Original Research Article

Assessment of the Condition of Hostel Facilities among Students in Federal University Dutse, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study assesses the condition of hostel facilities among students in Federal University Dutse, Nigeria. Stratified random sampling technique was employed to select three students' hostels; two female hostels and one male hostel for the research while simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents among the students on Campus. Primary data was obtained using questionnaire survey, a total of 140 copies of the questionnaire was administered to the students; 80 (57%) a males and 60 (43%) females. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analyses. The Bio-data of the respondents was analyzed using descriptive statistics and the result shows that 75 (54%) of the respondents are aged between 18 and 20 years, 121(86%) are single, 44 (31%) are level 100, 54 (39%) are level 200, 20 (14%) are level 300 and 22 (16 %) are level 400 students. The data analysis further shows that the respondents gave different assessments of the facilities and services provided in the hostels for example, provision of electricity supply (56.4%), water supply (47.1%), firefighting equipment (40%), writing desks (37.1%), doors (49.3%) and windows (59.3%) were described as excellent and functional. The facilities and services adjudged to be good include fencing (40%), waste disposal (50.7%), standby generator (35.7%), security (36.4%), ICT/Reading (36.4%), kitchenette (33.6%), recreation area (32.1%), bathroom (31.4%), drainage (42.9%), laundry (40%), privacy (40%) and cost of bed space (39.3%). However, the condition of toilets facilities was assessed to be fair with a total of 26.4%. The paper therefore recommends that the Management of the University should sustain the current level of provision of facilities assessed to be in good condition and make efforts to improve on the provision of facilities that are not good condition for achieving better health, wellbeing and enhanced quality of life of the students living in the hostels as contained in the current United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
Keywords: Hostel Facilities, Condition, Students, Federal University, Dutse.

INTRODUCTION

Adequate hostel accommodation is a vital facility that any university management is struggling to provide for the enhancement of quality of life and wellbeing of the students. The condition of the hostel facilities is also an important consideration that enhances healthy living and better academic performance of students. Eseyin [1] argued that no university student can go to lectures, participate in co-curricular activities or conduct research work without a comfortable and conducive place for relaxation at the end of such activities. It is therefore pertinent that basic issues relating to availability, accessibility, distribution and efficient management of hostel accommodation including all its associated facilities necessary for enhancing students' welfare and the university system in general be given due consideration [2]. This is because hostel being housing for students, is an important need that has direct influence on the quality of life and wellbeing of the students. As housing for students, hostel covers all physical structures and facilities, infrastructure and amenities that determine the wellbeing of the occupants [3].

Several studies have shown a positive correlation between the residents' quality of life and their housing quality [4, 5] and that poor condition of living environment has negative effect on the health of its residents [6-11]. According to Agbola [12] housing in whatever form touches the life of individuals living in it as well as that of the nation and therefore great importance is ascribed to the roles it plays in engendering human comfort by both nature and society. Adequate students' housing with functional facilities has plays a significant role in influencing the much desired comfort for the achievement of better learning and academic performances in the university. Salleh *et al.*, [13] argued that students' attendance and

performance is greatly influenced by the quality of Hostel environment, especially indoor environmental quality. Lack of quality facilities and services in the students' hostel accommodation does not help, but rather hampers their pursuit of knowledge and encourages poor environmental quality and sanitation in the universities [14]. Thus, living in the hostels with good facilities has significant influence on the satisfaction of needs and preferences of the on-campus students in the university [15].

In Nigeria like in many developing countries, adequate students' hostels especially in public universities is a serious issue that attracts a lot of concern among scholars, students, parents, and above all the university management and the government [1, 16]. This situation is much serious as students' population in Universities is increasing every year as a result of rising number of students' enrolment. Moreover, the situation also becomes more challenging to the government and the university authorities due to lack of corresponding increase in the number of hostels and facilities on campuses. In many of the public universities, the condition of hostel accommodation and provision of municipal services are in deplorable state that can affect the academic performance of the students. Adequate students' hostels on campus creates quiet learning environment, sufficient security and privacy and above all, support noble friendships among the students.

