

Provision Of Infrastructural Facilities In Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalya Hostels In The State Of Himachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study was to evaluate KGBV scheme in terms of availability of the physical infrastructure in the hostels. Out of 10 KGBV hostels established by the Government of Himachal Pradesh 9 were included in the study. Interview schedule for the wardens and observation check list were used for collecting necessary information. The findings of the present study reveals that all the hostels have their own pucca structure buildings, spacious kitchens with all facilities, spacious courtyards, living rooms with proper natural light and ventilation and all required basic facilities. All the measures have been taken for the security and safety of the girls such as boundary walls of proper heights with one main gate, fixing of iron grills and blind glasses on the window panes and deployment of security personnel on the main gate round the clock.

Key words: Infrastructural facilities, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas

INTRODUCTION

In some of the educational blocks the rural female literacy is below the national average i.e. 46.13 percent and gender gap in literacy is more than the national average i.e. 21.59 percent (Census, 2001). These blocks were termed as Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). In the light of this, the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007) laid immense emphasis on the universalisation of elementary education in general and girl's education in particular. A number of gender specific educational programmes were recommended to reduce gender disparity in the education. Subsequently, the Government of India launched two new interventions for girls' education namely National Program for the Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalya (KGBV) to reach out to girls from marginalized social groups in educationally backward blocks in the country. Further, the criteria of eligible blocks was revised with effect from 1st April 2008 to include additional 316 EBBs with rural female literacy below 30 percent and 94 towns/cities having minority concentration (as per the list identified by Ministry of Minority Affairs) with female literacy rate below the national average (53.67 percent: Census 2011).

The Government of Himachal Pradesh followed Model III as per the guidelines of Government of India and established 8 KGBVs in 5 educationally

backward blocks of district Chamba, 1 KGBV in 1 educationally backward block of District Shimla and 1 KGBV in 1 educationally backward block of District Sirmaur.

The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme initially ran as a separate scheme, but was merged with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) with effect from 1st April, 2007 as a separate component of that programme. With the RTE Act, 2009 coming into force with effect from 1st April 2010, the SSA Framework and guidelines of KGBV were revised to correspond to the RTE Act 2009. The main objectives of this scheme are to: facilitate retention of girls; ensure greater participation of girls in education; develop and promote facilities to provide access to girls belonging to disadvantaged groups; improve quality of education and; stress upon the relevance and quality of girls' education for their empowerment.

Deere, et al. (2013) in their study found that all KGBVs schools are working in the rented buildings. All material provided to girls was of lower quality. Toilets and Bathroom were not being washed properly. Teachers were invited on temporary basis so they were not working properly. KGBV's Staff members were not trained (expert).

Baruah (2013) found that KGBVs at Itakhuli Block and Guijan Block had their own buildings. The kitchen and toilets were found to be quite satisfactory. The classrooms, common rooms for teachers were found to be as per the requirement of the students and teachers.

Gogoi and Goswami (2015) in a study on infrastructure facilities in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas for dropout and never enrolled Adolescents girls found that 44.44 per cent of the KGBVs were functioning in their own buildings and 55.55 per cent of the KGBVs were functioning in rented accommodation. They had the permission to have their own building but it was either under construction or the construction was yet to begin due to several administrative problems. The rented or temporary buildings were usually crowded and lacked basic amenities, such as number of toilets and bathrooms. Girls were found sharing beds.

In a study by Srinivasu, Umadevi and Kavithakiran (2015), it was reported that all the KGBVs have been established in the outskirts of the village. Most of the KGBVs managed by RVM, Social Welfare, Tribal Welfare and Residential Society have spacious buildings with greenery. All the classrooms were well lighted and ventilated. Most of KGBVs were well furnished with required chairs, tables, desks, cupboards etc. All the KGBVs were found to have good drinking and bore water supply, sufficient wash areas for the students but without proper maintenance. The drainage facilities were not up to the mark as there were open drainages.

Mahajan, Singh, Mahajan and Jandrotia (2016) studied the impact of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan on Girls Education in Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh All of the KGBV hostels were provided with facilities like Dormitory, Kitchen/shed,

gas/firewood, storeroom, water pots, brooms, wipers, cupboards, chairs, tables, toilets, bathrooms and boilers. Water purifiers (R.Os.) were available in five of the hostels only namely: Kihar, Bharmour, Karian, Mehla and Sach.

