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## Application of Vastu Shastra principles in house construction by home dwellers

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### Abstract

Vastu Shastra is the Indian system of architecture and design of Vedic origin. In order to provide a useful and authentic guidance to a common man, the present study was planned and undertaken in 2014 at Udaipur city of Rajasthan state to observe the application of Vastu Shastra principles in house construction from selection of plot to Greh Parvesh by home dwellers. It was the first ever research study in the city of Rajasthan on awareness and application of Vastu principles in house construction and interior designing by home dwellers. In this research study 200 home dwellers from newly constructed localities were undertaken to identify their level of faith in Vastu use and also to judge the physiological and psychological effects of Vastu application on the lives of home dwellers. The purpose of the study was to assess the application and utilization of the Vastu Shastra by the home dwellers in the construction of their houses.

**Keywords:** application, interior designing, physiological, psychological, Vastu Shastra, dwellers

### Introduction

Vastu Shastra principles have been in practice in India for several centuries and it is a matter of observation that when correctly applied, the Vastu principles have been found to deliver excellent results. Even today they are as relevant as they were centuries ago. Vastu is a living science and a great hope for our tomorrow. No other method of designing and construction is as deep, profound and philosophical as Vastu. A correct interpretation and application of tenets and Vastu postulates combined with modern architecture can go a long way in alleviating the pressures of modern living.

### Methodology

The present study was planned and undertaken in 2014 at Udaipur city of Rajasthan state to observe the application of Vastu Shastra principles in house construction from selection of plot to greh pravesh by home dwellers. It was the first ever research study in the city of Rajasthan on awareness and application of Vastu principles in house construction and interior designing by home dwellers. In this research study 200 home dwellers from newly constructed localities were undertaken to identify their level of faith in Vastu use and also to judge the physiological and psychological effects of Vastu application on the lives of home dwellers. The assessment of the respondents is presented in the following objectives.

### Objectives of the study

1. To study about the various housing attributes of the respondents.
2. To observe the extent of application of Vastu principles in house construction from selection of plot to Greh Parvesh.

### Housing Attributes

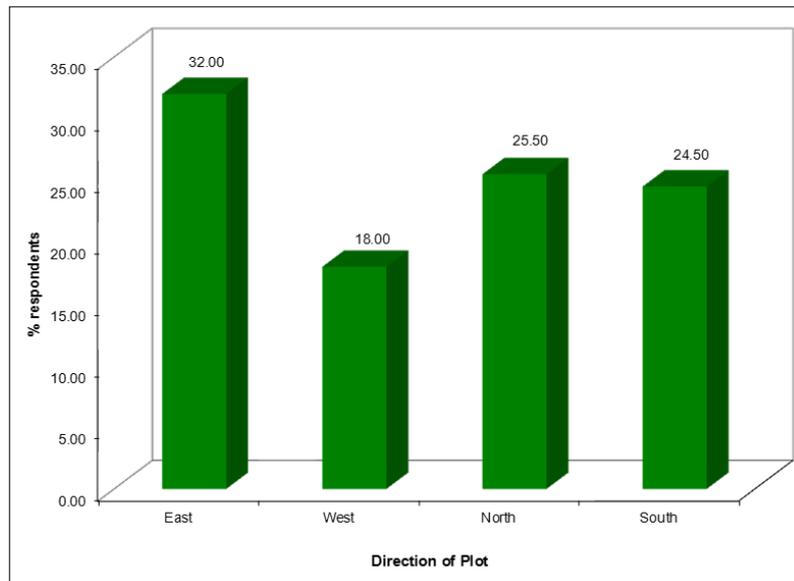
The data in table 1 reveals that 32.00 percent respondents had their houses facing East direction followed by North facing 25.50 percent then South 24.50 percent and west facing were 18.00 percent. It was observed that maximum numbers of houses were east facing whereas North and south facing were having almost similar numbers and West facing direction of houses were in least number.

Housing attributes of the respondents have been presented in the following tables:

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**Table 1: Direction of Plot of the Home Dwellers**

Direction of Plot	N	%
East	64	32.00
West	36	18.00
North	51	25.50
South	49	24.50
Total	200	100.00



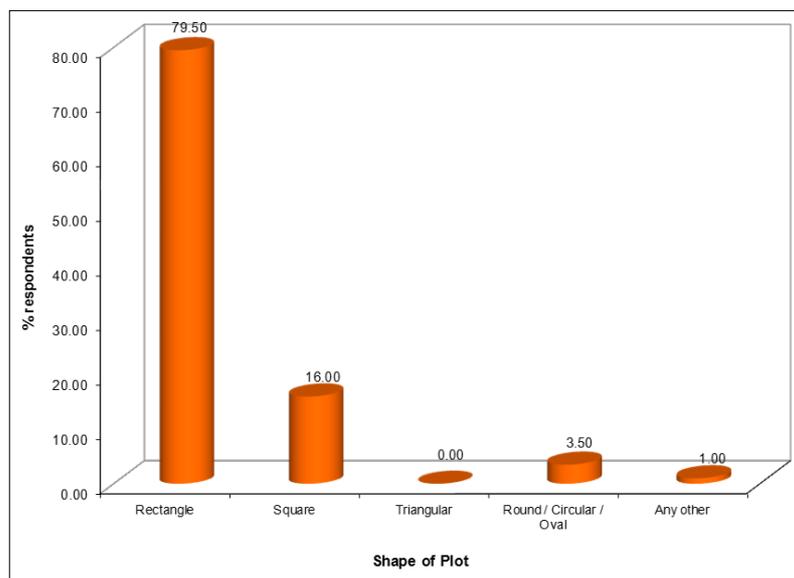
**Fig 1: Direction of Plot of the Home Dwellers**