In addition, an adequate student housing environment supports good learning conditions that help students to work after lecture hours to achieve higher academic performance. Furthermore, comfortable students' housing and satisfactory facilities encourage effective learning activities, while poor hostels' environment negatively affects learning process of the students [17]. In addition, Eseyin [1] argued that poor hostel accommodation in public universities has a serious effect on the wellbeing and quality of life of the students. In many Nigerian Universities, students live in off-campus accommodation because of inadequate hostel accommodation within the university campus. Moreover, living off-campus makes students to compete in the housing market with other users such as workers in the public and private sectors, which may affects their academic performance. Furthermore, competition for available off-campus accommodation among students becomes intense especially in neighbourhoods closer to the universities and sometimes the affected students suffer poor housing conditions and deterioration of moral values due to interaction with various groups within the neighbourhoods. These problems become more pronounced and disturbing when the number of tertiary institutions and students' enrolment are increasing without a commensurate increase in the provision of available hostel accommodation [14].

Previous studies on students' accommodation emphasized more on student satisfaction with the facilities in their hostels [15, 18-21, 17]. However, few of these studies focus on the condition of the students' hostel facilities with exception of Bichi, *et al*., [16] that assessed the quality and condition of students' hostel in Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil. Therefore, little is known about the condition of the hostel facilities in most of the Universities. Thus, this paper assesses the condition of students' hostels in Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State with a view to examine the condition of the facilities provided in the hostels as well as find out the differences between the hostels. The paper is structured in such a way that the first section presents the introduction, second section presents the materials and methods, the third presents the results and discussions and the last part of the paper focuses on the conclusion and recommendations.

Description of the Study Area

The study area is Federal University Dutse, Nigeria. The university is one of the numerous tertiary educational institutions provided in the state in general and the city in particular. Dutse is the city serving as the capital of Jigawa State, in North Western part of Nigeria. The Federal Government of Nigeria established the University in November 2011 and it commenced academic activities at a temporary site of the then College of Business and Management Studies Dutse, an institution under Jigawa State Polytechnic.

Geographically, the city is located between latitude 11°26'22''N and 11°26'42''N and between longitude 9° 28'22''E and 9° 28'48''E (Figure 1 & 2). The climate of the area is AW under Koppen'sclassification popularly known as tropical dry and wet type climate. Itis influenced by seasonal migration of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), which is known as the Inter-tropical Discontinuity (ITD). This migration gives rise to two seasons; dry season and the wet season. The wet season lasts from June to September although May is sometimes humid. The dry season extends properly from mid-October of one calendar year to mid-May of the next. Annual mean rainfall in the study area is between 800 mm and 900 mm with variations about the annual mean value of plus or minus 30 per cent. Moreover, more than 300 mm of the rainfall is received in August alone, while the true wet season lasts from June to September. On the other hand, temperature of the area is characterised by three main temperature seasons; a cool and dry season that last from November to February of every year with mean monthly temperature between 21^0C and 23^0C with a diurnal range of 12^0C to 14^0C. Dutse like many Northwestern parts of Nigeria experiences Harmattan winds that prevail between November and February, which are then followed by a hot and dry season occurring between March and Mid-May [22].

