STUDENTS' RESIDENTIAL SATISFACTION WITH HOSTEL FACILITIES IN UNIVERSITIES IN GHANA, A STUDY OF AAMUSTED-KUMASI CAMPUS

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Abstract

Purpose and Scope: Attempts to increase access to higher learning in Sub Sahara Africa have led to Universities' efforts to provide and manage student accommodation on campus. Satisfying the users of hall facilities should be one of the main objectives of providing such a facility. The current study sought to assess students' residential satisfaction in residence halls at Ghanaian University, AAMUSTED, Kumasi. Design/Methods: Using a mixed-method approach, the study adopted a descriptive research design. Quota and Convenience sampling techniques provided 200 respondents. Major data collection instruments included focus group discussions (FGDs), observations, and questionnaires designed under three attributes namely; Personal (in-room), Social amenities; and Management system. Result/Findings: Descriptive statistics using SPSS V.23 and thematic analysis revealed students' Dissatisfaction with specific facilities under Personal and Social attributes that offer privacy, comfort, and recreation. Additionally, there was dissatisfaction with the provision of tables and chairs for room learning, utilities as well as services that ensured reliable security and cleaning. However, students "Dissatisfaction" with management's attitude and responses to their grievances and complaints in the halls in "repairing and replacement of gadgets or facilities ultimately resulted in a negative impact on student's residential satisfaction. Practical Implication: The results of this study will help the university's hall administration enhance a few areas of the administration structure, most notably the association's dedication to facility maintenance and repairs. Conclusion It was suggested, based on the aforementioned findings, that residence hall managers periodically interview students to get their feedback on the caliber of services they receive. In addition to having plants or generators

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available to replace power failures in the residence halls, university administration should also ensure a steady supply of electricity. Additional research ought to evaluate the degree of contentment experienced by students residing in private hostels.

Keywords: University, Hall, Residential, Student housing, Level of Satisfaction.

1. INTRODUCTION

Housing is one of humanity's fundamental needs. It's believed to be the most basic human need. Akpu & Darah (2015) state that among human needs are clothing and food. Ojikpong, Agbor, and Emri (2016) state that, after food, housing is the most essential basic human need. Generally speaking, a home helps its owner integrate into his local social network and provides him with a social identity. Therefore, having a home gives you a lot of security and social position.

Thus, housing affects people's health, education, social behavior, job, productivity, knowledge of personal growth opportunities, safety, and general well-being in a big way. When evaluating student satisfaction in Turkey, Kaya and Erkip, (2001), take special note of how big and packed the room is thought to be. Hassanain, (2008) examines the degree of satisfaction with both functional performance (i.e., room arrangement and furniture quality) and technical performance (i.e., thermal comfort) in sustainable student housing facilities in Saudi Arabia.

Over 160% more people are estimated to have completed their university education internationally, and the number of students enrolling in tertiary institutions worldwide has been rising recently, Sharma, (2012). In many countries around the world, housing for university students remains a challenge for the government (Center for Global Education, 2002).

The world is becoming a more interconnected place, and as a result, students' needs for appropriate housing have grown. According to Najib & Yusof, (2009), Khozaei, et al., (2010), Hassanain (2008), and other scholars, housing is a prerequisite for students to perform well in their academic endeavors. The primary concern is how comfortable the university's residence halls are for its students. To

gauge a student's happiness with their hostel and its amenities, it is essential to consider factors like room quality, safety, and security.

Facilities are a vital component of human resources and the achievement of corporate objectives. Attracting and retaining top talent is one of the main objectives for universities. The estimated tertiary enrolment rate in Ghana was 9.7%, which may not be as high as the rates in industrialized nations, which were above 50% (Ghana Education Performance Report, 2010, p. 38). This suggests that the number of students enrolling in universities and technical universities has increased significantly.

