

Situational Analysis of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hostels for College Students: A Special Reference to Ballari District of Karnataka

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Abstract: *The availability of adequate facilities for students in SC and ST hostels under social welfare department is one of the key factor that effects on the overall academic performance of students in higher education. The present study assesses student's facilities in hostels of SC ST College students of Ballari district. The aim is to reviewing the present status of student hostels in order to improve on students living conditions. The informal discussions were held and data was gathered by the use of questionnaire and data analysis made to get the appropriate results. The research concludes that overcrowding, inadequate spaces, non-availability of recreational spaces and lack of internet services are challenging factors in uplifting the hostels. The study recommends that there should be a periodic evaluation must be done on existing facilities availability in the SC and ST hostels run under the Social welfare department for further improvement wherever necessary.*

1. Introduction

The Constitution of India provides certain special constitutional safeguards for the welfare of weaker sections of the population, so that they could take their rightful place in community. As citizens of India, they are fully entitled to certain rights and privileges, which were denied to them in the past. Keeping in view, the Constitutional mandate, the Government of Karnataka, through Social Welfare Department, formulated various programmes and schemes for the upliftment especially for their socio-economic and educational advancement. The Department of Social Welfare is maintaining Pre-Metric and post-metric hostels, providing boarding and lodging facilities to students studying from V to X Std. Provision of hostels for the children hailing from oppressed sections of the community is an important social welfare measure. The role of these hostels in their education advancement is considerable. The student hostel is specifically designed to accommodate students, such as a 'live-in' residential for SC ST College students.

A general observation shows that the college hostel facilities of SC and ST students in particular are not measuring up to the needs of the students due to the lack of hostel buildings and the annual increase in student population. Consequently, today government college hostels are more or less able to provide hostel accommodations while the existing hostels are in poor conditions due to the over crowded student population. These hostels were conceived and designed with standards that conformed to the demand of the generation to which the social welfare belong. The technological advancement which has been unfolding many ways of doing things makes the hostel facilities to be obsolete and inadequate for the student teeming population. The living spaces in these hostels were designed initially. However, this space now accommodates many students more than its capacity. This makes it overcrowded and unacceptable by any standard for higher institution

1.1 Provisions of Hostel Facilities under Social welfare department

Karnataka government in provision of hostels facilities. Social welfare department is a legally functions for the provision of assets and the delivery of services and that allocates responsibilities among the various partners. Central government and state government for the delivery of services. The increasing enrollment of SC and ST students in higher education over the two decades made the enhancing the construction of governments hostels for students in order to meet the demand for more accommodation. A government is a legally-binding for the provision of assets and the delivery of services that allocates responsibilities and duties among the various programmes. Despite of this innovation the problem of hostel accommodation and the poor maintenance of the existing hostels is far from being solved.

1.2 Scope of the present study

The study is to cover the micro level problems covering the physical structure of the SC & ST College hostels, their hostel life and individual life, it also studies students opinion and perceptions regarding the hostel system etc. This study covers 41 college hostels of SC & ST students in 7 taluks of Ballari district of Karnataka.

Table 1: Size of SC and ST Hostels and Inmates in Ballari District

S.No	Taluks Name	No. of Hostels	Students Size
01	Bellari	14	2414
02	Hoovina Hadagali	03	533
03	H.B. Halli	03	310
04	Hospet	08	760
05	Kudligi	05	435
06	Sandur	03	216
07	Siruguppa	05	448
Total		41	5116

(Sources: Social Welfare department, Ballari, official website 2017-18)

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1.3 Objectives of the Study

- 1) To understand the physical conditions of the hostel buildings of the SC, ST college students.
- 2) To analyze the problems and perceptions of the SC, ST hostel inmates.

1.4 Methodology

Methodology used for the present study is as usual in the social science. The required data for the research work has been collected from both Primary and Secondary sources. Observation method was undertaken to study on statuses of the physical structure of the SC and ST hostels for college students in Ballari district. Informal discussions were held to get the information. Researcher analyzed the problems of the inmate student respondents. The primary data have been collected through field survey, informal discussions and personal interaction with hostel students of the SC and ST. Questionnaires have been distributed to the respondents for the purpose of gathering data. Secondary data has been collected through manuals, handbooks, and annual reports of the Social welfare department. These data have provided a reference in completing the study.

