

## **Changes in farmers traditional dwellings in the Syrian Rural Coastal Region. A case study: Ain Al-Baida Village, Latakia.**

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**Abstract**

*Syrian coastal rural areas have witnessed major transformation in their social, economic, cultural and architectural features. This has led to a gradual disappearance of the traditional dwelling and emergence of modern residential buildings.*

*This study analyses the prototype of the primitive rural dwelling and highlights the process, stages, levels and reasons of change in the Syrian Village of Ain Al-Baida, given its representative natural and demographic similarity to other villages in the area.*

*Published literature, detailed observational fieldwork and survey of local people opinions were used to determine causes of change. Economic and administrative factors, as well as the freedom from feudal control are amongst the main reasons of the change. Four levels of change were identified; physical location, building materials, dwelling utilization, and owner/local authority change.*

*Preservation of rural dwellings and using traditional building materials in new built houses is encouraged with consideration to changeable needs of residents.*

**Keywords:** Change, Transformation, Change Levels, Traditional Farmers dwelling, Syrian Rural, Ain Al-Baida.

**1. Introduction**

Villages in the northern Syrian coast began as very small communities consisting of two or three dwellings, in separated places hidden in the forests away from transportation. That was because of people's fear of the Ottoman authorities. During the weak era of the Ottoman Empire, the villages began to form beside water springs and in a cohesive texture, divided into neighborhoods. Each neighborhood contained a single family or group of families and was named after the largest family. These villages were characterized by several features: high altitude, social diversity of the local population, a part of the Syrian society, as well as the historical importance of the sites of some villages, which belong to an ancient Syrian origin "Phoenician or Syriac".

The village of Ain Al-Baida lies northeast of Latakia, 21 km away. It is located on a hill rising 200-250 meters above sea level, south to the Great Northern River (fig.2). It has a moderate climate with an annual rainfall ranging between 800-1000 mm. The village was named because of its white calcite (Baida)<sup>1</sup> and the water spring (Ain); the presence of a water spring was the reason for the settlement of people in this hill. The urban and social status of the village was similar to those of the surrounding villages. However, it had a unique feature; the use of inscriptions and plant motifs in decorating the facades and interior walls of the houses, executed by the village women as shown in (fig.16). The floor area of the standard house measures 70-80 square meters occupied by a family ranging between 8 and 10 individuals (Al waraa', G. 2013). The dwellings of the neighborhood are terraced, with a communal courtyard that faces approximately 15 dwellings, Village courtyards represent the lung of the village where people usually celebrate weddings ceremonies observing inherited rituals and practices. The inhabitants work in several fields, mainly agricultural activities producing traditional crops such as cereals and tobacco and modern crops mainly olives and citrus products. Furthermore, growing of silkworms and the silk industry was one of the most important economic activities of the people. The Ottoman authorities established a school in 1916 (Al waraa', G. 2013). Some families with large agricultural ownership emerged because of their loyalty to the Ottoman authorities. These families

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<sup>1</sup>- Baida: White.

practiced the oppression and slavery of the peasants. The village was converted into a local government administrative center in the 1930s (Haider, B. 2009).

## **2. Research Methodology**

### **2.1. Research concept**

The Syrian coastal villages underwent significant changes in all the aspects of life that affected the local people both negatively and positively. From an architectural point of view, it is noticeable that such changes have influenced the architectural components of the village. The structure of the current villages lacks the harmony between two different components; the traditional inherited image and the modern one. The modern component has started to encroach on, or in some cases replace, the old traditional one resulting in aesthetically unfavorable image in many cases. As a result, the distinctive architectural differences between the village and the city structures have started to vanish in many villages of the Syrian coast. The agricultural land has been transformed into areas for construction, and the landscapes have changed indefinitely as modern buildings would be used for a long time.

### **2.2. Objectives of the study**

The study aims to identify the physical changes that have been seen in its houses, to recognize the stages of transformation in the village dwellings, understand the phenomenon of transformation and find out its causes in such rural environment. Moreover, the study will discuss the changing socioeconomic needs of the population and people's way of life by conducting a survey of their views and examining the impact of the educational and administrative system on them. The study will also illustrate the reflection of all these factors and changes on traditional housing.

### **2.3. Methods**

The study was conducted in 2017. The changes that were noted in the houses were identified through different ways. Field visits, qualitative interviews and surveys with the general village residents as well as residents of the houses that underwent changes. The changes that still exist were documented by illustrations drawn by the researcher. In addition, current relevant photos were taken by the researcher. Old photos and floor plans were obtained from the official government departments. The plans of the demolished old buildings were drawn based on understanding of available old photographs and from the researcher's memory as she is a citizen who was born and lived in the village and whose extended family owned some of these houses. Some of the village inhabitants showed reluctance to give information and cooperate with the research study due to their wish to keep their financial affairs confidential.

### **2.4. Case study**

The village of Ain Al-Baida is considered as a case study largely because of the large changes that have occurred in the traditional dwellings and subsequently, as a result, the architectural fabric. These changes are similar to those affected the surrounding villages. Other reasons for choosing this village were the relative ease in obtaining plans and information related to this research study, as well as the village exceptional natural features and landscapes.

## 2.5. Review of literature

All available published literature that look at the changes in traditional housing in rural areas was reviewed by the authors. Identified studies are listed in table 1. Methodology used in different studies vary significantly in determining factors which influence different changes and reasons driving the changes.

## 3. Traditional House in Latakia Countryside

Traditional rural dwellings in the countryside of Latakia have started as local rural gatherings that have unique architectural features of significant historical, cultural and aesthetic values. These rural gatherings were not designed by architects, but by local builders with local materials and traditional skills acquired over the years. They were designed to adapt to local environmental conditions, respecting social values and reflecting accumulated local culture. Some of these traditional dwellings still exist until today.