In terms of population, Dutse stood at 6,687 people prior to the creation of Jigawa state in 1987 and its subsequent pronouncement as capital city of the state [23]. Its population increased rapidly due to provision of employment opportunities, establishment of educational institutions, development of urban infrastructure and social services. These services attract migrant workers from hinterlands and other parts of the country to the city to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the springing urban metropolis. According to available demographic statistics, the city has an estimated population of 153,000 and is currently the largest city in Jigawa State, and is followed by Hadejia (111,000), Gumel (43,000), and Birnin Kudu (27,000) [23]. Concerning economic activities of the inhabitants, over 70% the people of Dutse are subsistent farmers producing different types of crops such as millet, sorghum and beans essentially during the wet season. Livestock keeping is also practiced as a source of livelihood in the area. Dutse being a state capital also arouses the interest of various non-farm economic activities such as trading, marketing, barbing, blacksmithing, carpentry and building.
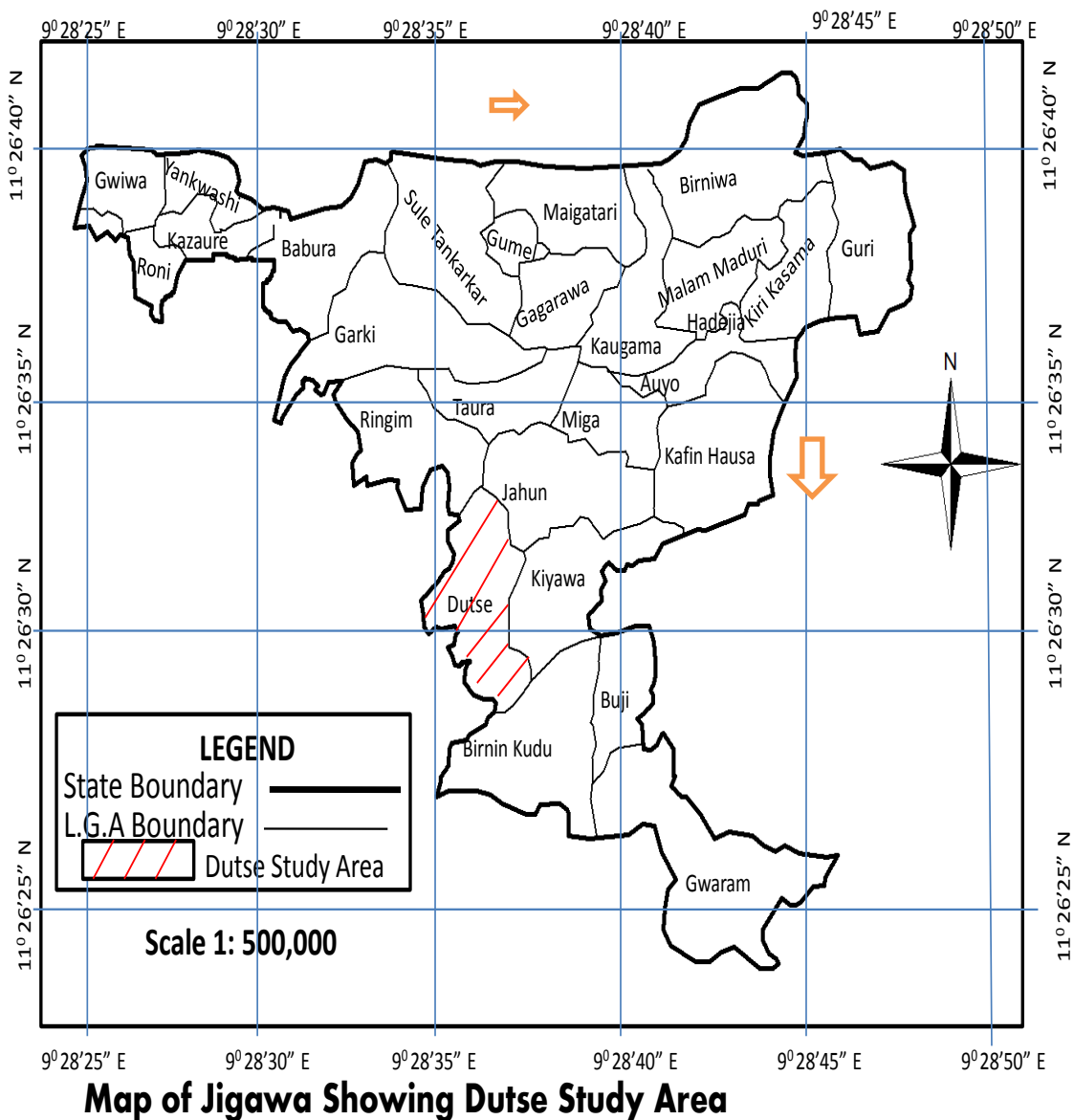

