly in Jugol, contain small, traditional homes made from local materials, often lacking adequate space and modern infrastructure. In contrast, newer areas on the outskirts of Harar include modern housing developments, such as apartment complexes and larger houses. Despite this, informal housing remains common due to the rapid expansion of the city (Plan, 2019) . These areas, especially the older ones, also struggle with overcrowding and limited access to basic services like water and sanitation (Report, 2020).

The city is currently experiencing a significant phase of urban transition, with rapid growth and development. However, this expansion has led to issues like informal settlements, a lack of proper urban planning, and strain on infrastructure. Furthermore, there are challenges in balancing the city's modernization with the preservation of its cultural heritage, especially given that Harar is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (UNESCO., 2018) .

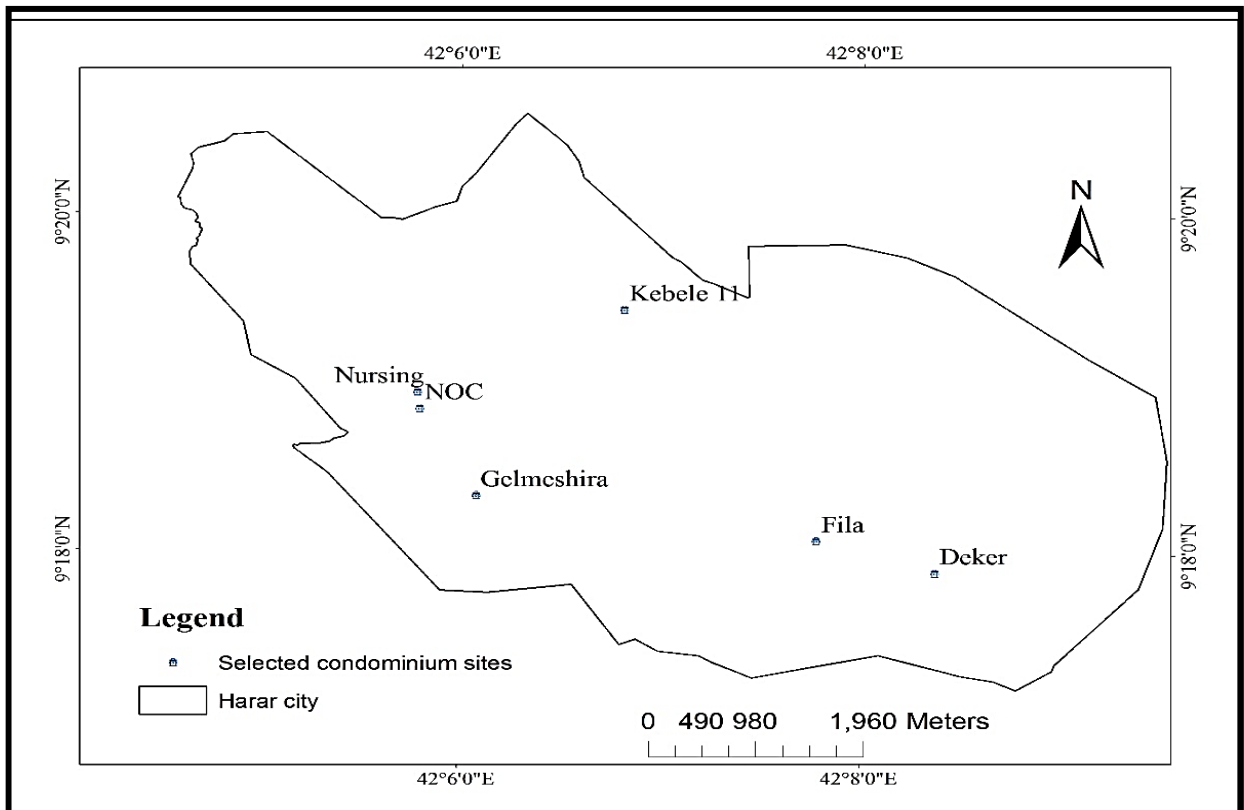


Figure 1 Map of Harar city and selected condominium sites

Source: Ethiopian Mapping Agency (2019),_cited in Abenezer (2019:9).

3.2 Research Design and Approach

3.2.1 Research Design

A research design is a master plan of the research as it helps guide the research process in addressing the research objectives. It identifies the methods and procedures to be applied in the collection and analysis of the data. The design serves as a framework or plan of action for conducting the research (Zikmund, 2012). For this research, thematic study design was used to assess the nature of social interactions and ties, and factors that affect them in the study area. It combines both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a well-rounded perspective on the research questions

3.2.2 Research Approach

A mixed research approach was used for this study. In a mixed research approach, data was gathered, analyzed and presented in the combination of both quantitative and qualitative method. Mixed research method (quantitative and qualitative) was used with more emphasis on quantitative as the leading method through close-ended questions.

Quantitative approach was emphasized because socioeconomic forms emerging in condo housing were better understood by collecting more quantitative data, in a formal, structured, and rigid manner. Additionally this method was particularly effective for analyzing measurable factors related to social interactions and the demographic characteristics of residents. Furthermore, the qualitative approach was incorporated in the study with information gained from in-depth interview, key informant interview, FGD and observation. Hence, it can help to validate and substantiate the quantitative data.

3.3 Study Population

According to data from Harari Regional State Housing Agency (2018), there are 1878 households residing in randomly selected 10 project sites. In order to maintain the representativeness of sample, the researcher made an attempt to include randomly selected households from the aforementioned sites, which critically played a pivotal role in generalizing the finding of the study.

3.3.1 Data Sources

Primary data: Firsthand data was collected from residents of selected condominium sites. These data sources are the actual research target group, and they served as primary sources. **Secondary data:** The researcher used secondary data obtained from different sources, such as books, encyclopedias, the findings of previous research work, academic journals, and public documents. These sources were consulted in order to review and make use of the theoretical and empirical body of knowledge of social interaction and social ties in condominium housing.

3.3.2 Sampling Size Determination For the quantitative data:

The sample size for the quantitative data was estimated using a Louis, Lawrence, & Keith (2000) formula. (Cohen,., Manion, ., & Morrison, , 2000) in our thesis context of determining sample size, it is most times for a formula related to sample size determination, especially for small population according to this formula the number of the sample size or number of population is less than 2,000 a reduction formula was so as to get the required sample size with 95% confidence level and 5% sampling error, the number of sample included in study was 170. Therefore, the study collected quantitative data from 170 people in HARAR condominium housing and the researcher (proportional allocated calculated sample size to selected project sites using single population proportion formula.

However, according to Louis, Lawrence, & Keith (2000), if the number of population is less than 2,000 (we can use a reduction formula so as to get the required sample size) with 95% confidence level and 5% sampling error, the number of sample included in study is 170. Therefore, the study collected quantitative data from 170 household HARAR condominium housing and the researcher decompose proportionally allocated calculated sample size to selected project sites.

we can use a reduction formula so as to get the required sample size.

$$n' = \frac{n}{1 + \left(\frac{n-1}{N}\right)}$$

$$n' = \frac{n}{1 + \frac{n-1}{N}}$$

$$n' = \frac{384}{1 + \frac{(384 - 1)}{320}}$$

Where n' = adjusted/final sample size,

n = first calculated sample size,

N = total study/source population

$n' = 170$, the study needed 170 households

According to Harari Regional State Housing Agency (HRSOA, 2018) report, the total number of Harar condominium house site is 14. Such as Deker site, kebele 16, Fila site, Noc site, Nursing site, Gelmeshira site, Feresenya site, Ras Mekonnen site, Keladambasite, kebele 17 site, Aboker site, Tena biro site, Shenkor site and kebele 11 site. From the total of 14 condominium sites, ten were included and simple random sampling method was wanted in selecting the sites that needed to be included in the study. Thus, the researcher used a random sampling technique. Out of 14 project sites, so as to ensure the representativeness of sample, a lottery method was employed to select 10 project sites due to time, unmanageability of data and budget limitation.

