

**PRE MATRIC AND POST MATRIC HOSTELS OF
SCHEDULED CASTES DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**



Submitted to
Scheduled Castes Development Department
Government of Kerala

AUGUST 2017



*An Autonomous Institution of Government of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram – 17*

**PRE MATRIC AND POST MATRIC HOSTELS OF
SCHEDULED CASTES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**
(Report No.1)

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED
BY SCHEDULED CASTES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DURING
THE ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH PLAN PERIOD [2007- 2017]**

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The hostels managed by Scheduled Castes Development Department provide conducive environment for study to the students from disadvantaged sections of the society. Despite some rectifiable management issues it is contributing to the nation building process to attain the constitutional goals.

We are happy to submit this report to SC Development Department, Government of Kerala. We hope the findings will contribute to more effective and meaningful policy formulation.

Thiruvananthapuram
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ABBREVIATIONS

	Description
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
FGD	Focused Group Discussions
GO	Government Order
HWD	Harijan Welfare Department
LDC	Lower Division Clerk
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
OBC	Other Backward Classes
PMH	Pre Matric Hostel
PMH	Post Matric Hostel
RDO	Revenue Divisional Officer
SC	Scheduled Castes
SCDD	Scheduled Caste Development Department
SCDO	Scheduled Castes Development Officer
SSLC	Secondary School Leaving Certificate
ST	Scheduled Tribes
UDC	Upper Division Clerk

The study explored the present status of pre matric and post matric hostels under Scheduled Castes Development Department, Government of Kerala, and the impact of hostel life and facilities on the academic, personal and social development of hostel students. The Report highlights the experiences and opinions of the hostel residents about the quality of hostel life and the facilities and arrangements provided by the Department for them. It also highlights the gender sensitivity of hostels. The level of student satisfaction about hostel accommodation was also analysed.

Major Observations

Infrastructure

1. Most of the hostels are located in accessible areas but some of them are located in remote and not easily accessible areas. The average land available to a hostel is 35 cents and 10 per cent of hostel buildings are more than 30 years old. 42 per cent of the inmates go to the educational institutions by walk and in 65 per cent of hostels study room facility is not available. The present status of infrastructure facilities is in good condition but in some hostels overcrowding of inmates is observed.
2. 83 per cent of hostels lack fire extinguishers and watchman cabin. In overall assessment of academic support and security 60 per cent of the hostels are below average and only 5 per cent are above average.
3. Regular hostel inspections are not being carried out. The support of hostel staff to students is 65 per cent, among the staff the support from tutors is high (81%). The overall functioning of governance of hostels seems average (43.5%).
4. All the hostels work in accordance with the time schedule prescribed for inmates and tutors. Overall, 81 per cent of the students benefit from the

tuition system and 91 per cent of the hostels are equipped with library but 87 per cent of them lack computer and internet facilities. Though newspapers are available in all hostels, 70 per cent of the hostels lack magazines and journals.

5. Most of the hostels do not have enough open space to develop playgrounds for their inmates. This limits the quality of hostel life and physical development of the inmates.

Human Resources

6. In pre matric hostels, the duty time of wardens are seen hectic (24x7), so as in the case of stewards in post matric hostels.
7. There is exclusively no officer in SCDD to look after the hostel wing in an appropriate cadre and a training programme for hostel staff to achieve the larger objective of hostels.
8. There is no effective mechanism in pre and post matric hostels to conduct concurrent monitoring and evaluation of hostel services to identify problems at the earliest, seek solutions and make course corrections.
9. There is no periodical feedback system in hostels to inform the parents about the progress and conduct of their children at the hostel.
10. There is no effective linkage of hostels with social, cultural and civil society organisations that have enough funds, human resources and expertise. There are no programmes to channelize their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for improvement of hostels.

Hostel Services

11. The overall rating of food, health and discipline of hostels is concerned, 34.8 per cent of hostels are above average and 43.5 per cent are average level of working.
12. The self-assessment of the inmates on hostel facilities shows 82 per cent of them are satisfied with the facilities provided for academic improvement and they rate the overall facility of hostel with 91.3 marks.

13. The allocation, administration and disbursement of funds for pre-matric hostels, now routed through local governments creates time delay in disbursements and hostel activities are not disturbed in any manner.
14. At present, majority of the hostels do not have land phone. The parents contact the warden or their children through mobile phones, but if the warden/watchman is away from the hostel, the parents find it difficult to contact their children.
15. There is no effective and continuous system in hostels for counseling, career guidance, soft skill development, mentoring etc.

Major Recommendations

- For routine maintenance/repair works at the hostel, the block level SCDO should be given more discretion and financial power to execute such jobs in a time-bound manner and with the support of local governments.
- Proper authority, funds and encouragement are to be given to the grass root level officers of hostel for proper and regular maintenance of hostel buildings mainly toilets, preparation and quality of food.
- Career guidance programmes need to be initiated for students especially those pursuing Plus Two, graduation and professional courses and identify their talents, strengths and inform them about potential opportunities and career options.
- Classes and workshops to develop soft skills and communication abilities and to develop physical and self defence capabilities through karate and yoga classes should be organised through tie-up with institutions that offer such programmes.
- A professional counsellor at least for each district should be appointed to look after counselling activities and also to constantly monitor and train the tutors in their jurisdiction.
- Tutors need to be equipped with teaching equipment, apart from specialised training inputs and pedagogic skill development at the district or regional levels.

- Counselling programmes and audio-visual presentations on rare issues about the use of liquor, cigarettes, narcotic items etc be organised in hostels to sensitize the students about such dangerous tendencies.
- Steps should be taken to provide sanitary pads to girls and also to install incinerators in girl's hostels.
- A database about the potential demand for hostel is necessary to plan for the development of existing hostels and also the need for construction of new ones.
- Considering the hectic duty time of the warden (24 x 6), it is imperative that there be two wardens on duty so that they can share their duty round the clock. In post-matric hostels, the steward's post also should be converted on the lines of the warden, so that there is one steward each in charge during night as well as day.
- Each hostel should have a tutor to train the inmates in various computer programmes, so that within a year, the inmates are trained in basic computer skills.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

It is well known that due to the consequences of age old caste system in India, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been forced to suffer deprivation and subjugation in every sphere of life, which have been severely affecting their social educational and economic progress. Therefore their socio economic upliftment has been one of the most important objectives of all social reformers and activists during the post-Independence period of the State. The efforts to bring the underprivileged sections into the mainstream of the society began much before the country gained independence. Though all who worked for the development of SC and ST followed their own agenda, they all shared a common consensus that education is the key to the socio economic progress in life and to overcome caste stigmas.

The quality and content of education have a central role to play in the progress of SC and ST. It not only enables them to acquire basic skills to survive but also ensures better job opportunities in government and non-governmental sectors. But an unfortunate fact is that most of the SC and ST members are not equipped to provide a sound - learning environment to their children due to their low income status, illiteracy, social destitution, lack of awareness about educational opportunities and institutions etc. As a result, even the bright children belong to SC and ST communities hailing from the poor family background dropout or discontinue their studies early in their life.

It is a fact that the actual and practical problems faced by children at home and habitat affects their educational progress. In many SC houses, the students do not have enough space or a conducive atmosphere to study; nor do they have anyone at home or in the neighborhood to guide or to assist as tutor. They often live in thickly populated areas and joint family houses which are in a dilapidated condition. Thus the lack of facilities, privacy and deprivation negatively affect the educational programmes and routine activities of students which in turn diminish the quality of their learning. Many SC parents who are educated and employed; don't

get enough time to spend for the educational needs of their children and are unable to provide proper family atmosphere for education. The situation grows into worse when the students enter higher education where competitive academic nature, complex syllabi, the need to master English which is the medium of instruction peer pressure from classmates coming from better social and financial backgrounds, rigorous evaluation, internal assessment and attendance etc. Their family is unable to extend adequate support for enabling the students to seek alternative options to cope with their studies and pursue their academic advancement. It is in this context that hostels become an inevitable social and academic support for SC students to achieve improved academic standards.

1.1 SC Hostels: A point of Transformation

“A hostel is not just a place for living; it is also an important centre of education. For most students there is no satisfactory substitute for a proper hall of residence, if they are to participate fully in the education of the students by the students. It is further observed that a group of young boys and girls coming from different background - both domestic and educational, are expected in hostels to imbibe the attitude and qualities necessary for living together and to participate in a significant measure in the efforts to organise some of the conditions and aspects of such communal living. A hostel thus provides, significant component of the education of the growing generation, students often learn as much more from each other from their teachers and this educational truth can be realized in a large measure through living in a hostel”.- *The Committee on Residential Accommodation (1965)*.

A student's hostel is not a rest room or mere shelter. It has to provide the students a conducive, positive academic environment for systematic academic pursuit. The significance of the student's hostel is all the more relevant in the case of hostels for SC students. Besides their poor family background, they have to work hard to overcome limitations arising out of various factors mentioned above. Since most of the SC are socially underprivileged and economically backward, the only area they can invest for socio-economic upliftment is education of their children. Thus hostels for SC students, who belong to the most depressed classes, play a crucial role in the nation building mission. The inmates in the SC hostels are

supposed to be the torch bearers for their community in order to bring them to the mainstream and make them equal partners in the development process. The inspiration and experience which SC students acquire from their hostel life will have multi-dimensional impact on their personal and societal life. Thus, hostels for the SC students, instead of being a mere shelter providing food and accommodation, becomes ladder of social transformation and institutionalized agency for socialization. They very often substitute the role usually played by the family in imparting its inmates with positive attitudes, high aspirations, social awareness and value-orientation for overall social upliftment. Hostels are intended to emerge as the functional alternative to provide care and socialization to the SC students for their educational advancement¹.

1.2 Methodology

The SC hostels are categorised as pre matric and post matric. There are 87 pre matric hostels (45 boys and 42 girls) and 17 post matric hostels (10 boys and 7 girls). Thus the total number of hostels established by SCDD is 104. Besides, there are 7 subsidized hostels managed by non-governmental organisations. A very few studies have been done in Kerala on SC hostels, and so, very limited literature exist on this topic. As part of the Monitoring and Evaluation of Schemes Implemented by Scheduled Castes Development Department, Government of Kerala, the Study Team of GIFT had visited various pre- matric and post-matric hostels across Kerala and held Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with different stakeholders – students, wardens/stewards, kitchen staff, security staff, tutors, Scheduled Castes Development Officers, SC promoters and parents.

The Study Team visited 21 hostels in 9 districts, out of which there were 10 post-matric hostels (6 Boys' and 4 Girls') and 11 pre-matric hostels (6 Boys' and 5 Girls'). The districts covered were Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Palakkad, Malappuram, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Kannur, and Kasaragod.

The details on the history, status, problems and suggestions of the hostels were elicited through unstructured interviews with officials, community leaders, academicians etc.

The inmates are the primary stakeholders of any hostel. An opinion survey was conducted among the students to get their feedback about various aspects of the hostel like infrastructure facilities, menu, administration, hygiene, time table,

learning atmosphere etc. Minor students are interviewed with the consent of officials in an atmosphere where they can freely express their opinions without any influence.

The present report is prepared on the basis of the information and feedback collected and collated from the schedules/surveys and FGDs and supplemented by field visits and observation. Some of the leading/best practices that the Team came across are also presented as part of the report.



Discussion with SCDD Officials

CHAPTER 2

PRE MATRIC AND POST MATRIC HOSTELS MANAGED BY THE SCHEDULED CASTES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Before the state of Kerala came into existence in 1956, a director of Harijan Welfare Department was appointed in 1950 to coordinate the welfare activities for Scheduled Castes. During the Second Five Year Plan (1955-60), the welfare activities of targeting Scheduled Castes was re organized and in 1958 a full-fledged Harijan Welfare Department (HWD) was started with welfare offices at the district and taluk levels. Taking into account the increasing significance of HW Department in imparting education and related facilities for Scheduled Castes, the Department was expanded by creating new posts.

In 1985 the department was re-named as Scheduled Castes Development Department (SCDD).² In tune with other initiatives to enhance educational achievements of SC in the State and taking into account the increasing demand for quality education among the community, the need for hostels became a priority. Students had to seek admissions in educational institutions away from homes – in some cases, certain courses were available only in some centres – and students from SC communities needed hostels for stay during their education. In response to this need, several pre matric and post matric hostels were established by the SCDD all over Kerala.

2.1 SC Hostels: An Overview

There are three types of hostels for SC students (for boys and girls) in Kerala managed by SCDD, viz., pre-matric hostels, post matric hostels and subsidized hostels. Earlier, Pre matric and post-matric hostels were known as Welfare hostels and Cosmopolitan Hostels respectively. They were renamed as pre matric and post matric in 1986³ Pre-matric hostels provide free accommodation and food for inmates studying in Standards V to X apart from school uniform, school bags, shoes and monthly pocket money of Rs. 100/- and travelling expenses to their homes during Onam and Christmas holidays. Post-matric hostels provide free accommodation and food for inmates studying from higher secondary to Ph.D level.

At present the Scheduled Castes Development Department is managing 111 hostels and their details are given in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Hostels Managed by SCDD (as on 31.12.2016)							
Sl. No	District	Pre Matric (Boys)	Pre Matric (Girls)	Post Matric (Boys)	Post Matric (Girls)	Subsidised Hostels	Total
1	Thiruvananthapuram	2	4	2	1	1	10
2	Kollam	5	3	1	1	-	10
3	Pathanamthitta	2	4	-	-	-	6
4	Alappuzha	-	4	-	-	-	4
5	Kottayam	1	3	1	1	-	6
6	Idukki	3	2	-	-	-	5
7	Ernakulam	2	3	1	1	-	7
8	Thrissur	3	2	-	-	3	8
9	Palakkad	9	6	1	1	2	19
10	Malappuram	2	3	-	-	-	5
11	Kozhikkode	4	3	1	1	-	9
12	Wayanad	1	-	-	-	-	1
13	Kannur	5	3	1	-	1	10
14	Kasaragod	6	2	2	1	-	11
Total		45	42	10	7	7	111
Source: Data from SCDD							

The above table shows that Palakkad District which is the most SC populated district in Kerala has the highest number of hostels (19). Even though Kasaragod and Kannur districts are in the second lowest positions, i.e., 13th and 12th respectively, in terms of SC population, 10 and more hostels are working in these districts which show the economic backwardness of SC people in these districts and the lack of local level educational facilities for quality education. This is true in the case of Idukki District too. In six districts in the State, there are no post matric hostels, among them 2 districts, Thrissur and Malappuram, have considerable SC population as well as higher education institutions. Hence the students from these districts are forced to depend on hostels in other districts for accommodation facilities.

2.2 Admission to Hostels

Earlier, no standard rules for the admission of students to welfare hostels were in force. The Government of Madras had framed some rules for the students in Malabar region, but no such rules were existed in Travancore-Cochin region. In 1961 the Government of Kerala framed uniform rules for the admission of students from Scheduled Communities to welfare hostels.⁴

2.2.1 Composition of Inmates

Though the hostels are primarily meant to provide accommodation to students from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 10 per cent of the total seats are reserved to students from non-SC and ST communities which include OBCs, forward communities and Christian converts from SC/ST/OBC. In Post Matric hostels the distribution is 68 per cent for SC, 17 per cent for ST, 10 per cent for others and 5 per cent for OBC.⁵

2.2.2 Admission Procedure /Eligibility

The application for admission is to be submitted to District SCDO and the selection of inmates is on the basis of marks obtained by the applicant in the previous examination. But the admission to the students from non-SC and ST communities is on the basis of income of the parent/guardian and preference is given to the poorest among the applicants.⁶ The actual selection of inmates is done by District Advisory Committees concerned. The students who study in Government or Government Aided Institutions only are eligible to get admission to hostels.

In 2013, Government of Kerala issued modified guidelines for the admission to post matric hostels.⁷ Six norms are prescribed for selection viz, marks scored in the qualifying examination, annual income of family, distance from applicants house to the educational institution, differently-abled, students without parents and the duration of course. In 2015, for an effective and transparent admission process in post matric hostels, it was decided to introduce online management system and a private company was entrusted with the task.⁸ If any seats are vacant after completion of the entire process of admission in post matric hostels in the State, the vacant seats are filled by students from other communities on a temporary basis for that academic session only.⁹

2.2.3 Age Criteria

Students who are within the age limits as shown in Table 2.2 as on first June are eligible to be admitted in hostels.

Table 2.2		
Age limit for the Admission to SC Hostels		
Age limit (Years)	Class	Type of Hostel
10	V standard	Pre Matric Hostels
11	VI	
12	VII	
13	VIII	
14	IX	
15	X	
16	Pus 1, Plus 2, VHSE	Post Matric Hostels
17		
18	Degree or Equivalent Course	
19		
20		
21	Post-Graduation or Equivalent Course	
22		
23	Professional Courses, M.Phil., Ph.D.	
24		
25		
26		
27		
Source: <i>Data Compiled from SCDD</i>		

2.3 Intake in Pre Matric Hostels

In the context of introduction of the Panchayati Raj and Nagarapalika system of administration, the pre matric hostels owned by the SC Development Department were transferred to local governments. Currently the concerned Block Panchayat / Municipality / Corporation are in charge of the management of these institutions.

The list of pre-matric hostels in Kerala is given in Appendix 1. The intake of pre-matric hostels is given in Table 2.3.

Out of the 87 pre matric hostels 82 per cent of the hostels (71 Nos.) are situated in rural areas under the management of Block Panchayats and 18 per cent (16 Nos.) are situated in urban areas and managed by Municipalities. The normal sanctioned strength of inmates in one pre-matric hostel is 30 and 82 per cent of the

hostels (71%) have that capacity. 18 per cent hostels have the capacity of more than 30 inmates.

Out of 87 pre-matric hostels 15 are situated in Palakkad District. Munnar Boys hostel situated in Devikulam Block Panchayat of Idukki District has the highest intake capacity of 65 inmates. Alappuzha District has no pre-matric hostel for boys and Wayanad District has no pre-matric hostel for girls.

Table 2.3
Intake of Students in Pre Matric Hostels (as on 31.12.2016)

Sl. No	District	Pre Matric (Boys)		Pre Matric (Girls)		Total No. of Hostels	Total No. of Beds
		No. of Hostels	Sanctioned Strength	No. of Hostels	Sanctioned Strength		
1	Thiruvananthapuram	2	60	4	120	6	180
2	Kollam	5	170	3	100	8	270
3	Pathanamthitta	2	60	4	120	6	180
4	Alappuzha	-	-	4	120	4	120
5	Kottayam	1	30	3	90	4	120
6	Idukki	3	125	2	68	5	193
7	Ernakulam	2	60	3	90	5	150
8	Thrissur	3	90	2	60	5	150
9	Palakkad	9	320	6	230	15	550
10	Malappuram	2	60	3	90	5	150
11	Kozhikkode	4	140	3	110	7	250
12	Wayanad	1	30	-	-	1	30
13	Kannur	5	150	3	90	8	240
14	Kasaragod	6	210	2	60	8	270
Total		45	1505	42	1348	87	2853

Source: Data from SCDD

Out of 87 pre matric hostels, the highest numbers of hostels are situated in Palakkad District (15) which has a total capacity to accommodate 550 inmates. There are 8 hostels with 270 beds each in Kannur and Kasaragod Districts where SC population is considerably low. In Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur, Malappuram and Ernakulam Districts where SC population is relatively high, the sanctioned strength of the pre-matric hostels is only 150 to 180 which is insufficient when compared to demand and also potential.

2.4 Intake in Post-Matric Hostels

The SCDD runs 17 post-matric hostels among which 10 are for boys and 7 for girls. These hostels are managed directly by SCDD. In post-matric hostels, students studying from Plus One course and up to Ph.D are eligible for admission.

The list of post-matric hostels in Kerala is given in Appendix 2. The intake capacity of post-matric hostels is given in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4							
Intake in Post Matric Hostels (as on 31.12.2016)							
Sl. No	District	Post Matric (Boys)		Post Matric (Girls)		Total No. of Hostels	Total No. of Beds
		No. of Hostels	Sanctioned Strength	No. of Hostels	Sanctioned Strength		
1	Thiruvananthapuram	2	240	1	300	3	540
2	Kollam	1	60	1	60	2	120
3	Pathanamthitta	-	-	-	-	-	
4	Alappuzha	-	-	-	-	-	
5	Kottayam	1	60	1	60	2	120
6	Idukki	-	-	-	-	-	
7	Ernakulam	1	60	1	60	2	120
8	Thrissur	-	-	-	-	-	
9	Palakkad	1	75	1	60	2	135
10	Malappuram	-	-	-	-	-	
11	Kozhikkode	1	60	1	60	2	120
12	Wayanad	-	-	-	-	-	
13	Kannur	1	60	-	-	1	60
14	Kasaragod	2	120	1	60	3	180
Total		10	735	7	660	17	1395
Source: Data from SCDD							

There are post matric hostels of SCDD in 8 districts in the state. Maximum numbers of students are accommodated in Thiruvananthapuram District (540) and minimum number in Kannur District (60). The districts such as Thrissur, Malappuram and Alappuzha where considerable number of SC population exists have no post matric hostel facilities. Since the districts adjacent to Ernakulam like Alappuzha, Idukki and Thrissur have no post matric hostels of their own, the existing accommodation strength (120) of Ernakulam post matric hostel is very insufficient.

2.5 Intake in Subsidized Hostels

The SCDD provides financial support to 7 subsidized hostels managed by voluntary organizations. The list of subsidized hostels is given in Table 2.5

Table 2.5 List of Subsidized Hostels assisted by SCDD			
Sl. No	District	No of Hostels	Name of the Hostel
1	Thiruvananthapuram	1	MithraNiketan, for Boys and Girls
2	Thrissur	1	Sree Krishna Madam – for Boys
3		2	SreeSarada Madam, Puranattukara - for Girls
4		3	KasthurbaBalikaSadanam, Guruvayoor - for Girls
5	Palakkad	1	Sabari Ashram, Malampuzha - for Boys
6		2	KasthurbaBalikaSadanam - for Girls
7	Kannur	1	SreeNarayanaVidyalayas- for Boys
Source: Data from SCDD			

In subsidized hostels, the SC and ST student admitted is eligible for the assistance of Rs.1000/- per month as mess allowance and Rs.500/- per year as uniform allowance.

2.6 Gap in intake in Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Hostels

The students who get admission in pre matric hostels during their schooling show a natural tendency to seek accommodation in post matric hostels to pursue higher studies. Therefore the post matric hostels should be equipped with sufficient accommodation capacity in proportion to the increasing demand generated from the schooling sector. The comparison of the accommodation strength of pre-matric and post-matric hostels in the districts is given in Table 2.6.

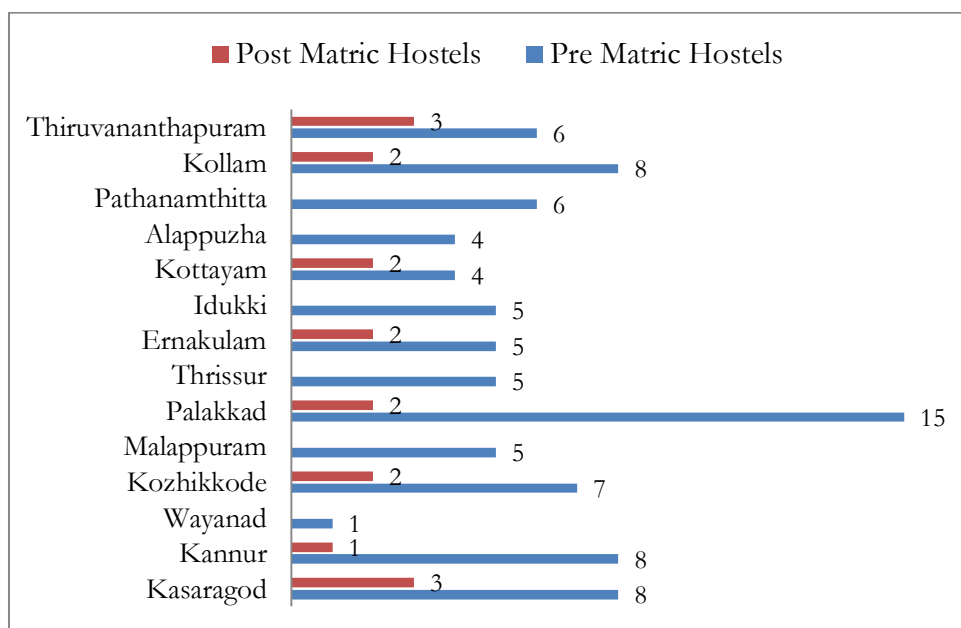
The total accommodation capacity of pre-matric and post-matric hostels in Kerala at present is 2853 and 1395 respectively. The ratio between the two works out to 2:1, which is very inadequate. It means that if all inmates in the pre-matric hostels successfully complete their courses and wish to pursue higher education preferably residing in hostels, more than half of them will not get accommodation. This ratio will be further vitiated when the fact that 10 per cent of the total beds in hostels are reserved for non-SC and ST students are concerned.

Table 2.6 Comparison of intake of Pre Matric and Post Matric Hostels in Kerala									
Sl No	District	Pre-Matric Hostels				Post Matric Hostels			
		Total Hostels	Boys	Girls	Total	Total Hostels	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Thiruvananthapuram	6	60	120	180	3	240	300	540
2	Kollam	8	170	100	270	2	60	60	120
3	Pathanamthitta	6	60	120	180				
4	Alappuzha	4	0	120	120				
5	Kottayam	4	30	90	120	2	60	60	120
6	Idukki	5	125	68	193				
7	Ernakulam	5	60	90	150	2	60	60	120
8	Thrissur	5	90	60	150				
9	Palakkad	15	320	230	550	2	75	60	135
10	Malappuram	5	60	90	150				
11	Kozhikkode	7	140	110	250	2	60	60	120
12	Wayanad	1	30	0	30				
13	Kannur	8	150	90	240	1	60		60
14	Kasaragod	8	210	60	270	3	120	60	180
Total		87	1505	1348	2853	17	735	660	1395

The district wise distribution of pre matric and post matric hostels is given in the following figure 2.1.

