



**A Study
on
Social Welfare Hostels in
Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

Conducted by



**Dr. Ambedkar Chair in Social Justice
Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA)
I. P. Estate, Ring Road
New Delhi-110002**

Sponsored by



सत्यमेव जयते

**Dr. Ambedkar Foundation
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India**

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C. Sheela Reddy
Chair Professor
Dr. Ambedkar Chair in Social Justice

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ABOUT THE CHAIR

The Scheme of “Dr. Ambedkar Chair” under the aegis of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India was initiated in 1993 in different Universities and Institutions all over the country to pay tribute and constructive homage to the memory of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chair in Social Justice was set up at Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) in 2004 to translate Dr. Ambedkar’s ideas into practical propositions and policy instruments.

Since its inception, the Chair has been conducting research and capacity building workshops, lectures and seminars on the theme of social justice and the philosophy of Dr. B.R Ambedkar, focussing on issues such as social exclusion, inclusion and marginalisation, highlighting the plight of the disadvantaged. The Chair has produced quality publications and organised inter-chair dialogues to enrich studies on weaker sections, minorities, backward classes with the hope of weaving poverty-alleviation better into public policy.

In the past four years or so the Ambedkar chair at IIPA has had the privilege to host eminent scholars to deliver Ambedkar memorial lectures. Among others, Prof. Sukhdev Thorat spoke on ‘Social Justice in the Private Sector’; Dr. Narendra Jadhav delivered a memorial lecture on ‘Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Intellectual Colossus and National Leader; Prof. Ashok Modak spoke on ‘Dr. Ambedkar’s Vision and Mission’, all within the scope of what Dr. Ambedkar struggled for.

Besides disseminating the ideas and thoughts of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to students and scholars through seminars, workshops, dialogues and discussions, the Chair undertakes research and prepares course module/ curriculum in the line of Dr. Ambedkar philosophy and thought for sensitizing trainees at IIPA. It also sensitizes people of nearby locality and areas about the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar’s ideas for the betterment of the poor and vulnerable sections of society. The Chair identifies and recognizes the contribution of activist/writers, those who made significant contribution for mobilization of marginalized sections of society and provides platform for sharing their ideas and experiences. The Chair has organized awareness camps to propagate the thoughts and writings of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar among masses.

The project entitled “Study of Social Welfare Hostels in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana” has been undertaken by the Chair as part of the activities for the year 2015-16. The present report is the outcome of the study.

Chapter 1

Introduction

&

Methodology

Introduction

India is a welfare state committed to the welfare and development of its people and of vulnerable sections in particular. The Preamble, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Rights and specific sections, viz., Articles 38, 39 and 46 in the Constitution of India stand testimony to the commitment of the state to its people. Literacy status is one of the key indicators of socio-economic development and the relative employment opportunities largely depend on the level of education. The students from rural areas, especially those belonging to the weaker sections, discontinue their studies because of lack of secondary schools and colleges nearby and non-availability of adequate hostel facilities, at a reasonable cost, at places where such educational institutions are located. Social welfare hostels are intended to facilitate continuation of education by students belonging to disadvantaged sections, especially those hailing from rural and remote areas and from poor families.

"A good institution always strives to transform the students into a knowledgeable and worthy citizen. To accomplish this, good learning environment is very essential. A hostel is truly a home away from home. Students of different types hailing from different regions stay together, representing various traditions, cultures, talents, etc. The hostel gives vast scope for respecting differences of opinions, builds up a healthy union of minds and unites the hearts. The hostel life offers plenty of opportunities for growing, individually and collectively. During the stay in the hostel, a student learns to grow more loveable and capable. Besides learning good qualities and habits from others, the student realizes that he/she can also serve as a role model to others. Some of the traits in a cultured person are: to remain simple, be humble, honest, open and truthful. Hostel life provides plenty of occasions to grow with all these traits. The hostel environment itself teaches the student to be generous and magnanimous and to excel in such virtues"¹. There are many objectives and promises for young people in this statement. One would expect these in every hostel, government or non-governmental, private or public, small or big. At the end of the hostel stay, a student should look back on positive memories and a longing to stay back. This description of hostel life looks very idealistic and desirable, most probably penned to attract wannabe residents.

Such a description of hostels in fact raises many pertinent questions. Are such hostels available for socially backward and economically poor students in India? What are the opportunities available for them in social welfare hostels, run and maintained by the government? Is the environment in these hostels conducive to the growth of good values, culture and habits among the students?

The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and the Programmes of Action (PoA), 1992, formed the basis for Government of India to implement programmes for the educational development of Scheduled Castes (SCs). The government has planned and implemented measures such as incentives to poor families sending children to school, pre-matric scholarship schemes, remedial courses, recruitment of teachers from SCs, hostel schemes, balwadies and adult education centres, etc.

Apart from the general educational development programmes for SC students, the focus was also on specific schemes for encouraging higher and technical education to realise measurable improvements in their education. These include post-matric scholarship, central sector scholarship

¹<http://www.sreenidhi.edu.in>

to top class education, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship, National Overseas Scholarship, and hostel schemes (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI). Among them, hostel provision for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students is an incentive scheme to enable and encourage students belonging to these groups to attain quality education. The scheme for SC girls has been ongoing from the third five year plan and the hostel scheme for boys has been operational from 1990. In 2008, the existing hostel schemes for boys and girls were revised and named as Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna (BJRCY, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment 2009). Under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), central assistance is provided to the implementing agencies viz. State Governments/UT Administrations/ Central and State Universities/ Non-Governmental Organisations/ Deemed Universities in private sector, for construction of fresh hostels/expansion of existing hostel facilities for Scheduled Castes students. Maintenance of the hostels would be the responsibility of the concerned implementing agencies.