For the qualitative part: The sample size was determined based on data saturation and the diversity of opinions among study participants. Five group discussions (FGDs) with a total of 5–12 participants were held among selected dweller and leader of condo (who are chosen representative) and women and women the researcher is used mixed. Because those condominium leaders have known how about the social interactions and social ties problems while they are leading the condominium social events in case of problems and occasions than other dwellers for obtained deeply discussion. In-depth interview was conducted until no more new information can be collected and data saturation is reached.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

Simple random was used for selection of the site, the study has coded in the following manner in the form of a lottery system and then picked 10 of the project sites out of a total of 14 project sites, taking into account that each project site has a comparable feature

Table 1: Proportional distribution of sample size

S.N o.	Selected Site	Project Households	Calculation of sample proportional ($\times 170 / 1878$)	
1	Kebele 16	41	$(41 \times 170) / 1878$	4
2	Nursing	161	$(161 \times 170) / 1878$	15
3	Keladamba Kebele 11	/ 288	$(288 \times 170) / 1878$	27
4	RasMekonnen	68	$(68 \times 170) / 1878$	6
5	Tena Biro	45	$(45 \times 170) / 1878$	4
6	NOC	223	$(223 \times 170) / 1878$	21
7	Aboker	115	$(115 \times 170) / 1878$	11
8	Fila site	243	$(243 \times 170) / 1878$	23
9	Gelmeshira	562	$(562 \times 170) / 1878$	52
10	Feresegna	133	$(133 \times 170) / 1878$	12
				170

The sites and household selection methods

This section outlines the methods used for selecting condominium sites, buildings, and households for data collection. Multi-stage sampling approach was employed to ensure a comprehensive and representative selection process.

3.4.1 Site Selection:

The first step in the selection process was choosing condominium sites within the study area. Ten condominium sites were identified as potential locations for this study. A simple random selection method was used to choose one condominium site from this pool of ten, ensuring that every site had an equal chance of being selected. This approach minimized bias and increased the generalizability of the findings to similar condominiums in the area.

3.4.2 Building Selection:

Once the condominium site was selected, the next stage was choosing a building from within that site. To maintain objectivity and avoid any bias in the selection process, systematic sampling was used. The buildings within the selected site were numbered sequentially, and a random number generator or table was used to select one building.

3.4.3 Household Selection:

After selecting the building, the next step was to identify households for data collection. A simple random sampling method was employed to choose households within the selected building. Each apartment or unit in the building was assigned a number, and then, using a random number generator, a set number of households were selected for participation in the study. This random selection ensures that each household in the building has an equal probability of being included in the sample.

After the building was selected the researcher selected household deploying simple random sampling using the formula $n' = n/N$

Where:

- n' = number of households to be selected from a specific building,
- n = total sample size required for the study,
- N = total number of households in all selected buildings.

Overall, the sample size was determined to be 170 households, after applying the sample size reduction formula due to the relatively small total population

3.5 Methods/tools of Data Collection

3.5.1 Questionnaire

The Questionnaire was prepared based on the literature review and to help achieve the objectives of the study. The questionnaire contained three parts such as personal characteristics, -spatial and physical characteristics, social and cultural characteristics. To ensure a precise translation, the tool was -translated from-English to the local language (Afaan Oromo and Amharic) and back into English by different interpreters. Two days training was provided to the data collectors and supervisors on the data collection tool and the data collection procedures. Then, the questionnaire was pretested on 10% of the sample size out of the study area to ensure its validity. The purpose of the pre-testing is to ensure that whether respondents were able to understand the questions or not and to check the wordings, logical sequence, and skip patterns of the questions in a rational way to the respondents. Modification on the questionnaire was made accordingly after the pre-test. The researcher checked completeness of each questionnaire.

The survey employed a Likert scale with the following response options:

- 1 = Strongly Disagree,
- 2 = Disagree,
- 3 = Neutral,
- 4 = Agree,
- 5 = Strongly Agree.

Likert scales are widely used in social research because they enable participants to express varying degrees of agreement and allow for reliable statistical interpretation (Boone, ., & Boone, , 2012).

3.5.2 In-depth Interview

The researcher purposely picked this strategy since it allows for the collection of rich and detailed data on a problem from the perspective of the research participants. Furthermore, probing and follow-up questions were used as needed to clarify questions and improve knowledge. To ensure an efficient interview procedure, an unstructured interview guide and adaptable questions related to the specific study objectives were prepared. After getting the consent of the participants, the data was collected using voice recorder and transcribed in the process of analyzing the data.

3.5.3 Key informant interviews

Key informant interviews are a qualitative research method aimed at obtaining detailed insights from individuals with specialized knowledge or expertise on a particular topic, community, or issue. This approach seeks to understand the perspectives, experiences, and insights of the informants (Seidman, 2013); (Silverman, 2016). After securing consent from participants, data was collected using a voice recorder, which was then transcribed for analysis.

In this study, committee members were from condominium homeowners and other government offices. The interviews; specifically, two committee from each selected sites were interviewed, resulting in a total of 20 interviews. Those committee members from condominium homeowners had reach information related with condominium problem as a result of most condominium dwellers present their appeal when they face some problems in their site areas while the committee members from the government offices have more know how on how to regulate communal housing.

3.5.4 Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion was conducted for further checking of the information collected by other instruments and to make the data more reliable so as to give answer for the set of objectives of the research. Five focus group discussions (FGDs) with a total of 8–12 participants were held among selected dweller and leader of condo (who are chosen representative). FGDs took place in a place that is deemed secure for the study participants. The focus group discussion list of idea generating was prepared based on the objective of the research and literature review of the research study. In the discussion, the moderator created a free discussion without commenting each other's to increase the reliability of the data to be collected-. Based on the consent of the participants, the researcher used voice recorder during the FGD for further witnessing the data collected for analysis.

3.6 Methods of Data Analysis

This study utilized both quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze the factors influencing social interactions and social ties among condominium residents in Harar city. The data analysis involved statistical tools using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) for quantitative data, along with thematic analysis for qualitative data. Below is a detailed description of the data analysis methods used in this study.

3.6.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

In the quantitative data analysis, both descriptive were employed, including measures such as frequencies, percentage and mean.

The quantitative aspect of this study involved analyzing data collected from surveys administered to condominium residents. The survey to employed towards of various factors that influence social interactions and ties, including residents' socio-economic background, the design and layout of the condominium, social norms, and the quality of communal spaces. The analysis was performed using SPSS (Version 26.1) In addition to the quantitative data, this study involved qualitative data collected from in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, open-ended survey questions.

Descriptive analyses such as frequency distribution, percentage, frequency were used. It is crystal clear that descriptive research tries to explain the current state and investigate the causes of specific events (Travers, 1978) . Thus, frequency and percentage were mostly utilized to express the findings of the research and to demonstrate the nature of social interactions and ties and factors affecting it in the condominium neighborhoods of randomly selected project sites in the Harar city.

3.6.2 Qualitative Data Analysis

In terms of qualitative data analysis, a study used thematic data analysis based on emerging data. The recorded data were transcribed and translated. The translated data were then coded into various codes. Each code was divided into categories, which was then divided into themes.

3.7 Validity and Reliability

To ensure the accuracy and consistency of the findings:

Validity: The questionnaire was reviewed by experts in urban sociology and housing studies to confirm that the questions were relevant and aligned with the study's goals. A pilot test also helped improve the tool's clarity and structure.

Reliability: The internal consistency of the questionnaire was tested during the pilot phase using **Cronbach's Alpha**, and necessary adjustments were made to ensure the responses would be consistent across similar situations

3.8 Ethical considerations

The importance of providing accurate and correct information is also emphasized for the informants. Participation in the study was voluntary. On top of this, the researcher assured confidentiality of the respondents' survey sheets; and since the identities is not important, they are not required to give. And also, their risk and benefits of participating on the study was discussed. Participants were informed that they have full right to refuse participating in the research. They have the right to declare not to participate before and after the start of data collection.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This part discusses the findings of the study. The aim of the research was to assess living conditions in condominium housing settlements through the lens of social relationships and ties. To that aim, it looked at how such a neighborhood style may be a barrier or an opportunity for developing and maintaining social relationships and ties for a healthy neighborhood and community. The chapter is divided into four sections: the first section discusses the findings based on the socio demographic characteristics of the residents. The second section provides a description of how condominium housing settlement affects communities' social relationships and ties, which could be critical in promoting good neighborhoods; the third and fourth sections discuss the opportunities of condominium housing settlement for social relationships and ties and explore the views of neighborhoods.

4.2. Socio-Demographic Characteristic of Respondents

(i) Sex Distribution: The study sample consists of 170 respondents, among whom 100 (58.8%) are male and 70 (41.2%) are female. This indicates a slightly higher representation of males in the sample. Thus, the gender balance in the sample provides an opportunity to compare variations in how male and female residents establish, maintain, or experience social connections in condominium settings. The slight male dominance may also influence the findings, as men's social practices could appear more prominent, potentially under representing women's informal but crucial contributions to community cohesion

(ii) Marital Status: The marital status of respondents is categorized into three groups: married, single, and other (which may include widowed, divorced, or separated individuals). The findings reveal that the majority of respondents (116 or 68.2%) were married, followed by 39 (22.9%) who were single. The remaining 15 respondents (8.8%) fall into the 'other' category. This suggests that a significant proportion of the sample is engaged in long-term family commitments, which may influence household dynamics, and social interactions.

