



ABODE FOR WORKING WOMEN IN A METROPOLITAN CITY

Solicitude regarding issues faced by working women in an alien city.

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Abstract: In today's ever-changing world and with the provision of a bundle of opportunities women are migrating to urban areas for jobs and better living standards. However, even when for innovation, technology, and success the sky is the limit there are yet certain complications when it comes to providing basic rights to a woman. When it comes to working women living in a different city, due social stigma accommodation is a major cause of concern due to security issues, hygiene, and specific facilities for a certain criterion of working women. These issues have been critically analyzed in the research providing solutions on basis of infrastructure and facilities promoting healthy living and a stress-free environment for personal growth. The focal point is creating a space where women may find solace promoting good physical and mental health. The way to deal with that part is to surround yourself with those who feel the same way. An attempt has been made to solve problems faced by single mothers who are the bread earners in the family by provision of daycare facilities within the hostel. Thus, with the availability of space, good infrastructure and optimum facilities can help achieve remarkable development not only for women but also for the nation.

Index Terms - Solace, Security, Opportunities, women empowerment architecture

I. INTRODUCTION

With the ever-increasing financial demands, availability of opportunities and for better living standards there has been an increase in rate of women migration to metropolitan cities in the past few decades. Metropolitan cities have a higher rate of migration for employment, Women are migrating for a better future, But the lack of safe accommodation is concern which is not allowing women to move freely to the cities. The government of India introduced a working women's hostel scheme launched in 6th of April 2017 that is designed for meeting the housing requirements of working or helpless women. To accommodate the women population with security provisions the government has proposed the scheme of working women's hostel. However, there are yet certain important aspects which have been overlooked due to which severe consequences have been faced. After developing in every sector woman are still not safe and face social problems. Majorly these issues are concerned with lack of security, sanitation facilities and mental health. The study focuses on the need to resolve these issues so as to enhance a healthy and contented living space. After critical analysis of the present circumstances, availability of data and articles issued, measures have been suggested to be considered while designing working women's hostel so as to evade the catastrophes promoting safe environment. Studies found that female-specific problems were not the only issue, but rather work-life balance, relationships in the workplace, and gender differences in work roles could also trigger psychiatric disorders. (Karin Hayashi, 2016). Provision of recreational spaces and counselling session have proved to dwindle stress at a considerable rate. More such basic facilities can be incorporated to enhance living standards generating a sense of serenity.

II. AIM

To study spaces and requirements of working women's hostel so as to provide security and hygiene incorporated in spatial planning.

III. SCOPE OF STUDY

This study highlights aspects such as current planning scheme adopted; its impact providing key factors for future planning and implementation.

IV. OBJECTIVE

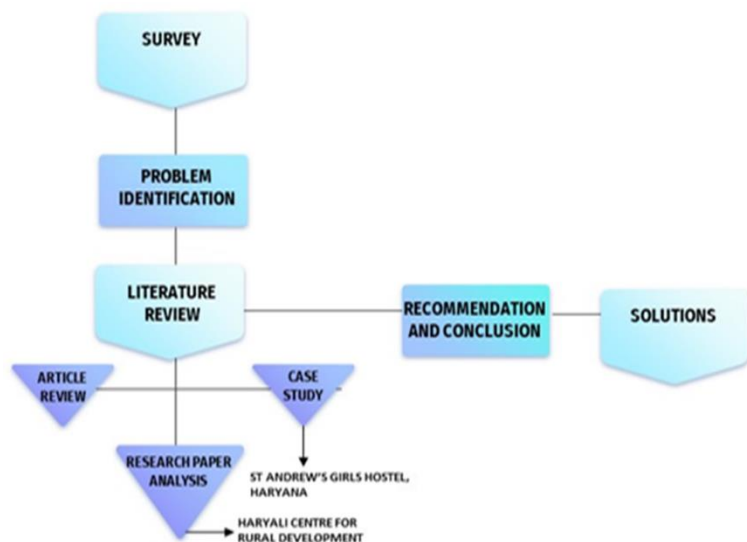
To study the present scenario of the working women's hostel identifying various aspect in terms of security and hygiene and providing solutions for the same.