### 3.1. The primary prototype of the rural dwelling

Rural dwellings in the Syrian coast villages are similar in their general forms and construction materials, but vary its space, floor plans depending on the type of family work.

#### 3.1.1 Winter dwelling

- **Poor peasant's dwelling:** Called the house of the poor. The house consists of a space of 3 x 4 meters and a height of 2 meters, without windows and has one low door. This space gets limited natural light through the door. It is divided into two sections; the first section rises 30 cm. Sleeping mats are placed in one corner, next to a child's cot. The supplies and the fireplace are located in the opposite corner. The second part is designated for animals (goats and sheep). In the center of the house there is a stone pillar (Known as *Samok* in local language) as shown in (table 2, d) made of the irregularly shaped stone carrying the main wooden lintel which in turn carries two wooden twisted trunks and wooden branches. This dwelling significantly lacks air, light and space. The inside walls and materials are black discolored due to smoke escaping from fireplace, giving the impression that the place is for leather tanning rather than a dwelling as shown in (table 2,a).
- **The dwelling of the peasant:** The dwelling of the farmer improves according to his financial situation. The dimensions of the space increases to become 4 × 6 m, and the height of the roof also increases to become more than 2 m. A barrier made of tree branches is placed to separate between the people and animals. Another wooden barrier or a barrier made of mats is placed to divide the people space into two spaces at half the height of the house to store agricultural equipment. The supplies are placed in clay jars arranged along the wall. The sleeping area occupies a higher corner than the rest of the house. Furthermore a fireplace is widely noticeable. The furniture includes a wooden chest. The interior walls are whitened by clay. The walls are decorated by ashelf of dried mud which is attached along the wall at a height of 1.75 meters at the bottom of the shelf there is a frieze decorated with geometrical drawings as shown in (table 2,b).
- **Rich peasant's dwelling:** The shape of the house does not change with the increase of the peasant's wealth. It consists of one space, but of a larger area measuring 9 × 12 meters. There are some improvements that are not found in the previous two models. The ceiling is well

taken care of; the lintel is made either of pruned wood or iron replacing the logs which support branches taken from trees. Clay or bricks are fixed on these branches. Two rows of stone pillars, which are often taken from ancient monuments, carry the ceiling lintel. The floor is made of solidified soil and the walls are made of dry stones. The supplies' clay jars are separated from the rest of the space in a special place. The floor is covered at night with braided mats which are removed during the day to facilitate movement. This space arrangement somehow resembles a true "Noah's Ark" a zone for animals made of tree branches, a stable, a sleeping area, a hen coop, animal food and hay as shown in (table 2,c) (Weulersse, J. 1940).

### 3.1.2 Summer dwelling

- **The primitive house:** This type of houses is built on four stones that rise 50 cm above the ground, not exceeding  $2 \times 2$  meters in space. The walls are made of tree branches and clay. The ceiling is made of clay and long hay materials. This hut has a small low door. This is definitely the most primitive place known in the area, and usually is built next to the Winter House as shown in (table 3,a)..
- **Suspended House:** A temporary house that is constructed at the beginning of summer season and is dismantled at the end of summer, built on four large pegs, its roof is at a height of 2 meters, and walls are made of reeds or sorghum's stalk. It is an ideal home for summer season where the ventilation is constantly available. The owners live in the house shade during the day and climb up at night, often built over trees in places that are rich in small, dense trees as shown in (table 3,b).
- **Roof house:** More common than other types. The walls are usually made of mats, cloth, or cane. Furniture is taken from the winter house. There is a large opening in the north facing wall opposite the door in order to allow the needed ventilation (Weulersse, J. 1940).

### 3.2 Development of rural dwelling

The traditional dwellings have witnessed many changes and improvements. Such changes are reflected by the addition of new spaces and openings in the outer walls. More noticeably, separation between the living space and the animals' space was one of the first improvements in the house.

The house was changed to overlook a front courtyard that contains a barn, located in one of its corners as shown in (table 4, a).

When the wealth of the peasant increases and his social status improves he leads a life that is similar to that of urban dwellers. The peasants and religious figures (known as *Sheikhs*) tend to separate between a space that is reserved for women - the prototype of the dwelling - and a space reserved for men known as reception room. This type is mostly used amongst rich people. The space that is designated for women normally overlooks a square and remains simple in structure. The reception room has glass windows a wooden door which opens directly on the street.

The reception room is furnished in a modern way; sofas, some chairs, and a luxurious copper bed are commonly observed. This room is designed to be used as a guest room or as a hotel for visitors from outside the village when needed. Of interest, it is reported that visitors prefer to sleep on mats and use cotton blankets as they are more comfortable. Newborns and babies usually sleep in a wooden basket that is light enough so their mothers are able to carry it on their heads when they go to the field where the wooden basket is often replaced by a hanging cot or a wooden swing for sleeping.

The house supplies are kept in large clay jars; some are used to store olive oil and sometimes wine. These jars can reach a high level almost reaching the ceiling and forming the main decorative element in the house as shown in (table 4, b) (Weulersse, J. 1940). Moreover, baskets made of reed, whitened by lime, are used to store grains (Wheat, corn, and flour).

#### 4. The Change

Change and development are important concepts of life. Everything changes and transforms from one state to another, and this change could be slow or fast. The change occurs for several reasons that vary from a place to another at different time scales.

##### 4.1 Theoretical concepts

Definition of change: the act, process, or result of changing, such as: alteration, transformation or substitution<sup>2</sup>. Researchers have defined the change and the transformation concepts in the architectural field:

- Antoniades defined the change as the process in which the shape is changed to reach its maximum limits due to its internal and external response to several dynamic factors. The change has two types: The first one is related to the visual side and what can be perceived from the shape, appearance, type and borders. This type of change can be individually recognized. The second type is related to gathering of altered elements and the way they appear together as a complex transformation showing different features such as construction, deconstruction, division, and destruction (Abbas, S. S. 2008).
- Haiderkamouna<sup>3</sup> defined transformation as a change to a different state as a result of an act that causes alteration or removal of one or more elements within a composition, or the addition of one or more new elements that lead to creation of new relationships between the existing elements on one hand and the new elements that cause change on the other (Shahien, B; Kammounah, H. 2009).

