

# **A STUDY OF HOSTEL LIFE AT GOA UNIVERSITY**

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# **DECLARATION**

I, Srisha Parab, hereby declare that this dissertation entitled ‘A Study of Hostel Life at Goa University’ is my own study undertaken under the guidance of Professor Shaila Desouza, Head, Department of Women’s Studies, Faculty of Social Science, Goa University. It has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma or certificate of this institute or of any other institute or university. I have duly acknowledged all the sources used by me in the preparation of this dissertation.

Date:

Srisha Parab

# **CERTIFICATE**

This to certify that the dissertation entitled ‘A Study of Hostel Life at Goa University’ is the record of original work done by Srisha Parab, under my guidance and supervision. The results of the research presented in this dissertation have not previously formed the basis of award of any degree, diploma or certificate of Goa University or any other Institute or University.

Date:

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-SrishaParab

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# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Now a days people travel or move outside their hometown mainly because of Occupation and Education which can provide them better future prospective. When people move to other place many have a lot of problem of residence, renting a place can be finically straining and it becomes even more difficult for girls, rural people and international people. Many go to other countries to receive cheap education and for more educational choices.

Education in rural areas can be limited and there may be no educational institutes after a certain grade. Hence many prefer to study outside their hometown for better education and for better job prospects. Travelling from their home to the institute can be taxing and financially straining. There have been studies which have speculated that travelling from far distance has led to performance decline in students. Hence many colleges and universities provide hostel accommodation for student's benefits. Hostels provide many facilities for students like food, residence, gym etc, which provides an aid to students.

The term hostel holds different meaning in some countries. In some countries, the term hostel may mean both the accommodation provided to students, as well as the lodging for travelers. However, for this study, the term hostel will imply only the housing provided to students registered in an academic programme in a University or College.

These hostels are supervised by wardens and other staff. Hostels in India bring together hundreds of students, who belong to different cultural, social, political, geographical and economic backgrounds.

It can be stated, therefore, that a Hostel is a place where students reside to pursue formal education away from home. An hostel is like a practical library, which enriches the understanding of the curriculum through discussions among fellow hostel mates. It may also contribute to character-building. Students in hostel not only learn theories but also learn to enhance their personal abilities and learn to live independently. Hostel life, in many cases can expand the social circle of the resident student as it offers a multicultural social group. Hostel life also increases an individual's patience level, as there are individual differences among other hostel mates.

### **1.1. My Personal experience with the topic**

“Why do we only have a time line” “how are men allowed in the girls hostels, when even our parents are not allowed”. These are the questions I hear on a daily basis when I am in the hostel. People who stay in hostel do have problems as well as they have their shared positive aspects.

I am the Girls Hostel Representative, and have been staying in the hostel for more than a year. I have had many questions as to why we girls are subjected with the question of being protected and have been put through many restrictions which are not applicable on the male hostel students. As I am the Representative of the girls hostel. I have been able to hear different opinion of students with regards to their life in hostel, be it the time



line for girls, the weak security, the unhygienic condition of the mess etc. As my position gives me the authority of see the kitchen, I have seen the condition of the kitchen, which arises the question of hygiene.

When I was in the old hostel, there were a lot of problems like no locks for cupboard, no door latch, small bed, no proper fans and many more. Even when I have moved to a new hostel there are still problems, like security, where my belongs like laptop, watches and other things were stolen. When I went to the warden for help I did not receive much help, the security cameras were (may be still) not working.

These kind of incidences made me think there will be others also who may have faced the same problems. I felt the need to investigate it more through my research, will help in learning the experience of other girl students in the hostel. I would also keen to document this research, as it may be useful for others to know the experience of girls in hostel.

## **1.2.Objective**

1. To study gender difference among hostel students.
2. To explore the benefits of living in hostels
3. To understand the difficulties faced by students in hostels

### **1.3. Summary of the chapters**

1. Chapter 1:- The chapter gives an Introduction to the study and also sights the personal connect with the topic and the objectives of the study.
2. Chapter 2:- The chapter gives literature review on the existing studies relevant to the research topic. The origin and the change dynamics now.
3. Chapter 3:- the chapter talks about the Methodology used in the study to meet the objectives.
4. Chapter 4:- The chapter highlights the findings from the field.
5. Chapter 5:- The last chapter is about the conclusion and analysis from the field , it also highlights my experience

## **CHAPTER 2**

# **LITERATURE REVIEW**

“Times change people change” it is one of the best example applicable for hostel students. Hostel life brings a lot of change in an individual’s life. It’s a place for learning, which also enriches the understanding of the curriculum through discussions. Hostel is simply not a place for living but also a center of education. Initially in the past hostels were meant for students who stayed far from educational institutions.

The scenario has changed now, even students in the same town prefer living in hostels. Many parents encourage their children to opt for hostels, as they may be busy with their profession or the perspective that their children will be able to learn more be more confident. Some students also prefer hostels seeing the improvement in performance of their peers. It is believed that hostel education provides better learning opportunities, which go beyond the textbook and curriculum. Students are also able to get timely and appropriate guidance and feedbacks from teachers.

