

MANAGEMENT OF SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN GIRLS' HOSTELS OF MIZORAM : DEVELOPMENT AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Accommodation is considered to one of the most important basic need for students all over the world, and more institutions are being established that provide hostel accommodations for the students to study in an environment free from all distractions, this study assess the developments and challenges of girls hostels run by the SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) in all the districts of Mizoram to promote education for girls that are bound to chores at home and don't have any free time to study, this intervention as it is called also provides accommodation for the victims of a divorce and encourages orphans to study by granting them the right to study again. The assessment in the study also analyses the impact it has on the lives of the girls staying at the hostel accommodations provided to them through this SSA intervention.

Key Words : Accommodation , Hostel, Intervention, Satisfaction.

INTRODUCTION

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which means "Education for all" is a nationwide flagship programme which aims at providing quality education to all children between 6-14 years of age. SSA is a programme with time bound targets, well defined definitions of responsibilities and devotion of power with clear cut job assignments at various levels and close monitoring.

Under the programme of SSA mission, several interventions/programmes were introduced which included institutional reforms, sustainable financing, community ownership, capacity building, mainstreaming of out of school children, community based monitoring with transparency, habitation as a unit of planning and trust on quality etc.

The program of SSA mission launched in Mizoram along with other states of the country, initially in Saiha district and subsequently in the other seven districts. The project in a similar note

with its conception has been taken up in a mission mode with full dedication and enthusiasm.

Girl's education is one of the interventions of the innovation activities, this intervention was started in 2004 in the 8 different districts of Mizoram. Every year the hostels enroll 45 - 55 students, and each hostel have a warden, Asst warden, cook and helper, the hostels provide education, food to eat and clothes to wear free of cost.

The assessment on the development and challenges of the SSA girls hostels in all the districts of Mizoram in the present study helps us get an insight into the various impact it has on the lives of the girls staying at the hostel accommodations provided by SSA intervention, in the study we find that girls from all sorts of background, age, and region come to study and stay in the hostels in order to get better education and the distance they have to travel to get to the hostels varies immensely throughout the state,

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the study also reveals the various problems and hardships faced by the employees working at the hostels and the different challenges they face on a daily basis without a proper wage scheme all over the state .

SURVEY OF LITERATURE

Hostels accommodations exists in various institutions all around the world so that students studying in the institutions can focus better on studies and living in the institution creates an environment that enhances better concentration on studies without any possibilities of distraction that can be caused by many things around the external environment. The first hostels were run by protestant pastors and catholic priests who provided accommodation and shelter for travelers seeking knowledge from all over the world .

The concept of hostels evolved many hundreds of years ago, the precursors of the hostel dates back to medieval times, during this period some apprenticeships required obligatory travel to another town or country in order to practice and hone the skills or trade that was being developed. (Grassl and Heath 1982)

The number of schools universities providing accommodation has increased significantly in the past decades and have also been found to have tremendous affect on student enrolment in to the schools and universities.

Students and scholars would travel throughout Europe to different universities to learn and teach (McCulloh, 1992) and so the need for hostels grew as time passed by and more emphasis was given on studying abroad.

(Huang, Julia 2006)Several countries in East Africa have set up special boarding schools ,some specifically targeting girls and were found to be extremely beneficial in providing quality education to the girls.

(Aluko, 2011)The rise in population which has led to various problematic conditions of student housing which range from inadequate infrastructure facilities to overcrowding, has indeed met with renewed interest in sourcing and researching the best practicable approach towards the enablement and efficient, conducive

academic driven environment.

Khozai Fatemeh ,Ayub Nadia & Khozai Zahra (2010) Students need proper accommodations to study efficiently , and it has been found that many students find it difficult to be satisfied with various hostel accommodations available to them and sometime it requires them to compromise and be satisfied with the accommodation facilities provided to them .

Many students found themselves trapped in unfortunate circumstances that limited new experiences. Through recreation and the enjoyment of nature, they found an escape from the hustle and bustle of their normal lives, and staying at a hostel eliminates all the limitations of hustle from life outside hostels.

(Amole 2009) Although there are many studies that investigate factors influencing residents' satisfaction with their homes and neighborhood, there seems to be a lack of inquiry into students' satisfaction with their university housing or hostels.