Manorma and Godiyal (2016) studied the status of Physical Resources in KGBV of Bijnor District (UP) . Findings of the study revealed that out of 14 KGBVs only 3 KGBVs had their own buildings and rest 78.57 % of KGBVs were running in rent free Government Buildings. 57.14 % of KGBV schools have applicable boundary wall and gate, 28.57 % of KGBV had boundary wall and gate but these were not applicable and rest 14.28 % had neither boundary wall nor gate. All the KGBVs had separate room for Kitchen. 71.42 percent KGBV had availability of water in kitchen and 28.57 didn't have water facility in kitchen. All the 14 KGBVs used gas for cooking. All the KGBV schools had toilets in their campus, 64.8 % KGBVs had separate toilets for teachers and 35.71 didn't have separate toilets for teachers. Due to shortage of room 54.54 % KGBVs had to adjust their classroom with the resident rooms and 57.14 % KGBV had separate rooms for teaching purpose.

Nagaraju and Gunturmastan (2017) studied the opinions of Special Officers on the Facilities and Resources in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas of Guntur district in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The special officers were not satisfied with the physical structure of KGBV, the space for each student in the class room, adequate number of hostel rooms, availability of audio-video equipments, school garden, and play equipment.

A cursory look at the review of the literature indicates that only one investigation has been done in District Chamba of Himachal Pradesh and no investigation has been undertaken in to study the availability of physical infrastructure in the KGBVs. In view of this, the present investigation was undertaken.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the physical facilities available in the KGBV hostels.
2. To study the measures for the security and safety of the girls in the KGBV hostels.

METHOD

Survey and observation methods were used to collect the necessary data from the selected KGBV hostels.

POPULATION

All the KGBVs established by Government of Himachal Pradesh in educationally backward blocks of the state constituted the population of the study. 9 KGBVs out of 10 were taken for the study. One KGBV hostel attached to Government Senior Secondary School Sach established in Pangri block could not be included in the study due to adverse approach and weather conditions at the time of field visit by the investigator.

TOOLS

Interview schedule and observation checklist were used to collect the desired information from the wardens of the hostels.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

1. Provision of physical facilities

The frequencies and percentages of the responses of the wardens and investigator's observations about the physical facilities available in the KGBV hostels are given in Table 1 as under:

Table 1

Frequencies and percentages of the responses of the warden and investigator's observations about building status, kitchen and courtyard

Sr. No.	Statement	Wardens Responses				Observations			
		Yes		No		Yes		No	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1.	Status of KGBV building								
	a). Own	09	100	00	0	9	100	0	0
	b). Rented	00	00	00	00	0	00	0	0
2.	Structure of the building of the hostels								
	a). Pucca	09	100	00	00	9	100	0	00
	b). Kucha	00	00	00	00	0	00	0	00
	c). Both Pucca and Kucha	00	00	00	00	0	00	0	00
3.	Kitchen	09	100	00	00	9	100	0	00
4.	Spacious Courtyard	05	55.56	04	44.44	5	55.56	4	44.44
5.	Library room	00	00	09	100	0	00	9	100
6.	Reading Room	00	00	09	100	0	00	9	100
7.	Living rooms	09	100	00	00	09	100	0	00
8.	Provision of basic facilities								
	a). Safe drinking water	09	100	00	00	9	100	0	00
	b). Toilets	09	100	00	00	9	100	0	00
	c). Washrooms	09	100	00	00	9	100	0	00
9.	Proper light and ventilation	08	88.89	01	11.11	08	88.89	1	11.11

Status of the building:

As per the responses of the wardens and observations of the investigator, hundred percent of the KGBV hostels have their own pucca structure buildings. This is indicative of the fact that Government of Himachal Pradesh has put all its best efforts to purchase land/allot land and construct pucca structures of the hostel buildings.

Kitchen:

As discussed above, all the buildings have pucca structures and the kitchens have also built in the same buildings. In other words kitchens have also pucca structures with all kitchen requirements i.e. kitchen table, cup boards and running water facilities.

Courtyard:

As per the responses of the warden and observations of the investigator, spacious courtyards which can be used for different activities by the inmates were available in 55.56 percent of the hostels namely: Tissa, Karian, Mehla, Andhra and Bhagaigarh whereas in 44.44 percent of the hostels namely: Bharmaur, Himgiri Kothi, Kihar and Shillai, the courtyards were not spacious.

