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To study the Accommodation Management System of Pre-Metric Hostels in Selected Districts of Karnataka state.

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Abstract:

The present study is limited to gathering the opinions of the students and their parents and hostel wardens regarding the management and planning/amenities of the Government Pre-Matric Hostels under the Department of Social Welfare in Karnataka state. Considering the management of hostels, the present research has taken a prospective view and extracted the results in order to collect and evaluate the views of the hostel students and their parents and hostel custodians to know whether the schemes are being implemented properly or not. The following objective has been set for the present research, to study the opinion of hostel students and their parents and hostel wardens regarding good accommodation management. To conduct an evaluative study of the management and planning/facilities of the pre-matric hostels of the Department of Social Welfare. Total 80 hostels were covered under the study from selected four Districts of Karnataka State. Researcher Selected each 20 hostels randomly in Hassan, Tumkur, Ballari an Haveri Districts in Karnataka state, and total of 80 hostels selected out of 218 hostels in Hassan, Tumkur, Ballari an Haveri District. 80 Hostel wardens, 320 Students in the hostels and along with their 160 parents and guardians will be selected by simple random method. In the present research the study to be carried out using structured questionnaire method and structured interview method. Findings of the study are, In terms of the basic necessities, 21% of hostels without boundary walls and 17% lack a permanent structure. It was found from the research that while 24 percent of the hostels still require upgrading, 76 percent of the hostels have a good system of developing amenities while collectng the opinions of the hostellers related to good accommodation management. Create provision for a revolving fund and/or grants for maintenance in the scheme to ensure regular maintenance and upkeep of hostel buildings and equipment.

1. Introduction:

The majority of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Classes, Backward Classes, and Minorities reside in rural areas in our state, and the prospects for the education of the children in their families are very poor. The main causes of that are poverty and illiteracy. As a result of realising that their children's education is failing, the government has set up pre-matric hostels to help the poor children who leave school in the middle of their studies and to support education with free meals at every hobli level.

According to estimates, minorities, backward classes, and scheduled castes make about 94% of Karnataka's total population. It follows that the total growth of these classes is essential for the development of society as a whole. In light of this, it is essential to have welfare services in place to ensure the overall development of all these societal segments. As a result of this critical awareness, the government has been putting various programmes for the educational and economic development of this group of individuals into effect through the social welfare department. It is important to note that this group of people's education serves as the cornerstone for the development of their complete personalities. The Department of Social Welfare has a number of goals for maintaining hostels to support the education of the underprivileged, minorities, scheduled castes, and scheduled classes pupils in society, as well as a number of programmes to achieve these goals.

It is difficult for students from rural areas who come from small villages to continue their education because they have to travel long distances for education. So, it makes students drop out of school. Most of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled families are very poor and unable to provide their children with the necessary facilities for education. Therefore, the government is running several pre-matric and post-matric boarding schools across the state to provide better facilities to such students and to reduce the number of school dropouts and to educate and empower Scheduled Caste/Category boys and girls. Moreover, wherever necessary, various voluntary organizations are encouraged to run hostels by providing food expenses, building rent and honorarium to the staff. These are called aided hostels.

2. Significance of the Study:

Under the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Department of Social Welfare, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Classes/Backward Classes and Minorities Departments are establishing and maintaining pre-matric and post-matric hostels. Secondary level students are enrolled in pre-matric boarding schools and college students are enrolled in post-matric boarding schools. It should be noted that the management of these hostels needs to be improved. As these hostels are government-aided institutions concerned with shaping the future of students and continuing their education, the purpose and responsibilities behind their management are unique.

At present, under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Social Welfare Department, Scheduled Castes Welfare Department and Backward Classes Welfare Department are managing a total of 4847 different hostels and more than 4 lakh students are continuing their studies with the comfort in these hostels. As compared to the total population of these categories, the number of hostels maintained was not significant. It is an obvious fact that the good management of the hostels will complement the all-round development of the hostellers. The main duty is to improve the management of hostels. To achieve the goal of making the children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes into good citizens, the hostels need to function effectively and the hostel supervisors/hostel guardians need to act as friends, philosophers and mentors to the hostel children and only when the students feel that the time spent in the hostel is useful will the purpose of establishing and maintaining a hostel be worthwhile. In this regard, this research is important to evaluate the extent to which the managing objectives and plans of pre-matric colleges are conducive or not conducive to the all-round development of students.

Importantly, this study sheds light on aspects related to management such as good accommodation, good quality food supply, educational development, good health and all-round personality development through sports and cultural activities. For adequate and good functioning of the hostels, the Hostel Supervisors/wardens and the kitchen staff have to perform their responsible duties diligently and faithfully. For the management of these hostels, the superiors of the department not only provide the necessary basic facilities but also visit the hostels from time to time and inspect whether the hostel is being run properly or not, whether the management of the hostel is satisfactory or not. And it is necessary to evaluate the quality of inspection conducted by various levels of officials who are responsible for the management of wardens and the common problems arising in the management of wardens such as lack of basic facilities, inadequate performance of hostel supervisors, negligence of kitchen staff and lack of necessary training and guidance for hostel supervisors and staff. Considering the

management of hostels, the present research has taken a prospective view and extracted the results in order to collect and evaluate the views of the hostel students and their parents and hostel custodians to know whether the schemes are being implemented properly or not.