V. NEED OF STUDY

To solve problems faced by working women in an alien city and making their habitation more secure and healthy.

VI. METHODOLOGY

The research commenced with survey followed by analysis of problems with reference to previous research papers and recent articles giving solutions with each problem identified. The research proceeded as follows.

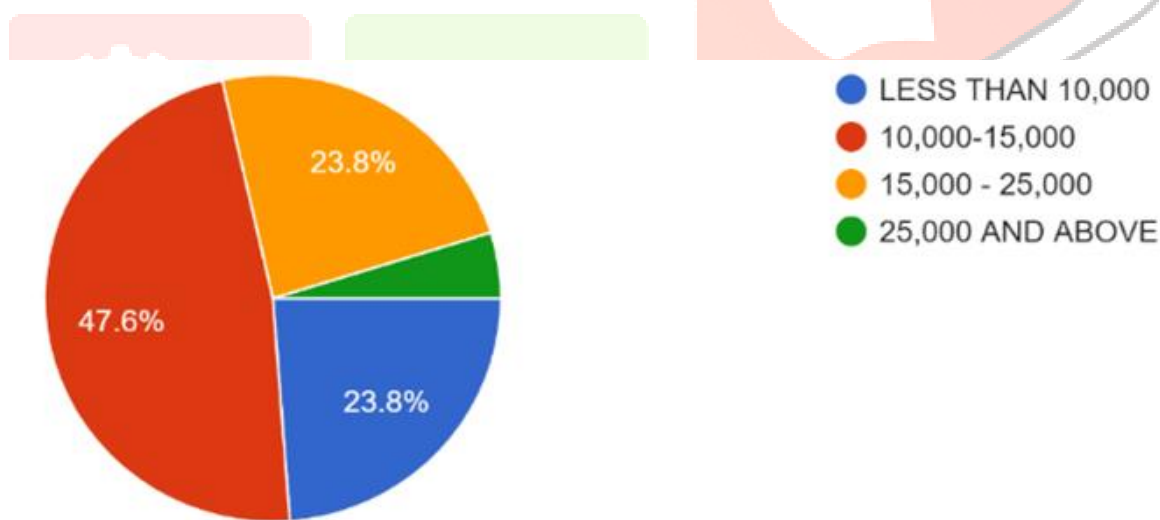


VII. SURVEY

The following research questions will be studied in the process of investigation –

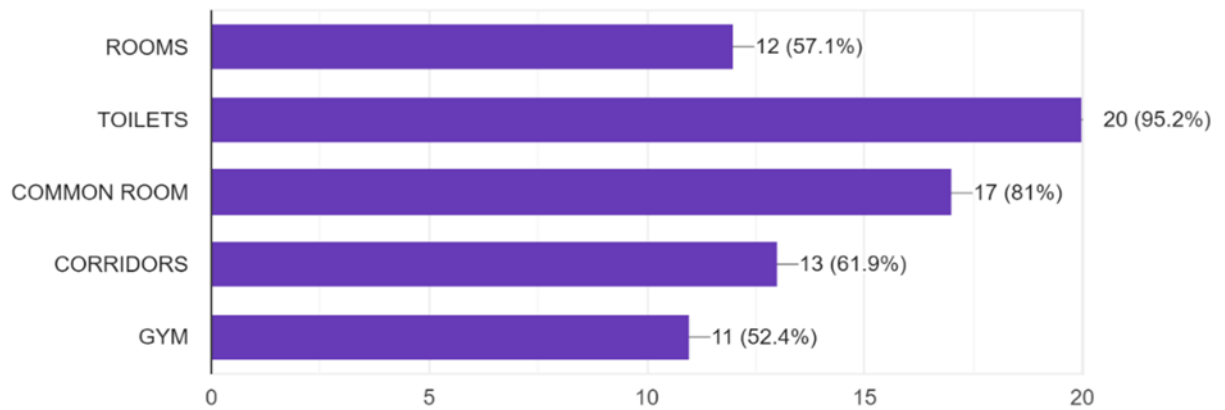
1. Whether proper security and protection is provided to the Working Women staying as inmates in these hostels?
2. What are the problems faced by the inmates of these hostels?
3. Whether sufficient staff is appointed to take care of the routine management and administration of these hostels.
4. What is the impact on personal and family life of working Women staying in these hostels?

