

Analysis of the conditions of Hostel Amenities in Federal Universities in the North East Nigeria

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Abstract

i. *The issue of the condition of hostel amenities in public institutions has continued to draw attention from scholars across Nigeria. While much attention has focused on the maintenance and condition of public buildings limited research effort have focused on the condition of hostel amenities in the federal Universities especially in the north east Nigeria. Therefore, the aim of this study is to assess the condition of hostel amenities in Federal Universities in the North East Nigeria, with a view to providing a guide for improving the condition of the amenities through the provision of adequate amenities and services for students' satisfaction in their hostels. The study employed the use of quantitative approach. The Population comprises of 32,256 students, residing in seven federal universities hostel blocks. An approximately sample size of 2,700 students were selected, based on proportional sampling technique according to the hostel blocks. The data collected through questionnaire was analysed using descriptive statistics of mean, standard deviation and percentages. The result revealed that, such as electricity supply, water supply, Internet service security Services, and kitchen are in good condition while others while other amenities such as, deadbolt lock, extinguisher, toilets, are in fair, poor and very poor conditions. The study recommends that the institution continue to prioritize maintenance and upgrading of amenities to ensure sustained students satisfaction and academic performance. Regular assessments and feedback mechanisms should be established to monitor, replace, and improve amenities.*

Key Words: *Hostel amenities, Students performance, University*

1.0 Introduction

The provision of adequate hostel amenities is crucial for the well-being, academic performance, and overall university experience of students. However, institutions in North East eastern Nigeria face significant challenges in maintaining satisfactory hostel conditions due to factors such as inadequate funding, infrastructure decay, and security concern. Despite the importance of the condition of hostel amenities, many institutions in the north east region struggle with inadequate and poor condition of amenities, overcrowding, poor sanitation and so on.

Hostel amenities typically include essentials like water, electricity, security, laundry services, internet access, cafeterias, parking spaces, health facilities, and wardrobes. As Sa'ad (2021) notes, students need a comfortable place to relax after their classes in order to effectively participate in lectures and school activities. Addressing the issues around the availability, maintenance, and management of hostel amenities is crucial for the academic success of students. In Nigeria, education is one of the government's key areas of focus (Aleyomi &

Nwagwu, 2020), and Omole (2005) stressed that adequate living conditions in university hostels are essential for academic success.

Further, Universities across the country need to prioritize providing adequate and functional amenities to improve student hostel life and the overall university experience. Georger (2017) and Rahman et al. (2020) emphasized the significant role that well-managed hostel accommodations play in supporting students to attend lectures, participate in school activities, and conduct research. To enhance the quality of life in student hostels, it is vital to address key challenges related to the availability and distribution of suitable accommodations.

Moreover, basic amenities expected in university hostels include shared bedroom facilities, bathrooms, laundry services, kitchens, and communal spaces like lounges and cafeterias (Yahaya, 2005; Amole & Suki, 2015). Ekejiuba (2015) highlighted how Singapore University offers amenities such as single beds, shelves, writing desks, chairs, and wireless internet. Similarly, Sathyabama University in India provides telephone facilities and fitness centres (Sathyabama University, 2017). At Chandigarh University, hostels come with 24-hour electricity, a music room, cable TV, guest rooms, and hot and cold water in bathrooms (Chandigarh University, 2013). A comfortable sleeping space, along with other amenities, plays a crucial role in supporting students' academic pursuits.

Despite the importance of hostel amenities in shaping student academic performance, as Ubong (2007) observed, they often do not receive the necessary attention from university management, and research on the topic remains insufficient. The comfort of students in Federal Universities should be a concern for educational stakeholders. Providing adequate accommodation and amenities can help students meet their academic responsibilities, such as attending lectures on time and improving academic performance (Sa'ad, 2021). Educational stakeholders and facility managers should collaborate to ensure the provision of critical amenities globally. Arising from foregoing, this paper sets to examine the condition of hostel amenities in the federal universities in the north east Nigeria.