Though hostels for Scheduled Castes have been operational for a long period of time, adequate study and assessment has not been done with regard to the quality and role of the hostel stay in encouraging education, personality development and cross learning among the SC and ST students. The real impact of hostels in the educational advancement of these sections is a critical question.

Both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states are spending public funds on providing stay facilities for children from Scheduled Caste communities for education purposes. The main objective of the welfare is to provide free boarding and lodging facilities in the hostels for SC boys and girls studying at schools and colleges/university levels. Facilities in these hostels, in terms of quantity, quality and availability has always been debated and questioned. Residents in SC hostels had protested about poor quality of food being served to them, lack of basic amenities, cleanliness, etc. At present, there are 795 hostels for Scheduled Caste communities in Telangana and 1259 hostels in Andhra Pradesh, for girls and boys, including hostels for students pursuing pre-matriculation, post-matriculation, vocational and professional courses. Since most hostels are reportedly located on the outskirts of villages and towns, security is also a concern, especially in the case of girls hostels. In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, few MLAs and Ministers have taken the responsibility to visit, and sometime stay overnight in the hostels, as a way of monitoring to improve facilities. Both the states have also created an online monitoring system to improve the conditions in the hostels. The present study is an attempt to assess the implementation of hostel scheme and examine the suggestions and recommendations from various quarters for improving the conditions and status of social welfare hostels.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the current conditions and process of implementation of the hostel scheme vis-à-vis the guidelines.
- To review financial, physical performance of the hostel scheme and the extent of utilization of hostel facilities by the target group
- To examine the monitoring, reporting system and assess the outcome of the scheme in terms of the use of the hostels by the target groups

Methodology

The study is primarily based on:

- Secondary research and documentation of official information, data and files, and also other reports
- Case studies of randomly selected hostels in both the States.

Bulk of the data on hostels and boarders has been taken from the website maintained by both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states, namely <http://swhostels.cgg.gov.in>. However, there is dynamism in data which keeps changing at any given point of time. Thus, there are some limitations in comparison, as reconciliation is little difficult, given the resources deployed for this research. Data on hostels has also been gleaned from socio-economic survey reports of both the states. However, this data does not match with the data taken from the website, because the website is accessible to only those who are registered.

This study is focused only on social welfare hostels. It has not taken into consideration residential schools, colleges, residential training centres and other educational institutions with residential facilities, public investments on hostels of various types of residential institutions. Andhra Pradesh state has also undertaken conversion of tribal hostels into educational institutions. Thus, the data variance is fairly clear and information is inconsistent. Newspaper reports have also been relied upon to understand the conditions of the hostels.

Chapter 2

Literature Survey

This chapter carries out a basic literature survey to understand the existing state and conditions of the social welfare hostels. The literature surveyed for the present study gives a broad idea about the nature and functioning of the hostels.

A Committee on Residential Accommodation for Students and Teachers, 1965, brought out a report which contains the study of all aspects of the problems of residential accommodation for students and teachers. A general background, value of hostel life, improvement in hostel facilities for rural areas, women students and students' homes formed the subject of discussion. The report includes summary recommendations on future policy and programmes.

Psychologists and educationists tend to agree that the residents do change during their hostel life especially on sociability and adjustability aspects. In a hostel, students from different regions, castes, culture and socio-economic status come to stay together for a certain period. The residents try to maintain the best possible harmony with one another.

A study carried out in 2000 among children residing in social welfare hostels for Scheduled Castes in Tirupati town of Andhra Pradesh² focused on morbidity status of children. The health problems of a school child vary from place to place and several studies conducted in India revealed that the main morbidity conditions include infectious diseases, malnutrition, helminthiases, diseases of the skin, eye & ear and dental caries. In general, 84.3% of children were found to have one or more morbid conditions. The major prevalent morbid conditions among boys were skin disorders (29.9%), dental caries (23.5%), history of passing worms in the stool (23.2%), pediculosis (20.2%) and Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) disorders (15.8%). The prevalence of clinical anaemia was 8.5% and that of defective vision was 4.4%. On the whole, 77.7% of the boys were found to have one or more morbid conditions. The skin disorders included ulcers, eczema, scabies, hansen's disease and tinea versicolor while the ENT conditions noted were history of epistaxis, nasal discharge, chronic suppurative otitis media, bleeding gums and vestibulitis.

Among the girls, the common morbidity conditions found were pediculosis (87.5%), skin disorders and dental caries (19.5% each), history of passing worms in stool (18.3%), ENT disorders (17.5%), clinical anaemia (5.8%) and defective vision (4.7%). On the whole, 94.5% girls had one or more morbid conditions. The skin disorders found were ulcers, warts, eczema, phrenoderma, scabies and hansen's disease while the ENT conditions mainly included history of epistaxis, chronic suppurative otitis media, nasal discharge and enlarged tonsils.

The high prevalence of morbidity (77.7% in boys and 94.5 % in girls) found in this study is disturbing as it hinders the physical and mental development of children and contributes to scholastic backwardness. The prevalence of skin disorders was 25.7%. Similar findings were reported in Ropar district of Punjab (23.2%) as well as in Delhi (36.7%). The high prevalence of skin disorders may be due to poor personal hygiene, lack of awareness regarding common diseases and shortage of space due to excess numbers in a room. The prevalence of dental caries (21.5%) is comparable to the findings in Orissa (33.2%), and Delhi (16.1%) but a lower prevalence was reported in Chittoor

² K. Srinivasan and G. R. Prabhu, A Study of the Morbidity Status of Children in Social Welfare Hostels in Tirupati Town, Indian Journal of Community Medicine Vol. 31, No. 3, July - September, 2006

district of A.P. (6.9%). While this study revealed a prevalence of 39.3% helminthiasis, Udaipur study reported a higher figure of 45.5%.

