The Impact of Hostel Environment on Post Graduate Student's Academic Performance

Sujan Modak

Assistant Professor, Shibnath Saha Teachers Training College

Abstract

The Hostel environment plays a crucial role in shaping the academic performance of students, particularly at the postgraduate level where academic demands are high. This study investigates the influence of various hostel-related factors—including living conditions, peer interactions, study facilities, noise levels, and administrative support—on the academic performance of postgraduate students at the University of Burdwan. Using a mixed-methods approach, data were collected through structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews from a representative sample of hostel residents. In the data analysis, it has been found that there exists significant and positive relationship between the hostel environment and students' academic performance.

Keywords: Hostel environment, Academic Performance, Postgraduate students, University of Burdwan, student housing, higher education.

1.0. Introduction

Hostels are an integral part of the education sector. Students are most essential asset for any educational institute. The social and economic development of the country is directly linked with student academic performance. The student's performance plays an important role in producing the best quality graduates who will become great leader and manpower for the country thus responsible for the country's economic and social development. Many factors strongly influence on the student's performance, like social, psychological, economical etc. The main topic in the study how much the hostel environment affects the student's academic Performance. Hostels are the places were the people live (preferably) when they are on visits or the students. In India, the hostels are usually considered as the place of living for the students (only) those are not from the city of the university. For example, if the university is in Kolkata and the student is from Nabadwip which is far away from Kolkata and student can't do daily out back. So, in this condition, he needs a rented (mostly) place/room to live in Kolkata to save his time and money. For this, hostels are the best option. Usually, universities provide this facility to accommodate their students so they may put their utmost concentration on studies.

1.1. Research Objectives

Following are the aims and objectives of this research:

i) To find out the relationship between the environment of the hostel and the academic Performance of students.

ii) To study the effects of the environment of the hostel on the academic performance of students.

iii) To identify the role of the hostel environment towards students' academic performance.

iv) To suggest the suitable and possible recommendations to the hostel students for their better life and learnings at the hostel.

1.2. Hypothesis

Hypothesis for this study are:

HI: There is a positive relationship between Hostel Environment and Students' Academic Performance.

HO: There is no relationship between Hostel Environment and Students' Academic Performance.

H2: There is a positive impact of Hostel Environment on Students' Academic Performance.

HO: There is no impact of Hostel Environment on Students' Academic Performance.

1.3. Delimitations

This research is preliminarily focused on the environment of the hostel and its impact on the academic performance of The University of Burdwan PG level students in Purba Barddhaman,West Bengal,India.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Naeem and Muhammad Sajid (2022) study was about the influence of hostel life of students on educational performance. The main objective of this study is to check how hostel life affects the academic performance of the students. This study has provided significant new information on the facilities that affect pupils' academic performance. It also highlighted the hostel students' experiences, behavioral changes, and personality traits. The results exposed that the teaching assistances and hostel are the two services that have the largest an impact on the educational performance of Sargodha university students at off Campus. Correlational value show a significant association between both the dependent and independent variables, in which correlation value is (.432**) with a significant value (.000) less than (0.05). There is a moderately strong significant optimistic direct connection between the dependent and independent variables. Regression data shows that the independent variable has positive value and significant effect on the academic performance of the students which is dependent variable of the study.

Khan, et.al. (2020) the objective of the study is to critically investigate the facilities and the communication services required in the hostel; to critically investigate the safety services prevailing in the hostel. For this study, 219 respondents were chosen on a simple random sampling basis among the students both girls and boys from Sohar University who were living in the hostel outside side the campus. Using a well-defined questionnaire, the data was collected data and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to derive at the conclusion. Most of the respondents are living in the hostel for more than one year (66.2%). 81.3 % of the respondents reported that their GPA during last semester was more than 2 and this year 84.9 % of respondents reported to be of GPA more than 2. 34.2 % of the respondents reported that their GPA has increased after their hostel stay. It is observed that the study during the stay in the hostel is high compared to their study outside the hostel or at home.Most of the respondents (77.2 %) are so comfortable and peaceful to study in their hostel room. The majority of the students also reported that the room lighting is good to study, Air conditioning is comfortable and

the room is located in a good environment to study. It was also reported that the furniture provided was also good. Further, they also reported that the bathroom, kitchen facilities comforts their study from wasting their time going outside. But the majority complained that there is no separate room to meet their visitors, disturbs their study. Most of the respondents (48.4%) reported that the transport facilities to the hostel disrupt their program of study as there is a delay in reaching the University on time.