2. 0 Literature review

2.1 Hostel Accommodation

A student hostel sometimes called a dormitory or residence hall, is a building or complex that accommodate students while they are attending school (Saad 2021). It typically include individual room or shared rooms. Study space, shared bathroom, and other common areas. The goal is to provide a safe and supportive environment for students to live and learn together Whyte (2019) stated that hostel accommodation is a side in school premises where by selected people after necessary screening called students who live away from home, live and sleep normally under supervision of student affairs of each school. Hostels are usually cheaper than rented apartments Barry (2021) explained that hostel could be seen as a place in which people particularly students stay for a short period while undergoing a programme or event. Nwagbara and Nnadi (2022) pointed out that hostel is a bock of rooms in where by lodging are provided for a period of time normally with the supervision of the authorities concerned for students and workmen in training. A hostel accommodation specifically design to accommodate students for living with attached amenities such as toiletries, laundry, hostel should have clean and well maintained stalls secondly hostel should provide lockers for the guest to store their valuables and should have 24hours surveillance cameras and WI-FI.

Worsley, Harrison and Corcoran (2021) describe hostel as a shared accommodation where people come together in numbers to share a particular room, and so, instead of staying alone or in a private room, one can stay in a room shared with others. Hostels provide low-priced shared rooms where students can rent a space, normally with a bunk bed in a rooms that

are either mixed gender or single gender, and some times private rooms are available as an option. Students' hostel plays an important role in the lives of students providing them with palace to live and socialize while they are undergoing their education. Busch-Geertsema and Sahlin (2007) describe a hostel as a typically a large building or complex that is intended to house people for a long period of time, it has all the features necessary for living, including bedroom, bath rooms, kitchens, and common areas. Hostel are design to be functional and comfortable for their residents. Providing a place to read and socialize.

The provision of amenities is an important issue that needed to be addressed in Nigerian Universities. By addressing the challenges faced in this area, Universities can help to ensure that students have a safe and comfortable place to live, and that they have access to the resources they need to succeed academically.

2.2 Condition of Hostel Amenities in Tertiary Institutions

The condition of hostels amenities information provides, a general idea of the state of the amenities, but it does not give details about specific issues or problems. Management should develop a plan to fix any issues, and create a schedule for regular maintenance and repairs. If any problems that are be young repair, a remedial plan should be developed. (Loy and Colemany 2006). Pointed out that hostel amenities condition in tertiary institution has become dilapidated to an extent that students had no alternative other than to stay outside the school campus. This may lead to a problem of insecurity kidnapping and other social vices that may affect students' performance in school. (Oyebade, Oladipo & Aigbokhan, 2012). Express that student hostel congestions in halls is an alarming rate to the extent that female students had to get up by 3 30 am to take their showers in corridors. Committee on Education and Vision 2010 (1996) pointed out amenities in student hostels and buildings should be fully privatised. The government can seek alternative from private developers who can take all the necessary steps to ensure good delivery of the amenities.

Moreover, persistent condition of amenities, problems facing provision of hostel amenities in the University is the inadequacy of ancillary amenities, as well as the management of existing ones, as well as the cost incurred to provide new amenities in order to extend the life span of the old ones. As observed by Duflo, Galiani, and Mobarak (2012) the condition of inadequate amenities particularly access to water, lookers, reading coner, waste disposal, bathroom utilities and internet to students in the hostel) are particularly pressing in Universities hostels and those amenities are being stressed beyond capacity. Anofojie, et al. (2014) described the inadequacy of amenities provision and its condition in hostel bring a major setback or hindrance to the quality and performance of student.

It is widely accepted that major challenges associated with provision of hostel amenities result from increased in total number of student admitted without corresponding provision of amenities or inability for the management to provide adequate amenities in the hostel., as well as the inability to effectively manage the condition of existing amenities. The ability of these amenities to accommodate growth and extend its life span depends on the ability of the management to supervise and manage to improve the existing amenities condition.

