ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal
Volume: 11| Issue: 5| May 2025|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2025: 8.691 || ISI Value: 1.188

STATE OF SECURITY OF STUDENTS LIVING IN BOARDING HOUSES IN DAGUPAN CITY

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Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.36713/epra21882
DOI No: 10.36713/epra21882

ABSTRACT

This study aims to assess the current state of security among students residing in boarding houses in Dagupan City. It specifically focuses on the perceptions of students regarding their safety, the common security-related incidents they have encountered, and the preventive measures they practice or recommend. The research seeks to identify key factors that contribute to potential threats and risks faced by these students in their living environments. By understanding these elements, the study intends to provide practical recommendations to improve security conditions and reduce the likelihood of victimization. Moreover, the findings can serve as a valuable resource for boarding house owners, school administrators, and local authorities in developing policies and programs aimed at enhancing student safety. This study may also benefit future researchers who wish to explore similar topics in different contexts or locations.

KEYWORDS: *Boarding Houses, Security, Landlord, Lodging, Safety*

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the years, boarding houses, apartments or dormitories served as a dwelling for many students, especially to those who were residing in distant places away from their schools located in urban areas. In relation with the aforementioned statement, to further understand our research topic let us first define what is a boarding house, a "boarding house" is defined as a "building which regularly or intermittently is occupied by a person lodging therein at night, whether or not a person is actually present (Oregon Revised Statuses, 2011).

Furthermore, as cited by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2022), boarding houses is considered as a dwelling. Hence, based on the definition, students more likely chose to live in boarding houses as a place wherein they could rest rather than spending their time travelling, vice versa, from their distant house to the school they are attending in Urban Areas.

In connection to that, as stated by Ghani and Suleiman (2019), stated that security is an important element in human living environment, where security is not guaranteed in any boarding houses the lives and properties of the student will be at risk; comfort and safety living in such area became an illusion. It is in relation to the view that off-campus student housing becomes vulnerable to criminal attacks because criminals are monitoring and aware that student houses are deserted during vacations periods. Most of the off- campus student housing is stunned with inadequacy of security facilities and personnel, also couples of the students' carelessness on taking precautions of securing all doors and windows, makes it vulnerable target (Donaldson, et al., 2019).

In support, the security of the boarding house should be the primary consideration of the landlord. They should ensure that the access of the students during the day is suitably, and during the night are all secured. Landlord of the boarding house applied pro-active measures in which they provide basic security measures to ensure every tenants safety (BHHS POLICY (2018).

According to Khymberly Krystyn (2018), students at University perceive the safety and security of the boarding houses and dorms they rent. The majority of the respondents agreed that the boarding houses or dormitories they rented followed and observed safety and security precautions; however, there is little correlation between the respondents' perceptions of the safety and security of the boarding houses or dormitories they rented and their gender, age, or monthly family income. Owners of boarding homes and dormitories should renew their licenses and permits each year in order to protect the safety and security of their boarders and those who are now living in or planning to live in boarding houses or dormitories.

In contrast, Safety in most of the boarding houses are very frightening because most boarding houses have poor infrastructure, poor sanitation, unhealthy conditions and poor security, According to Mubita et al. (2022).

According to S Adisa and F Simpeh (2021), In the majority of South African on-campus Student Housing Facilities (SHFs), one of the problem that have been noted is the security breakdowns of the students. Some flaws were found, including insufficient closed-circuit television (CCTV) and the lack of a weapon detector. They also had flaws in the provision of access control, security patrol, electronic coded locks on doors, and

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security alarm in the majority of the homes. As a result, insufficient CCTV and the lack of a weapon detector were found to be security flaws in both institutions.

In the Philippines, according to Mulianto (2011), one of the places or environment that each student should feel safe is actually in their boarding houses. They should feel secure and safe in terms of living in boarding houses, they should consider things that can affect their safety and well being. Safety in this context refers to a state or condition of being protected against the physical, social, spiritual, financial, political, emotional, occupational, psychological, educational, or other types of consequences of failure. Living in a boarding house is such a major educational option for many students, especially to those whose living far away from the school. Thus, safety in learning is a growing concern globally.