Some of the benefits of a student residing at a hostel receives a lot of benefits in the students education as well as co curricular activities in socializing with peers of various age group and backgrounds . (Basse Ubong, 2007) stated in his article that a boarding school student enjoys various benefits like :

1. Facilitating reading / learning
2. Co curricular activities
3. Security
4. Moral training
5. Peer relationships
6. Pupil Personnel Management (PPM)

Girls in the rural areas especially find very little time for study at home , as girls are expected to help in performing all the household chores which is why the government implemented these hostels for girls especially so that they will have all the freedom and time to study away from home free from all the distractions that can hamper their studies . And so this assessment aims to find the various developments taking place in the hostels and to diagnose the various problems they encounter and to suggest ways and means to avoid them.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Mizoram, the southern most State of north-eastern India, covers a total area of 21,081 sq. km. Its 1,014 km-long international boundaries touch the neighboring countries of Bangladesh in the west and Myanmar in the east and the south. The Indian states of Manipur, Assam, and Tripura are located on its north-east. The location of Mizoram lies between Latitude 21° 58' & 24° 35' N and Longitude 92° 15' & 93° 29' E.

Mizoram became statehood on 20th February 1987. The state is subdivided into eight districts, viz., Kolasib, Mamit, Aizawl (capital), Champhai, Serchhip, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Saiha. According to 2011 census the total population of the State stood at 10,91,014 (Female 5,38,675; Male 5,52,339) and the literacy of 91.85 %, is the second highest among all the states of India, after Kerala.

The purpose of setting up of girls hostels is mainly to cater the need of the girls from poor background like below poverty line (BPL) of rural areas and urban deprived children. The activity is designed to attract drop out girls from a very poor background. In these hostels the girls are provided boarding, lodging and educational facilities free of cost provisions of uniforms and scholarship have also been undertaken. Free Textbooks, Exercise Books, School Bags, Pen, Pencil, School Uniform, School Shoes and Socks are provided to all the students boarded in the Hostel and the Teaching- Learning materials such as, Computer, Sewing Machine, and T.V. etc. are available in the girl's hostel.

Since 2004 the hostels have enrolled many and girls gave them the opportunity to study and learn many things from the instructors in the hostels, the hostels have yielded results in terms of improvement in girl's education all around the different districts of Mizoram.

A managing board of the hostel has been formed by the District Project coordinator to formulate the rule and guideline for managing the hostel. The girls have to follow a certain guidelines that qualify them to be enrolled into the hostels, and the guidelines are:

1. A citizen of India
2. Economically backward student
3. Drop-out student, who have not completed elementary level
4. BPL family. Certified by the V.C(Village Council)
5. Urban deprived children.

The main objective of the hostels is to provide young girls who don't have the privilege to obtain education due to poverty and other problems. The intervention also teaches vocational courses like sewing, computer courses etc, and also gives scholarship to the girls. The hostels also organize sex awareness campaigns, sanitation programs for the girls.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study is undertaken with the following objectives

1. To analyze the impact of the Girls hostel on development of students.
2. To diagnose problems and issues of the Girls Hostels.
3. To collect suggestions for improvement of the girls hostel.
4. To suggest measures for improvement of the Girls hostels.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sampling design

The information was collected from the girl's hostels in the different districts in Mizoram, 20 girls from each of the girls hostels were randomly asked to fill the questionnaire and interviewed in the hostel. Besides the hostellers information is also collected from the warden and District Coordinator and also included in the study. There are 8 districts out of which 13 hostels were established all around the state from which the samples were used in the study.

Data collection

A set of questionnaires were prepared for the girls and for the employees and primary data was collected based on the information from the questionnaires. Primary data was also collected based on an interview of the girls staying in the

hostels. Secondary data for the study was collected from internet sources and published international and national journals.

Tools for analysis

After collecting all the necessary information using the information schedules, the filled up schedules were edited and analyzed carefully so as to get a true picture of the girls hostels in all the districts. For generalizing the findings and making interpretations and inferences, a simple statistical process (percentage) was used.