In various sectors of the economy, the Ghanaian government has supported private involvement in socio-economic development for the past 40 years (Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda – GSGDA, 2010). One such area in which private involvement in the education sector has drawn a lot of attention is the supply of student housing, particularly for tertiary students, Asare- Kyire, et al., (2012).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Assessing Residential Satisfaction-Definition, Theories, and Concepts

Hostel accommodations are described by Adeyemi & Igbineweka, (2008), as affordable, social, and cooperative lodging options available to students. Hostels often consist of bunk beds inside of dorms that share a lounge, restrooms, and occasionally a kitchen. The majority of hostel lodgings are solely for single people; nonetheless, there are extremely few instances in which mixed-gender hostel accommodations are offered. Students typically pay less for hostel lodgings than they would if they were to find housing elsewhere.

The "perceived gap between a respondent's needs and aspirations and the reality of the current residential context" is how Abdullahi, (2009) defines satisfaction. The process of comparing what was obtained or received with what was anticipated is what is meant by the word satisfaction. It can also be precisely described as the seeming difference between goals and achievements.

2.2 Concept of Residential Satisfaction

According to Mohit & Raja, (2014), residential satisfaction is the sense of fulfillment one experiences in a home after obtaining what one requires or wants. Residential satisfaction can also be characterized as an indication of homeowner's perspective of the general quality of their life and it can suggest that an individual's expectation of housing is met, Tan, (2016). Residential satisfaction refers to the assessments of the standard of living of occupants in a certain residential setting and catalyzes residential mobility. Aragones & Amerigo, (1997).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Mohit & Raja, (2014), state that some academics studying students' residential satisfaction have relied on a variety of theories, including Rossi's, (1955) Housing Needs Theory, Morris and Winter's, (1978), Housing Deficit Theory (table 1), and Galster's (1985), Psychological Construct Theory. Furthermore, Jiang et al., (2017), noted that another theory applied in residential satisfaction studies is Galster's, (1987), Gap Theory. Some have evaluated residents' satisfaction by synthesizing two or more of the theories.

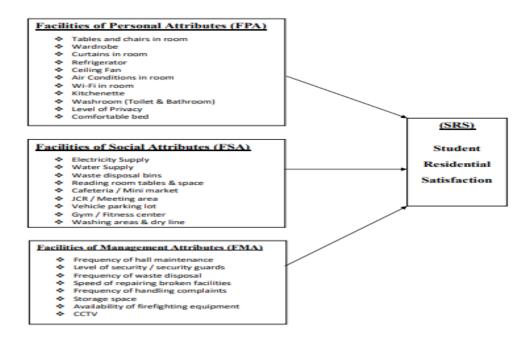
According to Biswas et al., (2021), three ideas are believed to provide the foundation for research on residential satisfaction, Mohit, and Raja, (2014). According to Rossi's "Housing Needs Theory," residents will become unsatisfied when there is a "lack of fit" between their intended and current housing demands. Residents may consequently relocate more frequently to accommodate this *'lack of fit''* (Rossi, 1955). The "Housing Deficit Theory," which was created by Morris et al., (1976), clearly sees housing requirements as cultural housing norms. In contrast, Rossi's study appears to emphasize the implicit impact of physical and social circumstances on housing desires. If the home does not *''fit''* with the necessities that are there, it is deemed to be deficient in housing.

According to Dekker et al., (2021), the term "housing satisfaction" conceptually refers to a family's level of satisfaction with their existing housing situation.

| Table 1. Summary of Residential Satisfaction Theories with their major elements. | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Author(S) & Year | Name of Theory | Main Elements | | |
| Rossi (1955) | Housing needs theory | a) Life cycle phases and evolving housing requirements.b) Stress or discontent with housing results from differences between present and ideal housing demands.c)Locals migrate as a response to this suffering | | |
| Morris & Winter (1978) | Housing deficit theory | a) People evaluate their living circumstances based on certain standards.b) A housing deficit is caused by an incongruity between the norms of family dwelling and real housing.c) Housing adjustments are used to reduce the housing deficit. | | |
| Galster (1985) | Psychological construct theory | a) People mentally create a reference state for their living environment.b) When the current housing condition is roughly in line with the reference scenario, satisfaction is high.c) Inconsistency will result in either alteration or adaptation, depending on the situation. | | |