Assessment of the hostel scheme³, done in 2007, against its achievements in terms of number of hostels built and seats made available shows that the scheme, if not proportionally, has covered the states where SC population is considerably high and literacy rate low. Incentive scheme like free hostel facility, beyond doubt, is a much required intervention for SC students who reach higher education by overcoming the barriers of poverty and discrimination. An interaction with students in two hostels revealed that they were getting basic minimum facilities (like cot, bed, tables, chairs etc.) though inadequate in several instances. The scheme was found to be assisting SC students in the rural areas who would have quit their education otherwise. In many instances, hostel facility has not acted as an incentive or motivating factor for SC students to continue their studies. Conversely, SC students, those who had taken admission in an institute got the benefit of hostel facility by default. Similarly, these facilities have been availed mostly by students coming from relatively well-to-do families (mostly from families of public sector employees) in urban areas and from self employed families in rural areas.

This study sums up that though the scheme is potentially beneficial for poor SC students, it has not adequately reached the 'eligible beneficiaries', primarily due to prioritised selection criteria. The possibility of poor SC females continuing higher education by surpassing the barriers of poverty, discrimination and patriarchal structures is the primary concern which needs to be addressed to make the scheme incentive oriented in real spirit.

At the instance of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO), Planning Commission, conducted an evaluation study⁴ of the hostel scheme in 8 selected states. The study was launched in November, 2004, and a report was brought out in 2009. In order to generate the required data base, the study covered 185 hostels from Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), 65 hostels from 100 percent state funded and 15 hostels constructed by NGOs which were sampled from eight selected states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Besides, two Central Universities (JNU, Delhi and Central University, Hyderabad) were also covered in the study. Some of the important findings of the PEO study are:

- "About 92 % wardens and 87 % knowledgeable persons viewed the location of hostels as suitable. In Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, wardens (8%) and knowledgeable persons (13%) both are not satisfied with the location of hostels. While only knowledgeable persons are not satisfied in Haryana and Orissa, only one warden was not satisfied in Rajasthan. The reasons vary from sites being not accessible by easy approachable roads, non-availability of drinking water, electricity etc.
- About 80 % of the hostels were found functional at the time of visit of PEO's study team. Most of the non-functional hostels were in Uttar Pradesh. Bihar too had three such hostels followed by two each in Karnataka and Orissa. The reasons were absence of basic requirements, wrong

³Sobin George and Deeba Naseem, Hostel Schemes for Dalit Students: How Inclusive and Incentive Oriented for Higher Education? Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, Volume IV, Number 07

⁴<http://planningcommission.gov.in>

selection of site and improper assessment of need for hostel for SC students.

- About 6 % of the hostels were found being used for other purposes such as office, library, class rooms etc. All such hostels were in Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.
- Fifteen hostels in five states namely Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh were under construction at the time of visit of the study team. Out of these fifteen, in six cases, construction had been stopped either due to land disputes in case of Uttar Pradesh and/or due to constraint of funds in Karnataka.
- Hostels were overcrowded in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Rajasthan where average occupancy per room exceeded ten and reached up to thirty or even beyond this number in some hostels of Andhra Pradesh. On the other hand, hostels in Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, were underutilized. Taking the country as a whole, the average occupancy per room was eleven to twenty.
- All functional hostels had dining halls attached to the kitchen but some of them in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were in dilapidated condition.
- The inmates in most hostels were provided food. The quality of food was considered good only in Andhra Pradesh, whereas in Karnataka, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan, the quality of food was a mix between good and average. But, in Uttar Pradesh, the study observed absence of mess facility except in a few hostels of Gonda and Allahabad districts, where some inmates reported about quality of food as average. In Bihar, no free food was given to inmates in hostels.
- In Madhya Pradesh, fifty inmates of eleven selected hostels reported that either mess facility is not available in the hostel or food is not provided free. They paid for the food from their stipend amount. Similarly fifteen (43%) inmates in Orissa paid to the hostel management for food or ate outside the hostel. In the case of Haryana also, the information on the quality of food is available from eighteen inmates in Kurukshetra district only, while for the remaining districts food was not provided free of cost to inmates. On the whole, only 41 % of the inmates reported the quality of food in the hostels as good.
- In the hostels under eight districts of Uttar Pradesh and eight districts of Bihar, inmates themselves cooked food in their rooms as the servant cum cooks appointed for the purpose were reported to be deployed elsewhere by the authorities.
- In 42 % of the selected hostels in Uttar Pradesh, inmates wanted supplies of kerosene oil on Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates for cooking and lighting.
- In states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, no annual charges were levied on inmates whether SC or non-SCs. But in other states i.e. Haryana and Orissa, some charges were levied on inmates. In Bihar, there was no mess facility in the hostel. The inmates themselves had to cook their food or get the food from outside on payment.
- In almost all the hostels, maintenance of hostel building and toilets was unsatisfactory.
- Drinking water supply facility was available in 64 % hostels as reported by the inmates.

But in Bihar, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, a majority of inmates felt that either water supply was not available at all or it was inadequate for the hostels.