(iii) Family Size: Family size plays a essential role in determining household and social relationships. The results indicate that the majority of respondents (140 or 82.4%) belong to small families with 1–2 members. A smaller proportion (23 or 13.5%) has medium-sized

families comprising 3–5 members, while only 7 respondents (4.1%) belong to large families with 6 or more members. The prevalence of small families (1-2 members) among condominium inhabitants greatly affects social interactions and relationships. Smaller households might possess fewer internal social obligations, potentially limiting chances for intergenerational connections and shared household activities that typically reach into community engagement. The small size of families can lead to weaker connections in the neighborhood, as people may depend less on the social support from their homes and have fewer reasons to participate in community activities. In contrast, families with medium and large sizes typically create wider social networks through their children's play, school connections, and interactions with extended family, leading to enhanced ties with neighbors. Consequently, the prevalence of small families indicates that social connections in condominium environments might be more dispersed and personal compared to conventional Ethiopian neighborhoods, where larger households fostered greater community.

(iv) Type of Housing: Housing type is an essential indicator of economic status and living conditions. The findings show that the majority of respondents (105 or 61.8%) reside in single-apartment housing, while 59 (34.7%) live in two-apartment housing. A minor proportion of 6 respondents (3.5%) reported residing in other types of housing. The prevalence of single-apartment living suggests a preference or necessity for compact and economically viable housing solutions.

(v) Level of education; the study indicates that a significant proportion of the respondents have attained post-secondary education, with Diploma (34.7%) and Degree (34.1%) holders forming the largest groups.

(vi) Length of residency in condominium: This result shows that the majority of residents has lived in the condominium for more than six years (52.9%), while only 6 (3.5%) respondents have lived there for less than one year. This suggests that most residents are long-term occupants, which may have implications for community stability and social cohesion, and social interaction change and ties

Table 2. Socio-demographic Information

Socio-Demographic Variables	Category	Frequency	Percent
Sex	Male	100	41
	Female	70	59
Marital status	Married	116	68
	Single	39	25
	Other	6	7
Family size	1-2	140	82.35
	3-5	23	13.5
	6 and above	7	4.11
Level of education	Below 10 th completed	4	2.34
	10 th completed	9	5.26
	12 th completed	3	1.75
	Diploma	59	34.50
	Degree	58	34.50
	Master and above	37	21.64
Type of house respondent live in	One apartment	105	61.76
	Two apartment	59	34.70
	Other	6	3.52
Length of residency in condominium	Below 1 year	6	18.13
	1-3 year	31	25.15
	4-6 year	43	3.51
	Above 6	90	53.22

4.3. Nature of Social Interactions and Social Ties

Table 3. Nature of Social Interactions and Social Ties

No	ITEM	Response				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	I interact with my neighbours on a daily basis (e.g., greetings, small talk).	50	49	52	12	6
2	Most social ties in my neighbourhood are based on friendships.	20	42	53	40	15
3	Family relationships are the most common social ties in my neighbourhood.	62	35	48	18	7
4	Work-related connections form a significant part of my social ties with neighbours.	35	48	32	59	0
5	Trust and cooperation are commonly seen among residents in my condominium neighbourhood.	5	17	29	72	47

Note * 1 = Strongly Agree, 2 = Agree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Disagree, 5 = Strongly Disagree

Source: Own surveys, 2025

When it comes to the nature of social interactions and social connections that neighbors have within the neighborhood, it's a little bit more mixed. The high degree of interaction in some households was also shown by the fact that 50 members of those households felt that they talk to people in the community on an everyday basis. Another small percentage (49) kind agrees/ agreed, referring to normal interaction but not daily, and 52 are neutral, making that not a lot of social interaction remain the same.

The nature of social interaction and ties within a neighborhood, particularly those based on friendships, varies significantly among residents, as reflected in the survey results. A small number of respondents (20) strongly perceived their social ties as predominantly rooted in friendships, while a larger group (42) somewhat agreed, suggesting that while friendships play a role, they are not the sole foundation of social connections. A considerable portion (53) remains neutral, indicating uncertainty or indifference towards the prominence of friendships in shaping neighborhood interaction and ties. On the other hand, 40 respondents somewhat disagreed and 15 strongly disagree, pointing to the view that social relationships in their neighborhood are less dependent on friendship. These varying responses suggest that social interactions and ties in the neighborhood are multifaceted,

with friendship being an important but not universal factor in the formation of social interaction ties, reflecting the diversity of relational dynamics within the community.

The data on family relationships as the most common social ties in the neighborhood reveals a clear prominence of familial bonds within the condominium neighborhood community this increase social interaction. A substantial number of respondents (62) strongly agree that family relationships are the most common social ties, highlighting the importance of family in shaping social connections. An additional 35 respondents somewhat agree, suggesting that while family ties are central, other forms of social interactions also play a role. However, 48 respondents remain neutral, indicating no strong preference or certainty about the predominance of family interactions. Conversely, 18 respondents somewhat disagree and 7 strongly disagree, pointing to the presence of alternative social ties that may be more significant for some individuals. Overall, these findings suggest that while family relationships are dominant force in the social structure of the condominium neighborhood, a diversity of social ties exists, reflecting the varied ways in which individuals connect with their condominium neighborhood community.

The data on work-related connections forming a significant part of social ties with neighbors reveals that, while some individuals did perceive work connections as important, they are not a dominant feature in the neighborhood's social fabric. A total of 35 respondents strongly agreed that work-related relationship and ties are significant, and 48 somewhat agree, indicating that work can play a notable role in their relationships with neighbors. However, 32 respondents remain neutral, suggesting uncertainty or indifference towards the impact of work connections. A larger group of 59 respondents somewhat disagree, indicating that work-related ties are not a significant aspect of their social interactions. Interestingly, no respondents strongly disagree, which implies that work connections, to some extent, May still contribute to neighborhood social interaction and ties. Overall, the findings suggest that while work-related connections are present, they do not appear to be a central or defining feature of social relation and ties among the condominium neighborhood.

The result on trust and cooperation among residents in the condominium neighborhood reveals a significant divide in perceptions of social cohesion. While only 5 respondents strongly agree and 17 somewhat agree that trust and cooperation are commonly seen, a larger portion of the population holds a less optimistic view. With 29 respondents

remaining neutral, it suggests a lack of strong opinions or experiences regarding these qualities. Furthermore, 72 respondents somewhat disagree and 47 strongly disagree, highlighting that a majority of residents perceive a deficiency in trust and cooperation within their neighboring. These findings point to challenges in building a sense of unity and mutual support, indicating that fostering trust and cooperation may require focused efforts within the condominium neighborhood.

The findings are consistent with both local and international research. In Ethiopia, (Helina, 2018) observed that condominium residents in Addis Ababa relied heavily on family ties while experiencing weakened neighborhood trust and limited participation in collective activities. Similar results are reported by (Tewodros, 2015), who found that the physical design of condominiums often restricts informal interactions compared to traditional compounds. Internationally, studies in Asia (Forrest, & Yip, , 2007) and Latin America (Gilbert, 2012) also demonstrate that condominium housing tends to reduce neighborly ties, replacing broad communal networks with smaller, more individualized connections. However, some international studies, such as (Rosen, , & Walks, , 2015) in Canada, emphasize that condominium associations can sometimes foster community engagement when participatory governance structures are strong a finding that contrasts with the Ethiopian context. In relation to the theoretical framework, the findings partly align with both Social Network Theory and Symbolic Interactionism. From a Social Network Theory perspective, the dominance of family ties reflects the persistence of strong, “bonding” social capital, whereas the weakness of trust and cooperation illustrates the absence of “bridging” ties across diverse groups of residents. Symbolic Interactionism also helps explain these results: the meanings residents attach to their interactions whether as family obligations, casual friendships, or work-related exchanges shape how relationships are formed and sustained. The limited opportunities for shared symbols and rituals within the condominium setting (compared to traditional compounds with shared yards, festivals, and neighborhood gatherings) reduce the depth of neighborly relations. Thus, while the findings align with the theoretical expectation that spatial and cultural changes reshape social networks, they also highlight a gap between traditional communal practices and the emerging condominium lifestyle in Ethiopian context where such structures are weak or absent

4.4. Change and Continuities in Social Interactions and Social Ties

Table 4. Change and Continuities in social interactions and ties

No	Item	Response				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Social interactions in my neighbourhood have improved over time.	71	25	34	18	22
2	Specific events or changes influenced social interactions in my condominium.	66	12	75	9	8
3	The quality of social ties has remained consistent since I moved into the condominium.	28	14	25	89	14
4	Social activities have increased over time, helping to foster stronger ties among residents.	45	78	22	5	20
5	Traditional social organization like Iddir ,Iqub or Mahiber area available in current neighborhood.	54	61	30	20	5

Source: own survey, 2025

The data on the evolution of social interactions and ties in the neighborhood over time suggests a generally positive perception of improvement, though with varying degrees of agreement among residents. A significant portion of respondents (71) strongly agrees that social interactions have improved, indicating a noticeable positive shift in community engagement. An additional 25 people somewhat agree, acknowledging improvements, though not as strongly. However, 34 respondents remain neutral, suggesting indifference or uncertainty about changes in social dynamics. Conversely, 18 respondents somewhat disagree, and 22 strongly disagree, pointing to a minority who feel that social interactions have either stagnated or worsened. These findings indicate that while many residents perceive improvements in social interactions, a portion of the community experiences or perceives little to no change, highlighting the diverse experiences and perspectives within the neighborhood.