According to the survey, around 47.60 % of women choose to stay in a place which cost about INR -10,000-15,000 per month.



Most of the women who comes from a middle-class family likely stays in a hostel ranging from ₹10000-15000 which is quiet cost effective. Very few women can afford hostels ranging from ₹25000 and above. Hence majority of women prefer to stay in a low-priced hostel.

Hygiene Level in Different Spaces in Women Accommodation



Majority of women believe that the hostel's toilet should be the cleanest place. For women's sanitization plays a major role in their personal life and for that toilets should be prioritized in a hostel.

Conclusion: -

- 1) This survey concludes that according to women's their hostel does not provide enough security which is a major concern. There are very less hostels which provides high security.
- 2) The majority of the women believe that a room entry card is necessary.
- 3) According to the results of a study, most women prefer double rooms with attached toilets to single rooms with attached toilets.
- 4) According to the survey 72% of women's feel that all the facilities are functioning well in the hostel. Good facilities can be helpful for women's refreshments and to cease their boredom.

VIII. CASE STUDY**i. AIM:**

To study a space that is specific to women by understanding their psychology, needs and activity.

ii. OBJECTIVE: -

- a) To keep the building cool and create shaded spaces inside, each brick was to be rotated.
- b) At a specific angle to block solar radiations. Main objective was to provide recreational spaces and interactive spaces in courtyards and bridges for women to sit, relax and enjoy.

iii. OBSERVATION: -

- a) Climate sensitivity was an important parameter, followed by solar radiation and air movement analysis in order to develop a second skin on the facade that allowed thermal insulation and light permeability.
- b) Solar radiation and direct heat gain on facade are minimized by rotating angles of blocks. Direct and diffused radiations were reduced by 70% on the principal facade by doing this.
- c) Brick jali is used which gives the facade character and texture.
- d) The main design challenge was to build a safe haven for the girls — a campus inside a campus that fit into the urban master plan and allowed them to travel freely while maintaining a link to nature.

iv. THINGS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER:

- a) Security could be measure of concern as there are no walls only parapet walls are provided at dead wall side.
- b) Rooms do not get enough day light due to over shading.
- c) No measurements taken for disabled women.

v. ANALYSIS:

- a) The hostel is designed in a way that the indoor and outdoor spaces connect physically as well as visually at different levels.
- b) The planning of staircase and façade plays a major role as the staircase are hubs for social interactions.

IX. RESEARCH PAPER ANALYSIS

Scope and Coverage of the Study At present there are about 830 Working Women's Hostels constructed under the Working Women Hostel scheme of Department of Women and Child Development throughout the country in 25 states and 5 union Territories. Out of this the project in hand is proposed to cover Working Women's Hostels in Four adjoining states of Maharashtra, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh were covered under this project. There are about 236 Working Women's Hostels in these states and the break-up is as under – (1) Andhra Pradesh -38 (2) Gujrat -26 (3) Madhya Pradesh -60 (4) Maharashtra -112.