2.3 Required Quality of Hostel Amenites In Tertiary Institutions

In the context of hostel amenities quality of amenities could refer to a number of things, such as cleanness, functionality, and aesthetic it include other factors like the comfort of the students, safety and the social aspect (Mbazor 2021). Absolutely one example of quality in the context of hostel amenities is cleanliness. This refer to the state of amenities and hygiene. For example a clean and well-maintained kitchen is considered a quality amenity and a kitchen

that is dirty or in disrepair are said to not in good quality Required quality amenities are those amenities that work properly and are not broken or in need of repair.

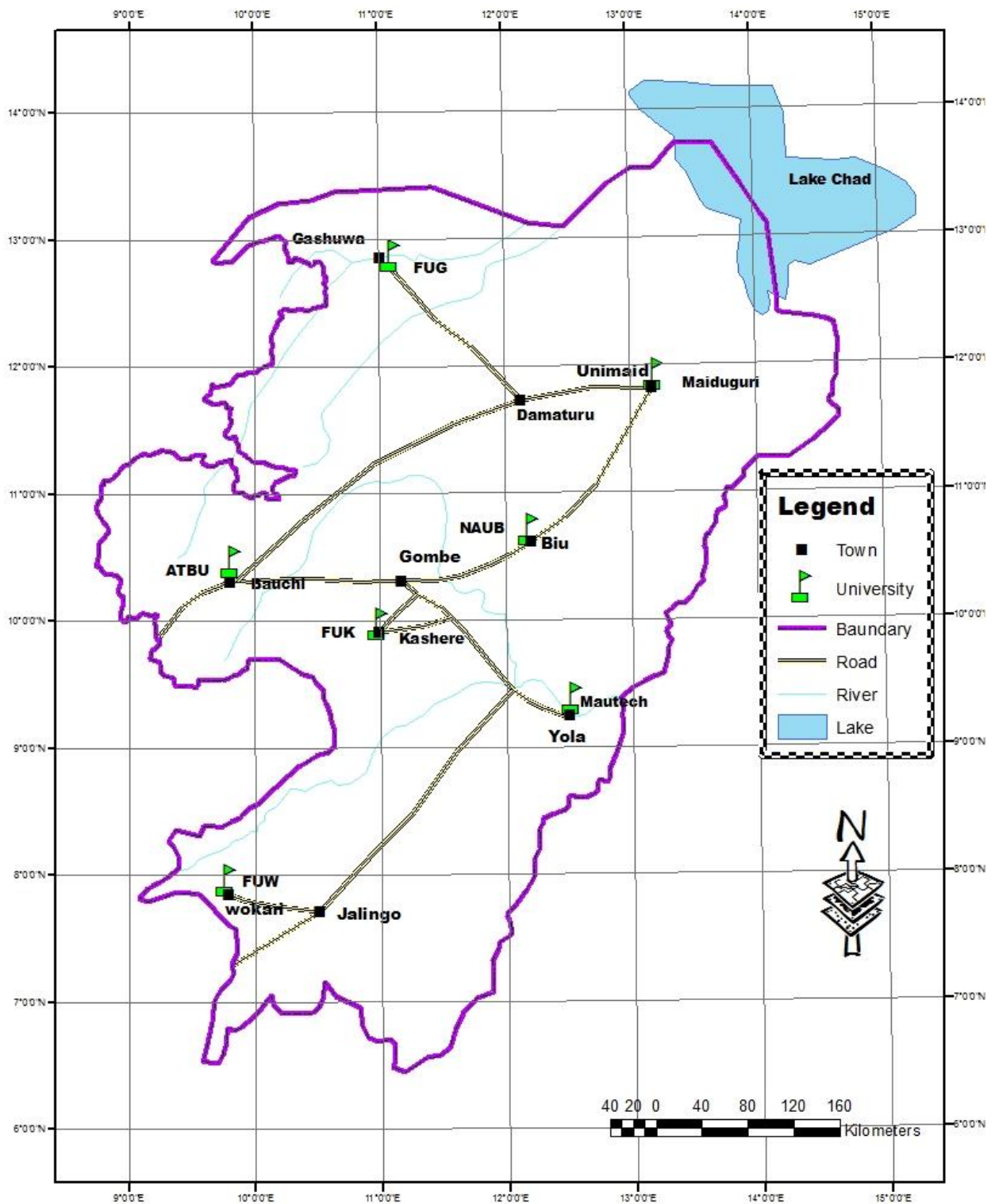
Amenities quality required in the hostel is one of the main qualities of good hostel. Choosing a hostel located in a central area of the city if possible it is advisable to be close to public transportation and tourist attraction to facilitate your mobility and other amenities that are not yet provided. There are a lot of amenities required in students those amenities needed should be in good quality. Some of these amenities in students hostels are cleanliness, bathrooms, friendly staff, common areas, kitchen, location, laundry, war drop, white board fire alarm, CCTV cameras, water supply, cookers, sockets, internets, desk, electricity, bunk, common area for mingling.(Hayarkon 48, 2021).

