



## A framework for analyzing the effects of hostel facilities provision and variables on students' patronage in Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, Bauchi, Bauchi State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

One of the prominent factors influencing student hostel patronage is cost. The rising cost of higher education has led students and their sponsors to carefully consider the financial implications of accommodation choices. On-campus hostels may be perceived as more expensive compared to off-campus options like sharing an apartment or renting a room as a result, cost-conscious students often opt for more budget-friendly alternatives, impacting the overall patronage of on-campus hostels. A research was carried out to determine the effects of hostel facilities provision and variables on student's patronage in Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, Bauchi, Bauchi state, North-Eastern, Nigeria. The total of one hundred and twenty (120) structural questionnaires were distributed to various students within the polytechnic community. It was distributed using random sampling techniques. The results obtained shows that majority of the respondents were male students representing 73% of the total respondents followed by female students representing 47% of the total respondents. Moreover, majority of the respondents were between the age of 18-25 years of age followed by 25 years of age and above respectively. The findings also buttress that some facilities were found in the hostels but insufficient while thus facilities enhance security and comfortability to students. It is therefore recommended that Government should put more emphasis on student's hostels facilities so as to improve the learning condition very greatly.

**Keywords:** Framework, hostels facilities, student's patronage, campus hostels

### Introduction

The pursuit of higher education is a trans-formative journey for students, and an essential aspect of this journey is finding suitable accommodation. Student hostels, also known as dormitories or residence halls, play a pivotal role in providing students with a conducive living environment during their academic years. This introduction will delve into the significance of students' hostels, examining their impact on academic performance, social development, and campus life. Student hostels are integral to the higher education experience because they offer a secure and structured environment for students to reside in while pursuing their studies (Hossain & Anwar, 2017) [7, 29]. This secure environment fosters a sense of belonging and reduces concerns about off-campus living arrangements, thereby allowing students to focus on their academics. Moreover, hostels often provide essential amenities such as study rooms, internet access and communal spaces that facilitate both individual and group study, (Tucker & Turner, 2020).

The impact of student hostels extends beyond academic benefits. Living in a hostel exposes students to a diverse community, promoting cross-cultural interactions and fostering tolerance and understanding (Hossain & Anwar, 2017) [7, 29]. These interactions often lead to lifelong friendships and a broader worldview, enhancing the overall educational experience, (Smith, 2019) [22, 44]. Furthermore, hostels are often hubs of extracurricular activities, hosting events, clubs and student organizations that contribute to personal growth and development, (Smith, 2019) [22, 44]. In addition to their academic and social significance, student hostels play a vital role in campus life and help institutions accommodate a growing student population. As schools expand, providing on-campus accommodation becomes

essential to ensure access to education for students from diverse backgrounds (Marginson & Sawir, 2016) [12, 34]. This on-campus housing option is particularly crucial for international students who may face challenges in finding off-campus housing upon arrival in a new state, nation/country, (Marginson & Sawir, 2016) [12, 34]. The design and management of these students' hostels have evolved to meet modern students' changing needs. Contemporary hostels incorporate sustainability features, technology integration, and wellness-focused amenities (Tucker & Turner, 2020). These enhancements align with the changing expectations of students, who seek eco-friendly living spaces and advanced connectivity for academic and personal use.

Furthermore, patronizing hostels by students is a fundamental component of the educational infrastructure, contributing significantly to academic success, social development and the overall campus experience. As the higher education landscape continues to evolve, the role of student hostels remains indispensable in accommodating students' diverse needs and fostering a holistic educational journey.

The demand for students' hostels patronage is a dynamic and evolving aspect of higher education, reflecting the changing needs and preferences of students, worldwide. Understanding the patterns and factors that influence students' hostels patronage is essential for educational institutions and policymakers. This introduction explores the trends in students' hostels patronage and the key factors that shape students' decisions in this regard.

One of the prominent factors influencing student hostel patronage is cost. The rising cost of higher education has led students and their families to carefully consider the financial

implications of accommodation choices. On-campus hostels may be perceived as more expensive compared to off-campus options like sharing an apartment or renting a room, (Cohen, 2018) [4, 26]. As a result, cost-conscious students often opt for more budget-friendly alternatives, impacting the overall patronage of on-campus hostels.

