

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING HOSTEL PROBLEMS OF STUDENTS RESIDING IN HOSTEL OF DESH BHAGAT UNIVERSITY, DISTRICT FATEHGARH SAHIB (PUNJAB)

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ABSTRACT

A descriptive study was conducted to assess the hostel problems of students residing in the hostel of Desh Bhagat University, District Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab. A quantitative research approach with a descriptive design was used. A total of 130 hostel students were selected using a non-probability convenient sampling technique. Data were collected using a self-structured questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics. The findings revealed that students faced multiple problems, particularly related to food quality and taste, lack of conveyance for outings (66%), inadequate cleanliness, and insufficient medical facilities. Although basic amenities such as Wi-Fi, electricity, and accommodation were available, dissatisfaction was observed in mess services and hygiene. The study concluded that there is a need to improve food quality, healthcare services, cleanliness, and transportation facilities to enhance the overall well-being of hostel students.

Keywords: Hostel problems, students, facilities, health, accommodation

INTRODUCTION

Hostel life plays a significant role in shaping the personality and lifestyle of students, especially those who come from distant areas to pursue higher education. It provides opportunities for independence, social interaction, and personal development. Students living in hostels learn to adapt to new environments, develop communication skills, and engage in various co-curricular activities.

Despite these advantages, hostel life is also associated with several challenges. Students may face physical, social, psychological, and environmental stressors such as homesickness, poor food quality, lack of hygiene, and inadequate facilities. These issues can affect their health, academic performance, and overall well-being. Therefore, it is important to assess the problems faced by students residing in hostels to improve their living conditions and support their holistic development.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A quantitative research approach with a descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The target population included all students residing in the hostel of Desh Bhagat University, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab. A sample of 130 students was selected using a non-probability convenient sampling technique.

Data were collected using a self-structured

questionnaire designed to assess various hostel-related problems such as food, facilities, discipline, health services, and environment. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequency and percentage distribution, and presented in the form of tables and figures.

RESULTS

The study findings revealed that hostel students face multiple problems in their daily living conditions. A significant proportion of students reported dissatisfaction with food services, where 52% stated that food was not according to their taste, and 42% did not like the menu. Additionally, 10% reported that food was not fresh and hygienic.

Transportation was identified as a major issue, with 66% of students reporting a lack of conveyance facilities for outings. Regarding healthcare, 32% of students expressed the need for proper first aid services, and 7% suggested the provision of an ambulance.

In terms of facilities, although 62% of students reported that all basic amenities were available, concerns were raised about cleanliness, food quality, and laundry services. Around 53% reported that rooms and corridors were not cleaned regularly. Furthermore, some students experienced stress and homesickness due to staying away from family.

Overall, the findings indicate that while basic infrastructure is available, several areas require improvement to ensure a comfortable and healthy hostel environment.

DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study highlight that hostel students experience a range of problems related to food, hygiene, transportation, and healthcare services. Similar to previous studies, dissatisfaction with food quality and lack of proper facilities were common concerns among students.

The lack of conveyance facilities limits students' mobility and affects their social well-being. Inadequate healthcare services, including absence of emergency support such as ambulance and proper first aid, may pose serious risks to students' health. Cleanliness and hygiene are also critical factors influencing student satisfaction and health, and deficiencies in these areas may lead to infections and discomfort.

These findings emphasize the need for improved hostel management practices, better infrastructure, and enhanced support services to promote student well-being.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that students residing in hostels at Desh Bhagat University face several problems, particularly related to food quality, cleanliness,

healthcare services, and transportation. Although basic facilities are available, there is a need for significant improvements in hostel management. Providing better food services, maintaining hygiene, ensuring availability of medical facilities, and offering transportation support can enhance the quality of hostel life and contribute to the overall development of students.

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