Fig 2.1

District wise Distribution of Pre Matric and Post Matric Hostels



2.7 Hostel Building

Among the 104 hostels under SCDD only 9 hostels function in rented buildings. All of them are pre matric hostels. The list of hostels working in rented building is shown in Table 2.7

Table 2.7			
List of Hostels Working in Rented Building (as on 31.12.2016)			
Sl.No	District	Name of Hostel	Remarks
1	Kasaragod	Delampady PMH (Boys)	Building construction is progressing
2	Kannur	Sreekandapuram PMH (Boys)	Own building construction is progressing
3	Kannur	Taliparamb PMH (Boys)	Own building construction is progressing
4	Kannur	Kathirur PMH (Boys)	Land not available
5	Malappuram	Kondipparambu PMH (Boys)	Land Available
6	Palakkad	Alanellur PMH (Boys)	Administrative Sanction received for construction
7	Palakkad	Kollangode PMH (Boys)	Land Available
8	Palakkad	Mankara PMH (Boys)	Land Available
9	Kottayam	Korithode PMH (Boys)	Land Available
Source: <i>Data compiled from SCDD</i>			

Accountant General's audit report (2015) has also noticed the poor infrastructure facilities at pre-matric hostel at Mankara, which is functioning in a rented building and suggested shifting the same to a new building; even now, the hostel is still functioning in the old building.¹⁰ Some other studies also reported the necessity shifting of pre matric hostels from rented buildings to own buildings.¹¹



Interaction with inmates

CHAPTER 3

HOSTEL INFRASTRUCTURE

As far as student hostels are concerned, the strength and design of the hostel building, the quality of academic and accommodation facilities etc are crucial. The hostel building, its location, design, facilities, general ambience etc should be addressed and may reflect the general vision and specific objectives of the Government regarding the educational advancement of students of SC communities who otherwise face several socio-economic and cultural barriers in society. Hostels are centers where the students from various places come to stay together to pursue academics; it is a space where the principles of rights, dignity, non-discrimination, inclusion, community development etc are put into practice and made an integral part of institutional mission. Besides the academic intent, hostels should also give top priority to the physical and mental health, safety and wellbeing of the students. Hostels turn into the homes of young students during the most impressionable and formative years of their life. Living away from one's own home and community surroundings, for these students who come from various regions and castes provides an entirely different atmosphere. Hostel offers a new society and a new world of experiences and exposures. Hostels can play a pivotal role in making the students into responsible and assertive citizens of the future.

3.1 Guidelines for Construction

There are a number of guidelines in the construction of student hostel building from site selection to construction, in the form of building design, accommodation plan, door and doorways, common rooms, fire and safety, furniture, locking system, ventilation, floor finishing, waste management, energy management etc. Among these the quality of building is of prime importance. Considering the academic, psychological, social and economic factors impinging upon the students, many studies reveal that certain essential features and support services are necessary while constructing student hostels. They include study room, bedroom, bath room, laundry room, kitchen, computer room, television room, meeting room, lobby, prayer room and other support services like mini books and stationary shop; public

phones and ATM machines; CCTV surveillance system; guards on duty; lifts, stairs, electrical wiring, water supply; garbage disposal and fire safety.¹² As such the hostel infrastructure, especially the size of the building has to be big enough to accommodate all these requirements necessary for the safe and comfortable stay of students.

3.2 Location of Hostels

Hostels are not just a place for residence. The parents of SC students anticipate much more from hostels than what they can provide at home for the educational advancement of their children. Many studies point out that students living in hostels, especially in their pre-matric stage, face many difficulties and hurdles such as financial crises, adjustment issues, personal helplessness, distress, difficulty in adjusting to the food system and sleep habits and many other such issues.¹³ The quality of life, facilities, ambience, location of hostels and its proximity to educational institutions, all play important roles in the socialization of students.

The geographic location of a hostel should consider many factors like proximity to educational institutions, safety, disturbance-free learning environment, availability of transportation, easy accessibility, past history of site etc. Non availability of appropriate land is a major problem while identifying site for constructing SC hostels. Implementation of suitable area development programmes, initiated by the respective people's representatives is necessary to minimise the hardships faced by inmates staying in remote hostels. For example, the inmates of pre matric hostel, Aruvikkara opined that their hostel situates nearby a quarry and the dust particles while mining cause skin diseases to the inmates and also make disturbances to their studies.

All post-matric hostels under SCDD in Kerala are located near the urban centres where all types of local conveyances are easily available. Only a few post matric hostels are not easily accessible as they are located in remote places.

3.3 Proximity to Educational Institutions

Many studies on educational backwardness in rural areas have pointed out that the distance between school and home is a factor contributing to the non-enrolment of students in schools.¹⁴ The educational advancement of socially disadvantaged sections of the society depends to a great extent on having schools that are located in environments and atmospheres that are accessible to the

community and conducive for effective teaching and learning; this is especially so for primary classes because children of young ages would have to travel every day to get to school. In a sense, SC hostels are constructed to remove this hurdle and to address the issues faced by SC children like absenteeism, delinquency, truancy, lateness, indiscipline, fatigue, lack of interest and non-attendance in school etc. The proximity of hostel to educational institutions becomes a matter of concern.

Among the pre-matric hostels visited by the Study Team, almost 90 per cent of the hostels are located in close proximity to the schools of the inmates. Proximity of hostels to their school gives advantages like saving travel time and transportation cost better security and safety, especially for girl children etc.

The mode of conveyance of students to their educational institution is given in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1				
Mode of Conveyance of Inmates From Hostel to Educational Institutions (%)				
Mode of Conveyance	Pre matric (Boys)	Pre Matric (Girls)	Post matric (Boys)	Post Matric (Girls)
By Foot	57.8	91.4	42.0	27.5
Auto	-	-	1.5	1.6
Bus	31.6	8.6	40.6	51.2
Own Vehicle	5.3	-	13	14.2
Train	-	-	-	1.6
No Response	5.3	-	2.9	3.9
Total	100	100	100	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>				

The survey reveals that most of the students (pre matric boys 57.8 %, pre matric girls 91.4 % and post matric boys 42 %) except post matric girls (27.6%) go to their educational institutions by walk. Bus service is the next mode of conveyance of the inmates in all type of hostels. A small number of students are using their own vehicle to reach school or college. (pre matric boys 5.3%, post matric boys 13% and post matric girls 14.2%). The students who travel by bus utilize the pocket money given to them for other needs to pay the bus fare. Children are not given bus fare by the department to travel and adding to the misery the pocket money distribution is also always being lagged for two to three months.

During the Focus Group Discussions with inmates in the post-matric hostel in Kasaragod, they mentioned about two difficulties: there was a visually challenged

student in the hostel, but there was no special facility for him to go to school. Another problem they faced was the need for some students who study in other part of the city to cross roads with heavy traffic. The students suggested that the hostel authorities should find some transportation arrangement for at least the Plus Two students who are not familiar with the city and to busy roads.

3.4 Size and Extent of Hostel Building

An ideal student hostel cannot be constructed like ordinary dormitories intended merely for temporary shared accommodation. Overall ambience and congenial atmosphere apart from quality accommodation, adequacy of facilities, range of services and a friendly administration; all influence the quality of living, overall satisfaction and educational achievement of the inmates.¹⁵ The size of hostels and land in which it is located, its surrounding area etc are important in this regard. The land area is important for many reasons; it is essential for providing adequate facilities, outdoor activities, further expansion etc.

The land available in the sample SC hostels is given in Table 3.2. The type of SC hostels and the land available are given in Appendix 3.

Table 3.2		
Land Owned by SC Hostels (in cents)		
Area in Cents	No. of Hostels	Percentage
Upto 25 Cents	9	30
25 to 50 Cents	12	40
51 to 75 Cents	2	6.67
76 to 1 Acre	5	16.67
Above 1 Acre	2	6.66
Total	30	100
Source: <i>Data compiled from sample hostels</i>		

The survey revealed that the land area of 40 per cent of the hostels extends between 25 to 50 cents. 30 per cent hostels are having below 25 cents of land. Post Matric Hostel for Girls, Kozhikkode has only 11 cents and Melamkode Pre Matric Hostel for Girls functions in an area extending to 15 cents. Pre Matric hostels Aruvikkara in Thiruvananthapuram and Bengalam (Kasaragod) have 1.83 and 2 Acres of land respectively. The free land area available in these hostels does not often provide for further expansion or establishment of extra facilities like playground etc.

Lack of playground, garden and open space for outdoor games affect the quality of life of the inmates who are forced to spend their time indoors, denying them opportunity for physical exercise.

3.5 Age of Buildings

With the rise in demand for quality education, the necessity of constructing more and more hostels also increased. In accordance with the demands from SC communities from various parts of Kerala and considering their educational backwardness and geographical isolation the SCDD has taken steps to construct new hostels from time to time. But many of the hostels are situated in old buildings and need to be reconstruction. The age of building is important in terms of the security of the inmates.

The list of year of construction of hostels is given in Appendix 4. The age of sample hostel buildings is given in Table 3.3

Table 3.3		
Age of Hostel Buildings		
Age	Sample No. of Hostels	Percentage
Less than 10 years	14	37
10 to 20 years	11	29
20 to 30 years	9	24
30 years and above	4	10
Total	38	100
Source: Data compiled from sample hostels		

The survey revealed that 66 per cent of the hostels are constructed within 20 years. Only 10 per cent of hostels are above 30 years old. Some hostels like Thana in Kannur (1963) and Changanassery in Kottayam (1956) are more than half a century old. However, in two places - Ernakulum and Kannur - the delay in demolition of old and unstable buildings have led to complaints about safety. The AG also pointed out that 'three of these buildings were old and dilapidated and not suitable for the functioning of Pre-matric hostels. The Pre-matric hostel for boys at Thaliparamba in Kannur district which was functioning in a rented building was closed down in May 2015 due to the dilapidated condition of the building and the inmates were transferred to a hostel at Pazhayangadi in Kannur district.'¹⁶

3.6 Infrastructure Facilities

The availability and quality of basic facilities are crucial to any hostel and to the academic performance and comfortable stay of students. The availability and

quality of infrastructure facilities are the key elements for user satisfaction. The availability of major infrastructural facilities in SC hostels are listed in Table 3.4

Table 3.4					
Availability of Infrastructure Facilities in Hostels (%)					
Particular	Pre-matric (Boys)	Pre-matric (Girls)	Post-matric (Boys)	Post-matric (Girls)	Total
Building	100	100	100	100	100
Study Room	75	100	100	66.7	85.7
Reading Room	75	100	100	66.7	85.7
Flooring	100	100	100	100	100
Toilet	100	100	100	100	100
Dining Room	50	100	100	100	85.7
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

The above table shows that most of the key components of infrastructure facilities are available in pre matric and post matric hostels except separate study room facility. 75 per cent of the pre matric boy's hostels and 67 per cent of the post matric girl's hostels are functioning without proper study room and reading room facilities which is detrimental to the objective of a student hostel and needs to be fixed urgently. The level of student satisfaction about building is given in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5					
Status of Hostel Buildings (%)					
Level	Pre-matric (Boys)	Pre-matric (Girls)	Post-matric (Boys)	Post-matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Very Poor	-	-	8.6	-	2.5
Poor	-	-	17.2	2.9	5.9
Fair	-	29.3	12.1	7.2	14.2
Good	78.9	39.7	41.4	75.4	55.9
Excellent	21.1	27.6	15.5	13.0	18.6
No Response	-	3.4	5.2	1.5	2.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

74.5 per cent of the total respondents opined that hostel buildings are in either good or excellent condition. Only 8.4 per cent of the inmates are dissatisfied with the building. Among the hostels, buildings of pre matric boys and post matric

girls are comparatively good condition. But 25.8 per cent of students in post matric boy's hostels opined about the poor condition of hostel building.

3.6.1 Status of Infrastructure Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys

The satisfaction of inmates of pre matric hostels for boys regarding the infrastructure facilities is given in Table 3.6. As per the survey, 100 per cent of the respondents opined that their hostel buildings are either in good or excellent conditions. Regarding the study room and reading room conditions, 71.4 per cent and 57.3 per cent respondents are satisfied. As per the boarder's opinion, 78.9 per cent of toilets and 77.8 per cent of dining rooms are in good/excellent condition.

Table 3.6 Student Satisfaction on Infrastructure Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Building	-	-	-	78.9	21.1	-
Study Room	-	14.3	14.3	28.6	42.8	-
Reading Room	7.1	7.1	21.4	21.4	35.9	7.1
Flooring	-	-	10.5	47.4	36.8	5.3
Toilet	-	10.5	5.3	42.1	36.8	5.3
Dining Room	-	-	-	33.3	44.5	22.2
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

3.6.2 Status of Infrastructure Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls

The satisfaction of inmates of pre matric hostels for girls regarding the infrastructure facilities is given in Table 3.7.

Table 3.7 Student Satisfaction on Infrastructure Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Building	-	-	29.3	39.7	27.6	3.4
Study Room	-	8.6	13.8	24.1	29.3	24.2
Reading Room	-	3.4	10.3	22.4	10.3	53.6
Flooring	1.7	8.6	15.5	44.8	22.4	7
Toilet	13.8	25.9	15.5	22.4	19	3.4
Dining Room	1.7	1.7	10.3	36.2	43.1	7
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

As per the survey, 67.3 per cent of the respondents are opined that their hostel buildings are either in good or excellent conditions. Regarding the study room and reading room conditions, 53.4 per cent and 32.7 per cent respondents are satisfied. 53.4 per cent respondents have no opinion about reading room. As per the boarder's opinion, only 41.4 per cent of toilets are in good condition and 39.7 per cent of respondents opined the condition of toilets as poor. According to 79.3 per cent of inmates, dining rooms are in good/excellent condition.

3.6.3 Status of Infrastructure Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Boys

The satisfaction of inmates of post matric hostels for boys regarding the infrastructure facilities is given in Table 3.8. As per the survey, 57 per cent of the respondents in post matric boy's hostels are opined that their hostel buildings are either in good or excellent conditions. One fourth of the sample inmates (25.8%) are commented that the buildings are in poor condition. Regarding the study room and reading room conditions, only 39.6 per cent and 36.1 per cent respondents are satisfied. As per the opinion of inmates, 46.6 per cent of toilets and 37.9 per cent of dining rooms are in poor condition.

Table 3.8 Student Satisfaction on Infrastructure Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Building	8.6	17.2	12.1	41.4	15.5	5.2
Study Room	1.7	8.6	17.2	36.2	3.4	32.8
Reading Room	6.9	12.1	19.0	25.9	10.3	25.9
Flooring	3.4	13.8	12.1	43.1	8.6	19
Toilet	25.9	20.7	17.2	27.6	6.9	1.7
Dining Room	13.8	24.1	15.5	31	5.2	10.3
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

3.6.4 Status of Infrastructure Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Girls

The satisfaction of inmates of post matric hostels for girls regarding the infrastructure facilities is given in Table 3.9. As per the survey, 88 per cent of the respondents are opined that their hostel buildings are either in good or excellent conditions. Regarding the study room and reading room conditions, only 30.6 per cent and 23.1 per cent respondents are satisfied. 38.6 per cent and 29 per cent of the inmates opined that study room and reading room respectively are in poor

condition. As per the boarder's opinion, 86.9 per cent of toilets and 50.7 per cent of dining rooms are in good or excellent condition.

Table 3.9 Student Satisfaction on Infrastructure Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Building	-	2.9	7.2	75.4	13	1.4
Study Room	8.2	30.6	18.4	30.6	-	12.2
Reading Room	11.6	17.4	15.9	18.8	4.3	31.9
Flooring	-	5.8	17.4	65.2	10.1	1.4
Toilet	-	7.2	5.8	65.2	21.7	-
Dining Room	10.1	10.1	23.2	37.7	13	5.8
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

Of all respondents, 74.5 per cent are satisfied with the building facility of hostels. Regarding the same, 75.4 per cent inmates in post matric girls hostels and 78.9 per cent in pre matric boys hostels reported high levels of satisfaction with an overall satisfaction level of 55.9 per cent. Among the hostels, building facility seems poor in post matric boys hostels (25.9%), compared to others.

As far as the study rooms in hostels are concerned, only 44.1 respondents are satisfied with this facility. Study rooms in post matric hostels (36.2% for Boys and 30.6% for Girls) are comparatively better than pre matric hostels (28.6% for Boys and 24.1% for Girls). The flooring condition of all hostels is either good or excellent with an overall average of 67.2 per cent.

Toilets in post matric girl's hostels are in good condition (87%) but in post matric boys hostels and pre matric girls hostels only 34.5 per cent and 41.1 per cent respectively of the inmates consider it good. In these hostels 46.6 per cent and 39.7 per cent of the respondents opined about the poor condition of toilets respectively. 56.2 per cent of the respondents are satisfied with the dining room facilities but in post matric boys and post matric hostels 37.9 per cent and 20.2 per cent of the respondents opined about the poor condition of dining halls.

3.7 Room Space

In a student hostel, the space provided for a student should include space for sleeping, promoting positive cultural interaction and social transformation. There are some fundamental qualities to be considered while designing a student hostel for communal life such as exclusivity, boundaries, capacity to be fixed, proximity and

fluidity.¹⁷ Fluidity of space relies on flexibility and mobility which play a large role in the student satisfaction in his hostel life.

The study team collected the opinion of inmates about room space available to them for a comfortable stay. 54 per cent of the respondent opined that the room space is good or excellent.

Though overall opinion of inmates about the room space is seen satisfactory, in some cases it is observed that there is over crowding limiting the students to have minimum private space of one's own. In one hostel in Palakkad the Study Team visited it was found that, though the hostel had two floors, all the inmates were accommodated in one floor, for the convenience of management and monitoring. It is also due to the lack of staff to manage, clean and maintain two floors.

3.8 Hostel Maintenance

Maintenance of hostels requires coordinated and sustained effort of the technical, administrative and managerial staff during the life cycle of a building to either retain it or to restore it to a state where it can perform the required function.¹⁸ Maintenance extends the useful lifecycle and enhances the efficiency of the building. Properly maintained hostels increases the performance of the inmates and contribute positively to their reputation. Hence regular maintenance of the building is an inevitable factor for the smooth functioning of the institution working in that building. The Study Team examined seven areas that require continuous monitoring and maintenance for the effective functioning of hostel viz., plumbing, electrical fittings, lighting, fire extinguishers, kitchen utensils, solar panels, bio gas plant. The availability of these facilities in hostels is given in Table 3.10.

Table 3.10					
Availability of Maintenance Facilities in Hostels (%)					
Particulars	Pre-matric (Boys)	Pre-matric (Girls)	Post-matric (Boys)	Post-matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Plumbing	100	100	100	100	100
Electrical Fittings	100	100	100	100	100
Lighting	100	100	100	100	100
Fire Extinguishers	50	75	100	66.6	71.4
Kitchen Utensils	100	100	100	100	100
Solar Panels	50	50	66.6	100	64.3
Bio gas plant	25	50	66.6	33.3	42.9
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

The above table reveals that except for fire extinguisher, solar panels and bio gas plant, maintenance facilities are available for all others in hostels. The timely usage of these facilities determines the durability of building and comfortable stay of inmates. The responses regarding the utility of these facilities show that the SC hostels are not fully utilizing the maintenance facilities available. Tables 3.12 to 3.15 show the present status of the areas that require regular maintenance in SC hostels.

3.8.1 Maintenance Status of Hostel Buildings- Pre Matric Boys Hostels

Table 3.11 shows the maintenance status of infrastructure facilities in pre matric hostels for boys. 63.1 per cent respondents opined that maintenance of plumbing works is good and in the case of electrical fittings 84.2 per cent is also good. Regarding lighting 94.7 per cent of the respondents express their satisfaction as good/excellent. In most of the hostels fire extinguishers are not installed and 11.1 per cent of the installed are working properly. 63.2 per cent of the kitchen utensils are properly maintained. Regarding solar panels 50 per cent opined that those are properly maintained and no bio gas plants are installed in the sample hostels.

Table 3.11 Maintenance Status of Pre Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Item of Maintenance	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Plumbing	5.3	-	15.8	36.8	26.3	15.8
Electrical Fittings	-	-	5.3	31.6	52.6	10.5
Lighting	-	-	5.3	36.8	57.9	-
Fire Extinguishers	-	-	-	11.1	-	88.9
Kitchen Utensils	5.3	-	15.8	31.6	31.6	15.8
Solar Panels	-	-	12.5	37.5	12.5	37.5
Bio Gas Plant	-	-	-	-	-	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

3.8.2 Maintenance Status of Hostel Buildings- Pre Matric Girls Hostels

Table 3.12 shows the maintenance status of infrastructure facilities in pre matric hostels for girls. 62.8 per cent respondents opined that maintenance of plumbing works is good and in the case of electrical fittings 79.3 per cent reported it was good. Regarding lighting 79.3 per cent of the respondents expressed their satisfaction as good/excellent. In most of the hostels fire extinguishers are not installed and 13.8 per cent of the installed are working properly. 75.7 per cent of the kitchen utensils are properly maintained. Regarding solar panels 77.1 per cent of the

respondents opined that those are properly maintained and in case of bio gas plants 62.2 per cent of the respondents opined that they are maintaining properly.

Table 3.12						
Maintenance Status of Post Matric Boys Hostels (%)						
Item of Maintenance	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Plumbing	19	5.2	5.2	31	32.8	6.9
Electrical Fittings	1.7	3.4	12.1	29.3	50	3.4
Lighting	3.4	1.7	13.8	31	48.3	1.7
Fire Extinguishers	3.4	3.4	17.2	13.8	-	62.1
Kitchen Utensils	1.7	-	15.5	24.1	51.7	6.9
Solar Panels	-	2.9	-	14.3	77.1	5.7
Bio gas plant	-	-	-	-	62.2	37.8
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

3.8.3 Maintenance Status of Infrastructure facilities- Post Matric Boys Hostels

Table 3.13 shows the maintenance status of infrastructure facilities in post matric hostels for boys. 51.7 per cent respondents opined that maintenance of plumbing works is poor and in the case of electrical fittings 44.8 per cent is in poor condition. Regarding lighting while 41.3 per cent of the respondents express their satisfaction as good/excellent, 27.5 per cent of them mark it as poor. In most of the hostels fire extinguishers are not installed and only in 6.9 per cent of the hostels is it working properly. As for kitchen utensils in 29.3 per cent of cases, they are properly maintained while in 31 per cent they are poorly maintained. Regarding solar panels and biogas plant, 82.1 per cent and 41.2 per cent of the respondents respectively, expressed their views that those are properly maintained and in good working condition.

Table 3.13						
Maintenance Status of Post Matric Boys Hostels (%)						
Item of Maintenance	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Plumbing	31	20.7	12.1	13.8	6.9	15.5
Electrical Fittings	31	13.8	17.2	25.9	3.4	8.6
Lighting	17.2	10.3	19	31	10.3	12.1
Fire Extinguishers	15.5	-	5.2	6.9	-	72.4
Kitchen Utensils	15.5	15.5	17.2	25.9	3.4	22.4
Solar Panels	-	2.6	12.8	46.2	35.9	2.6
Bio gas plant	7.7	2.6	12.8	30.8	10.3	35.9
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

3.8.4 Maintenance Status of Infrastructure Facilities- Post Matric Girls Hostels

Table 3.14 shows the maintenance status of infrastructure facilities in post matric hostels for girls. 50.7 per cent respondents opined that maintenance of plumbing works is good and in the case of electrical fittings 60.8 per cent stated it as good. Regarding lighting 57.9 per cent of the respondents expressed their satisfaction either good or excellent. In most of the hostels fire extinguishers are not installed and 24.5 per cent of the installed are working properly. 34.7 per cent of the kitchen utensils are properly maintained and 28.9 per cent are poorly maintained. Regarding solar panels and bio gas plant, 68.1 per cent and 53.4 per cent of the respondents respectively, expressed that those are properly maintained and working in good condition.

Table 3.14						
Maintenance Status of Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Item of Maintenance	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Plumbing	11.6	13	21.7	44.9	5.8	2.9
Electrical Fittings	14.5	14.5	8.7	50.7	10.1	1.4
Lighting	5.8	7.2	26.1	44.9	13	2.9
Fire Extinguishers	10.2	8.2	8.2	24.5	-	49
Kitchen Utensils	10.1	18.8	18.8	24.6	10.1	17.4
Solar Panels	1.4	5.8	15.9	36.2	31.9	8.7
Bio gas plant	3.3	16.7	23.3	46.7	6.7	3.3
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

The overall analysis of maintenance of hostel infrastructure reveals that plumbing works are properly maintained in all type of hostels (pre matric boys 63.2%, pre matric girls 63.8% and post matric girls 50.7%) except post matric boys (20.7%). Post matric hostels for Boys also lack the maintenance of electrical fittings (29.3%) than other hostels. No considerable variation in the maintenance of lighting is noticed which is properly maintained across all hostels. The maintenance of kitchen utensils is also reported good in pre matric hostels (63.2% in pre matric boys and 75.9% in pre matric girls) than post matric hostels (29.3% in post matric boys and 34.8% in post matric girls). Regarding solar panels, some inmates opined that “Though solar panels are fitted, it will not be used after 9pm.”

The maintenance of biogas plants is also seen satisfactory except pre matric boy’s hostels (41% in post matric boys, 53.3% in post matric girls and 62.2% in pre

matric girls). It is important to note that large number of inmates (72.4% in post matric girls and 88.9% in pre matric boys and 62.1% in pre matric boys) don't know about firefighting system of hostel.