Students experience a life of independence, self-reliance, responsibility for oneself. It brings out a person’s ability to interact in a group. Involve oneself with a group and learn new things. Hostel life brings out lot of changes in an individual like psychological changes, behavioral changes etc. Hostel life increases your interactive skills as a hostel becomes a new big family. As Hostels have rules and regulation, it helps in having better time management, adapting to new atmosphere, being independent, being

more responsible etc. In hostel life students have the chance to get more opinion on any issues as it a personal space which is shared with people of the same age group.

Hostel in educational institutes brings out many dynamics, such as different ethical, social, economic and geographical background. It binds different people together. It also becomes a great place for people who belong from the same community or religion as they are able to have bond with them in regards to their language, their belief, their opinion etc. As there is a group of students who same the same background and are not related makes it easy to do things which they could not do before like participating in competition, studying together in the library etc.

Many come to stay in hostels as there may be no educational institutes in their area, especially in rural areas. Many come from different countries to pursue further educations, hence making hostels an important infrastructure in their life.

Hostel are more economical then renting a place. As hostels are basically near the educational institutes it makes it easy to commute. Students wishing to study in the library for long also have more freedom to do so.

## **2.1 History of Gurukul**

India has been known as the land of Gurus and Gurukul. The term 'Gurukul' is derived from Sanskrit; pre-dominately in India, type of school that provided residence to its pupil or *Shishya* wherein they live near the guru or within the same house. In the Gurukul system students lived in the kula (family) and their Guru (teacher) who studies Vedas, under their guidance for a minimum 9 to 12 years. Gurukul did not mean 'school'

but rather ‘family’ of a teacher. There was a close relationship that existed between the guru (teacher) and shishya (student).

According to Dr. A.S Altekar “The Gurukul system which necessitated the stay of the student away from his home at the home of the teacher or in boarding house of established reputation, was one of the most important feature of ancient Indian education”.

The Gurukul system of education was dedicated to the highest ideals of all-round human development; physical (practical), mental (intellectual), and spiritual (religious). The system was based on the principle of ‘Experience’. By the end of their training, the student’s would emerge as responsible individuals who are well learned in Vedas and are capable of facing the toughest challenges of life.

The main objectives of Gurukul were:-

1. Self-Control
2. Character Development
3. Social Awareness
4. Personality Development
5. Intellectual Development
6. Spiritual Development
7. Preservation of Knowledge and Culture

According to the Vedas, the system, clearly visualized the entry of the child from a small family, comprising of parents and siblings, which in the system translated to a bigger family of teachers and students, who lived together in a social milieu.

Swami Dayanand, visualized a scheme of education called 'Gurukul', where all children from the society without discrimination, would be admitted in these institutions which provided the same food, clothes and treatment to all the children. The scheme would form a nucleus of a socialistic pattern of society which would create a channel for an equal footing for every child.

## **2.2.Hostelling / Youth Hostel Movement**

The Youth Hostel Movement was a brainchild of a German school teacher, Mr. Richard Schirrmann, the idea came into being with the need for overnight accommodation of school children. He set up the first Youth Hostel in Altenia, Germany in 1912, in his own school building to provide accommodation for students involved in hiking activities. Soon it was spread to other countries.

The first Youth Hostel in India was setup in Tara Devi near Shimla on June 9, 1945. The idea was introduced by the Boy Scouts and Girls Guides of India, Punjab Circle. The first Youth Hostel built with its own resources on a donated piece of land, was a small 35 bed youth hostel at Jagjit Nagar, Himachal Pradesh.

### **2.3. Advantages of Hostel**

Hostel life has a lot of advantage, which help an individual in their future life, as the students are away from home, they develop a sense of independence and self-reliance. They are able to form a habit of co-operation with friends and authorities, which helps in learning the art of cultivating working behavior. The travelling time is reduced which in many cases is a barrier for many students. The reduced time for travelling is used to study more by students. They also can use this time to learn something new. Hostel comprises of different student, students from different districts, different countries, who speak in different language, have different culture.

Students can learn many things from one and other and share their knowledge. Students from rural areas can share valuable knowledge of their life in villages. The custom and traditions they follow in their villages and tribes. The students from different countries can also share their experience of staying in a different country. There is an exchange of cultural values from different countries. The students from countries can take help of the residential students, as they have language barriers. Students can also participate in different competitions and help one and other. The guidance of teachers, time plan and other exposure they receive are some positive influences of staying in hostel.

Hostel life also is beneficial for a student as they can seek help from fellow students in their studies if any problem arises in any topic, it is also beneficial during exam times, where students can study for long duration with a group of fellow students, which makes it fun easy to study. Students who are weak in some subjects can get help

from others to learn more. Hostel life tends to develop a healthy competition and mutual co-operation among hosteller

## **2.4. Disadvantages of Hostel**

With advantages also comes disadvantages, where an individual coming to hostel for the first times, can have hard time adjusting to the atmosphere. Students in most cases are homesick for the first some months, which makes it difficult to adjust. Students can also have trouble, if their roommate is a problem child, where the student gets mixed with their roommates doing. The freedom that they receive can lead them astray as there is no parental check, there are chance of individual going the wrong path.

