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Awareness on women hostel safety measures

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ABSTRACT

Like in many other places we stay by spending a lot of money, the hostel is one of the places where anyone can stay within their affordable budget. Most of the people get into hostels for the purpose of education. Among those, women are likely to face challenging situations. In the last few years, several crimes have been taken place in schools, hostels, and other areas. A step was taken by Cyberabad police commissionerate to enhance "safety" and to reduce such crimes. The ten commandments introduced by them for safer stay included, access control, availability of compound walls, 24x7 security guard, visitor's register, CCTV's, notice boards, suggestion box, fire extinguisher, first-aid box and Id proofs of staff. In spite of the availability of some of the item mentioned above, it was observed that the level of awareness on possible risks was low. This study mainly focuses on the importance of this type of awareness among women. It also attempts to educate women on the facilities they should be demanding for before joining a hostel. A survey was conducted as a prerequisite to know the existing level of awareness on safety measures which should be provided by hostel management. The main objective of this study is to determine the level of awareness and to study the relationship between awareness of safety measures and perception of safety. The data is collected through primary and secondary sources of which, primary data have been collected from the questionnaire and interview method and secondary data have been collected from the journals and published articles. The suggestions provided in this study may help in reducing such crimes to some extent.

Keywords— Awareness on safety, Risk in stay, Hostel management, Hostel facilities, Women hostel, Safe stay

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

A hostel is a place where any person can stay within their affordable budget. Safety is the state of being "safe", the condition of being protected from harm or other undesirable outcomes.

With the rapid changes in the economy, women are more likely to step out of their homes for various purposes, mostly into urban areas. Therefore it is important to have an awareness of hostel facilities which should be maintained for safety.

1.1 Purpose of the study

In the last five years, several crimes have been reported in schools, hostels and other areas of stay. A step was taken by Cyberabad Police commissionerate to enhance "Safety" to reduce such crimes. This initiative took the form of a project called "Safe Stay" conducted by Police commissionerate, Cyberabad. As a part of this initiative, a team of surveyors were appointed from DMS, GCET. After a preliminary survey, the study was extended and four new criteria were added by the research team of Department of Management Studies, Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad, which include:

- Awareness of safety measures in women hostels
- Importance of maintenance of safety equipment
- Training of inmates for better safety
- Preventive safety measures

The current study focuses on "Awareness levels" and therefore the title of this study is, "Awareness on women hostels safety measures".

1.2 Scope of the study

The scope of the study is extended to limited areas where women hostels operate in Hyderabad City such as Gachibowli, Rayadurgam, Narayanguda, ECIL and Hi-tech city.

1.3 Objectives

- (a) Determine the level of awareness.
- (b) Studying the relation between awareness of safety measures and the perception of safety.

2. RESEARCH DESIGN

A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. In fact, the research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data [1].

3. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

This study aims to identify the awareness levels of safety among inmates in women hostels. In later studies, researchers may try to enhance these awareness levels. The researchers may establish the relation between awareness levels and crime rate. Hopefully, this preliminary study helps in community building.

3.1 Limitations

- Limitation of generalization.
- Limitation of personal bias of respondent.
- Limitation of cost and time.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to M. Memon, M. A. Solangi, S. Abro in the article titled, "Analysis of Students' Satisfaction with Hostel Facilities: A Case Study, published in the journal, "Sindh University Research Journal (Science series)", volume 50, there are many complications in the hostel life. Various statistical packages for social sciences were used to study and show the satisfaction level of the hostel facilities [2].

According to Sneha Sonar, Rajendra Patil the article titled, "Hostel In Out Management and Monitoring System Using RFID, Face and Thumb Recognition", in the journal, International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology, Volume 5, Issue 4, April 16, security is one of the main aspect and major issue in every hostel. To ensure the attendance of every person is more difficult. But to avoid this and to make work easier RFID monitoring system is used [3].

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5.1 Objectives

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6. RESEARCH DESIGN

The descriptive research design was adopted for the purpose of this study. The scope was partly set by the police department and partly by the researcher.

7. SAMPLE SIZE

The total population [4] of working women hostels in Hyderabad = 2042

The total number of hostels visited in Madhapur, Hitech city, ECIL, Narayanaguda, Gatkesar, Rayadurgam was fifteen. Judgment sampling was employed for the purpose of sampling.

Confidence level: 95%

Confidence interval: 10.1

Using sample size calculator [5], sample size: 90

8. TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Correlation and Likert scale have been used to study the relation between the variables and to know the level of significance.

8.1 Data collection tool

The questionnaire consists of a structured, non-disguised combination of open and close ended questions. It comprises of 21 questions of which tenth and thirteenth questions are the key questions for this research. Close end questions had a nominal or ordinal scale. The nominal scale, as the name implies, is placing of data into categories, without any order or structure. The eleventh question as an example of nominal scale and question eight can be taken as an example of an ordinal scale.