Another critical factor in student hostel patronage is location. Proximity to the university or college campus significantly affects students' choices (Marginson & van der Wende, 2017) [13, 35]. On-campus hostels offer the advantage of being close to academic buildings and resources, reducing commuting time and enhancing convenience (Marginson & van der Wende, 2017) [13, 35]. However, off-campus accommodations might provide more flexibility in terms of location, allowing students to choose housing that suits their preferences and lifestyle. Furthermore, the availability of amenities and services in student hostels plays a pivotal role. Modern hostels often offer a wide range of facilities, including study areas, fitness centers, dining options, and social spaces (Smith & Taylor, 2019) [22, 44]. These amenities can significantly influence students' decisions to stay on-campus, as they contribute to a more comfortable and enriching living experience (Smith & Taylor, 2019) [22, 44].

Social factors also contribute to students' hostels patronage. The desire to be part of a vibrant, communal atmosphere and the potential for forming strong social connections are compelling reasons for choosing on-campus hostels, (O'Keeffe & Monk, 2020) [14, 36]. Living in close proximity to peers fosters a sense of community, which can positively impact students' overall well-being and academic success (O'Keeffe & Monk, 2020) [14, 36]. For some students, this sense of belonging outweighs other considerations in their choice of accommodation.

### Statement of Problem

Students' hostels have evolved significantly over the years, serving as more than just places of residence. They contribute to students' academic success, personal growth and social development. However, challenges related to affordability, inclusivity and student well-being must be addressed to ensure that hostels continue to provide a positive and enriching experience for all students.

Over the years, there has been a noticeable shift in the pattern of students' hostels patronage. Traditionally, a significant proportion of students preferred on-campus housing as a convenient and secure option, (Cohen, 2018) [4, 26]. However, recent trends indicate a growing interest in off-campus alternatives, such as private apartments or shared accommodations, (Cohen, 2018) [4, 26]. This shift prompts the question of what factors drive these changing preferences.

### Objective(s) of the study

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the factors of hostel facilities provision and thereafter propose a facility provision framework in Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, (ATAP).

The objectives of this research include the following

1. To identify the facilities provision needs in ATAP Hostels.
2. To examine the effects of the facilities identified, on the students' patronage.

## Literature Review

### 1. Concept of Student Hostels

Student hostels, also known as dormitories or residence halls, play a crucial role in the higher education experience, offering students a place to live, study, and socialize while pursuing their academic goals. This literature review explores various aspects of student hostels, including their historical development, benefits, challenges, and their impact on student well-being and academic success. The concept of students' hostels has a long history, dating back to medieval European universities such as the University of Bologna. These early hostels provided students with basic accommodations and fostered a sense of community among scholars. Over time, the concept evolved to meet changing students' needs and societal norms.

### 2. Benefits of Student Hostels

**Academic Performance:** Research by Astin (1977) and Pascarella and Terenzini (1991) [17, 39] suggests that students living on campus tend to have higher GPAs and are more likely to graduate on time. Proximity to academic resources and structured study environments contribute to this advantage.

**Social Integration:** Tinto's (1993) theory of student departure highlights the importance of social integration in student retention. Living in hostels facilitates peer interactions, helping students build friendships, support networks, and a sense of belonging within the university community.

**Personal Growth:** Hostel life fosters independence, self-reliance, and the development of life skills. Students learn to navigate diverse environments, resolve conflicts, and manage their time and resources effectively.

### 3. Challenges and Concerns

**Cost:** The cost of living in students' hostels can be a significant financial burden for some students. This raises issues of affordability and access, especially in higher-cost urban areas (Pike, 2011) [18, 40].

**Privacy and Comfort:** Shared living spaces may lack the privacy and comfort of private accommodations. Noise, crowded common areas, and limited personal space can impact the well-being of some students (Upcraft & Gardner, 1989).

**Diversity and Inclusivity:** Ensuring that student hostels are inclusive and welcoming to diverse student populations, including international students and those with disabilities, remains a challenge (Parekh & Wheeler, 2015) [15, 37].

### 4. Students' Hostel Patronage

Student hostel patronage refers to the act of students choosing to live in university or college-affiliated accommodations during their academic pursuits. This literature review explores the factors influencing hostel patronage, its impact on students' academic experiences, and the implications for educational institutions.