**Table 2: Shape of the plot of the Home Dweller**

Shape of the Plot	N	%
Rectangle	159	79.50
Square	32	16.00
Triangular	0	0.00
Round / Circular / Oval	7	3.50
Any other	2	1.00
Total	200	100.00

Table 2 reveals that more than three- fourth (79.50%) of respondents had rectangle shaped plot and only 16.00 percent were living in square shaped plots. It was very surprising that no one was residing in the triangular shaped plot. It was

further observed that only 03.50 percent of the respondents had round / circular/oval shaped house followed by 1.00 percent living in any other *i.e.* quadrangle shape.

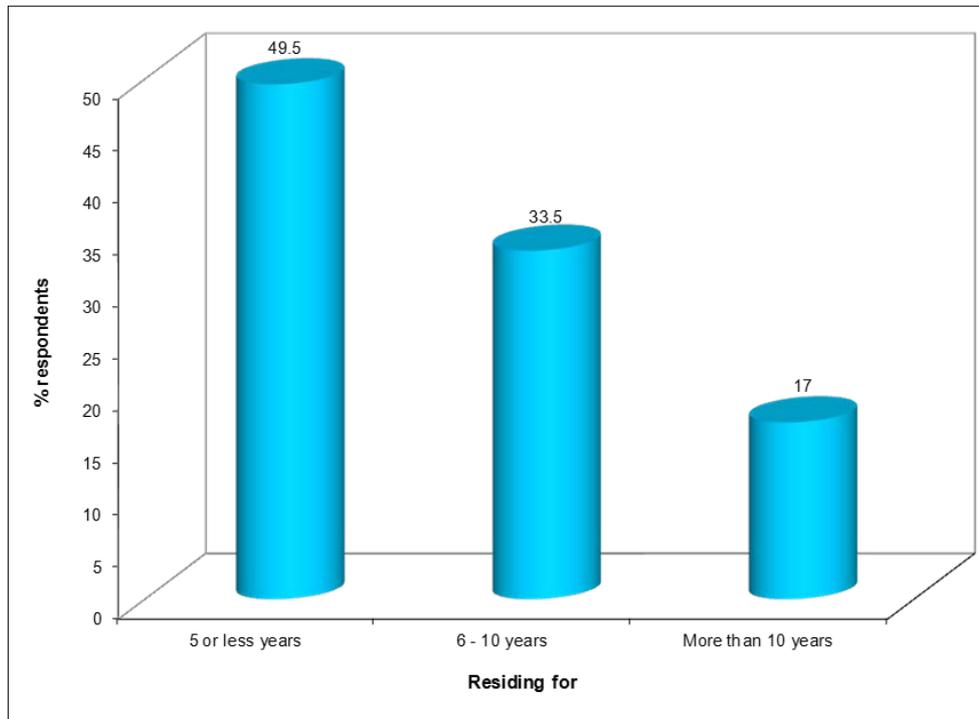


**Fig 2: Shape of the plot of the Home Dweller**

**Table 3:** Duration of Stay in years in the house by the Home Dwellers

Duration of Stay	N	%
5 or less years	99	49.50
6 - 10 years	67	33.50
10 to 12 years	34	17.00
Total	200	100.00

Results regarding duration of stay in years showed that almost half of the home dwellers (49.50%) were residing in their homes since five years or less than five years that may be either one, two, three, four, five, six months or one to two, three, four or five years period of stay. It is aparant from the table that 33.50 percent of the respondents were staying in their residences since six to ten years followed by 17.00 percent who came in the category of 10 to 12 years period of stay in their homes.

