

Students' Perceptions on Dwelling Condition of University of Dhaka: A Case Study on Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall

Md. Shamsul Arefin^{1*}, Tarmin Akter², Syed Md. Siam³

¹Lecturer, Department of Educational Administration, Faculty of Education Sciences, Noakhali Science and Technology University, Noakhali-3814, Bangladesh,

²Lecturer, Pioneer College, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207, & Student, MPhil (In Progress), University of Dhaka

³Lecturer, Department of Education, Faculty of Education Sciences, Noakhali Science and Technology University, Noakhali-3814, Bangladesh

ABSTRACT

The students are the main asset of University of Dhaka, and the most precious one indeed. It will not be exaggerating to state that most of the students in Bangladesh dream to have the honor to be one students of University of Dhaka. Pupils from all over the country are selected on merit basis and are admitted accordingly into various faculties. It is said to be the largest public university in Bangladesh, with a student body of almost 33,000 and a faculty of 1,800. One of the many responsibilities of the University is to accommodate the dwelling of its students, especially for those who do not have residents in Dhaka. Residential halls for both male and female students serve this purpose. Presently there are 20 halls and 3 specialized hostels where 15 halls and 2 hostels for male and 5 halls and 1 hostel for female students situated around the university premises. The establishment of these residential halls is not a single phenomenon; the dwelling conditions of those halls and proper maintenance of its system are also included with it. The study will basically revolve around illustrating these issues of living condition of residential halls of University of Dhaka, in the light of one selected hall- is a historically build residential hall for male students, named Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall. The prime concern of the study is to explore and analyze through a typical hall-life-experience of students of University of Dhaka.

KEYWORDS

Hygiene

Entertainment

Dwelling Condition

Political Interventions

Authority Monitoring etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

Students are the ultimate strength of any educational institutions. History reveals that the University of Dhaka is the proud entity to produce renowned legends of all times like The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman, SatyendraNath Bose (pioneer of Bose–Einstein statistics), Buddhadeb Bose (20th century Bengali poet) Muhammad Yunus (winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize), and many more. The current Honorable Prime Minister SHEIKH HASINA is also a notable alumnus of university of Dhaka. Need not to mention, its students had played a central role in the rise of Bengali nationalism and the independence of Bangladesh. (Banglapedia, 2012). On the first day of July 1921 the University of Dhaka opened its doors to students with Sir P.J. Hartog as the first Vice-Chancellor of the University. During its early years, it has been a significant contributor to the modern history of Bangladesh by enlightening the country with many scholars since then. The students of University of Dhaka are often termed as the cream of the creams of the society. The vast range of the students makes the university rich with potential, creativity and ingenuity. It is the largest public university in Bangladesh, with almost 33,000 numbers of students and a faculty of 1,800 (DU. 2019). The major responsibility of the University is to provide proper education, facilities and environment for its students. The accommodation availability for the students is of utmost importance. There are 15 halls for male and 5 halls for female students. However, the satisfaction and contentment of student living in those halls are questionable. Thus, the concerned research attempts to identify the problems related with the living conditions in the residential halls of the University of Dhaka, for the purpose of study the hall is selected namely ‘Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall’. The problems being identified are systematically analyzed and scrutinized through the research and resolution and recommendation are prescribed thereby.

1.1 Scope and Objectives of the Study

1.1.1 Scope

The research is focused on the existing dwelling condition in residential halls of university of Dhaka; its lacking and ways to overcome it. Due to negligence on this concern, there has not been much study in this area. There are a number of issues that are related to this, deserve extensive research. However, due to resource and time constraints this research is covering only residential hall- ‘Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall’

1.1.2 Objectives

The general objective of this study is to analyze present dwelling condition in residential halls of the University of Dhaka. Based on the general objective of the study, some specific objectives have been drawn as follows-

- ❖ *To reveal the existing dwelling condition in residential halls of the university of Dhaka*
- ❖ *To recommend how to solve existing problems*
- ❖ *To evaluate the suitability of present dwelling condition for students*
- ❖ *To assess the existing dwelling condition by comparing it with what condition university authority is obliged to maintain*

1.2 Rationale of the Study

Students are the life blood of an educational institution. The fame, status, prestige of any educational institution are largely depends on its students. In case of this University, historically whole nation depends on its student for leading major movement, directing the nation in any national crisis. The students of this university also lead and direct the nation in every sphere of nation building activities. The provision of adequate ‘dwelling facilities’ is important for their proper development of physical and mental ability to be the eligible student as well as citizen of the state, so that they can serve their university as well as nation. For ensuring proper dwelling condition, an assessment of existing condition is needed. Identifying the challenges in ensuring proper condition is also necessary. The research is aiming at assessing existing dwelling condition and identifying challenges in ensuring proper dwelling condition. It is also intending to identify and recommend some actions to be taken in order to improve existing condition. Assessment of existing condition, challenges in ensuring proper dwelling condition and recommendation of some needed action to improve the existing condition is given in the later part of the research.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

In Bangladesh very few researchers had been directed to be focused on the existing dwelling condition in residential halls of university of Dhaka. More over there is almost no document about this issue. Due to negligence on this concern, there has not been much study in this area, its problems and ways to overcome it. There are a number of issues that are related to this, deserve extensive research. Some articles are found about the living conditions in Dhaka University residential halls, especially about the accommodation issue and the food quality through media coverage and newspaper articles.

In 25th may, 2008, Sunday *“The Daily Star”* newspaper published an article named *“Space Problem at DU halls”*. Here an important thing is argued that more than a thousand students of Dhaka University have a hard time finding accommodation or sleeping space in their residential halls. More than 500 of these students are forced to sleep on the floors and corridors. Here it should be mentioned that these harsh situation is mainly in the boys’ halls.”