There are times where students do not choose good companions and are astrayed from studying. Living conditions are far less comfortable than at home. There is also issues of no proper food, no proper hygiene in hostel and lack of security. According to a research the problem of poor sanitation and hygiene condition is a continuous problem for students staying in hostel. The research also reveal the need for repair of kitchens, bathroom, furniture, electrical wiring etc,. Students who have special medical condition can also have problem.

Hostels life puts restriction in student's movement, which by many students seen as an disadvantage. Students are also not allowed to visit home frequently and many a times it becomes a stress issue for students. Students in many cases face bullying/ raging



in their hostels, which have led to students also committing suicide. In such cases they are not able to talk to their parents about it as they may have to leave the institution.

Education is the main cause for rural people to take up hostel facilities but the process is not simple. Students from rural areas come with different social, health and economic problem. Students coming from rural areas to urban universities take longer to adjust to their residential change. They have less knowledge and attachment to modern technologies. They can also have inferior complex from the people living in urban setting, the clothing, and perspective. They are also have difficulty in presentation which are computer based, many may not even have laptops.

Students coming from different countries to live in hostels face a different kind of problem. The main problem for them is the language, which makes it difficult for them to communicate. They in many cases face social isolated and cultural isolation. The difference in food quality also has a bad effect on them. The low quality food has an impact on their health, where they lose weight and are malnourished. The change in weather also affect them and they may have flue, fever, cough etc.

## **2.5. Need of hostels for girls**

Education is considered an important and crucial step in every human activity. It plays an important role in the development of human resources which also links to an individual's well-being and also a medium for a better living standards. For educators the quality of students performance, particularly girls remains the first priority. Educators have tried to explore the factors for insufficient enrollment of girls in schools.

Educators have found that distance from home to school is a challenge for girls, for not enrolling in schools and for poor performance. Security of girls also poses a challenge for girls to go to schools and families are also resultant to send their girls to schools which are far, with the fear of rape and other abuses. The distance from home to school is a criteria for parents for selecting schools for girls.

Creation of hostels is seen as a way to promote girls education, where the presence of hostels has been seen to improving girl's academic performance in Ethiopia. It has increased opportunities to attend classes every day and on time, they have time to participate in leaning activities. A Study by Nteko (2007) revealed that availability of hostels has improved girl's academic performance compared to when there were no hostels.

Due to the creation of hostels, girls in some countries were able to avoid long distance walk or traveling home every day. This enhanced their chances of studying for longer hours. Girls residing in hostel are able to have a life away from home and are able to taste a sense of freedom. They are also able to wear what they like which may not be possible at home. They also have a chance of exploring more future prospects. Girls have

a chance to voice out their opinions. They are also able to have friends from the other sex, which many a times is not appreciated in their home or hometown. Girls have better chance to study then many can at home.

## **2.6. Impact on Hostel life**

Hostel life bring different dynamics in a student's/ individuals life, as hostels are mostly aimed at providing budget and sociable accommodation. Hostels basically composes of a shared room, bathroom, lounge and mess for students, which is less private and more about social interaction. The life in hostel is totally different from home.

Hostel life brings a lot of change in an individual. Hostel life has a large impact on a student's life, be it adjustment issues, distress, change in diet or change in sleeping habits. Research have suggested that empathy, altruistic behavior, emotional stability, is seen to be more in students who have lived in hostel. Hostel life also influences students view or perception about religion.

Hostel life has an effect on the personality behavior, thinking and dressing as well of a student. Hostel life can boast their confidence level, students learn to compromise, it also helps in management skills of students.

Research revealed that hostel and home are inter-related, where at home their parents and siblings support them and in hostel their friends and roommates support them. In hostel students take care of themselves, learn to be sensitive towards others, to adjust to their surroundings. As students are away from home, they are treated more

especially when they visit home, parents want to know more about them and treat them more special.

Hostel life makes students more realistic, where students are directly exposed to external world, which also makes them mentally mature. It gives exposure of society, individual and the world, as students get a chance to observe others, they improve their skills such as communication, management and leadership qualities. Students also become financially organized, where they choose where to spend and are aware that they also need to save.

## **2.7. Gender bias rules and regulations in hostels**

Rules and regulations are made for having a discipline life in the institute, it is an important factor, which keeps in check the working of the institute. They help in keeping a track of the students and is also a way to safeguard students. These rules and regulations also provide with a sense of relief for parents.

Invisibility is often prescribed as a method to safety. Hostels have different rules for women in the pretext of “security”. These rules and regulations are discriminatory towards women. These rules are often used as means to confine, contain and silence women.

For example:

### **1. BHU University**

- i) BHU University does not allow cellphone after 10 pm.
- ii) They are not allowed to wear short dresses and skirts.
- iii) Women are not allowed to consume non vegetarian food.
- iv) They are even made to sign an affidavit declaring that they will not participate in protests.
- v) Women are not allowed to visit the library after a certain time.