Limitation of the study

Due to shortage of time the study could not cover all the important aspects of the girl's hostels

and only 20 hostellers from each hostels and the warden along with the coordinator could be interviewed.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

As mentioned in the earlier chapter, the present study aims to find the present status of the SSA Girls Hostels. The data is processed for tabulation in order to have the desired results. The data was collected from the following study samples

1. District Coordinator
2. Warden of the hostel
3. 20 Hostellers.

The analyzed information received through the tools developed are the following:

Table 1.1 Number of Girls Hostel with Enrolment

Sl No	Hostel	Village/Town	Block	District	No of Enrolment
1	SSA Girls Hostel Aizawl	Aizawl	Aizawl	Aizawl	50
2	Bilkhawthlir Girls Hostel	Bilkhawthlir	Kolasib	Kolasib	15
3	Kolasib Girls Hostel	Kolasib	Kolasib	Kolasib	18
4	Kawnpui Girls Hostel	Kawnpui	Kolasib	Kolasib	14
5	Mamit Girls Hostel	Mamit	Mamit	Mamit	14
6	West Phaileng Girls Hostel	West Phaileng	West Phaileng	Mamit	15
7	SSA Girls Hostel Serchhip	Serchhip	Serchhip	Serchhip	24
8	SSA Girls Hostel Chhingchhip	Chhingchhip	Tuikum	Serchhip	19
9	Lunglei Girls Hostel	Lunglei	Lunglei	Lunglei	32
10	Champhai SSA Girls Hostel	Champhai	Champhai	Champhai	46
11	Residential Hostel Lawngtlai	Lawngtlai	Lawngtlai	Lawngtlai	20
12	Tuipang SSA Girls Hostel	Tuipang	Tuipang	Saiha	20
13	SSA Girls Hostel Saiha	Saiha	Saiha	Saiha	30
				Total	317

From the analysis of the table we find that SSA Girls Hostel Aizawl has the highest number of enrolment in the hostel, followed by Champhai

with an enrolment of 46 students then followed by Lunglei. The reason of high enrolment in these areas can be contributed to the high population rate as compared to the other districts:

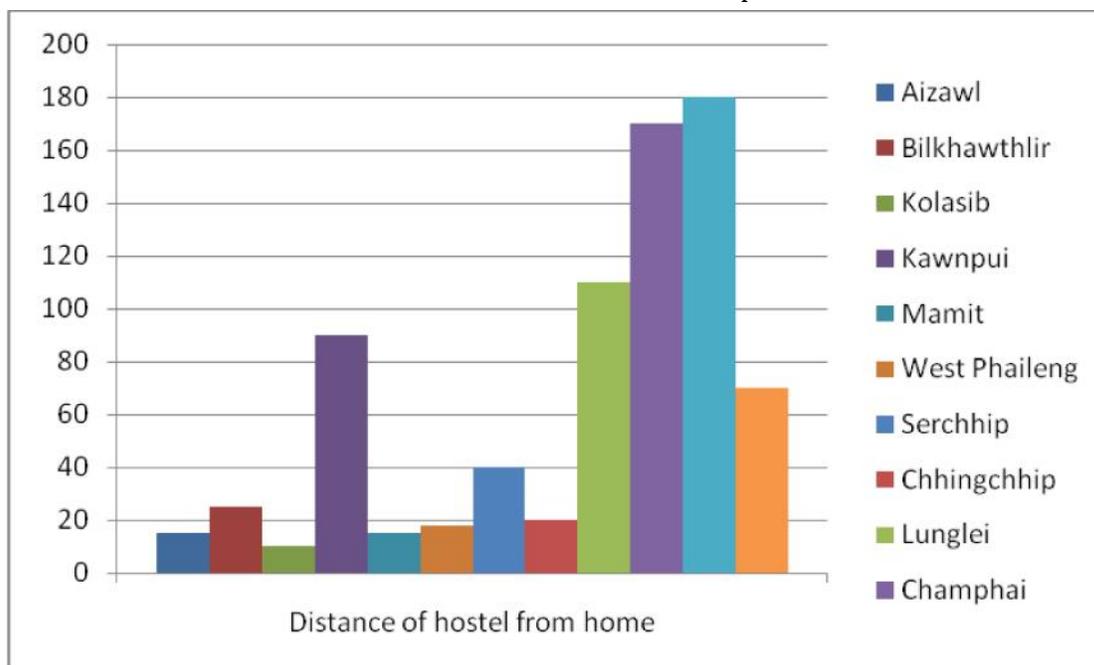


Fig-1:Distance of Hostel from Home (Distance in Kms):

The girls enrolled in the hostels come from a wide geographical area within the state as shown in the chart , some students come from

180 kms far, whereas some students live in the town or district itself and don't have to travel very far to reach the hostels.

