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An Investigation of the Factors Motivating Students' Stay in Private Universities' Hostels.

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Abstract: Provision of housing accommodation to students of higher institutions has been a great challenge over the years. Various efforts had been made both by the government and private individuals/organisations to assuage this situation but astronomical increase in the number of students gaining admission into the available institutions has all the time dwarf these efforts. This study therefore examined the factors motivating students to stay in the hostels. Questionnaires were administered on 325 students in the Bells University of Technology and Crawford University. The data collected were analysed using frequency distribution and mean. The study found that electricity supply, peer/friendship influence, security, parental influence and water supply are mostly the factors motivating students to stay in the hostel. Following these findings, the study recommends that hostel providers should take critical look into and incorporate these factors that motivate students to stay in the hostel. This study is expected to serve as a guide to new hostel providers.

Keywords: Accommodation, Choice, Hostel, Students, University

1.0 Introduction

Housing is an important tripod of human settlement that fulfils basic need. Ibem and Amole (2010) opined that it impacts on the quality of life, health, welfare as well as productivity of man. In a report, The World Bank (2002) defines housing as “the residential environment, neighborhood, micro district or the physical structure that mankind uses for shelter, and the environments of that structure, including all necessary services, facilities, equipment and devices needed for the physical health and social well-being of the family and the individual”. It is a fundamental human need in all societies and essential right of every individual. In advanced nations, housing is generously available to all classes of people which include the poor and the needy due to subsidies from the government (Yusuff, 2011).

Over the years there has been increasing concern for student housing resulting from the astronomical rise in student population due to increasing interest to acquire education institutions of higher learning. The upward thrust in population has been accompanied by diverse difficult shape of student housing ranging from wanting infrastructure facilities to overcrowded environment. This has culminated in rejuvenated quest in the search for the best and attainable steps towards achieving efficient, conducive academic driven environment (Owolabi, 2015). The most important thing is that students’ housing should offer the primary infrastructure required by the students. In this category are facilities such as toilets, running water, electricity, study room, canteen, buttery, kitchenette and recreation area. It is very common to

discover that such facilities are either not available or in a state of complete disrepair.

All over the world, provision of accommodation for students’ population takes different forms which include non-residential, residential, and dual-residential. The dual-residential would be where the university houses her students’ population for a period of time probably the first and final year, while during the remaining period, the students sourced for their own accommodations.

Arising from the above scenarios and the large proportion of students still clamouring to be housed in one way or the other necessitated the need examined the factors motivating them to stay in the hostels.

2.0 Literature Review

Having done the introduction in the previous section, this section of the work is devoted review literature on the importance of hostels in schools. Also it take a look at the advent of private hostels, especially as part of the facilities provided by private universities.

2.1 Importance of Hostels in Schools

Oluwunmi, Akinjare, Ayedun and Akinyemi (2011) posited that the demand for school infrastructure at all stages from the primary to tertiary has a long way transcend the exponential growth of construction of new schools and even the stepping-up of the existing ones. At the tertiary level, the unprecedented boom in the number of applicants for admission on yearly basis has led to the rapid development of new institutions, especially private universities. Over the years, the aftermath of increased number of applicants has been that the existing institutions have had to double or even

triple their intake without a proportionate expansion of facilities, even hostel accommodation.

The significance of the social environment in students' life cannot be overemphasized. One of the main features that students and their parents are concerned about when enrolling in a university is the availability of facilities for student accommodation. The import of housing as a major determinant of man's welfare, life sustenance and survival are of great importance. It has and will always be a primary concern to individual, family, community and the nation in general. Housing is vital to human existence as it ranks among the top three needs of man. Its provision has always been of great necessity to man. As a unit of the environment, housing has profound influence on the health, efficiency and social welfare of the community (Omole, 2001).

According to Ajayi, Nwosu and Ajani (2015) students' housing constitutes part of the facilities that students take into consideration before making a choice of the school they intend to attend among other considerations. This therefore makes it very necessary for schools to give students housing a top precedence while enhancing the reputation of the school among other issues. Ajayi, Nwosu and Ajani (2015) further viewed students' housing to include facilities such as bedrooms which can serve the dual purpose of study and sleeping, bathrooms and toilets, kitchen, laundry, recreational areas and access to internet services as this further improve the study-learning experience.