The second issue is mostly argued by the media is food quality. *“The Bangladesh news”* had reported about it on August 6, 2013 and found the dining rooms and canteens of Dhaka University were in a miserable condition. Pebbles were found in rice and grub in fish. The students were being forced to eat from sticky plates and glasses. The dining rooms and canteens looked like cat kingdoms. This plight had been persisting for many years but there was none to look after it. The university authorities did not have a specific guideline in this regard. In fact the university and hall administrations were not aware of what the students are eating.”

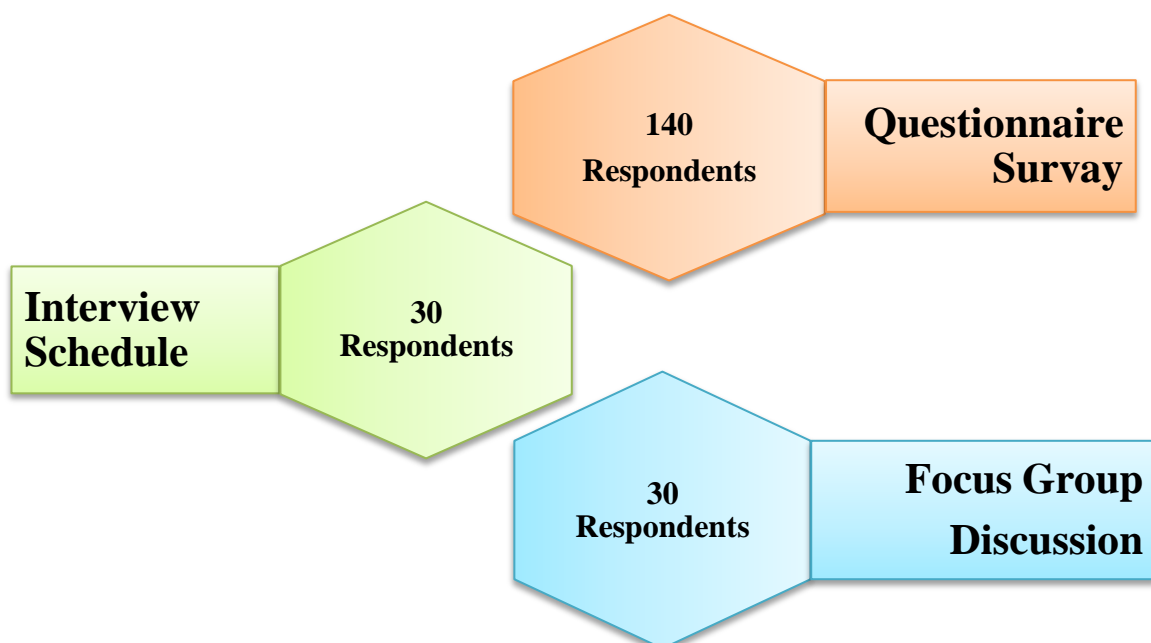
Moreover, the whole report illustrated the emphasis of the concerned authority on progressing about the facilities in residential halls of Dhaka University.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Methods

This study is mixed and mainly explanatory research by nature and it is based on primary data collected from Interview Schedule, Survey Questionnaires and Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

3.2 Population and Sample Size: Students, Officers and Staffs of Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall of University of Dhaka are the population of the study. Total 200 Students, Officers and Staffs participated in this study where 140 are students and 60 are Officers and Staffs. Among them, 30 are chosen for face to face interview and other 30 are chosen for Focus Group Discussion (FGD)