### **2. Aligarh Muslim University**

- i. Women are only allowed one day outside the campus i.e Sundays.
- ii. A fax with the parents' signature to be submitted, if they need to leave mid-week.
- iii. They have a curfew at 6.30 pm.

### **3. Fergusson College**

- 1. Women are not allowed cellphones after 10 pm
- 2. Curfew is at 8 pm.
- 3. Women are required to dress, behave decently.
- 4. It is compulsory for all women to eat at the hostel mess.

### **4. Goa University**

- i) Women applying for admission accommodation, should submit the following documents which need to be signed by parents:-
  - a) Residential address

- b) Contact number of persons, she may visit or stay with when permission for 'night out'.
- ii) The local guardian/parent should meet the warden, when the women occupies the room for the first time.
- iii) For academic assignments "Late Night Pass" women need the HOD/Research Supervisor/Project Supervisor to vouch for them, which the warden will issue
- iv) Women should sign the Hostel register while entering the hostel at night.

These rules and regulations are only applicable for women and not men, men on the other have no restricts with regard to time, clothing etc. An article in 'The Wire' titled as 'Safety or Moral Policing? The Unapologetic Gender Bias of Indian Hostels' highlights the gender bias in hostel. The hostel rules put a lot of restricts on women on the name of "safety" and "maintaining decorum".

Women are not allowed to study in the library after their curfew which has gone from 6.30 pm to 10 pm, which isn't applicable for men. These rules are there in both private and public universities. The article highlights how girls only did secondary research for projects and skipped the technical experiment because of the curfew, if the girls were late by some minutes also the warden would not allow them in the hostel.

In addition to regulations like the curfew moral policing is rather common for girls in hostels. Girls are questioned about their character, humiliated on many occasions. Girls are also made to dress "appropriately" and have criticized for having male friends. In the pretext of safety the authorities are basically showcasing their power.

## **CHAPTER 3**

# **METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Need for the study**

Hostel are very important in a student's life as it increases their study time. As most of the educational institutions have hostels, it helps a student to focus more their studies and it also gives an access to many facilities for the students. Students also have the chance to experience a life outside of home and have a chance to build their self. But to have such an environment there is also a need to look at the shortcomings, wherein concerns like hygiene, security, and timing need to be seen in more depth.

The research will highlight the problems faced by girls in the hostel. It will also try to bring forth the recommendation given by students for better experience in hostel. With the help of this research it will give a chance to bring about some kind of change in the management of the hostel and will make the hostel life better.

### **3.2 Sample Method**

A sample of 10 hostel students were chosen from Goa University, for in-depth interviews. Wherein 6 students were taken from Old Girls Hostel and New Girls Hostel. International students were also interviewed. The reason for the bifurcation was to

represent the difference between both hostels with regards to hygiene, security and other components, and also to highlight the experience of international student.

### **3.3. Methods**

To collect qualitative data, Convenience purposive sampling or availability sampling was used to select the students. A semi-structured interview was used to collect the data where a research guide was prepared to have more free interaction with the students. Case study method was used, where the interview for an in-depth interview, which varied between 30-60 minutes.

### **3.4. Definitions of Methods**

#### **1. Qualitative Data**

Qualitative data are verbal or symbolic. The detailed description of observe behavior, people, situation and events are some examples of qualitative data.

#### **2. Availability sampling or Convenience Sampling**

Is a specific type of non- probability method that relies on data collection from population members who are conveniently available to participate.

#### **3. In-depth Interview**

Is a qualitative research technique that involves conducting intensive individual interview with small number of respondents to explore their perspective on a particular idea.



### **3.5. Limitation of the Study**

Initially 10 respondents were about to be interviewed but respondents kept changing the time and place they wanted to meet. In many cases our schedule used to collide with one and other. Many respondents left for home due to the ongoing pandemic.

There were technical glitches, whereas my phone did not support a recorder, hence the recording had to be done in the respondents phones, which delayed the process. Recordings were also deleted from the phone, hence the respondents had to be interviewed again. As the pandemic was ongoing students and the hostel staff were on caution and meeting the respondents was a difficulty.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Findings**

6 interviews were taken, the respondents were Goa University students who reside in the hostel. Respondents were divided in 3 categories:-

- a) Goan - 2 Students
- b) Non-Goan - 2 Students
- c) International - 2 Students

The different categories of students residing in University, gave different aspects to the research. It gave different opinion on the problems and positive aspects of Hostel life. Students have also recommended/ suggested solution for the betterment of hostel.

As different categories are made among,Goan, Non- Goan and International Students the experience is enriched and more perspective is thrown in the research. The names of the students have been changed for better transparency in the research. Consent of the students were taken before the interview.