Commenting on facilities needs for students' accommodation, Abramson (2009) stated that the student housing

can be further enhanced by providing additional facilities such as ATM machines, car park, mini markets, bookshops and cafeterias within the precinct of the students' housing. Students' housing in Nigeria has not received the desired attention both from the government and the management of the institutions as Ubong (2007). The author observed that hostel accommodation has not received the required attention although it is a very integral part of pupil personnel management. The author further observed that inadequate maintenance of the services and infrastructure of hostel accommodation is also predominant. There have been reported cases of students taking ill in the hostels as a result of poor sanitary conditions. It is important to note that student accommodation must not only be adequately provided for in relation to the student population of a university, but it must also be able to satisfy their needs if the best in term of academic excellence is to be gotten from them.

Various studies, including Akpan (2000), Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 1998) Ukeje, Akabogu and Ndu (1992), had identified the benefits derived by students' staying in the hostel that it facilitates learning, co-curricular activities, security, moral training, national integration, private relationships and pupil personnel management (PPM)

Private investment in hostel facilities is a global phenomenal. In the United Kingdom, the volume of investments in student housing has increased by more than 120% between 2011 and 2012 and was then projected to remain positive for the next 10 years. In Nigeria, investment in hostel

accommodation dated back to 1980. It came as an intervention in solving the problem of accommodation faced by students in Universities that operated non-residential policy. Public universities were finding it difficult to accommodate the teeming population of students giving admission, due to limited spaces available and the cost of providing hostels was becoming very astronomical and beyond their financial capabilities. Following the recommendations of the harmonizing Committee was set up in 1998 that student accommodation and feeding should be fully privatized, private investors came into the business of provision of private accommodation even at an exorbitant cost (Sawyer and Yusuf (2013)). According to Aguda (2005) private sector involvement in student hostel development in Nigeria was not common because the investors perceived it as a risky venture and the demands of management of institutions are huge. However, with the advent of private universities in the educational scene in Nigeria opens a floodgate of provision of hostels to house the students. Most of the private universities are fully residential with aim of keeping good eye on students' security and engender proper moral upbringing.

3.0 Methodology

The study was carried out using survey approach. Questionnaires were administered to students from the selected institutions by adopting multi-step sampling methods. A total of 344 respondents were adopted from the two universities (Bells University of Technology, 194 and Crawford University, 150). The study sampled only the students living within the hostels. This was done with the understanding that they will be able to state the reasons why they have opted to stay in the hostels. Out of the administered questionnaires, 334 copies were retrieved out of which 9 were not properly completed hence, they were rejected. The remaining 325 copies were used for the analysis contained in this study. The data collected was then processed and analysed through the use of appropriate statistical tools in order to ensure a meaningful presentation and analysis of data collected.

4.0 Results and Discussion

This research was carried out with the main purpose of identify the factors that motivate students to stay in hostels provided within the school premises. The study was conducted on students of Bells University of Technology, Ota and Crawford University, Igbesa, all in Ado/Odo – Ota Local Government Area of Ogun State. The data collected was collated and analysed as contained in Tables 1 – 4.

Table 1: Response Rate

| Universities | No. of Questionnaires Administered | No. of Questionnaires Retrieved |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bells | 194 | 182 |
| Crawford | 150 | 143 |
| Total | 344 | 325 |

Table 1 contains the response to the questionnaire administered on the respondent students in each of the universities. 56.9% response rate was gotten from Bells University of Technology and 41.6% in Crawford

University. The table shows that 94.5% of the questionnaire administered was retrieved. The total percentage return of 94.5% was adjudged adequate to be able to generalize the findings from the study.

Table 2: Respondents' Profile

| Characteristics | Sub-headings | Bells | Crawford |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| | | F (%) | F (%) |
| Age of Respondents | Below 16 years | 0 (0) | 7 (4.9) |
| | 16 – 20 years | 119 (65.4) | 84 (58.7) |
| | 21 - 25 years | 57 (31.3) | 41 (28.7) |
| | 26 - 30 years | 6 (3.3) | 8 (5.6) |
| | 30 years above | 0 (0) | 3 (2.1) |
| | Total | 182 | 143 |
| Gender of Respondents | Male | 106 (58.2) | 104 (72.7) |
| | Female | 72 (41.8) | 39 (27.3) |
| | Total | 182 | 143 |
| Respondent's Academic Level | 200 | 60 (33.0) | 22 (15.4) |
| | 300 | 71 (39.0) | 32 (22.4) |
| | 400 | 27 (14.8) | 68 (47.6) |
| | 500 | 24 (13.1) | 4 (2.8) |
| | Total | 182 | 143 |

The profile of the respondents were as shown in Table 2. Consideration was basically on the age, gender and academic level of the respondents. From the table, it could be inferred that the student age clustered around 16 and 25 years (Bells 96.7% and Crawford 87.4%). This shows that the students are still within the age bracket at which they should be able to state what motivates them to opt to staying in the hostels. The gender of the respondent students as contained in Table 2 indicates that 58.2% of the students in Bells University are males while the remaining 41.8% are females. On the other hands, male

students in Crawford University accounted for 72.7% while the female students accounted for 27.3%. From this, it could be inferred that the study is gender inclusive, it considers the views of both gender on the issues of hostel facilities. Academic level of respondents shows that respondents cut across the various class levels of the two universities. It is evident from Table 2 that respondents are at different level of academic pursuit in the selected universities. However, a great percentage (39.0%) of the respondents in Bells are in 300 level while in Crawford, they are in 400 level (47.6%).