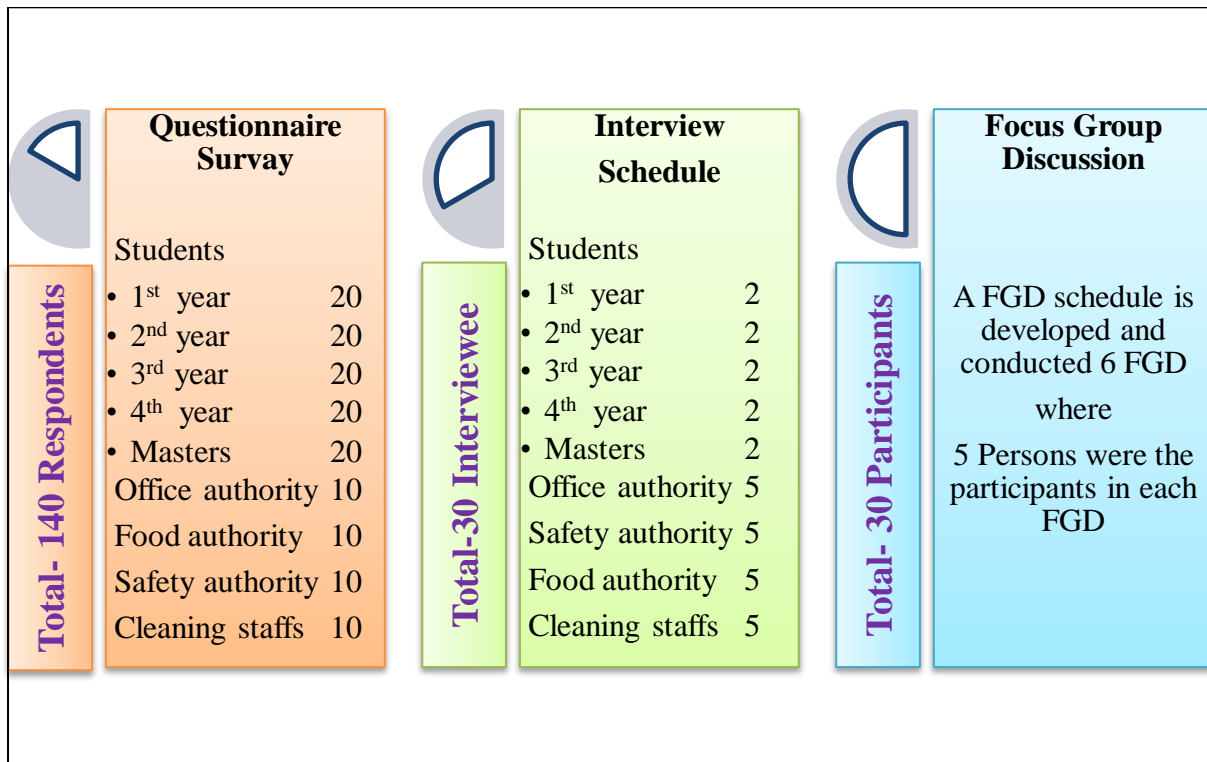


Figure 1: Sample size

3.3 Sampling Methods and Technique: A purposive sampling methods is applied in this study.

3.4 Data Collection Tools and Techniques: To collect the quantitative data a survey questionnaire was applied to students, officers and staffs of Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall of University of Dhaka. An Interview schedule is used to collect qualitative data form 10 students and 20 halls' officers and staffs. A FGD (Focus Group Discussion) schedule is developed and conducted 6 FGD where 5 persons were the participants in each FGD.

3.5 Data Analysis: To analyze the data obtained from questionnaires, interview and FGD (Focus Group Discussion), a descriptive triangulation method is used. Triangulation of quantitative and qualitative data increases the credibility and validity of this study. SPSS software was used for statistical analysis if the quantitative data. Different themes are identified, and data are analyzed under each theme. Simple percentages of respondents against the supplied evidence are computed for questionnaires, interview and Focus Group Discussion.

3.6 Limitation of the Study

Carrying out the research work was not a smooth task rather than it was encompassed with a lot of troubles. The way to accomplish the work was thorny and it led a number of difficulties to the researchers'. However, the researchers were promised to complete the research within the given time with the limited resources. To legalize the research it is the respective duty of the researchers to mention the limitations which make the research difficult to achieve its goals. The following factors are the prime which may have the effect on the result of the research.

- ✚ Unwillingness of the informants
- ✚ Time constraint
- ✚ Cost management

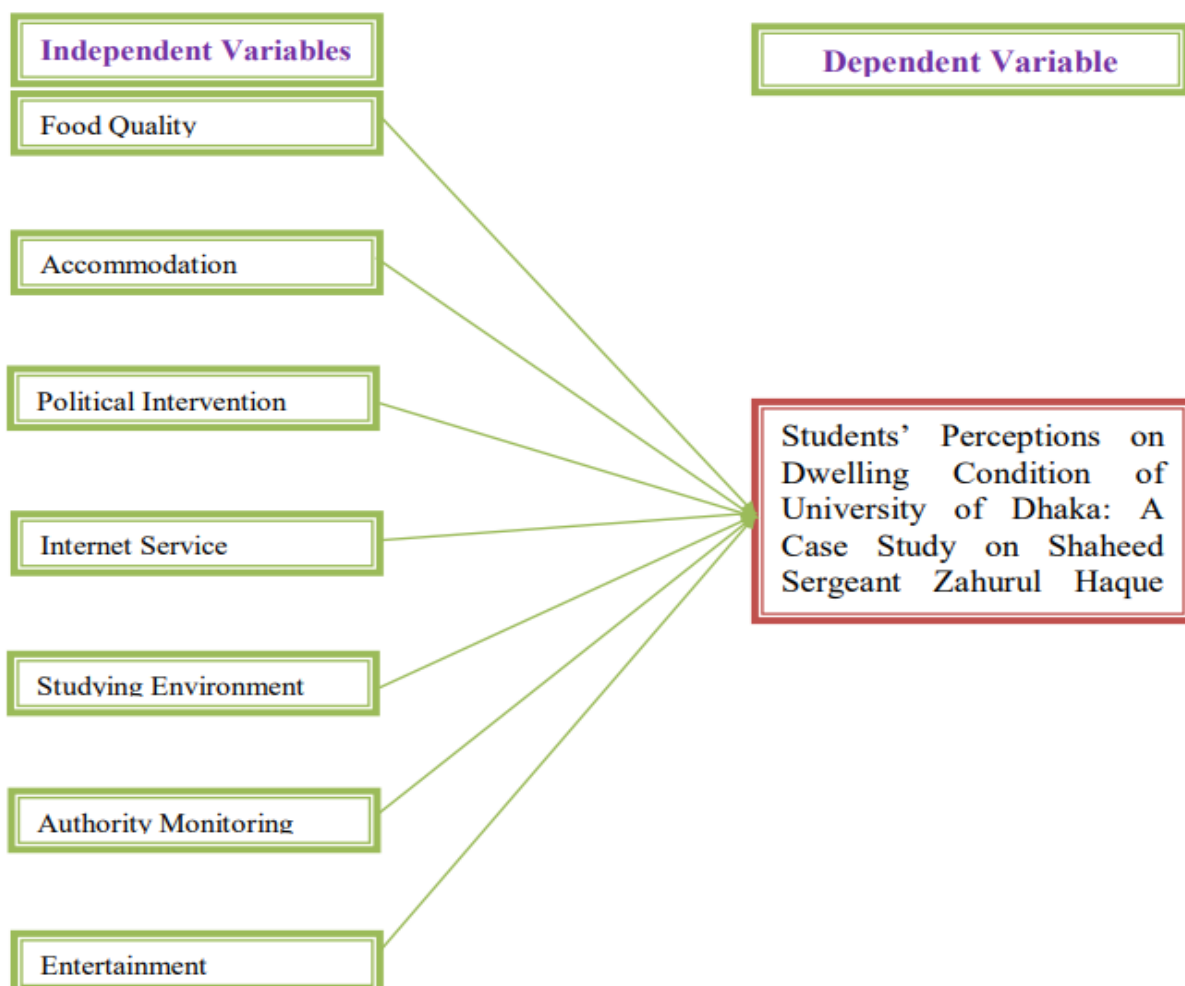
Unwillingness of the informants: Different methods of data collection were used to conduct the research. Among them interview method was used mostly. The research was in a demand of taking interview of a number of persons. But unfortunately many of them were not interested in giving their opinion on the following matter. Many reasons could be found out behind these including political pressure, the unusual demand of their time and so on. So, it made the field work difficult for the researchers in finding the necessary information.