Construction of building in accordance with approved plan the hostel managements were asked as to whether the hostel buildings were constructed in accordance with the plan approved by the government. It is evident from the data indicated in the above table that out of 183 hostel managements about 96 per cent confirmed that their hostel building is constructed in accordance with the approved plan. However, in 4 per cent of the cases hostel buildings were not constructed in accordance with the approved plan and some significant variations were noted. By and large, in majority of the cases (about 96 percent) the hostel buildings are constructed as per the approved plan. (Evaluation of Working women's Hostels In The states Of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and

Maharashtra). Medical Facility Guidelines of the scheme suggest that the hostel managements should make the arrangement of doctors for consultation for the inmates. In response to the question whether the management has made such type of arrangements, all the hostel managements have stated that there is provision of visiting doctor, in some cases the doctor's clinic is within the vicinity, and further referral services are provided through Government and Private Hospitals.

FACILITIES OF DAY CARE CENTER FOR CHILDREN IN HOSTEL BUILDING - There is a provision of Day-Care centers in the WWH Scheme. The management of hostel may provide Day-Care center for children of working- women, having intake capacity for 25 to 30 pre-school children. Minimum floor space of 20 sq. ft. per child should be made available and should have 2-3 rooms of 150 sq. ft. each with a kitchen, a washroom, and a lavatory each of 50% sq. ft. in a city and one room of about 150 sq. ft. with a small washroom in a rural area. (Evaluation of Working women's Hostels In The states Of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) The data pertaining to Day-Care center was sought from the hostel management. The details are given below.

The distribution clearly indicates that out of 183 hostel managements about 29 per cent of the hostel managements have provided the facility of Day Care Centre for children in hostel building or attached to it. It is observed that about 71 per cent of the hostel management have not provided the facility of Day Care center for children. It can be seen that in majority (71 per cent) of the cases the hostels do not have Day -Care center facility for the children of working- women.

SR.NO.	ATTACHED TO HOSTEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	YES	53	29.17
2.	NO	130	70.83
	TOTAL	183	100.00

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After critically analysing previous research papers which were specifically dedicated towards highlighting issues faced by females who are living in working women hostel, following key factors have been identified.

1. Number of hostels to be established – Housing too many women is no easy job. However, the central government has approved the construction of 70,000 working hostels for women to meet the demand for housing. As a first step toward achieving the target, construction on 938 has already begun.
2. Day Care Centre – Working mothers are unable to bring their children to their place of employment. The hostel administration will also provide Day Care facilities to assist such mothers. When their mothers are not present, the children will be cared for here. The service will be charged separately. (Working Women Hostel Scheme - PRADHAN MANTRI YOJANA, 2017)

Provisions for People with Disabilities - The scheme has a provision for differently abled working women to be accommodated. However, only a few hostels complied with this requirement and provided the specialized services needed by the disabled. Close supervision by the hostel management committee to ensure that reservations and services for the differently abled are accessible. (HARYALI CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, February , 2017)

Security Arrangements

To ensure the safety and security of the women, 79 percent of the sample functional hostels have specialist security services. Surat's hostel lacks advanced security facilities.

CCTVs

To ensure women's safety and protection, several states have proposed installing CCTVs on entry and exit routes of hostels with recording capabilities. It was discovered that 50% of hostels have a CCTV system. Around 44% of hostels have CCTV on the main entrance, 44% have it at the office entrance, and 43% have it all over the hostel grounds. Working women's hostels were preferred by 82 percent of respondents because they were more comfortable than other accessible lodging options. (HARYALI CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, February , 2017). The hostels were often located in safe areas in the heart of cities that were well connected, and security guards were provided. Furthermore, there was increased security as a result of the large number of women living together in a household, as well as security and other personnel such as the warden. Regardless of the scheme proposed by the government certain rules and regulations have been deliberately overlooked which have proven to cause adversity which have affected standard of living to a great magnitude.