Nduangu Jerimiah (2020) study to evaluate the availability of amenities qualities in student private hostels the studies targeted 3,0331, students questionnaire were distributed to the total number of 395 under graduate students as sampled stratified sampling and random sampling technics were used Findings revealed that majority of the amenities in the hostel are not working and internet connectivity has a statistically significant positive correlation (P. 0.08) exist between adequacy of the room and academic performance of students. In examining the socio-economic effects of amenities provision on students' hostel satisfaction, Stevenson (2008) reported that off-campus students do not have access to social activities as students living on campus and resulted to a negative effect on students' ability to develop important social skills. Joseph *et; al;* (2013) studied student hostel amenities and the difference between what the students like, and the present amenities on ground. Amenities Satisfaction with the quality of provided or dissatisfaction with amenities is influenced by prior anticipation regarding the level of amenities provision and performance. In addition, the hostel amenities like facilities is not stable it depend in accordance with the level of amenities provided, and the student's satisfaction is not static; which means the amenities provision of the student rises with quality of amenities to an extent in time can be in some extent (Nazirah, 2011).

3.0 Area of Study

North-East region of Nigeria is one of the country's six geopolitical zones and it comprises the following states: Adamawa, Bauchi Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States. The region have total number of around 30 million people, which is about one-third of Nigeria's total area and had a population as of 2011 of 23,558,674 or 13.5% of the country's population. The people living are mainly Fulani, with only the Borno state having Kanuri tribe as a majority, with about 100 minority ethnic groups. There are seven federal Universities in the north east where by each state has the total number of one federal university except Borno State with has two federal Universities, Federal University (Fig. 2). The Federal university Azare in Bauchi state is excluded being a newly established university. The amenities to consider in North East Universities students hostel include water supply, electricity, internet, etc as well as other amenities provided in the hostels for students.

Fig 1: Map of North East States (study area) showing specific universities location



Fig; 2 Specific location of North East Federal Universities in Nigeria

4.0 Research Method

3.1 Data Collection and Source

The data for the study were collected using a structured questionnaire administered on two thousand seven hundred (2700) respondents. The data samples were obtained from the students living in the hostel of the seven federal universities in the north east as contained in Table 1;

Table 1: Sample size of each University students

S/N	State	University	Students population	Sample Size
1	Bauchi	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi	6,260	450
2	Gombe	Federal University Kashere	5,452	450
3	Adamawa	Modibo Adama University of Technology Yola	4,927	400
4	Taraba	Federal University Wukari	3,750	400
5	Yobe	Federal University Gashuwa	2,379	300
6	Maiduguri	University of Maiduguri	7,677	500
7	Maiduguri	Nigerian Army University Biu	1,811	200
Total			32,256	2,700

4.2 Tools of analysis

Descriptive statistics was employed to summarize samples of subjects in terms of variables or a combination of variables. The analytical tools frequency, percentages, used include mean, , standard deviation, and ranking.