Source: Literature review 2024

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework



Source: Authors

3. **METHODOLOGY**

The three residence halls on the AAMUSTED - Kumasi Campus, Opoku Ware II Hall, Atwima Hall, and Autonomy Hall were included in this study. The study employed a descriptive survey as the research design and a questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion, (FGD) were the methods used to collect data (table 1). The creation of the questionnaire was facilitated by a pilot survey of the instrument in KNUST. Twenty resident students participated in the pilot survey to eliminate any ambiguity in the questions before they were given to the sampled respondents. The answers obtained from this preliminary investigation aided in refining the inquiries for the ultimate surveys that were distributed. Using the quota and convenience sampling method, the 1,513 residents of the 2023–2024 academic year were categorized based on their residence halls. Since it was not feasible to create a comprehensive list of every on-campus resident, this sampling technique was used; nevertheless, the residents had previously been divided into their halls of residence (subpopulations). During the first semester, 210 conveniently chosen students from these three subpopulations (halls) received questionnaires. 200 of them were obtained and utilized in the analysis.

Groups Location **Number of Participants** Group 1 Opoku Ware 11 Hall (New 7 Block, F, G&H) Group 2 Autonomy Hall 5 Group 3 Autonomy Hall 6 Opoku Ware 11(Old Block, **Group 4** 5 A. B&C) **Group 5** Atwima Hall 6

Table 2. Focused Group Discussion Grouping

4. **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

From Table 3, Opoku Ware II Hall is the most occupied hall, with 100 residents, accounting for 50.0% of the total occupancy. Autonomy Hall is the second most occupied hall, with 51 residents, making up 25.5% of the total occupancy. Atwima Hall has the lowest occupancy, with only 49 residents, representing 24.5% of the total occupancy. In summary, Opoku Ware II Hall is the most popular choice among residents, with half of the total occupancy, while Atwima Hall has the lowest occupancy. There are 110 males or 50.5% of the total population. The remaining 45.0% of the population is made up of 90 females in the sample. Conclusion: The data shows that the sample's gender distribution is nearly equal, with only a 5% difference in the proportion of males and females making up 100% of the population overall. The age (21 years to 25 years) group is the largest age group in the sample, with 130 respondents. This group represents the highest percentage of the population. The second-largest age group in the sample, with 36 respondents, is aged less than 20 years. It represents a significant portion of the population, indicating a relatively younger demographic. The 26 -30 years age group comprises 28 respondents, indicating a

significant presence of individuals in their late twenties. 4 respondents fall within 31 - 35 years making up a fifth of the sample.

| Demographics | Frequency (N) | Percentage (%) | |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| Hall | 200. | 100.0 | |
| Atwima Hall | 49 | 24.5 | |
| Opoku Ware ll Hall | 100 | 50.0 | |
| Autonomy Hall | 51 | 25.5 | |
| Gender | 200 | 100.0 | |
| Male | 110 | 55.0 | |
| Female | 90 | 45.0 | |
| Age | 200 | 100.0 | |
| Less than 20yrs | 36 | 18.0 | |
| 21-25 | 130 | 65.0 | |
| 26-30 | 28 | 14.0 | |
| 31-35 | 4 | 2.0 | |
| Greater than 36 | 2 | 1.0 | |
| Marital status | 200 | 100.0 | |
| Single | 174 | 87.0 | |
| Married | 20 | 10.0 | |
| Divorced | 6 | 3.0 | |
| Number of yrs. in Hall | 200 | 100.0 | |
| One year | 62 | 31.0 | |
| Two years | 50 | 25.0 | |
| Three years | 12 | 6.0 | |
| Four years | 40 | 20.0 | |
| Less than a year | 36 | 18.0 | |
| Educational Level | 200 | 100.0 | |
| Masters | 2 | 1.0 | |
| First Degree | 162 | 81.0 | |
| Diploma | 36 | 18.0 | |
| Occupancy Rate | 200 | 100.0 | |
| One in a room | 6 | 3.0 | |
| Two in a room | 24 | 12.0 | |
| Three in a room | 66 | 33.0 | |
| Four in a room | 104 | 52.0 | |