##### 4.2 Stages of change

The traditional dwelling (fig.7,8) has had multiple levels of change at different stages of time. The changes in the prototype of the traditional dwelling began in a simple way, followed by three major phases of transformation, building materials played a major role in the transformation:

- The first transformation began with the appearance of cement. The traditional dwelling which was built of stone, wood and clay, was transformed into a dwelling in which polished stone and cement were used in its construction. The spaces were located in a linear fashion and are opened onto a front yard used as summer space that is south facing and usually shaded by trees as shown in (fig.9,10).
- The second transformation: The modern dwelling which is built using concrete has appeared. It consists of one or two stories as shown in (fig.11,12).
- The third transformation began with the appearance of five stories apartment blocks with designs identical to those in nearby cities as shown in (fig.13).

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<sup>2</sup>- Merriam Webster Dictionary

<sup>3</sup>-haiderabdrazakkamouna: Professor in urban planning, University of Baghdad

### 4.3 Levels of change

This study identifies four different levels of change which will be examined in selected residential models in the case study village, in order to show the levels and degrees of change that took place occurred over time. The main researcher observed these levels of change through doing field tours and visits, conducting interviews with the village residents and from her own memory; being a former resident at the village as shown in (table 5).

- Level 1: shows the physical change in the dwelling.
- Level 2: reveals the change in building materials.
- Level 3: illustrates the change in dwelling usage.
- Level 4: identifies factors responsible for the change.

## 5. Field study

Traditional dwellings still exist in the village, but in small numbers (22 dwellings). The remainder of the dwellings is a mixture of different houses that underwent the first type of transformation, such dwellings are gradually disappearing, therefore, their number cannot be certain due to the maintenance and painting amendments that took place and changed the outside appearance. Some of them are still occupied by local people and others have been turned into an administrative centers for different government departments as well as to more modern houses.

The first transformation pattern is noted to take place near the center of the village. The second and third transformations of dwellings are found in the outskirts of the village and to a lesser extent close to the center of the village as shown in (Figure 3).

A neighborhood located in the center of the village, consisting of eight dwellings, was chosen by the researcher as a mini-sample of the study. This is to examine the changes that affected local dwellings over time. Figure 4 shows the prototype of dwellings A, B, C, F, and G which are located in the center of the village next to each other, separated by narrow alleys. Houses A, F and G belong to the Salhab family, and B and C belong to the Naama family. Figure 5 refers to the first prototype of dwellings. The emergence of the first dwelling transformation is seen in dwellings D and E that are owned by the Naama family. Dwelling H is owned by the Zidane family.

Figure 6 refers to the spread of new dwellings representing the second transformation near dwelling marked E. These dwellings are owned by the sons of the owner of E. The second transformation dwellings are marked as A1, C1, and the third transformation dwellings - the shaded buildings - replaced the initial primitive prototype and the other dwellings that witnessed first transformation change. Ground floors were converted into shops, medical clinics and administrative sections.

This sample of dwellings was extensively assessed according to the previously mentioned levels of change as shown in (table 6).

### 5.1. Levels of change in the studied sample

**Dwelling A:** Prototype dwelling consists of one space divided by a barrier separating between the human's space and the animals space. Despite regular maintenance of the house, water leakage during winter caused some damage, therefore, a new living space was added and built using natural stones in 1955 at a cost of 1000 Syrian Pounds. The old building was restored afterwards. New spaces were added in 1972 made of cement blocks and concrete (kitchen, toilet and a stable). Space number 4 was converted from a living space into a shop in 1992, and stayed this way until the whole building was knocked down in 1997. A two-story building with a floor area of 70 square meters was built. The

floor area of the new building was much smaller than that of the old building as part of the land was taken away to expand the road adjacent to the building. The new dwelling belongs to the heirs of the dwelling's owner. The ground floor was converted into a shop in 2004, to stay this way until now as shown in (table 7, fig. 16).

**Dwelling B:** A dwelling of the first type, consisting of a large living space, store, stable and front yard, changed from a dwelling into a stable and then into a warehouse, owned by the heirs of the owner.

**Dwelling C:** A Prototype dwelling; consists of a living space, a stable, a warehouse and a small front yard. The owner moved to another house in 1940 due to improvement in his living conditions. Afterwards, it was used as a stable and a hay warehouse until it was destructed in 1998. After that a new three-story building was built to replace it into C1 with an area of 80 square meters per floor. The ground floor is used as a shop. The new owner of the property has inherited it and the building stays without any change until now, as shown in (table 7, fig. 17).

**Dwelling D:** An example of first transformation. It was built as an alternative to dwelling C due to the improvement of the owner's financial conditions since starting his job as a civil servant of the French mandate authorities. The dwelling consists of three spaces, that are located in a linear form, two of which are for living, and the space between them is allocated as a warehouse to store food. There is a yard in front of these spaces which is used as an activity area and for packing the agricultural crops during summer season. The land surrounding the house is divided into sections for planting trees, fruit and vegetables, in addition to, bee keeping and a as space for keeping domestic animals during the daylight time. Spaces 5 and 6 (kitchen, and bathroom respectively), that were made of stone and wood, were added to space 1 after the marriage of one of the children. In 1969 the government rented space 1 because the dwellers moved to a new dwelling built on a farmland owned by the family. It was then used again as a dwelling in 1982; a separate kitchen and toilet were added to the dwelling as shown in figure 18. The building was demolished in 2000 and the property was divided into two sections. The first section included a government authority building while the second section was residential of third transformation type consisting of four stories; the ground floor was used as shops and medical clinics and the rest of floors are designed as residential apartments as shown in (table 7, fig. 18).

