

RESEARCH NOTES

AN ANALYSIS OF READING HABITS AND PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OF RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS

Mrs. B. BANERJEE*

The study was undertaken to understand the various aspects of life in a hostel. Three factors, namely: 1. the study habits; 2. participation in extra-curricular activities; and 3. preference for hostel life were considered for investigation.

METHOD

The study covered a period of four months from January 1967 to April 1967. The Central College Hostel for Boys was selected as the venue for the survey. A twenty-percent sample was drawn at random out of the two hundred and twenty-one students residing in the hostel at the time of the survey. A list of the students was drawn up and every fifth name was selected to comprise the sample unit. Accordingly, forty-four students were selected as respondents. Out of the forty-four students two left the hostel and two others refused to co-operate. This reduced the sample to forty. But, as the number represented more than one-third of the universe it was considered quite representative.

The sample was made up of students studying in undergraduate, graduate¹ and postgraduate classes. The age of the respondents ranged from 16 to 33 years. No discrimination was made between the science and arts students. The questionnaire method was adopted to elicit information followed by interviews wherever it was considered necessary.

The Central College Hostel for Boys consists of three blocks. The first block was occupied by postgraduate students and research students. The other two blocks were occupied by graduates and undergraduates. Students occupying the second block proved to be non-cooperative in the beginning, though after a little persuasion they willingly filled the questionnaire. All the students interviewed were students studying in colleges either affiliated to or belonging to the Bangalore University.

The students selected for the survey came from various occupational backgrounds like Agriculture, Business, Teaching, Banking and Estate Ownership. 87.5% of them came from places other than Bangalore. The majority belonged to the middle income group.

The room-wise distribution of students in the hostel was as follows :

TABLE 1
ROOM-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS

	1 seated	2 seated	3 seated	4 seated	Total
No. of respondents	0	7	29	4	40
Percentage of respondents	0	17.5	72.5	10.0	100

Dr. (Mrs.) B. Banerjee is Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Bangalore University, Bangalore.

The author is grateful to Mr. T. Rangadhamiah for his assistance in the collection of the data for this paper.

¹The term 'graduate' is here used to indicate students who are studying in the degree classes.

The Central College Hostel was started in 1916. For the past four years the total strength of the hostel has remained between 215 and 220.

STUDY HABITS

The following tables illustrate the attitude of the students towards study and their reading habits.

TABLE 2
ATTITUDES OF STUDENTS TOWARDS STUDY AND READING HABITS

1. Presence of room-mates disturbs concentration	9	22.5	—	—	31	77.5
2. A Reading aloud room-mate is a handicap	40	100	—	—	—	—
3. Reading aloud helps to understand the subject better	18	45.0	1	2.5	21	52.5
4. Hostel is congenial for study	25	62.5	1	2.5	14	35.0
5. Non-prescribed hours of visitors clash with our study time	23	57.5	—	—	17	42.5
6. I have kept a study time-table apart from the hostel time	17	42.5	—	—	23	57.5

TABLE 3
SCALE AND INTENSITY ANALYSIS FOR TABLE-2
VARIABLES

Sl. No.	Score	1		2		3		4		5		6							
		4	3	2	4	3	2	4	3	2	4	3	2						
1.	16			X	X			X		X		X	X						
2.	22	X		X	X			X		X		X							
3.	20			X	X			X		X		X	X						
4.	20			X	X			X		X		X	X						
5.	18	X		X	X			X		X		X	X						
6.	16			X	X			X	X			X	X						
7.	18			X	X			X	X			X	X						
8.	20	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
9.	16			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
10.	18			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
11.	14			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
12.	16			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
13.	20			X	X		X			X	X		X						
14.	18			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
15.	22	X		X	X		X			X	X		X						
16.	18			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
17.	20			X	X		X			X	X		X						
18.	20	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
19.	22			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
20.	18			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
21.	20			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
22.	20	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
23.	18			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
24.	22	X		X	X		X			X	X		X						
25.	18			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
26.	16			X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
27.	21			X	X		X		X	X		X	X						
28.	18			X	X		X		X		X	X	X						
29.	20			X	X		X		X		X	X	X						
30.	16			X	X		X			X	X		X						
31.	20			X	X					X	X		X						
32.	20			X	X				X		X	X	X						
33.	20			X	X			X			X	X	X						
34.	22	X		X	X			X	X		X	X	X						
35.	14			X	X			X			X		X						
36.	18	X		X	X			X		X	X		X						
37.	18			X	X			X		X	X		X						
38.	20			X	X		X		X		X	X	X						
39.	16			X	X		X			X	X	X	X						
40.	17			X	X		X			X	X		X						
Frequency.		9	0	31	40	0	0	18	1	21	25	1	14	25	0	14	18	0	23

The first question was asked to find out whether a student found it difficult to concentrate if a second person was present. 77.5% of the respondents answered no and 22.5% stated that the presence of a second person distracted them.

To the second question whether a reading-aloud room-mate was a handicap, all the 40 respondents answered yes.

The third question, namely, whether reading aloud helped concentration was asked mainly to find out the percentage of students who were actually in the habit of reading aloud, as also to see how far it disturbed the room-mate or the room-mates; it was found that 45% were actually in the habit of reading aloud. When further enquiry was made regarding the distraction caused to their room-mates, the answer given was either they studied under the trees or studied when their room-mates were not studying or were out of the room.