The questionnaire is divided into two parts. The first part comprises of personal details which include personal details like name, contact number, e-mail, address, age group, qualification and purpose of the study. The second part comprises of research specific questions. The last question is an open ended question which had the purpose of identifying gaps if any.

9. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Level of awareness on the possible risks of staying in a hostel

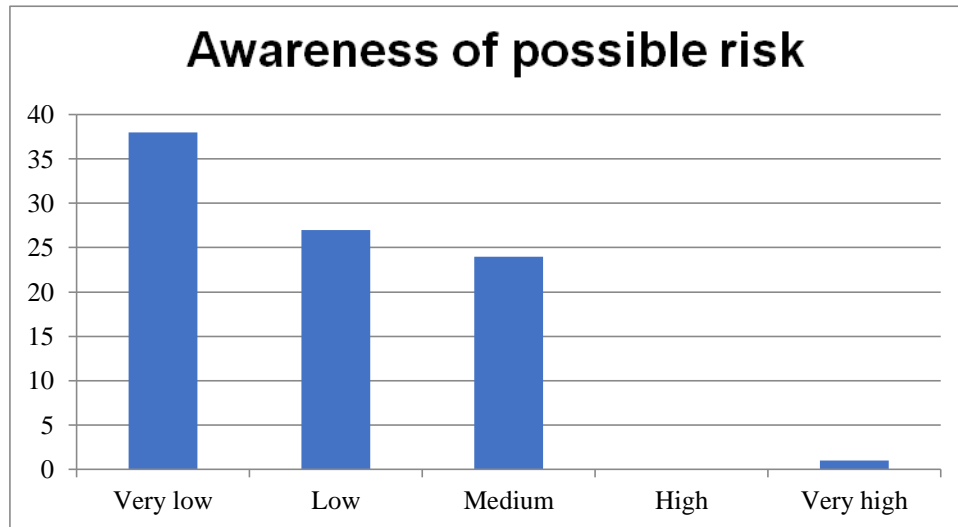


Fig. 1: Awareness of possible risk

Interpretation Form the figure 1; we can conclude that most of the persons have a low level of awareness on the possible risk of staying in a hostel.

Correlating “duration of stay in hostels” with “level of awareness on possible risks of staying in the hostel”:

- **Null Hypothesis:** There is no significant relationship between the duration of stay in hostels with a level of awareness on possible risks of staying in a hostel
- **Alternative Hypothesis:** There is a significant linear relationship between duration of stay in hostels with a level of awareness on possible risks of staying in a hostel

Table 1: Coefficient of the correlation value obtained was -0.178.

	Duration	Awareness of the possible risk of staying in a hostel
Duration	1	
Awareness of the possible risk of staying in a hostel	-0.1783	1

- **Inference:** Correlation coefficient is negative and the variables are weakly correlated because -0.1783 is less than 0.5. Therefore accept the null hypothesis.
- **Conclusion:** The perception of staying safe in the hostel is reducing with increased duration of stay in hostels. By that, we can conclude that the longer stay will make the inmates understand and become aware of the level of risk associated with safety. This may indicate that in the initial years the awareness level is low and with an increase in the duration of stay awareness increases. The inmates realize the risk and perception of safety in hostels is reduced.

10. LIKERT SCALE

Identifying the opinions on the measures which should be taken by the hostel management which indeed results in an increase in awareness on hostels safety measures.

Table 2: Measurement of respondent’s favorableness

Handouts	584	Favorable response
Connectivity through first line defense	350	Partially favorable
Investment in security	320	Unfavorable response
Equipment	364	Neutral response
Reduce interaction time of inmates with strangers	339	Unfavorable response
Protocol to respond to even ambiguous communication	235	Unfavorable response
Emergency protocol	326	Partially neutral response

10.1 Conclusion

In the opinion of the respondents, handouts are the most important security measure which enhances safety. Connectivity through the first line of defense, equipment and emergency protocol also enhances the feeling of safety in the inmates.

10.2 Findings

- Even if the safety measures are provided in the hostel, the inmates are not in a situation to use them in a proper way due to lack of awareness on hostel safety measures.

- Though the perception of staying safe in the hostel is high during initial years of stay, the level of awareness on possible risks of staying in a hostel is low. The perception of being safe in a hostel is not increasing with duration of stay (if the inmate was not aware of risks associated at the time of admission), on the contrary, it is found to be reduced with an increase in the duration of stay.

11. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Perception of safety in hostels is poor. The existing level of awareness among inmates is also poor. Probably this is the cause for crimes.
- Every inmate must know the basic safety measures and the facilities which should be maintained by the hostel management before joining the hostel. The inmates should know about the incidents happening near gateway or compound wall through CCTV which can help the inmates to get alert in a critical situation. The inmates should also be aware of using some advance technology to protect themselves by using some self-protection apps like “cheeka”. Hostel management should have knowledge of every person who enters into hostels. Hostel management should also have an idea about the incidents which takes place in other hostels to avoid that kind of incidents in their hostel.

12. REFERENCES

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