#### **4.1 Respondent 1- Neena ( Non – Goan)**

The first respondent is a Marine Science student, who does not hail from Goa. Stayed in hostel for 4 years before joining University. Goa University Hostel is affordable. Loved staying in hostel, hostel life brought a positive aspect such as independence, management skills. There is time for study and no worry about cooking, energy saving. “Security level I will give 7”. Its good. Security issues were not there but others had problem with things getting stolen. Mess is fine. There is need for better and proper sitting area and its inconvenient. Hygiene is good. Housekeeping was good. Amenities were good. Good visitor’s room. No play room. There is parking problem, as there is a shared parking with PG hostel it used to inconvenient. There is less shared area for parking. There were no cases of ragging

## **4.2. Respondent – 3 Reshma(Goan)**

The respondent is a pathology student and is on her internship in GMC, but she resides in Goa University hostel. Staying in the hostel was the first experience of the respondent, she had never stayed away from her family but due to the distance and the uncertainty of her course (Internship) she had to stay in hostel. The respondent was excited to join the hostel, where she expected to gain new friends and experience a life away from family.

As she is a student who has to undertake internship in GMC and who had to travel from South , hostel was the best option for her, where GMC was near the University and did not require much travelling. The respondent's health issues was also a key factor for choosing hostel.

The fees is affordable. There is freedom in hostel which she enjoys a lot, but the problem in hostel is regarding the network issue, where there bad network connectivity for mobiles as well as laptops. She even has the chance to go out and roam which was not the case at home.

Living in the hostel helps her in her study but no so much as she has more practicals to perform, the theory part of the study is less. The network coverage in the area is bad so the use of internet is limited which causes inconvenience as most of the study material is on the internet.

The security in the hostel not so good. "I would like to rate it 7.5". The respondent had faced security issues as her belongings were lost and there was also an incident of robbery. The security lady in the hostel was not much of help

when she faced this problem. The cameras also were not functional and the blame for securing things fell on her. There is no accountability from security ladies. The move or transfer from old to new hostel was very exasperating, where many of the respondent's things were lost.

The facilities in the hostel are good, where the cleanliness in the hostel is up to the mark, but there is no play room as such in the hostel the playroom and visitors room are connected and only one table is there to play table tennis. The respondent did have a problem with the parking lot, where the shade for bikes was not enough and there is a need to make it spacious, she even recommends the construction of a bigger shade for the parking.

The respondent has had good roommates and has never had any problems with them. The security people are also nice to her and have mannerisms, they have helped her on different occasions. The food quality in the initially period was not so good but as the contractor has changed the quality of food has also improved and hygiene has also improved and quality of food in accordance with the money paid for the food is good.

The respondent believes that students should stay in the hostel if they stay far and she would recommend it to her juniors as well as any student who has to travel to University. There are very few options for students to get an economical option except for hostel. The cleanliness in the hostel is also good the only downfall is that they have to secure their belonging all the time as the security is weak.

There is need to improve the security in the hostel and the food also needs improvement, where many a times the taste is also not good sometimes. The security is weak and there is constant fear of things getting robbed or lost, the cameras also do not work most of the times and the respondent has heard many such cases.

The rules and regulations are fine and less strict than other hostel and its good as the parents can be at peace knowing that the girls are not out late at night. The curfew which was 7 pm has changed to 9 pm which is a good thing. The respondent feels unfair that boys do not have curfew whereas the girls have to abide by the curfew and believes that boys should also have curfew.

If girls want to stay out after 9 pm they have to write a note with the name, reasons and other details in advance to the warden and be back by the time mentioned on the note. If any girl comes after 9 pm and has not informed in advance, the security does not take you inside very easily and the warden is called to decide on the matter. The respondents would like that even boys have curfew.

“The University is situated in a Jungle, where there is hardly any network”. The department in University are also far away from one and other, where it takes time to go from one department to another. At night it's very dangerous to be in the university, if a person has a vehicle than it's less of a problem but being alone is dangerous and the poor network makes it even more unsafe and dangerous.

“Because of the pandemic I cannot stay in the hostel, but I miss staying in the hostel”. The respondents misses the freedom she got in the hostel and was

able to enjoy when she was in the hostel. The new hostel is good as it was clean if the food and network is exempted then its been a great hostel life for the respondent. the hostel life for the respondent had saved her from the travel, where she had to travel which was the biggest obstacle.

The security really needs to be improved and the staff have also not been an aid. If things are lost then there are high chances of them being lost and never to be found. The cameras do not work and it feels helpless as there is no way to get back your stolen or lost things. One major complain or issues the respondent had, was with the drinking water which made her ill.

### **4.3. Respondent- 2 Vinita(Goan)**

“Before I stayed in hostel, I perceived hostel life as boring and strict but it has changed after residing in hostel, now I enjoy hostel life with my friends and colleagues”. The respondent choose to stay in hostel because of travelling. As she stayed far from university, hostel was the best option for her. The all-day travel from her place to university would be exhausting. Staying in the hostel was an aid for her studies.

The respondent was unhappy with the fee structure, she paid Rs. 43,000/- (7 days and non-veg) for the year, which was unfair according to her, as she stayed in the hostel for 5 days but during exam time she had to stay in the hostel on Saturday and Sunday. The extra fee that she had to pay for the days she was not residing in the hostel, was a problem, the respondent was of the opinion, that university should discard the practice of taking the whole money for the mess during the admission rather it should be a daily exercise, where you only pay for the meal you or stay when you actually stay or eat there.