The SC hostels lack a well prepared maintenance chart for constant and timely upkeep of infrastructure. If the hostels are maintained regularly and well, it will reduce maintenance cost in the long run and keep the hostel working at its best. Lack of maintenance affect the security aspect of the inmates and accumulates into huge expenditure in the form of large scale repairs. Repair and maintenance policy and maintenance committees are required to be formulated to handle the regular upkeep and emergency repairs of hostel buildings.

Some other governmental and non-governmental agencies who conducted studies on the condition of pre-matric hostels have shown lights to some grey areas of hostel maintenance. RIGHTS, a Thiruvananthapuram based NGO, in their study report observed the following.¹⁹

‘The hostel buildings planned and constructed by the Public Works Department often possess the same structure and design. The unique features of the hostels are the narrow corridors, small rooms and congested dormitory with restricted space. There is no hostel where there is facility to accommodate study table, chair, cupboard and bed together in a single room or dormitory. The actual number of inmates in each hostel is 30 per cent less than what has been sanctioned. At present, many hostels managed limitation of space with this ‘shortage’. The failure in providing even the basic amenities for children often prevents parents from sending their children to the hostels.

All hostels that have used European closets in their toilets are completely damaged and unusable. In many hostels, the toilets in the first floor have become dysfunctional and dirty due to the scarcity of water and leak in the roofs. Due to the scarcity of water, all children in the hostels depend on the toilets in the ground floor. 46 per cent of the toilets have damaged doors or no door, and no locks. In many places toilets that constructed inside dormitory poses health and hygiene problems. Broken tiles and floors seem to be a common sight in hostels.’

Some inmates made critical opinions to the study team like “The maintenance works takes lot of time. Now the condition of maintenance is very poor.”, “Lights are not available in toilets”, “Lighting disturbances due to loose contact in electrical wiring is a common problem” etc. All these opinions emphasize the need for a system for regular maintenance of hostel properties.

3.9 Facilities Provided to Inmates

The SCDD has provided many facilities to the inmates in the hostels. Each boarder in the hostels is allotted one single cot, a table, an armless chair and a cupboard for his/her personal use. Besides these, one bed, bed cover, bed sheet, pillow, pillow cover, mat, a small mirror and comb are allotted to the individual use of boarder.²⁰ For common use, clock, buckets (big and small), iron box, gas lamp and torch light are provided. In dining hall, one steel plate, two curry plates, one spoon and one tumbler are provided. The list of facilities provided to students in SCDD hostels is shown in Appendix 5.

The allowances were increased from time to time along with the price hike for commodities. The opinion of inmates about the distribution of allowances and its rates is given in Table 3.15.

Table 3.15					
Satisfaction Level on Timely Disbursal of Allowances (%)					
Level	Pre matric (Boys)	Pre matric (Girls)	Post matric (Boys)	Post matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Very Poor	10.5	12.1	12.1	10.1	11.3
Poor	10.5	5.2	10.3	8.7	8.3
Fair	26.3	3.4	13.8	14.5	12.3
Good	5.3	32.8	31	18.8	25
Excellent	42.1	43.1	20.7	7.2	24.5
No Response	5.3	3.4	12.1	40.6	18.6
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

According to the survey around 50 per cent of the inmates opined that the distribution of allowances is good and timely. Except for post matric girls hostels (26%), in all other types of hostels the satisfaction level of inmates in this regard is seen high (post matric boys 51.7 per cent, pre matric boys 47.4% and pre matric girls 75.9%) than the average level of satisfaction (49.5%).

3.10 Individual Facilities

SCDD provides all basic facilities in hostels for inmates at free of cost. Each boarder is eligible to get the facilities mentioned in Table 3.16.

Table 3.16 Availability of Individual Facilities in Hostels (%)					
Particular	Pre-matric (Boys)	Pre-matric (Girls)	Post-matric (Boys)	Post-matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Cot	100	100	100	100	100
Table	100	100	100	100	100
Chair	100	100	100	100	100
Cupboard	100	75	100	100	92.7
Bed	100	100	100	100	100
Bed Cover	100	100	100	100	100
Bed Sheet	100	100	100	100	100
Pillow	100	100	100	100	100
Pillow Cover	100	75	100	100	92.7
Mat	50	75	100	66.6	61.4
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

100 per cent inmates in all types of hostels are of opinion that the essential facilities in a hostel like cot, table, bed, chair etc are available to them. 75 per cent of students in pre matric girl's hostels are not getting cupboards. More than 50 per cent of students in all hostels except post matric boy's hostels have not been provided mat. Analysis of the availability of individual facilities provided to inmates in pre matric and post matric hostels shows that most of them are available for the use of inmates. Since the inmate is physically and mentally attached with his/her individual facilities which is for day to day personal use, ensuring the satisfactory level at the maximum is necessary. The status of individual facilities is shown in Tables 3.17 to 3.20.

3.10.1 Status of Individual Facilities in Pre Matric hostels for Boys

Table 3.17 shows the status of individual facilities provided in pre matric hostels for boys. 100 per cent of the respondents opined that the cots they use in good/excellent condition. Regarding table and chair, 94.8 per cent each are in good condition. While 47.4 per cent of the respondents opined that the condition of cupboards is good/excellent, 52.6 per cent of the respondents have not answered. The status of bed, bedcover and bed sheet is reported good as 94.8 per cent, 84.2 per cent and 89.5 per cent respectively. Regarding pillow and pillow cover, 100 per

cent and 92.9 per cent of the respondents opined that its condition is good/excellent. 100 per cent of the informants have responded about the condition of pillow cover and mat.

Table 3.17						
Status of Individual Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Cot	-	-	-	57.9	42.1	-
Table	-	-	-	47.4	47.4	5.3
Chair	-	-	-	47.4	47.4	5.3
Cupboard	-	-	-	15.8	31.6	52.6
Bed	-	-	-	47.4	47.4	5.3
Bed Cover	-	-	-	31.6	52.6	15.8
Bed Sheet	-	-	-	31.6	57.9	10.5
Pillow	-	-	-	42.1	57.9	-
Pillow Cover	-	-	-	28.6	64.3	7.1
Mat	-	-	-	36.4	63.6	-
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

3.10.2 Status of Individual Facilities in Pre Matric hostels for Girls

Table 3.18 shows the status of individual facilities provided in post matric hostels for boys.

Table 3.18						
Status of Individual Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Cot	-	8.6	8.6	12.1	69	1.7
Table	-	3.4	3.4	17.2	75.9	-
Chair	1.7	1.7	8.6	17.2	67.2	3.4
Cupboard	-	9.8	11.8	15.7	49	13.7
Bed	1.7	5.2	13.8	12.1	63.8	3.4
Bed Cover	10.3	1.7	8.6	13.8	24.1	41.4
Bed Sheet	1.7	1.7	5.2	10.3	75.9	5.2
Pillow	5.2	3.4	6.9	15.5	62.1	6.9
Pillow Cover	5.2	10.3	10.3	8.6	56.9	8.6
Mat	13.8	13.8	24.1	6.9	10.3	31
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

81.1 per cent of the respondents opined that the cots they use in good/excellent condition. Regarding table and chair, 93.1 per cent and 84.4 per cent of them are in good condition respectively. 64.7 per cent of the respondents opined that the condition of cupboards is good/excellent. The status of bed, bedcover and

bed sheet is reported good as 75.9 per cent, 37.9 per cent and 86.2 per cent respectively. Regarding pillow and pillow cover, 77.6 per cent and 65.5 per cent of the respondents opined that its condition is good/excellent. 31 per cent of the respondents are not responded about the condition of mat.

3.10.3 Status of Individual Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 3.19 shows the status of individual facilities provided in post matric hostels for boys. 34.5 per cent of the respondents opined that the cots they use in good/excellent condition and 15.5 per cent opined that those are in poor condition. 41.4 per cent of the respondents are not ready to answer on it. Regarding table and chair, 53.5 per cent and 48.2 per cent of them are in good condition respectively, but 20.6 per cent of the chairs are in poor condition. While 56.9 per cent of the respondents opined that the condition of cupboards is good/excellent, 50 per cent of the respondents have not responded. The condition of bed, bed cover and bed sheet is reported as good (56.9 per cent, 31.1 per cent and 46.5 per cent respectively). Regarding pillow and pillow cover, 44.8 per cent and 36.2 per cent of the respondents opined that its condition is good/excellent. But 41.4 per cent and 55.2 per cent of the respondents are not responded about the condition of pillow cover and mat.

Table 3.19 Status of Individual Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Cot	5.2	10.3	8.6	25.9	8.6	41.4
Table	5.2	10.3	19	41.4	12.1	12.1
Chair	10.3	10.3	15.5	37.9	10.3	15.5
Cupboard	3.4	12.1	8.6	24.1	1.7	50
Bed	13.8	5.2	12.1	39.7	17.2	12.1
Bed cover	13.8	8.6	5.2	25.9	5.2	41.4
Bed Sheet	8.6	12.1	19	36.2	10.3	13.8
Pillow	15.5	6.9	13.8	29.3	15.5	19
Pillow Cover	13.8	10.3	10.3	25.9	10.3	29.3
Mat	8.6	6.9	3.4	20.7	5.2	55.2
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

3.10.4 Status of Individual Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 3.20 shows the status of individual facilities provided in post matric hostels for girls. 58 per cent of the respondents opined that the cots they use in good/excellent condition and 13 per cent opined that those are in poor condition.

Regarding table and chair, 68.1 per cent and 69.5 per cent of them are in good condition respectively, but 18.2 per cent of the chairs are in poor condition. While 34.8 per cent of the respondents opined that the condition of cupboards is good/excellent, 21.7 per cent of them are in poor condition. The status of bed, bedcover and bed sheet is reported good as 55.1 per cent, 46.3 per cent and 65.2 per cent respectively.

Regarding pillow and pillow cover, 69.5 per cent and 69.6 per cent of the respondents opined that its condition is good/excellent. 74 per cent of the respondents are not responded about the condition of pillow cover and mat.

Table 3.20						
Status of Individual Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Cot	4.3	8.7	17.4	52.2	5.8	11.6
Table	5.8	7.2	17.4	52.2	15.9	1.4
Chair	11.6	7.2	7.2	56.5	13	4.3
Cupboard	11.6	10.1	24.6	29	5.8	18.8
Bed	15.9	8.7	17.4	43.5	11.6	2.9
Bed Cover	10.1	4.3	10.1	36.2	10.1	29
Bed Sheet	8.7	4.3	8.7	43.5	21.7	13
Pillow	7.2	5.8	11.6	50.7	18.8	5.8
Pillow Cover	4.3	5.8	14.5	46.4	23.2	5.8
Mat	6	4	4	12	-	74
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

Generally, the condition of cot is good/excellent in all types of hostels except post matric boy's hostels (pre matric boys 100%, pre matric girls 81%, post matric boys 34.5% and post matric girls 58%). Majority of the inmates are satisfied with the condition of table and chair provided for them. The condition of cupboards is better in pre matric hostels (pre matric boy's 47.4% and pre matric girls 64.7%) than post matric hostels (post matric boys 25.9%, post matric girls 34.8%). Certain students are of opinion that the furniture is damaged and obsolete.

There is no considerable variation in the condition of bed, bed cover, bed sheet, pillow and pillow cover allotted to the inmates. But in some hostels, the study team observed that the mattresses are in bad shape, as they have been used for many years. The Accountant General of Kerala, in their performance audit pointed out many flaws in providing such facilities to pre-matric hostellers. According to them, the students were not provided with many of these essential items for their stay such

as cots, table, chairs, cupboard, mattress etc and inmates were forced to share cots or were made to sleep on the floor.²¹ Even though the quality of the facilities provided have been ensured, there has been inordinate delay in distribution to users.

3.11 Common Facilities

Student hostels often consider as a microcosm of the campus. Hence all the facilities which a campus provides are expected to be available in hostels. The common facilities available in pre matric hostels are shown in Table 3.21.

The survey reveals that many common facilities are not available to the inmates of all hostels at required level. The common facilities like reading room, visitor's room, laundry room and prayer room are available in pre matric girl's hostels (100%) than other hostels. Around 50 per cent of the hostels are without playground and space for indoor games. Television is the only common facility available in all the hostels (95.7 %). Internet and land phone facility is also not available (57%) in hostels.

Table 3.21					
Availability of Common facilities in Hostels (%)					
Particular	Pre-matric (Boys)	Pre-matric (Girls)	Post-matric (Boys)	Post-matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Reading Room	75	100	100	66.7	85.71
Visitors Room	75	100	66.7	66.7	78.57
Common Room	50	75	100	100	78.57
Laundry Room	100	100	100	100	100
Prayer Room	75	100	33.3	66.7	71.43
Play Ground	50	50	66.7	33.3	50
Indoor Games	75	100	100	66.7	85.71
Television	50	100	66.7	100	78.57
Internet	75	50	33.3	66.7	57.14
Land Phone	50	50	66.7	66.7	57.14
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

3.11.1 Status of Common Facilities to Inmates of Pre Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 3.22 show the status of common facilities to inmates in pre matric hostels for boys. 57.1 per cent of the respondents opined that reading room facility is good/excellent while 14.2 per cent opined it is poor. Only 35.7 per cent of the respondents are opined that visitor's room is in good/excellent condition and 64.3 per cent is unresponsive. Regarding common room and laundry room, 54.6 per cent

and 47.4 per cent of respondents opined that its good condition and 45.4 per cent and 36.8 per cent respectively not respondent about its condition. 76.9 per cent of respondents are not responded about prayer room. 50 per cent of the respondents are opined that the play ground is in good condition and 37.5 per cent are unresponsive. The facility to provide indoor games is responded good by 42.9 per cent and 28.6 per cent are unresponsive. Television facility is good/excellent (75%) and no internet facility is available. Regarding land phone 11.1 per cent of respondents' opinion is good and 33.3 per cent are unresponsive.

Table 3.22						
Status of Common Facilities to Inmates in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Reading Room	7.1	7.1	21.4	21.4	35.7	7.1
Visitors Room	-	-	-	7.1	28.6	64.3
Common Room	-	-	-	36.4	18.2	45.4
Laundry Room	-	-	15.8	15.8	31.6	36.8
Prayer Room	-	-	-	15.4	7.7	76.9
Play Ground	-	-	12.5	12.5	37.5	37.5
Indoor Games	-	-	28.6	28.6	14.3	28.6
Television	-	-	25	25	50	-
Internet	-	-	-	-	-	100
Land Phone	-	-	55.6	11.1	-	33.3
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

3.11.2 Status of Common Facilities to Inmates of Pre Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 3.23 show the status of common facilities to inmates in pre matric hostels for girls. 32.7 per cent of the respondents opined that reading room facility is good/excellent while 53.4.9 per cent of the respondents not answered. 53.4 per cent of the respondents are opined that visitor's room is in good/excellent condition. Regarding common room and laundry room, 54.9 per cent and 58.7 per cent of respondents opined respectively that its good condition. 39.7 per cent of respondents are not responded about prayer room and only 50 per cent of the inmates are opined it as good/excellent. 65.2 per cent of the respondents are opined that the play ground is in good condition. The facility to provide indoor games is good/excellent (74.2%). Television facility is good/excellent (74.1%) and 69 per cent of the respondents are unresponsive about internet facility. Regarding land phone 30.4 per cent of respondents' has no response.

Table 3.23						
Status of Common Facilities to Inmates in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Reading Room	-	3.4	10.3	22.4	10.3	53.4
Visitors Room	3.4	1.7	12.1	31	22.4	29.3
Common Room	3.9	3.9	7.8	33.3	21.6	29.4
Laundry Room	-	6.9	27.6	39.7	19	6.9
Prayer Room	3.4	3.4	3.4	39.7	10.3	39.7
Play Ground	-	4.3	-	13	52.2	30.4
Indoor Games	3.4	1.7	5.2	25.9	48.3	15.5
Television	-	8.6	12.1	22.4	51.7	5.2
Internet	3.4	-	20.7	3.4	3.4	69
Land Phone	8.7	-	8.7	26.1	26.1	30.4
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

3.11.3 Status of Common Facilities to Inmates of Post Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 3.24 show the status of common facilities to inmates in post matric hostels for boys.

Table 3.24						
Status of Common Facilities to Inmates in Post Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Reading Room	6.9	12.1	19	25.9	10.3	25.9
Visitors Room	7.7	17.9	17.9	23.1	2.6	30.8
Common Room	3.4	12.1	13.8	10.3	8.6	51.7
Laundry Room	8.6	12.1	10.3	15.5	3.4	50
Prayer Room	9.1	13.6	4.5	9.1	-	63.6
Play Ground	25	27.8	-	8.3	-	38.9
Indoor Games	10.3	15.5	12.1	15.5	-	46.6
Television	8.3	5.6	27.8	44.4	5.6	8.3
Internet	5.9	11.8	41.2	23.5	5.9	11.8
Land Phone	10.3	7.7	5.1	7.7	-	69.2
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

36.2 per cent of the respondents opined that reading room facility is good/excellent while 19 per cent opined it is poor and 25.9 per cent of the respondents not answered. Only 25.7 per cent of the respondents are opined that visitor's room is in good/excellent condition and 25.6 per cent responded about its poor condition. Regarding common room and laundry room, 18.9 per cent each respondents opined that its good condition and 51.7 per cent and 50 per cent

respectively not respondent about its condition. 63.6 per cent of respondents are not responded about prayer room and only 9.1 per cent of the inmates are opined it as good. 52.8 per cent of the respondents are opined that the play ground is in poor condition. The facility to provide indoor games is also poor (25.8%) and nonresponsive (46.6%). Television facility is good/excellent (50%) and internet facility is opined good by 29.4 per cent of the respondents. Regarding land phone 87.2 per cent of respondents' opinion is either poor or no response.

3.11.4 Status of Common Facilities to Inmates of Post Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 3.25 show the status of common facilities to inmates in post matric hostels for girls.

Table 3.25						
Status of Common Facilities to Inmates in Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Reading Room	11.6	17.4	15.9	18.8	4.3	31.9
Visitors Room	16.3	14.3	14.3	4.1	8.2	42.9
Common Room	7.2	13	7.2	18.8	1.4	52.2
Laundry Room	5.8	11.6	27.5	15.9	1.4	37.7
Prayer Room	4.1	10.2	12.2	4.1	-	69.4
Play Ground	16.7	10	26.7	6.7	-	40
Indoor Games	12.2	10.2	12.2	28.6	-	36.7
Television	21.7	11.6	13	30.4	7.2	15.9
Internet	22.4	10.2	-	-	-	67.3
Land Phone	28	22	6	20	2	22
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

23.1 per cent of the respondents opined that reading room facility is good/excellent while 29 per cent opined it is poor and 31.9 per cent of the respondents not answered. Only 12.3 per cent of the respondents are opined that visitor's room is in good/excellent condition and 30.6 per cent responded about its poor condition. Regarding common room and laundry room, 20.2 per cent and 17.3 per cent of respondents respectively opined that its good condition and 52.2 per cent and 37.7 per cent respectively not respondent about its condition. 69.4 per cent of respondents are not responded about prayer room and only 6.7 per cent of the inmates are opined it as good. 26.7 per cent of the respondents are opined that the play ground is in poor condition 40 per cent are unresponsive. The facility to provide indoor games is also poor (28.6%) and unresponsive (36.7%). Television

facility is good/excellent (37.6%) and internet facility is opined poor by 32.6 per cent of the respondents and rest of them are not responded (67.3%). Regarding land phone 72 per cent of respondents' opinion is either poor or no response. The post matric hostel for girls in Kozhikkode has no separate laundry room and visitor's room.

The overall analysis of working status of common facilities in hostels shows that the reading room facility of hostel is on an average condition (pre matric girls 32.8%, post matric boys 36.2% and post matric girls 23.2%) except in pre matric boys hostels (57.1%). Common room facility is comparatively good in pre matric hostels (pre matric boys 54.5%, pre matric girls 54.9%) than post matric hostels (post matric boys 19%, post matric girls 20.3%). Laundry room facility in post matric hostels (post matric boys 19%, post matric girls 17.4%) is comparatively worse than pre matric hostels (pre matric boys 47.4%, pre matric girls 58.6%). Separate prayer rooms are almost lacking in post matric hostels (post matric boys 9.1%, post matric girls 4.1%) and no play grounds also (post matric boys 8.3%, post matric girls 6.7%). Post matric hostels for boys (15.5%) face lack of indoor games facility than other hostels (pre matric boys 42.9%, pre matric girls 74.1% and post matric girls 28.6%). Inmates of all hostels are satisfied with television facility.

Internet facility is not available even in post matric hostels. No land phone facility is available in many hostels. Since hostel inmates are students, who stay away from their home and local environments, providing common facilities and keeping them in high satisfactory level is important to ensure their academic and non-academic performance and socialization process.

CHAPTER 4

FOOD, HEALTH AND DISCIPLINE

The cognitive skills, academic performance, social and educational attitudes of students depend to a great extent on their physical well-being and health, which in turn is dependent on balanced and healthy diet. Most of the inmates in SC hostels, especially pre matric hostels come from economically poor families that are vulnerable to under nutrition, anemia, weight loss, eating disorders, dental caries etc. Besides these, the risk of food borne diseases exists in hostels arising out of unhygienic conditions in the kitchen, storage and dining practices.

4.1 Food/Mess

For running the mess, a mess committee consisting of five members from inmates has to be constituted every three months and this committee is entrusted with the task of deciding the menu every day subject to the fund limit prescribed.²² This committee appoints one of its members as Secretary who should sign the purchase and distribution registers kept in the hostel.

The pre matric and post matric hostels follow prescribed food menu to ensure balanced and healthy diet to its inmates.²³ The prescribed food menu of pre matric and post-matric hostels is shown in Appendix 6. The analysis of food menu shows that proper care has been taken to prepare the same. Almost all days in a week except Saturday, the students are given non-vegetarian dish like fish, egg or meat. Fruits, vegetables, milk and leafy dishes are also served systematically. The quantity of food and items and quantity of commodities to be used are also specified in order to avoid any kind of misappropriation.

From 2013 to 2015, the consumer price index has shown an increase of more than 18 per cent. Over the years, the prices of essential commodities have also gone up. The comparison of retail prices of commodities published by the Department of Economics and Statistics is given in Table 4.1

Table 4.1 Comparison of Prices of Certain Essential Commodities				
Name of Commodity	Price as on 26-10-13	Price as on 31-01-17	Variation in Price	% of Variation over year
Parboddan rice-Matta	36.07	38.25	2.18	6.04
Raw rice-Andhra	30.83	36.08	5.25	17.03
Black Gram (Dhal)	67.07	119.6	52.53	78.32
Red Gram (Dhal)	57.71	75.86	18.15	31.45
Green Peas Dry	50.36	44.23	-6.13	-12.17
Bengal Gram	60.83	122.29	61.46	101.04
Green Gram	76	82.57	6.57	8.64
Brinjal	28.5	29.64	1.14	4.00
Cucumber	18.29	42.64	24.35	133.13
Ladies Finger	27.93	59.21	31.28	111.99
Beans	28.46	44.75	16.29	57.24
Tomato	40.21	24.79	-15.42	-38.35
Banana	51.36	50.93	-0.43	-0.84
Plantain Green	24.46	35.23	10.77	44.03
Egg	5.37	6.55	1.18	21.97
Milk-Milma	32.86	36.43	3.57	10.86
Coconut oil-Kera	101.86	148.07	46.21	45.37
Coconut	12.82	16.39	3.57	27.85
Sugar	32.21	42.64	10.43	32.38
Red chilly	87.43	122.79	35.36	40.44
Coriander	90.43	109.86	19.43	21.49
Garlic	64.43	173.6	109.17	169.44
Onion-Small	75.86	33.07	-42.79	-56.41
Tapioca	26.43	29.71	3.28	12.41
Potato	27.07	25.21	-1.86	-6.87
Average	46.19	62.02	15.82	34.42
Source: <i>Daily Price of Essential Commodities, 26.10.13 and 31.1.17,</i> <i>Department of Statistics, Kerala</i>				

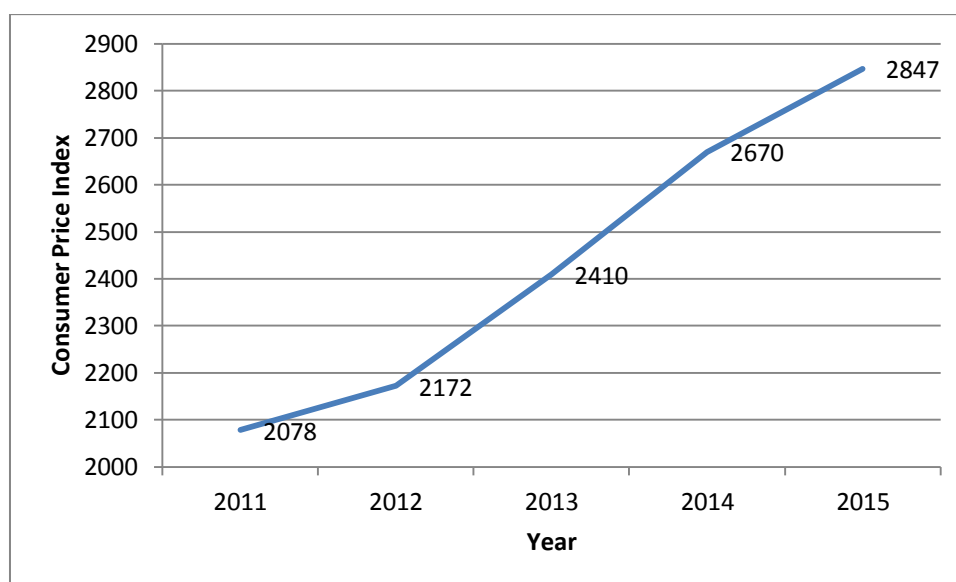
The above table is self-explanatory. The prices of almost all essential commodities have increased during the period 2013 to 2017, the overall increase being 34.42 per cent. The prices of some pulses like bengalgram and vegetables like cucumber, ladies finger etc have gone up by more than 100 per cent during the period. Prior to 2013, the mess charge was last revised in 2009. There is an urgent need for the timely revision of mess charges in accordance with the price increase of commodities. At present the per day mess allowance of pre matric and post matric

inmates is Rs.67/- and Rs.77/- respectively. Hence, it would be better to revise these rates periodically on the basis of increase in the consumer price index.