Time Constraint: It is said earlier that the research is not an easy task to carry on. So, it needs enough time to lead the research on its way to fulfill the objectives. Insufficient time can affect the quality of the research. The researchers tried to follow every possible way to fulfill the research objectives, though the given time had to be dismantled for other works also. They had to perform their schedule works also while conducting the research. So, it can be a serious limitation to complete the work.

Cost Management: As it was an academic research, there was no formal budget for the task. But the research gets the purse of the researchers and had them spend in several areas. It won't be a modest work to write up the areas where the money has been spent but the matter of cost will not be redundant in stating the report.

Limitations made the research difficult and prohibited the research from covering all areas which were designed to accomplish. But the turning point is that the researchers became successful to achieve overall objects of the research.

IV. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK



V. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 FINDINGS

5.1.1 Food Quality

Table 1: The quality of food of Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Perfect Good	0	0
Very Good	0	0
Quite Ok	30	21.43
Not Bad	50	35.71
Totally Bad	60	42.86
Total:	140	100

This table is mainly focus on; Majority of the students (60) said that, the quality of food is indeed very low and unhealthy. Other 50 respondents said that, the quality of food is not bad. 30 respondents said, the quality of food is quite ok of Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall of Dhaka University. P₃FGD₁ said that “*It can be mentioned that their discomfort for the poor hygiene condition of the hall*”

Table 2: Lower Price of Food and accommodation fees

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	80	57.14
No	60	42.86
Total:	140	100

Among 140 respondents, the prime portion of the respondents (80) said that, the price of food and accommodation fees are reasonable in Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall of Dhaka University. Another 60 respondents said that, the price of food and accommodation fees aren't reasonable. So in percentages 57.14% said that, the price of food and accommodation fees are reasonable and 42.86% said that these are not reasonable. P₅FGD₂ said that

“They argued that, lack of concern of the hall authority is also responsible for the detrimental quality of food served and accommodation in their halls.”

Table 3: Improve the quality of food

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	100	71.43
No	40	28.57
Total:	140	100

Above Table-3, 100 of the respondents think that, the quality of food maintenance of proper hygiene is most important. Another, 40 of the respondents said there is no problem in the quality of food in this hall of Dhaka university

5.1.2 Accommodation

Table 4: Satisfaction of accommodation Situation

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Satisfied	10	7.14
Much Satisfied	50	35.71
Not Satisfied	80	57.86
Total:	140	100

It is really good indicator that among 140 respondents, only 10 respondents are satisfied. Another (50) are much satisfied. Majority (80) of the people are not satisfied.

P₃FGD₂ said that

“the powers of political students have great influence over allotment of the seats. This is a huge problem for the students who do not have access to politics”

Figure 1: Problems of accommodation and utility services (supply of water, electricity)

Majority of the students (70) said that, they face problem with lack of supply of electricity, mainly from 12p.m. to 1.30p.m. Many other (80) said there is lack of water supply. Others (50) opined that the problem of congestion in accommodation.

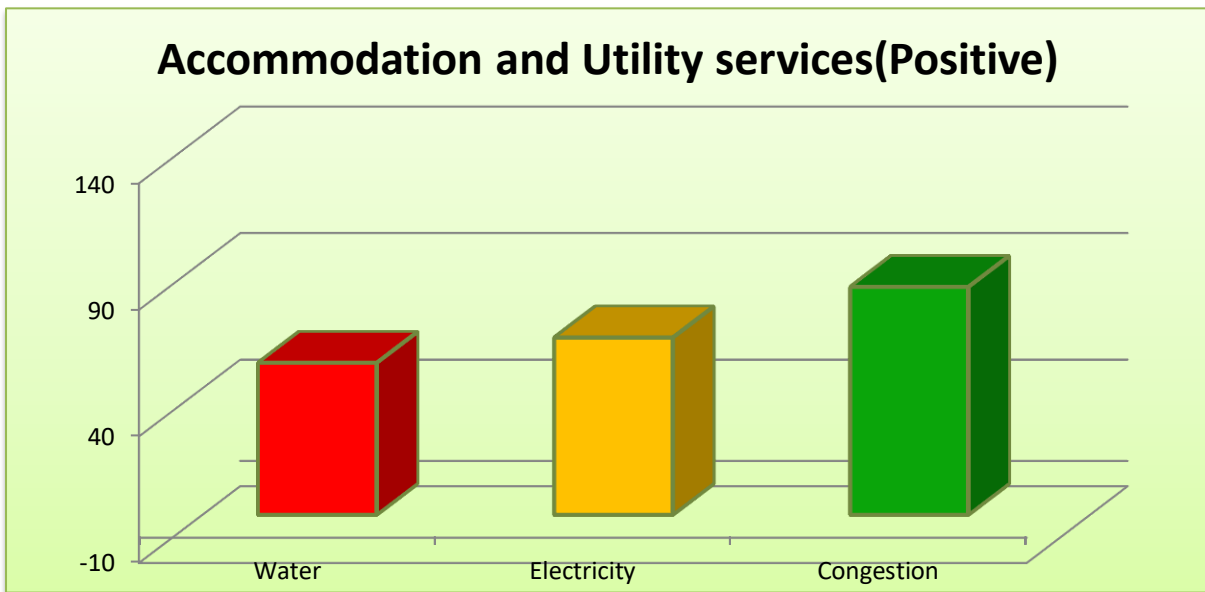


Figure-1 Accommodation and Utility services

5.1.3 Political Intervention

Table 5 : Obstruction to build up hall's life

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	60	42.86
No	80	57.14
No Idea	0	0
Total:	140	100

This Table shows 60 respondents said Politics is the great obstruction to build up hall’s life in University of Dhaka. And another 80 respondents said that Politics helps to build up hall’s life in Universityof Dhaka.