Hostel life for the respondent was freer and brought the aspect of freedom, where she did not feel pressured. Hostel life in her opinion aided her studies, it also supported good health for her, normally the respondent had weak health but staying in the hostel has provided her with good health.

The respondent feels secure in the hostel, she believes the security in GU hostel is good, where having cameras makes her feel safe. The security guard is also very friendly but the respondent also shared her bad experience, with the



security guard which was regarding parking of bikes, which caused issues for her, other than that the respondent is very pleased with the hostels security.

One of the biggest problem that arises in the hostel is in respect to the food quality which does not meet her standards, the quantity of the food is fine but the quality of food is an issue, where there have been instance, where she found insects in her food. The other problem is serving one type of food for the whole week.

With regards to sanitation in hostel, the respondents had problem with the students, as many a times, they are the ones who dirty surrounding. The housekeeping staff previously used to clean the toilets and bathrooms regularly expect for Sunday but now it's not as clean as before. The visitors and play room are the same, where on many occasion the games in play room has something nether other missing.

The respondent has a good equation with her roommate and as they are classmates, it makes it more comfortable to stay together. She has never experienced ragging in hostel. The respondent would also recommend hostel to her juniors.

The one thing she wishes to change in the hostel is the curfew for girls, she says” why only girls have curfew of 9 pm and boys have no curfew, they can be out for how long they want”. Inspite her objection to the curfew the respondent is happy that the now I instead of 7 pm the curfew is 9 pm and they also have the luxury of roaming in the night, as the hostel is a safe and secure place even at

night. The respondent is joyous, as she has learned many things in her hostel life, which has opened new chapters for her future.

#### **4.4. Respondent- 4 Maya(International )**

She stayed in the hostel since she was in her bachelors and perceived hostel life as boring and strict. In her case she faced problem in hostel, with regards to food, which used to cause her stomach and there were also cases of diarrhea. As she is a foreign/ international student with a scholarship, she had to reside in hostel and she had no choice in the matter.

The fee is cheaper and affordable than the mess and food charges, which according to her is 3x higher to the academic fee. Residing in the hostel is a benefit for her as it is in the campus and also near her class, there is no need to travel from a bus which saves a lot of time and effort from her side.

The transportation is severally bad, there is proper mode of transport in Goa University, which a big problem, they have to wait for more and half hour for buses if they have to travel anywhere, if she has to shop for utilizes she has to think twice as even cabs takes an hour to reach there and as the University is in a remote location and it is hard to find it. Maps are also not able to pinpoint the location.

The respondent feels insecure in the hostel but she has not experienced any kind of theft or any other crime in the vicinity. The security in the hostel is also good. The security guard works well and are hardworking, she is very content with the security. The housekeeping staff in the hostel are also amiable.

The respondent does feel intimidated with the continuous surveillance, the cameras placed in the hostel makes the hostel a little uncomfortable and the respondent was curious if the boy's hostel also had cameras in their hostel. The boy's hostel has less surveillance.

The hostel food and mess are not good and she had faced health issue, as the food quality was low and as she is not used to spicy food, she faced major health issues. As the respondent is not from India, the spiciness of Indian food has led to continuous stomachaches.

The cleanliness in the hostel is not good and the staff also does not work to their full potential. The bathrooms are also not properly cleaned, and the respondents also saw many girls getting infections due to dirty or unclean toilets and bathrooms.

The hostel rooms are fine but they can be better, and the parking lot is good. The respondent has not experienced any kind of ragging. The respondents did not have a choice in terms of who her roommate can be, as she is an international student it was hard for to adjust and the language barrier also made things difficult.

The respondent could not speak nor understand Hindi or the local language which made it difficult for her to communicate with the security, housekeeping and even with students who did not speak in English. Hygiene among the girls was bad, as many a time's many girls left their sanitary pads in the shower and toilet.

There is a need to improve the food quality and quantity. The respondents has had problem with the hostel food and now she has stopped eating form hostel. The respondents encourages students to join hostel if they have to travel from far, but if students have problems with curfew they rather not join the hostel, the hostel does not allow to bring friends to the hostel.

The curfew for girls is a big problem for the respondent. The rules and regulation especially for girls are not justified, the respondents said “Just because we are girls does not mean, we should be caged and these rules give an impression that girls are weak and need protection”. These rules according to the respondent are like used to keep a watch on girls. The curfew is unfair as girls do not enjoy the same freedom as the boys do, girls need permission all the time and have to submit notes to go anywhere.

The respondent was unhappy with duality, in the name of security, where girls have to give reasons to enjoy freedom but the same is followed for boys. “These rules do not provide security rather makes us feel like kids”. The respondent questions the tight security kept only on girls, where girls have to inform and have to get permission to go anywhere. The constant watch on them, from when they go out of hostel from morning to when they come back to hostel, where they go, when they are coming, everything is recorded in the books to track them.

The respondent wanted to enjoy her hostel life before she starts working. The respondent was in the workforce before joining the University and hence wanted to enjoy before going back to the workforce after the course. The area

around the hostel is not safe and the respondent has seen many men loitering around the hostel, who are drunk. “There are men who come to see what girls are doing in the room”.