At present, the inmates in pre matric and post matric hostels are allotted Rs. 2000/- and Rs.2300/- per month respectively.²⁴ This amount was fixed in 2013. The variation in Consumer Price Index (Cost of Living Index) from 2011 to 2015 is given in Figure 4.1.*

Fig 4.1

Variation in Consumer Price Index (Cost of Living Index) from 2011 to 2015



Source: *Economics and Statistics Department, Kerala*

*Price index of January of Thiruvananthapuram District.

The mess advance amount prescribed for each student in pre matric and post matric hostels are Rs.250/- and Rs.300/- per month.²⁵ Considering the price hike of commodities, this amount is insufficient. It is to be linked with the rise in Consumer Price Index and to be calculated on the basis of same percentage of Dearness Allowance of the time.

4.2 Food and Kitchen Services – Level of Student Satisfaction

The student satisfaction regarding the quality and quantity of food is very important in a hostel where hostel there is their second home for stay and study. To assess the food and kitchen services, five variables such as quality of food, quantity of food, kitchen hygiene, source of water and serving of food are considered. The

student satisfaction on food and kitchen services in hostels is given in the following paragraphs.

4.2.1 Food and Kitchen Service in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 4.2 shows the opinion of inmates in the pre matric hostels for boys about food and kitchen service. Regarding the quantity food, 78.9 per cent of the inmates opined good/excellent and none of them said the quantity is poor. 42.1 per cent of the inmates are satisfied with the quality of food (good/excellent) and 36.9 per cent of respondents opined that the food quality is poor and 15.8 per cent is non-responsive. As far as the hygiene of kitchen is concerned, 15.8 per cent of the respondents are not responded but 73.7 per cent of respondents said it is good/excellent. 78.9 per cent of the respondents expressed the source of water is good/excellent but 5.3 per cent is not satisfied with the source of water. Serving of food is good/excellent to 68.5 per cent of respondents and 21.1 per cent of respondents are not responded.

Table 4.2						
Food and Kitchen Service in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Quantity of Food	-	-	15.8	42.1	36.8	5.3
Quality of Food	21.1	15.8	5.3	10.5	31.6	15.8
Hygiene of Kitchen	-	-	10.5	68.4	5.3	15.8
Source of Water	5.3	-	10.5	36.8	42.1	5.3
Serving of Food	-	10.5	-	21.1	47.4	21.1
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

4.2.2 Food and Kitchen Service in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 4.3 shows the opinion of inmates in the post matric hostels for girls about food and kitchen service. Regarding the quantity food, 86.2 per cent of the inmates opined good/excellent and only 5.1 per cent of them are of the opinion that the quantity is poor. 86.2 per cent of the inmates are satisfied with the quality of food (good/excellent) and 5.1 per cent of respondents opined that the food quality is poor. As far as the hygiene of kitchen is concerned 79.5 per cent of respondents said it is good/excellent. 70.7 per cent of the respondents expressed the source of water is good/excellent but 8.6 per cent is not satisfied with the source of water. Serving of food is good/excellent to 84.5 per cent of respondents but 1.7 per cent of respondents hold the opinion that serving of food is poor.

Table 4.3 Food and Kitchen Service in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Quantity of Food	3.4	1.7	8.6	24.1	62.1	-
Quality of Food	1.7	3.4	8.6	36.2	50.0	-
Hygiene of Kitchen	-	6.9	13.8	20.7	58.6	-
Source of Water	8.6	-	17.2	29.3	41.4	3.4
Serving of Food	-	1.7	13.8	20.7	63.8	-
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

4.2.3 Food and Kitchen Service in Post Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 4.4 shows the opinion of inmates in the post matric hostels for boys about food and kitchen services. Regarding the quantity of food, 63.8 per cent of the inmates opined good/excellent but 15.5 per cent of them said the quantity is poor. 44.8 per cent of the inmates are satisfied with the quality of food (good/excellent) while 17.2 per cent of respondents opined that it is poor. As far as the hygiene of kitchen is concerned, about one third of the respondents opined it is poor but 39.6 per cent of respondents said it is good/excellent. 51 per cent of the respondents expressed the source of water is good/excellent but 20.6 per cent is not satisfied with the source of water. Opinion about serving of food is good/excellent as far as 55.2 per cent of respondents are concerned but 20.6 per cent of respondents hold the opinion that it is poor.

Table 4.4 Food and Kitchen Service in Post Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Quantity of Food	6.9	8.6	17.2	39.7	24.1	3.4
Quality of Food	6.9	10.3	36.2	36.2	8.6	1.7
Hygiene of Kitchen	12.1	20.7	20.7	37.9	1.7	6.9
Source of Water	10.3	10.3	20.7	39.7	12.1	6.9
Serving of Food	10.3	10.3	17.2	39.7	15.5	6.9
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

4.2.4 Food and Kitchen Service in Post Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 4.5 shows the opinion of inmates in the post matric hostels for girls about food and kitchen service. Regarding the quantity food, 68.1 per cent of the inmates opined good/excellent but 14.5 per cent of them said the quantity is poor.

31.9 per cent of the inmates are satisfied with the quality of food (good/excellent) and 26 per cent of respondents opined that the food quality is poor. As far as the hygiene of kitchen is concerned, 27.5 per cent of the respondents opined it is poor but 36.2 per cent of respondents said it is good/excellent. 52.1 per cent of the respondents expressed the source of water is good/excellent but 20.3 per cent is not satisfied with the source of water. Serving of food is good/excellent to 44.9 per cent of respondents but 21.7 per cent of respondents hold the opinion that serving of food is poor.

Table 4.5						
Food and Kitchen Service in Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Quantity of Food	8.7	5.8	17.4	49.3	18.8	-
Quality of Food	15.9	10.1	40.6	26.1	5.8	1.4
Hygiene of Kitchen	11.6	15.9	33.3	23.2	13	2.9
Source of Water	11.6	8.7	23.2	42	10.1	4.3
Serving of Food	5.8	15.9	26.1	34.8	10.1	7.2
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

The overall analysis of the food and kitchen service in hostels reveals that, the quantity of food is almost similar across the state (pre matric boys 78.9% and pre matric girls 86.2%, post matric boys 63.8 per cent and post matric girls 68.1%) and pre matric girls hostels show the highest value. Regarding the quality of food, inmates in the pre matric girls hostels are very satisfied (86.2%) than other type of hostels (pre matric boys 42.1%, post matric boys 44.8% and post matric girls. 31.9%). The quality of food is comparatively worse in the post matric girls hostels. Kitchen hygiene is also good in pre matric hostels than post matric hostels. (pre matric boys 73.7%, pre matric girls 79.3%, post matric boys 39.7% and post matric girls 36.2%). It may also be due to the higher expectations of grown up inmates in post-matric hostels, whereas inmates of pre-matric hostels tend to accept the conditions more uncritically.

Regarding source of water (post matric boys 51.7%, post matric girls 52.2%, pre matric boys 78.9% and pre matric girls 70.7%) and serving of food (post matric boys 55.2%, post matric girls 44.9%, pre matric boys 68.4% and pre matric girls 84.5%) pre matric hostels are better than post matric hostels. The study team also

obtained some negative opinions from inmates regarding the hygienic conditions and food serving method.

Some earlier studies have reported certain drawbacks in the food system of hostel which represents the attitude of students and staff towards preparation, distribution and consumption of food in hostels. Both things - how food is prepared and how it is served are important. The study by RIGHTS, pointed out a number of complaints from students regarding the serving of food from the staff.²⁶

Obviously, besides preparation, proper serving of food is also a matter of significance. It is observed that the hostel staffs are also very alert about quality of food as it is most prone to complaints and protests. Any complaint regarding quality of food is readily picked by media and often sensationalized. Therefore the staffs too are very vigilant. In the present study 73 per cent of students are satisfied regarding the serving of food.

4.3 Regular Health Check-up and First Aid

Regular health check-up is necessary for any hostel because there is a strong possibility of epidemic diseases to the inmates who use community kitchens and shared accommodation. Earlier a part time medical officer was appointed in hostels.²⁷²⁸ Over the years that system was dropped. Now the health inspectors or medical staff of respective areas visit the hostel as and when required. The system of regular health check-up of students needs to be restored. There is a provision of Rs. 3000/- per year for each hostel. The availability status of emergency medical facilities in hostels is given in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Availability of Medical facilities in Hostels (%)					
Particular	Pre-matric (Boys)	Pre-matric (Girls)	Post- matric (Boys)	Post-matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Medicines	25	100	33.33	66.67	57.14
First Aid Kit	50	100	33.33	66.67	64.29
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

Table 4.6 shows that emergency medical facility in terms of medicines and first aid kit is available in pre matric girl's hostels in a satisfactory manner. Only 33 per cent of the post matric boy's hostels and 66 per cent of the post matric girl's hostels are equipped with some emergency medical facility. In pre matric boy's hostels medicine availability is only 25 per cent and first aid kit facility is only 50 per

cent. Considering the age of inmates, especially in pre matric hostels, wounds and illness like fever, cough, cold etc are common. Hence minimum medicines and first aid kit are to be kept available in hostels on the advice of local medical officer.

4.3.1 Medicine Availability in Hostels

Table 4.7 shows the opinion of inmates on the availability of medicines in hostels. It reveals that medicines are available in pre matric hostels than post matric hostels. 27.3 per cent and 24.5 per cent of the inmates in post matric boys and girls hostels respectively opined that availability of medicine is good, but in pre matric boys and girls hostels, it is 100 per cent and 58.6 per cent respectively. 22.7 per cent of the inmates in post matric hostels for boys opined that the status of availability of medicines is very poor.

Table 4.7					
Satisfaction on Availability of Medicines in Hostels (%)					
Level	Pre matric (Boys)	Pre matric (Girls)	Post matric (Boys)	Post matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Very Poor	-	5.2	22.7	2	6.8
Poor	-	5.2	4.5	10.2	6.8
Fair	-	13.8	22.7	14.3	15.2
Good	66.7	24.1	27.3	24.5	25.8
Excellent	33.3	34.5	-	-	15.9
No Response	-	17.2	22.7	49	29.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

4.3.2 Availability of First Aid Kit in Hostels

Table 4.8 shows the availability of first aid kits in hostels.

Table 4.8					
Student satisfaction on Availability of First Aid Facility in Hostels (%)					
Level	Pre matric (Boys)	Pre matric (Girls)	Post matric (Boys)	Post matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Very Poor	-	8.6	-	2.0	4.4
Poor	-	5.2	9.1	8.2	6.6
Fair	-	10.3	27.3	22.4	16.8
Good	12.5	15.5	36.4	22.4	21.2
Excellent	50.0	22.4	4.5	2.0	13.9
No Response	37.5	37.9	22.7	42.9	37.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

72.5 per cent of the inmates of pre matric hostels for boys opined that first aid kit available for medical contingencies is in good/excellent condition. In all other hostels, the satisfaction level of inmates is below that (Post matric boys 40.9%, post matric girls, 44.8% and pre matric girls 25.8%). There are no provisions for purchase of medicines on emergency situations or transportation of disease affected inmates to hospitals, especially at night.

4.4 Gender Sensitivity in Hostels

Gender sensitivity in hostels basically refers to the special arrangements in hostels considering the specific needs and priorities of girl students. Almost all the girl students in pre matric and post matric hostels are in their teenage. So special care is needed to their physical and psychological needs. The arrangements in girl's hostels for their special needs are given in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9			
Availability of Gender Sensitive Arrangements in Girls Hostels (%)			
Particular	Pre-matric	Post-matric	Total
Sanitary Pad	75	100	85.71
Incinerator	100	100	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>			

The above table shows that 100 per cent of the post matric girl's hostels have the facility of sanitary pad and incinerator facility and in the case of pre matric girls hostels those are 75 per cent and 100 per cent respectively.

Table 4.10 shows the status of gender sensitive arrangements in girl's hostels.

Table 4.10				
Status of Gender Sensitive Arrangements in Girls Hostels (%)				
Level	Sanitary Pads		Incinerator	
	Pre matric	Post matric	Pre matric	Post matric
Very Poor	7.8	8	1.7	4.3
Poor	-	10	1.7	10.1
Fair	3.9	18	20.7	5.8
Good	7.8	20	22.4	14.5
Excellent	49	2	37.9	14.5
No Response	31.4	42	15.5	50.7
Total	100	100	100	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>				

Regarding sanitary pads, only 22 per cent of inmates in post matric hostels opined that its distribution is in good/ excellent condition where as in pre matric

hostels it is 56.8 per cent. 42 per cent of the inmates in post matric hostels and 31.4 per cent in pre matric hostels are not responded to this issue. 18 per cent of the respondents in post matric hostels opined that arrangements for distribution of sanitary pads are poor. As far as the incinerators are concerned, those installed in pre matric hostels (60.3%) are working in good/excellent condition than post matric hostels (29%), where it is more necessary. The study team received opinions from post matric girl's hostel, Ernakulum that incinerator is not working for long time and due to voltage variations they are not working properly. Here also 50.7 per cent of the inmates in post matric hostels are not ready to respond to this question.

It is observed that there is a small gender gap in the distribution of allowances. The pocket money of pre matric inmates is Rs.140/- for boys and Rs.135/- for girls. Such minor unequal treatments towards girls are to be avoided.

4.5 Waste Management

For keeping the hostel environment clean and fresh, proper waste management is inevitable. The major areas of waste management requires the daily collection of trash from all locations including rooms, halls, ground etc, daily pickup of food waste to be composted from dining hall, used papers, etc. The waste management system in hostels is given Table 4.11.

Table 4.11 Availability of Common Facilities in Hostels					
Particular	Pre-matric (Boys)	Pre-matric (Girls)	Post-matric (Boys)	Post-matric (Girls)	Total
Waste Bin in Rooms	100	100	33.3	100	85.7
Waste Bin in Halls	75	100	33.3	100	78.6
Waste Bin in Outside	50	100	33.3	100	71.4
Regular Cleaning of Rooms	100	100	100	100	100
Waste Management System	100	75	100	100	92.9
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

Table 4.11 shows that proper waste management facility is available in most of the hostels. In all hostels, except post matric boy's hostels, waste bins are placed in halls and outside (100%). Regular cleaning facility is available in all hostels and the waste management system is also available.

4.5.1 Waste Management in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 4.12 shows the opinion of inmates in pre matric hostel for boys on waste management of their hostel. 68.2 per cent of the respondent opined that waste bins are provided in their rooms and in halls. 59.1 per cent are opined that waste bins are also provided in outside hostel to keep the hostel premises clean. 29.2 per cent of the respondents opined that the condition of regular cleaning of rooms is poor whereas, 29.3 per cent of the respondents opined that the status of regular cleaning is good/excellent. 32.8 per cent of the respondents are opined about the poor condition of waste management system in hostel but 25.9 per cent of them opined that the system is good/excellent. 24.1 per cent of inmates opined that toilet hygiene is good but 24.2 per cent of them opined that toilet hygiene is poor. 32.8 per cent of respondents did not respond on waste management system and 22.4 per cent are unresponsive about regular cleaning of rooms.

Table 4.12						
Waste Management in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Waste Bin in Rooms	5.3	-	36.8	5.3	15.8	36.8
Waste Bin in Halls	-	-	-	28.6	14.3	57.1
Waste Bin in Outside	-	9.1	9.1	9.1	18.2	54.5
Regular Cleaning of Rooms	5.3	5.3	26.3	15.8	36.8	10.5
Waste Management System	-	-	5.3	21.1	52.6	21.1
Toilet Hygiene	10.5	5.3	15.8	31.6	26.3	10.5
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

4.5.2 Waste Management in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 4.13 shows the opinion of inmates in pre matric hostel for girls on waste management of their hostel. 60.3 per cent of the respondent opined that waste bins are provided in their rooms. 37.9 per cent opined that waste bins are provided in halls. 30.9 per cent are opined that waste bins are also provided in outside hostel to keep the hostel premises clean. 13.8 per cent of the respondents opined that the condition of regular cleaning of rooms is poor whereas, 67.2 per cent of the respondents opined that the status of regular cleaning is good/excellent. 9.8 per cent of the respondents are opined about the poor condition of waste management system in hostel but 60.8 per cent of them opined that the system is good/excellent.

48.3 per cent of inmates opined that toilet hygiene is good but 20.7 per cent of them opined that toilet hygiene is poor. 32.8 per cent and 46.6 per cent of respondents are not responded on waste bins in halls and outside respectively.

Table 4.13 Waste Management in Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Waste Bin in Rooms	1.7	6.9	13.8	8.6	51.7	17.2
Waste Bin in Halls	3.4	8.6	17.2	24.1	13.8	32.8
Waste Bin in Outside	1.7	3.4	17.2	17.2	13.8	46.6
Regular Cleaning of Rooms	1.7	12.1	6.9	24.1	43.1	12.1
Waste Management System	5.9	3.9	15.7	31.4	29.4	13.7
Toilet Hygiene	6.9	13.8	17.2	39.7	8.6	13.8
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

4.5.3 Waste Management in Post Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 4.14 shows the opinion of inmates in post matric hostel for boys on waste management of their hostel.

Table 4.14 Waste Management in Post Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Waste Bin in Rooms	-	-	9.1	50	18.2	22.7
Waste Bin in Halls	4.5	-	18.2	50	18.2	9.1
Waste Bin in Outside	-	4.5	18.2	50	9.1	18.2
Regular Cleaning of Rooms	17.2	12.1	19	24.1	5.2	22.4
Waste Management System	19	13.8	8.6	19	6.9	32.8
Toilet Hygiene	19	5.2	31	13.8	10.3	20.7
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

68.2 per cent of the respondent opined that waste bins are provided in their rooms and in halls. 59.1 per cent are opined that waste bins are also provided outside hostel to keep the hostel premises clean. 29.2 per cent of the respondents opined that the condition of regular cleaning of rooms is poor whereas, 29.3 per cent of the respondents opined that the status of regular cleaning is good/excellent. 32.8 per cent of the respondents are opined about the poor condition of waste management system in hostel but 25.9 per cent of them opined that the system is

good/excellent. 24.1 per cent of inmates opined that toilet hygiene is good but 24.2 per cent of them opined that toilet hygiene is poor. 32.8 per cent of respondents did not respond on the issue of waste management system and 22.4 per cent are non-responsive about regular cleaning of rooms.

4.5.4 Waste Management in Post Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 4.15 shows the opinion of inmates in post matric hostel for girls on waste management of their hostel. 50.7 per cent of the respondent opined that waste bins are provided in their rooms and 46.4 per cent of responded opined that they have waste bins in the common halls. 36.2 per cent of the respondents opined that waste bins are also provided outside the hostel to keep the hostel premises clean but 26.1 per cent opined that the condition of outside waste bins is poor. 17.3 per cent of the respondents opined that the condition of regular cleaning of rooms is poor whereas, 46.4 per cent of the respondents opined that the status of regular cleaning is good/excellent. 21.7 per cent of the respondents are opined about the poor condition of waste management system in hostel but 31.8 per cent of them opined that the system is good/excellent. 56.5 per cent of inmates opined that toilet hygiene is good but 21.7 per cent of them opined that toilet hygiene is poor. 23.2 per cent of respondents are not responded on waste management system and 31.9 per cent are unresponsive on outside waste bins.

Table 4.15						
Waste Management in Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Facility	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Waste Bin in Rooms	8.7	2.9	14.5	34.8	15.9	23.2
Waste Bin in Halls	7.2	11.6	17.4	34.8	11.6	17.4
Waste Bin in Outside	11.6	14.5	5.8	27.5	8.7	31.9
Regular Cleaning of Rooms	10.1	7.2	20.3	31.9	14.5	15.9
Waste Management System	15.9	5.8	23.2	24.6	7.2	23.2
Toilet Hygiene	8.7	13	20.3	53.6	2.9	1.4
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

The overall analysis of the waste management system in hostels reveals that, the satisfaction of inmates regarding waste bins in rooms is in good/excellent level all hostels (post matric boys 68.2%, post matric girls 50.7% and pre matric girls

60.3%) except pre matric boys hostels (21.1%). Providing waste bins in halls are comparatively higher than waste bins outside premises. The analysis of the responses regarding waste bins in halls shows that post matric boys hostels are more concerned about this (68.2%) than other hostels and pre matric girls hostels are least bothered about providing waste bin in halls (37.9%). Post matric boys hostels are also ranks high in providing waste bins in outside hostel (59.1%) and pre matric boys hostels ranks least (27.3%). In regular cleaning of rooms all hostels are in average condition (post matric boys 29.3%, post matric girls 46.4%, pre matric boys 52.6% and pre matric girls 67.2%). Though regular sweeping twice per day is the mandatory duty of cleaning staff²⁹, post matric boys hostels are least ranked in regular cleaning whereas pre matric girls hostels are comparatively better in this field. In waste management system, pre matric hostels (pre matric boys 73.7% and pre matric girls 60.8%) are comparatively good than post matric hostels (post matric boys 25.9% and post matric girls 31.9%). In toilet hygiene, post matric girls hostels (56.5%) and pre matric boys hostels (57.9%) are comparatively good than other hostels (post matric boys 24.1% and pre matric girls 48.3%).

4.6 Rules for Conduct for Inmates

Since SC hostels are bound to perform multiple functions such as providing homely environment, ensuring good learning atmosphere help students in developing attractive personality and social behaviors and offering personal safety and security. As per the generic description of characteristics of hostel accommodation proposed by Edgar & Meert³⁰ the physical space (shared space for living, eating and food preparation in a community living manner), social space (staff supervision on premises and limited (or no) private space) and legal space (temporary occupancy, no tenancy and eviction without court action) of hostels are very imperative factors to be considered in hostel management. Hence, specific rules, norms, guidelines and its stringent implementation become inevitable to run the hostel in the proper and defined mode.

The department has framed and issued several rules, norms and guidelines from time to time for the smooth functioning of pre matric and post matric hostels in Kerala. Every inmate in the hostels is bound to conduct him/herself accordingly. There are 27 rules framed for regulating the manners and behaviours of inmates within the hostel premises. As per the rules,³¹ all inmates should reach the hostel by

or before 6.30 pm and are not allowed to leave the hostel after 8 pm - the inmate is even not allowed to visit the room of another boarder after this time. He/she can be absent in the hostel only with the prior permission of the warden. The use of tobacco and all other stimulants are strictly prohibited. The inmates are not permitted to burn lights between 11 pm and 4 am.

Any type of political discussions are not allowed in hostels premises and no member of the hostel shall take active part in any political meetings, processions or propaganda and disregard of this rule leads to immediate expulsion from hostel. There are also rules for entertaining guests, handling of hostel properties, entry to dining hall, maintaining cleanliness etc.

The misconduct on the part of boarder or the breach of any hostel rules attract fine or disciplinary action and if the offence is of grave nature the inmates will be dismissed from the hostel. In 2013, Director of SCDD has been entrusted to prepare new rules for the conduct of inmates and staff of pre matric and post matric hostels which are yet to be brought out.³²

01.02.2016 മുതൽ

ആലുപ	അതി കാലം	പ്രദാന കക്ഷം	ഉപകരണം	സംഭാവ	കാലം
അലുപ	കാലം	കക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, അലുപ, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം
അലുപ	കാലം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം
പക്ഷം	കാലം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം
പക്ഷം	കാലം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം
പക്ഷം	കാലം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം
പക്ഷം	കാലം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം
പക്ഷം	കാലം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം
പക്ഷം	കാലം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം
പക്ഷം	കാലം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം	പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം, പക്ഷം

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Hostel Menu

CHAPTER 5

ACADEMIC ARRANGEMENTS AND HOSTEL SECURITY

The hostel is the place where students away from their homes come to stay for pursuing formal education. Most of the inmates come from economically poor families. Therefore hostels facilitate them by providing them with a place to stay, healthy food, an environment conducive to learning and other facilities so that they can pursue their education. The academic environment and assistance provided in hostels enable them to improve their educational abilities. It is expected that the average or below average students who got admission in pre matric and post matric hostels will stay there and focus on her/his studies and improve their academic performance. With this in view, the department has made many arrangements to improve the academic standard of inmates in hostels.

5.1 Academic Arrangements

In December 1990, the Commissioner and Secretary to Government, SC and ST Development Department inspected some pre matric hostels and found that the general standard of students was very poor and most of them have failed in many subjects. Though they get tuition in hostels it has not benefitted them to a satisfactory level. Hence, as a long term strategy for the educational improvement of inmates, a circular containing specific guidelines was issued for strict compliance.³³ As per the circular every day the Hostel Warden should ensure that the lessons taught in the school are reviewed by the student and home works are done properly. Warden should sit and make sure that the students compulsorily read English and do the exercise in Mathematics and Science an hour every day. The Warden should keep constant liaison with school authorities and watch the progress of each students and remedial action should be taken in case of weaker students. Proper time table for tuition classes in the hostels should be displayed and adhered to strictly. The Block SCDO (then Taluk Development Officer) and Block Extension Officers and the senior officers of the Department were entrusted to visit the hostel and spend 2-3 hours personally to assess the progress of the students.

But these instructions were not fully implemented. Consequently, the SC Director had issued a new circular in 1992,³⁴ observing that District Officers and Taluk Officers were not conducting regular inspections of hostels. In this circular new directions were issued and responsibilities were fixed to improve the academic standard of inmates. Eight specific duties regarding the education of inmates were entrusted upon the Warden. They are,

- (1) Ensure the academic progress of inmates and give proper guidance
- (2) Contact the school teachers of inmates and Head Master of that school every week and discuss the educational issues of students and take necessary steps for their academic improvement.
- (3) Record the marks of each inmate in their test papers and progress report in the prescribed register.
- (4) Ensure that inmates are attending their school classes regularly
- (5) Identify suitable part time teachers to be appointed in hostels and send a proposal for their appointment within 10 days of the beginning of academic year.
- (6) Ensure that part time teachers are teaching inmates well
- (7) Ensure that inmates are attending tuition classes in time
- (8) Brief to the inmates knowledgeable reports in dailies and magazines.