Table 6: Trouble in Seats allotment

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Dominating & Pressure	60	42.86
Friendly	40	28.57
Seats Storages	30	21.43
No Problem	10	7.14
Total:	140	100

Most of the respondents (60) said that, the political leaders have great dominance over allotment of the seats. 30 other said there is shortage of seats compared with the students’ needs. And (40) said they don’t face (Friendly).

Table 7: Relationship between senior and junior students

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Friendly	70	50.00
Unfriendly	60	42.86
Not bad	10	7.14
Total:	140	100

Among 140 respondents, 70 said that, their behavior is friendly with senior and junior students. Another 60 said that, sometimes students are seen to be dominated by their senior brother in campus. So, in percentages, 43.75% said that, behavior is friendly, 37.50% said that this is dominating and unfriendly behavior. Another 8.75% said - not bad.

P₃FGD₃ said that

“The power of relationship was high in the past but it is gradually decreasing now. This gradual decrease is welcomed with the change in point of view of the new generation, and integrity and cooperation among the students.”

Table 8: Violence and Unrest Occurring within Hall

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Dangerous	90	64.29
Not Significant	50	35.71
Total:	140	100

This table is mainly focus on the clear picture about the Violence and Unrest Occurring within Hall. 90 of the respondents said the violence in hall premises is dangerous and occurs due to politics only. Again, 50 of the respondents said the violence in hall is not significant these days. P₃FGD₆ said that *“political ideology and struggle for post in political party as reasons for violence.”*

5.1.4 Internet service

Table 9 : Internet service facilities

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Good	100	71.43
Not bad	40	28.57
Total:	140	100

Majority (100) said the internet service is not good as the Wi-Fi service is not always available and (40) others said that they are happy with this. So in percentages, 71.43% said that, the internet service is not good and another 28.57% said that- Not Bad

P₃FGD₄ said that

“There are no strong committee consisting of a house tutors to supervise computer courses and the lab. The staffs of computer lab are inefficient and ignorant in helping students with any problems.”

5.1.5 Studying Environment

Figure 2: Suitable Environment for Study in room

It is really negative indicator that among 140 respondents, 90 of the respondents said there is no suitable place in the rooms due to congestion and even in the study room. Other 50 respondents said that there is sufficient well environment for reading. So in percentages, 64.29% said that, said there is no suitable place in the rooms for study. And 35.71% said that, there is well environment for study

'P₃FGD₃ said that

“there is no suitable place in the rooms due to congestion and even in the study room which is always remain filled.”

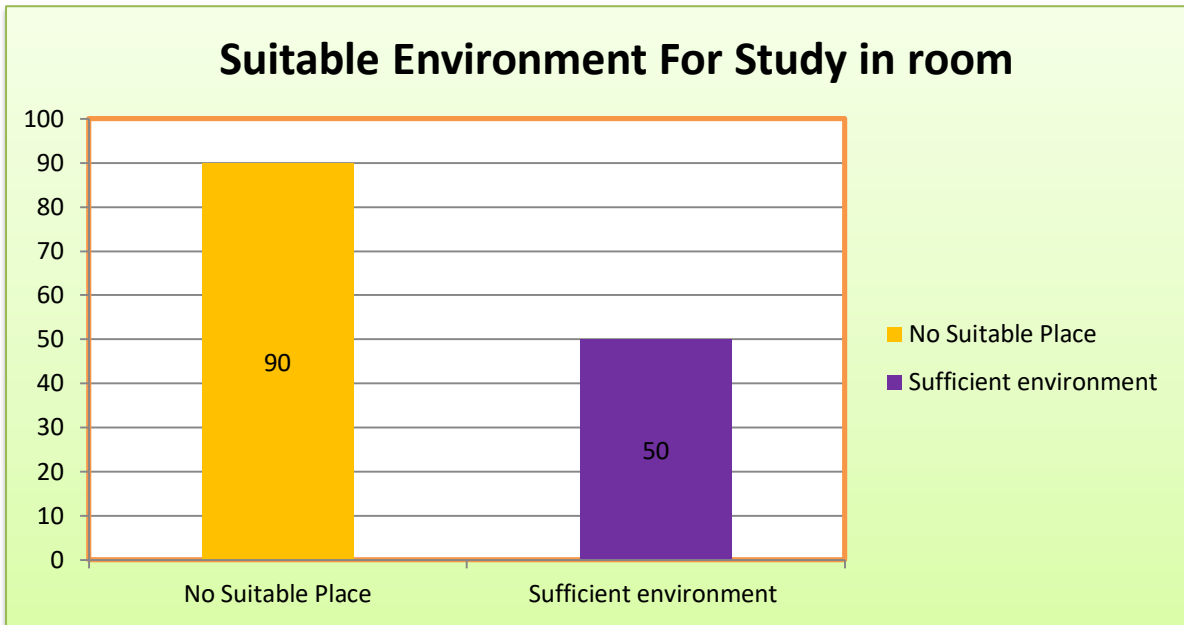


Figure-2 Suitable Environment For Study in room

5.1.6 Authority monitoring

Table 10: Behavior of the stuff

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Perfectly Good	10	7.14
Quite ok	90	64.29
Not up to the mark	40	28.57
Total:	140	100

Table 10 shows that, 10 respondents said that the behavior of the stuff is perfectly good. Other (40) said that the behavior of the stuff is Not Up to the Mark. Another 90 said, the behavior of the stuff is quite ok.