Table 3: Occupants per Hostel Room

| Occupants per Hostel Room | Bells | Crawford |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | F (%) | F (%) |
| 2 | 9 (4.9) | 21 (14.7) |
| 3 | 3 (1.6) | 4 (2.8) |
| 4 | 78 (42.9) | 61 (42.7) |
| 5 | 15 (8.2) | 0 (0) |
| 6 | 57 (31.3) | 35 (24.5) |
| 8 | 20 (11.0) | 22 (15.4) |
| Total | 182 (100) | 143 (100) |

Hostel room occupancy in the selected universities are depicted in Table 3. The occupancy rate indicates the bed space per room which shows the number of students that can stay in a room. The occupancy ranges from 2 to 8 students per room. The table reveals that the highest room occupancy in the two universities is 4 with proportion of 42.9% and 42.7% for Bells University and Crawford University respectively.

This was followed by room occupancy of 6 that produced 31.3% (Bells) and 24.5% (Crawford). The most crowded room occupancy in the two universities has 8 students in a room. This has proportions of 11% (Bells) and 15.4% (Crawford). As much as hostel accommodation is important, the outcome from this study, where more than 4 students share a room is pathetic and unhealthy.

Table 4: Factors Motivating Students' Stay in the Hostel

| Factors | Bells | Crawford | Average Mean | Ranking |
|----------------------------------|-------|----------|--------------|---------|
| | Mean | Mean | | |
| Electricity Supply | 4.67 | 3.56 | 4.12 | 1st |
| Space Adequacy | 3.66 | 2.39 | 3.03 | 11th |
| Serenity/Noiselessn ess | 2.66 | 2.80 | 2.73 | 15th |
| Natural Ventilation | 3.65 | 2.88 | 3.27 | 7th |
| Security | 3.68 | 3.47 | 3.58 | 3rd |
| Water Supply | 3.40 | 3.45 | 3.43 | 5th |
| Indoor Temperature | 3.29 | 3.18 | 3.24 | 9th |
| Cleanliness | 2.98 | 3.04 | 3.01 | 12th |
| Comfortability | 3.26 | 2.94 | 3.10 | 10th |
| Proximity to other facilities | 2.58 | 2.92 | 2.75 | 14th |
| Natural lighting | 2.92 | 3.90 | 3.41 | 6th |
| Religious Bias | 2.61 | 3.91 | 3.26 | 8th |
| Peer/Friendship Influence | 3.30 | 3.96 | 3.63 | 2nd |
| Internet Connectivity | 2.30 | 3.40 | 2.85 | 13th |
| Parental Influence | 3.48 | 3.42 | 3.45 | 4th |

The mean of the fifteen (15) factors considered by students in choosing to

stay in the hostel were as shown in Table 4. It is evident from the table

that electricity supply was highly prioritized by the students as they ranked it as number one factor (average mean 4.12). This was followed by peer/friendship influence ranking as number two, with average mean of 3.63. Security and parental influence third and fourth with average mean of 3.58 and 3.45 respectively. The least ranked factor considered for staying in the hostel is serenity/noiselessness with average mean of 2.73. This is an indication that students consider those factors that ranked higher as very germane to their stay in the hostels. Factors like serenity, proximity to other facilities, internet connectivity as well as space adequacy are considered secondary in choosing whether to stay in the hostels or not.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

The study examined the factors that come into play when considering

whether student would want to stay in the hostel. This was done with a view to keeping school authorities and private hostel providers of facilities to put in place in the construction of such facilities. The study discovered that electricity supply, peer/friendship influence, security, parental influence and water supply are considered crucial by students in deciding whether or not to stay in the hostel. On the other hand, factors such as internet connectivity, proximity to other facilities and serenity/noiselessness, even though they are considered in staying in hostel, they do not carry strong consideration.

In the light of the findings of this study, recommendations are made that the hostel providers should take critical look into the factors motivating students to stay in the hostel. This is with special reference to new hostels that will come up in future.

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