Sampling method: Out of 52 SC and ST hostels for college students in the district, there were 29 Schedule Caste and 12 Schedule Tribe hostels have been selected by using stratified sample method. It is found that the total strength of inmate students in all hostels was around 5116 (208 respondents). The selected total 41 hostels for SC and ST college students are the sample of the study. Out of total 5116 students about 208 student respondents selected by using simple random sample.

1.5 Results and Discussions

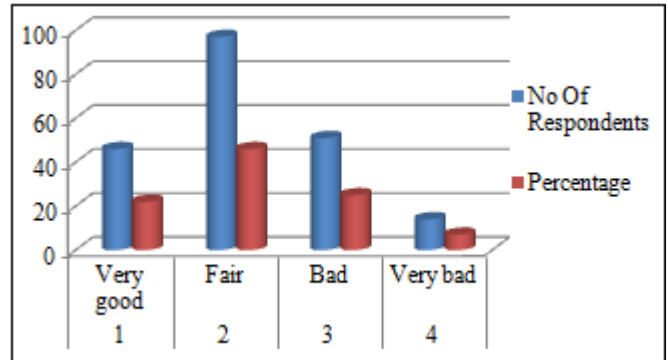
1.5.1. Status of the Hostels

The hostels and the inside facilities provided for the students were examined in the present study. As shown in the Table-2 ‘Students’ responses regarding status of the hostels’, about 46% of the respondents which is the highest response of the universe described the hostel conditions as being fair. While 25.0% of the respondents described it as being bad. About 22% of the respondents agreed that the hostels and its facilities are in a very good condition. About 7.0% of the student respondents described the hostels condition as being relatively very bad. A general observation also shows that most of these hostels and the facilities need serious maintenance works.

Table 2: Status of the Hostel

S.No	Status of the Hostel	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	Very good	46	22
2	Fair	97	46
3	Bad	51	25
4	Very bad	14	07
	Total	208	100

(Sources: Field survey 2017-18)



A Picture of SC &ST Hostel for College Students, Hoovina Hadagali

1.5.2. Students’ Satisfaction rate on Hostels Facilities

Satisfaction evaluations were examined in order to determine the level of students’ satisfaction with the hostels and its facility conditions. From the responses gathered, 67 % of the respondents are satisfied with the hostel facilities. 33 % of the students are not satisfied so far. The number is shown as bellow in Table .3

Table 3: Students Satisfaction with Hostel Facilities

Satisfaction	No of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	140	67
No	68	33
Total	208	100

(Sources :Field survey 2017-18)

1.5.3. Number of Students per Room

The table No. 4 shows that in most of the hostels, rooms that are designed for ten (5) inmate students, but are being occupied by more than 10 (10-20) students. This creating more congestions and inconveniences to both the occupants and the hostel facilities. Congestion is detrimental to the health and well-being of the occupants. As for as the safety of the indoor air quality is concerned such environment cannot be suitable. In the present study speaks as follows. About 47% of the respondents agreed that a hostel room should accommodate 1-5 students as it is an ideal strength.

About 38% of the respondents said between 16-20 students accommodated. While 9% students have said that in their hostel 6 to 10 students have been accommodated in each room. It is observed that students are overcrowded in most of the hostels.

Table 4: Number of Students accommodated in per room in the Hostel

Sl.No.	Number of students per room in the hostel	No of Respondents	Percentage
1	5	98	47
2	6-10	18	9
3	11-15	12	6
4	16-20	80	38
	Total	208	100

(Sources :Field survey 2017-18)

1.5.4 Maintain and Hostel Facilities

Basic facilities like water and interruptible power supply with internet service are equally important in the hostel for the well-being of the students. This table seeking the students’ opinion on a better way of maintaining these hostel facilities. The study analyses on maintenance of the facilities. In the table it shows that 45.0% of the respondents agree to pay the money for repair and maintenance where necessary, 34.4% of the respondents who disagreed, and 18.3% of the respondents were undecided while negligible population of students of about 6% strongly agreed to pay for the cost of replacements where necessary. Table-5 shows the perceptions of the respondents.