**Dwelling E:** A first transformation dwelling consists of two stories. It is an alternative residence for owners who used to live in part 1 of the dwelling D. The ground floor consists of three linear spaces, a kitchen and a toilet. Part of the dwelling was built with double stone walls. The three spaces offer a terrace in front of them that is used as a space for visitors and guests and for packing grains during the summer time. The first floor consists of three spaces, a kitchen, a bathroom, a toilet and a staircase that leads to the roof which is used for both drying grains and food as well as a place for a temporary summer annex. This building remains unchanged up till current time. Currently the dwelling is occupied by the owner who lives alone as all his children moved out to live at second type transformation dwellings around the dwelling E, separated from it as shown in (table 7, fig. 19).

**Dwelling F:** A Prototype dwelling consists of one living space. It was abandoned in 1982 to become a warehouse and a small shop for the heirs of the owner. The dwelling is currently partially demolished.

**Dwelling G:** A prototype dwelling consists of a single living space. It was deserted in 1985 due to the death of its owner. Part of it was demolished and has not been restored or used until now.

**Dwelling H:** A prototype dwelling consists of three levels, being built on a slope. The first level consists of two spaces currently are used for renting out. The owner of the dwelling lives in the

second level; consisting of three linear spaces that open to a front and back courtyards. A kitchen, a toilet and a staircase that leads to the third level (the same level of the road) are added. A shop on the third level was built to increase the income of the family. Space 4 was added as marital home to one of the children in 2004, as shown in (table 7, fig. 20).

## **5.2. General field observations:**

Multiple points were noted by the researcher during the field tours, these points are explained as the following:

- As a result of population increase, the village has become a town, such change of status imposed alterations and transformations that suit the status change; for instance, the construction of administrative centers (town center, health center, government, and public shopping centers) is widely visible. Roads were constructed in the village, some spaces of dwellings were destructed, old roads were changed into wider tarmacked paved ones. Importantly, the concept of the village has been transformed and changed into a semi-urban society.
- New local dwellings are no longer built in the same way as traditional dwellings. Five-story buildings have emerged, each up to ten apartments.
- The number of the inhabited prototype dwellings is limited.
- The remaining occupied traditional dwellings are inhabited by elderly and poor individuals. In some circumstances the dwellings are used by people normally residing in the city but visit their relatives in the village .
- Despite the multiple changes affected the village, some customs are still alive such as simplicity, food type, animal keeping, using pots for planting flowers, and religious and social rituals.
- The change in Sourcing and storing food caused more financial burden on locals.
- The dweller has many sources of income, yet he considers himself poor.
- The designs and building techniques used in the countryside dwellings' do not suit modern style of living; especially essential parts such as the kitchen and the bathroom. These dwellings lack modern lightening and ventilation amenities and almost non-existent in prototype dwellings .
- Environmental conditions are not taken into consideration in construction of modern buildings, despite the close connection between the dwellers and the land.
- Collapse of some buildings because of lack of maintenance or due to construction of modern buildering nearby .
- Traditional inhabited dwelling are often connected to other abandoned dwelling and in close proximity to new building construction sites as illustrated in (fig.14)

## **5.3 Interview sample**

An interview sample consisting of 50 people was chosen. The sample included the owners of the studied dwellings and some members of the village. Different points were considered while choosing the sample such as variation of jobs (peasant, employee, and both), variation of the financial status (poor, middle and good), and different educational levels (High, average, uneducated). The sample includes different age groups and both males and females(table 8).

The interviews discussed multiple points and questions as follows:

- 1- What are the main reasons behind the change in the prototype dwellings in the village?
- 2- Classification of reasons of change: main, strong, and weak reasons.
- 3- Does the traditional dwelling carry a historical, cultural and heritage value in your opinion?
- 4- Do you like to live in a modern dwelling that is built from the same traditional materials, with modern amenities and accessories?
- 5- Do you agree with the spread of apartment housing in the village?

## **6. Discussion**

The interviewed people expressed different opinions about the previous questions. These opinions ranged from simple shallow ideas to valuable ones that are useful for the research study. Some of the people were extremely conservative in their answers when they were asked about their financial situation, but were more flexible when they were asked about the decisions of the local authorities and government rules .

The main reasons of change were classified in categories and the interviewed individuals were asked to give a grade ranging from one to ten for each category according to their strength of impact on the dwelling change.

### **6.1. The first point :**

The reasons behind the change and transformation of the countryside dwellings were identified from the interview sample opinions are noted as following:

#### **6.1.1. Economic reasons:**

- The financial situation of the local people has improved because of change in type of work they do; the peasants have changed jobs to work for the government or in the commercial sector, they kept agricultural activities for additional source of income.
- The financial condition of the peasant has improved due to significant developments in the industrial, agricultural and animal production.
- Improvements in transportation system and many families became car owners.
- The financial condition of the people has improved as a result to marked development in the agricultural production means and the change in the quality of crops, replacing grain crops with fruit trees (olives, citruses, and seasonal fruit) which are more profitable and costeffective.
- High prices of polished stones and the difficulty in finding skilled labor have led to the disappearance of the first transformation houses.
- Parents' desire to have an additional source of income for their children who have not completed their education, by converting the ground floor in the apartment housing into investment and shop spaces.
- Some farming fields were transformed to construction sites in compliance with government planning decisions. Land owners, showed desire to make a large profit through the construction of apartment blocks.
- The village has become a tourist attraction that is visited by many people due to the distinct geographical location and charming natural sceneries. As a result, hotels, restaurants and cafes were built.