The data on the influence of specific events or changes, on social interactions in the condominium reveals a generally positive perception of their impact. A majority of respondents (66) strongly agree that such events or changes have notably influenced social interactions, while an additional 12 somewhat agree, suggesting that these factors have played a role in fostering community engagement. However, a significant number (75) are neutral, indicating that they have not experienced or perceived any substantial changes in social interactions due to these events. On the other hand, a small portion of the respondents (9 somewhat disagree and 8 strongly disagree) feel that these events or

changes have had little to no effect on social interaction and ties. These findings highlight that while many residents acknowledge the influence of specific events or changes on social interactions, a substantial number remain indifferent, reflecting diverse experiences within the condominium community.

The data on the consistency of the quality of social ties in the condominium since moving in reveals a predominantly negative perception of stability in social connections. While a small group of respondents (28) strongly agrees that the quality of social ties has remained consistent, and an additional 14 somewhat agrees, a larger portion of the community feels otherwise. A significant number of respondents (89) somewhat disagree, suggesting that they perceive a decline or change in the quality of social interactions over time. Furthermore, 14 respondents strongly disagree, indicating a notable dissatisfaction with the current state of social ties in the condominium. These findings point to a general sense of inconsistency and potential deterioration in the quality of social relationships, highlighting the challenges residents may face in maintaining strong community bonds over time.

The data on the increase of social activities over time and their impact on fostering stronger ties among residents indicate a generally positive perception of these activities' role in community bonding. Overall, the findings suggest that social activities have played an important role in enhancing social cohesion within the community, though their impact is not universally experienced by all residents.

Despite these improvements, the data also reflects presence weak or inconsistent social ties. Notably, when asked about the consistency of the quality of social relationships since moving in, a substantial portion express a sense of deterioration or instability, suggesting that long-term, deeper social bonds have not been sustained. This supports findings from previous research that highlight how urban anonymity and high residential turnover can hinder sustained relationship building (Talen, 1999) (Wirth, 1938); This may point to barriers such as time constraints, cultural differences, or perceived lack of common interests, consistent with earlier findings on the fragile nature of social capital in diverse, high-density environments (Savage, 2005).

Overall, the data reflects a dual narrative: while social interactions have increased in frequency and visibility through activities and events, the depth and durability of social ties remain uneven. The findings underscore the importance of intentional community-building

efforts that go beyond superficial engagement and address structural and interpersonal barriers to sustained relationships.

4.5. Factors Affecting Social Interaction and Social Ties

4.5.1. Unsuitable Space of buildings

Based on the focus group discussion, it has been highlighted that the building is not suitable for households with children or older residents, which presents significant challenges for those groups. This issue is a critical factor in understanding the overall interaction and social interactions within the condominium. This challenge may contribute to social isolation for families with children or elderly individuals, potentially weakening social ties and community engagement. The lack of joint celebration and the high turnover rate of renters in the condominium sites create weak social interaction and ties. The most of FGD obtained that less entertainment around area. Social interactions in condominium sites are even severely affected, due to lack of proper entertainment facilities (Megerssa, 2010) .

4.5.2. Isolation from, and indifferent feeling towards, the neighborhood

The focus group discussions reveal a concerning sense of isolation and indifference among certain residents, particularly those with children or older individuals, due to the unsuitability of the building for their needs. This sense of isolation lead to a detachment from the neighborhood, as these groups feel marginalized or unsupported by the physical environment. The lack of accessibility or safety features for children and elderly residents can prevent them from fully participating in community activities or forming meaningful social connections. Additionally, this physical and emotional separation from the community can foster feelings of indifference, as residents can perceive the neighborhood as unwelcoming or unsupportive. In support of this finding, (Talen, 2002), and (Forrest,, & Kearns, 2001)suggested that poorly designed residential environments can contribute to social fragmentation and reduced community engagement. This routine-driven lifestyle, coupled with concerns about maintaining personal privacy, can lead to a more insular community where interactions are limited and relationships are shallow. (Dovey, 1985)Also added that Privacy and territoriality influence social interactions in shared residential spaces, often leading to a preference for isolation over communal living.

4.5.3. Privacy concerns limiting the extent of social interactions

The focus group discussion highlights that privacy concerns significantly limited the extent of social interactions within the condominium, as most residents focused on their daily routines and work rather than engaging with their neighbors. In support of this, literature stated that particularly, high-density housing can lead to reduced social interactions due to privacy concerns and individualistic lifestyles (Forrest, , & Kearns, 2001). Many residents prioritize personal space and privacy, which can create barriers to forming deeper social connections. The emphasis on daily tasks and individual schedules often leaves little room for spontaneous or intentional social interactions.

4.5.4. Noisy behavior

According to a key informant, excessive noise has become increasingly prominent issue within the condominium, particularly due to the rise in population and the influx of families with children. This demographic shift has resulted in elevated noise levels, which can disrupt those who prefer a more tranquil living atmosphere. The noise, often generated by playful children or the general activity of a burgeoning community, could lead to friction among residents who prioritize peace and privacy. Furthermore, the heightened noise levels complicate efforts to encourage positive social interactions, as some residents might choose to isolate themselves in their homes to escape the disturbances. As studies pointed out, Population density in residential buildings can contribute to noise-related stress, affecting social interactions and personal well-being (Louis, 2022). Noise levels in residential environments and influences community interactions, sometimes leading to social withdrawal among residents (Kan, ., & Zhang,, 2010) . Disturbances can lead to reduced social engagement and increased tension in residential setting (Baldwin,, & Stafford,, 2019).

One of the participant's from FGD responds that "after increased household sizes contributing to noise levels and their impact on community interaction".

4.5.5. Population growth

The increase in population, particularly with more children, as mentioned in the focus group affected the social interaction of the neighborhood. Larger populations can either strengthen social interaction and support networks or weaken it if growing numbers lead to overcrowding, noise, and a lack of personal space, which can reduce opportunities for positive social interactions. As the number of residents rises, shared spaces such as

courtyards, hallways, and recreational areas may become busier, potentially fostering more frequent encounters and interactions. However, if these spaces become overly congested, residents may feel a loss of control over their environment, leading to stress and a tendency to withdraw from communal life. Additionally, concerns over security, maintenance of shared resources, and differing expectations regarding acceptable noise levels may further shape the social fabric of the neighborhood. Similar findings have been reported in studies on urban housing and social capital, where population density and shared space management significantly influence community cohesion and engagement (Putnam, 2000); (Forrest, , & Kearns, 2001); (Sampson, 2012).

4.5.6. *Khat* Chewing and impact on Social

The widespread practice of *khat* chewing in the study area has significant social and environmental implications. While the habit is deeply embedded in the local community, many residents, particularly long-term dwellers, perceive it as having a negative influence on social relationships and community cohesion. Parents express concerns about their children being exposed to *khat* chewers, fearing its psychological and behavioral consequences. The presence of outsiders who engage in *khat* consumption and related activities, such as late-night disturbances and excessive waste disposal activities more affected community feel towards each other's. This situation has led to growing frustration among community members, who feel that the habit not only affects personal well-being but also deteriorates the social fabric by normalizing substance use.

One participant from key informant interviews remarked that “When we engage in *khat* chewing together, our conversations delve deeper than in any other context. We exchange concerns, share laughter, and occasionally provide assistance to one another following these gatherings”.

Additionally, the linkage between *khat* consumption and alcohol use intensifies community distress, as intoxicated individuals often engage in disruptive behaviors. Given these challenges, participants advocate for regulatory measures or community-led interventions to mitigate the adverse effects of *khat* chewing, promote responsible behavior, and safeguard both social harmony and environmental cleanliness.