In support, in a study made by Brilliantes et. al. (2020), determined the living conditions of university students in boarding houses and dormitories in Davao City, Philippines. The results demonstrated that students recognized their boarding houses and dormitories possessing good basic housing facilities. However, they felt that they were deficiencies in the provisions of safety and security facilities especially on fire escapes or exits and fire extinguishers. This was a reflection that most operators had violated some requirements set under the Building Code of the Philippine.

The importance of this study, is that it aims to understand the status of boarding houses which will affect the safety and security of the students while living in their boarding houses, and to further come up with the better solution which is then beneficial to the student boarders. To be able to understand and formulate recommendations which will prevent further danger and problems they might encounter while living in boarding houses, through the conduct of awareness campaign which will raise the awareness of individuals in terms of different strategies they may do to protect themselves. Furthermore, it could also help other researchers who would conduct similar study, which could serve as a basis for their study.

Objective/s of the Study

1. What is the security status of boarding houses in Dagupan City as perceived by students?
2. What are the common cases encountered by the students which compromised their state of security while living in their boarding houses?
3. What are the preventive measures applied by the students in order to secure themselves while living in their boarding houses?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study focused on qualitative research, and specifically considered a phenomenological study. A phenomenological study explores what people experience and focuses on their experience. In addition, As stated by Creswell (2013), the fundamental goal of the approach is to arrive at a description of the nature of the particular phenomenon this is in relation with the aim to know the different state of security of students living in boarding houses and the preventive measures for them to secure themselves in different cases they have encountered. Moreover, an interview will be use, as we aim to understand the different experiences of the students who lives in boarding houses regarding their state of security, which contains information related to our research topic.

Population and Locale of the Study

In the conduct of an interview, three participants live in boarding houses came from the area of Dagupan City were able to participate.

Considering that few students are renting boarding houses in different areas in Dagupan City, Pangasinan by reason of the new mode of learning which is Blended Learning Modality, chosen participants were those who are active in participating and are suited with our study, they are those who are living in their boarding houses for more than 2 years. The researchers used purposive sampling to take information from those participants who have the quality experiences and information. Purposive sampling refers to a group of non-probability sampling techniques in which units are selected because they have characteristics that you need in your sample. In other words, units are selected “on purpose” in purposive sampling.

Data Gathering Tool

The main instrument used by the researchers to collect data from the participants was structured interview, to be able to determine the condition regarding the status of boarding houses in Dagupan City as perceived by students, the cases which compromised their security, and the preventive measures to secure themselves against identified cases.

An interview guide was prepared as it serves as a guide to gather factual information from the participants which can be helpful for our study. According to Creswell (2012), that interviews are primarily done in qualitative research and occur when researchers ask one or more participants general, open-ended questions and record their answers. Therefore, the interview is an effective way to gather relevant and a first-hand information which has reliability, particularly the participant had experienced some common cases in boarding houses which compromises their security in relation to our study.

Treatment of Data

The data gathered by the researchers through the conduct of an interview, was documented by means of audio recording to guarantee its validity and reliability. The place where the interview was conducted was at the place were it is the most safe and convenient for the participants.

Code Matrix has been utilized, the responses was tabulated and organized based upon the questions it responded with, and themed and categorized depending on the concepts that they are conveying in relation with our study, state of security of students living in boarding houses in Dagupan City.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of the data gathered. The data pertains to the narratives of participants based on the common cases they have experienced that

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compromise their safety as a student living in boarding houses and what preventive measures they have applied in order to repel or prevent the situation they have experienced.

1.What is the security status of boarding houses in Dagupan City as perceived by students?

SAFE AND SECURED

In relation with the narrations of participant 1, it manifest that he is safe and secured. This is reflected on the situations he have in his premises where he is staying which made him becoming safe and secured.

According to Participant 1: "Although we do not have a CCTV cameras installed within the premises I can say that I feel secured because the people around the place are worth the trust. There are policies that you must obey in the premises like curfew hours."