Table 1.2 Reason of stay in the hostel

Sl No	Hostel	No of Samples	Poverty	Education	Migrants	Broken Family	Orphan
1	SSA Girls Hostel Aizawl	20	15			3	2
2	Bilkhawthlir Girls Hostel	10	3	2	4	1	
3	Kolasib Girls Hostel	10	6			3	1
4	Kawnpui Girls Hostel	10	8			2	
5	Mamit Girls Hostel	10	5			3	2
6	West Phaileng Girls Hostel	10	2			6	2
7	SSA Girls Hostel Serchhip	15	11			3	1
8	SSA Girls Hostel Chhingchhip	10	8			2	
9	Lunglei Girls Hostel	20	14	1		4	1
10	Champhai SSA Girls Hostel	25	19	1		4	1
11	Residential Hostel Lawngtlai	15	9	1		4	1
12	Tuipang SSA Girls Hostel	15	10			3	2
13	SSA Girls Hostel Saiha	20	14			5	1
	Total	190	124(65.2%)	5(2.63%)	4(2.10%)	43(22.63%)	14(7.36)

The girls were asked as to the reason of their stay in the hostels, a variety of reasons were stated such as:

1. Poverty
2. Education
3. Migrants
4. Broken family
5. Orphans

The above table reveals that 65.2 % of the samples come from very poor families and are under the BPL families, the table also reveals that 22.63% of the samples also stay at the hostel due

to family problems at home and live in broken families,

We also find that 7.36 % of the samples are orphans and live at the girls hostels, further 2.63% of the samples stay at the hostels for want of education and study sake and finally we also find that 2.10% of the samples come from migrant families only in the village of Bilkhawthlir in Kolasib district.

Table 1.3 Allocation of Funds for the Hostels Per Month

SI No	Hostels	Funds allocated per Month
1	SSA Girls Hostel Aizawl	1300 per hosteller
2	Bilkhawthlir Girls Hostel	1400 per hosteller
3	Kolasib Girls Hostel	1400 per hosteller
4	Kawnpui Girls Hostel	1400 per hosteller
5	Mamit Girls Hostel	1200 per hosteller
6	West Phaileng Girls Hostel	1200 per hosteller
7	SSA Girls Hostel Serchhip	1200 per hosteller
8	SSA Girls Hostel Chhingchhip	1200 per hosteller
9	Lunglei Girls Hostel	900 per hosteller
10	Champhai SSA Girls Hostel	1500 per hosteller
11	Residential Hostel Lawngtlai	900 per hosteller
12	Tuipang SSA Girls Hostel	1300 per hosteller
13	SSA Girls Hostel Saiha	1300 per hosteller

The funds are allocated for each student in the different hostels , we find that the amount allocated or received by the hostels for each

individual varies a lot and is not evenly allocated, some of the hostels receive Rs 1500 per student whereas some only receive Rs 900 per hosteller.

Table 1.4 Status and Remuneration of the employees in the Hostels

SI No	Warden/Instructress	Hostels	Salary	Regularity of Salary
1	Warden/Instructress	SSA Girls Hostel Aizawl	25000	Yes
2	Warden/Instructress	SSA Girls Hostel Aizawl	7000	Yes
3	Warden/Instructress	Bilkhawthlir Girls Hostel	5000	Yes
4	Warden/Instructress	Bilkhawthlir Girls Hostel	5000	Yes
5	Warden/Instructress	Kolasib Girls Hostel	5000	Yes

SI No	Warden/Instructress	Hostels	Salary	Regularity of Salary
6	Warden/Instructress	Kolasib Girls Hostel	5000	Yes
7	Warden/Instructress	Kawnpui Girls Hostel	5000	Yes
8	Warden/Instructress	Kawnpui Girls Hostel	5000	Yes
9	Warden/Instructress	Mamit Girls Hostel	5500	No
10	Warden/Instructress	West Phaileng Girls Hostel	5500	Yes
11	Warden/Instructress	SSA Girls Hostel Serchhip	6500	Yes
12	Warden/Instructress	SSA Girls Hostel Chhingchhip	6500	Yes
13	Warden/Instructress	Lunglei Girls Hostel	5000	Yes
14	Warden/Instructress	Lunglei Girls Hostel	5000	Yes
15	Warden/Instructress	Champhai SSA Girls Hostel	4500	No
16	Warden/Instructress	Champhai SSA Girls Hostel	25000	No
17	Warden/Instructress	Champhai SSA Girls Hostel	20000	No
18	Warden/Instructress	Residential Hostel Lawngtlai	6000	Yes
19	Warden/Instructress	Tuipang SSA Girls Hostel	5000	No
20	Warden/Instructress	SSA Girls Hostel Saiha	5000	No