Focus group discussion echoed similar concerns, emphasizing the disruptive behavior associated with *khat* chewing. They pointed out that many individuals who chew *khat* are also the same people, who return home intoxicated late at night, causing disturbances in the

neighborhood. The participant strongly advocated for the implementation of rules or regulations to address this issue and maintain order within the community. The widespread practice of *khat* chewing in the study area has significant social and environmental implications. While the habit is deeply embedded in the local community, many residents, particularly long-term dwellers, perceive it as having a negative influence on social relationships and community cohesion. Parents express concerns about their children being exposed to *khat* chewers, fearing its psychological and behavioral consequences. The presence of outsiders who engage in *khat* consumption and related activities, such as late-night disturbances and excessive waste disposal, further undermines community solidarity. This situation has led to growing frustration among residents, who feel that the habit not only affects personal well-being but also deteriorates the social fabric by normalizing substance use.

These findings resonate with other studies. For instance, (Gebissa, 2008) observed that while *khat* chewing provides a sense of belonging and shared identity, it also contributes to household tensions, financial strain, and community discord. Similarly, (Kassaye, 1999) highlighted the disruptive social effects of *khat* use in Ethiopian communities, including reduced productivity and strained family relationships. Taken together, the current study reinforces the conclusion that *khat* chewing is not merely an individual habit but a social practice with far-reaching implications for community cohesion, public health, and the local environment.

4.5.7. Length of residency in condominium

The findings indicate that the majority of residents have lived in the condominium for more than six years (52.9%), whereas only 3.5% of respondents have resided there for less than a year. This trend suggests a predominance of long-term occupants within the community, which carries significant implications for the condominium's social interaction and ties.

As one key informant stated “Most people live in rented houses and move frequently from place to place. This reduces community interaction, even in traditional social institutions such as *equb* and *idir*, since participation is disrupted when people relocate. As a result, social interaction within the community is negatively affected.”

The implication of this finding is that social interactions and community ties become fragile when individuals are unable to remain in stable neighborhoods long enough to build strong relationships.

Table 5: length of residency in condominium

Length of residency in condominium	Frequency	Percentage
Below 1 year	6	18.13
1-3 year	31	25.15
4-6 year	43	3.5
Above 6	90	53.22

4.5.8. Whether there are shared activities with neighbors

Table 6: Activities shared with neighbors

Share activities with neighbors	Frequency	Percent
No	100	58.14
Yes	70	41.86
Total	170	100

The survey results indicate that the majority of respondents (58.14%) do not share activities with their neighbors, and 41.86% of respondents confirmed that they do share activities with their neighbors.

The data suggests that a significant proportion of residents do not engage in shared activities with their neighbors. This could indicate a lack of strong social bonds or limited community engagement within the condominium. Factors such as high mobility among renters, busy lifestyles, or cultural preferences for privacy may contribute to lower levels of social interaction.

However, the fact that 41.86% of residents do engage in neighborly activities suggests that there is still a substantial level of social connection among a portion of the community. These interactions could include activities such as social gatherings, collective problem-solving, or participation in traditional cooperative systems like *Equb* and *Idir*.

The high percentage of residents who do not share activities with their neighbors may weaken social cohesion and trust within the community. This can impact collective efforts in managing shared spaces, ensuring security, and participating in local governance. For the minority of residents who do participate in communal activities, their engagement could serve as a foundation for strengthening community ties and fostering a sense of belonging. Encouraging neighborly interaction through organized community events, support networks, or shared responsibilities in the condominium could help bridge the gap between residents who do and do not engage in social activities.

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Summary

The findings reveal the presence of considerable obstacles to social interaction and ties within condominium housings:- Unsuitable building design for families with children and elderly residents fosters social isolation and undermines community connections. High residential turnover, insufficiency of recreational area, and privacy concerns further restrict social opportunity. Normal routine lifestyles for several of the residents place more emphasis on privacy than communal participation. Noise disturbances, prevalent with increasing household size, lead several residents to socially withdraw. Population growth exacerbated it by crowding common areas and decreasing residents' perceptions of control and well-being. *Khat* chewing had a dual impact it is conducive to casual social relationships among the users and yet causes community tension due to disruptive acts and environmental problems. Additionally, population growth intensified this issue by overcrowding communal areas and diminishing residents' sense of control and well-being. The practice of *khat* chewing presented a dual impact it promotes informal social bonding among participants while simultaneously causing community tension due to disruptive behaviors and environmental concerns. The result indicated that more than half of the residents (58.14%) do not engage in activities with their neighbors, reflecting a lack of community involvement. Furthermore, long-term residency does not necessarily lead to stronger social connections, particularly in the context of frequent rental turnover and mobility. These insights indicate that inadequately designed physical and social environments in condominium settings lead to fragmented communities characterized by limited social interaction and collaboration.

5.2. Conclusion

The study highlighted both the social change and continuous arising from the shift to urbanized housing structures. Although the introduction of condominiums has introduced more individualization and a certain degree of privacy, it has been accompanied by a decline in the traditional forms of social cohesion and civic participation. Despite the modern conditions of living, strong family ties, neighbor support, and cultural values still remain characteristic of the community. However, the sense of isolation, distrust, and lack of cooperation among citizens are reflective of the need for interventions to enhance social connectedness.

The evolving social dynamics also reflect significant factors such as population growth, privacy concerns, noisy behavior, and the impact of *khat* chewing on social and environmental well-being. These elements have contributed to social fragmentation and environmental degradation, necessitating thoughtful solutions to restore harmony and foster a sense of belonging.

Overall, the results reveal a relatively low level of shared activities among residents, which may hinder the development of a strong community network. Future research or community initiatives may focus on understanding the barriers to interaction and exploring strategies to promote greater engagement among neighbors.

The challenges associated with condominium living in Harar also extend to the management of shared spaces and communal resources. Limited recreational facilities, poorly maintained common areas, and disputes over responsibilities for upkeep often contribute to tensions among residents. The absence of structured community governance mechanisms can further exacerbate these issues, as there is often no clear framework for conflict resolution or collective decision-making.

Besides that, the shift to modern urban life has brought about changes in the way people connect to each other. While urban life offers greater professional opportunities and infrastructure, it's also changing social values and how neighbors interact with each other. There's a noticeable move away from the strong sense of community that once defined neighborhoods. Privacy and personal space are now valued by many, and this, along with security concerns, has led to the breakdown of traditional social bonds and everyday interactions between neighbors.

5.3. Recommendations

Enhancing social interactions and ties among residential condominium communities typifies a concerted effort by various stakeholders. Residents, government institutions, urban planners, NGOs, and local leaders would all have a role in directing their effort in ensuring the final product is a more connected, safer, and inclusive neighborhood.

Here are the main recommendations conceived for each group:

1. for Residents:

- ✓ Participate in social life by setting up or attending social events such as coffee ceremonies, holiday celebrations, or community clean-up days. Such activities are bonding experiences that build trust and these friendships.
- ✓ Promote open and respectful conversations amongst neighbors. Whether formal or informal, being open reduces misinterpretation and promotes harmony.
- ✓ Organize small neighborhood groups or committees to tackle common concerns like safety, cleanliness, or community developments. Working together for a common cause always offers quicker solutions and stronger relationships.

2. for Government Authorities:

- ✓ Create shared outdoor spaces such as neighborhood parks, playgrounds, or multi-purpose community rooms. These shared spaces allow people to meet, enjoy, relax, and strengthen relationships, while still respecting an individual's need for privacy.
- ✓ Plan housing more carefully, considering the availability of land, services, and infrastructure to sustain urban growth. Hence, one alleviates overcrowding and all forms of tension.
- ✓ Enforce noise control bylaws, especially in family areas, so that the environment remains calm and conducive for everybody.
- ✓ Improve safety features inside and around condominiums, especially for children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Having well-lit walkways, safe play areas, and secure entryways to housing can do wonders.

3. for NGOs and Community Organizations:

- ✓ Community supports could be workshops, youth activities, women's groups, etc., that somehow build inclusion and a sense of belonging.
- ✓ Focus on vulnerable groups such as single mothers, the elderly, or persons with disabilities; for they live with more constraints and need further assistance to fully enjoy community life.

- ✓ Train community leaders and residents' committees to better organize events, solve conflicts, and bring positive change to their neighborhoods.

4. for Urban Planners and Developers:

The design is with community in mind: spaces that people can meet and interact with naturally.

- ✓ Residents need to be included in the planning process so that their cultural and social needs will be considered. A neighborhood built for people and not just blocking structures is much more likely to survive.

5. Shared Responsibilities (All Stakeholders):

Work hand in hand to foster the development of neighborhoods where no person feels out of place due to reasons related to class, background, age, or physical ability.

- ✓ Cultural traditions such as Idir or Iqub deserve to be preserved and respected, not to mention the opportunity for modern lifestyles to flourish as well. A balanced approach fosters identity and bonding.
- ✓ Enhance local initiatives through neighborhood associations, volunteering, and small-scale community projects. These activities highly contribute to building trust, cohesion, and a strong sense of belonging.