Table 11 :Having bus facility

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	10	7.14
No	130	92.86
Total:	140	100

Most of the respondents (130) (from Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall) said there is no bus Facilities for the students. Some (10) also said that, there are buses Facilities only for female Hall.

Figure 3: Safety of the Students and Tutors

Most of the respondents (110) said there is not much safety measures available for the students and tutors. Some (30) also said safety is quite ok. P₃FGD₂ said that

“Regarding the authorities role in providing safety, it is said that there is not much safety measures available for the students and tutors.”

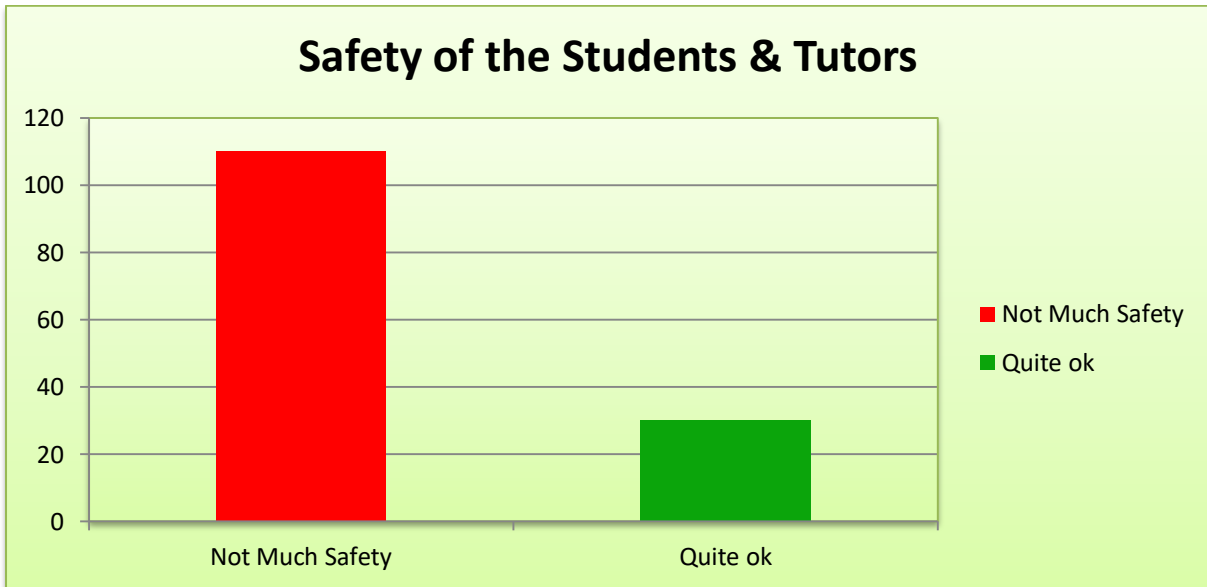


Figure-3 Safety of the students & tutors

Table 12: Satisfaction level of administrative office’ service (delay in procedure, ignorance etc?)

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Satisfied	90	64.29
Dissatisfied	30	21.43
Quite Ok	20	14.29
Total:	140	100

The Majority (90) respondents said they are satisfied with the administrative office service as the officers are concerned with their duty. 20 of the respondents said the service is quite ok. The rest (30) gave opinion that and they are not satisfied with the services, which are often delayed to be provided.

P₃FGD₃ said that

“we are not satisfied with the administrative services due to delay in procedure, ignorant behavior, favouritism etc.”

5.1.7 Entertainment

Table 13: Newspaper facilities

	Responses	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Available of Newspaper	130	92.86
Not Enough	10	7.14
Total:	140	100

Majority of the respondents (130) said that there is availability of newspaper in the concerned hall. Another (10) said that, not enough. So, in percentages, 92.86% said that, there is availability of newspaper and 7.14% said that, the newspaper facility is not enough in the concern hall.

P₂FGD₄ said that

“Yes, we are very satisfied because the newspaper facility is available in Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall of University of Dhaka.”

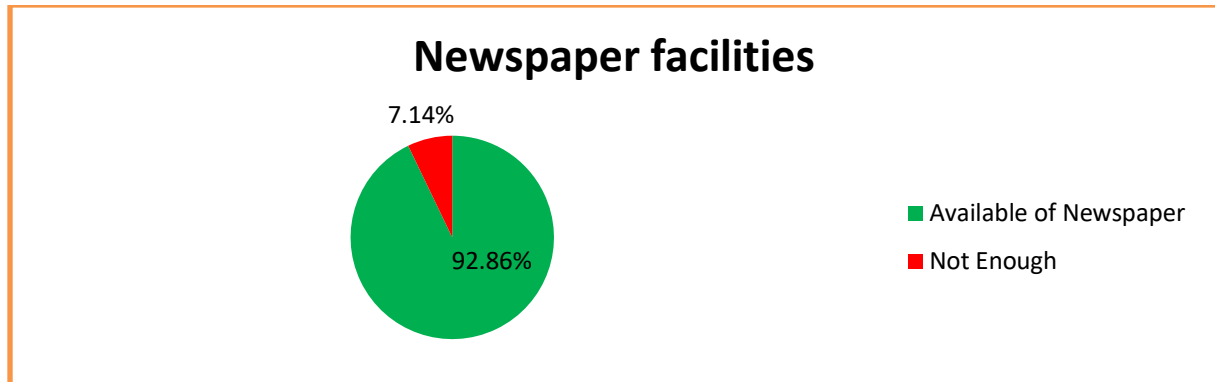


Figure 4- Newspaper Facilities

Figure 5: Instrument of Entertainment

Game- The majority (100) respondents said the availability of the game service of is quiet ok. Then, 20 of the respondents said its good and 20 of the respondents said the service is not good.