It is observed that the rules framed for the academic advancement of inmates are not fully implemented effectively.

5.2 Hostel Life

Hostel life has great importance in the educational improvement as well as socialisation of SC students. Apart from general hostels, the pre matric and post-matric hostels contain comparatively homogenous group of students from identical socio cultural and economic backgrounds. Hence special efforts are necessary to develop positive personal qualities among the SC students to make them confident, punctual, social, realistic, responsible and enterprising in all domains of life and equip them to accept challenges in future life.

The daily routine of the students in the hostel contributes significantly towards structuring their daily schedule and helping them in developing disciplined approach to academics and life. The prescribed hour to hour daily routine of pre-matric hostels is given in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1		
Model Time Table in Hostels		
Time	Duration in Minutes	Activity
5:00 AM	30	Wake up
5.30 AM	30	Bed Coffee
6:00 AM	120	Study Time
8.30 am	30	Break Fast
9:00 AM		Proceed to school
4.30 PM	60	Tuition
6:00 PM	120	Study Time
8.30 PM	30	Dinner
9:00 PM		Prayer
9:00 PM	60	Study time
10:00 PM		Sleeping
Source: <i>Compiled from time tables of various hostels</i>		

The hostel warden is entrusted with the preparation and implementation of the daily time table to be followed by the inmates.³⁵ All hostels have fixed their time table for inmates from 5 am to 10 pm (except in Kasaragod District where it is up to 10.30 pm). Besides regular classes at school, 6 hours are scheduled for academic activities in the hostel, which include two hours each in the morning and evening, one hour at night and one hour of tuition. As is evident, the emphasis of this schedule is on academics, which the Study Team felt was too rigorous allowing very little time for relaxation, sports etc. As per rule 3 of the hostel rules for inmates, the students should be engaged in academic work from 6.30 to 8.30 AM in the morning and between 7.30 and 11 at night.³⁶ But almost all hostels switch off their lights by 10 or 10.30 pm.

5.3 Tuition System

Along with food and accommodation, the department also provides academic support to the hostel inmates of pre matric and post matric hostels. Tutors play a crucial role in providing academic support to the pre-matric students. The guidelines prescribe that tutors should be appointed for each subject according to the composition of the students. The tutors appointed in hostels are responsible to provide effective coaching to the inmates.³⁷

The government has given sanction to appoint assistant teachers from government or private secondary schools as tutors in the hostels. The selection and appointment of tutors is entrusted to the District Officer.³⁸ If teachers of

government or private institutions are not willing to take up tutorship, untrained graduates from outside are permitted to be appointed.³⁹ This provision has to be used sparingly, as unless the tutors selected to teach in the hostels are committed, well-qualified and trained, this intervention will not achieve its intended goal.

The Circular No. 27093/D1/90/SCSTDD dt.9.1.91 has given a number of instructions regarding the responsibilities of tutors. Tutors are required to handle the classes seriously and sincerely to ensure that the students are able to follow the lesson taught in the school. Tutors are instructed to assess the understanding level of students through oral tests and help them to do their homework. To give personal attention to each student, the tutor may divide the students into batches of 10 or so. They should also conduct weekly test papers, and model exams in every two months. Tutors are given a honorarium of Rs.4000/- for high school classes and Rs.3000/-for upper primary classes.⁴⁰ At present in pre matric hostels students are given tuition on six subjects, viz., English, Hindi, Mathematics, Social Studies, Natural Science and Physical Science. Resident Tutors are appointed in post matric hostels too. The opinion of students about tuition system is shown in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2					
Student Opinion on Tuition System in Hostels					
Level	Pre matric (Boys)	Pre matric (Girls)	Post matric (Boys)	Post matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Very Poor	-	1.7	2.4	-	1.4
Poor	5.3	-	4.9	-	2.2
Fair	5.3	12.1	12.2	-	9.4
Good	15.8	20.7	4.9	-	12.3
Excellent	73.7	60.3	12.2	-	39.1
No Response	-	5.2	63.4	100	35.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

Analysis of the Table 5.2 reveals that, the inmates in pre matric hostels are more in favour of the tuition system. 89.7 per cent of the inmates in pre matric boys hostel and 81 per cent from pre matric girls hostel opined that tuition support in hostels is a good/excellent system. Since no separate tuition teachers are appointed in post matric hostels except one resident tutor, the respondents from post matric

hostels could not properly respond to this question. The satisfaction of inmates in the support they get from tutors and resident tutor is shown in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3					
Student Opinion on Overall Support from Tutors in Hostels (%)					
Level	Pre matric (Boys)	Pre matric (Girls)	Post matric (Boys)	Post matric (Girls)	Total
Very Poor	-	-	15.5	1.4	4.9
Poor	-	-	6.9	-	2
Fair	10.5	6.9	3.4	11.6	7.8
Good	31.6	25.9	10.3	33.3	24.5
Excellent	47.4	63.8	32.8	10.1	35.3
No Response	10.5	3.4	31	43.5	25.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

Analysis of Table 5.3 reveals that 43.1 per cent of the respondents in post matric hostels opined that they receive good/excellent academic support from resident tutor. In post matric girls hostel it is 43.4 per cent. 31 per cent and 43.5 per cent of the respondents in post matric hostels for boys and girls respectively have not responded to this question. 22.4 per cent of respondents in post matric hostel for boys opined that the tutor support is poor.

As far as the pre matric hostels are concerned, 79 per cent of the respondents in boys hostels and 89.7 per cent from girls hostels opined that they receive good/excellent support from tutors. Since the above figure shows the cumulative performance of six tutors, the support of all tutors is not equally effective. It is reported by the inmates that some tutors are not taking their classes in time and in a systematic manner. The warden has to ensure that the instructions given in the above circulars regarding tutorship and the improvement of academic performance are strictly followed.

In one of the pre-matric hostel visited by the Study Team in Malappuram district, one tutor opined that special coaching in languages like English and Malayalam is required prior to giving tuition in other subjects due to the fact that the performance of students in languages is very poor.

5.4 Availability of Academic Facilities

In hostel life, apart from academic subjects, students learn many social skills such as how to interact with society, individuals and the outside world. Observing

others they improve their social skills like communication, dealing with others, time management and leadership qualities. With this purpose hostels arrange many extra facilities to its inmates to help them to keep in touch with the outside world. The availability of extra facilities in pre matric and post matric hostels is given in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4					
Availability of Individual Facilities in Hostels (%)					
Particular	Pre-matric (Boys)	Pre-matric (Girls)	Post-matric (Boys)	Post-matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Library	100	100	100	100	100
Computers	75	100	66.7	66.7	78.6
News papers	100	100	100	100	100
Magazines	50	75	100	100	78.6
Internet	75	50	33.3	66.7	57.1
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>					

Table 5.4 reveals that library and newspapers are available in all hostels but in around 50 per cent of the pre matric hostels magazines and journals are not available. Library facility is available in 91 per cent of hostels but computers at required level are not available in all hostels except pre matric girl's hostels. 57 per cent of hostels don't have internet facility for inmates.

5.4.1 Academic Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 5.5 shows the opinion of inmates in pre matric hostel for boys in the academic facilities provided.

Table 5.5						
Academic Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Library	-	-	5.3	5.3	57.9	31.6
Computers	-	-	28.6	28.6	7.1	35.7
News Papers	-	-	-	26.3	73.7	-
Magazines	-	-	-	-	-	100
Internet	-	-	-	-	-	100
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

As far as the hostel library is concerned 63.2 per cent of the respondents opined library is good/excellent and 31.6 per cent are not responded to this question. 35.7 per cent of the respondents are good opinion on computers and 35.7

per cent are unresponsive on computers. 100 per cent of respondents are opined good/excellent in newspapers available. The respondents have not reacted on the questions regarding magazines and internet facility.

5.4.2 Academic Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 5.6 shows the opinion of inmates in pre matric hostel for girls in the academic facilities provided. As far as the hostel library is concerned 87.9 per cent opined library is good/excellent. 65.5 per cent of the respondents are good opinion on computers and 100 per cent of respondents are opined good/excellent in newspapers available. 72.4 per cent of respondents are expressed good/excellent in magazines and 24.1 per cent of them are not responded to this question. Regarding internet facility, 6.8 per cent of respondents are expressed good/excellent and 69 per cent are not responded.

Table 5.6						
Academic Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Library	1.7	-	6.9	36.2	51.7	3.4
Computers	5.2	13.8	6.9	27.6	37.9	8.6
News Papers	-	-	-	13.8	86.2	-
Magazines	-	-	3.4	13.8	58.6	24.1
Internet	3.4	-	20.7	3.4	3.4	69.0
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

5.4.3 Academic Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 5.7 shows the opinion of inmates in post matric hostel for boys in the academic facilities provided.

Table 5.7						
Satisfaction on Academic Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Library	17.2	15.5	19	29.3	6.9	12.1
Computers	8.3	2.8	44.4	36.1	5.6	2.8
News Papers	-	-	8.6	32.8	55.2	3.4
Magazines	3.4	3.4	8.6	19	22.4	43.1
Internet	5.9	11.8	41.2	23.5	5.9	11.8
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

As far as the hostel library is concerned 32.7 per cent of the respondents opined poor and 36.2 per cent opined library is good/excellent. 41.7 per cent of the respondents have good opinion about computer facilities and 88 per cent of respondents are opined good/excellent regarding availability of newspapers in hostels. 41.4 per cent of respondents expressed good/excellent about magazines and 43.1 per cent of them did not respond to this question. Regarding internet facility, 29.4 per cent of respondents expressed the opinion: good/excellent.

5.4.4 Academic facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 5.8 shows the opinion of inmates in post matric hostel for girls in the academic facilities provided. As far as the hostel library is concerned 34.7 per cent of the respondents opined poor and 34.8 per cent opined library is good/excellent. 14.2 per cent of the respondents are good opinion on computers and 49 per cent are unresponsive on computers. 94.2 per cent of respondents are opined good/excellent in newspapers available. 42 per cent of respondents are expressed good/excellent in magazines and 29 per cent of them are not responded to this question. Regarding internet facility, 32.6 per cent of respondents are expressed poor and 67.4 per cent are unresponsive.

Table 5.8						
Academic Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Library	15.9	18.8	23.2	26.1	8.7	7.2
Computers	22.4	10.2	4.1	12.2	2	49
News Papers	-	2.9	2.9	37.7	56.5	-
Magazines	7.2	8.7	13	14.5	27.5	29
Internet	22.4	10.2	-	-	-	67.4
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

The overall analysis of academic facilities reveals that regarding library facility pre matric hostels are better than post matric hostels. The respondent satisfaction on library facility in post matric boys and girls hostels are 36.2 per cent and 34.8 per cent respectively whereas the same in pre matric boys and girls hostels are 63.2 per cent and 87.9 per cent respectively. In computer facility post matric girls hostels are less equipped (14.3%) than pre matric hostels for girls (65.5%). Its condition in post matric sand pre matric boys hostel is 41.7 per cent and 35.7 per cent respectively. Newspapers are available in all hostels but satisfaction on

magazine availability is post matric boys and girls hostels are 41.4 per cent and 42 per cent whereas in pre matric girls hostels it is 72.4 per cent and pre matric boys hostels no magazines are available. The internet facility has not provided in pre matric hostels. In this era of information communication technology, keeping hostels without computer and internet facility to its inmates may lead to a digital divide which may affect their academic performance.

5.5 Performance of Pre-matric hostellers in SSLC Examination

The hostel wardens are responsible to keep the records of the educational progress of each inmate. The Accountant General of Kerala, in its audit report pointed out the academic performance of pre-matric hostellers in SSLC examination during 2010-15 as shown in Table 5.9

Table 5.9 Academic Status of Inmates in Pre Matric Hostels															
Status	Palakkad			Kannur			Kollam			Thiruvananthapuram			Idukki		
	G*	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Appeared	167	238	405	91	53	144	91	83	174	48	58	106	90	68	158
Passed	157	222	379	89	52	141	83	72	155	48	52	100	89	65	154
Failed	10	16	26	2	1	3	8	11	19	0	6	6	1	3	4
Pass %	94	93	94	98	98	98	91	87	89	100	90	94	99	96	97
Source: Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on General and Social Sector for the Year ended march 2015, p.17. *G-Girls, B-Boys, T-Total															

The above report comments that,

‘the overall performance of the Pre-matric hostellers in the SSLC examination during 2010-15 in the test checked districts was equal to the State average of 95 per cent. The commendable performance of these Hostels is brought out below. The Pre-matric hostellers in Kannur and Idukki districts performed well in SSLC examination with the pass percentage exceeding the State average of 95 per cent. Though the Pre-matric hostellers in Palakkad, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts could attain pass percentage ranging from 89.08 to 94.34 per cent and did not attain the State average of 95 per cent, their performance was commendable when viewed against the fact that the pass percentage of SC students in the State during the period was only 89 per cent. Gender analysis

of the results during 2010-15 revealed that girls performed better than boys in the SSLC examinations. Against 93 per cent of the boys passing the SSLC examinations in the test checked districts, girls recorded 96 pass per cent. The girls in Pre-matric hostels in Thiruvananthapuram district achieved 100 pass per cent during these years. Except for Kannur district, girls consistently performed better than boys in the remaining test checked districts'

These comments have more relevance in the context of development/improvement of hostel facilities for SC students.

5.6 Career Development

Career development is the lifelong process through which the student comes to understand his place in both the world of work and in the society. The quality of a person's career development can impact her/his educational, occupational and lifestyle choices and outcomes. The academic training given to a SC student cannot be completed unless he/she has proper knowledge about his/her career to be achieved. The facilities for career development in pre matric and post matric hostels are shown in Table 5.10.

Table 5.10					
Availability of Individual Facilities in Hostels (%)					
Particular	Pre-matric (Boys)	Pre-matric (Girls)	Post- matric (Boys)	Post-matric (Girls)	Hostel Total
Study Environment	100	100	100	100	100
Language Lab	100	100	66.7	33.3	78.6
Mentoring	50	100	100	33.3	71.4
Counselling	25	75	66.7	-	42.9
Career Guidance	75	100	66.7	-	64.3
Source: Opinion Survey					

Analyzing the overall status of the availability of career development facilities to inmates, it is revealed that except study environment, there is no other career development, counselling and mentoring programmes that are made available to the inmates. There is standing instruction to make arrangements for spoken English and Hindi classes for inmates. In all hostels no facility is available for spoken English/Hindi classes. Arrangements for any kind of mentoring is not available in 57 per cent of hostels and 36 per cent of hostels lack counselling and career

guidance. The status of student satisfaction on these arrangements is given in the following paragraphs.

5.6.1 Study and Career Development Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 5.11 shows the student satisfaction on study and career development facilities available in pre matric hostels for boys. 84.3 per cent of the respondents opined that the study environment of the hostel is good/excellent and 10.5 per cent are not responded. Regarding mentoring programmes, 87.5 per cent of respondents are opined good/excellent. 80 per cent of the inmates are not responded to counselling programmes and 20 per cent opined it is poor. Regarding career guidance, 50 per cent of the respondents are unresponsive and 43.8 per cent opined good/excellent.

Table 5.11						
Study and Career Development Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Study Environment	-	-	5.3	21.1	63.2	10.5
Mentoring	-	-	12.5	25	62.5	-
Counselling	-	20	-	-	-	80
Career Guidance	-	-	6.3	18.8	25	50
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

5.6.2 Study and Career Development Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 5.12 shows the student satisfaction on study and career development facilities available in pre matric hostels for girls.

Table 5.12						
Study and Career Development Facilities in Pre Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Study Environment	-	3.4	5.2	58.6	32.8	-
Mentoring	1.7	1.7	13.8	34.5	43.1	5.2
Counselling	3.8	11.5	1.9	30.8	32.7	19.2
Career Guidance	8.6	10.3	5.2	25.9	25.9	24.1
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

91.4 per cent of the respondents opined that the study environment of the hostel is good/excellent. Regarding mentoring programmes, 77.3 per cent are opined good/excellent and 3.4 per cent are opined poor. 19.2 per cent of the inmates are not responded to counselling programmes and 15.3 per cent opined it is poor and 63.5 per cent are opined good. Regarding career guidance, 24.1 per cent of the respondents are unresponsive and 51.8 per cent opined good/excellent and 18.9 per cent expressed poor opinion.

5.6.3 Study and Career Development Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 5.13 shows the student satisfaction on study and career development facilities available in post matric hostels for boys. 43.1 per cent of the respondents opined that the study environment of the hostel is good/excellent and 29.3 per cent are not responded. Regarding mentoring programmes, 62.1 per cent of respondents are unresponsive and 10.3 per cent are opined good/excellent and 17.3 per cent are opined poor. 51.2 per cent of the inmates are not responded to counselling programmes and 29.5 per cent opined it is poor and only 14.6 per cent are opined good. Regarding career guidance, 61 per cent of the respondents are unresponsive and 9.7 per cent opined good/excellent and 22 per cent expressed poor opinion.

Table 5.13						
Study and Career Development Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Study Environment	3.4	5.2	19	27.6	15.5	29.3
Mentoring	5.2	12.1	10.3	6.9	3.4	62.1
Counselling	14.6	4.9	14.6	12.2	2.4	51.2
Career Guidance	17.1	4.9	7.3	7.3	2.4	61

Source: *Opinion Survey*

5.6.4 Study and Career Development Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 5.14 shows the student satisfaction on study and career development facilities available in post matric hostels for girls. 42.9 per cent of the respondents opined that the study environment of the hostel is good/excellent and 14.5 per cent are not responded. Regarding mentoring programmes, 70 per cent of respondents are unresponsive and 10.3 per cent no one is opined good/excellent and 10 per cent

are opined poor. Inmates have not responded to counselling programmes and career guidance.

Table 5.14						
Study and Career Development Facilities in Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Particulars	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Study Environment	10.1	13	17.4	37.7	7.2	14.5
Mentoring	6.7	3.3	20	-	-	70
Counselling	-	-	-	-	-	-
Career Guidance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

Overall analysis of the study and career development facilities provided in hostels reveals that, the study environment is better in pre matric hostels than post matric hostels may be because of the location of the hostel. The student satisfaction in post matric boys and girls hostels is 43.1 per cent and 44.9 per cent respectively but in pre matric boys and girls hostels it is 84.2 per cent and 91.4 per cent respectively. Mentoring programmes in post matric boy's hostels are opined good by only 10.3 per cent of respondents and no such programmes in post matric girls hostels. The student satisfaction on counselling programmes in post matric boy's hostels is 14.6 per cent and in pre matric girl's hostels is 63.5 per cent. No such programmes are conducted in post matric girls and pre matric boy's hostels. Post matric hostels lack career guidance programmes, in boys hostel its satisfaction level is only 9.8 per cent and no such programmes in girls hostels. The participants of the survey have expressed that the library is not accessible, lack of effective academic support, absence of information on employment opportunities etc.

5.7 Hostel Security

Hostels, especially for girls, are considered by their parents, as a safe and secure place under direct care of the government where they can confidently send their children. The hostel is most preferred by households where both parents are working who will be forced to leave their girl children alone at home. In many cases, their houses are not strong or safe enough, and some are only partially completed. In all these cases, hostels offer an ideal and safe place for their children to pursue studies.

RIGHTS in their report, reveals some serious security concerns in hostels. As per their report, in 29 per cent pre matric hostels there are no compound walls. 15 per cent hostels for girls also do not have compound walls. Lack of compound walls raises concern about the safety of the girls in the hostels.⁴¹

The pre-matric hostels for girls at Shoranur and Mundur in Palakkad district accommodated 123 and 190 students respectively during 2010-15. Government had stipulated that no outsider shall be allowed into the hostel premises.⁴² Audit noticed that the hostels were being used for various activities like conduct of meetings, etc., with outsiders as participants who impinged on the safety and security of the children. These girls hostels are used for inadmissible activities such as ward level meeting by local governments, running Autism centre promoted by the SSA, conducting examination for general public on the terrace of hostel building that can be accessed only through the staircase inside the building and no separate toilet for watchman who had to use the toilet facility available inside the hostel thereby intruding on the privacy of the girl inmates of the hostel.⁴³ It is observed by the study team that there is no separate cabin for night watchman in hostels.

CHAPTER 6

HOSTEL GOVERNANCE

Hostels constitute one of the most important institutional interventions of the department in the educational sector. The District Development Officer (SC) of the district in which the hostel is situated is the controlling authority of the hostel and responsible for its efficient administration and welfare of the inmates.⁴⁴ It is the department that appoints staff for the effective functioning of hostels. The Table 6.1 shows the staff pattern in the hostel.

Table 6.1			
Staff Pattern in the Hostels			
Pre Matric Hostel		Post Matric Hostel	
Designation	No. of Posts	Designation	No. of Posts
Warden	1	Resident Tutor	1
Cooks	2	Steward	1
Part Time Sweeper	1	Cook	1
Watchman/Security	1	Mess Boys/Girls	2
		Part Time Sweepers	2
		Watchman/Security	1

6.1 Duties of Hostel Staff

The main duties of hostel staffs are fixed as per G.O (P) 161 dt.16/2/61, which was further modified after 30 years. In 1992 a modified circular regarding the duties of hostel staff was issued.⁴⁵ As per that circular 42 duties are entrusted with warden which include all correspondence, preparation of bills, periodical returns, progress reports, maintenance of stock registers etc. Besides, the Warden is responsible for all financial transactions including mess and purchase food materials and keeps proper registers such as stock register of provision, daily issue register, monthly mess charge statement register, students educational progress register, movement register etc. Though warden is responsible for the wellbeing of the inmates, the tutor is responsible for giving effective guidance to the inmates in their studies and to exercise disciplinary controls. 18 duties are entrusted to cook who is in charge of all cooking arrangements in accordance with prescribed menu. The

cook is the custodian of all vessels, kitchen fixtures and furniture and is responsible for the distribution of meals in prescribed time. The cook should wear uniform during duty time and physical cleanliness is mandatory before preparing food. Ten duties are prescribed for watchman who should be in uniform while on duty. Watchman has joint responsibility of keeping hostel articles and to carry out local deliveries of correspondence. The sweeper is responsible to clean all rooms twice a day and dining hall after meals and keep toilets and bathroom clean and neat.

The service of the Warden is required round the clock without any break. Such unrealistic schedule makes the duty of warden difficult. In most of the hostels warden stays along with students, however, in some hostels it was noticed that the hostel wardens were not staying in hostels at night which is against the directions issued by the SCDD in August 1997. The non-availability of wardens in hostels at night indicates lack of care and supervision to children apart from exposing them to avoidable risks.⁴⁶ But the post of warden, being a single-person on duty 24 Hours X 7 Days in a week, it is impossible for the wardens to stay in the hostel throughout the month.

There are 86 warden posts in pre matric hostels all over Kerala, among them only 42 of them are permanent staff appointed through PSC and 44 are temporary workers appointed in daily wages. The main problems being faced by wardens are their round the clock duty time, no scope for promotion in service, discrepancies in salary structure and non-attractive designation of their post. At present a warden has to work 24 hours in six days in a week which negatively affects employee efficiency and productivity in hostel functioning. Secondly unlike other posts in government service, wardens in pre matric hostels have no promotional post and have to be retired in the same post which he/she was appointed. The stewards who are in charge of post matric hostels and even Class IV officials enjoy promotions and subsequent retirement benefits which are denied to wardens. Thirdly the Warden and the Lower Division Clerk in the SCDD are appointed with identical scale of pay. But clerks are eligible for promotion with high scale of pay whereas Wardens have the opportunity to get only a higher grade during his tenure of service. Fourthly, the name of the post as Warden is not seen attractive which needs to be changed. At present the basic qualification for warden post is SSLC. Since wardens

are engaged not only in hostel management but clerical and accounting jobs too, the basic qualification for the appointment of wardens needs to be upgraded.

6.2 Hostel Inspection

The District Development Officer for SC, earlier the District Welfare Officer, of the district in which the hostel is situated is the controlling authority of the hostel and is responsible for the administration and welfare of the inmates. In 1960, government directed the District Officer to inspect the hostel as often as possible, at least once in a fortnight to ensure the satisfactory functioning of the hostel. The then Taluk Welfare Officer (at present Block SCDO) was directed to inspect the hostel not less than once in a week.⁴⁷ But in 1992, vide circular Edu.B3.PDL/92/92 dt.8.12.92, the Director, SCDD has noticed that hostel inspections were not carried out properly by the officers; consequently, they were instructed to conduct inspection twice a month and submit their report before 5th of every month. But the same remark is repeated by the AG in 2015, which says that “scrutiny of the visitor’s diary in the hostel at Alanellur in Palakkad revealed that the DDO had never visited the Pre-matric hostel during 2010-15.”⁴⁸

6.3 Hostel Advisory Committees

Since 1990, for identifying the drawbacks and initiating corrective steps, a hostel advisory committee was constituted in each hostel.⁴⁹ The hostel advisory committees are directed to conduct a meeting once in two months and the convener should submit a report to the Director, SCDD regarding the management of the hostel.

The structure of hostel advisory committees for pre matric and post matric hostels is given in Table 6.2 and 6.3 respectively.