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7. Annex:

Research Questions

Questionnaire for Social Interactions and Social Ties in Condominium Neighbourhoods of Harar City

Dear Respondents,

This questionnaire aims to assess social interactions and social ties in condominium neighbourhoods in Harar City. Your honest responses will help the researcher identify key factors that shape social relationships within these neighbourhoods. All information gathered will remain confidential. The study is solely for academic purposes and seeks to understand the dynamics of social ties in condominium settings.

Please answer all the questions as truthfully as possible. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Should you have any concerns, feel free to contact the researcher at the provided telephone number. 0913897231 or email afeworkdemu9@gmail.com

Respondent Background

1. Age (AGE): Below 18 ☐ 19-30 ☐ 31-40 ☐ 41-50 ☐ Above 50 ☐

2. Gender (GENDER): Male ☐ Female ☐

3. Length of Residency in the Condominium (LOR):

Below 1 year ☐ 1-3 years ☐ 4-6 years ☐ above 6 years ☐

4. Family Structure (FAM):

Single ☐ Married ☐ Household with children ☐ Elderly residents ☐ others ☐

5. Job status:

Clerk ☐ supervisor ☐ head of section ☐ head of department ☐ Others
(please specify)

6. Work experience :

- 1-5years ☐ 6-10 years ☐ 11-15 years ☐ above15years ☐
- Level of education
 - Below 1^{0th} grade ☐ 1^{0th} and 1^{2th} complete ☐ certificate ☐
 - diploma ☐ degree ☐ masters and above ☐

Research questions

1. Nature of Social Interactions and Social Ties:

- A. How do residents of condominium neighborhoods in Harar city interact with each other on a daily basis?
- B. What types of social ties (e.g., friendships, family, work-related) are most common among condominium residents in Harar city?
- C. How do residents build trust and cooperation within their condominium communities?

2. Evolution of Social Interactions and Ties Over Time:

- A. In what ways have the social interactions and ties among residents of Harar city condominium neighbourhoods changed over time?
- B. Are there specific factors or events that have influenced the evolution of social interactions in Harar's condominium neighbourhoods?
- C. Which aspects of social ties (e.g., communication styles, communal activities) have remained consistent in condominium neighbourhoods since their establishment?

3. Perceptions of Condominium Neighbourhoods:

- A. How do residents perceive the social environment within their condominium neighbourhoods in Harar city?
- B. To what extent do residents feel a sense of community or belonging within their condominium neighbourhoods?
- C. How do residents view the impact of condominium living on their social life and relationships?

4. Socio-demographic Factors Influencing Social Interactions and Ties:

- A. What socio-demographic factors (e.g., age, gender, income, education, length of residency) influence the way people interact and form social ties in condominium neighbourhoods in Harar city?

- B. How do family structures (e.g., households with children, elderly residents, single individuals) affect social interactions and community cohesion within Harar city's condominium sites?
 - C. Do socioeconomic status and occupation influence the nature of social ties and interactions among condominium residents in Harar city?
- 5. Role of Public Spaces and Shared Resources:**
- A. How do shared spaces (e.g., parks, recreational areas, communal halls) in condominium neighbourhoods facilitate social interactions among residents?
 - B. What role do condominium management and maintenance services play in fostering or hindering social interactions and ties within the neighbourhood?
- 6. Community Building and Collective Action:**
- A. How do condominium residents in Harar city engage in collective action or community-building activities?
 - B. What types of community initiatives (e.g., events, meetings, neighbourhood associations, edir,ekub,) do residents participate in, and how do these activities influence social ties?
- 7. Challenges and Barriers to Social Interactions:**
- A. What challenges do residents of condominium neighbourhoods in Harar city face in building and maintaining social ties?
 - B. How do issues like cultural differences, privacy concerns, and conflict resolution affect social interactions and relationships in Harar's condominium neighbourhoods?
 - C. what is changed and what is constant/continued/ in comparison with their previous lifestyle.

Section I: Nature of Social Interactions and Social Ties.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding social interactions and ties in your condominium neighbourhood. Please give your response by putting (X) symbol for five point liker scale items below with 5 = **strongly Agree**, 4 = **Agree**, 3 = **Neutral**, 2 = **Disagree**, 1 = **Strongly Disagree**

1. Nature of Social Interactions and Social Ties						
No	Question	Response				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	I interact with my neighbours on a daily basis (e.g., greetings, small talk).					
2	Most social ties in my neighbourhood are based on friendships.					
3	Family relationships are the most common social ties in my neighbourhood.					
4	Work-related connections form a significant part of my social ties with neighbours					
5	Trust and cooperation are commonly seen among residents in my condominium neighbourhood.					
6	The interactions between residents are usually respectful and cooperative.					

Section II: Evolution of Social Interactions and Ties over Time

2. Evolution of Social Interactions and Ties Over Time						
No	Question	Response				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Social interactions in my neighbourhood have improved over time.					
2	Specific events or changes (e.g., community events, new policies) have influenced social interactions in my condominium.					
3	The quality of social ties has remained consistent since I moved into the condominium.					
4	Social activities have increased over time, helping to foster stronger ties among residents.					

Section III: Perceptions of Condominium Neighbourhoods

3. Perceptions of Condominium Neighbourhoods						
No	Question	Response				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	I feel a strong sense of community and belonging within my condominium neighbourhood.					
2	The social environment within my condominium is friendly and supportive.					
3	Living in a condominium has positively impacted my social life.					
4	I feel that I can rely on my neighbours in times of need.					

Section IV: Socio-demographic Factors Influencing Social Interactions and Ties

4. Socio-demographic Factors Influencing Social Interactions and Ties						
No	Question	Response				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Age is an important factor in determining how people interact in my condominium neighbourhood.					
2	Gender influences the way people form social ties in my condominium neighbourhood.					
3	The length of time spent living in the condominium influences the strength of social ties.					
4	Family structure (e.g., having children or elderly family members) affects how people interact within the neighbourhood.					
5	People with similar income or educational backgrounds tend to form stronger social ties in my neighbourhood.					

Section V: Role of Public Spaces and Shared Resources

5. Role of Public Spaces and Shared Resources						
No	Question	Response				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Shared spaces like parks or community halls encourage social interaction among residents.					
2	The management and maintenance of public spaces affect the level of social interaction within the neighbourhood.					
3	Public spaces are often used by residents for communal activities like meetings or social gatherings.					
4	The availability of shared resources (e.g., recreational facilities) helps to bring residents together.					

Section VI: Community Building and Collective Action

6. Community Building and Collective Action						
No	Question	Response				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Residents in my condominium engage in collective activities (e.g., community meetings, clean-up events).					
2	Community-building initiatives positively influence social ties among residents.					
3	There are active neighbourhood associations or groups in my condominium neighbourhood.					
4	Participation in communal events strengthens my relationship with neighbours.					

Section VII: Challenges and Barriers to Social Interactions

6. Challenges and Barriers to Social Interactions						
No	Question	Response				
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Cultural differences create barriers to social interaction in my neighbourhood.					
2	Privacy concerns limit the extent of social interactions in my neighbourhood.					
3	Conflicts between residents affect the quality of social interactions.					
4	There are other challenges (e.g., language, socioeconomic differences) that hinder social ties in my condominium neighbourhood.					

1. Interview Questions (for Key Informants like Condominium Management, Community Leaders)

1. How do you promote social interaction among residents in your condominium neighbourhood?
2. What steps are taken to build a sense of community within the condominium?
3. Are there any specific events or programs that encourage residents to engage with one another?
4. How do you address conflicts or issues that arise among residents in the neighbourhood?
5. In your opinion, what are the main factors that influence the development of social ties in Harar's condominium neighbourhoods?
6. what is changed and what is constant/continued/ in comparison with their previous lifestyle.

2. Focused group discussion (FGD) questions among selected dweller and leader of condo (who are chosen representative)

1. What is changed in condominium Neighbourhood and what is constant or continued/ in comparison with their previous lifestyle?
2. What are major factors that affect social interactions and ties in condominium neighbourhood in harar city residents?