The fourth question, "Do you feel that the hostel is congenial place for study?" was asked to find out how far a student felt the

hostel life favourable for study, as compared to his home, 62.5% voted for the hostel.

The fifth question, "Do you feel that the non prescribed hours for visitors clash with your studies?" elicited an answer in the positive by 57.5%. 42.5% of them answered no. This question was asked to find out how far outside disturbances interfered with the reading schedule of students.

The sixth question, "Have you kept a timetable apart from the prescribed time" yielded 42.5% response in the positive. Interestingly enough this query revealed that there were no fixed hours for reading in the hostel.

To the query regarding the mode of study the hostelites had adopted, 62.5% of them stated that they did individual reading, 17.5% did combined reading, whereas 20% adopted both. On being questioned those who adopted combined study stated that such a mode facilitated better understanding of tough subjects and that it was easier to remember what one read when it was discussed with another, Table 4 indicates the preferences.

TABLE 4

Mode of study	Individual	Combined	Both	Total
No. of respondents	25	7	8	40
Percentage of respondents	62.5	17.5	20.0	100

To the question: 'Which days of the week you do maximum reading?' 60% voted for Saturday and Sunday. The time devoted for the same was in the morning, usually from

7 a.m. to 12 noon. On working days the time schedule kept was 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. A sample of the study time table is given below.

Day of the week	Morning Hours 6AM-8AM	Evening and Night 7PM-11PM
Sunday	English, Biology	Botany, Chemistry, Zoology
Monday	Botany, Zoology	Chemistry
Tuesday	Botany, Chemistry	Zoology
Wednesday	Botany, Chemistry	English, Kannada, Zoology
Thursday	Botany, Zoology	Chemistry
Friday	Chemistry, Botany	Zoology
Saturday	Chemistry, Botany	Zoology

1. At the time of writing the University had decided to convert the Hostel into a University Lady Students' Hostel and the boys students would be shifted elsewhere.

2. The room-wise distribution of students indicated 72.5% three-seated rooms.
-Table No. 1.

The answers to the question, "What according to you should be the pattern of reading facilities?" revealed a favourable response for the provision of a good reading

room and library. Provision of two-seated rooms scored second. The Table No. 5 indicates the various suggestions.

TABLE 5

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE PROVISION OF READING FACILITIES

No.	Suggestions	No of Students
1.	Arrangement of lectures on general topics	1
2.	Good library and reading room	18
3.	Prescribed study period	8
4.	Two-seated rooms	16
5.	Calm environment	4
6.	Provision of rooms for general discussion	6
7.	Playground attached to the hostel	1
8.	Installation of a radio	3
9.	Warden should go round regularly and encourage students to study	3
10.	Prescribed hours for visitors	4
11.	Single seated rooms	6
12.	Mess system should not be part of student activity	1
13.	Good food as an incentive	3
14.	Enough water	1
15.	Foreign type of hostel arrangements	1

II. Participation in extra-curricular activities

conferences, was asked to find out in what way the student spend to his spare time. Fixed activities both academic and non-academic was given as a choice. The Table 6 shows the various activities and the per-

A slightly structured question like staying in the hostel facilitate sports, meetings and

TABLE 6

STAYING IN THE HOSTEL FACILITIES GREATER PARTICIPATION IN:

Individual Scoring	Sports	Meetings conferences.	College Hostel functions	Movie-going	Restaurant going	Listening to music	Drama	Others
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
1							X	
4	X		X		X	X		
2		X	X					
1				X				
6	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2	X		X					
3	X	X	X					
5		X	X	X	X	X		
2				X	X			
3		X	X		X			
1					X			
4	X	X			X		X	
1		X						
3	X	X	X					
1	X							
4	X	X	X	X				
7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
2	X				X			

STAYING IN THE HOSTEL FACILITIES GREATER PARTICIPATION IN:

Individual Scoring	Sports	Meetings conferences.	College Hostel functions	Movie-going	Restaur-and going	Listening to music	Drama	Others
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
1		X						
7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4	X		X	X	X			
1					X			
5		X	X	X	X	X		
3			X	X	X			
4	X		X	X	X			
3	X		X		X			
5	X	X	X			X	X	
6	X	X	X	X	X	X		
1				X				
6	X		X	X	X	X	X	
5	X	X	X	X	X			
2	X	X						
5	X		X		X	X		
6	X	X	X		X	X	X	
4	X	X	X			X		X
3				X	X	X		
3	X	X		X				
1	X							
5	X		X	X	X	X		
3				X	X	X		
Frequency	25	20	24	19	24	15	7	1
%	62.5	50.0	60.0	47.5	60.0	37.5	17.5	2.5

centage of preferences. 62.5% of the respondents participated in sports; 50% participated in meetings and conferences. Participation in college and hostel functions, restaurant-going seem to be quite popular activities of the students as 60% of the students voted for the above. Strangely enough moviegoing was not resorted to very much as 47.5% stated that they frequented the cinema houses often.

The individual scoring regarding participation in more than one activity ranged from 2 to 7. 77.5% took interest in two or more activities, while 22.5% preferred a single activity as a recreational measure.

In the order of preference sports scored the highest (62.5%) followed by college and hostel functions (60%) and restaurant-going (60%). Attending meetings and conferences occupied the fourth place (50%) moviegoing (47.5%) Listening to music (37.5%) seeing dramas (17.5%) occupied the fifth, sixth and the seventh places respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Hostel life is considered favourable for study, provided adequate facilities were given.
2. Hostel life facilitated participation in extra-curricular activities.