Table 6.2		
Structure of Hostel Advisory Committee in Pre Matric Hostels		
1	Block Panchayat President/Municipal Chairman	Chairman
2	Block/Municipal/Corporation SCDO	Convener
3	Members of State Advisory/District Advisory committee of that Place	Member
4	Block Development Officer (Secretary, Block Panchayat)	Member
5	One Woman member of respective Municipality/Block Panchayat (in Girls hostel only)	Member
6	Ward Member	Member
7	Medical Officer of the nearest hospital	Member
8	One representative of the inmates	Member

Table 6.3		
Structure of Hostel Advisory Committee in Post Matric Hostels		
1	Sub collector/R.D.O	Chairman
2	District SCDO	Convener
3	Members of State Advisory/District Advisory committee of that Place	Member
4	Corporation Councilor / Panchayat President	Member
5	One Woman member of respective Corporation/Municipality/Panchayat (in Girls hostel only)	Member
6	Medical Officer of the nearest hospital	Member
7	One representative of the inmates	Member

The subjects to be discussed in the meeting of hostel advisory committee are as follows:

- (1) The space availability and security of hostel
- (2) Availability of drinking water
- (3) Availability of electricity
- (4) Food-quantity and quality
- (5) Distribution of cloths, bed sheet, towel, soap, oil etc
- (6) Distribution of text books and note books
- (7) Working of hostel library
- (8) Entertainment activities
- (9) Arts and sports activities
- (10) Availability of tuition
- (11) Profitable purchase of articles for hostel
- (12) Issues of inmates
- (13) Health and sanitation issues

6.4 Support of Hostel Staff

A warm and healthy mutual relationship between the hostel inmates and staff is essential for the effective functioning of hostels. It is all the more crucial in the case of hostels located in isolated places. As far as the inmates in pre matric and post matric hostels are concerned, their total development depends on the education, habits, socialization etc they received during their hostel life. To equip them with proper academic aspirations and social qualities the role and support from the hostel staff is crucial. Following paragraphs reveal the opinions of students about the support they receive from hostel staff.

6.4.1 Support from Hostel Staff – Pre Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 6.4 show the opinion of students of pre matric hostels for boys about the support they receive from hostel staff. Regarding Warden, 94.7 per cent of the respondents opined good/excellent. 79 per cent of the respondents opined that the services of the tutors are good/excellent. 57.9 per cent of the students are opined good/excellent about cook and 84.2 per cent about watchman.

Table 6.4						
Support from Hostel Staff – Pre Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Designation	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Warden	-	-	5.3	36.8	57.9	-
Tutors	-	-	10.5	31.6	47.4	10.5
Cooks	-	15.8	21.1	26.3	31.6	5.3
Watchman	-	-	15.8	26.3	57.9	-
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

6.4.2 Support from Hostel Staff – Pre Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 6.5 show the opinion of students of pre matric hostels for girls about the support they receive from hostel staff.

Table 6.5						
Support from Hostel Staff – Pre Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Designation	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Warden	12.1	1.7	10.3	29.3	46.6	-
Tutors	-	-	6.9	25.9	63.8	3.4
Cooks	-	-	6.9	36.2	55.2	1.7
Watchman	10.3	-	1.7	19	65.5	3.4
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

Regarding Warden, 75.9 per cent of the respondents opined good/excellent and 13.8 per cent of the students expressed their opinion as poor. 89.7 per cent of the respondents opined that the service of the tutors is good/excellent. 91.4 per cent of the students are opined good/excellent about cook and 74.5 per cent about watchman. Like in other hostels mentioned earlier, the services of the cook and watchman are found to be more satisfactory to the students compared to that of wardens and tutors.

6.4.3 Support from Hostel Staff – Post Matric Hostels for Boys

Table 6.6 shows the opinion of students of post matric hostels for boys about the support they receive from hostel staff. 43.1 per cent of the respondents opined that the service of the resident tutor is good/excellent while 22.4 per cent reported it as poor. 31 per cent of the respondents did not answer to the query. Regarding stewards, 46.9 per cent of the respondents opined good/excellent and 12 per cent of the students expressed their opinion as poor. 53.4 per cent of the students opined good/excellent about the services of the cooks and 63.8 per cent about the watchmen. The services of the cooks and watchmen are found to be more satisfactory according to the students compared to the services of tutors and stewards.

Table 6.6						
Support from Hostel Staff – Post Matric Hostels for Boys (%)						
Designation	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Resident Tutor	15.5	6.9	3.4	10.3	32.8	31
Steward	8.6	3.4	5.2	19	37.9	25.9
Cooks	12.1	5.2	17.2	36.2	17.2	12.1
Watchman	12.1	10.3	8.6	32.8	31	5.2
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

6.4.4 Support from Hostel Staff – Post Matric Hostels for Girls

Table 6.7 shows the opinion of students of post matric hostels for girls about the support they receive from hostel staff.

Table 6.7						
Support from Hostel Staff – Post Matric Hostels for Girls (%)						
Designation	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	No Response
Resident Tutor	1.4	-	11.6	33.3	10.1	43.5
Steward	2.9	4.3	4.3	21.7	8.7	58
Cooks	2.9	4.3	14.5	40.6	30.4	7.2
Watchman	10.1	2.9	14.5	36.2	30.4	5.8
Source: <i>Opinion Survey</i>						

43.4 per cent of the respondents opined that the services of the resident tutor is good/excellent and only 1.4 per cent opined the service poor. 43.5 per cent of the respondents did not respond to the query about service of the resident tutor. Regarding stewards, 30.4 per cent of the respondents opined good/excellent and 7.2 per cent of the students expressed their opinion as poor and 58 per cent of the

respondents did not respond. 71 per cent of the students opined good/excellent about cook and 66.6 per cent about watchman. The services of the cook and watchman were considered by the students as more satisfactory compared to the tutor and steward.

Overall analysis of the opinions of students on the support of hostel staff shows, the service of stewards in post matric hostels for boys (56.9%) is comparatively better than in post matric girl's hostels (30.4%). In the opinion of the students, the tutors in the pre matric hostels are delivering good service (girls 78.9% and boys 89.7%) than the resident tutors in the post matric hostels (boys 43.1% and girls 43.5%). The service of cooks in girl's hostels (post matric 71% and pre matric 91.4%) is comparatively better than in boy's hostels (post matric 53.4% and pre matric 57.9%). It is same in the case of watchman too (post matric boys 63.8%, post matric girls 66.7%, pre matric boys 84.2% and pre matric girls 84.5%). Even though these three types of staff are engaged in administrative work including the maintenance of discipline, students are almost satisfied with their support, which is indicative of their attitude and commitment. But the survey also reveals that in 87 per cent of hostels complaint book is not available to inmates.

The study team has received some negative remarks from inmates about the behaviour and style of working of some hostel staff.

The poor opinion about tutors is something to be taken serious note of. It was commonly found that with regard to the quantity and quality of food, the hostel staffs were adhering to the specified standards and norms. This is also a matter that is often monitored both by inspecting officers and a source of easy complaint by inmates. So this area is given extra care to prevent anomalies and decrease in quality standards. But with regard to academics, there is no proper and regular monitoring from higher authorities, despite several instructions in this regard. As a result, in many hostels, it is adhered to in the most mechanical manner without any serious commitment and with any specific targets about improvement in the academic performance and results of the inmates.



In some hostels, beds are not in good condition

CHAPTER 7

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study explored the present status of pre matric and post matric hostels under Scheduled Castes Development Department and the impact of hostel life and facilities on the academic, personal and social development of hostel students. It highlighted the experiences, opinion of the hostel students and the facilities and arrangements provided by the Department for them. It also highlights the gender sensitivity of hostels. The level of student satisfaction about hostel accommodation was also analysed.

7.1 Summary

The earlier chapters presented detailed analysis the various aspects of functioning of hostels. The following section summarises the major strengths and weaknesses of hostels followed by recommendations. The summary of the points discussed in previous chapters is as follows:

7.1.1 Hostel Infrastructure

Regarding the hostel infrastructure, the major areas examined are the location of hostel, its proximity to educational institutions, mode of conveyance of students, size of building and extent of hostel land, age of buildings, infrastructure facilities available, room space, hostel maintenance, individual and common facilities available to inmates etc. Most of the hostels are located in accessible areas but some of them are located in remote and not easily accessible areas. The average land available to a hostel is 35 cents and only 10 per cent of hostel buildings are more than 30 years old. 42 per cent of the inmates go to the educational institutions by walk and in 65 per cent of hostels study room facility is not available. The present status of infrastructure facilities is in good condition but in some hostels overcrowding of inmates is observed. Fire extinguishers are not available in 82 per cent of hostels and inmates are almost satisfied with the hostel maintenance except plumbing and electrical works. The overall rating of infrastructure facilities in pre matric and post matric hostels is near to above average (60.9%) and 8.7 per cent

hostels are above average in hostel maintenance. The infrastructure facilities in the hostels, where they are lacking, have to be improved considerably.

7.1.2 Food, Health and Discipline

In this part mess allowance rate, quantity and quality of food and kitchen service, health check-up of inmates, gender sensitivity in hostels, availability of medicines, waste management system and the general rules for conduct of inmates have been examined. Due to the increase of 18 per cent of consumer price index, mess allowance is not sufficient. 87 per cent of students are satisfied with the quantity and 57 per cent are satisfied with the quality of food. In 78 per cent of hostels medicines and first aid kits are not available. In 78 per cent of girl's hostels sanitary pads and 91 per cent of hostels incinerator are available. 70 per cent of the hostels have waste management system but 70 per cent of hostels are not keeping waste bins outside to make the premises clean. 43 per cent of inmates are not satisfied with toilet hygiene and in 90 per cent of hostels regular room cleaning is going on. The overall rating of food, health and discipline of hostels is concerned, 34.8 per cent of hostels are above average and 43.5 per cent are average level of working.

Measures have to be adopted to achieve 100 per cent rating with regard to food, health, hygiene, discipline etc in all the hostels.

7.1.3 Academics

This section examines the academic arrangement for inmates in hostels, their daily schedule, tutorship, availability of academic facilities, performance of students, arrangements for career development, hostel security etc. 100 per cent of the hostels work in their own time schedule for inmates and tutors are arranged for six subjects in all hostels and 81 per cent of the students are benefitted from the tuition system. 91 per cent of the hostels are equipped with library but 87 per cent of hostels lack computer and internet facility. Though newspapers are available in all hostels, 70 per cent of the hostels lack magazines and journals. In 91 per cent of the hostels there are no systematic arrangements for counselling and career guidance.

7.1.4 Hostel Security

Regarding security, 83 per cent of hostels lack fire extinguishers and watchman cabin. In overall assessment of academic support and security 60 per cent of the hostels are below average and only 5 per cent are above average.

The overall arrangement of academic support and security reveals that majority of the hostels are below average. The drawbacks have to be rectified for which separate initiatives are required.

7.1.5 Hostel Governance

Regarding hostel governance the duties of hostel staff, their support to students, hostel inspection, working of hostel advisory committees etc are examined. Hostel staff has prescribed responsibilities and the system of proper maintenance of records and monitoring of functioning are available. Regular hostel inspections are not being carried out and hostel advisory committee meetings are to be conducted regularly. The support of hostel staff to students is 65 per cent, among the staff the support from tutors is high (81%). The overall functioning of governance seem average (43.5%) and 17 per cent of hostels are above average.

7.1.6 Overall Satisfaction Level

The primary stakeholders of pre matric and post matric hostels are students who availed the facilities. Their experiences and satisfaction are the prime parameters to assess the effectiveness of hostel. The satisfaction level of various indicators analysed in the former chapters are compiled and levelled to a single scale and derived the overall satisfaction level which is shown in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1				
Overall Satisfaction Level of Functioning of Hostels				
Particulars	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Total
Hostel Infrastructure	39.13	60.87	-	100
Material Provisions	8.7	47.83	43.48	100
Hostel Maintenance	30.43	60.87	8.7	100
Availability of Miscellaneous Items*	65.22	30.43	4.35	100
Food, Health and Discipline	65.22	30.43	4.35	100
Support from Hostel Staff	39.13	43.48	17.39	100
Academic Support	82.6	13	4.4	100
Allowances	52.17	26.09	21.74	100
*Newspaper, waste bin etc.				

The analysis of the above table shows that the overall functioning is generally average which means the satisfaction level is almost good but not excellent. The self-assessment of the inmates shows 82 per cent of them are satisfied with the

facilities provided for academic improvement and they rate the overall facility of hostel with 91.3 marks.

7.2 STRENGTHS OF HOSTELS

(1) Time-Tested Norms and Guidelines

The rules, norms and guidelines regarding the Time Schedule for daily routine of hostel residents, food menu, tutor support etc that is applicable across the state in all hostels are designed and structured by taking into account the overall needs of the students. They are time-tested and have been evolved by the Department through years of hostel governance experience. It leaves minimum or no scope for discretion or manipulation of the structure of the schemes and their execution at the unit level, thus not allowing any dilution of the vision of the government in this regard. The need to adhere to such strict rules and norms in many ways minimizes discretion, enforces transparency and ensures the maintenance of fixed standards in facilities and services offered to the students. This also empowers the hostel inmates to demand these facilities as their rights.

(2) Buildings

Almost all the hostels in the State have good infrastructure in terms of buildings and kitchen facilities. Majority of the hostels were constructed before 2007 that is prior to the period under study. Except for plumbing and electricity, there are very few issues relating to the structure of the building. Some of the hostels like Thana in Kannur (1963) and Changanassery in Kottayam (1956) are more than half a century old. However in two places (Ernakulum and Kannur) the delay in demolition of old and unstable buildings has led to complaints about safety.

(3) Proximity to Schools

Among the pre-matric hostels visited by the Study Team, almost 90 per cent of the hostels are located in close proximity to the schools of the inmates

(4) Fixed Daily Routine and Time Table

The hour-to-hour daily routine for the inmates in pre-matric hostels and a general time table for post-matric hostels are being followed by these institutions. This enables a great deal in structuring the daily life of a student: fixed time to wake up and sleep, for food, recreation, study etc, and contributes to the inmate's character formation, personality development and time management.

(5) Balanced and Healthy Diet

The food menu that is designed for the hostels is uniform across the State, is balanced and healthy and is strictly adhered to. The Study Team never encountered with any serious complaints about the quality or quantity of food, though there were some suggestions about alternative items in the evening menu (snacks). This shows that food served in hostels is of good quality and the kitchen services maintain satisfactory levels. The hostel staffs are also very alert about quality of food as it is most prone to complaints and protest. Any complaint regarding quality of food is readily picked by media, and often sensationalized, so the staffs too are very vigilant.

However, the Mess Committee in every hostel has to become more vigilant so as to avoid any simple incidents of disappointment among the inmates. And also periodic revision of mess allowance to commensurate with the increase in Consumer Price Index has to be ensured.

(6) Dedicated Hostel Crew

The staffs including the warden, steward, cook, tutors, watchmen/women, mess boys/girls and others are generally committed to their jobs that are incommensurate with their perquisites. While the administrative staff and students come and go, most of service staff have many years of experience in the same institution, thus identify with it more closely.

(7) Sustained Academic Support

Each pre-matric hostel has prescribed number of tutors to assist the students in their studies. These tuitions help the student to revise and re-learn the lessons taught at school and to improve his/her academic performance. In many hostels, the Study Team met with a number of tutors who went out of the way to mentor the students and give them personal attention. This group of tutors across the state is a resource that holds great potential in contributing to the improvement of academic performance of the students.

In order to ensure the persistency in the performance of tutors, frequent intervention by the Warden/Steward is essentially required.

(8) Earmarked Funds

Sufficient funds for each head of expenditure involved in the day to day functioning of the hostels including purchases of provisions for kitchen, payment of water and electricity charges, etc have been earmarked and allocated. These items of

expenditure are also revised periodically taking into account inflation and price hikes. Hence, there are no hindrances for hostel authorities in availing the same from the respective Scheduled Castes Block/District Development Offices.

(9) Safe and Secure Space

Hostels, especially for girls, are considered as safe and secure place under direct care of the government where the parents can confidently send their children. The hostel is most preferred by households where both parents are working, who will be forced to leave their girl children alone at home. In many cases, their houses are not strong or safe enough and some are only partially completed. In all these cases, hostels offer an ideal and safe place for their children to pursue studies.

(10) Quiet Place to Study

As mentioned earlier, many of the houses from which students come do not have enough private and quiet space/room for children to keep their books and study materials. Hostels provide both enough space and strict timings that help the inmates to dedicate fixed time for studies and the atmosphere for concentration. The time table for study routine in the hostels structure the learning habits of the inmates and along with the help of tutors, help to improve their learning capacity. In the case of girls, they are free from any other household work at the hostel; in the case of boys, it prompts them to be more disciplined and serious.

(11) Solar Energy Initiative

During the last decade, one major initiative to reduce energy costs in hostels was to install solar panels in hostels. Many hostels have installed the same and are benefitting from the same by reducing electricity bills and in ensuring power supply during shortage of power supply. Some hostels reported that after installation by Keltron, there has been no regular maintenance, leading to its non-use. The installation authorities of solar panels have to be forced to ensure proper upkeep and maintenance of the system.

7.3 WEAKNESSES IDENTIFIED

The major areas of weakness consist of infrastructure, food and education facilities. During the last so many years, the focus of attention of the administration about the quality of the hostels is on the first two items. The media too have focused on failings in these areas. Sadly, the quality of education, academic

performance and mentoring of students receive scant attention. Similar is the case with improvement and strengthening of human resources intended to improve academic performance of the inmates.

7.3.1 Infrastructure

(1) Annual Repairs and Maintenance

Though the building structures of the hostels are strong and robust, due to lack of regular maintenance and repairs, many of them are in a very bad condition. Cracks, leakages, rusting, damage of wooden doors/windows, kitchen etc are common problems, leading to dissatisfaction on the part of inmates and also kitchen staff. The electrical fittings in many hostels are in a bad state due to lack of repairs and replacement, and it needs to be addressed urgently. Similar is the case with plumbing works. Annual maintenance of buildings, prompt repair and replacement of electrical fittings, regular inspection in plumbing arrangements, replacement of old and broken kitchen wares and vessels etc have to be carried out.

(2) Distance to School

Wherever the distance from the school is considerable, the strength/occupancy of the hostels and demand for it is less. So, location of the hostel (proximity to school, transport facilities etc) is crucial to its successful and optimal functioning.

(3) Limited Land

The land area in which the hostels are located does not often provide for further expansion or establishment of extra facilities like playground etc.

(4) Cabin for Night Watchmen

A separate cabin for night watchmen near the gate is essential for the safety and security of the hostel. In one case, it was found that for lack of a separate cabin, the watchman was staying inside the girls' hostel.

(5) Rented Building

There are very few hostels where buildings are rented. Such buildings are often not built to run hostels and lack adequate facilities.

Intensive efforts have to be initiated for acquisition of land and construction of buildings for hostel which are functioning in rented buildings.

(6) Room Space/Facilities

In many hostels the essential facilities to be provided like table, chair, cot, mattress, sheets etc meet required standards. In some hostels the mattresses are in bad shape, as they have been used for many years. As far as room space for each student is concerned, there are cases of overcrowding that doesn't allow each student to have minimum private space of one's own. In one hostel in Palakkad the Study Team visited it was found that, though the hostel had two floors all the inmates were accommodated in one floor, for the convenience of management and also lack of staff to manage, clean and maintain two floors. Such practices, especially keeping idle the available space, which is a scarce resource, have to be discontinued.

7.3.2 Human Resources

(7) Warden – No Career Prospects and Unrealistic Duty Norms

The post of the warden has become the least attractive as there is no career advancement in this job. The warden joins service and retires from it in the same post. Moreover 24 x 6 hours job without any substitute. On the day of leave, the watchman or cook is entrusted with his/her job. All this leads to a lack of motivation and morale on the part of those who occupy this post.

Since Warden and LDC are appointed in same scale of pay with same basic qualifications, the wardens who qualified required departmental tests may be considered to promote as UDC.

The name of the post 'Warden' may be changed as 'Hostel Administrative Officer' or 'Hostel Manager' and the basic educational qualification of warden may be upgraded from SSLC to Graduation.

The scale of pay of Wardens to the promotional posts should be on par with the scale of pay of LDC in their promotional posts.

(8) Untutored Tutors

Tutors play a crucial role in providing academic support to the pre-matric students. The guidelines prescribe the number of tutors to be appointed for each subject according to the composition of the students. But the quality, commitment and performance of the tutors vary widely between hostels and also individually. As most of the students in these hostels come from difficult situations, and very often disturbed families, they need more care and attention. Many tutors reported to the Study Team that students, even those studying in high school, were not capable of

writing a simple sentence in Malayalam without mistake! Hence these students pose a big challenge to these tutors, who have to look after their language and comprehension capabilities apart from covering the prescribed syllabus. These students have to be given individual care and coaching. So, unless the tutors selected to teach in the hostels are committed, well-qualified and trained, this intervention will not achieve its intended goal.

7.3.3 Academic Performance

(9) Need for Counseling

Many of the students in the hostels come from underprivileged, single-parent, or broken families. Some of them are also first generation literates with no one to help at home or their locality. All this calls for special care and attention to mentor and lead them to the methods and techniques of learning. They need psychological counselling and personality development sessions to improve their socializing capabilities, sense of self and vision about future.

(10) Mentoring and Career Guidance

As mentioned above, most of the inmates in the hostel require individual care and mentoring to help them focus on studies, improve their academic performance and achieve better results. Tutors at present neither have the orientation nor the time to mentor their students.

(11) Regular Health Check-up and First Aid

Though periodical health check-up is mandatory, it is adhered to only by some hostels. First Aid kits are also not kept in hostels to meet any medical contingencies. Periodic medical check-ups and installation of first aid kits in all hostels should be mandatory.

(12) Common Facilities

Facilities like television with cable connection, Computer with internet, indoor games, outdoor games etc are not uniform across hostels. While some hostels provide all these, in many hostels only indoor games like caroms and chess are the only available extracurricular facility. There are also many hostels where the computer is kept idle as it is not working; internet connections are very rarely active. Likewise, television is not functional in many hostels and only a few hostels have cable or dish connection. As far as playground facilities are concerned, lack of space

is the crucial factor that limits providing for it. No new games or extracurricular facilities are added or planned to be added.

Many students in post-matric hostels have to depend on internet browsing and computer facility to do their course work and assignments. Without such facilities at the hostel, they have to depend on outside agencies for the same and also have to find enough money to get their work done.

Television with cable connection and computer with internet should be mandatory in all hostels. These facilities should also be functional throughout without interruption.

7.3.4 Governance

(13) Fund Flow Management

After decentralization, pre-matric hostels have been transferred to the local governments. Though it has been handed over, they are manned and managed by the officials of SCDD. But the funds are transferred from SCDD to the concerned local government, for meeting the expenditures as per requirements. In effect, funds transferred by SCDD to the local government are channelized back to the Department for meeting recurring expenses and executing the work. This leads to additional work load, delays in fund transfer and bottlenecks in government since it has to adhere to all the rules and procedures of local administration. Moreover, timely disbursement of funds to institutions is not given top priority by the local government. This was a major complaint raised by officials in charge of hostels in SCDD.

The solution suggested is that the pre matric hostels may be retransferred to the SCDD.

7.3.5 General

(14) Parents Meeting

The active participation of the parents of hostel inmates will greatly help in improving the efficiency of hostels, by functioning as a forum to discuss day to day issues and to solve problems if any. In many hostels, parents' meetings are not held regularly, or minutes kept properly. Even in cases where parents meeting are convened, the attendance of parents is very minimal, due to distance to the hostel or lack of effective communication. Moreover, the parent will have to forego a day's wages to attend such meetings, which many are unwilling or cannot afford.

7.4 THREATS OBSERVED

(1) Loss of Goodwill Gained So far

Though goodwill is an intangible asset for any institution, it becomes more important in the case of SC hostels because it is established to achieve a national agenda of development of the under developed. Hence its infrastructure, staff, security, care, academic arrangements, food etc are expected to play a significant role in community development by consistently increasing the intake of students and enhancing the facilities with changing times. But some problems like inadequate infrastructure, lack of timely maintenance, lack of proper tutoring and mentoring, unclean toilets, unhealthy relations of officials and inmates etc that prevail in some hostels negatively affect the goodwill of hostels which may cause a decrease in the intake of good students. There have been many media reports about the quality of food and lack of basic facilities etc. Such reports create a negative impression among the public about SC hostels, even though their quality and standards are much higher than hostels in the private sector. It only shows that SC hostels have to take extra care to live up to the expectations of the community, the Department as well as the general public.

(2) Negative Publicity

The functioning of the hostel, its staffs and inmates may be tarnished by negative publicity the cause of which may be very routine and ordinary. Since majority of the students in SC hostels are teenagers, adverse publicity like alcoholism, smoking, indiscipline etc may lead to potentially harmful consequences affecting the good reputation of the hostel. Hence, identifying the real cause of negative publicity and how and why it spreads have to be taken note of in order to counter such malicious activities. Simultaneously it is also important to keep the general public and media about the achievements of inmates and facilities offered so as to create and maintain a positive image about the functioning of hostels.

(3) Loss of Confidence of the Community

Confidence of the community is one of indicators signifying the success of hostels. Since most of the inmates of hostels come from economically poor SC families, the general confidence of the community about the academic environment and security offered by the hostel inspire them to trust and respect government initiatives for their development; this in turn will also prompt them to encourage

more children opting for higher education in faraway cities to opt for SC hostels. But the lack of goodwill and facilities in hostels may affect the confidence of SC community to send their children in hostels for better education. So the hostel authorities should take necessary steps to create and develop good rapport with the community through continuous interactions with parents and local community.

(4) Non Cooperation of Stakeholders like Block Panchayat

Since hostels are transferred from SCDD to local governments, the Corporations/Municipalities in urban areas and Block Panchayats in rural areas are entrusted with the management of hostels. It was assumed that the decentralised governance may result in smooth and effective functioning of hostels. But it is observed that majority of the local governments are not discharging assigned duties to ensure required services in the hostels. The hostel advisory committees of pre matric hostels where Block Panchayat President/Municipal Chairman is the convenor is not holding regular meetings to monitor the activities closely. Lack of proper cooperation and support from local governments and other stake holders like local community, parents etc are will negatively affect the smooth functioning of hostels.