Fig-1: Map of Jigawa State showing the Study Area

Fig-2: Google Image of FUD
Source: Google earth image 2011

METHODS AND MATERIALS
Research Design And Sampling Procedure

The paper adopts a survey research design where stratified random sampling and simple random sampling techniques were employed in selecting the students' hostels and the respondents (male and female living On-campus) respectively. The target population of the students living in the University hostels was 1,386 occupying 295 rooms within 8 hostel blocks. Out of the target population, 140 students were identified as sampled respondents (both males and females) representing 10% of the total population. Data collected for the study was obtained from questionnaire survey administered to a total of 140 respondents consisting of 80 (57%) male and 60 (43%) female students in the selected hostels. The survey instrument consists of three sections namely; socio-demographic profile of the respondents, characteristics of students' housing facilities and experiences among the students. The questionnaire was administered face to face to the sampled respondents using simple random sampling technique in their respective hostels. The choice and selection of both male and female students was to avoid one-sided opinion or any form of bias if only one segment of the students were selected, this is to ensure objectivity in both the data collection and data analysis. The respondents were selected from two female hostels and one male hostel earlier identified following a stratified random sampling technique from the list of the hostels in the University.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistical techniques were used to analyze the socio-demographic profile of respondents, the characteristics of students' housing facilities and experiences, and the condition of hostel facilities in the University using frequency and percentages. The condition of the hostel facilities were measured using five (5) likert scale of satisfaction. The Likert Scale used in the ratings are 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor and 5 = Very Poor.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS
Socio-Demographic Profile of Respondents

The data analysis revealed that out of the total number of the respondents, 80 (57.14%) of them are male and 60 (42.86%) are female. This may be attributed to the fact that there are more male students compared to the female living in the University hostels, which also shows that more male students applied for admission into the University than female students. Table-1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents (students). Regarding the age of the respondents, the table shows that 75 (54%) of the respondents are between the age of 18 and 20 years, 52 (37%) aged between 21 and 30 years, and 5 (3.57%) aged between 31 and 40 years. The data analysis further shows that out of the total number of the respondents, 11(7.86%) are married, 121(86.43%) are single, and 8 (5.71%) of the respondents are divorced. This finding indicates that majority of the respondents are single. It also shows that 44 (31.43%) of the respondents are in level 100, 54 (38.57%) are in level 200, 20 (14.29%) are from level 300 and 22 (15.71%) are from level 400. This shows that respondents in level 200 of various undergraduate programmes of the University have the highest percentage among the respondents. This is not unexpected because level 200 students are by policy usually given preferences for University hostel allocation because of Direct Entry candidates whose entry level is conventionally level 200. This therefore increases the number of level 200 students living within the university hostels.

Table-1: Socio-Demographic Profile of Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Sex of the Respondent		
Male	80	57.14
Female	60	42.86
Total	**140**	**100**
Age Group (Years)		
18 – 20	75	53.57
21 – 30	52	37.14
31 – 40	5	3.57
Total	**140**	**100**
Marital Status		
Married	11	7.86
Single	121	86.43
Divorced	8	5.71
Total	**140**	**100**
Level in School		
Level 100	44	31.43
Level 200	54	38.57
Level 300	20	14.29
Level 400	22	15.71
Total	**140**	**100**

Source: Field Work, 2017

Characteristics of Previous Students' Housing Experience

The experiences of the students' previous housing characteristics at their parental residences is presented on Table-2. It reveals that 33 (23.57%) of the respondents were living in rural areas together with their parents, 87(62.14%) are from towns, and 20(14.28%) from the metropolitan areas. This shows that majority of the respondents are from urban centers. The table also shows that 89(63.57%) of the respondents were using water closet toilets and 51(36.43%) used pit latrines in their previous residences (parental homes). This shows that majority of the respondents used water closet toilets at home even before coming to the University. Thus, there is a high level of awareness among the students about the use of water closet type of toilets found in the students'

hostels. With respect to previous sources of water supply, the table shows that 47(33.57%) of the respondents depended on boreholes, 29(20.71%) from tube wells, and 64(45.71%) use tap borne water at their respective homes. These sources are similar to the current sources of water in the study area in particular and most universities in the country in general. Consequently, most of the respondents may not experience any significant difference on the provision of water in the hostels compared to their respective homes. Regarding the experiences of the students on the types of houses they resided in with their parents before joining the University, the data shows that 56 (60%) of the respondents resided in bungalows, 28 (20%) in rooming and 28(20%) in flats. This shows that majority of the respondents lived in bungalow types of housing units.