Ahmed, et. al. (2018) exploring the impacts of cultural, social and economic differences on the educational performance as well as health of migrated students. The significance of the study is to highlights the economic, social and health problems of migrated students in universities. It is important to tell the establishment to give an ample devotion to this problem. This research would reveal the better truth about the nature of problems which are being faced by migrated students in universities. This study also highlights the performance difference between migrated and non-migrated students in universities. Sociologically, education is a formal institution that socializes students from very specific angles. If students face difficulties in this institution that impedes the whole process of socialization. It is important stage to elaborate and eliminate all those hurdles that impact students individually or society wholly.

Mahaama, and Tummaku's (2016) analysis of what should be included in a cheap hostel, there should be a peaceful environment with proper security, as well as access to water, toilets, and electricity services. Basic amenities like kitchenettes, lavatories, and laundry rooms with ample water supplies had a substantial impact on student satisfaction.

Summary & Knowledge gaps

After systematically review of the related literature provides it's founded an over view on the Hostel Environment and Student's academic performance as well as impact of Hostel environment on student's academic performance. Most of the studies have done various works on the effect of the Hostel environment on the Student's Academic performance, but it has not been done in the context of The University of Burdwan. Also an unspoken culture of Hostel's is the introduction phase. How this introduction phase affects student's academic performance, including measure the relationship between the two variables, is the main subject of the investigate.

3.0. Research Design

This research was based on the quantitative type of research with the positivist approach. This was an inductive in nature whereas the quantitative survey was conducted using the structured questionnaire having 4 or 5 options to collect the responses. The questionnaire was comprised of several questions on the under-discussion topic. After collecting the responses, the analysis was undertaken by converting those responses into numeric codes. For reaching at the meaningful results and conclusion, this topic required thoughtful and sensible information gathering from the respondents. Besides, relevant studies (done in the past) were also examined and had been found that the similar way is also undertaken by the researchers.

3.1. Population

The students of The University of Burdwan availing the hostels facility' from at least 2 year were the population for this research.

3.2. Variables

The key variable considered of this study was:

1. Hostel Environment (Independent variable).
2. Students' Academic Performance (Dependent variable).

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.0.1. Reliability

For checking the analysis of reliability, the pilot testing was conducted. Initially, the 20 questionnaires were filled from the entirely different participants to ensure that this chosen tool is quite reliable to collect the data related to the study.

The overall reliability of the complete questionnaire is 0.832 (Cronbach's Alpha) which is greater than 0.7 and shows enough reliability of this tool. Similarly, the Cronbach's Alpha for the independent variable is 0.638 which is a bit lower than the standard and shows that for finding the independent variable, this tool is not too much reliable. On the other hand, the Cronbach's Alpha of the dependent variable is 0.760 which is also greater than the standard 0.7 and reveals that this tool is quite better to check the reliability of dependent variable. The values of the Cronbach's Alpha for independent and dependent variable are given below with the reliability of entire questionnaire,

Table 4.1 Reliability of the Variables / Cronbach's Alpha

Variable	No. of Items	Cronbach's Alpha Value
Overall Reliability	20	0.832
Hostel Environment	10	0.638
Student's Academic Performance	10	0.760

4.1. Data Analysis

4.1.1. Demographic Profile Analysis

The responses for the research were collected from the students of The University of Burdwan living in a hostel at least for 1 year. Demographic information included the details of Gender, Time of Living at Hostel and Degree Program. The total of 100 questionnaires was printed and approached these selective respondents at their rooms. Dividing the whole responses in different sections, total 44 (44%) male students and 56 (56%) female students provided their responses. Among these 100 respondents, 74 (31 males, 43 females) were living in the hostel for 1-2 years whereas remaining 26 (13 males and 13 females) were living in the hostel for 2+ years. Similarly, among these 44 males and 56 females, 54 (20 males and 34 females) were belonged to the M.A. Degree. 32 (15 males and 17 females) were belonged to M.SC. Degree. 4 (3 males and 1

females) were belonged to MBA Degree, 8 (4 males and 4 females) were belonged to M.Ed. Degree. 2 (2 males and 0 females) were belonged to LAW Degree.

Table 4.2 Gender and Time Since Living in Hostel

		Time Since Living in Hostel		Total
		1-2 Years	2 Years+	
Gender	Male	31	13	44
	Female	43	13	56
Total		74	26	100

Table 4.3 Gender and Degree Program

		Degree Program					Total
		M.A.	M.SC.	MBA	M.ED.	LAW	
Gender	Male	20	15	3	4	2	44
	Female	34	17	1	4	0	56
Total		54	32	4	8	2	100

4.1.2. Descriptive Analysis of Variables

After the analysis of demographic information, the complete descriptive analysis was taken. It is comprised of the minimum, maximum, standard deviation and mean for the 2 constructs i.c. Hostel Environment and Students Academic Performance. Given below is the complete table of descriptive analysis.