3. Scope of Study:

The present study is limited to gathering the opinions of the students and their parents and hostel wardens regarding the management and planning/amenities of the Government Pre-Matric Hostels under the Department of Social Welfare in Karnataka state.

4. Statement of the Problem:

To study the Accommodation Management System of Pre-Metric Hostels in Selected Districts of Karnataka state.

5. Definitions of technical terms:

Definitions of technical terms used in connection with this study

• Department of Social Welfare:

The Department of Social Welfare was started in 1956 vide Government Order No:SS-4009-SRD-2-56-1 Dated: 18-10-1956. The main objective of starting the department was development of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes/Women and Children. Later, separate departments were started for the development of women and children, other backward classes and minorities and scheduled tribes. At present the Social Welfare Department undertakes only the welfare programs of Scheduled Castes.

• Pre-Matric:

The Department of Social Welfare operates 1231 pre-matric boarding schools providing boarding and lodging facilities to Scheduled Castes/Classes and Backward Classes children studying in classes 5 to 10.

• Hostels:

It is difficult for students from rural areas who come from small villages to continue their education because they have to travel long distances for education. So, it makes students drop out of school. Most of the SC families are very poor and unable to provide their children with the necessary facilities for education. Therefore, to provide better facilities to such students

and to reduce the number of school dropouts and to make SC boys and girls well-educated and empowered, the government is running several pre-matric hostels across the state.

• **Objectives of Management:**

Although hostels are government institutions and are concerned with shaping the future of students, the purpose and responsibilities behind their management are unique. Hence it is necessary to clarify the objective behind the management of hostels. Importantly, this study sheds light on aspects related to management such as good accommodation, good quality food supply, educational development, good health and all-round personality development through sports and cultural activities.

• **Implementation of projects:**

Education has a high priority in the development programs of the Social Welfare Department. Literacy rate is very low in SC's. The department is implementing several educational schemes with the aim of raising the literacy rate or standard and making SC children well educated.

• **Evaluation:**

Assessment is a systematic process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting information to find out how well students have achieved the prescribed learning objectives. -Granlund and Linn. The core of evaluation is the attempt to measure quality with quantity. In this regard the term evaluation is adopted for the present research. As used in business, the term “measurement” is not synonymous with evaluation. Measure means to find quantities. Actually, determining both quantity and quality is called evaluation. Evaluation is the act of determining the quantity and quality of the information obtained by comparing it with objective standards, using various techniques appropriate to the purpose and context, and consolidating the findings.

6. Objectives of the Study:

The following objectives have been set for the present research.

1. To study the opinion of hostel students and their parents and hostel wardens regarding good accommodation management.

8. Research Methodology:

A survey method which is a part of descriptive research will be chosen for the present study. To conduct an evaluative study of the management and planning/facilities of the pre-matric hostels of the Department of Social Welfare.

9. Population and Sample of the Study:

66504 boys in 930 pre-matric boys' hostels and 24097 girls in 301 government pre-matric girls' hostels under the Social Welfare Department of Karnataka Government, total 90601 boys and girls from 1231 hostels are enrolled in the year 2022-23. A total of 1157 hostel wardens are working in pre-matric hostels. For the present research study, government pre-matric boys and girls hostels operating in Bangalore, Mysore, Kalburgi and Belgaum division was selected. Government pre-matric boys and girls boarding schools falling within the districts of this division will be randomly selected.

District	No. of Hostels			Hostellers		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Hassan	41	17	58	2435	1023	3458
Tumkur	50	13	63	2875	852	3727
Ballari	46	14	60	2071	535	2606
Haveri	29	8	37	2185	951	3136
	166	52	218	9566	3361	12927

List of hostels of the selected Districts was obtained from the selected places were selected and covered. Total 80 hostels were covered under the study from selected four Districts of Karnataka State. Researcher Selected each 20 hostels randomly in Hassan, Tumkur, Ballari an Haveri Districts in Karnataka state, and total of 80 hostels selected out of 218 hostels in Hassan, Tumkur, Ballari an Haveri District. 80 Hostel wardens, 320 Students in the hostels and along with their 160 parents and guardians will be selected by simple random method.

10. Tools used for data collection:

Tools developed for one research need to be suitable for use in another research context. The researcher has to undertake the effort to prepare such tools. For the present research Questionnaire and Interview techniques was used. In the present research the study to be carried out using structured questionnaire method and structured interview method.

- Warden/Supervisor Questionnaire
- Questionnaire for students
- Interview Schedule for parents

11. Statistical Techniques:

In the present study percentage analysis technique, which is a statistical technique was used for the analysis of data.