Table 3. Demographic Information of the Respondents

| Attributes | RS | Standard. | Interpretation | Rank |
|-----------------------------------|------|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| | Mean | Deviation | | |
| Level of privacy | 2.90 | 1.508 | Dissatisfied | 1 st |
| | | | | |
| Television in room | 2.74 | 1.467 | Dissatisfied | 2^{nd} |
| Air conditioning in the room | 2.72 | 1.412 | Dissatisfied | 3 rd |
| Dressing Mirror in the room | 2.71 | 1.516 | Dissatisfied | 4 th |
| Refrigerator/ Fridge in room | 2.70 | 1.277 | Dissatisfied | 5 th |
| Ceiling Fan /Standing Fan in room | 2.69 | 1.416 | Dissatisfied | 6 th |
| Curtains in room | 2.66 | 1.124 | Dissatisfied | 7 th |
| Comfortable Bed/ Mattress type in | 2.60 | 1.352 | Dissatisfied | 8 th |
| the room | | | | |
| Kitchen facilities in the room | 2.55 | 1.503 | Dissatisfied | 9 th |
| Internet Connection/ Wi-Fi in the | 2.51 | 1.460 | Dissatisfied | 10 th |
| room | | | | |
| Clean toilet and Bathroom in the | 2.48 | 1.398 | Dissatisfied | 11 th |
| room | | | | t e th |
| Wardrobe/Closet in room | 2.38 | 1.020 | Dissatisfied | 12 th |
| Table and Chair in room | 1.81 | 1.181 | Very | 13 th |
| | | | Dissatisfied | |

Table 4. Summary of Level of Satisfaction with Personal (In-room) Facilities in the Halls

NB: 1.0-1.99= Very Dissatisfied, 2.0-2.99= Dissatisfied, 3.0-3.99 = Neutral, 4.0-4.99= Satisfied and 5.0= Very Satisfied

Source: Author's field data, 2024

Verifying the relationship or impacts of personal characteristics or in-room amenities on students' satisfaction levels with the varied range of facilities was the goal of the analysis. This effect can be understood in light of our expectation, which was stated in objective one and states that students' residential pleasure is significantly impacted negatively by their level of contentment with the in-room amenities. This explanation was based on previously published research. The result from Table 4 shows that respondents expressed dissatisfaction with several of the hostel facilities examined under the attributes. All the variables achieved an RS mean value of less than 5.0 under the personal facilities in the room. Students expressed great dissatisfaction with 'tables and chairs' and 'the level of privacy' provided in the room, ranked 13th and 1st with RS mean of 1.18 and 2.90 respectively. This is similar to the findings of Danso & Hammond (2017) on student level of satisfaction with private hostels around KNUST, Kumasi. 'Television, Air conditioning, dressing mirror; with RS mean of 2.74, 2.72, and 2.71 respectively. They ranked 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

'Refrigerator, Ceiling fan, and curtains with RS of 2.70, 2.69, and 2.66 ranked 5th, 6th and 7th respectively.

Bed with RS mean of 2.60, wardrobe with RS mean of 2.55, and internet connections (Wi-Fi) with RS mean of 2.51 ranked 8th, 9th, and 10th respectively. This shows that students are highly satisfied with these in-room facilities. However, 'The kitchen size and facilities' with an RS mean of 2.38, sanitary fittings and cleaning of the washroom with an RS mean of 2.48, and tables and chairs with 1.80 RS mean score ranked 11th, 12th, and 13th respectively. This signifies students' low satisfaction with these facilities.