From the analysis of the following table we find the problem relating to the salary of the wardens and the instructress which is very unevenly distributed, some of the districts receive more salary than other districts and it has also been analyzed that 30% of the employees responded by saying they did not get their salary

regularly every month, whereas 70% of the employees received their salary regularly. We can also notice from the table that some hostels have 3 employees whereas some have only 1 employee who handles and administer the girls single handed.

Table 1.5 Present Status and Programs

SI No	Hostels	Accounts Maintenance	Funds received	Health Check ups	Brief Daily Routine
1	SSA Girls Hostel Aizawl	Warden	Regular	When Needed	Morning Bell/ Morning Study hour Breakfast/School/ Tea/Home work Devotion/Study time/Light down
2	Bilkhawthlir Girls Hostel	Warden	Regular	Yes	Same as above

Sl No	Hostels	Accounts Maintenance	Funds received	Health Check ups	Brief Daily Routine
3	Kolasib Girls Hostel	Warden	Regular	Yes	Same as above
4	Kawnpui Girls Hostel	Warden	Regular	Yes	Same as above
5	Mamit Girls Hostel	Warden	Irregular	When Needed	Same as above
6	West Phaileng Girls Hostel	Warden	Regular	When Needed	Same as above
7	SSA Girls Hostel Serchhip	Warden	Regular	Yes	Same as above
8	SSA Girls Hostel Chhingchhip	Warden	Regular	Yes	Same as above
9	Lunglei Girls Hostel	Warden	Regular	Yes	Same as above
10	Champhai SSA Girls Hostel	Warden	Regular	Yes	Same as above
11	Residential Hostel Lawngtlai	Warden	Regular	Yes	Same as above
12	Tuipang SSA Girls Hostel	Warden	Irregular	Yes	Same as above
13	SSA Girls Hostel Saiha	Warden	Irregular	Yes	Same as above

The above table reveals that the girls hostels follow regular routine for the hostellers and has regular medical checkups in the hostels besides Mamit and Aizawl district that calls for doctors only when needed. It is also analyzed that 15%

of the hostels don't receive their funds for the hostels regularly on the other hand 85% of the hostels receive their funds on time regularly. The table also reveals that the warden maintains the accounts of all the hostels in different districts.

Table 1.6 Effectiveness of Hostel on Efficiency of Hostellers

Sl No.	Hostels	Assistance in studies		Improve Attendance Environment		Hostel a learning Security		Hostel		Food in Cleanliness		Hostel	
		GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD
1	Aizawl	20	0	19	1	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0
2	Bilkhawthlir	9	1	8	2	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0
3	Kolosib	9	1	9	1	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0
4	Kawnpui	8	2	8	2	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0
5	Mamit	9	1	8	2	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0
6	West Phaileng	8	2	9	1	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0
7	Serchhip	13	2	14	1	15	0	9	6	15	0	15	0
8	Chhingchhip	9	1	8	2	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0

Sl No.	Hostels	Assistance in studies		Improve Attendance Environment		Hostel a learning Security		Hostel		Food in Cleanliness		Hostel	
		GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD
9	Lunglei	19	1	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0
10	Champhai	25	0	25	0	25	0	25	0	25	0	25	0
11	Lawngtlai	14	1	14	1	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0
12	Tuipang	13	2	14	1	15	0	15	0	15	0	15	0
13	Saiha	18	2	19	1	20	0	20	0	20	0	20	0
	TOTAL	174	16	175	15	190	0	184	6	190	0	190	0

The following table reveals that 91.5% of the hostellers receive assistance in studies and 8.42% of them responded that not much assistance was given to them in studies this can be contributed to the lack of man power in some of the hostels with only one warden handling everything . The table also shows us that 92.10% of the hostellers improved their attendance due

to the hostel, whereas 7.89% of them did not find much difference . All the samples responded that the environment of the hostel is very good including the food , security in the hostel except in serchhip where security must be improved ,and we also find that all the hostels follow the principles of cleanliness very well .