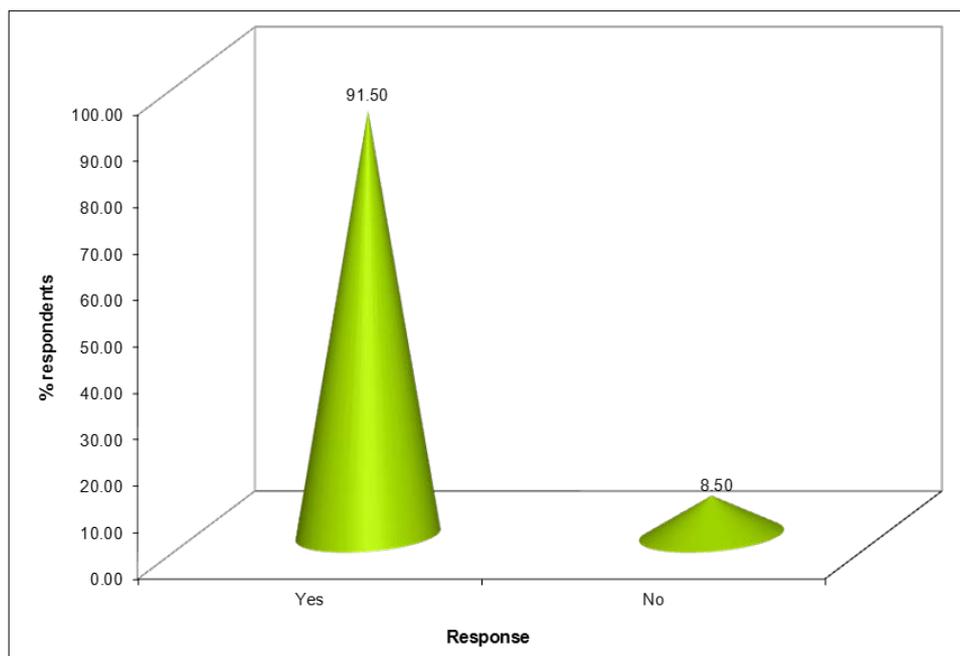


**Fig 3:** Duration of Stay in years in the house by the Home Dwellers

**Table 4:** Familiarity with term Vastu Shastra

Response	N	%
Yes	183	91.50
No	17	8.50
Total	200	100

The study showed that 91.50 percent of the respondents were familiar with the term of “Vastu Shastra while 08.50 percent were not familiar with the term of Vastu Shastra.



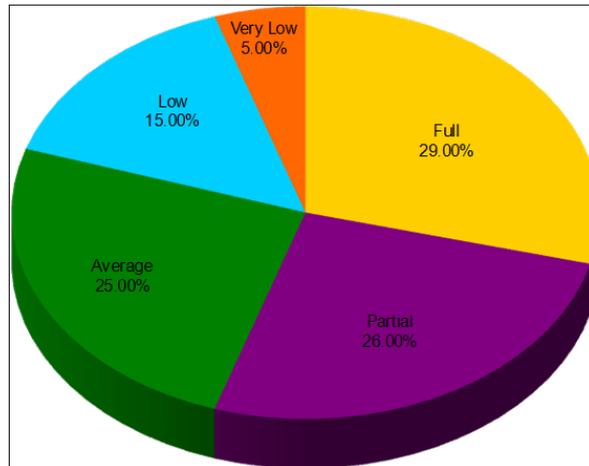
**Fig 4:** Familiarity with the term of Vastu Shastra

**Table 5:** Level of faith in Vastu Shastra Principles

Level of faith	N	%
Full Faith	58	29.00
Partial Faith	52	26.00
Average	50	25.00
Low	30	15.00
Very Low	10	5.00
Total	200	100.00

The study measured the level of faith in five point scale ranking from full faith to very low level faith. The

observation of data showed 29.00 percent of the respondents had full faith followed by 26.00 percent partial faith, 25.00 percent, 15.00 percent and 5.00 percent were having average, low and very low faith respectively in Vastu Shastra principles concerning construction of house and interior designing of various rooms in a home. It is concluded that 80.00 percent of the respondents had shown their faith level in Vastu use to large extent while 20.00 percent of the respondents also had shown their faith to some extent.



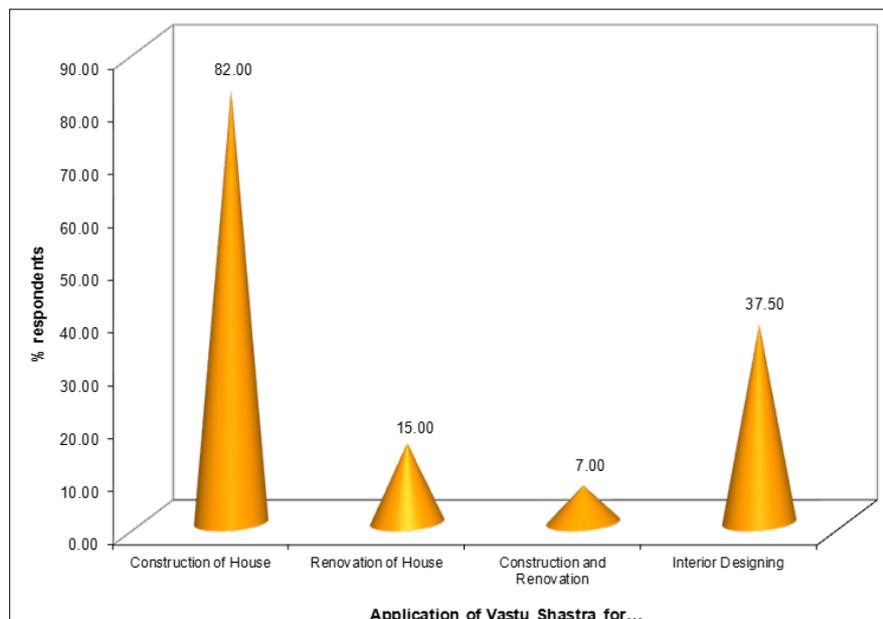
**Fig 5:** Level of faith in Vastu Shastra Principles