7.5 OPPORTUNITIES

(1) To be a Model Residential Institution in the State and the Country

Majority of the hostels managed by SCDD have good infrastructure facilities in terms of building, furniture etc. It provides free food and accommodation to SC inmates with tuition system for their academic advancement. In terms of the individual and common facilities provided to students, the SC hostels in Kerala stands top in the State compared to other hostels managed by other governmental and non-governmental agencies. Hence, measures to improve and modernise the infrastructure and academic support are necessary to develop and project these hostels as model residential institutions in the State and the Country.

(2) Expansion to More Districts

At present SCDD manages 87 pre matric and 17 post matric hostels and the total number of beds available in all these hostels are 2853. The present intake capacity of hostels is insufficient to accommodate all the students of SC community who are and would like to pursue higher studies. Moreover, in six districts there are

no post matric hostels at all. Considering the higher rate of students from SC community who joins higher education, and the increasing demand, SC hostels have to be established in all districts in Kerala.

(3) More Active Partnership with all SC Educational Institutions to ensure full use

SCDD manages various types of institutions like Industrial Training Institutes, Pre Examination Training Institute and funding to many external agencies like Keltron, Kerala Small Industries Development Corporation, State Resource Centre etc for giving employment training and skill development. The objectives and functions of all these institutions are complementary in nature. An effective partnership between hostels and these institutions help make all institutions work at full capacity and also the inmates of hostels to acquire additional skills and employment opportunities during his academic pursuit.

(4) Hostel as a Site of Cultural Activities to Promote Talents of SC students to increase visibility

SC students have immense talents in arts and sports but due to the absence of proper training and opportunities, these talents are not visible in the main stream. In hostels talented students from different cultural backgrounds and places of the State live together so they can create joint efforts to perform their talents to a wider audience. So hostels can be used as a cultural exchange point where the talents of inmates are promoted to get increased visibility to them which may open new career and opportunities to them.

(5) Partnership with NGOs for Counselling / Personality Development / Career Guidance Programmes

There are so many non-governmental organisations who conduct programmes for career guidance, personality development, counselling etc. Hostels can easily utilise the service of these organisations to improve the academic and employability skills. The hostel authorities can take a leading role in this regard and the service of the best institutions can be used state wide.

7.6 MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

7.6.1 Governance

(1) Funds for Routine Needs

The allocation, administration and disbursement of funds for pre-matric hostels, now routed through local governments need to be brought back to SCDD or streamlined through clear instructions so that there is no time delay in disbursements and hostel activities are not disturbed in any manner. For routine maintenance/repair works at the hostel, the block level SCDO should be given more discretion and financial power to execute such jobs in a time-bound manner and with the support of local governments.

7.6.2 Improving Quality of Stay /Education

(2) Infrastructure

Most of the complaints and media reports as well as official inspections all focus on issues arising out of lack of proper and regular maintenance of hostel buildings mainly toilets, preparation and quality of food. Though these are issues that are very important and also '*media-friendly*', they do not require any systemic changes or administrative overhaul. These can be solved by the officials at the grass root level itself, provided they are given proper authority, funds and encouragement. In the case of maintenance and repairs, it is procedural formalities that constitute the root cause of the problem. If the SCDO is provided the necessary discretionary powers to attend to the same, most of the day-to-day but crucial problems can be easily solved. Most important among the hurdles is the lack of sufficient funds at the block level to do repairs and maintenance; which can be solved by routing the allocation of Maintenance Fund (non-roads) to the local government concerned.

(3) Nurturing Sense of Ownership

The quality of life in a hostel is very much related to the sense of ownership the inmates have. If it is considered as a lodge run by the government, the inmates only passively complain and seek redressal. This attitude can be changed only by expanding the scope and level of participation of the inmates in the functioning of the hostel. One way to do it would be create committees from among inmates to attend to various tasks like Mess Committee to look after the quality of food and running of the mess, Library Committee to look after the selection, issue and purchase of books, magazines and newspapers, Sports Committee to organize

sporting events, Hygiene Committee to monitor the cleanliness and hygiene of the hostel premises, Arts Committee to organize cultural activities and programmes like Hostel Day etc. Being a member of some committee or other will ensure involvement of the inmates in the day to day running of the hostel, foster a sense of ownership and also utilise their energy and time to creative pursuits.

(4) Orienting Students

Students especially those pursuing Plus 2, graduation and professional courses also need career guidance programmes to identify their talents, strengths and inform them about potential opportunities and career options. For e.g., coaching classes for Medical/Engineering, Chartered Accountants, Entrance, PSC, Civil Services, Banks, other Competitive Examinations etc

(5) Soft Skills, Yoga, Self Defence

Classes and workshops to develop soft skills and communication abilities and to develop physical and self defence capabilities through karate and yoga classes should be organised through tie-up with institutions that offer such programmes.

(6) Guiding Careers

A professional counsellor at least for each district should be appointed to look after counselling activities and also to constantly monitor and train the tutors in their jurisdiction.

(7) Animating Tutors

A state-level network of tutors may be formed to energize and orient them. Tutors need to be equipped with teaching equipment, apart from specialised training inputs and pedagogic skill development at the district or regional levels. They also need exposure to methods and techniques of counselling to become more effective. Web-based tutorials can be developed for the use of these tutors, which can be made available at the hostels for the use of both tutors and the students.

(8) Special Counselling Programmes

Though very rarely, there have been some reports about the use of liquor, cigarettes, narcotic items etc and also about violent behaviour among inmates in certain hostels. In order to prevent such abuses and behavioural deviancies, it is suggested that counselling programmes and audio-visual presentations on these issues be organised in hostels to sensitize the students about such dangerous

tendencies. The support of Subodham Project of Government of Kerala can be sought in this regard.

(9) Alumni

A students' hostel is a place where people have fond, nostalgic memories about student life. Formation of an Alumni Association of the hostels will provide the present inmates a sense of continuity and pride as part of a bigger stream of people who have stayed and studied there. A meeting with members of alumni who have succeeded in life will also inspire the present generation of inmates. It is suggested that an Alumni Association be formed in all hostels and an Alumni Day celebrated every year.

(10) Making Hostels Gender Sensitive

Officials in many girls' hostels suggested that it is better to appoint women in the post of security personnel. In one of the hostels the Study Team visited, though there was incinerator to treat sanitary pads, it was not working. Steps should be taken to provide sanitary pads to girls and also to install incinerators.

(11) Age Limit for Hostel Admission

A huge variation in age of the inmates often leads to various kinds of problems and issues between them. It is also easier to administer and manage students belonging to a particular age group. Considering this, it is suggested that the upper age limit for admission to post-matric hostels be fixed at 25 years. For courses like PhD, MD etc, it is better for the SCDD to provide for their stay at regular hostels at the respective institutions; for higher educational courses like the above, respective peer group presence is very important.

(12) Where to Accommodate Plus 2 Students?

At present, plus 2 students, are found to be a problematic presence both in pre-matric and post-matric hostels. They are at a very impressionable age of being neither young nor matured and undergoing a turbulent period of emotional and sexual development. In pre-matric hostels which houses students aging from 10 years they are 'grown-ups' compared to their fellow inmates and tend to dominate them. In post-matric hostels, they are 'too young' and tend to follow the grown up habits of their elders. This is a problem which needs to be addressed by educational psychologists. Alternatively, a special counseling programme maybe designed for them before they are inducted to the hostels.

7.6.3 Improving Hostel Governance

(13) Database for Future

At present, the future planning for hostel development is hindered by lack of data regarding future demand for hostels among the SC population in Kerala. It is true that all the hostels in the State are not working at full capacity. But this is not for lack of students but for the vital disconnect between real need and available facility. There are many SC families in the state who are not able to send their students to pursue higher studies for lack of facilities at home or an educational institution nearby. Hostels are intended to address and fill this gap. But there are many families in Kerala, especially in remote areas who are not aware of such facilities. Therefore a database about the potential demand for hostel is necessary to plan for the development of existing hostels and also the need for construction of new ones. Such database can be developed by engaging the SC Promoters through a structured format to assess the potential student candidates in their respective Panchayats/Wards.

(14) Motivating Human Resources: Warden/ Steward

All hostels should have a warden. Considering the hectic duty time of the warden (24 x 6), it is imperative that there be two wardens on duty so that they can share their duty round the clock. This will also avoid situations where wardens leave the hostel assigning his/her duty to a senior cook or watchman, as is done now. Night warden so appointed on contract basis and with sufficient qualifications can also act as a resident tutor, who can help the students in pre-matric hostels in their studies during night time.

In post-matric hostels, the steward's post also should be converted on the lines of the warden, so that there is one steward each in charge during night as well as day.

In the case of stewards, there is a demand for change of nomenclature into warden. Based on experience, there is a need to create grade promotion opportunities and career advancement. These posts can be renamed as Warden Grade II, Grade I, and Senior Grade as per norms.

There are 87 pre-matric and 17 post-matric hostels in Kerala and these institutions can be considered as a separate wing under SCDD. SCDOs should be totally delinked from the responsibility of hostels which should totally vest with

hostel wardens who will directly report to the Secretary of Block Panchayat and DDO of SCDD. Under this arrangement, the SCDOs can also devote more time for other jobs.

The Hostel Wing of the SCDD will have an officer in the appropriate cadre. There should also be an officer exclusively in charge of hostels in each district. Alternatively, it can also be an additional charge of DDO or an official at the district level. But each hostel should have one warden as mentioned above after re-designating the present post of stewards and wardens. The wardens will be in charge of administrative activities. The total strength of this cadre for all the hostels will be 104, i.e. one warden for each hostel in the State, whose duty time will be from 9 AM to 6 PM. During evening and night time, a resident tutor on contract basis should be appointed. As far as their qualifications are concerned, they should be capable of monitoring the academic progress of students in the pre-matric hostels. And in post-matric hostels, they will act as mentors and counsellors.

(15) Sensitizing Hostel Staff

It is the kitchen and security staffs who spend most time with the students. They almost live, eat and stay with them for years. In this process, they also get an opportunity to watch the inmates closely. Therefore, if they are given a basic training on counselling and how to deal with the growing up problems of adolescents, it will greatly improve the quality of life in the hostels. They can watch the problems and progress of students, intervene when problems arise and guide them accordingly. A training programme should be developed for hostel staff in these areas so that they are sensitized about the socio-economic and emotional state of the inmates and more importantly, given an opportunity to take part more meaningfully in achieving the larger objectives of SCDD.

(16) Computer Training

Most of the hostels have computers, which are either kept at the office and used for office purposes, or are assigned for the use of students but scarcely allowed for their use. Many of the computers are not functioning and have not been repaired for a long time. It is imperative that the students be exposed to computer/computing skills, and so, computers be made available for their use. Many students need computer to gather information and to prepare their assignments.

Each hostel should have a tutor to train the inmates in various computer programmes, so that within a year, the inmates are trained in basic computer skills.

(17) Concurrent Monitoring and Evaluation

International guidelines about development schemes insist that mechanisms to conduct concurrent monitoring and evaluation of schemes be put in place in order to monitor the schemes constantly which will bring out periodical and issue-based reports that will help the Department to identify problems at the earliest, seek solutions and make course corrections. It can be entrusted to an independent agency with professional experience.

7.6.4 Improving Infrastructure /Facilities

(18) Land Phone

At present, majority of the hostels do not have land phone. The parents contact the warden or their children through mobile phones, but if the warden/watchman is away from the hostel, the parents find it difficult to contact their children. It is suggested that each hostel should have a land phone connection for the benefit of inmates and their parents. It will also be an indirect method to ensure that the warden or watchman attending the phone is present at the hostel.

(19) Biogas Plants

Waste management, especially from food/kitchen, is a big problem in the hostels. In order to address the same, it is suggested that biogas plants be installed in all hostels. In some hostels, such plants are already established, but most of them are not functional. They also need to be repaired at the earliest. Effective working of the plant can also contribute towards saving fuel costs.

(20) Identifying Space for Outdoor Games

Most of the hostels do not have enough open space to develop playgrounds for their inmates. This limits the quality of hostel life and physical development of the inmates. It is suggested that through discussions with the nearest schools, their playgrounds may be made available to the inmates on specific days and at specific times. One tutor may be assigned to take care as their physical instructor for this purpose.

(21) Entrust Kudumbasree Catering Units to Supply Food

At present, the entire focus of the hostel activity and staff are centered on providing quality food to the inmates; it involves several activities like procurement

of provisions, vegetables, egg and meat, meeting fuel expenses like gas or firewood, maintenance and working of kitchen equipment, vessels, cooking, cleaning and serving etc. Cooks and their assistants are appointed for this purpose, who are solely entrusted with these tasks. This aspect consumes majority of the time, energy, money and space of the hostel. There are also hostels where the number of students is very low, while the cooks and their assistants have to be paid for.

In hostels where there are only a very few students, or where post of cooks are not filled it is suggested that the supply of food as per the menu be entrusted to a local Kudumbasree catering unit preferable run by Scheduled Caste Community. The Schedule Caste Development Department can consult with the officials of Kudumbasree at State level in this regard. The cooks and assistants so displaced can be trained and upgraded on the basis of their qualification for other jobs in the hostel or redeployed to other hostels. Eventually, the post of cooks will be abolished in a phased manner. This will also help the hostel staff to have more time and energy to focus more on education and mentoring of the inmates.

(22) International Standards

In order to develop the hostels eventually in line with International standards, a model list of items for hostels is given as Appendix 7. If these guidelines are taken as the objective to be achieved within 5 year period, the plan for funding and procurement process can be envisaged accordingly.

7.6.5 Connecting with Larger Society

(23) Connecting With Parents

The Parents Meeting held is often attended only by a few due to distance from home and also for economic reasons. Alternatively, there should be periodical feedback system to inform the parents who do not attend about the progress and conduct of their children at the hostel. This can be done through the respective SC promoters in the concerned panchayat, who can also keep track of the career/educational progress of the students. A Report format can be developed about the students which can be sent to the parents twice during a year, and self-addressed stamped card enclosed for reply from the parent.

(24) Connecting With Target Population

If effective communication link is made with the prospective students and parents about the hostel facilities and other additional amenities there, through

advertisements and other outreach programmes, more students would definitely opt for hostel facility. This would also make the hostels function at full capacity.

It is suggested that a detailed advertisement about hostels, their locations and the various facilities available in each be given through print and audio-visual media, so that prospective families and students, educational institutions, community organizations and NGOs are sensitized about the comprehensive services provided by SC Department. The advertisement should be attractive and provide the list of all the pre matric and post-matric hostels in the State, the facilities provided there like healthy and nutritive food, tuition, indoor and outdoor games, library, reading room, television, computer etc.

Obviously the number of potential students among SC population who need hostel facilities to pursue their studies across Kerala far outruns the capacity of the hostels. There is also a feeling among some people that hostels are meant for the most underprivileged and problem families, or as a sort of alternative residence. This mind set need to be addressed by advertisements, so that more families enjoy hostel facilities.

Such media campaign will also help dissemination of information about the development activities of SCDD among the general public and the media. Such awareness among the public and the locality will also foster community participation and parent involvement in the everyday functioning and performance of the hostels. Whatever the strength of inmates at the hostel, the infrastructural and human resource expenses (for warden/steward, cooks, part time sweepers, tutors, watchperson etc) remains the same. It is imperative that the capacity utilization of the hostels be improved so that per-student cost is at the minimal or optimum level.

There is also a need to inform, motivate and incentivize the SC promoters working at the panchayat level to identify potential students for admission in the hostel. The management and PTAs of the respective schools also need to be informed about the hostel facilities, so that they can guide the deserving SC students in their school to avail hostel facilities.

(25) Fostering Links With Civil Society Organisations

There are a number of social, cultural and civil society organisations who have enough funds, human resources and expertise that can be channelized to the benefit of hostels. Joint programmes can be organised and their service/expertise

utilised for training and other academic and cultural programmes, to develop existing facilities like library, television, computer, net connectivity, organise personality development classes, etc. All this will greatly help in improving the quality of life in the hostels, the educational levels of the inmates and rapport with general public. Many corporate organizations can channelize their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for improvement of these hostels if customized projects that address specific needs of the hostels and students are identified, developed and submitted. This needs sanction at the State level and initiatives at the district level. The SCDD only need to take the initiative in this regard and does not involve any financial commitment.

(26) Positive Media Coverage

Many officials of SCDD, especially those in charge of hostels, observed that media was exaggerating tiny issues in hostels and sensationalizing it to create a negative image about hostels among general public. This situation persists because the media reports about the hostels only for instances of corruption, abuse or mismanagement. It can be corrected only if programmes are organised at the hostel involving local community and media. This will help in sensitizing the public about the hostel and also foster local participation in the successful running of the hostel.

7.7 SOME LEADING/BEST PRACTICES

During the visits to various hostels in the State, the Study Team came across very committed officials who took the lead to initiative to implement model practices that were innovative and replicable in the field of career guidance, personality development, capacity utilization of hostels etc. Given below are some of them:

7.7.1 Entrepreneurship Development Programme for SC Hostel Residents:

At the initiative of the hostel residents of Post-matric hostel at Ernakulam, an entrepreneurship development programme was organized for students. It was done with the help of the alumni of the hostel, the Chairman of Kerala State Coconut Development Corporation and Dalit Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The students reported that it was an inspiring experience that exposed them to new vocations and career opportunities.

7.7.2 Newspaper Advertisement about SC Hostels

Mr Basheer, an SCDO in Kasaragod district took the initiative to publish an advertisement in newspapers on 6 May 2016, highlighting the facilities at the hostels which resulted in more enquiries, applications and admissions from among the target population.

7.7.3 counselling/personality development programme

Another initiative reported by the Hostel Warden at Venjaramoodu pre-matric hostel was a counselling/personality development programme organized for students in association with an NGO (Blue Point Organisation) and Loyola College, Thiruvananthapuram which was a successful venture which can be replicated in other hostels too.

7.7.4 Training for Cooks, Security and Other Staff

Training for Cooks, Security and Other Staff on Child Rights by Institute of Management in Government should be given.

7.8 CONCLUSION

The Accountant General, Kerala has expressed their valuable appreciation on the performance of pre matric inmates in the SSLC Examination (Table 5.9). In this regard, the girl students have the credit of achieving higher rate of success than boys. The share of accommodation facilities provided by the pre matric and post matric hostels is very short while the number of SC students in general education stream is considered. In view of these facts, the facilities and logistics offered in the existing hostels may be improved considerably. The possibilities to increase the number of hostels may also be considered favorably.

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- ³ G.O. (Ms) No.64/86/SCSTDD dt.16.8.86.
- ⁴ G.O. (Press) 161 Dt.16.2.1961, Revenue Department.
- ⁵ G.O.(Ms) No.62/85 dt.21.10.85., G.O (Ms) 51/2013/SCST Dept, dt.27.7.2013.
- ⁶ The income limit of non-SC/ST is the same as that prescribed for the educational concessions of OBC.
- ⁷ G.O. (Ms) 51/2013/SCST Dept, dt.27.7.2013.
- ⁸ G.O. (Rt) No.401/2015/SCST Dept dt.10.3.2015.
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- ²² G.O.(Rt) No.432, dt.19.2.1963 of Revenue (K) Department.
- ²³ G.O (MS) No.61/2008/SCST Dept dt.30.5.2008.
- ²⁴ G.O (Ms) No.85/2013/SCSTDept dt. 26.10.2013.
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- ²⁶ Rights, *Pre Matric Hostels For Dalit Children In Kerala- A Study*, 2012.
- ²⁷ GO (Rt) No.713/77/DD dt.29.3.77

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- ³³ Circular No.27093/D1/90/SCSTDD dt.9.1.1991.
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- ³⁵ Rule 19, Circular No.Edu/B3/PDL/92/92 dt.8.12.92 of SC Director.
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- ⁴⁰ G.O (Rt) No.134/2014/SCST Dept dt.24.1.2014
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Appendix 1 List of Pre-Matric Hostels (Boys and Girls) in Kerala				
Sl. No.	District	Pre metric Hostels	Block Panchayat/Municipality/ Corporation	Intake Capacity
1	Trivandrum	Neyyattinkara (Girls)	Nayyattinkara Municipality	30
2	Trivandrum	Nedumangad (Girls)	Nedumangad Municipality	30
3	Trivandrum	Kilimanoor (Girls)	Kilimanoor Block Panchayat	30
4	Trivandrum	Venganoor (Girls)	Athiyanoor Block Panchayat	30
5	Trivandrum	Aruvikkara (Boys)	Nedumangad Block Panchayat	30
6	Trivandrum	Venjaramoodu (Boys)	Vamanapuram Block Panchayat	30
7	Kollam	Ochira (Boys)	Ochira Block Panchayat	30
8	Kollam	Poruvazhi (Girls)	Sasthamkotta Block Panchayat	30
9	Kollam	Sasthamkotta (Boys)	Sasthamkotta Block Panchayat	40
10	Kollam	Kunnathur (Girls)	Sasthamkotta Block Panchayat	30
11	Kollam	Ezhukone (Boys)	Kottarakkara Block Panchayat	30
12	Kollam	Punaloor (Girls)	Punaloor Municipality	40
13	Kollam	Chathanoor (Boys)	Ethikkara Block Panchayat	30
14	Kollam	Puthoor (Boys)	Vettikavala Block Panchayat	40
15	Pathanamthitta	Adoor (Girls)	Adoor Municipality	30
16	Pathanamthitta	Panthalam (Girls)	Panthalam Block Panchayat	30
17	Pathanamthitta	Kuzhikkala (Boys)	Elanthoor Block Panchayat	30
18	Pathanamthitta	Mallapalli (Girls)	Mallapalle Block Panchayat	30
19	Pathanamthitta	Ranni (Boys)	Ranni Block Panchayat	30
20	Pathanamthitta	Thiruvalla (Girls)	Thiruvalla Municipality	30
21	Alappuzha	Kalavoor (Girls)	Aryadu Block Panchayat	30
22	Alappuzha	Ambalappuzh (Girls)	Ambalappuzh Block Panchayat	30
23	Alappuzha	Kattanam (Girls)	Bharanikavu Block Panchayat	30
24	Alappuzha	Puliyoor (Girls)	Chenganoor Block Panchayat	30
25	Kottayam	Kurichi (Girls)	Madapalli Block Panchayat	30

26	Kottayam	Karikkatoor (Boys)	Kanjirapalli Block Panchayat	30
27	Kottayam	Vaikkom (Girls)	Vaikkom Block Panchayat	30
28	Kottayam	Pala (Girls)	Pala Municipality	30
29	Idukki	Peerumedu (Boys)	Azhutha Block Panchayat	30
30	Idukki	Kattapana (Girls)	Kattapana Block Panchayat	30
31	Idukki	Karimanoor (Girls)	Elamdesham Block Panchayat	38
32	Idukki	Koovapilli (Boys)	Elamdesham Block Panchayat	30
33	Idukki	Munnar (Boys)	Devikulam Block Panchayat	65
34	Ernakulam	Ezhikkara (Boys)	Paravoor Block Panchayat	30
35	Ernakulam	Paravoor (Girls)	Paravoor Municipality	30
36	Ernakulam	Neeleesharam (Boys)	Ankamali Block Panchayat	30
37	Ernakulam	Muvattupuzha (Girls)	Muvattupuzha Municipality	30
38	Ernakulam	Perumpavoor (Girls)	Perumpavoor Municipality	30
39	Thrissur	Chelakkara (Girls)	Pazhayanoor Block Panchayat	30
40	Thrissur	Cheruthuruthi (Girls)	Pazhayanoor Block Panchayat	30
41	Thrissur	Erumapetti (Boys)	Vadakkancheri Block Panchayat	30
42	Thrissur	Nandikara (Boys)	Irinjalakuda Block Panchayat	30
43	Thrissur	Engandiyoor (Boys)	Thalikulam Block Panchayat	30
44	Palakkad	Mundoor (Girls)	Palakkadu Block Panchayat	50
45	Palakkad	Mankara (Boys)	Palakkadu Block Panchayat	30
46	Palakkad	Vadakkancheri (Boys)	Alathoor Block Panchayat	40
47	Palakkad	Kottai (Boys)	Kuzhalmannam Block Panchayat	50
48	Palakkad	Alathoor (Girls)	Alathoor Block Panchayat	40
49	Palakkad	Puthunagaram (Boys)	Kollamcodu Block Panchayat	30
50	Palakkad	Kollamcodu (Boys)	Kollamcodu Block Panchayat	30
51	Palakkad	Kozhinjampara (Girls)	Chittoor Block Panchayat	40
52	Palakkad	Alanalloor (Girls)	Mannarkadu Block Panchayat	30
53	Palakkad	Alanalloor (Boys)	Mannarkadu Block Panchayat	30