Table 5: Perceptions on Maintenance of Hostel Facilities

S. No	Perceptions	No. of Respondents	Percentage
01	Strongly Agree	08	4
02	Agree	117	56
03	Disagree	62	30
04	Strongly Disagree	05	2
05	Undecided	16	8
	Total	208	100

(Sources: Field survey 2017-18)

1.5.5 Responses regarding facilities available in the Hostels

Good academic performance of the students usually depends on what kind and effective facilities available in the hostels. The table-6 shows that additional facilities required by the students in most of the college hostels that include interruptible power supply, efficient internet facility, on-campus security, cafeteria and recreational facility, constant water supply to the hostels, wardrobe, cupboard for safe keeping of individual belongings and even more hostel buildings for fulfilling the hostel demands. Table 1.6 depicts opinion of the respondents regarding present existing facilities. About 68% respondents said that reading rooms not available, 72% said reading table and chairs are not available, about 68% of respondents said that there is no provision of computer facilities, 89% of them said No computer training facilities in the hostels. 57 % of respondents have said that library facilities are not available in the hostels. A general observation is that most of the hostels are yet to be upgraded.

Table 6: Response to Facilities availability in the Hostels

S.No	Basic Needs	Yes	No	Total	Percentage
1	Reading room	68(32%)	140(68%)	208	100
2	Reading table. chair	58(28%)	150(72%)	208	100
3	Computer facilities	65(32%)	143(68%)	208	100
4	Computer training	24(11%)	184(89%)	208	100
6	Library facilities	89(43%)	119(57%)	208	100

(Sources: Field survey 2017-18)

1.6 Major Findings of the Study

The major findings drawn from the present survey related to the conditions of hostel buildings of Schedule caste and Schedule Tribe college students. The major findings of the study are as follows:

- 1) Majority of the respondents are about 46% of the respondents which is the highest response described the hostels conditions as being fair. About 7.0% of the students’ respondents described the hostels condition as being relatively very bad.
- 2) Students Satisfaction with Hostel Facilities are concerned about 67 % of the respondents are satisfied with the hostel facilities. 33 % of the students are not satisfied so far.
- 3) Opinion of the students regarding present a room wise strength at the Hostel about 47% of the respondents agreed that in their hostels 1-5 students allocated in each room. While About 38% of the respondents said that 16-20 students allocated in each rooms.
- 4) Responses on Maintenance and Hostel Facilities concerned about 56.0% of the respondents satisfied and fully agreed to pay the money for maintenance of things where necessary, about 30 students strongly disagreed to pay the money so for.
- 5) Most of the respondents expressed lack of certain facilities in the Hostels such as: Reading room, Reading table & chair, Computer facilities, Computer training, Library facilities etc.

2. Suggestions

The major suggestions for the further improvement of existing SC and ST college hostels are mentioned as follows:-

- 1) It is suggested that to the maximum level two students can be accommodated in a small room, instead of putting large of number students in a big room.
- 2) It is also suggested that only after establishing independent hostels, the social welfare department should run the hostels. Then only we can avoid so many problems.
- 3) Each hostel should have library, computer lab, spoken english and other skill based training programmes.
- 4) The training centers should be opened at each taluk and district headquarters for the SC and ST students especially for preparing them for appearing IAS, IPS, KAS and other competitive exams.
- 5) Since SC & ST students come away from the socio-economic and educationally backward groups, It should be necessary in propagating available facilities from the various governmental departments such as: Ambedkar Abhivruddhi Nigam, Valmiki Abhivruddhi Nigam, Town Municipal and City Municipal and Gram Panchayat’s etc.

3. Conclusion

Therefore, there is statistical evidence to claim that there is a relationship between Hostel Students Satisfaction and its Academic Performance. The level of Satisfaction among the college hostel students is moderate, implying that there must be greater degree of improvements are required to reach the high level. This study identified five key factors relevant to student's satisfaction as for as hostel facilities are concerned. These are accommodation, physical structure of hostels, sports and food facilities, inmate cooperation, library, safety & security. These factors significantly influence on the academic performance of the students.

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