Some of the issues are listed follow:

- i. 210 women live during a space meant to accommodate 60 at the govt Working Women's hostel (GWWH) at Suryaraopet in Vijayawada.
- ii. The hostel, however, has absence of proper facilities and services like clean washrooms, permanent cooks, helpers, watchmen etc. Total money charged is 1584, out of which Rs 960 is that the mess and dining charge and therefore the left over Rs 624 is that the hostel charge.
- iii. The hostel lacks fundamental amenities like adequate fire safety equipment and first aid kit. Two 4.5kg expired fire extinguishers are available at the hostel. The sanitary pad dispensing unit is never reloaded, and hence it remains unutilized.

- iv. There are 16 washrooms on each floor with shattered tiles and doors, which are to be used by 105 women. Only eight of them are in proper condition. The rooms, very small and tiny in size, each accommodates three girls. At present there are no beds, and hence the women need to sleep on the ground.
- v. The sanitation is poor. The washroom drains get blocked once every month. Some doors do not have bolts, some washrooms don't even have doors. In summer, there is a shortage of water. (Srinivas, 2017)
- vi. Absence of security guards at the entrance. The students and therefore the women employees staying in our hostel can leave and enter freely. Even they need not sign in any register (Srinivas, 2017)
- vii. Expressing concern over the poor maintenance of the working women's hostel, the student unions demanded the State government taking immediate measures to run it on proper lines. The local police should strengthen security within the hostel area to guard the lady inmates from the threat of eve-teasers and stalkers, the unions said. (Anjaneyulu, 2016)

X.CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Hostel Management Committees are functioning properly in majority of the hostels. However, only about 50 percent of the managements are submitting quarterly report to the Government.

- i. It is observed that there is no regular annual inspection of the hostels either by the State Government or by the Central Government. Only about 50percent of the hostels were inspected so far by the Inspection committees appointed by State/ Central Government.
- ii. About 91 percent of the Working Women Hostels are not getting any maintenance grant from the government. As a result, the managements are charging higher fees and collecting charges at higher rates from the inmates.
- iii. A large majority of the Working Women residing in the hostels are unmarried and only 24 percent are married. They belong to different religious and casts and represent different social and economic sections of the society.
- iv. The proportion of women hostelers coming from nuclear family set up is slightly higher than those from joint family set-up.
- v. A large majority of women preferred to stay in hostels because they felt more secure and protected in these hostels.
- vi. The average monthly expenditure of working women on room rent of the hostel was reported to be Rs. 300 which they said was reasonable. However, the average monthly expenditure on mess charges (food) was much higher.
- vii. In almost all the cases the women hostelers reported that their stay in the hostels has enriched their life as far as the physical, psychological, social, and economic aspects are concerned. However, some of them also reported a negative impact like feeling of loneliness, insecurity, and criticism by relatives (HARYALI CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, February , 2017)
- viii. The community leaders reported that the facilities in the hostels were satisfactory but not up the mark, hostels were not properly maintained, the buildings were not in good condition, the quality of food served to the inmates was poor and there was no proper arrangement of health care of the inmates.

XI. SOLUTIONS

The entry/ exit of the hostel plot should be given towards the street which incorporate maximum activity and circulation day and night.

- i. The spaces incorporated within the site should enhance interaction with people as well as landscape (nature).
- ii. Landscape should incorporate enough water bodies as they play an important role in enhancing the landscape by sound and texture, creating sense of harmony which promotes mental health.
- iii. For security purposes following aspects must be strictly inculcated / incorporated:
- iv. Sufficient number of security cameras (CCTV)
- v. The common facilities(public) and the rooms (private) should be designed in such a way that they maintain specific distance and alignment to serve the purpose of providing privacy and so that circulation is not interrupted.
- vi. Sanitary and plumbing fixtures should be maintained at regular intervals.
- vii. Hygiene should be strictly maintained in areas such as kitchen, dining, corridors, pantries, and toilets. This can be accomplished by sanitizing the spaces at least once in three months.
- viii. Meditation spaces and sport spaces should be provided to enhance physical and mental growth.

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