- Supply of food grains at concessional rates on par with BPL rates was available to hostels as reported by wardens, in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan and to some extent in Haryana but were not made available in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- Facilities provided free of cost to inmates included: accommodation, bedding/cot, free food and drinking water. Similarly, free text books, newspapers/magazines, articles for sports & games, first aid etc. were also supplied to a number of inmates free of cost. Among other facilities provided free of cost in the hostels were hair cutting facilities, telephone and transport allowances. In majority of cases, these services were rated as good.
- About 87 % boarders were paid scholarships while staying in hostels. Around 13 % of them received an amount of Rs.51/- to above Rs.500/- per month.
- As reported by 59 % inmates, there were proper security arrangements in the hostels.
- 64 % inmates reported that there was sufficient potable drinking water in the hostels.
- 47 % inmates reported that there were bath/common rooms in their hostels. 45 % of them also reported that they got stipend while staying in hostels.
- The position with respect to study aids like bench/table etc were found to be grossly inadequate in the hostels of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Even in the sample hostels for SC boys and girls in Orissa, benches or tables were not provided.
- About 92 % inmates reported that overall atmosphere in the hostels was congenial.
- Maintenance of the hostels was the responsibility of the District Social Welfare Officers who appointed wardens to carry out various functions related to maintenance of building and ancillary activities.
- About 74 % wardens reported that they had received guidelines for maintenance of hostels while the remaining 26 % informed that such guidelines were not provided.
- Eighty seven percent hostel wardens reported that the release of fund for salary of hostel staff was received in time. However, grant for meeting day to day maintenance expenditure was in time in only 56 % cases.
- In a majority of districts, fund was released on monthly basis for salary.
- The behavior of hostel wardens with respect to sorting out problems was satisfactory, as reported by both inmates and ex-inmates.
- Andhra Pradesh is the only state where hostel wardens did not face any problem in management of hostels. A major problem faced by wardens in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh was that they were over burdened since additional charges of more than one hostel were placed on them. The problem of fund constraint was reported by wardens from several states. Inadequate basic amenities were another problem mentioned by wardens in 56% of selected states.

- Major suggestions given by wardens for improved functioning of hostels included: provision of adequate basic amenities, funds for regular maintenance, adequate grant for meeting the food expenditure of the inmates and regular warden/hostel staff in the hostels.
- During the years, from 1995-96 to 2004-05, a total of 49,384 students applied for admission into these hostels, of whom, about 93 % were actually admitted. Of those admitted, about 69 % were SCs, 11 % STs and 14 % from other categories. But in Haryana, the norm regarding intake of SC students was violated as the proportion of SCs admitted to hostels constructed/renovated by NGOs accounted for only 30 %."

The experience of living in a hostel facility is such that one can never be fully prepared for. For the fresh man, every other face is a strange face; the campus environment is like an unknown world that needs exploration. There is also the challenge of dealing with teeming mass of people who are fully concerned about their own business. Indeed, the campus environment is one of experiences and character moulding. A study was conducted⁵ to identify the most important factors that predict students' level of satisfaction with the hostels they are living in. The study also explored the difference in the satisfaction levels of students living in different hostels within the campus. Based on literature review, it was hypothesized that there would be a difference in the satisfaction level between these groups of hostel residents due to the different characteristics that these hostels have. Additionally, this study investigated the most preferred hostels among students and identified the reasons for the preference. A sample population of 374 students was involved in this study with (Males-286, Females- 88) living in hostels inside the campus.

The result of the study shows satisfaction with mess, cleanliness and hygiene, infrastructure, interaction and behavior, sports facilities, supporting services, electricity and miscellaneous with a significant difference in the satisfaction level between different hostel students and between two genders residing in the campus. The purpose of conducting this survey was to analyze the overall satisfaction level of students who are residents of the hostel.

According to a study published in 2012, of 420 early adolescent girls⁶ residing in the social welfare hostels in urban area of Vizianagaram District, in the state of Andhra Pradesh, 37.4% were in the age group of 13 years. As per World Health Organisation (WHO) reference standards, 56.4 % girls were under-nourished (BMI <18.5 kg/m²). Girls suffering from chronic energy deficiency grade I, II and III were 25.2%, 15.2% and 16 % respectively. 2.9% was found to be overweight and none of the girls was found to be obese. As per new guidelines by the Government of India, 56.4 % found to be undernourished while 5.8 % overweight (BMI >23.5 kg/m²). Thirty percent were showed clinical anaemia, 27.1% were having dental caries, 16.7% reproductive problem (Dysmenorrhoea), 16% had skin problem, four percent eye problem (defective vision & refractive error), 2.4 % were having URTI and 2.1 % had ENT problem. It is concluded that there is a high prevalence of under nutrition, dental caries and clinical anaemia among adolescent girls in social welfare hostels in urban sector. This study calls for health education and nutrition interventions to reduce the serious

⁵The Factors Predicting Students' Satisfaction with Hostels: A Case Study on National Level Reputed Institute in India, Sharma, Jai Prakash; Dash, Manoj; Bishnoi, Raveen, Research Journal of International Studies; October, 2012, Issue 24, p168.

⁶A Study of the Health Status of Early adolescent Girls residing in Social Welfare Hostels in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh State, India, Wasnik, Vinod; Rao, B. Sreenivas; Rao Devkinandan, International Journal of Collaborative Research on Internal Medicine & Public Health; Vol. 4, No. 1, January, 2012

health problems on priority basis.

An investigation into young people's and their caregivers' experiences of food insecurity, diet and eating practices in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana was published. The authors, Elisabetta Aurino and Virginia Morrow, in a Working Paper 144, "If we eat well, we can study": Dietary Diversity in the Everyday Lives of Children in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, India, say their paper provides original child-focused evidence on perceptions of government food programmes such as the Midday Meal Scheme and the Targeted Public Distribution System. The paper analyses three rounds of longitudinal qualitative data and one round of survey data from Young Lives. Young Lives is a study of childhood poverty in four developing countries, Ethiopia, India (in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana), Peru and Vietnam, over 15 years. They conclude that:

- Access to good-quality food is a primary concern for children and families in low-income households;
- There is widespread awareness of the importance of a good diet for health, nutrition and cognition (among children as well as caregivers), irrespective of their age, education or income levels;
- Quality of diet is sensitive to the precarious economic circumstances in which families find themselves, and is affected by food price rises and drought;
- Food programmes, particularly school meals, are generally seen as valuable safety net interventions, although concerns emerged regarding the quality of the food provided in private schools and hostels as well as government schools.