Table-2: Characteristics of Previous Students' Housing Experience

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Previous Place of Residence		
Village	33	23.57
Town	87	62.14
Metropolitan	20	14.28
Total	**140**	**100**
Previous Toilet Type at Home		
Sewage	89	63.57
Pit latrine	51	36.43
Total	**140**	**100**
Previous Sources of Water at Home		
Bore-hole	47	33.57
Tube well	29	20.71
Tap water	64	45.71
Total	**140**	**100**
Previous House Type at Home		
Bungalow	56	60
Rooming	28	20
Flat	28	20
Total	**140**	**100**

Source: Field Work, 2017

It can be observed therefore based on the analysis of the students' previous housing experiences, that there is quite significant variation among the respondents. However, now that they found themselves accommodated within the student hostels, it means they must adapt to the new situation prevailing on campus. The hostel accommodation is like having to interact with both like and unlike minds, sharing common facilities and services which most of the respondents were not used to in their various places of residence.

Number of Students in Room

The number of students accommodated in the various rooms of the hostels varies from one room to another. This is because in some rooms squatters were allowed while in others they were not. Squatters in the students' parlance is used to refer to students who were not formally allocated bed spaces by the University authority but are being harboured in the Hostel accommodation. Previously, the school authority formally allocates 4 students to each room. However, due to the increase in the students' population, 6 students are being allocated to each room for the current academic session. Table-3 shows that 63.37% of the respondents confirmed that they have 5 – 6 people in their rooms, 25% have 7 – 8 people and 11.43% have above 9 people. This shows that although majority of the rooms have 5 – 6 students, in more than 36% of the rooms squatting prevails. Therefore, while a majority has complied with the provision of the school authority, in terms of number of person per room the squatting phenomenon is gaining prominence in the University hostels going by the increasing cases of squatting as found by this paper.

Table-3: Number of Students in Room

Number	Frequency	Percentage
1 – 4	0	0
5 – 6	89	63.57
7 – 8	35	25
9 – Above	16	11.43
Total	**140**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2017

People per Room Standard

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines overcrowding as a situation in which more people are living within a single dwelling than there is space for, so that movement is restricted, privacy secluded, hygiene impossible, rest and sleep difficult. Similarly, the European Union posited that any living space that is less than 5 is not habitable, 7 to 9 m^2 is ideal for only 1 person and 11 m^2 or more is habitable for 2 persons. Therefore, considering the number of students formally allocated per room in the hostels and the squatters inclusive, all the rooms can be described as over-crowded. Table-4 presents the world standard of number of people per room according to World Health Organization [24].

Table-4: Standard for Room Occupancy

Area (square meter)	No. of persons
11 or more	2
9 to 10	1.5
7 to 9	1
Under 5	0

Source: WHO (2013) [24]

Condition of Facilities in the Hostel

The University provides several facilities in the students' hostels with a view to promote conducive atmosphere for on-campus life among the students. The facilities that were provided and assessed by this paper include electricity, water supply, waste disposal, standby generator, security, ICT/Reading, fencing, kitchenette, recreation area, bathroom, drainage, toilets, laundry, firefighting equipment, privacy, bed space, writing desks, doors and windows. The students were therefore asked to express their perception on the condition of these facilities, whether they are in good working or otherwise. The result shows that the students described their perception in several ways from excellent to very poor condition. This however depends upon the socio-economic background of the respondents. In addition, the increase in students' population leads to increasing pressure on the facilities with the attendant decrease in the quality of the services and facilities. As revealed on Table-5 The provision of electricity supply, water supply, firefighting equipment, writing desks, doors and windows were perceived to be in an excellent working condition by majority of the respondents.

Likewise, university fence, waste disposal, standby generator, security services, ICT/Reading facilities, kitchenette, recreation area, bathrooms, drainages, laundry services, privacy and cost of bed space were described as good. The only facility students

perceived as not good but described as fair is the condition of their toilets. From this result, it can be seen that no facility provided in the school is in a poor or very poor condition of services as gathered from the data analysis. This means the students perceived the facilities provided in their hostels as not only functional but in good working condition.