### **6.1.2. Social reasons:**

- The peasants freedom from slavery, feudalism, and social and financial dependence helped in changing the social conditions in which they live. They had desire to get rid of all the things that remind them of the life of poverty and oppression, especially the houses where he used to live within shared with animals in same space. They encouraged their children to travel outside the village in order to pursue their education and work in government jobs.
- Migration from the countryside to the city or abroad (for work or study) produced new habits and lifestyles that are completely different from the old ones. This has led to the emergence of new housing.
- The change that affected the structure of the rural family such as the change in number of members of a single family and number of families in general. Historically, each family consisted of 9 to 12 individuals with one dwelling occasionally used by up to 3 families. More recently, the modern accommodation is limited to one family of 5-6 people.
- The lifestyle of the society has changed; the village has transformed from a productive society to a consuming society due to women's work in governmental jobs outside the boundaries of the fields.
- The Loss of local culture and loss of attachment to the land have been identified as a result of children movement away from their parents and their life to the city.
- Remarkable spread of modern technologies and luxuries, development of the media and internet accessibility in each home.
- Farmers desire in imitating the city society and therefore apartment housing dwellings were imitated.
- Change in marriage traditions and the girls desire to live a different and more luxurious lifestyle in an independent dwelling.
- Children desire to change because they do not want to live in a similar way to their parents and grandparents.

### **6.1.3. Administrative reasons:**

- The land use policy in rural areas, and conversion of agricultural land into partitioned construction land.
- Government policy in fighting illiteracy.
- Construction regulations in the countryside allowed multiple floors dwellings, which led to creation of apartment housing in the outskirts of the village.

### **6.1.4. Technological reasons:**

- Rapid technological development caused significant changes in dwelling spaces to keep up with modern lifestyle.
- Loss of traditional building skills and the appearance of cement in construction.
- Technological development in building methods and materials.
- Harsh weather conditions, traditional dwelling were unable to protect the inhabitant from harsh climatic conditions, especially in winter. In addition, houses require regular periodic maintenance work and insulation of the roof and external walls, they are susceptible to rapid damage because of their primitive building materials mainly calcareous soil and hay. People still remember stories of water leakage into these houses in winter.

## 6.2. The Second point

The study shows that local people believe that the economic factor is the most important cause of the change (8.22 points). Both technological developments and freedom from feudalism are considered equal in their influence on the change (6.1 and 6.04 points respectively) while the government and administrative decisions are seen to be the fourth important cause for change (5.6 points). People scientific achievements is considered the fifth factor (5.2 points). Finally, structure of the family and the number of individuals in the family are the sixth factor (3.74 points) (fig.15).

## 6.3. The Third point

Some people believe that the traditional dwelling is a kind of "*Folklore*" that reflects the simplicity of the peasant and his living conditions. They believe that it also reflects original customs and traditions that come from the harmony and love among the population. Such traditions and customs started to fade away as reported by elderly people. On the other hand, educated people (youth groups) consider the traditional dwelling, as a symbol of oppression, poverty and slavery of the peasant. This group of people sees multiple defects in traditional dwellings; for instance, the lack of essential spaces such as kitchen, and bathroom and the lack of separation between sleeping and living spaces. Some would still accept living in modern dwelling if built using traditional materials.

## 6.4. The Fourth point:

87% of the sample rejected to live in the traditional dwelling with the same initial design; this is because they considered the dwelling design, where both humans and animals shared the same space, not suitable for human being. Additionally, they feel that the traditional dwelling does not protect against extreme weather conditions. 56% of the sample agreed to live in modern dwellings built with traditional building materials.

## 6.5. The Fifth point :

The residents of the village who do not benefit from the development of apartment housing, the elderly, and the poor were angry due to the spread of the apartment blocks on the outskirts of the village. They say that the village has become closer to the city, lacking the visual and audio comfort as before. Heavy traffic also affected the tranquility and safety. For example, children are unable to get to schools without company and they are no longer able to play outside houses as before.

## 7. Conclusions and suggestions

### 7.1. Conclusions

The research indicates the following results:

**7.1.1.** The traditional dwellings in the Syrian coastal rural areas have changed and transformed in recent decades. The remaining small number of traditional dwellings in the village is a major indicator of the change. These changes have occurred in three successive stages (first, second and third). The prototype and the first transformation dwellings were compatible with the peasant's lifestyle, his needs and adaptation to climate changes. Second and third transformation dwellings have emerged during a period in which technical progress occurred and people changing their jobs. The apartment housing became the norm.

**7.1.2.** Change affected the dwelling has many causes, they are classified according to their degree of influence. The first cause is an economic factor that played an important role in the transformation

process. It is considered the main cause of all changes as, local people lifestyle and their needs change constantly in conjunction with the improvement of living conditions. The second factor is the enormous and rapid technological development in rural society. Freedom from feudalism and the people desire to get rid of all things that are related to the past mainly, different fear of poverty, oppression and slavery represented the third reason. Other causes including, decisions of the administrative bodies, the educational qualification of locals, changes in the structure of the family and the number of its members, are believed to have played a role in changing of the dwelling.

**7.1.3.** The design of the rural dwelling has changed rapidly while the farmer's lifestyle has not changed equally. The courtyards and the front squares were replaced by small balconies that have negatively affected the farmer's privacy and forced him to give up many rural activities that require large open spaces.

**7.1.4.** Changing in the dwellings is a constant, inevitable, and a non-stop process because it complies with rapid urban change.

## **7.2. Suggestions**

Through field observation and population feedback, the research has proposed the following procedures:

**7.2.1.** Preserving and periodically maintaining the traditional dwellings that are still in the village is important. As these dwellings are considered evidence that shows the true rural identity, its characteristics, and uniqueness. Rural dwelling is an important heritage for current and future generations enhancing the sense of belonging and attachment to the place.

**7.2.2.** Emphasis on the value of traditional dwellings as sustainable buildings.

**7.2.3.** Revival of this heritage must comply with the people's changing needs and technological progress. This should be done by local administration, using traditional building materials available in the village and traditional methods of construction, with periodic maintenance of the dwellings carried out in cooperation between the owner of the dwelling and the relevant workshops.