### 5. Factors Influencing Hostel Patronage

**Proximity to Campus:** Proximity to campus facilities and classrooms is a key factor in hostel selection. As highlighted by Inkelas and Weisman (2003) [8, 30], students value

convenience, which can enhance their access to academic resources and reduce commuting time.

**Cost and Financial Considerations:** The cost of hostel accommodation plays a pivotal role in patronage decisions. Research by Gonyea (2008) [6, 28] suggests that affordability is a significant factor influencing students' choices, with many seeking cost-effective options.

**Quality of Amenities and Services:** The quality of amenities and services within hostels is a determining factor. Liu and Pine (2005) [11, 33] found that students prioritize factors like safety, cleanliness, internet access, and communal spaces when choosing accommodations.

**Social and Peer Influences:** Social factors, such as recommendations from peers and the desire for a sense of community, can strongly influence patronage. Pascarella and Terenzini (2005) [16, 38] assert that social integration contributes to student retention.

## 6. Impact on Academic Experiences

**Academic Performance:** Living in student hostels can positively impact academic performance. Terenzini *et al.* (1994) found that students who reside on campus tend to have higher GPAs due to increased access to academic support and peer study groups.

**Enhanced Engagement:** Hostel patronage often leads to increased engagement in campus activities. Pike and Kuh (2005) suggest that living on campus fosters participation in extracurricular events and leadership opportunities, which can enrich the overall educational experience.

**Peer Learning and Collaboration:** Hostel life promotes peer learning and collaboration, as students from diverse backgrounds come together. Studies by Tinto (1993) and Astin (1993) [1, 23] emphasize the importance of such interactions in student success.

## Implications for Educational Institutions

**Retention and Graduation Rates:** Institutions can benefit from higher retention and graduation rates when more students choose on-campus accommodations. Strategies to enhance hostel offerings can contribute to improved student outcomes (Gansemer-Topf *et al.*, 2007) [5, 27]. Understanding factors that influence hostel patronage can help institutions allocate resources effectively. Investments in modern amenities, affordability programs, and community-building initiatives can attract more students to hostels. Promoting diversity within student hostels is essential. Educational institutions must ensure equitable access and create inclusive environments that accommodate various student backgrounds (Rhoads *et al.*, 2019) [21, 43].

Student hostel patronage is influenced by a complex interplay of factors, including proximity, cost, amenities,

and social influences. The decision to live in a hostel can significantly impact academic experiences and outcomes, with potential benefits for both students and educational institutions. To foster patronage, institutions should consider factors that appeal to students while promoting diversity and inclusion within hostel communities.

## Internet Facilities and Students' Hostels Patronage

The availability and quality of Internet facilities in student hostels have become increasingly important factors influencing students' decisions to choose on-campus accommodations. This literature review explores the relationship between Internet facilities and hostel patronage, considering their impact on student experiences and academic success. Access to High-Speed Internet: The provision of high-speed Internet access within student hostels has become a significant selling point for institutions. According to a study by Smith and Caruso (2010), students expect reliable and fast Internet connections, which can be a deciding factor in their choice of accommodation.

## Methodology

### 1. Site Description/Subjects

Abubakar Tatar Ali Polytechnic, popularly known as ATAP, is a state-owned tertiary institution in Bauchi State, Nigeria. It was established by Edict No. 1 of 1988. The institution offers National Diploma and Higher National Diploma courses at undergraduate levels. There are seven-unit schools in the entire polytechnic and additional four directorates. Each of these has its separate newly constructed building complex which make up the entire polytechnic system. There are about 10,000 students and 800 staffs both academic and non-academic, in the polytechnic which sum up to about 11,000 users of facilities in the polytechnic.

### 2. Sample Population

The study population will comprise of the students within the polytechnic area. They are to answer the questionnaires that will be administered to them on the issue of solid waste management disposal.

### 3. Sample Size

The sample population will be the representative sample of the sample population for the study. It is the total number of respondents within the study population.

### 4. Sampling Technique

Convenience Sampling Technique will be employed. It entails selecting respondents based on their accessibility and proximity to the researcher, without following any pattern. This method involves recruiting individuals who are readily available, such as people on the streets, public buildings or at workplaces, (Galloway, 2005).