**Table 6:** Application of Vastu Shastra Principles by the Respondents

Application	N	%
Construction of House	164	82.00
Renovation of House	30	15.00
Construction and Renovation	14	7.00
Interior Designing	75	37.50

It is obvious from the above table that sizeable number of houses (82.00%) was constructed by applying the principles of Vastu Shastra in house construction from plot selection to Greha Pravasha. Regarding renovation of houses, only such 15.00 percent of the respondents had made alteration in

construction of kitchen/ toilet/ septic tank or boring point and furnishings of rooms in accordance with Vastu who had purchased ready built houses from other builders. While least number of the respondents (7.00%) who had themselves constructed their houses and later on they renovated and furnished them in accordance with principles of Vastu Shastra. Regarding interior designing of the various rooms it was seen that 37.50 percent of the dwellers had applied Vastu Shastra principles in interior designing by consulting interior designer and also self trained family member if any in their own house. Remaining people did not hire interior designer but they arranged the rooms themselves by their self awareness of Vastu rules.



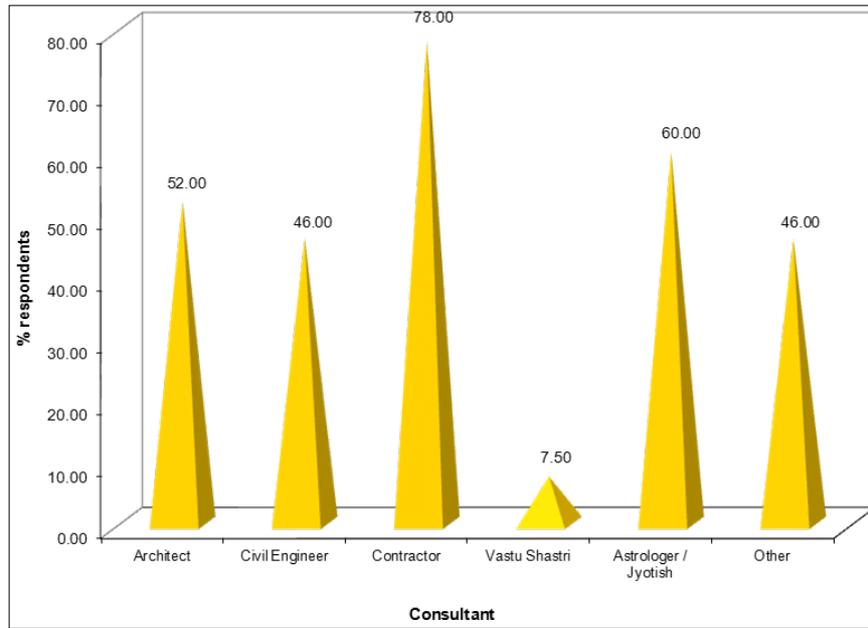
**Fig 6:** Application of Vastu Shastra Principles by the Respondents

**Table 7:** Consultation with Expert by the Respondents during Construction of the House

Consultation	N	%
Architect	104	52.00
Civil Engineer	92	46.00
Contractor	156	78.00
Vastu Shastri	15	7.50
Astrologer / Jyotish	120	60.00
Any Other (pls. mention)	92	46.00

Table 13 depicts that little more than half (52.00%) of the respondents had consulted architects followed by 46.00

percent civil engineers for construction of house. Out of the total selected households, majority of these (78.00%) were built by consulting contractors and only 07.50 percent by consultation of Vastu shastries. Further 60.00 percent of the respondents had consulted astrologer/jyotish especially for bhumi poojan and greh prevesha ceremony. It was also observed that near about half of the houses (46.00%) were constructed by self-awareness of respondents themselves in addition with the consultation of others *i.e.* contractor/engineer etc.