**7.2.4.** Development of tourism in the village is important because of its exceptional natural features. The emergence of tourist projects in the village will help to improve the financial condition of the population.

**7.2.5.** Revival of the clay motifs work that characterize the dwellings of the village is strongly advised to preserve some of the village heritage and image.

Figures:



Fig. 1: Syria map.



Fig. 2: Aerial photograph of the village of Ain Al-Baida-Latakia (google earth).

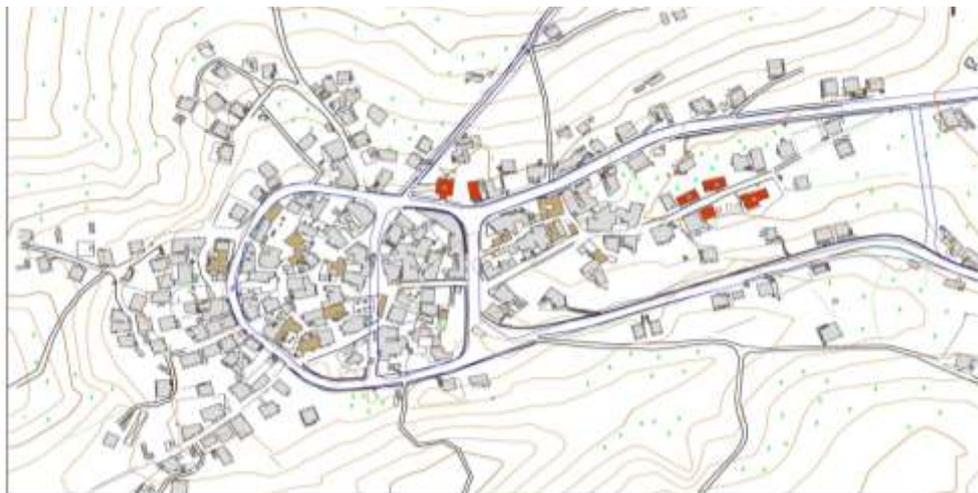


Fig.3: Site plan for a part of the village, shows prototype dwellings, the administrative buildings and first, second and third transportation dwellings.

Prototype dwellin [yellow square] Administrative [red square] second- third transformation dwelling [grey square]



Fig.4: Site plan for the studied sample, shows prototype dwellings.

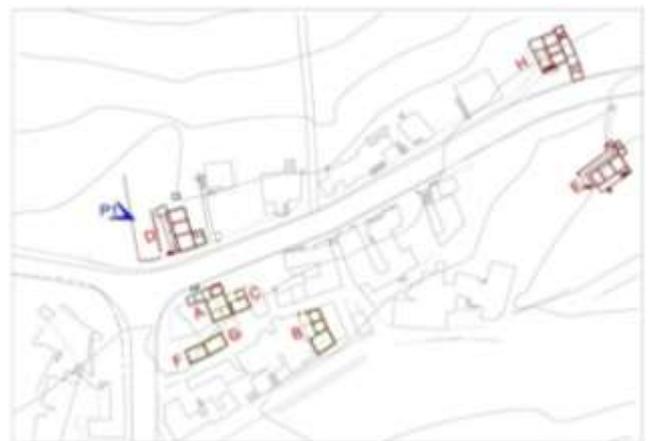


Fig.5: Site plan for the studied sample, shows prototype and first transformation dwellings.



Fig.6: Site plan for the studied sample, shows the destruction of some studied dwellings and rebuilding of the third transformation dwellings.



Fig.7: Dwelling of Ali Salem Fadel, Built in 1875 and destroyed in 2011(Al waraa', G. 2013).



Fig.8: Dwelling of Moustafa Fadel, built in 1925 and restored in 1954- Ain Al Bayda(Al waraa', G. 2013).



Fig.9: First transformation dwelling(Salhab, M)



Fig.10: First transformation dwelling, Ain Al-Baida. P1 (Owner's Photograph).



Fig.11: First transformation dwelling, Ain Al-Baida.(Salhab, M)



Fig.12: Second transformation dwelling in the center of the village, Ain Al-Baida.P2(Salhab, M)



Fig.13: Third transformation dwellings on the outskirts of the village.P3(Salhab, M).



Fig.14: Bordering of the traditional inhabited dwelling with an abounded dwelling and an adjacent under construction one. P4(Salhab, M)

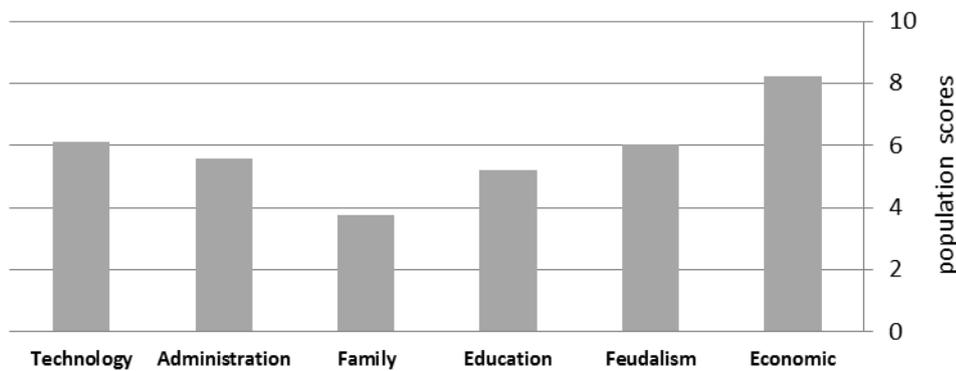


Fig.15: The main reasons of change.