Library and reading rooms:

In none of the KGBV hostels, separate library and reading rooms were available as per the responses of the wardens and personal observations of the investigator. However, the books supplied for library were kept in the office-cum-staff room.

Living rooms:

In hundred percent of the KGBV hostels living rooms were available. However, the number of rooms varied in all the hostels. In case of Shillai hostel only one room was available, 6 rooms in case of Andhra and 3 rooms in rest of the KGBV hostels. This is indicative of the fact that the number of living rooms was not adequate in case of Shillai hostel.

Basic facilities:

Table 4.1 is indicative of the fact that in hundred percent of the hostels under study, the facilities of safe drinking water namely: aqua guard, ROs and water filters were available. Adequate number of toilets and wash rooms were available in all the hostels.

Natural Lighting and ventilation:

In all the hostels except Shillai, there was proper provision of natural light and ventilation. There was only a single room for fifty girls with double decker beds which has created congestion in the room and obstructing natural light and ventilators.

2. Safety and security measures in the KGBV hostels:

The frequencies and percentages of the responses of the wardens and investigator's observations about the measures of safety and security of the girls in the KGBV hostels are given in Table 2 as under:

Table 2
Frequencies and percentages of the responses of the wardens about safety and security of inmates of the hostels

Sr. No.	Measures for Safety and Security	Wardens Responses			
		Yes		No	
		N	%	N	%
1.	Boundary walls with proper height	05	55.56	04	44.44
2.	24 hours duty of security guards on main gate	09	100	00	00
3.	All windows fixed with iron grills	09	100	00	00
4.	Locking of main gate after specified time	09	100	00	00
5.	Entry of unauthorized person not allowed	09	100	00	00
6.	Girls not allowed to leave hostel without prior permission of parents	09	100	00	00
7.	Blind glasses in window panes of the washrooms	09	100	00	00

From Table 2, it can be seen that in 55.56 percent of the hostels namely Bharmour, Mehla, Himgiri Kothi, Bhageigarh and Andhra, the boundary walls had been constructed with proper height and in rest of the 44.44 percent of the hostels the boundary walls were under construction.

Further, Table 2 is also indicative of the fact that the authorities have taken measures namely by putting duty of security guards 24 hours on the main gate, fixing of iron grills on each and every window of the buildings, locking of the main gate at the specified time, banning of the entry of any unauthorized person inside the hostel premises and fixing of blind glasses on the window panes of the toilets and washrooms in all the KGBV hostels. Further no girl is allowed to leave the hostel without the prior permission of the parents.

Findings and Discussion

1. All the KGBV hostels have been constructed in the land owned by education department. Pucca structures of the buildings have been raised to give long life to them. This indicates the sincere efforts of the department of Education of Government of Himachal Pradesh in providing education to the group of girls of disadvantaged groups.
2. For the preparation of meals, spacious kitchens with the facilities of cooking table, cup boards, wash basins and running water have been made in all the

KGBV hostels. This has resulted in the proper maintenance of the kitchens and systematic placing of the edibles.

3. In some of the KGBV hostels, spacious courtyards were not available. However, these hostels are very near to the attached schools and girls are allowed to play there by the wardens under the supervision of a part time teacher. Further, the paucity of land is also a factor in acquiring spacious pieces of land for constructing the hostels.
4. There was no provision of separate library and reading rooms in any of the hostels. The library books were stocked in the office-cum-staff room. All the students take books and read in a multipurpose room.
5. There is a provision of all basic facilities in the hostels. The government has made the provision of Aqua guards, ROs or water filters for safe drinking water to the inmates. Adequate number of toilets and wash rooms with sufficient requirements has been built by the authorities.
6. Adequate number of living rooms existed in all the hostels with an exception of only one hostel. This might have happened due to non-availability of the land. The girls have to stay in only one living room which creates congestion and non-availability of natural light and ventilation. The department may take steps to raise the number of floors so that more space may be available.
7. The girls are quite safe as the department has taken all the steps to make the hostels safe by making single entry, fixing of iron grills and blind glasses on the window panes. Further the deployment of security personnel round the clock on the main gates of the hostels keeps a watch on the entry of the persons.

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