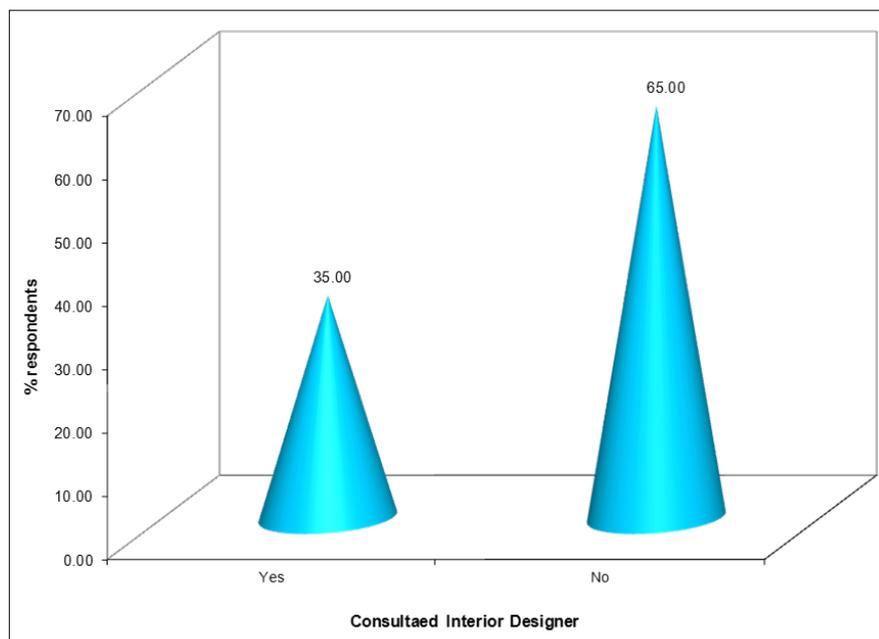


**Fig 7:** Consultation with Expert by the Respondents during Construction of the House

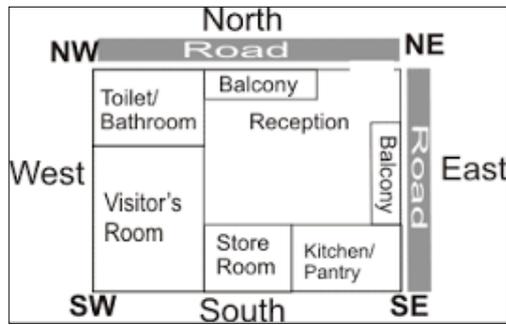
**Table 8:** Consultation with Interior Designer in furnishing of Home

Consultation	N	%
Yes	70	35.00
No	130	65.00
Total	200	100.00

The data in the table 8 submits that only 35.00 percent of the respondents showed their nod with respect to consulting of an interior designer in furnishing of their home. It was more surprising fact that 65.00 percent of the respondents avoided to take such an expertise and designed their home on their own as per vastu norms.



**Fig 8:** Consultation with Interior Designer in furnishing of Home



**Fig 9:** Extent of application of Vastu principles in house construction from selection of plot to Greh

Vastu for house involves several important traits, which depicts unique style in building and in every room of your home. Constructing a house by closely sticking with the Vastu principles greatly bring peace, success and opulence to the dwellers residing in the home. Moreover, a good Vastu Shastra drives away the negative powers and brings holiness and supreme powers into the home. Hereunder researcher makes an attempt, to know from the respondents about Vastu application and its implementation in house and rooms by closely sticking with the Vastu norms. The findings of the actual observation by the researcher in Vastu application by home dwellers reveal significant results of Vastu construction hereunder:

**Table 9:** Application of Vastu Principles in Selection of Plot n=200

Principles	Applied		Not Applied	
	N	%	N	%
Living in North/ East / West direction house but not in South	161	80.50	39	19.50
Living in Rectangular or square house	191	95.50	9	4.50
Our commercial place (Shop / Factory / Office) is in south	68	34.00	132	66.00

**Selection of Plot**

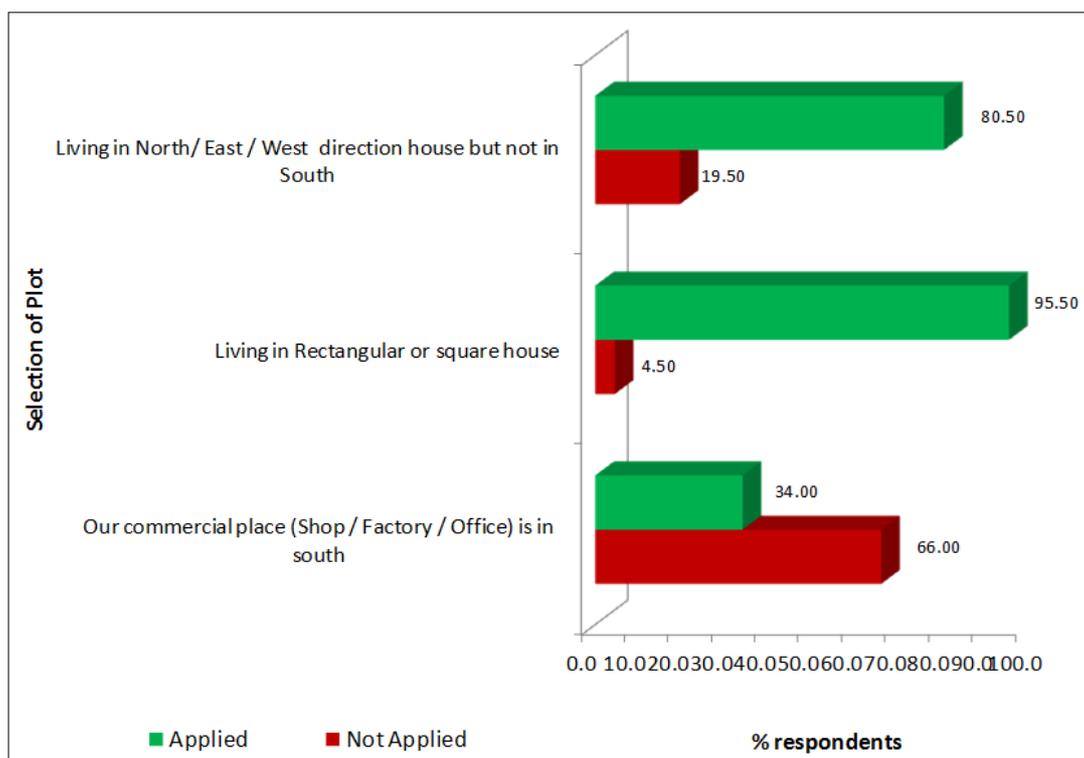
The direction of the plots plays a very important role in its construction. Different directions are beneficial for various types of persons and organizations. One should be very cautious while making a selection of his futuristic home. The other most important aspects of construction of the house are shape, surroundings and environment of the plot combined with five elements of nature and eight cardinal directions as also emphasized by Alexander (2004)<sup>[1]</sup>.