Hostel life according to the respondent is very boring and she feels like she is in a cage. The respondent suggests improvement in the infrastructure, there is water leakage problem from the ceiling, the toilets and bathrooms also need repairment, the wires in the bathroom also need repairment. The food also needs improvement, the food sometimes has no taste and there is a need for more freedom for girls.

#### **4.5. Respondent 5- Angel(International)**

Being a foreign/ international student, it's her first time in Hostel life, hostel has brought a lot of advantages to her stay, and one of them is the distance to her class, bank, and grocery. The environment around the hostel is also very pleasing and relaxing, as university has a lot of vegetation, the surrounding is very calming.

According to rules and regulations of the ICCR, it is mandatory for international students to stay in the hostel. She joined university in 2018 and was the only one, so she did not have anyone to share rooms with, whereas many students do rent and share rooms. She is happy with hostel as its better then renting and more economical.

As hostels are inside the campus and the department, library, bank are in walkable distance, it helps her a lot, as she travelling did not consume her time and as it is near, it was beneficial for her studies, as the university is in a remote area with transportation problems, during her internship she had to face challenges, as she had to travel to Verna which was far and inconvenient.

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The hostel rooms, bathroom, parking lot are good and as she is residing in the phd building she has single room now but before changing the rooms she had a roommate who was good. She believes there is a need of improvement in food quality. The rules and regulations in the hostel are fine. Hostel is a good options for students looking for economical purpose.

The students in the hostel are very loud and careless, the kitchen on many occasion is left unclean by the students which is shared by them. The hostel does not have any area which is peaceful and the cleanliness done by students unsatisfactory.

Hostel is far away from the city and situated in a remote area, which both provides more security and also is a reason for problem, as the transportation is bad, buses in the area are few and come to the university after long duration. They have to wait for more than 20 minutes, minimum for a bus to arrive, to go anywhere. There are very few or no buses after 7.30 pm in the university.

Hostel life has taught the coping mechanism, where the respondent has learned to cope up with different people, as she is an international student, she had problem in the start but now she has learned a lot. The respondent has also become independent. Hostel life gave her a chance to make decisions in her life

be it with regards to what kind of friends she wants, what kind of people she  
wants to associate with etc.,



## **Chapter 5**

# **Finding, Analysis and Conclusion**

### **5.1. Transportation**

Transportations has been an age old issue in Goa University, which is still one of the biggest problem for students. The university is located in a remote area, i.e Taleigao Plateau, which falls in the outskirts of the city. There are few buses that have university as their main route. This has led to many students facing problem of transportation.

Many students come from different places to achieve higher education in Goa University. The hostel provided is a blessing for students who have to travel from far off areas, where staying in the hostel saves a lot of their time. There are students who come from the furthest part of Goa and daily travel is not an option. Students staying in the hostel are also able to save money, as daily travel from their respective place becomes more expensive. Renting a room or Paying Guest is also not an affordable option for many students.

Many students in the University belong from the economically weak category, hence taking that into consideration the university has lowered the fee for such students. As students do not need to travel, they are in better position to concentrate on their studies, respondents have shared how they are able to go to

library, their respective department and classrooms anytime they want. International students were able to go to library after their classes and study for longer hours.

The students who stayed in the hostel still had problems with the transportation, as the area is remote and not well known by many cab drivers, students who had internships to go through, had to face problems. In the research it can be seen that students who had bike were in advantage as they were not relied on buses for transportation. Buses that come from Bambolim wait till the bus is full and in many cases its overcrowded. There is a need to make transportation more feasible.

## **5.2. The Growth of students in Hostel life**

Hostel life has been enjoyed by all the respondents. Hostel life has shown a certain growth in the students. As students are not with their family, they have to be independent and be self-reliant. Students have learned to do resource management, where they have acquired the skill of sustainable living. Students are able to manage in less resources. They have also learned to manage their finances.

As the students have friends in the hostel who are their classmates, they have the opportunity to study together, have discussion, and share notes. Students have encouraged one and other to take up extra –curricular activities, which has

brought out many unknown talents by students and has led to positive bonding between them.

### **5.3. Old hostel**

The old hostel has 30 rooms, which are small and they not very clean. Students in the old hostel have issues with the dysfunctional equipment, which are old and are in a dire need of repair, like the fans, cupboard, switches, where many amenities can make living there risky like unkept live wires, broken locks etc Old hostel is seen as being a scary place as there are stories that float, like harassment with women, suicide stories, that makes the students in the old hostel feel unsafe

The old hostel has a mess but it's not clean and it brings in the issue of sanitation and hygiene. The old hostel has a good seating arrangement, which is used by students for dining, where students from both old and new hostels dine. The parking lot is also very good and spacious, which is an important aspect for hostel students as many students bring their vehicle for transportation.

The old hostel has amenities like 2 geysers, 2 water purifier etc which are in need of repair. The washrooms and toilets are also not clean, the water taps are also not

working. The old hostel had broken cupboard locks, camera were only set up outside the hostel, which created security issues for students

Old hostel is inside the campus and is isolated which made it feel safe for some respondents but the same thing created the feeling of being unsafe as outsiders come and sit near the vicinity and many a times there are drunkards who roam creating a unsafe atmosphere. The area is also quite isolated and is unsafe during night.