| Attributes | RS Mean | Standard Deviation | Interpretation | Rank |
|--|---------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Waste disposal facility/ Bin types and sizes | 3.01 | 1.435 | Neutral | 1 st |
| Reading room tables &chairs, Space | 2.93 | 1.463 | Dissatisfied | 2 nd |
| Gym / Fitness center | 2.87 | 1.516 | Dissatisfied | 3 rd |
| Recreational/ sports facilities | 2.78 | 1.573 | Dissatisfied | 4 th |
| Mini Market / Cafeteria/Food vendors | 2.69 | 1.401 | Dissatisfied | 5 th |
| Parking lot/ Space | 2.69 | 1.416 | Dissatisfied | 5 th |
| Electricity light and fittings/Available Sockets | 2.68 | 1.497 | Dissatisfied | 7 th |
| JCR Entertainment facility/ Meeting area | 2.64 | 1.364 | Dissatisfied | 8 th |
| Washing area & Drying Clothes areas and Dry Lines | 2.53 | 1.330 | Dissatisfied | 9 th |
| Reliable water supply and reliable clean tanks | 2.40 | 1.311 | Dissatisfied | 10 th |

Table 5. Summary of Level of Satisfaction with Social (Outside-room) Facilities in the Halls

NB: 1.0-1.99= Very Dissatisfied, 2.0-2.99= Dissatisfied, 3.0-3.99 = Neutral, 4.0-4.99= Satisfied and 5.0= Very Satisfied

Source: Author's field data, 2024

A Likert scale was used to gather data from our respondents regarding students' happiness based on social qualities, taking into account the assumptions made for the analysis. The frequency of social or outdoor room facilities is seen in Table 5. Based on Table 4.5, it shows that the level of satisfaction for 1st to 6th rank were waste disposal facilities (3.01.), reading room table and chair (2.93), Gym /fitness center (2.87), Recreational/sports facilities (2.78), mini market (2.69) and parking lot/space (2.69). However, the top 4 facilities with low satisfaction were Electricity supply and sockets (2.68), JCR Entertainment facility/meeting area (2.64), laundry area and dry lines (2.53), and reliable water supply (2.39). This result is in contrast to Mansor, et al., (2020),

corresponding findings whereby the residents expressed high satisfaction with their outdoor facilities.

The result shows the overall students' satisfaction level for each facility under the social attributes. We can see that students are mostly dissatisfied with facilities, which are waste disposal facilities, reading room table and chairs, Gym /fitness center, Recreational/sports facilities, mini market, and parking lot/space. These findings contradict the findings of Mansor et al, (2020), at the University Utara Malaysia whose findings indicated that the level of satisfaction towards facilities, such as lounge, drinking fountains, and security are the highest satisfaction indexes; 0.7816, 0.6587, and 0.6469 respectively and was ranked first, second and third.

Furthermore, this study reveals that Electricity supply and sockets (2.68) JCR Entertainment facility/meeting area (2.64) laundry area and dry lines (2.53), and reliable water supply (2.39) receive the lowest level of satisfaction indicating dissatisfaction of students towards this facility.

| Attributes | RS | Standard | Interpretation | Rank |
|--|------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | Mean | Deviation | | |
| Rate/Speed of handling residents' complaints | 3.06 | 1.532 | Neutral | 1 st |
| Availability and adequacy of firefighting equipment/ Fire assembly point | 2.88 | 1.466 | Dissatisfaction | 2 nd |
| Lounge/visitors' place/ Environmental or Greening space | 2.83 | 1.538 | Dissatisfaction | 3 rd |
| Storage Space | 2.69 | 1.462 | Dissatisfaction | 5 th |
| Level of security/ Security guards | 2.56 | 1.381 | Dissatisfaction | 6 th |
| Availability of facilities for PWDs | 2.51 | 1.425 | Dissatisfaction | 7 th |
| Frequency of maintenance of the hall | 2.37 | 1.375 | Dissatisfaction | 8 th |
| Cleanliness of bathroom/toilet | 2.19 | 1.268 | Dissatisfaction | 9 th |
| Speed of repairing broken facilities | 1.94 | 1.330 | Very Dissatisfaction | 10 th |

Table 6. Summary of Level of Satisfaction with Management Attribute in the Hall

Based on the results, it shows that the level of satisfaction for 1st to 6th rank was the speed of handling residents' complaints (3.06), firefighting equipment (2.87), lounge (2.82), CCTV (2.71), Storage space (2.68), level of security/security guards (2.56). However, the remaining 4 facilities with the lowest satisfaction were PWD facilities (2.51), frequency of maintenance of facilities (2.36), cleanliness of washrooms (2.18), and speed of repairing facilities (1.93).