During the course of survey, the researcher tried to know about these facts by observing personally with the help of a vastu compass as evident from the above table that 80.50 percent of the respondents had applied the principle of selection of a plot and opted to live either in North/ East / West direction house and only 19.50 percent were found to live in a plot facing South direction. According to them,

reason for having their house in South was non availability of plot or house in any other direction and lack of resources. While on the other hand, some of the respondents found them proliferated with their south living house due to more family income coming from the south facing house.

Regarding application of vastu principle in accordance with shape of the plot, a majority of the house occupiers (95.50%) had applied it and was living either in a rectangular or square shaped house. A very small number of the home dwellers (4.50%) had not applied this principle and opted to any other shaped house ie circular / round/ quadrangle etc.

Further it was also seen by the researcher that a little more than one third (34.00%) of the total respondents had their commercial place (Shop / Factory / Office) in south direction whereas remaining 66.00 percent had not any commercial property.



**Fig 10:** Application of Vastu principles in Selection of a Plot

**Table 10:** Application of Vastu Principles in Beginning of Construction n=200

Principles	Applied		Not Applied	
	N	%	N	%
Before beginning construction house planning was done in clockwise direction	139	69.50	61	30.50
Bhumi Poojan of my plot was done in North-East corner	178	89.00	22	11.00
The bore well/underground water storage tank is in North-East corner	149	74.50	51	25.50
Septic tank in my house is in North or West direction at least two feet away from the plinth of the house.	154	77.00	46	23.00
Digging of foundation work was done from North-East corner to South-West corner	128	64.00	72	36.00