The paper concludes that taking into account children's experiences regarding the public programmes, implementation is important. It states that there are high levels of awareness of the importance of dietary diversity that should be built into health and nutritional programmes.

Chapter 3

Main Report

Hostels have become important for many families right from childhood to schooling and college to even during employment. For working parents, migrant families and poor households, hostels have become a solution to their problems in raising and grooming their children properly. With education becoming a key for upliftment of the downtrodden, social welfare hostels have become important means to get good education, beyond their living places and income ranges. Social welfare hostels have become a key for progress for disadvantaged sections of Indian society, especially SCs and STs. Successive governments in India have realized this and have opened a number of hostels for these sections. Over a period, at certain points of time, public expenditure on welfare of poor people became equivalent to the expenditure on social welfare hostels for their children.

The poor families see hostels as an option and a path towards better education. Many other stakeholders in this hostel infrastructure do have different goals to pursue, which feed into the overall welfare goal of the government. However, with years of experience, one would expect hostel management to improve and hostels becoming second homes to the children of the downtrodden. But, they are mired in corruption, neglect, underfunding and have become a pain for the hostel residents. Despite repeated attempts to improve supervision methods and management, conditions in hostels have not changed.

Apart from concerns related to supervision and management, one of the contentious issues has been the quantum and determination of per capita mess charges. In combined Andhra Pradesh, after several representations, mess charges were hiked in January, 2008. With a view to improving the quality of food provided to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe and Backward Classes in hostels, the government has announced a 40 % hike in the monthly “mess charges” payable to them. Nearly ten lakh students were slated to receive the revised mess charges which came into effect from June 1, 2008. Consequent to the hikes, SC/ST/BC students of Class I to VII in 1,100 schools run by Social

Table 1: Diet Charges Enhancement

| Year | Class III-VII | Class VIII-X | Percent of increase |
|---------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 2003-04 | 270 | 300 | |
| 2006-07 | 338 | 412 | 37 |
| 2009-10 | 475 | 535 | 30 |
| 2011-12 | 750 | 850 | 58 |

Welfare Department got Rs. 475 a month each, towards mess charges (Rs. 338 earlier) and those of Class VIII to Intermediate received Rs. 535 (Rs. 412 earlier).⁷

Another hike in mess charges, announced in 2012, has benefitted around nine lakh students in the state⁸. For the students of III to VII standard, the hike has been from Rs 475 to Rs 750, for VIII

⁷<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/Mess-charges-of-SCSTBC-hostellers-raised/article15141558.ece>

⁸It was not possible to verify the discrepancy in number of student beneficiaries, from 10 lakh in 2008 and 9 lakh in 2012, due to hike in mess charges, given the resources.

to X standard, the hike has been from Rs 535 to Rs 850 and for the students from intermediate to PG, the hike has been from Rs 520 to Rs 1,050. About 6,163 institutions were benefited by these measures announced by the government. They are also provided cosmetics at the rate of Rs.50/- per month for boys and Rs.55/- per month for girls up to class VII & Rs.75/- per month for girls from class VIII to X class. The boys of all classes are given hair cut charges of Rs. 12/- per month. The boarders are also supplied with four pairs of dresses, one carpet and one bed sheet, note books five to eighteen as per class of the student, trunk box, plate and glass, sports and bedding material in a year. They are also given expenditure for soap and oil of Rs. 20/- per boy per month and Rs. 25/- per girl per month as cosmetic charges. Thus, the total expenditure approximately per student per year is Rs. 38,000.⁹ The normal facilities provided in hostels include:

- Diet Charges
- Cosmetic Charges
- Dresses
- Stitching charges
- Bedding Material
- Hair cut Charges
- Trunk Box, plate and glass
- Study Material
- Games Material

In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, recognizing the inherent concerns, attempts were made to improve hostel management through online monitoring system. The monitoring system hailed as innovative, promised a solution to all the problems faced by hostel residents. Started in combined Andhra Pradesh state, titled as Hostel Management System (HMS), this system has several parameters of information and offers information continuously. The objective is to enable online monitoring of the hostels and facilitate an atmosphere of correctional measures as early as possible. Design of HMS is good and the content does not seem to leave out any aspect of hostels, including daily attendance of each and every hostel resident.

In 2011, government identified the problem thus¹⁰:

Existing System

Hostel wardens are drawing officers as per G.O. Ms. 126

- draw diet, cosmetic charges, rents, electricity and salaries for class IV, other expenses etc.
- mark attendance manually
- submit bills regularly/ irregularly – monthly basis and all bills are prepared manually and submitted

⁹<http://www.mchrddi.gov.in/fcg2/studymaterial/week4/overview%20of%20Welfare%20Schemes.pdf>

¹⁰ Presentation by Raymond Peters, IAS, at egovreach.in/uploads/presentation/hyderabad/Department_of_Social_Welfare.pdf

Proposed System

Fully computerized Bill generation and submission system

Data input either by

- Offline mode
- Mobile phone mode

Key activities to be entered include:

- Attendance of students and staff
- Stocks issued for the day
- Stock purchased during the day

It was proposed that e-hostel system facilitates online monitoring of the hostels. The attendance, academic performance and health of the students can be effectively monitored through the e-hostels package. The total data with regard to staff, infrastructure and student profiles is computerized. Under e-hostels package, the sanctions for diet and other amenities are made online.