5.0 Results and Discussion

Table 2: Profile of Respondents by Hostel Accommodation

Name of Federal University	Name of Hostel	Frequency	Percentage
University of Maiduguri	Block A	87	17.6
	Block B	71	14.5
	Block C	30	6.0
	Block D	14	2.8
	Block E	17	3.4
	Aisha Buhari	13	2.6
	Titanic	213	43.0
	Ali Mungonu	17	3.5
	Aisha hall	18	3.6
	Murtala hall	15	3.0
	Total	495	100%
Nigeria Army University Biu	Bulama	72	36.3
	Aderonke	75	37.9
	Magumeri	51	25.8
	Total	198	100%
Modibo Adama University of Technology Yola	Oba	119	30.0
	Chukwu	105	26.7
	Kabir Umar	50	12.6
	Usman Nagogo	51	12.9
	N-Suites	24	6.0
	Nana Asmau	47	11.8

	Total	396	100%	
Federal University Gashua	Block A	80	27	
	Block B	99	33.4	
	Block C	41	13.8	
	Block D	44	14.8	
	Block E	15	5.0	
	Anex	18	6.0	
	Total	297	100%	
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi	Block (A) O.Oladebo	92	20.7	
	Block(B) Adamu M.Nayaya	115	25.8	
	Block(C) G.RA	75	16.9	
	Block(D) G.R.A	43	9.7	
	Block (E)Gbolahan A Alao	31	7.0	
	Block (F) Ango Abdullahi	44	9.9	
	Block(G) Ango Abdullahi	45	10.0	
	Total	445	100%	
	Federal University of Kashere	Block A	34	7.6
		Block B	78	17.5
Block C		125	28.0	
Block D		59	13.5	
Block E		94	21.0	
Block F		40	9.0	
Block G		15	3.4	
Total		445	100%	
Federal University Wukari	Block A	52	13.1	
	Block B	63	16.0	
	Block C	64	16.1	
	Block D	74	18.7	
	Malam Adamu	53	13.4	
	Adamu			
	Aisha Buhari	90	22.7	
	Total	396	100%	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 2 displays the breakdown of respondents based on University and hostels. It was observed that from the 495 respondents in UNIMAID 213 (43.5%) were residing in Titanic hostel; 198 respondents in NAU, BIU has 75(37.9%) residing in Aderonke hostel; 396 respondents in MAUTECH Yola 119 (30%) residing in Oba hostel; 297 were from Federal University Gashua with majority 99 (33.4%) residing in block B; 445 were from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi with majority 115(25.8%) residing in block B; 445 were from Federal University of Kashere with majority 125(28%) residing in block C and 396 were from Federal University of Wukari with majority 90 (22.7%) residing in Aisha Buhari hostel.

Majority of students residing in various hostels, this implies different hostels may offer varying levels of amenities, making it challenging to control for these factors when assessing their impact on academic performance additionally hostels may have different environments, cultures, groups, which can influence student performance and confound the relationship between amenities and academic performance