የምርምር ጥያቄዎች

በሐረር ከተማ በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ለሚገኙ ማኅበራዊ ግንኙነቶችና ማህበራዊ ትስስር የቀረቡ ጥያቄዎች

ይህ ጥያቄ በሐረር ከተማ በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ያሉ ማህበራዊ ግንኙነቶችን እና ማህበራዊ ትስስሮችን ለመገምገም የቀረበ ነው። በሐቀኝነት የምትሰጡት ምላሽ ተመራማሪው በእነዚህ አካባቢ ያሉ ማኅበራዊ ግንኙነቶችን የሚቀርጹትን ዋና ዋና ምክንያቶች ለይቶ ለማወቅ ይረዳዋል። የተሰበሰበው መረጃ ሁሉ በምስራቅ ይያዛል። ጥናቱ ለትምህርት ብቻ የሚከናወን ሲሆን በኮንዶሚኒየም አቀማመጦች ማህበራዊ ትስስር ያለውን እንቅስቃሴ ለመረዳት ያገዛል።

እባካችሁ ሁሉ ጥያቄዎቹ በሙሉ በተቻለ መጠን በእውነት መልስ ስጡ ። ተሳትፏችሁ በጣም ያስደስታል።

ክፍል አንድ

1.ዕድሜ(AGE)☐ከ18በታች☐19-30☐ 31-40☐ 41-50☐በላይ50☐

2.ፆታ(GENDER)ወንድ☐ሴት☐

3.በኮንዶሚኒየም(LOR)የመኖርቆይታ -
ከ1ዓመትበታች☐1-3ዓመት☐ 4-6ዓመት☐ከ6ዓመትበላይ☐

4.የቤተሰብመዋቅር:- ትዳር ያልያዘ☐ቤተሰብአገራዊ☐ጋርበዕድሜ☐
የገፉነዋሪዎችሌሎች☐

5.የስራደረጃ(JST)የክፍልተቆጣጣሪ☐ክፍልኃላፊ☐ሌሎች(እባክዎ☐
ይግለጹ)☐

6. የስራልምድ (WEXP) 1-5 ዓመት☐6-10 ዓመት☐ 11-15 ዓመት☐ከ15
ዓመትበላይ☐

7. የትምህርትደረጃ (LEDU)10ከዚህበታች☐ 10ኛክፍል☐ 12ኛ ባታች☐ዲፕሎማ
☐ዲግሪ☐ማስተርስእናከዚያበላይ☐

ክፍል ሁለት

1. ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት እና ማህበራዊ ትስስር ተፈጥሮ

ሀ.በሐረር ከተማ የኮንዶሚኒየም ሰፈር ነዋሪዎች በየዕለቱ እርስበርስ የሚገናኙት እንዴት ነው?

ለ.በሐረር ከተማ በሚኖሩ የኮንዶሚኒየም ነዋሪዎች ዘንድ በጣም የተለመዱት ማኅበራዊ ትስስሮች (ለምሳሌ ወዳጅነት፣ ቤተሰብ፣ ከሥራ ጋር የተያያዙ) ምን ዓይነት ማኅበራዊ ትስስሮች ናቸው?

ሐ.ነዋሪዎች በኮንዶሚኒየም ማህበረሰባቸው ውስጥ መተማመንና ትብብር የሚገነቡት እንዴት ነው?

2. ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት እና ትስስር በጊዜ ሂደት ዝግመተ ለውጥ

ለ.በሐረር ከተማ ኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ነዋሪዎች መካከል ያለው ማኅበራዊ ግንኙነትና ትስስር በጊዜ ሂደት የተለወጠው በምን መንገዶች ነው?

ለ.በሐረር ኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ በማህበራዊ ግንኙነት ዝግመተ ለውጥ ላይ ተፅዕኖ ያሳደሩ የተወሰኑ ምክንያቶች ወይም ክስተቶች አሉ?

ሐ.ማህበራዊ ትስስር (ለምሳሌ የመገናኛ ዘዴዎች፣ የጋራ እንቅስቃሴዎች) ከተቋቋመ ጀምሮ በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ቋሚ ሆነው የቀጠሉት ዘርፎች ምንድናቸው?

3. የኮንዶሚኒየም ጎረቤት አስተሳሰብ

ሀ.በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢያቸው ውስጥ ያለውን ማህበራዊ ሁኔታ እንዴት ይታያል?

ለ.የነዋሪዎች የህብረተሰብ ስሜት ወይም በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢያቸው የመኖር ስሜት እስከ ምንድረስ ነው?

ሐ.የኮንዶሚኒየም መኖር በማህበራዊ ህይወታቸውና ግንኙነታቸው ላይ የሚያሳድረውን ተፅዕኖ ነዋሪዎች እንዴት ይመለከቱታል?

4. ማህበራዊ-ዴሞክራሲ ተጽእኖ ማሕበራዊ ግንኙነትና ትስስር

ሀ.በሐረር ከተማ በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢዎች ሰዎች እርስበርስ በሚገናኙበትና ማኅበራዊ ትስስር በሚፈጥሩበት መንገድ ላይ ምን ዓይነት ማህበራዊ-ክምክንያቶች (ለምሳሌ ዕድሜ, የጾታ, ገቢ, ትምህርት, የመኖሪያ ቤት ቆይታ) ምን ተፅዕኖ ያሳድራሉ?

ለ.የቤተሰብ መዋቅሮች (ለምሳሌ፣ ልጆች ያሏቸው ቤተሰቦች፣ አረጋውያን፣ ትዳር ያላያዙ ግለሰቦች)

ሐ.በሐረር ከተማ ኮንዶሚኒየም ስፍራዎች ውስጥ በማህበራዊ ግንኙነት እና በማህበረሰባዊው ህደት ላይ ምን ተፅዕኖ ያሳድራል?

መ.በሐረር ከተማ በሚኖሩ የኮንዶሚኒየም ነዋሪዎች ማህበራዊ ትስስርና ግንኙነት ላይ ማህበራዊ ፤ኢኮኖሚያዊ ሁኔታና ሙያ እንዴት ተፅዕኖ ያሳድራል?

5. የህዝብ ቦታና የጋራ ሀብት ድርሻ

ሀ. በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ የሚገኙ የጋራ ቦታዎች (ለምሳሌ መናፈሻዎች, የመዝናኛ ቦታዎች, የጋራ አዳራሾች) በነዋሪዎች መካከል ማህበራዊ ግንኙነትን እንዴት ያቀላል?

ቤ.የኮንዶሚኒየም አስተዳደርና ጥገና አገልግሎት በጎረቤት ውስጥ ማህበራዊ ግንኙነትን እና ትስስርን በማጎልበት ወይም በማደናቀፍ ረገድ ምን ሚና ይጫወታል?

6. የማህበረሰብ ግንባታና ኮሌክቲቭ አክሽን ወይም የጋራ ውሳኔዎች

ሀ.በሐረር ከተማ የኮንዶሚኒየም ነዋሪዎች በጋራ እርምጃ ወይም በማህበረሰብ ግንባታ እንቅስቃሴዎች እንዴት ይሳተፋሉ?

ቤ.ምን ዓይነት የማህበረሰብ ተነሳሽነት (ለምሳሌ, ክስተቶች, ስብሰባዎች, የጎረቤት ማህበራት,(edir,ekub,) ነዋሪዎች ይሳተፋሉ? እነዚህ እንቅስቃሴዎች በማህበራዊ ትስስር ላይ ምን ተፅዕኖ አላቸው?

7. ማህበራዊግንኙነትፈተናዎችእናእንቅፋቶች

ሀ.በሐረር ከተማየኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ነዋሪዎች ማህበራዊ ትስስርን በመገንባትና በማስጠበቅ ምን ፈተና ያጋጥማቸዋል?

ለ.እንደባህላዊ ልዩነቶች፣ የግላዊነት ስጋቶች፣እና የግጭት መፍትሄ የመሳሰሉ ጉዳዮች በሐረር ኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት እንዴት ይለካሉ?

ሐ. ከቀድሞ አኗኗራቸው ጋር ሲነፃፀር ምን የተለወጠ አለ? የተቋረጠ/የቀጠለ/ ነው?

ክፍል 3: ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት እና ማህበራዊ ትስስር ተፈጥሮ.