54	Palakkad	Mannarkadu (Boys)	Mannarkadu Block Panchayat	30
55	Palakkad	Agali (Boys)	Attappadi Block Panchayat	30
56	Palakkad	Kumaranalloor (Boys)	Pattambi Block Panchayat	50
57	Palakkad	Shornnoor (Girls)	Shornnoor Municipality	40
58	Palakkad	Thottakkara (Girls)	Ottappalam Block Panchayat	30
59	Malappuram	Vandoor (Girls)	Vandoor Block Panchayat	30
60	Malappuram	Kondipparambu (Boys)	Perithalmanna Block Panchayat	30
61	Malappuram	Mukkuthala (Girls)	Perubadappu Block Panchayat	30
62	Malappuram	Chelari (Boys)	Thiruraggadi Block Panchayat	30
63	Malappuram	Macherey (Girls)	Macherey Municipality	30
64	Kozhikkode	Mavoor (Boys)	Kunnamangalam Block Panchayat	50
65	Kozhikkode	Kadalundi (Boys)	Kozhikod Block Panchayat	30
66	Kozhikkode	Elathoor (Girls)	Chalanoor Block Panchayat	30
67	Kozhikkode	Chelanoor (Girls)	Chalanoor Block Panchayat	50
68	Kozhikkode	Azhiyoor (Girls)	Vadakara Block Panchayat	30
69	Kozhikkode	Azhiyoor (Boys)	Vadakara Block Panchayat	30
70	Kozhikkode	Naduvannoor (Boys)	Balusherey Block Panchayat	30
71	Wayanad	Vythiri (Boys)	Kalpatta Block Panchayat	30
72	Kannur	Pinarayi (Boys)	Thalasheri Block Panchayat	30
73	Kannur	Thalasheri (Girls)	Thalasheri Municipality	30
74	Kannur	Azhikod (Girls)	Kannur Block Panchayat	30
75	Kannur	Pzhayaggadi (Boys)	Payyanoor Block Panchayat	30
76	Kannur	Thalipparabu (Girls)	Thalipparab Municipality	30
77	Kannur	Thalipparabu (Boys)	Thalipparab Municipality	30
78	Kannur	Mayyil (Boys)	Irikkoor Block Panchayat	30
79	Kannur	Sreekandapuram (Boys)	Irikkoor Block Panchayat	30
80	Kasaragod	Badiyadukka (Boys)	Manjashwaram Block Panchayat	50
81	Kasaragod	Karadukka (Boys)	Kasaragod Block Panchayat	30
82	Kasaragod	Kolathoor (Boys)	Kasaragod Block Panchayat	30
83	Kasaragod	Kasargod (Girls)	Kasaragod Municipality	30
84	Kasaragod	Pudamkallu (Boys)	Kasaragod Block Panchayat	40
85	Kasaragod	Baggalam (Boys)	Kanhangad Block Panchayat	30

86	Kasaragod	Kanhangad (Girls)	Kanhangad Municipality	30
87	Kasaragod	Delampadi (Boys)	Kasaragod Block	30

Appendix 2
List of Post-Matric Hostels for SC (Boys and Girls) in Kerala

Sl.no	District	Place	Intake Capacity
1	Trivandrum	Vellayambalam (Boys 1)	120
2	Trivandrum	Vellayambalam (Boys 2)	120
3	Trivandrum	Poochedivila (Girls)	300
4	Kollam	Amrithkulam (Boys)	60
5	Kollam	Amrithkulam (Girls)	60
6	Kottayam	Nattakam (Girls)	60
7	Kottayam	Changanasserry (Boys)	60
8	Ernakulam	Kanayannur (Girls)	60
9	Ernakulam	Kanayannur (Boys)	60
10	Palakkad	Jainimedu (Boys)	75
11	Palakkad	Kannadi (Girls)	60
12	Kozhikode	Thuruthyad (Boys)	60
13	Kozhikode	Easthill (Girls)	60
14	Kannur	Kannur (Boys)	60
15	Kasaragod	Vidyanagar (Boys)	60
16	Kasaragod	Vidyanagar (Girls)	60
17	Kasaragod	Manjeswar (Boys)	60

Appendix 3 Area and Size of SC Hostels			
District	Address	LAN D (cents)	BUILDIN G (SQ.FT)
Pathanamthitta	Kallarakadavu, Pampuripara	32	13400
Pathanamthitta	Pre-matric Hostel for Girls, Adoor		
Pathanamthitta	Pre-matric Hostel, Pandalam	40	
Pathanamthitta	Pre-matric Hostel for Girls, Mallappally		
Pathanamthitta	Pre-matric Hostel for Boys, Thottamon,Ranni	20	542.37
Kozhikode	East Hill, Kozhikkode		
Kozhikode	Kanniparamb P O	50	2 rooms & Terrace
Kozhikode	Govt. P M Hostel, Iringallur	25	Ground Flour and 3 Flour
Kozhikode	Post Matric Hostel for Girls West Hill P O, Kozhikode, PIN 673005	11	
Wayanad	Pre Matric Hostel, Vythiri P O	16.5	
Kottayam	Pre-Matric Hostel, Murikkumpuzha, Pala		
Kottayam	Sachivothampuram P O, Kurichy		
Kottayam	Post Matric Hostel, Changanacherry		
Kottayam	Post Matric Hostel, Pallom P O		
Kasaragod	Govt. P M Hostel for Girls, Kasaragod, Vidyanagar P O, PIN 671123		
Kasaragod	Near GPM Govt. College, Manjeshwar P O, Manjeshwar - 671	50	
Kasaragod	Govt. P M Hostel for Boys, Vidyanagar, Kasaragod, PIN: 671123		
Kasaragod	GovtPrematric Hostel Badiadka, Peradala P O		
Kasaragod	GovtPrematric Hostel for Boys, Vidyanagar	80	
Kasaragod	GovtPrematric Hostel for Boys, Karadka P O, Muliya 671542	100	
Kasaragod	GPMH, Bengalam, Nileswarem(Via)	200	
Kasaragod	Govt. Premetric Hostel(Boys), Rajapuram P O PIN 671532		
Kasaragod	GPMH, Delampadi,Urdoor P O, Adoor	25	
Kasaragod	Premetric Girls Hostel, MG Colony, Arianagloor		
Kasaragod	Govt. premetric Hostel, Chemmatamvayal, Kanhangad, PIN 671531	50	
Malappuram	Premetric Hostel, Parappanamgadi	31	3000
Malappuram	Premetric Girls Hostel,Manjeri	50	
Palakkad	Govt.postmetric Hostel (Girls), Kannadi		
Palakkad	Govt.Premetric Hostel, Alathur	39	3000

Palakkad	Pre Matric Hostel for Boys,Vadakkumcherry		
Kannur	Govt.postmetric Hostel (Girls),Kavumbhagam, Thalassery 670648	52	
Kannur	Pre-matric Hostel for Girls		
Kannur	Govt. Premetric Hostel(Boys), Kadirur		
Kannur	Prematric Hostel, Azhikkode, Vankulathuvariyal P O, Kottararthumpara		
Kannur	Postmatric Hostel for Boys, Thana, Kannur	55	
Kannur	Govt. Prematric Hostel, Pullimankunnu Road, Aicheny, Nedumgome P O, Sreekandapuram		
Kannur	Govt.Premetric Hostel, Mayyil P O	50	2500
Kannur	Govt. Premetric Hostel(Boys), Payangadi, Athiyadam,NearNeruvambrum, Pazhayangadi P O	99	
Ernakulam	Post Metric Hostel(Girls), Kannayammur	20	
Ernakulam	Post Metric Hostel(Boys), Ernakulam		
Idukki	Post Matric Hostel, Koovappally, Idukki	30	
Idukki	Govt. Boys Hostel, Peermade, Idukki-685531	100	3000
Idukki	Pre matric Hostel for Girls, Karimanoor P O	82	3971.88
Idukki	Munnar, Down	50	
Idukki	Swaraj, Periyonkavala, Kathotti P O	40	
Thiruvananthapuram	Prematric hostel (Boys), SC Department, Aruvikara, Nedumangad Block	183	2500
Thiruvananthapuram	MelamkodePrematric hostels(Girls)	15	2500
Thiruvananthapuram	Prematric Hostel (Girls), Ayyappankavu, Kilimanoor	23	
Thiruvananthapuram	Prematric Hostel, Venjaramoodu(boys), Vamanapuram	23	3713.55
Thiruvananthapuram	Postmatric Hostel for Girls, Prochedivila		
Thiruvananthapuram	Postmatric Hostel(Boys),Vellayambalam I,TVM		
Thiruvananthapuram	Postmatric (Boys) II, Vellayambalam,TVM		
	Total		
Source: Data from SCDD			

Appendix 4 Year of Construction of Hostels

District	Address	Start Year
Pathanamthitta	Kallarakadavu, Pampuripara	2002
Pathanamthitta	Pre-matric Hostel for Girls, Adoor	2009
Pathanamthitta	Pre-matric Hostel, Pandalam	2011
Pathanamthitta	Pre-matric Hostel for Girls, Mallappally	2006
Pathanamthitta	Pre-matric Hostel for Boys, Thottamon, Ranni	2000
Kozhikode	East Hill, Kozhikkode	
Kozhikode	Kanniparamb P O	1989
Kozhikode	Govt. P M Hostel, Iringallur	2004
Kozhikode	Post Matric Hostel for Girls West Hill P O, Kozhikode, PIN 673005	
Wayanad	Pre Matric Hostel, Vythiri P O	1990
Kottayam	Pre-Matric Hostel, Murikkumpuzha, Pala	
Kottayam	Sachivothampuram P O, Kurichy	1987
Kottayam	Post Matric Hostel, Changanacherry	
Kottayam	Post Matric Hostel, Pallom P O	
Kasaragod	Govt. P M Hostel for Girls, Kasaragod, Vidyanagar P O, PIN 671123	2008
Kasaragod	Near GPM Govt. College, Manjeshwar P O, Manjeshwar - 671	2011
Kasaragod	Govt. P M Hostel for Boys, Vidyanagar, Kasaragod, PIN: 671123	1985
Kasaragod	Govt Prematric Hostel Badiadka, Peradala P O	
Kasaragod	Govt Prematric Hostel for Boys, Vidyanagar	2001
Kasaragod	Govt Prematric Hostel for Boys, Karadka P O, Muliya 671542	1986
Kasaragod	GPMH, Bengalam, Nileswarem (Via)	2001
Kasaragod	Govt. Premetric Hostel (Boys), Rajapuram P O PIN 671532	
Kasaragod	GPMH, Delampadi, Urdoor P O, Adoor	2007
Kasaragod	Premetric Girls Hostel, MG Colony, Arianagloor	
Kasaragod	Govt. premetric Hostel, Chemmattamvayal, Kanhangad, PIN 671531	1987
Malappuram	Premetric Hostel, Parappanamgadi	2005
Malappuram	Premetric Girls Hostel, Manjeri	2008
Palakkad	Govt. postmetric Hostel (Girls), Kannadi	2006
Palakkad	Govt. Premetric Hostel, Alathur	1994
Palakkad	Pre Matric Hostel for Boys, Vadakkumcherry	2002
Kannur	Govt. postmetric Hostel (Girls), Kavumbhagam, Thalassery 670648	
Kannur	Pre-matric Hostel for Girls	
Kannur	Govt. Premetric Hostel (Boys), Kadirur	2006
Kannur	Prematric Hostel, Azhikkode, Vankulathuvariyal P O, Kottararthumpara	
Kannur	Postmatric Hostel for Boys, Thana, Kannur	1963
Kannur	Govt. Prematric Hostel, Pullimankunnu Road, Aicheny, Nedumgome P O, Sreekandapuram	1989

Kannur	Govt.Premetric Hostel, Mayyil P O	2011
Kannur	Govt. Premetric Hostel(Boys), Payangadi, Athiyadam,NearNeruvambrum, Pazhayangadi P O	1960*
Ernakulam	Post Metric Hostel(Girls), Kannayammur	1994
Ernakulam	Post Metric Hostel(Boys), Ernakulam	2009
Idukki	Post Matric Hostel, Koovappally, Idukki	
Idukki	Govt. Boys Hostel, Peermade, Idukki-685531	
Idukki	Pre matric Hostel for Girls, Karimanoor P O	2005
Idukki	Munnar, Down	1985
Idukki	Swaraj, Periyonkavala, Kathotti P O	2006
Thiruvananthapuram	Prematric hostel (Boys), SC Department, Aruvikara, Nedumangad Block	2003
Thiruvananthapuram	MelamkodePrematric hostels(Girls)	2000
Thiruvananthapuram	Prematric Hostel (Girls), Ayyappankavu, Kilimanoor	2007
Thiruvananthapuram	Prematric Hostel, Venjaramoodu(boys), Vamanapuram	1987
Thiruvananthapuram	Postmatric Hostel for Girls, Prochedivila	1999
Thiruvananthapuram	Postmatric Hostel(Boys),Vellayambalam I,TVM	1976
Thiruvananthapuram	Postmatric (Boys) II, Vellayambalam,TVM	
(New building started on 2009)		
Source: <i>Data compiled from SCDD</i>		

Appendix 5 Facilities provided to each boarder in SC Hostels (as on 31.12.2016)				
Sl.No	Item	No./Rate	Period of Use	Remarks
Individual Use				
1	Cot (Single)	1	10 years	
2	Table	1	10 years	
3	Chair (Armless)	1	10 years	
4	Cupboard	1	10 years	
5	Bed	1	3 years	
6	Bed cover	1	1 year	
7	Bed Sheet	2	2 years	Actual Amount
8	Pillow	1	2 years	
9	Pillow Cover	1	1 year	
10	Mat	1	1 year	
11	Mirror (small)	1	1 year	
12	Comb	1	1 year	
Common Use				
1	Clock	1	5 years	
2	GI Bucket (Big)	7	5 years	
3	GI Bucket (Small)	5	5 years	
4	Iron Box	1	1 year	
5	Gas Lamp	1	1 year	
6	Torch Light	1	1 year	
Others				
1	Food			
2	Washing			
3	Electricity			
4	Newspapers, Magazines	Rs.400/-	Per Month	
5	School Bag	Rs.150/-	Per Year	
6	Sports Items		Actual Cost	
7	Soap, Oil - Girls	Rs.75/-	Per Month	
8	Soap, Oil - Boys	Rs.50/-	Per Month	
9	Towel, Cheap, Bus Charge	Rs.50/-	Per Month	
10	Hair Cutting-Boys	Rs.30/-	Per Month	
11	Treatment	Rs.3000/-	Per Year for Institution	
Allowances				
1	Mess Charge – Pre Matric	Rs.2000/-	Per Month	
2	Mess Charge – Post Matric	Rs.2300/-	Per Month	
3	Daily Allowance			

4	Pocket Money – Pre Matric	Rs.130/-	Per Month	
5	Pocket Money – Post Matric	Rs.190/-	Per Month	
6	Uniform	LP	Rs.500/- (Annual)	
		UP	Rs.700/- (Annual)	
		HS	Rs.800/- (Annual)	
		Plus1,2	Rs.800/- (Annual)	
7	Note Book, Stationary	LP	Rs.200/- (Annual)	
		UP	Rs.200/- (Annual)	
		HS	Rs.300/- (Annual)	
		Plus1,2	4 Rs.00/- (Annual)	
8	Shoes	Rs.150/-	Per Year	Pre Matic
9	Night Dress	LP	Rs.400/- (Annual)	
		UP	Rs.500/- (Annual)	
		HS	Rs.600/- (Annual)	
		Plus1,2	Rs.700/- (Annual)	
10	Woollen Blanket (Wayanad, Idukki and Palakkad only)	Rs.600/-	Per Head (Once in 3 years)	
11	School Bag			Pre Matic
12	T.A for journey to native place during the vacations			
Note: Common use properties are calculated on the basis of 30 inmates Source: G.O (Ms)No.65/86/SC/ST dt.19/8/86, G.O.(Ms) No.533/86/SC?ST dt.19.12.86, G.O.(Ms) No.14/92/SC/ST dt.30.4.92, G.O.(MS) No.55/2010 dt.13.5.2010				

Appendix 6 Prescribed Food Menu in Pre and Post Matric Hostels							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Break Fast	Idly Sambar Tea with 200 ml Milk	Dosai Chutney Egg-1 Boiled Tea with 200 ml Milk	Puttu Bengal gram curry (Kadala) Tea with 200 ml Milk	Uppuma Plaintain -2 Tea with 200 ml Milk	Poori Potato curry/ Masala Tea with 200 ml Milk	Idly Veg Kuruma Egg-1 Boiled Tea with 200 ml Milk	Puttu Peas/Soya bean curry Tea with 200 ml Milk
11 AM	Biscuit - 3	Seasonal Fruit	Biscuit - 3	Seasonal Fruit	Biscuit - 3	Seasonal Fruit	Biscuit - 3
Lunch	Rice Erussery/ Koottukary Beef/Chicken Thorani Rasam	Rice Veg-Coconut curry Leafy Veg Thorani Fined veg curd	Rice Aviyal Fishcurry Tomato Rasam	Rice Egg curry Veg Thorani Pappad Rasam	Rice Sambar Veg Thorani Fish Fry	Rice Erussery (Koottukary) Veg Thorani Pachady Pickles	Rice Veg-Coconut Curry Veg Thorani Kichady Pappad Pickles
4 PM	Banana Fry 50gm /2 Nos Tea with 50 ml Milk	Banana -1 (100- 150 gm) Tea with 50 ml Milk	Tapioca/Sweet Potato Chilly Chutney Tea with 50 ml Milk	Aval (Rice flakes) 50gm Mixed with coconut and Jaggery Tea with 50 ml Milk	Vada-1 Plaintain - 1 Tea with 50 ml Milk	Aval (Rice flakes) 50gm Mixed with coconut and Jaggery Tea with 50 ml Milk	Bun -2 Tea with 50 ml Milk
Supper	Rice Veg.Butter Milk curry Greengram Thorani Chutney Pappad Pickles	Canjee Cowgram Thorani Pappad Pickles	Rice Veg.Butter Milk curry Leafy Veg.Thorani Chutney Pickles	Rice Theeyal Fried Vegetable Butter Milk Pappad	Rice Veg.Butter Milk curry Cow gram thorani Chutney Pappad Pickles	Conjee Greengram Thorani Pappad Pickles	Chappathi Veg Kuruma
Source: G.O (MS) No.61/2008/SCST Dept dt.30.5.2008							

Appendix 7

DISTRICT:

INSPECTION FORMAT FOR HOSTELS

(To be filled up by the Inspection officer like SCDO and so on)

Name of the Institution :

Date of Visit :

No of Sanctioned Strength :

No of Children at the time of Visit : Boys: ____ + Girls: ____ =
Total: ____

Average Strength for the month :

Grant in Aid released in the Previous Year :

Sl.No	Minimum Standards prescribed in the ICPS Guidelines by GOI for 50 Children	Facility existing in the Institution	Remarks
1	Name & Address of the Institution		
2	Building and Accommodation		
i	Whether Own/ Rent (Compulsory to be filled)		
ii	2 Dormitories each 1000 sq. ft for 25 Children/ i.e 2000 sq. ft		
iii	2 Class rooms 300 sq.ft for 25 Children i.e 6000 sq.ft		
iv	Sick Room/ First aid room 75 sq. ft for 10 Children 750 sq.ft		
v	Kitchen 250 sq.ft		
vi	Dining Hall 800 sq.ft		
vii	Store Room 250 sq.ft		
viii	Reception Room 300 sq.ft		
ix	Library 500 sq.ft		
x	5 Bathrooms 25 sq.ft each i.e 200 sq.ft		
xi	8 Toilets/ Latrines 25 sq.ft each i.e 200 sq.ft		

xii	Office Room (a) 300 sq.ft (b) Superintendents Room 200 sq.ft		
xiii	Counseling and Guidance Room 120 sq.ft		
xiv	Work Shop 1125 sq. ft for 15 Children @ 75 sq.ft per trainee		
xv	Residence of Superintendent (a) 2 Rooms of 250 sq.ft each (b) Kitchen 75 sq.ft (c) Bathroom cum Toilet 50 sq.ft		
xvi	2 Rooms for JJB/ CWC 300 sq.ft each i.e 600 sq.ft		
3	Sanitation and Hygiene		
i	Sufficient purified drinking water, water filter		
ii	Sufficient water bathing and washing cloth maintenances and cleanliness of the premises		
iii	Arrangements for disposal of garbage		
iv	Protection from mosquitoes by providing mosquitoes' nets		
v	Sufficient number of Toilets in the proportion of at least one latrine/ Toilet for Seven Children		
vi	Sufficient number of bathrooms in the preparation of at least one bathroom for the children		
vii	Clean and fly – proof kitchen and separate area washing utensils.		
viii	Open space for sunning of bedding and clothing		
ix	Utmost cleanliness in the medical centre		
4	Staff Pattern		
i	1. Warden/Steward		
ii	2. Resident Tutor/'Tutors		
iii	3. Cooks		
iv	4. Mess Boys/ Girls		
v	5. Sweeper/Part Time		
vi	6. Watchman/Security		
	Total No of Staffs		
5	Minimum Standard of Services		
5.1	Medical Facilities		

i	Regular Health Check Up is conducted and that there is a Doctor on call and he/ she visit the institution every alternate day. Institution should tie up with local PHCs for providing Medical facilities to children.		
ii	Sufficient medical equipment to handle minor health problem including first aid kit with stock of emergency medicines and consumables should be available etc.		
iii	Arrangements are made for the immunization coverage.		
iv	Timely referral is made of children/ Juvenile with deteriorating health or serious ailments to the nearest civil hospital or recognized treatment centre		
v	All institutional staff is trained in first aid treatment.		
5.2	Diet Scale		
i	The diet scale should be in accordance with provisions of the state rules under Juvenile Justice Act 2000 for each State which would be based on food habits.		
ii	Every Institution should constitute a mess committee with the membership of children/ Juvenile to plan and decide their daily menu. A nutrition expert shall be no of this committee who shall ensure that the food served is balanced, nutritious and varied.		
iii	The diet scale should include adequate quantity of cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits, eggs, milk and meat and finish in accordance with the local dietary habits.		

iv	Special menu should be provided on holidays, festivals and to the sick children/ Juveniles, as required.		
5.3	Clothing and Bedding		
A	Clothing (Every Year)		
i	Four sets of clothing (at one point of time, the child should have a minimum of three sets of clothing)		
ii	Five sets of customary undergarments		
iii	Two Towels		
iv	One Jersey and one pullover for winter		
v	Three Sets of School Uniform for children attending outside schools		
vi	One pair of shoes		
vii	Four pair of Socks		
viii	One pair of Chappals		
B	Bedding (Every Year)		
i	One Cotton mattress/ dari/ mat		
ii	Two Cotton bed Sheets		
iii	One blanket		
iv	One Pillow		
C	Others (As per need)		
i	Tooth Powder/ Paste		
ii	Tooth Brush		
iii	Soap		
iv	Oil		
v	Comb		
vi	Sanitary pad for girls		
vii	Serving dishes as required		
5.4	Daily Routine		
i	Regulated and disciplined daily routine		
ii	Personal Hygiene and cleanliness		
iii	Regular Physical exercise		
iv	Schooling		
v	Vocational Training		
vi	Recreation and Sports		
vii	Time for music & watching Television		
viii	Group Activities		
ix	Prayer and community singing		

x	Special Programmes for Sundays and holidays.		
5.5	Education		
i	Whether children are going to school outside campus		
ii	Schooling inside institution campus		
iii	Tuition		
iv	Others		
5.6	Vocational Training		
i	Computer Operation		
ii	Computer Repairing & Maintenance		
iii	Data Typing & Processing		
iv	Carpentry		
v	Fitter Training		
vi	Auto Mobile repair and servicing		
vii	Welding		
viii	Textile Printing		
ix	Tailoring		
x	Beautician		
xi	Electrical Wiring		
xii	Mobile Repairing		
xiii	Printing & Book binding		
xiv	Soap Marketing		
xv	Candle Marketing		
xiv	Any other Vocation/ Trade based on local needs which has employment potential		
6	Social Integration		
i	Counselling and other supportive services.		
ii	Whether Sponsorship Support is required		
iii	3 Nos. of Compulsory contact points		
7	Hostel Management Committee		
i	Whether hostel management committee is formed.		
ii	Others		

Remarks of the Inspecting Officers:-

Appendix 8
Students survey questionnaire

STUDY ON FUNCTIONING OF HOSTELS UNDER SCDD
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STUDENTS

Place

Date:

1. Respondent Details

1. Name of Hostel			
2. Student Name		3. Phone No.	
4. Gender : Male /Girls	5. Age :	6. Category: SC / ST /OBC/ General /	
7. Course		8. Institution	
9. Distance from Hostel to your Educational Institution		KM	
10. Your mode of conveyance	By Foot / Own Vehicle / Bus / Auto / Others (specify).....		

1. Opinion / Satisfaction Level (☐ tick the most appropriate option)

Facility	Opinion / Satisfaction Level (please <input type="checkbox"/> tick)						Comment/Suggestions
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	No facility	
Hostel Infrastructure							
Building							
Study Room							
Reading Room							
Floor							
Toilet							
Library							
Visitors Room							
Common Room							
Dining Room							
Laundry Room							
Prayer Room							
Play Ground							
Indoor Games							
Television							
Computers							
Internet							
Land Phone							
Room Space							
Material Provisions for students							
Cot							
Table							
Chair							
Cupboard							
Bed							
Bed cover							
Bed Sheet							
Pillow							

Pillow Cover							
Mat							
Hostel Maintenance							
Plumbing							
Electrical							
Fittings							
Lighting							
Fire Extinguishers							
Kitchen Utensils							
Solar Panels							
Bio gas plant							
Availability of the following items							
News papers							
Magazines							
Medicines							
First Aid Kit							
Waste Bin in rooms							
Waste Bin in halls							
Waste Bin in outside							
Complaint Book							
Sanitary Pad (For Girls hostels)							
Incinerator (For Girls hostels)							
Food, Health and Discipline							
Quantity of Food							
Quality of Food							
Hygiene of Kitchen							
Source of Water							
Serving of Food							
Regular cleaning of rooms							
Waste management system							
Toilet Hygiene							
Support from Hostel Staff							
Warden							
Steward							
Tutors							
Cook							
Watchman							
Academics							
Study Environment							
Tuition							
Mentoring							
Counseling							
Career Guidance							

Self-Assessment							
Academic Improvement							
Rate this Hostel							
Allowances							
Timely disbursal							
Amount							

2. Frequency of Visit of Officials /Committees

(State the last visit of official or meeting conducted)

	Month	Year	Comment/Suggestion
Officials			
Visit of District SCDO			
Visit of Block/C/M SCDO			
Health workers			
Your Parent/Guardian			
Committees			
PTA			
Hostel Advisory Committee			
Others (specify)			
Academics			
Test Paper by Tutor			
Model Exam by Tutor			
Counseling Programme			
Mentoring Programme			
Career Guidance Programme			
Celebrations			
Hostel Day			
Onam			
Christmas			
Others (specify)			



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