Television- 60 of the respondents said the television service enjoyed by the students is good. 50 of them said it is quiet ok but has some problems such as senior students prevailing preference to control. 30 of them said it is not enough

Library room- Most of the respondents (90) said the library room is crowded and not sufficient space is available. Other (40) said the service is bad and needs to improve. Another 10 said the service is quite ok.

Music/ dance learning scope- 60 of the respondents said there is music and guitar teacher available in the concerned hall for the students. 40 said the service is bad. 40 of the respondents said the scope available is not sufficient. P₂FGD₄ said that

“Yes, we are very satisfied because music teacher is available in Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall of University of Dhaka. If it’s to say about television service, the television service which is enjoyed by the students is good despite some problems such as senior students prevailing preference to control”

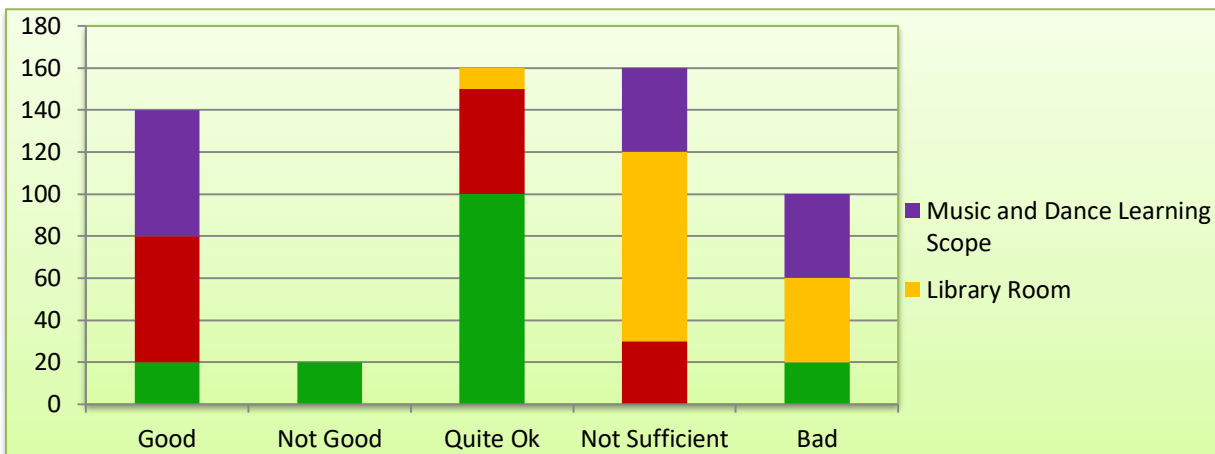


Figure-5 Opinion about the other facilities

5.2 Quantitative Analysis with Reference to Analytical Framework (Assumption: A score out of 20 (Twenty))

Explanatory Variables (Each Value-20)	Positive Value from Respondents (%) Satisfied	Positive Value from Respondents (Out of 20) Satisfied	Average of the Positive Values (Out of 20) Satisfied	Negative Values (Out of 20) Dissatisfied
Food Quality	66.67%	13.33	(13.33+14.66+13+8+10+12.5+19.25)/ 7	20-12.97
Accommodation	73.33%	14.66		
Political Intervention	65%	13		
Internet service	40%	8		
Studying Environment	50%	10		
Authority Monitoring	62.5%	12.5		
Entertainment	96.25%	19.25		
Total Result			= 12.97	= 7.03

Table 14 - Quantitative Analysis with Reference to Analytical Framework

And finally it can be mentioned that “A score of 12.97 (Out of 20) does not overwhelmingly indicate any specific level of satisfaction. However, this satisfaction level is more than fifty percentages. It is not good for any hall of the University of Dhaka. But without this 12.97, there is another value which is $(20-12.97) = 7.03$ and this value indicates negative result that means dissatisfaction.