This system was introduced in united Andhra Pradesh before bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states in 2014. In addition to this online management system, government has encouraged direct and active monitoring in various ways. This includes senior officials and elected representatives having dinner with the students. According to an official release in 2012, the Chief Minister asked the District Collectors, nodal officers and other senior officers to personally visit the hostels, have dinner with the students and stay overnight in the hostels or residential schools. Officers were asked to monitor quality and quantity of the common diet menu. They were also asked to interact with the students and ensure that the new diet menu is prominently displayed on the notice board. Guidelines for the special menu were communicated. District Collectors have been asked to put in place a mechanism to streamline the administration of hostels and evolve a method to obtain feedback from the hostels on the implementation of the revised menu.

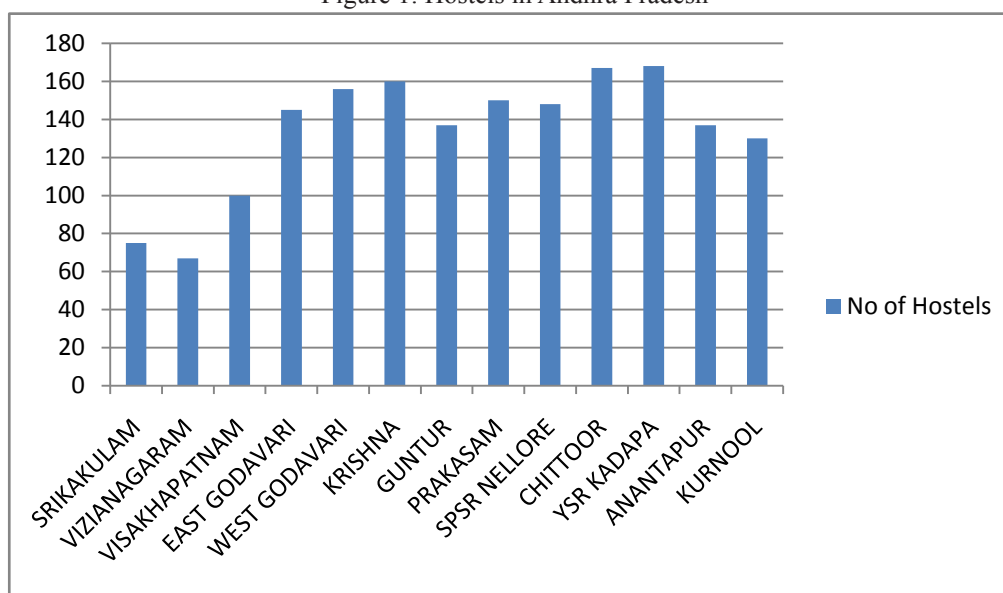
The Social Welfare Department said that an effective mechanism needs to be put in place to monitor the attendance of students in hostels and payment of cosmetic and other charges. Government has considerably enhanced the diet charges in 2012 commensurate to the rising costs of food, vegetables and gas. All welfare departments were included in the process of computerizing the Hostel Management System.

A number of measures have been taken to improve the functioning of the hostels in the state. E-hostel management system has been introduced to bring transparency and accountability. Essential commodities were supplied through Civil Supplies Corporation and other government agencies. Green Channel Scheme was introduced for smooth flow of funds and all the details of the boarders admitted were entered in e-hostel management system. Hostel boarders' attendance, purchase and issues are monitored through Hostel Management System.

Andhra Pradesh

In 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh, there are in total 1,740 social welfare hostels, lowest number is in Vizianagaram district, while the highest number is in Kadapa district. Average number of hostels per district is 134. Three districts in North Coastal Andhra; Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Vishakhapatnam have lower number of hostels than state average. However, only 1,259 hostels have been registered on the e-monitoring system.

Figure 1: Hostels in Andhra Pradesh



According to Socio-Economic Survey 2016-17, brought by Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are 897 government BC hostels, 692 hostels for boys and 205 hostels for girls, with a total strength of 96,997 boarders admitted in the hostels during 2016-17. There are 32 B.C. residential schools, 17 for boys and 15 for girls functioning in the state in 2016-17 with a total strength of 12,292 students. Students are admitted from V class through the lottery system. All these residential schools have a combination of 74% Backward Classes, 15% Scheduled Castes, 6% Scheduled Tribes, 2% EBCs and 3% Orphans.

Table 2: Spending on AP Hostels 2015-16 (Rs in crores)

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Salaries | 156.16 |
| Daily wages | 0.22 |
| Water and electricity charges | 4.61 |
| Materials and supplies | 25.57 |
| Maintenance | 3.06 |
| Cost of ration/ diet charges | 85.35 |
| Cosmetic charges | 6.91 |
| Other contractual services | 6.33 |

Andhra Pradesh government has spent Rs.293.23 crores in 2015-16 on hostels. It has allocated Rs.389.55 crores in 2016-17, which was later revised to Rs.391.99 crores. However, in 2017-18 budget it has increased the allocation to Rs.454.03 crores. On salaries, it has spent Rs.156.16 crores in 2015-16, which increased to Rs.220.01 crores in 2016-17, and Rs.238.54 crores in 2017-18.

Spending on salaries is 53% of the total expenditure in 2015-16. Interestingly, additional payments to daily wage employees were a mere Rs.22.25 lakhs. The cost of ration/ diet charges were Rs.85.35 crores (29% of total spending). Materials and supplies spending was Rs.25.57 crores. Expenditure on cosmetic charges was Rs.6.91 crores.