Table 3: Analysis of the Conditions of Hostel amenities in the study area

Hostel Amenities	Excellent	Good	Fair	poor	Very Poor	Mean	Std. Dev	Ranking
Electricity supply	1554 (58.2%)	589 (22.0%)	242 (9.1%)	281 (10.5%)	6 (0.2%)	4.27	1.019	1
Kitchen provision	572 (21.4%)	1229 (46.0%)	333 (12.5%)	314 (11.8%)	224 (8.4%)	3.60	1.186	14
Water provision	977 (36.6%)	888 (33.2%)	406 (15.2%)	330 (12.4%)	71 (2.6%)	3.89	1.113	2
Bathroom	529 (20.0%)	1240 (46.0%)	367 (13.6%)	308 (11.5%)	228 (8.5%)	3.57	1.176	17
Restaurant provision	496 (18.6%)	1118 (41.8%)	513 (19.2%)	335 (12.5%)	210 (7.9%)	3.51	1.159	19
Sporting facility	347 (13.0%)	1135 (43.0%)	647 (24.2%)	395 (14.5%)	148 (5.3%)	3.43	1.064	23
Recreational facility	326 (12.2%)	1114 (41.7%)	652 (24.4%)	402 (15.0%)	178 (6.7%)	3.38	1.086	28
Shower	402 (15.0%)	1135 (42.5%)	519 (19.3%)	361 (13.5%)	255 (9.5%)	3.40	1.177	25
Fire protecting equipment	471 (17.6%)	1136 (42.5%)	514 (19.2%)	342 (12.8%)	209 (7.8%)	3.49	1.153	21
Common Room	406 (15.2%)	1196 (44.8%)	541 (20.2%)	349 (13.1%)	180 (6.7%)	3.49	1.104	20
Desk and Chairs provision	745 (28.0%)	1021 (38.2%)	434 (16.2%)	324 (12.1%)	148 (5.5%)	3.71	1.158	9
Wardrobe	607 (22.7%)	1200 (44.9%)	432 (16.2%)	280 (10.5%)	153 (5.7%)	3.68	1.106	13
Cleaning services	777 (29.1%)	1006 (37.6%)	421 (15.8%)	335 (12.5%)	133 (5.0%)	3.73	1.152	8
Internet services	914 (34.2%)	911 (34.1%)	418 (15.6%)	255 (9.5%)	174 (6.5%)	3.80	1.194	5
Hostel security services	655 (24.5%)	1306 (48.9%)	468 (17.5%)	127 (4.8%)	116 (4.3%)	3.84	.989	3
Sickbay	553 (20.7%)	1259 (47.1%)	493 (18.5%)	198 (7.4%)	169 (6.3%)	3.68	1.076	12
Study space	688 (25.7%)	1163 (43.5%)	488 (18.3%)	168 (6.3%)	165 (6.2%)	3.76	1.092	7
General hostel maintenance services	841 (31.5%)	958 (35.9%)	456 (17.1%)	289 (10.8%)	128 (4.8%)	3.78	1.142	6
Intercom system	415 (15.5%)	980 (36.7%)	710 (26.6%)	319 (11.9%)	248 (9.3%)	3.37	1.158	29

Laundry services	389 (14.6%)	1135 (42.5%)	565 (21.1%)	338 (12.6%)	245 (9.2%)	3.41	1.156	24
Smart temperature control	465 (17.4%)	1044 (39.1%)	544 (20.4%)	304 (11.4%)	315 (11.8%)	3.39	1.233	26
Surveillance cameras	340 (12.7%)	1011 (37.8%)	614 (23.0%)	385 (14.4%)	322 (12.1%)	3.25	1.205	30
Deadbolt locks	407 (15.2%)	1034 (38.7%)	658 (24.6%)	320 (12.0%)	253 (9.5%)	3.38	1.161	27
Toilets	618 (23.1%)	942 (39.0%)	573 (17.7%)	282 (10.6%)	257 (9.6%)	3.48	1.224	22
Wall sockets	723 (27.0%)	945 (35.4%)	448 (16.8%)	317 (11.9%)	239 (8.9%)	3.60	1.247	15
Booking Room	590 (22.1%)	1034 (38.7%)	543 (20.3%)	312 (11.7%)	193 (7.2%)	3.57	1.164	16
Extinguishers	445 (16.7%)	1216 (45.5%)	512 (19.1%)	289 (10.8%)	210 (7.9%)	3.52	1.127	18
Plumbing	775 (29.0%)	977 (36.6%)	464 (17.4%)	292 (10.9%)	164 (6.1%)	3.71	1.171	10
Waste Disposal	829 (31.0%)	1007 (37.7%)	410 (15.3%)	305 (11.5%)	121 (4.5%)	3.79	1.134	6
Reading corner	785 (29.4%)	963 (36.0%)	464 (17.4%)	252 (9.4%)	208 (7.8%)	3.70	1.206	11
Fan	1022 (38.2%)	791 (29.6%)	392 (14.7%)	255 (9.5%)	212 (8.0%)	3.81	1.260	4
Overall Mean						3.61	1.148	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Hint: Items with mean score ranging between 4.50 - 5.0 = Excellent; 3.50 – 4.49 = Good (M); 2.50 – 3.49 = Fair (N); 1.50 – 2.49 = Poor (L); 0 – 1.49 = Very Poor