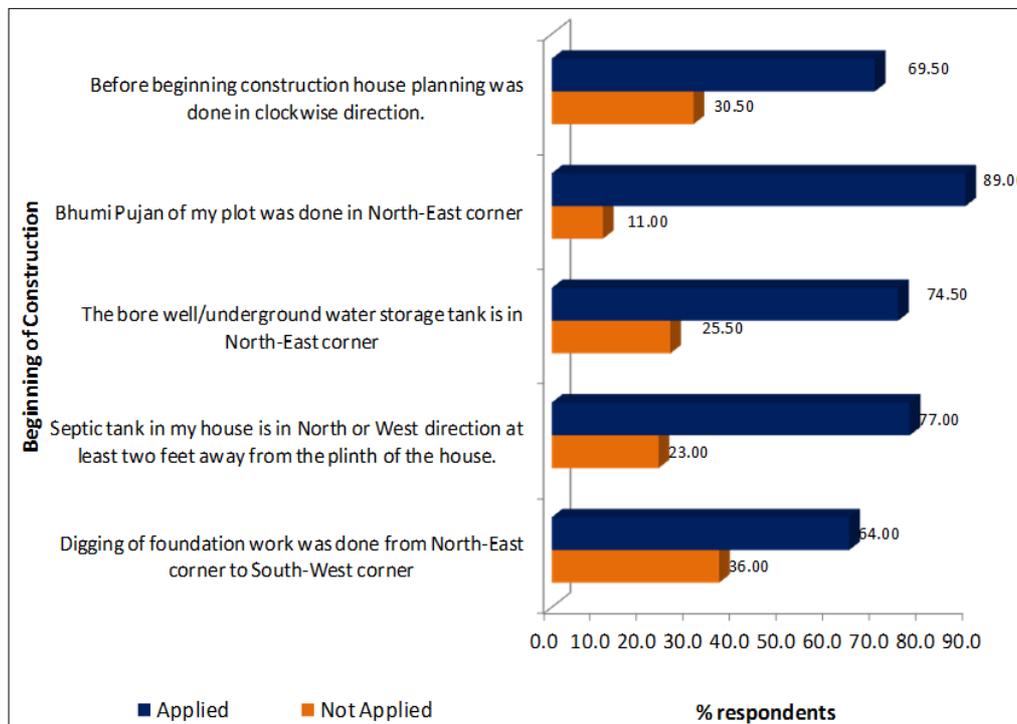
**Beginning of Construction**

The table above depicts the vastu principles applied before beginning of construction of houses. Most of the respondents (89.50%) got Bhumi Poojan in North-east corner and only 11.00 percent of the respondents had shown their ignorance about this vastu norm. It was reported by more than two third of the respondents (69.50%) that house planning was done in clockwise direction before start of construction of their plots. On other hand 30.50 percent of the respondents had not followed this vastu fact. On further step of construction, it was very interesting to note that three fourth (74.50%) of the

respondents had got built their bore well/underground water storage tank in north-east corner while only 25.50 percent of the respondents remained dormant and did not apply this vastu principle.

On step ahead, 77.00 percent of the occupiers had got built septic tank in North or West direction and at least two feet away from the plinth of the house while 23.00 percent remained away from this fact.

The data obtained reflected that majority of the respondents *i.e.* 64.00 percent of the respondents got digging of their house foundation work from North-east corner to South-west corner while 36.00 percent had not applied this doctrine.



**Fig 11:** Application of Vastu Principles in Beginning of Construction

**Table 11:** Application of Vastu Principles in the Entrance Verandah n=200

Principles	Applied		Not Applied	
	N	%	N	%
Verandah in my house is in North or East part of the house	150	75.00	50	25.00
The swing in my house is in E-W axis (if exists)	69	34.50	131	65.50
Shore rack is in North- West of verandah	102	51.00	98	49.00
I do not have underground tank or septic tank under the main entrance	149	74.50	51	25.50

**The Entrance Verandah**

The entrance of verandah is one of the very important features of the vastu principle as it reflects the panorama of a house. When respondents were queried to know about application of this principle, exact three-fourth (75.00%) of the respondents had applied it by constructing Verandah in North or East part of the house while 25.00 percent did not follow it. Following other holy vastu aspect 74.50 percent of the respondents had not constructed septic tank under the main entrance while

25.50 percent did not follow this vastu principle and were having septic tank under the main entrance.

The researcher also came to know that 34.50 percent of the respondents had the swing in house in E-W axis while 65.50 were not having swing in their house. It was also found that 51.00 percent of the respondents had applied the principle of keeping their shoe rack in North- west of verandah while others not.

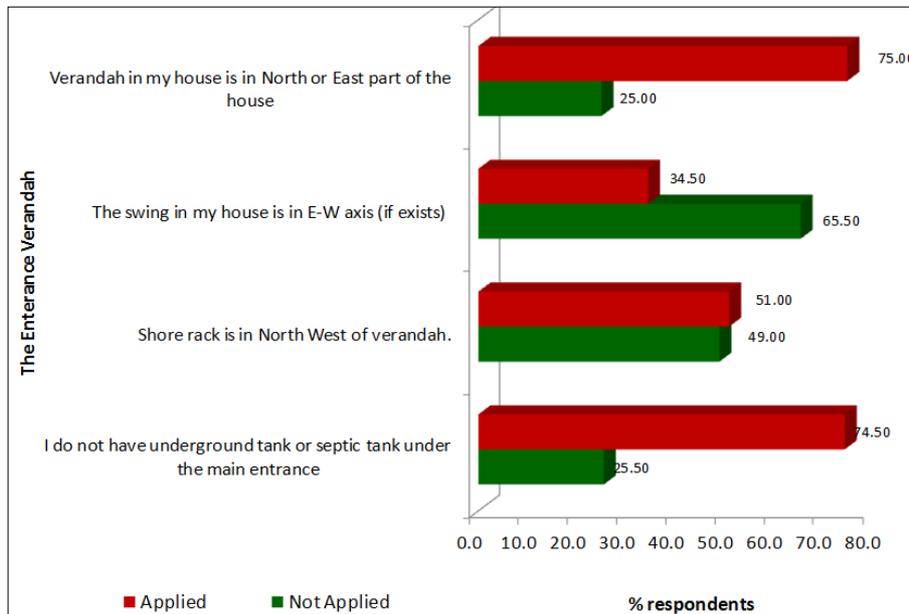


Fig 12: Vastu Application in the Entrance Verandah

Table 12(a): Average Application of Vastu principles for a Particular Factor n=200(for each factor)

Factor	Application
Selection of Plot	70.00
Beginning of Construction	74.80
The Entrance Verandah	58.75

Table 41(a) describes about average level of application for a particular factor. After analysis of results it was found that on an average the application of vastu principles by the home dwellers was 70.00 percent in plot selection, 74.80 percent in beginning of construction, 58.75 percent in the entrance verandah.