Further, the expenditure on college hostels of boys and girls, under expenditure account on welfare of SCs, STs and other Backward Classes and Minorities, was Rs.59.16 crores. Under Backward Classes welfare, spending on government hostels was another Rs.226.17 crores. These hostels are established to provide free boarding and lodging to students belonging to Backward Classes and help them to pursue their Pre-Matric studies. All these hostels have a combination of 76% Backward Classes, 10% Scheduled Castes, 5% Scheduled Tribes, 3% Minorities and 6% other castes. The objective of this combination is to encourage social integration.

Of the total 897 government BC hostels, 556 hostels are located in government buildings. The remaining hostels are in rented spaces. To accommodate these hostels, 48 buildings are under construction with funds coming from both state and central governments. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme is intended to provide a clean and healthy ambience to boarders of hostels. In addition, 293 buildings are to be constructed.

Four hostels, at Amalapuram (East Godavari), Mopidevi (Krishna), Satyavedu (Chittoor) & Golagamudi (SPSR Nellore), have been established for children belonging to fishermen community. Admission pattern in residential schools meant for fishermen community is: fishermen children (46%), BC-A (7%), BC-B (10%), BC-C (1%), BC-D (7%), BC-E (4%), SC (15%), ST (6%), EBC (1%) and Orphans (3%). The objective of including students of other communities is to enable growth of a syncretic culture among the young people.

With the objective to promote the education of BC boys and girls at the Post Matric level, the government has issued orders for establishment of college hostels in the state - one for each assembly constituency for girls and boys. During 2016-17, 349 college hostels (177 boys college hostels and 172 girls college hostels) were functioning with a total strength of 37,239 boarders, including 19,198 boys and 18,041 girls. These college hostels too have a combination of 69% Backward Classes, 15% Scheduled Castes, 6% Scheduled Tribes and 10% Minorities to promote social integration.

There are 958 SC Hostels functioning in the state, with an admitted strength of 89,840 in 2016-17. SC enrollment ratio is 82.29% and dropout rate was 39.64%. In addition, 566 special hostels and 27 Integrated Hostel Welfare Complexes are functioning in the State. Students studying from class III to X will be admitted in these hostels in the ratio: SC (70%), christian converts from SCs (12%), ST (5%), BC (9%) and others (4%).

Bio-Metric attendance is implemented in all 998 hostels for all hostel students and staff. During 2016-17, 272 hostels were merged into social welfare residential schools, benefiting 13,592 students. There are 285 college hostels, 140 for boys and 145 for girls, functioning with an admitted strength of 27,990 students.

As per the 2011 Census, Scheduled Castes population forms 17.08 percent of the total population of Andhra Pradesh and 79.98% of the Scheduled Caste people live in rural areas. Andhra Pradesh Government has taken up a programme to convert all Tribal Welfare hostels into residential schools,

in phases. Under this conversion, during 2016-17, 80 hostels were converted as residential schools and started functioning with strength of 5,708 from class III to V. Further, government has sanctioned Rs.13 crores for construction of attached hostels and additional class rooms under ST Sub Plan 2016-17. It has also sanctioned Rs.9.18 crores for construction of attached hostels and additional class rooms under SC Sub Plan 2016-17.

In Srikakulam, the ratio of staff for number of students varies across hostels. From a minimum of 7.5 students per each staff in Integrated Welfare Hostel Complex for girls at Palkonda, it reached a maximum of 30.5 in social welfare hostel for boys in Srikakulam town. In Vizianagaram district, this average is much less starting from 5.5 at social welfare hostel for boys at Gangubadi to the highest of 22.5 at social welfare boys hostel at Ravivalasa.

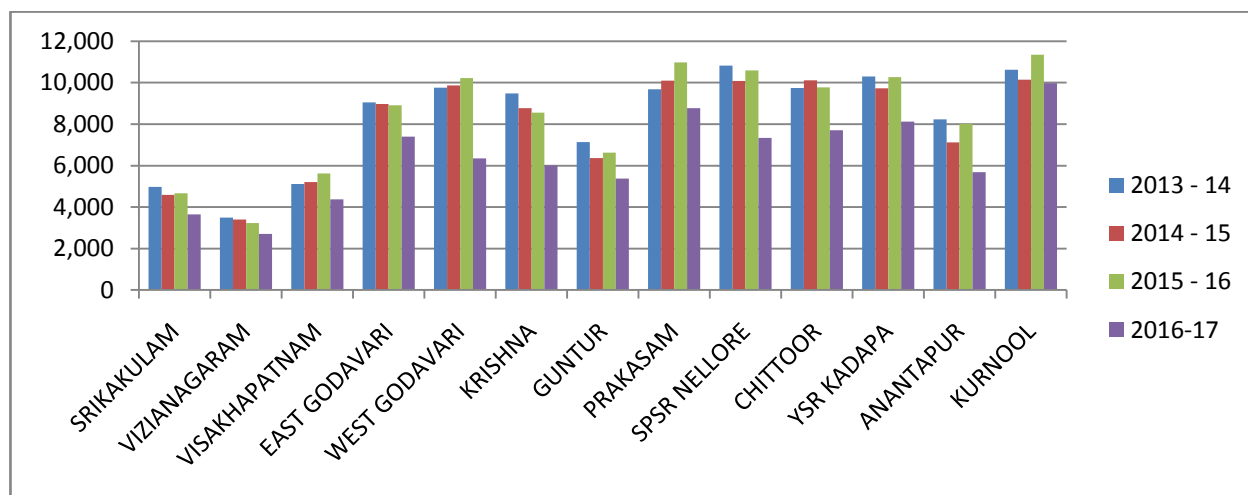
Strength of Boarders

A four year period has been studied for the same number of 1,259 hostels as reported in e-management system. More or less, the boarding strength remained the same. From 1,08,412 in 2013-14, strength has increased to 1,08,814 in 2015-16 which is a negligible increase of 0.3 %. However, between 2013-14 and 2015-16, eight districts witnessed decrease of varied percentages. Only five districts have seen marginal increase in boarders' strength. Highest increase can be seen in Prakasham district (13 %), followed by Vishakhapatnam (10 %). Highest decrease is in Krishna districts (9.8 %), followed by Guntur and Vizianagaram districts. The decrease in boarders' strength in Vizianagaram, in North Coastal Andhra is inexplicable.