Table 4.4 Descriptive Analysis

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Variance					
Hostel Environment .217	100	1.00	3.50	2.0720	.46604
Student's Academic .329	100	1.00	3.50	2.0384	.57316
Performance					
Valid N (list wise)	100				

4.1.2.1. Hostel Environment

The first construct of the study is Hostel Environment. This includes total 10 items (questions). Responses on this were collected on the Likert scale with 5 points ranging from Strongly Agree

to Strongly Disagree. On this scale, "1" was coded as Strongly Agree and 5 was coded as Strongly Disagree. On the descriptive analysis table, minimum "1" shows that I was the minimum number that was chosen by the respondents to answer the question. On the other hand, the maximum "3.50 or approx. 4" shows that 4 was that 4 was the maximum response chosen by the respondents to answer all question. Furthermore, the mean of these responses is "2.07" which reveals that on an average, participants have responded agreeing with the questions on the questionnaire. Besides this, the standard deviation is "0.467" which shows the deviation of the answers by respondents from the mean.

4.1.2.2. Students' Academic Performance

The second construct of this study is Students' Academic Performance. This includes total 10 items (questions) like as first construct. Responses on this were collected on the Likert scale with 5 points ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree. On this scale. "1" was coded as Strongly Agree and 5 was coded as Strongly Disagree. On the descriptive analysis table, minimum "1" shows that I was the minimum number that was chosen by the respondents to answer the

question. On the other hand, the maximum "3.50 or approx. 4" shows that 4 was the maximum response chosen by the respondents to answer all question. Furthermore, the mean of these responses is "2.04" which reveals that on an average, participants have responded agreeing with the questions on the questionnaire. Besides this the standard deviation is "0.57" which shows the deviation of the answers by respondents from the mean.

4.1.3. Correlations Among the Variables

Table 4.5 Correlations

		Hostel Environment	Student's Academic Performance
Hostel Environment	Pearson Correlation	1	.455**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	100	100
Student's Academic Performance	Pearson Correlation	.455**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	100	100

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

4.1.3.1. Hostel Environment

According to the values of table, Pearson Correlation test of association is "0.455" which is quite significant i.e. 0.000. This indicates that there is positive and quite substantial relationship exists

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between the independent variable Environment of Hostel and dependent variable-Academic Performance of Students. Therefore, here the HO is rejected and H1 is accepted.

4.1.4. Linear Regression Analysis

After finding the correlation between independent and dependent variable. next step was to run the regression equation between both variables. This would reveal the impact of independent variable on dependent variable.

According to the table presented below, the value of the "R" is "0.455" which shows the "R Correlation between both variables. Furthermore, the value of the R Square is ".0207" which means that 20.7% change in the academic performance of the students can be caused by the hostel environment. In other words, the hostel environment can only impact 20.7% of the total on the academic performance of the student (Adjusted R^2-0.201). Moreover, the value of "t' is also significant in the table.

In the next table; the value of the "F", regression Coefficient is "32.132" which is significant at 0.000. In the table next to this, the values of the Standard Beta Coefficient for the variable Hostel Environment is 0.455 which is significant as significance value is 0.000. Hence, the H0 is rejected and H2 is accepted here.

Table 4.6 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.455a	.207	.201	.51243

a. Predictors: (Constant), Hostel Environment

4.7. ANOVAª

Model Sig.		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F
1 .000ᵇ	Regression	8.437	1	8.437	32.132
	Residual	32.298	123	.263	
	Total	40.736	124		

a. Dependent Variable: Student's Academic Performance
b. Predictors (Constant), Hostel Environment

Table 4.8. Coefficientsª

Model sig.	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t
	B	Std. Error	Beta	

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| 1 | (Constant) | .879 | | .210 | 4.191 | .000 |
| | Hostel Environment | .560 | .099 | .455 | 5.669 | .000 |

a. Dependent Variable: Student's Academic Performance

4.2. Impact of Hostel's Introduction phase on Student's Academic Performance

A culture of Hostels in The University of Burdwan is the introduction phase, the statement regarding its impact on student's academic performance was as follows:

হোস্টেলের পরিচয় পর্ব অ্যাকাডেমিক পারফরম্যান্স কে ব্যাহত করে /**Hostel introduction phase hampers academic performance.**

Strongly Disagree (SDA)/Disagree (DA)/Neutral(N)/Agree(A)/Strongly agree (SA)
Instruction: 100 Responders

Table 4.9. Impact of Hostel Introduction phase on Academic Performance

	Overall Response	living 1-2 years in Hostel	living 2+ years in Hostel	Male	Female
SDA-	0	0	0	0	0
DA –	18	3	15	12	6
N –	26	26	0	8	18
A –	29	26	3	9	20
SA–	27	19	8	15	12
	100	74	26	44	56

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. Conclusion

This chapter will conclude the whole study along with the recommendations and area of further research.

