

Satisfaction with hostel facilities, its associated factors and the influence of satisfaction on academic performance among students in selected hostels of University of Jaffna

Shamini S,¹ Britikka P,¹ Nachinarkiniyan CS,² Kandeepan K³

¹ Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

² Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

³ Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

Background: A significant number of outstation students are accommodated in university hostels. As the psychosocial health of students have a great impact on their academic performance, it is likely that satisfaction with hostel facilities may also influence academic performance. This study aimed to assess satisfaction with hostel facilities and its influence on academic performance in students residing in selected hostels of the University of Jaffna.

Methods: A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted from July 2016 to May 2018 in selected hostels of University of Jaffna. The study population comprised final year students who lived in selected university hostels situated in the Jaffna district who had their Grade Point Average (GPA) for the previous academic term during which time they stayed in a university hostel. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data.

Results: Two hundred and eight students participated in the study; 62 students (29.8%) were male and 146 (70.2%) were female. The majority of students were Hindus (50%). The highest proportion of students (33.7%) were studying in the arts stream, while the lowest (12%) belonged to the Allied Health Sciences Unit. About the same percentage of students (38%) received Mahapola and bursary as financial aid. Over half among males (54.4%) and females (54.3%) were satisfied with hostel facilities. The satisfaction level of students were more or less equal by faculty, except in the arts stream where the proportion satisfied was lower (47.1%). The proportion of students who reported satisfaction (50%) and dissatisfaction (50%) were observed to be same in all religious groups. This study showed that 62.9% and 54.8% of females were satisfied and dissatisfied with the study environment, respectively ($p \leq 0.02$). In this study, 31.3% of students obtained a GPA below 2.7 while 18.8% obtained a GPA between 2.7 and 3.0. Among students who obtained a GPA less than 2.7, 80% were females and 20% were males. By contrast, among those who obtained a GPA of more than 3.0, 68.9% were female.

Conclusion: A substantial proportion of student hostel residents reported dissatisfaction with existing hostel facilities. These findings suggest that the university administration needs to take action to improve hostel facilities for undergraduate students.

Key words: Satisfaction, hostel facilities, academic performance