እባክዎ በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢዎ ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት እና ትስስርን በተመለከተ ከሚከተሉት መግለጫዎች ጋር የተስማማችሁበትን ደረጃ አመለክቱ፡፡

እባክዎን ምላሻችሁን በመስጠት (X) ምልክት ለአምስት ነጥብ የሚመሳሰሉ

ከ5 = በጣም እስማማለሁ፣ 4 = እስማማለሁ፣ 3 = ገለልተኛ፣ 2 = አልስማማም፣ 1 = በጣም አልስማማም
::

ተ/ቁ		መልስ					
		1	2	3	3	4	5
1	ከጎረቤቶቼ ጋር በየዕለቱ እነጋገራለሁ (ለምሳሌ ሰላምታ፣ አነስተኛ ንግግር)።						
2	በእኔ አካባቢ ካሉት ማኅበራዊ ትስስሮች መካከል አብዛኞቹ በጓደኝነት ላይ የተመሠረቱ ናቸው።						
3	የቤተሰብ ግንኙነቶች በእኔ አካባቢ በጣም የተለመዱ ማህበራዊ ትስስሮች ናቸው።						
4	ከሥራ ጋር የተያያዙ ግንኙነቶች ከጎረቤቶቼ ጋር ያለኝ ማህበራዊ ትስስር ጉልህ አካል ናቸው።						
5	በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ በሚኖሩ ነዋሪዎች ዘንድ መተማመንና መተባበር የተለመደ ነው።						
6	በነዋሪዎቹ መካከል ያለው ግንኙነት አብዛኛውን ጊዜ አክብሮት የሚኖራና እርስበርስ የሚተባበር ነው።						

ክፍል 4: በጊዜ ሂደት የማህበራዊ ግንኙነት እና ትስስር ዝግመተ ለውጥ

ተ/ቁ		መልስ				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	በአካባቢዬ ያለው ማኅበራዊ ግንኙነት ከጊዜ ወደ ጊዜ እየተሻሻለ ነው።					
2	የተወሰኑ ክስተቶች ወይም ለውጦች (ለምሳሌ፣ የማህበረሰብ ክስተቶች፣ አዳዲስ ፖሊሲዎች) በእኔ ኮንዶሚኒየም ውስጥ ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት ተፅዕኖ ፋጥኛ ነው።					
3	ወደ ኮንዶሚኒየም ከተዛወርኩ በኋላ ጊዜ ጀምሮ የማህበራዊ ትስስር ጥራት ወጥሞ ቀጥሏል?					
4	ማኅበራዊ እንቅስቃሴዎች ከጊዜ ወደ ጊዜ እየጨመሩ በመጣቁ ጥር በነዋሪዎቹ መካከል የጠበቀ ትስስር እንዲኖር አስተዋጽኦ አድርገዋል።					

ክፍል 5: የኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ግንዛቤዎች

ተ/ቁ		መልስ				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	በኮንዶሚኒየም ጎረቤቶቼው ስጥ የማህበረሰባዊነት ስሜት ይሰማኛል።					
2	በኮንዶሚኒየም ውስጥ ያለው ማኅበራዊ ሁኔታ ተግባራዊና ደጋፊ ነው።					
3	ኮንዶሚኒየም ውስጥ መኖር በማኅበራዊ ኑሮዬ ላይ በጎ ተጽዕኖ አሳድሯል።					
4	ችግር በሚያጋጥመኝ ጊዜ ባልን ጀርባ ሆኖ መደገፍ እንደምችል ይሰማኛል።					

ክፍል 6: በማህበራዊ ግንኙነት እና ትስስር ላይ ተፅዕኖ የሚያሳድሩ ሶሺዮ-ዴሞክራሲ ምክንያቶች

ተ/ቁ		መልስ				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	እድሜ በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ይሰዎች እንዴት እንደሚነጋገሩ ለመወሰን ወሳኝ ነገር ነው።					
2	የታሰቡ ኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ሰዎች ማኅበራዊ ትስስር በሚፈጥሩበት መንገድ ላይ ተጽዕኖ ፈጥሯል።					
3	በኮንዶሚኒየም ውስጥ የሚኖረው የጊዜ ቆይታ በማህበራዊ ትስስር ጥንካሬ ላይ ተፅዕኖ ፈጥሯል።					
4	የቤተሰብ መዋቅር (ለምሳሌ ልጆች ወይም አረጋው ያን የቤተሰብ አባላት መውለድ) ሰዎች በጎ ጊዜ ትውስጥ ተፅዕኖ አስድሯል።					
6	እርስበርስ በሚነጋገሩበት መንገድ ላይ ተጽዕኖ ፈጥሯል።					

ክፍል 7: የህዝብ ቦታ እና የጋራ ሀብት ሚና

ተ/ቁ		መልስ				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	እንደመኖሪያዎች ወይም ማኅበረሰባዊ አዳራሾች ያሉ የጋራ ቦታዎች በነዋሪዎች መካከል ማኅበራዊ ግንኙነት እንዲኖር ያበረታታሉ።					
2	የህዝብ ቦታዎች አስተዳደርና ጥገና በማህበራዊ ግንኙነት ደረጃ ላይ ተፅዕኖ ያሳድራል።					
3	የህዝብ ቦታዎችን ማስተዳደርና መጠገን በአካባቢው ባለው ማኅበራዊ ግንኙነት ደረጃ ላይ ተጽዕኖ ያሳድራል።					
4	አብዛኛውን ጊዜ ነዋሪዎች እንደስብሰባ ወይም ማኅበራዊ ግብዣ ላሉ የጋራ እንቅስቃሴዎች የህዝብ ቦታዎችን ይጠቀማሉ።					
5	የጋራ ሀብት (ለምሳሌ የመዝናኛ ቦታዎች) መገኘታቸው ነዋሪዎችን እንድላይ ለማቀራረብ ይረዳል።					

ክፍል 8 የማህበረሰብ ግንባታ እና ኮሌክቲቭ አክሻን

የማህበረሰብ ግንባታ እና ኮሌክቲቭ ተግባር		1	2	3	4	5
1	በኮንዶሚኒየም ውስጥ ያሉ ነዋሪዎች በጋራ እንቅስቃሴዎች (ለምሳሌ፣ የማህበረሰብ ስብሰባዎች፣ የዕዳት ዝግጅቶች) ይሳተፋሉ?					
2	ማኅበረሰቡን ለመገንባት የሚደረጉ እርምጃዎች በነዋሪዎች መካከል ባለው ማኅበራዊ ትስስር ላይ በጎተጽዕኖ ያሳድራሉ።					
3	በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ንፃሕንጻቶች ማህበራት ወይም ቡድኖች አሉ።					
4	በህዝብ ዝግጅቶች ላይ መሳተፍ ከጎረቤቶቹ ጋር ያለኝን ግንኙነት ያጠናክራል።					

ክፍል 9፡ ማህበራዊ ግንኙነትን የሚፈታ ተኮና መሰናክሎች

በማህበራዊ ግንኙነት ላይ የሚያጋጥሙ ፈተናዎች እና እንቅፋቶች		የጥያቄ መልስ				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	ባህላዊ ልዩነቶች በሰፈር ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት ላይ እንቅፋት ይፈጥራሉ?					
2	የግላዊነት ጉዳይ በኢኮኖሚያዊ ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት መጠን ውስጥ ነው?					
3	በነዋሪዎች መካከል የሚፈጠሩ ግጭቶች በማህበራዊ ግንኙነት ጥራት ላይ ተጽዕኖ ያሳድራሉ?					
4	በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ የማህበራዊ ትስስሮችን የሚያደናቅፉ ሌሎች ፈተናዎች (ለምሳሌ ቋንቋ፣ ማህበራዊ ኢኮኖሚያዊ ልዩነቶች) አሉ?					

2. ቃለ መጠይቅ ጥያቄዎች (እንደ ኮንዶሚኒየም ማጅሪመን ትላላቅ ዋና ኢንፎርሜሽኖች፣ የማህበረሰብ መሪዎች)

1. በኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ነዋሪዎች መካከል ማህበራዊ ግንኙነት እንዲኖር ማድረግ የምትችለው እንዴት ነው?

2. በኮንዶሚኒየም ውስጥ የማህበረሰብ ስሜትን ለመገንባት ምን እርምጃዎች ይወሰዳሉ?

3. ነዋሪዎች እርስ በርስ እንዲተባበሩ የሚያበረታቱ የተወሰኑ ዝግጅቶች ወይም ፕሮግራሞች ይኖሩ ይሆን?---

4. በየቀበሌ ነዋሪዎች መካከል የሚነሱ ግጭቶችን ወይም ግሮችን እንዴት ትፈታለህ?

5. በእርስዎ አስተያየት በሐረር ኮንዶሚኒየም አካባቢ ማህበራዊ ትስስሮች እድገት ላይ ተፅዕኖ የሚያሳድሩ ዋና ዋና ምክንያቶች ምንድን ናቸው?

6. ከቀድሞ አኗኗራቸው ጋር ሲነፃፀር ምን ተለዋውጠዋል? ምንስ ቀጥለዋል?

3. የቡድን ተኮር ውይይት (FGD) በተመረጡ ነዋሪዎችና የኮንዶሚኒየም መሪ (የተመረጡ ተወካይ) መካከል የሚነሱ ጥያቄዎች

1. በኮንዶሚኒየም neighborhood ምን ይለዋወጣል? ከቀድሞ አኗኗራቸው ጋር ሲነፃፀር ስነ-ስርዓት/ቀጣይነት/ ምን ይነሳቸው?

2. በኮንዶሚኒየም በሥራ ዊግን ፍላጎትና ስለ ስርዓት ተፅዕኖ የሚያሳድሩ ዋና ዋና ምክንያቶች ምን ይሆናቸው?