Table-5: Condition of Facilities in the Hostel

Facilities	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Very poor		Total	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
Electricity supply	79	56.4	57	40.7	2	1.4	2	1.4	0	0	140	100
Water supply	66	47.1	47	33.6	27	19.3	0	0	0	0	140	100
Waste disposal	32	22.9	71	50.7	37	26.4	0	0	0	0	140	100
Stand-by generator	39	27.9	50	35.7	35	25	15	10.7	1	0.7	140	100
Security	30	21.4	51	36.4	34	24.3	12	8.6	13	9.3	140	100
ICT/Reading	48	34.3	53	37.9	21	15	12	8.6	6	4.3	140	100
Fence	37	26.4	56	40	19	13.6	22	15.7	6	4.3	140	100
Kitchenette	22	15.7	47	33.6	31	22.1	29	20.7	11	7.9	140	100
Recreation area	29	20.7	45	32.1	38	27.1	20	14.3	8	0.6	140	100
Bathroom	29	20.7	44	31.4	26	18.6	40	28.6	1	0.7	140	100
Drainage	23	16.4	60	42.9	22	15.7	33	23.6	2	1.4	140	100
Toilets	32	22.9	32	22.9	37	26.4	24	17.1	15	10.7	140	100
Laundry	22	15.7	56	40	30	21.4	22	15.7	10	7.1	140	100
Firefighting equipment	56	40	43	30.7	25	17.9	12	8.6	4	2.9	140	100
Privacy	33	23.6	56	40	28	20	13	9.3	9	6.4	140	100
Cost of bed space	42	30	55	39.3	28	20	15	10.7	0	0	140	100
Writing desk	52	37.1	52	37.1	28	20	6	4.3	2	1.4	140	100
Door	69	49.3	61	43.6	8	5.7	0	0	2	1.4	140	100
Windows	83	59.3	42	30	13	9.3	2	1.4	0	0	140	100

Source: Field Survey, 2017

CONCLUSION

The study assessed the condition of hostel facilities in Federal University Dutse, Nigeria Using sstratified random sampling technique to select three students' hostels; two female hostels and one male hostel. Random sampling technique was used to select the respondents from the students living on Campus. Primary data was obtained by employing questionnaire survey and a total of 140 copies of the questionnaire were administered. The findings reveal that more than half of the respondents were aged between 18-20 years, experiencing a new housing pathway from parental homes to life on–campus. It further shows that more than of the respondents are living in hostel rooms with 4-5 occupants which indicates a reasonable level of occupancy ratio although squatting as a phenomenon was reported, it was not widespread. The finding also reveals that majority of the students are from urban centers and therefore are familiar with the facilities provided in the hostels. For example, they are used to tap and bore-hole water for their daily activities and used modern water closets in their respective homes similar to those provided in the University. Regarding the experiences of the students on the types of houses they resided at their previous places of residence, the finding shows more than half of them resided in bungalows and flats almost similar to what obtains in the University hostels. The respondents also perceived the facilities provided by the University management as being in good working condition and are very functional. This finding is an indication of satisfaction with the efforts of the management toward students' wellbeing and enhanced quality for the attainment academic excellence performances.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this paper, it is recommended that the University management should sustain the efforts towards maintaining the facilities provided in the hostels and the university in general. The University management should provide additional hostel blocks and facilities in order to cater for the increasing needs of hostel accommodation among the students of the University. These would help in accommodating newly admitted students to avoid the squatting phenomenon that is brewing its head on the campus. This will equally resolve the over stretching of available facilities in the hostels due to the pressure mounted on the available facilities. In addition, the Government needs to increase its budgetary allocation to the education sector in particular with a view to make more funds available for the provision of new hostels and needed facilities. These will improve teaching, research and learning activities and the students' welfare and academic performances in the University. Finally, the University management should use the funds provided judiciously for realisation of the set goals and objectives of the establishment of university in order to realise its vision and mission in the interest of overall academic development of the country.

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