This study was planned to identify the impact of the hostel environment on students' academic performance. This study focused on 2 variables; Hostel Environment (IV) and Student's Academic Performance (D.V.). For this, the questionnaire was developed and the responses of the participants were taken on the closed-ended questionnaire. this lead the whole research to the data analysis of responses. The data analysis was done on the SPSS software.

In the data analysis, it has been found that there exists significant and positive relationship between the hostel environment and students' academic performance. However, the reliability of Hostel Environment was bit lower than the standard that means that this method is not always reliable to check this variable. Furthermore, the impact of Hostel environment on students' academic performance has also been found as positive and significance. This means that any

change in the independent variable either positive or negative, there will be significant change in the students' Academic performance.

So, after doing all process and reaching at conclusion, researcher is at the position to conclude its findings that there exists a significant relationship between the independent variable and dependent variable. In other words, research is able to say that hostel plays avital role in the academic life and performance of students. So, the all 2 (H1 and H2) expected hypotheses has been accepted here and other HO, and HO has been rejected here. Furthermore, it is confirmed that this study has brought researcher at the valuable information and results.

Most of the student's feel that Hostel introduction phase hampers their academic performance. Only 18% students feel that hostel introduction phase does not hamper their academic performance. Among them, the number of those who stay in hostels for more than two years is 15%.

5.1. Recommendations

This study was considering the code of conducts and ethics and all efforts were made to maintain its integrity. However, the study has been given the desired and valuable results but there is still need to do research in this area as there is also exists the gap in this area. Therefore, few of the recommendations are given below.

1. This study was conducted at The University of Burdwan that limited the generalizability of the study. So, there should be more studies in further areas of the India like Kolkata and Coochbehar, Patna, Ranchi etc.

2. Also, the researcher has used the quantitative approach to study which is very limited in its nature so, it has limited the results. Therefore, there should be the study comprising the qualitative approach. This will strengthen the base of this area and will extract the exact results.

3. Furthermore, the findings have elaborated that there exists only 20.7% impact of the hostel environment. So, there are other variables that impact the students' academic performance. There should be some studies on these topics to clearly analyze the impacts of different variables on students' Academic performance.

4. This study was only done using the questionnaire method. It didn't allowed respondents to provide their own responses. So, in the next study, the open-ended questionnaire and interview should be entertained.

These all recommendations will lead towards the perfectiveness of the study and there will be more accurate and rational results.

5. The introduction phase of the hostel should be suppressed administratively as soon as possible.

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Appendix

Instructions

Below are number of 10 statements about Hostel Environment and 10 statements about Student's academic performance. Would you please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each by entering a short from alongside it according to the following code:

SA=Strongly Agree

A=Agree

N=Normal

D=Disagree

SD=Strongly Disagree

Questionnaires

Hostel Environment

1. I believe that the place where I study affects my academic performance.
2. I believe that the hostel is an integral part of academic life.
3. I have noticed some different changes in myself since staying in the hostel.
4. I have noticed some changes in myself compared to those who do not stay in the hostel.
5. I am satisfied with the hostel.
6. I believe that the condition of the hostel room, toilet and bathroom is hygienic.
7. I believe that the hostel is generally hygienic to live in.
8. I believe that the environment of the hostel discourages me from studying.
9. I believe that the environment of the hostel is conducive for studying.
10. I have a cordial relationship with the hostel warden.

Student's Academic Performance

1. I believe that the hostel plays an important role in the academic performance of the students.
2. When I stay in the hostel, I get motivated to study when I see others studying.
3. I believe that I get enough time for my studies in the hostel.
4. I believe that hostel food has a significant impact on academic performance.
5. I believe that hostel classmates play an important role in academic performance.
6. I agree that I study and learn more with hostel classmates.
7. I often help my peers in their studies in the hostel.
8. I am satisfied with my academic performance.
9. My parents are satisfied with my academic performance.
10. The Hostel introduction period hinders academic performance.