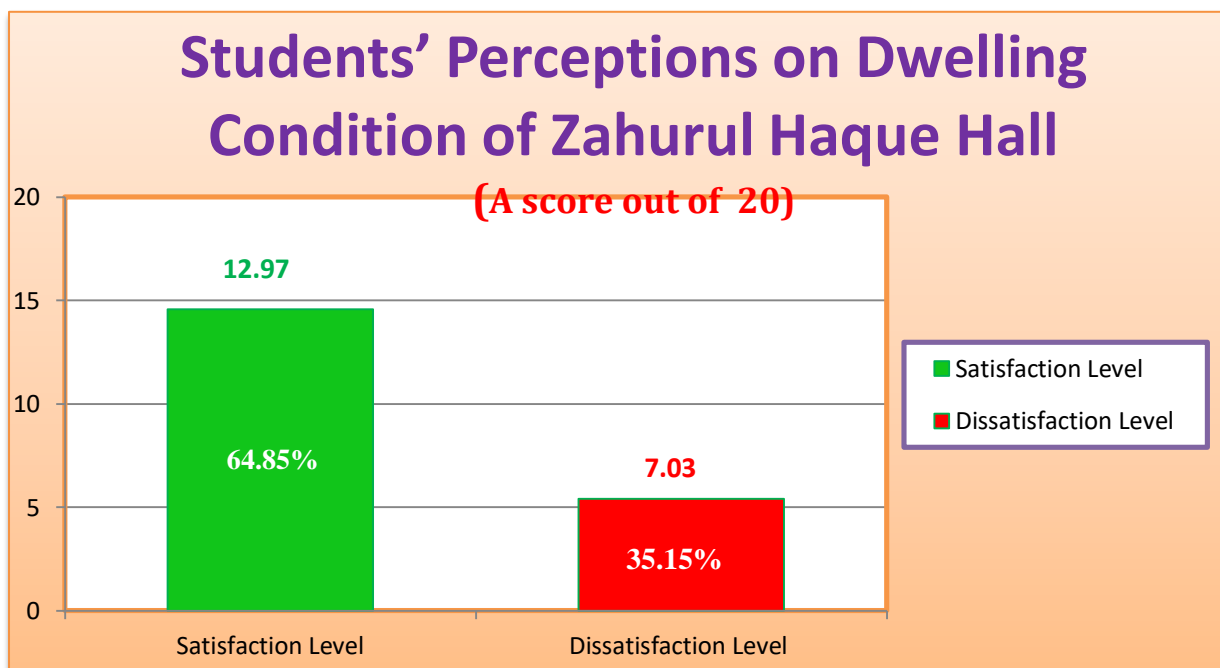


Figure 6- Overall Outcome at a Glance, A score out of 20

5.3 DISCUSSION

5.3.1 Food Quality

The respondents from Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall were all found to be discontent with the quality of food that is served in their hall. The reasons for this dissatisfaction were many extent. The majority of the respondents expressed their discomfort for the poor hygiene condition of the hall. They believe that in order to improve the quality of food, maintenance of proper hygiene is most important. "Another important factor is the dominance of some turbulent students. Due to this the authority cannot afford to improve the food quality sufficiently. Some other respondents opined that lack of concern of the hall authority is also responsible for the detrimental quality of food served in their halls."

5.3.2 Accommodation

The respondents from Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall various issues were found regarding accommodation of the students. Majority of the respondents face troubles in securing seat in the hall. Because there is shortage of seats compared with the students' needs for which congestion occurs in every room to a great extent. They also face problem with supply of electricity and water, mostly from 12p.m. to 1p.m. This is because in summer the problem of load shedding is vital in this area, hence, inability to turn on the motor-pump leads to shortage of water supply. Another important factor is the presence of bed-bugs which makes sleeping difficult for the students especially at night.

5.3.3 Political Intervention

Political involvement of students has a big influence on the Campus environment. The respondents from Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall informed that, they face many difficulties for pursuing seat. Majority of them also mentioned about the occurrence of violence and unrest which results are harmful for students.

5.3.4 Internet Service

Almost all the respondents from Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall said they face problem with supply of electricity mostly from 12p.m. to 1p.m. This is because in summer the problem of load shedding is vital in this area. Regarding the internet service nearly all the respondents answered that the service is not good as the Wi-Fi service is not always available in that area.

5.3.5 Studying Environment

The respondents from Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall mostly said there is no suitable place in the rooms due to congestion and even in the study room which always remain filled. Although other respondents said that there is sufficient well environment for reading.

5.3.6 Authority monitoring

Major portion of the respondents being questioned from Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall expressed disappointment for the authority monitoring system of the hall. "Most of them mentioned that halls authority is liable to the political leaders and decisions are taken in favor of those in power." Although the services provided by the stuffs are satisfactory to most of the respondents in spite of several existing problems. Many of the respondents who said they are not satisfied with the administrative services are due to delay in procedure, ignorant behavior, favoritism, etc. Regarding the authorities role in providing safety, most of the respondents said there is not much safety measures available for the students and tutors.

5.3.7 Entertainment

Entertainment may include provision for watching television, playing game, learning and performing music or dance, newspaper facility etc. The majority of the respondents from Shaheed Sergeant ZahurulHaque Hall said that, the availability of the game service is quiet ok. Most of the respondents said the television service which is enjoyed by the students is good despite some problems such as senior students prevailing preference to control. Many also mentioned that music teacher is available in the concerned hall for the students. Even though some opine that the scope for entertainment available is not sufficient. The respondents also informed that there is newspaper facility available in the concerned hall.

VI. RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

To solve the existing problem and to improve the present situation for attaining a suitable dwelling condition for the students living in residential halls in university of Dhaka, the university authority's and student's effort is needed. Recommendations for discarding the analyzed existing problems are suggested below in brief.

- ❖ University authority has to be strong and sincere in distributing hall seats among the students on the basis of seniority and rationality.
- ❖ Hall authority has to exercise strong controls on the food server in hall dining and canteen and should take essential measures for maintaining a good quality of food. And also should act sensibly against free eating from dining and canteen.
- ❖ University authority as well as government should take efficient measures of influence of 'student's politics' on general students.
- ❖ Teacher student combined consultation meeting need to organize regularly.
- ❖ Hall authority should monitor the cleaner to ensure that they do their duty properly so that hygienic condition persists in washroom. The students also should be sensible in using washroom for maintaining a healthy condition there.
- ❖ Hall authority has to ensure proper use of IT resources by constituting 'Hall IT committee', employing efficient computer lab staff and by proper maintenance of Wi-Fi technology. University authority should allocate more resource in this regard.

6.2 CONCLUSION

The students are the future of the country; especially the students of University of Dhaka are the future leaders of the nation. It is the responsibility of the hall authority as well as the government to provide a suitable condition for their proper development of physical and mental ability so that they can lead and serve the nation to the way of prosperity and glory. The research is a little effort to describe and assess the current situation, to identify the key issues and to explore solutions for the specific problems. But, because of time and resource constraint our research could not cover the whole residential system of students of University of Dhaka. Further, exploratory studies should be undertaken on this topic by covering the whole students' residential system of University of Dhaka to define latest problems faced by the student and their solutions.

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