**Tables:**

**Table1: Literature review**

Author(s)	Location	Main Goal	Methodology	Key Findings
Wang,F. Yu,F. Zhu,X. Pan,X. Sun,R. Cai,H.. (2016)	China	To explain the change and cultural transformation in the Sunken courtyard and to discover the reasons behind these changes to find a way to protect traditional dwellings and to draw the attention of those concerned.	Literature review and field observation	Identify the reasons of the change causing the disappearance of the Sunken courtyard dwellings by the following factors: boundaries of heritage, ideas, management, politics
M.Mirmoghataee (2009)	Iran	Review a literature on the relationship between the form of dwelling and lifestyle, and analyzes the process of transformations in the Iranian home.	Literature review and field observation	Housing in Iran has changed dramatically in recent decades These changes have emerged at three different periods during which the social, economic and technological transformations caused physical and demographic changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Traditional period: the shape of the dwelling was consistent with the needs of the inhabitants.</li> <li>- In modernity: the spaces of dwelling were not designed to fit with current lifestyles.</li> </ul>
M, Michian; J,Asano. (2016)	Indonesia	Identification of physical changes made to dwellings, and research in the cultural, social and economic background of the population in addition to current needs and lifestyle.	Literature review and field observation	-Change and modification by owner. -Most of the population was classified as a low-income society. -Reasons for changing the physical state of housing: changing needs, privacy, lifestyle of the current population. - The relationship between the current home conditions, social culture and the population economy played a role in the uniqueness of the housing value.

R, TAha (2010)	Nablus	Save the traditional residential environment, ensuring the preservation of the historical nature of the original historical, and improve the level of environmental and urban aspects of different life	Literature review and field observation	Reasons for change: the economic situation of the population, the lack of attention of the town's municipality, the health deterioration of the population, the narrow spaces' threat to the educational level of the family members.
M.kazaz (2008)	Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Understanding the phenomenon of transformation and manifestations in the Algerian countryside.</li> <li>-Determining the components of the rural area through the natural, social and urban context of the village</li> <li>- Search for the overall changes and their causes in the village.</li> </ul>	Literature review and field observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Galactic transformation is inexplicably imposed as a result of the policy of the assembly centers during the French mandate period and the project of agricultural revolution.</li> <li>- Changes in villages were not uniform because of the different conditions and factors surrounding each village.</li> </ul>

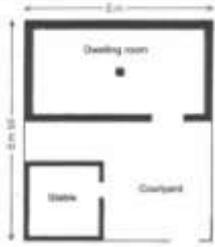
**Table2: Rural dwelling**

Winter residence		
a	d	c
<p><b>a:</b> The Poor peasant's dwelling in village of Besnada, scheme of roof, <b>b:</b> peasant dwelling in the village of Al-Shabatliyah, <b>c:</b> The rich peasant's dwelling in Jableh district villages, (Weulersse, J. 1940). <b>d:</b> Stone pillar and wooden lintel in the prototype dwelling (Salhab, M).</p>		

**Table3: Rural dwelling**

Summer dwelling	
a	b
<p><b>a:</b> The primitive house. <b>b:</b> Suspended House (Salhab, M)</p>	

**Table4: Development of rural dwelling.**

	
a	b
<p><b>a:</b>Courtyard rural dwelling inthe village of Al-Shabatliyah, <b>b:</b>Dwelling of a religion man inthe village of Al-Shabatliyah(Weulersse, J. 1940).</p>	

**Table 5: Levels and factors of change.**

Levels of change		factors of change		
Level 1	Physical spatial change	Continuity with maintenance	Same function	The resident carries out annual maintenance. The dwelling is used without any change in its function.
			Different Function	The resident carries out annual maintenance. The function of the dwellings changes to become a storehouse, or a barn.
		Continuity without maintenance		The resident doesn't carry out any maintenance and the dwelling is left without use.
		Addition		New spaces are added to the dwelling.
		Destruction and Removal		Complete destruction of the house.
		Rebuilding	Same site	A new dwelling is built in the same site but with difference in the area of the building.
		Different site	A dwelling is built for the same family in a different site which is a farming land owned by the family.	
Level 2	Change in building materials	Stone- Wood		The materials that were used in building the primitive prototype of the traditional dwelling were unpolished stone with a wall thickness of almost 1 meter. The wall consists of two layers of stones and is covered from the inside and outside with a layer of lime. The process of calcine covering of the outer side of the wall is repeated on

			regular way. The dwelling's ceiling is made of large and small wooden lintels. covered with tree branches.
		Stone- Cement	The dwelling is built of polished pruned stones. On occasions , the inner side is painted. The ceiling is built of concrete with a thickness of 12 cm, This type of change instigated the start of building apartment block housing.
		Cement	The dwelling is built of cement bricks and the ceiling is constructed of concrete.
Leve 13	Change in usage	Dwelling	The dwelling is used as a house without any change.
		Merchandise	The dwelling is transformed into a space that is allocated for trading; mostly it is a place for selling crops.
		Administrative	The function of the dwelling or part of it changed into an administrative building (government service building, police station).
		Dwelling and merchandise	A part of the dwelling is transformed into a small shop that sells groceries. The first floor in the apartment block is usually used as doctors clinics and shops.
		Agricultural Service	The dwelling is transformed into a depot to store hay and crops or it may be transformed into a barn.
Leve 14	Factors responsible for the change.	The owner	The change took place influenced by the will and the choice of the owner.
		Administrative authorities.	The change is obligatory imposed by local government administration.