Table 3 analyses respondent opinions on the condition of various hostel amenities, highlighting key findings through mean satisfaction scores and standard deviations. Amenities were rated on a scale from "Excellent" to "Very Poor," providing insights into the areas where hostel management excels and where improvements are needed. Core services such as electricity supply water provision, and security received the highest ratings, with the majority of respondents rating these as "Excellent" or "Good." This indicates that hostel management prioritizes essential infrastructure, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for students. Over 65% of respondents expressed satisfaction with these amenities, confirming that the critical facilities needed for student well-being are well-maintained. Also, services like internet, waste disposal, and study spaces were rated moderately, meaning they are functional but could benefit from enhancements. Although these services are vital for daily student life, the ratings suggest that improvements, particularly in internet reliability and cleanliness, could further elevate the hostel experience.

While the recreational facilities, surveillance cameras, and locks were rated the lowest. These amenities, although non-essential, contribute to safety, leisure, and social engagement. Dissatisfaction in these areas suggests that students desire better recreational options and stronger security measures. Addressing these issues could significantly enhance the quality of

life in the hostel. As indicated in Table 3, certain amenities like smart temperature control, wall sockets, and fans had higher standard deviations, reflecting a broad range of experiences. This variation suggests that the quality or maintenance of these amenities may differ across hostel blocks, signalling the need for standardized improvements to ensure consistency.

Overall, the majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with the fundamental amenities, as evidenced by more than 60% of respondents rating them as "Excellent" or "Good." However, there are notable areas of concern where dissatisfaction is high (30% or more rated "Fair," "Poor," or "Very Poor"), particularly with recreational facilities, surveillance cameras, and communication systems like intercoms. These non-essential but important amenities appear to be underfunded or inadequately maintained. While the general condition of hostel amenities is positive, with key services like electricity, water, and security receiving high ratings, there are opportunities to improve areas related to security, recreation, and communication. Enhancing these facilities could lead to a more balanced and satisfying living experience for all students. Standardizing maintenance across all hostel blocks would also address inconsistencies and further boost overall satisfaction.

This finding is in agreement with the findings of Ojo (2015), Smith (2020). Who found that well- maintained hostel amenities are crucial for student satisfaction and loyalty? Johnson (2019) similarly, discovered that good condition amenities can be a competitive advantage for hostels. In the same vain Lee (2018) reported that attention to details in maintaining amenities is important for building trust and loyalty among students. The author's findings are consistent with current study's results, which highlight the importance of identifying conditions of hostel amenities, which revealed, mixed opinion to ensure student's satisfaction, comfort, and loyalty. However, other authors are in disagreement with this findings among are Davis (2022) argues that the impact of amenity condition on student satisfaction is overstated, and other factor like staff service and location are more influential. Brown (2019) disagrees with the emphasis on amenities condition, proposing that a more minimalist approach to amenities can be just effective in attracting students to apply into the university,

6.0 Conclusion and recommendation

This study aimed to assess the condition of hostel amenities on students' academic performance in the Federal Universities in the North East Nigeria, with a view to providing guide for improving academic performance through the provision of adequate amenities and services for students' satisfaction in their hostels. Descriptive statistic were used to analyzed the data

The results showed the condition of various hostel amenities, highlighting key findings through mean satisfaction scores and standard deviations. Amenities were rated on a scale from "Excellent" to "Very Poor," providing insights into the areas where hostel management excels and where improvements are needed. Core services such as electricity supply water provision, and security received the highest ratings, with the majority of respondents rating these as "Excellent" or "Good." This indicates that hostel management prioritizes essential infrastructure, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for students. The institutions efforts to maintain and provide good amenities are likely to contribute to improved students' academic performance. Given the good condition of amenities in the student's hostels, the study recommends that the institution continue to prioritize maintenance and upgrading of amenities to ensure sustained students satisfaction and academic performance. Regular assessments and feedback mechanisms should be established to monitor, replace, and improve amenities conditions.

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