Table 1.7 Problems of the Girls Hostels

Sl no	Hostels	Respondent	Problems
1	Aizawl	Warden	Financial aid received is not sufficient
2	Bilkhawthlir	Warden	Inverter not working,Broken fridge door, funds not sufficient and no sufficient water supply
3	Kolosib	Warden	No sufficient water supply The rented hostel building is too small
4	Kawnpui	Warden	Sickness among the hostellers Hostel building is rented and has less capacity
5	Mamit	Warden	Lack of fire wood /cooking gas , insufficient water improper toilet and insufficient fund to purchase rice
6	West Phaileng	Warden	Hostel building is bad, doors, windows cannot be closed properly, during rain comes in ,the beds and mattress are very old and needs to be replaced
7	Serchhip	Warden	Security
8	Chhingchhip	Warden	Sickness among the hostellers/Health issues the kitchen,bathroom and visitors room needs renovation

Sl no	Hostels	Respondent	Problems
9	Lunglei	Warden	Shortage of Water supply and mattress needs to be replaced
10	Champhai	Warden	No immediate problems
11	Lawngtlai	Warden	Shortage of Water supply and mattress needs to be replaced and inconvenient as hostel building is rented
12	Tuipang	Warden	Shortage of water supply
13	Saiha	Warden	Sickness among the hostellers/Health issues shortage of water

The above table shows that the main problem of the hostels is shortage of water supply as most of the hostels don't have a good supply of water . it also shows that the buildings are rented and pose a great problem in terms of capacity and most of the buildings and infrastructures are very old, the hostel buildings in kolasib and kawnpui are rented but soon plans to open its new building in the coming year. The hostel in Saiha is also rented and the land to construct the hostel cannot be procured till date. Another problem stated is that the mattresses are very old and need immediate replacement. The hostels also face problem when the hostellers are not healthy.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals the following developments and challenges of the SSA girl's hostels in Mizoram. As the table 1.1 shows that depending upon the population of the district's the number of enrolment in the girls hostels differs, from the analysis we find that SSA Girls Hostel Aizawl has the highest number of enrolment followed by Champhai and Lunglei and so on. As mentioned earlier the girls have to travel many kilometers to receive education and so the girls hostels provide them with food and lodging and everything they need while studying, from the chart we find that girls come from a wide geographical area around Mizoram and some even travel 180 kilometers and so the hostels are the only means by which they can stay and be educated. The table 1.2 reveals that 65.2 % of the samples come from very poor families and are

under the BPL families, the table also reveals that 22.63% of the samples also stay at the hostel due to family problems at home and live in broken families, We also find that 7.36 % of the samples are orphans and live at the girls hostels, further 2.63% of the samples stay at the hostels for want of education and study sake and finally we also find that 2.10% of the samples come from migrant families only in the village of Bilkhawthlir in Kolasib district. From the table we can observe and understand that the funds allocated for each student in different hostels varies a lot and is not the same ,some hostels receive Rs 1500 per student whereas some hostels only receive Rs 900 per hosteller and this sometimes causes unsatisfaction to those that receive less compared to other hostels The analysis shows that the scale at which employees are paid/remmunerated is completely different and is not the same for the hostels across the 8 districts in Mizoram. We can also analyse that some hostels have 3 employees in the hostels whereas some hostels have only one warden that handels all the work and is often overloaded with responsibilities without any extra income or benefit. We can also notice the fact that some employees in certain areas/districts do not receive their salary regularly and this causes huge problems for the employees working in the hostels.

The table 1.3 reveals that 91.5% of the hostellers receive assistance in studies and 8.42% of them responded that not much assistance was given to them in studies this can be contributed to the lack of man power in some of the hostels with only one warden handling everything. The

table also shows us that 92.10% of the hostellers improved their attendance due to the hostel, whereas 7.89% of them did not find much difference. All the samples responded that the environment of the hostel is very good including the food, security in the hostel except in serchhip where security must be improved, and we also find that all the hostels follow the principles of cleanliness very well.

The main problem of the hostels is shortage of water supply as most of the hostels don't have a good supply of water. The table also shows that the buildings are rented and pose a great problem in terms of capacity and most of the buildings and infrastructure is very old, the hostel buildings in kolasib and kawnpui are rented but soon plans to open its new building in the coming year. The hostel in Saiha is also rented and the land to construct the hostel cannot be procured till date. Another problem stated is that the mattresses are very old and need immediate replacement. The hostels also face problem when the hostellers are not healthy.

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