**Table 6: Dwellings of studied sample.**

Dwelling		A	A1	B	C	C1	D	E	F	G	H
Year of Construction		Before 1927	1928	Before 1927	Before 1927	1928	1940	1969	1936	1936	1970
Current Situation	Still Exist		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Destruction and Replacement.	✓			✓		✓				
Final Use	Dwelling	✓		✓	✓			✓			
	Merchandise								✓		
	Dwelling+ Merchandise		✓			✓	✓				✓
	Barn			✓							
	Abandoned									✓	
Physical Condition	Good		✓			✓	✓				
	Intermediate										
	Bad			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
Construction Material	Wood and Stone	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	
	Stone and Concrete							✓	✓		
	Concrete		✓			✓	✓				✓
Number of Stories		1	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1
Number of families		1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1

before destruct ion											
Locatio n	Village Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Village Sides							✓			✓
Job	Peasant	✓		✓				✓		✓	
	Employe e										✓
	Peasant and employe e		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Owner's name		Mo. Salh ab	Gha da Salh ab	Sha'b aanN aa'am a	Mo. Sha'ba anNaa' ama	Mo. Ali Naa' ama	Mo. Sha'b aanN aa'am a	Ali Naa'a ma	Nas ser Salh ab	Dan ora Salh ab	Ali Zid an
The way of getting the dwellin g	Building	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Inherited		✓			✓					

**Table7: Levels of change in the studied sample(Photographs and drawings by Researcher Manal Salhab).**

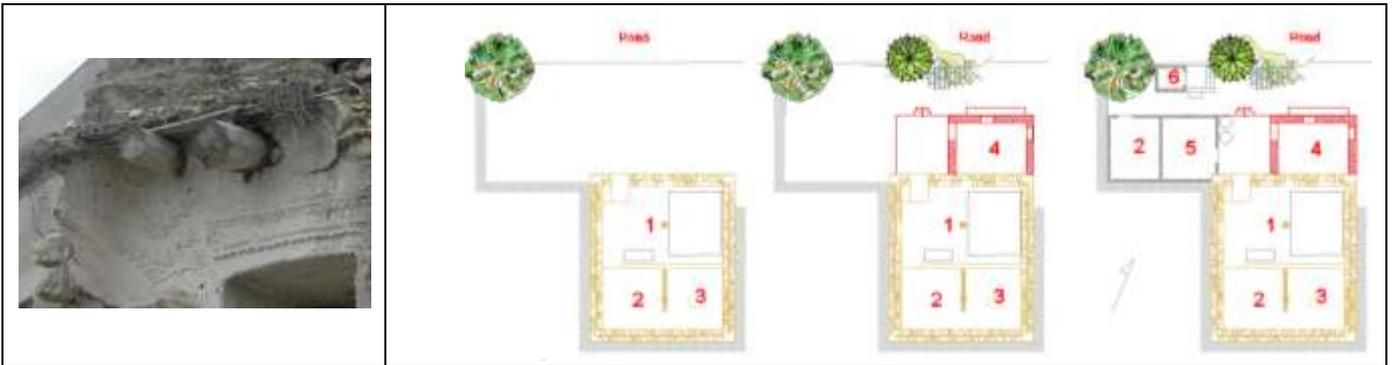


Fig.16 : Levels of change in Dwelling A, inscriptions and plant motifs in the façade of dwelling A.(Salhab, M)

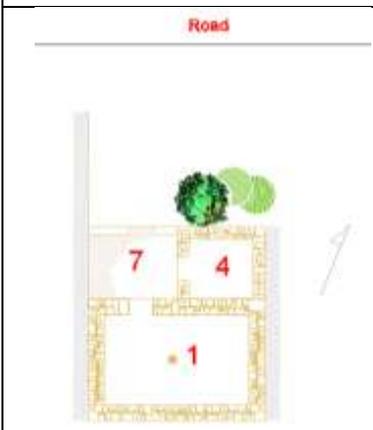


Fig.17 : Levels of change in Dwelling C.(Salhab, M)



Fig.18 : Levels of change in Dwelling D.(Salhab, M)



Fig19 : Levels of change in Dwelling E,ground and first level in dwelling E.(Salhab, M)

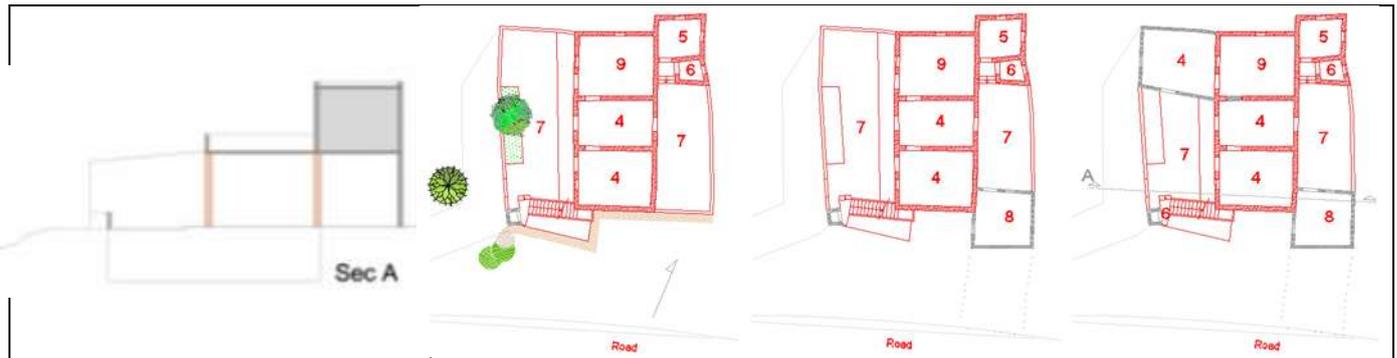


Fig.20 : Levels of change in Dwelling H(Salhab, M)

Notes of symbol:

1: Dwelling room, 2: Stable,3: Teben-Hay,4: Living room,5: Kitchen,6:Toilet, 7: Courtyard,8: Storage room,9: Bed room,10: Terras.

**Table8: Interview Sample.**

Gender		Financial Status			Educational level			Age			Job			
Male	Female	Poor	Middle	Good	Uneducat ed	Average	High	Older than 50 years	40-50 years	30-40 years	Peasant+ Employe e	Employe e	Peasant	
20	30	15	30	5	6	17	27	30	12	8	33	10	7	
50		50			50			50			50			

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