As per the narrations of the participants, it supported that a study location for a student can be anywhere as long he feels comfortable and safe. The setting they have chosen can affect the atmosphere, level of comfort, and efficacy of the location in terms of the student safety, According to Kelley (2020).

WELL-SUPERVISED BOARDING HOUSE

In relation with the narrations of participants 2 and 3, it represents supervised. This is characterized based on the policy given by the landlords of the student boarders that leads to their safeness.

According to Participant 2: "The safety in our boarding house right now is good, the boarders need to let the landlord know if there are some visitors who are sleeping over. Also, the landlord set a curfew hours wherein the main gate will be locked at 10PM onwards for our safety.**"**

According to Participant 3: "I feel secured in our boarding house. We are not allowed to go out around 10PM, and there is a policy that no boys are allowed to enter in our boarding house.**"**

Based on the narrative of the participants, students feels secured within the premises they live in, there are maintenance applied in each boarding houses, in which the landlord make sure that each tenants are in reasonable state of repair. Making sure they are safe and healthy to live in. The landlord ensures that each tenant follows the policy provided, if they did not follows then they could be liable to penalty. Tenants in a boarding house are responsible for keeping their room reasonably clean and tidy, According to Tenancy Services (2023).

2. What are the common cases encountered by the students which compromised their state of security while living in their boarding houses?

There are some danger which students residing in boarding houses had experienced and compromises their safety.

THEFT

According to the narrative of participant 2, physical risk is being experienced due to the danger he had experienced while living in his boarding house.

According to Participant 2: "When someone enters on the room of my neighbor and robbed a money and a cellphone.**"**

As per the narrative of the Participant, the crime he encountered occurred due to the effect of physical risk. As cited by Jon Mixon (2018), many cities begins to ban some of the boarding houses for the reason that they are often the scene of numerous crimes which compromises the tenants safety.

Participants 1 and 3, manifest that they did not have encountered any danger yet on the boarding houses where they stay while they are studying.

3. What are the preventive measures applied by the students in order to secure themselves while living in their boarding houses?

There are almost the same safety practices applied by the students to secure themselves while residing in their boarding houses.

PROACTIVE MEASURE

According to the narratives of the participants 1, 2, and 3, proactive measures are the best practices they can do in order to make themselves secured.

According to Participant 1: "I make sure that upon leaving or entering my room, I always check if the door and gates are locked to make sure everything was safe. I also practice not to interact with strangers outside our boarding house."

According to Participant 2: "We put locks on our doors and on our windows before sleeping and when we are going outside.**"**

According to Participant 3: "I always double check if my windows and doors are closed and locked when leaving.**"**

According to the BHHS Policy (2018), the security of the boarding house is the primary consideration that the landlord. They ensure that the access of the students during the day is suitably and during the night are all secured. Landlord of the boarding house applied pro-active measures in which they provide basic security measures to ensure every tenants safety.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings, the following are the conclusions of this study:

1. Students are secured in their boarding houses due to the strict implementation of boarding house policies and installment of safety measures which protects the boarding house area.
2. One of the cases encountered by the students living in boarding houses is theft, while most of the student does not encounter any danger yet while residing in their boarding houses due to the strict implementation of policies by their landlords, and also because of the pro-active measures they applied for their safety.
3. The major safety practices of students applied in their boarding houses is safeguarding their surroundings.

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RECOMMENDATION

In relation with the findings and conclusions of this research, the following are recommended:

1. On the part of the students who are planning to live in boarding houses, they are encouraged to become more observant with regards to the area and place where they want to stay while studying, which in the end is beneficial to their safety and their welfare.
2. There are many criminals today whose aim is to victimized those students living in boarding houses, especially those who are unaware of different crimes they may encounter. That is why students should be more knowledgeable on what strategies they can apply that could help them to feel free from any danger.
3. School institutions must create a program that will help students look for a well-protected and secured boarding houses. It may assign a special unit in their Student Affairs Office which is primarily tasked in outreaching for students who are planning to look for boarding houses but unsure where to find a safe place to live.

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