#### **5.4. The New Hostel**

The new hostel is much better then old hostel. The facilities are much better in comparison. The new hostel has 18 rooms, which has 3 floors and each floor has 2 geyser, the bathrooms and toilets are cleaner. The new hostel is more hygienic and sanitations is also good. The other amenities are also in working condition

The new hostel does not have mess hence students have to go the old hostel to dine, which is a problem as there is no extraseating arrangement made for the other students, the students are also not allowed to dine in the other hostel and its mandatory to dine in the mess hence students have to carry their plates

from one hostel to another. It becomes more of a problem when it's raining and the movement from one to the other hostel causes problem.

### **5.5. Security problem in Hostel**

The university hostel has had many cases of robbery, but not much of action have been taken. The students are blamed for their negligence rather than making strict mechanism to increase security. The cameras in the hostel on many occasions are not in working condition. Things have been stolen from their rooms and the poor surveillance has led to not find the culprit. The old hostel has broken cupboard locks which makes it more unsafe.

The non-functional cameras also have led to girls feeling unsafe about their security. The respondents have shared their worries of having unknown men on the campus and how they are unsafe they feel when they roam near the vicinity and try to look into the hostel rooms. No proper lighting in the university, especially near their department has also raised questions of safety. Girls do not go to library late in the evening, with the fear of something happening to them.

The Security is weak and many a time's guards are also not seen, which makes its unsafe and unsecure. The security in the hostel have commented on

girls dressing and they passed judgment on them. These kind of things/ instances have led to girls feeling scared and not trusting the security.

## **5.6. Food Problem**

The food in the hostel is a problem, which will be shared by all the respondents. The food in the hostel is not good. Insects have been found in the food on multiple occasions. The quality and quantity of the food is low, which has affected many students who stayed in the hostel.

The food in the hostel has caused health problems for students, the one of the respondent had stopped eating the hostel food as the food was causing her severe health hazards. There have been times where some days the food is very tasteless and some days its very spicy. The mess is also not very clean and insects were found in the mess. The sanitation level is also not very good.

## **5.7. Network Issue**

The second major problem in University is the network issues. This problem is faced by everyone in the university. The network issues has led to students not staying much in university. There is bad coverage in most parts of the campus.

The hostels also do not have connectivity. The respondents had to try and find places where they could access network. The laptops also have

bad connectivity and as many internal exams need the internet, students have to face issues. One of the respondent had to rely a lot on the internet as they more of practical's and the bad network used to delay her work.

### **5.8. My experience as a Representative and as a hostelite**

When I took a decision of staying in a hostel for the duration of my course, I had different ideas about hostel life. I thought I will get freedom of going out, the freedom of not being answerable to anyone, make new friends who would help me study and enjoy. But when I did get to the hostel my perspective changed, I learned new things and gained a new experience, which I did not expect.

I was chosen as the hostel representative by my fellow hostel mates in my first year as the other representative was a Non Goan and she was also overworked. This was done to make sure that there was no partiality done during times of decisions. Many girls were comfortable with me and were more at ease with me as I was a Goan and in better position to understand their issues.

When I started working, I was in the old hostel, issues like sanitation, hygiene, plugged wires etc were taken up. My effective actions spoke words and students were happy about it. Issues like mess issues were also taken up, where the situation of the unhygienic mess was solved by me and a teacher.

This experience of hostel representative led to me discovering about my ability of being a leader and the experience of thinking in multiple ways. During my tenure of Hostel representative I multitasked many duties. . I learned to be accountable.

As I was from Women's Studies department I was able to see many problems from a different aspect. I was able to make a change in their life and make their life in hostel a little easy. As I was residing in the hostel I was able to spend more time with the issues of students. The experience with being in the hostel has been fruitful and a learning one. It has made me self-reliant

I was able to make good friends who helped me in my studies but there were rules in place where in we had to come back to our respective hostel before 9.00pm every evening, we were not allowed to bring visitors into the hostel etc. brought out the issue of discrimination between girls and boys.

There were times when my fellow hostellers would get problems to me that ranged from stolen goods, stolen clothes, not good food in the mess, etc that made me carefully investigate the problems and take a judgment call over it. The hostel life taught me a lot of things like responsibility, self-sufficiency, independency, built my self-confidence as well as the will to speak up.

My experience while doing research was amazing, where while interviewing the students I had the opportunity to personally interact with students and get to know more about their perspectives on hostel life and the issues they



found important, was something I did not expect to learn. The difference in the way all the respondents saw hostel life was great experience.

However our term year was left incomplete due to the pandemic and I did have to face problems of not getting respondents but as soon as things resumed to its normal ways I did start asking my friends to give interviews. Some happily agreed to help but few of them weren't exactly willing to meet up to answer the interview in the fear that they might contract the corona virus. I faced few difficulties trying to get the interview but at last I had to turn to video calls and phone calls to complete my case study interviews. The experience of doing research was great.

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