12. Major findings of the study:

- In terms of the basic necessities, 21% of hostels without boundary walls and 17% lack a permanent structure. It was found from the research that while 24 percent of the hostels still require upgrading, 76 percent of the hostels have a good system of developing amenities while collecting the opinions of the hostelers related to good accommodation management.
- When the opinions of the students were gathered regarding the good management of the accommodations, it was found from the research that 63% of the hostel's students agreed with the opinion that the hostel has a systematic building facility, while the remaining 37% said that the hostel's current building still needs to be improved. This study revealed that the majority of parents agreed with the students' opinions of the hostel complex.
- When the wardens' opinions about the availability of rooms according to the capacity of the students were collected, 65.4 percent of the wardens expressed a satisfactory opinion about the availability of the rooms, while 48.3 percent of the hostel students positively responded to the same question regarding the availability of rooms according

to the capacity, the remaining 34.6 percent of the wardens and 52.7 percent of the students with an unsatisfactory impression.

- 100 percent of hostels do not have a sick room for children. and 92.5 percent do not have any first-aid kit or box available in the hostel premises in case of emergencies. This is when 46 percent of the hostel/hostel authorities are not connected to the nearest hospital.

and of these, 98% do not even have the phone numbers of the doctor, hospital, ambulance, including private service, displayed in the hostel's noticeable location(s).

- According to the wardens, 100% of the student rooms have a couch, table, chair, computer, fan, bed, pillow cover, mosquito net, mosquito liquid, television, TV facility, hot water facility, and clean drinking water facility. However, there is no internet, drinking hot water facility, iron box in every room, washing machine facility, projector room, exercise room, warden quarters, medical/sick room, cooking boiler, or landline telephone in Hostels.
- As per the responses recorded, in 91 percent Hostels there are no functional toilets; in 88 percent Hostels have a drainage system in the premises and 56 percent ensure proper disposal of garbage.
- Regarding other essential facilities, it was found that 75% of the hostels have UPS/generator facilities, 85% have libraries, and 34% have playground facilities. Through this study, it has been found that all hostels have a dining room, warehouse, storage room, and warden/office room.
- In terms of providing adequate toilets/bathrooms, 88 per cent of students thought this was good.
- 98.2% of the students were satisfied with the drinking water system in hostels. Ninety-two percent of the students believe that the electrical connection in the room is appropriate, and ninety-six percent stated that the hot water system for bathing is sufficient.
- School uniforms and stationery are provided free of charge in 100% of hostels. 35.7% of students use the possibility of using the computer, whereas 64.3% of students are deprived of the possibility of using the computer. 77.3% of the students expressed satisfaction with the use of biometric data, while the rest of the students expressed dissatisfaction.

- 84 percent of students believe that the hostel's playground is unusable, compared to 61 percent who are unsatisfied with the use of sports equipment. 62 percent of the students are of the opinion that they are using the library facility while 38 percent of the students are of the opinion that they are not using the library facility. 35 percent of students are in the library Expressed dissatisfaction with the availability of books.
- With regard to the girls' hostel 72 percent cent female students are availing the facility of sanitary napkin facility, 80 percent girls hostels are reported to have sanitary napkin burning machine facility.
- Boys hostel wardens opined that,100% of the students are using the barbering facility, yet 79% of them are found to be unsatisfied with it.

Conclusion & Recommendations:

Based on the observations and findings, the study team has drawn the following conclusions,

- The government may consider providing staff quarters for the wardens and night watchmen for each of the hostels in the first instance.
- Hostels should bring newspapers and magazines and adopt a news reading system to hostelers.
- The hostel authorities should prescribe a code of conduct for their boarders.
- Expand accommodation facilities in existing hostels. The Concerned department of the government should provide additional hostel blocks and facilities in order to cater for the increasing need for accommodation in the hostel.
- The study recommends that, the hostel committee should arrange weekly medical check-up facility for the boarders in the hostel premises, which would curb the cases of medical problems of the boarders.
- Create provision for a revolving fund and/or grants for maintenance in the scheme to ensure regular maintenance and upkeep of hostel buildings and equipment.
- The boarders of the hostels organize weekly debates, quizzes, and writing competitions to facilitate and explore the hidden talent of the boarders.
- organizing “parent-teacher interactions” on a monthly basis, which enables the hostel authorities to discuss the key issues and problems faced by their wards and arrive at appropriate solutions.

- The Hostel Management Committees are not constituted in majority of the hostels but it is necessary that constitute the Hostel Management Committees in every hostel for the betterment of the hostellers.
- The computer room, internet connections etc. are provided at a priority basis so that students will not suffer any more. This is needed to access the latest information available.
- Various indoor and outdoor games facilities are provided to hostel inmates to enhance their interest sports. Yoga camp is also organized in hostel.
- The system provides for a reservation to accommodate students with disabilities. However, very few hostels have implemented this arrangement and have the specialized facilities required by the disabled.

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