Table 12(b): Extent of Application of Vastu Shastra Principles for a Particular Factor

Extent of Application for a Particular Factor	N	Mean	SD	T	Result
Selection of Plot	200	70.00	22.42	6.31	***
Beginning of Construction	200	74.80	29.00	7.22	***
The Entrance Verandah	200	58.75	30.05	-0.59	NS

**Inference:** The extent of application about all Vastu Shastra principles in house construction and interior designing by home dwellers for all particular factors given in the above table (41b) was found to be significantly higher than the normal assumed level except for entrance verandah. The extent of application about entrance verandah was found to be significantly slightly lower than the normal assumed level.

To check average level of application of Vastu principles in construction of house and interior designing by home dwellers, the extent of application of Vastu in their homes or work places was tested statistically. The test results are given in the table above (41c). Test results show that the extent of application of Vastu in their homes and various work places was significantly higher than the standard/ assumed level ( $t = 11.06, p < 0.001$ ). Hence on the basis of our sample respondents, on an average it is concluded that people are applying Vastu at significantly higher level in their homes and work places also.

Table 12(c): Extent of Application of Vastu Principles

	N	Mean	SD	t	Df	Result
Application of Vastu	200	72.28	16.39	11.06	199	***

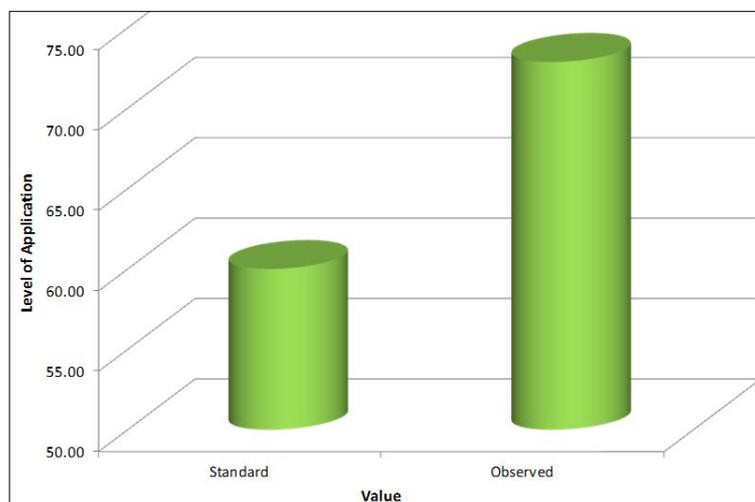


Fig 12(a): Extent of Level of Application of

### Conclusion and Suggestion

The understanding of knowledge and rationality in application of knowledge of Vastu Shastra principles may be an interest area for present day home dwellers. The information generated regarding knowledge, application and constraints in renovation according to Vastu Shastra may give an innovative outlook to architects and researchers having interest in the specific area.

Vastu can be used by the corporate world to enhance their employees' productivity and increase their sales and productivity.

Vastu Shastra can be successfully used by all professionals like Doctors, Attorneys, Consultants, Counselors, Engineers and Contractors to create a space that enhances health, well being and a pleasant atmosphere which encourages good communication between clients, customers and professionals.

Vastu Shastra can design hospital buildings which harness nature's curative powers to heal faster.

Vastu Shastra can be used by factories to improve their efficiency, enhance safety of their workers and minimize machine downtime.

Vastu principles can be utilized very effectively to design hotels, clubhouses, retreats and restaurants to create a space which offers tranquility, comfort and beauty to their customers.

Vastu principles can boost the sale of Malls, Shopping Centers and retail outlets.

Vastu planning can also benefit places of worship, meditation and yoga centers and educational institutions and create an ambience of harmony, balance and tranquility to promote learning, inner peace and quick healing of the chakras and pranic energy.

The way we live has changed. Our lifestyles have undergone radical transformations. The modern living has exerted unprecedented pressure on the people and their habitat. All around us we find an increase in family and work related tension and we are becoming prone to hypertension, stresses, pain, anger, agony and antipathy. Everybody in the society is looking for various means and ways to find relief from tensions at levels of physical, mental, spiritual, financial and matrimonial or any social or non-social psychological conflicts.

An intelligent application of Vastu principles can insulate us from these negative influences, add richness to our lifestyle and promote peace, harmony, prosperity, wealth, happiness, mental peace and spiritual growth. Finances are highly sensitive to Vastu changes and it is possible to manipulate buildings designs to ensure healthy financial conditions.

Correct implementation of Vastu principles can improve relationships between co-workers, between management and workers, between friends and relatives, between organizations and their clients so the scope of Vastu in modern living is vast.

Particular interest would be the application of Vastu principles in designing the layouts of industries. Industries are highly susceptible to Vastu faults. The reason is obvious that they are exposed to heavy loads of machinery, raw material, finished goods and brute mechanical action of the machines like cutting, piercing, shearing, drilling, bending, high to very high temperatures of furnaces, heat treatment plants, welding activities, movement of heavy vehicles, goods and people etc.

The documentation of relevant material may help an

individual to consider these at the time of house planning and construction.

The present study may add a new dimension to the profession where more studies can be carried out in detail and contributing to professional growth of discipline.

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