**Table 3.1:** Table of Sample Size (Saunders *et al.* 2016)

Population Size	Required Sample Size*							
	Confidence = 95%				Confidence = 99%			
	Margin of Error				Margin of Error			
	5.0%	3.5%	2.5%	1.0%	5.0%	3.5%	2.5%	1.0%
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
20	19	20	20	20	19	20	20	20
30	28	29	29	30	29	29	30	30
50	44	47	48	50	47	48	49	50
75	63	69	72	74	67	71	73	75
100	80	89	94	99	87	93	96	99
150	108	126	137	148	122	135	142	149
200	132	160	177	196	154	174	186	198
250	152	190	215	244	182	211	229	246
300	169	217	251	291	207	246	270	295
400	196	265	318	384	250	309	348	391
500	217	306	377	475	285	365	421	485
600	234	340	432	565	315	416	490	579
700	248	370	481	653	341	462	554	672
800	260	396	526	739	363	503	615	763
1,000	278	440	606	906	399	575	727	943
1,200	291	474	674	1067	427	636	827	1119
1,500	306	515	759	1297	460	712	959	1376
2,000	322	563	869	1655	498	808	1141	1785
2,500	333	597	952	1984	524	879	1288	2173
3,500	346	641	1068	2565	558	977	1510	2890
5,000	357	678	1176	3288	586	1066	1734	3842
7,500	365	710	1275	4211	610	1147	1960	5165
10,000	370	727	1332	4899	622	1193	2098	6239
25,000	378	760	1448	6939	646	1285	2399	9972
50,000	381	772	1491	8056	655	1318	2520	12455
75,000	382	776	1506	8514	658	1330	2563	13583
100,000	383	778	1513	8762	659	1336	2585	14227
250,000	384	782	1527	9248	662	1347	2626	15555
500,000	384	783	1532	9423	663	1350	2640	16055
1,000,000	384	783	1534	9512	663	1352	2647	16317
2,500,000	384	784	1536	9567	663	1353	2651	16478
10,000,000	384	784	1536	9594	663	1354	2653	16560
100,000,000	384	784	1537	9603	663	1354	2654	16584
300,000,000	384	784	1537	9603	663	1354	2654	16586

**5. Method of Data Collection**

Data was collected through the use of quantitative method of data collection. It adopted the use of quantitative tools of data collection such as questionnaire, Data was also appropriately organized to serve its purpose and ease analysis.

**6. Questionnaire administration**

A structured questionnaire designed in close-ended form will be administered to the respondents, in order to generate data for the research.

**7. Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected will be analyzed using EFA (Exploratory Factor Analysis) to determine the factors or variables that will significantly contribute to the model through factor loadings.

**Results**

The results obtained from the research were as follows:

**Table 1:** shows sex group of the respondents

S/N	Sex	Respondents	Percentage %
1.	MALE	73	73
2.	FEMALE	47	47
TOTAL		120	100

Source: 2025

The table above shows the total number of respondent's base on sex category. This implies that majority of the respondents were male representing 73% followed by female representing 47% respectively.

**Table 2:** shows distribution of respondents based on age group

S/N	AGE	Respondents	Percentage
1.	18-25 YEARS	82	82
2.	25 YEARS & ABOVE	38	38
TOTAL		100	100

Source: 2025

The table above shows distribution of respondents based on age group. This indicated that majority of the respondents were between the age of 18-25 years representing 82%, followed by 25 years of age and above representing 38% respectively.

**Table 3:** shows Facilities provision needed in ATAPOLY campus hostels

S/N	Facilities Needed	Facilities Available In Hostels
1.	More water system toilets	Some water system toilets were available
2.	Fumigation equipment	More are required
3.	Additional Hostel beds and mattresses	More are required
4.	Additional solar systems	More are required

**Table 4:** shows the effects of the hostel facilities available on students' patronage

S/N	Facilities Available	Effects On Student's Patronage
1.	Toilets systems	It enhanced students' comfort
2.	Fumigation equipment	It prevents reptiles and insects attack
3.	Beds and mattresses	For student's comfort
4.	Lightening systems	It enhances security

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