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Dependence of the dependents

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As the demographic trend of India is expecting a shift towards ageing by 2050, the impact on social and physical infrastructure needs to be addressed. Alongside, there is a rise in the number of children lacking able guardians; an inevitable increase in juvenile crime rate. Since time immemorial, intergenerational relationships between the elderly and the young have proved to be symbiotic. They have been the foundation of our *gurukuls* and cultural identity. This research paper seeks to explore the viability of an intergenerational relationship for the two dependents of the society, i.e. the elders and the young in the context of New Delhi, India. Thereafter, it aims to examine the role of architecture to facilitate such a relationship. First, the physiological and psycho-social needs of both the groups are identified. Then the need and reasons for their collaboration are analyzed. Through the case study of *Ayudham* society, an intergenerational home in Delhi, this presentation will illustrate (a) the physical requirements to enable this amalgamation, (b) response of elders and children residing together and (c) benefits and drawbacks that may have impacted the success of the project. Finally, in light of the impending demographic mayhem, there is an attempt at exploring ways to overcome the hurdles encountered and present a feasible and effective measure to pursue.



Biography

Sonakshi Gambhir is a fourth year student of School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, India pursuing Bachelors in Architecture (BArch). Presently, she is studying in Delhi where she has conducted this research from the university.

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