The study results are in line with the findings by Fatameh, et al., (2010), on students' level of satisfaction with hostel accommodation at the University of Sains in Malaysia. Their study revealed that the most important factors that predict students' level of satisfaction and influence

their choice of hostels were the lounge, hostel security, and the other facilities of the hostel. Osei-Poku, et al., (2020), also had similar findings in their studies.

| Variables | RS Mean | Standard Deviation | Interpretation | RS Ranking |
|---|------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Effect of Facilities of Social Attributes on Students Residential Satisfaction (FSA \rightarrow SRS). | 2.7190 | 0.92140 | Dissatisfied | 1st |
| Effect of Facilities of Personal Attributes on Students Residential Satisfaction (FPA \rightarrow SRS). | 2.5710 | 0.93822 | Dissatisfied | 2nd |
| Effect of Facilities of Management Attributes on Students Residential Satisfaction (FMA \rightarrow SRS). | 2.5704 | 0.73844 | Dissatisfied | 3rd |

| Table 7. Overall Summary of Research Findin | gs |
|---|----|
|---|----|

From Table 7, above, the overall satisfaction mean was determined for all three major variables. Based on the result, FMA (2.5704) ranked 3^{rd} with 25.2% as the most facilities that students are dissatisfied with. FPA with (2.5710) ranked 2^{nd} at 35.1% and FSA with a mean score of (2.7190) ranked 1^{st} at 39.7% as the least facility that students are dissatisfied with.

5. CONCLUSION

This study's primary goal is to evaluate how satisfied students are with the amenities offered at AAMUSTED's school halls in Kumasi, Ghana. Its objective was to evaluate the impact of the facilities management, social, and personal attributes on the residential satisfaction of university students living in the residence halls.

The criteria used to measure the satisfaction levels were categorized under three headings: management elements, social amenities, and personal facilities. The statistics make it evident that there are variations in the degree of student satisfaction with the type of accommodation available on AAMUSTED campuses.

Despite this, the overall satisfaction scores showed that residents of the hall were dissatisfied with the amount, caliber, and culture of upkeep or repairs of some facilities. Additionally, the results show that residents are unsure about the majority of the attributes. To improve residential happiness in the current residence halls, one option is to make future adjustments based on what the residents want.

Along with immediately furnishing each room with a personal table and chair as well as internet access (Wi-Fi), this also entails adding more overhead water storage tanks to boost water distribution. The electric power supply should be improved by adding more solar panels to generate electricity on top of what is already available. Management should again improve daily cleaning and regular waste disposal to keep the halls neat. To address student issues promptly, hall administrators should set up a budget to cover maintenance needs and do routine inspections.

The report also recommends performing routine Post Occupancy Evaluations to learn about the challenges that the occupants of the on-campus residences are encountering. To increase students' satisfaction with campus accommodation while protecting the environment, new resident halls should be built to accommodate the large number of students living on campus. Thus, to improve user experience, the new halls' shared room sizes should be increased by universal design principles.

Every room has to have a balcony so that students can sit outside and take in some fresh air. Again, the new designs should feature study/reading rooms where students can work on individual studies, kitchens, restrooms, and areas for drying and washing wet garments on each floor. The travel times and distances between each bedroom and these utilities should be as short as possible thanks to their placement.

To ensure that individuals have healthy bodies and brains, residence halls should provide sports facilities, including a gym. The new halls should incorporate environmentally friendly water and power generation methods, such as gathering and storing rainwater, as well as solar panels for low-cost, clean electric energy.

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