The website (<http://swhostels.cgg.gov.in>) reports a further decrease in the number of boarders and hostels, to 83,412 and 985 respectively in 2017. One is not sure if this decrease reflects low registrations, or actual decrease in hostels and boarders. However, there is a 23 % decrease in 2016-17 from the previous year. The decrease in boarding can be seen across all the districts, with variance in percentages. The highest decrease is in West Godavari (37 %), while the lowest is in Kurnool (12 %).

Interestingly, the decline in boarders is very significant between 2016-17 and 2015-16. On an average there is 23 % decrease in number of boarders across the state of Andhra Pradesh. West

Figure 2: Registered Boarders



Godavari district students seem to have decreased drastically, and this decrease is highest in the state (37 %). No other district reports such a sharp decline. Kurnool has the lowest 12 % decrease. Vishakhapatnam, West Godavari, Prakasam and Kurnool districts had a positive increase in 2015-16 over 2013-14. However, the very next year, there is a decrease in these districts too. Continuous decrease in the strength of boarders across all the districts indicates that the hostel infrastructure and facilities under social welfare is inadequate.

Figure 3: Registered Hostels



There is a decline in registered hostels in e-monitoring system. Procedure for registration is not clear, whether it is compulsory or mandatory. The decrease in registration reflects many factors, including lack of interest, inclination to stay outside and no supervision over such deregistrations. This could be due to lack of facilities, corruption or non-compliance with the requirements of a hostel. In almost all the hostels, facilities and services for boarders have not improved despite e-monitoring system.

Hostels for girls are very less. Even though, 88,190 students are registered under social welfare, only 33,242 girls are accommodated in hostels. Their percentage is a mere 37.6 %. Lack of facilities dissuades parents from sending their girl children to higher education, and dropout rate among them is higher.

A survey conducted by the Students' Federation of India (SFI) district committee, in West Godavari, in 2007, revealed that girl students of a social welfare hostel were constrained to take bath in open places due to lack of toilets and bath rooms in their hostel. Incidents of snakebite in social welfare hostels was on the rise as the inmates were attending nature's calls in isolated places for want of toilets and bath rooms on the premises of their hostels. About 40,000 dalit and ST students were pursuing their studies by depending on social welfare hostels. This survey underlined the need for a face-lift to BC, SC and ST welfare hostels by improving the basic amenities like provision of safe drinking water, construction of toilets and compound walls. It also recommended increase in mess charges in line with the spiraling prices of essential commodities. Cosmetic charges are same

for girls and boys. Cosmetic needs of girls are higher, but this has not been factored into. Girls' hostels require more budgets, for physical infrastructure and also enabling their access to various services and goods.

The rooms in most hostels are in dilapidated conditions. Windows and doors are in broken conditions. The doors of bathrooms and toilets are also in dismal conditions, giving rise to apprehensions and scope for tension among girls. Sewer systems are also in improper condition. Overflowing sewer lines within the premises and outside is a common sight. Thus, lack of proper maintenance and up gradation is increasing the risk for girls in these hostels.

To avoid infections, girls need special care. They need napkins and other body care solutions. They need privacy and assurance of security. In the age of modern technology that has increased access to drone cameras, spy cameras; privacy and protection for girls is very important. However, most hostels do not respond to these needs, and specific allocations are absent at the governmental level.

While hostels in government buildings are in improper conditions, hostels in private premises lack amenities. In hostels with own buildings, amenities are in unusable conditions. As regards hostels run in private buildings, amenities are completely absent. Most of these hostels in rented buildings are located in narrow lanes and congested areas with improper ventilation and small spaces. Most hostels do not have toilet facilities. Wherever toilets are available, their condition is varied and is usually non-functional. Doors without locks, hinges, or in creaky conditions, toilets without running water, taps, or with broken taps are common sight. Most toilets are in unhygienic conditions. Consequently, open defecation is a common practice. But, this is an option for hostels, which have own buildings and are often located on the outskirts of the town or habitation. The problem is severe for hostel residents, in rented buildings, located among a habitation. They are caught between lack of option for open defecation and dismal toilets in the premises. Those who are forced to open defecation also face problems of snake and scorpions bites. In few places, they have to walk for more than a kilometer to conduct their ablutions in seclusion. Girls are more vulnerable and are at the receiving end of all sorts of problems associated with open defecation. Students have only their iron trunk boxes to store their items. No wardrobes are available. Security of their 'precious' belongings is a major concern on the minds of the children.

Access to pure, dependable drinking water sources is very low in many hostels. In some hostels, RO (Reverse Osmosis) plants have been established. But over a period, many of them became redundant, pushing residents back to the previous problem. Since most students come from poor background, they cannot afford safe drinking water, independently, by paying. They have to fend with lesser quality water leading to frequent infections and gastro-intestinal problems.

There is improper electricity connection to most hostels. Often, in most hostels, rooms are under-lit with one single incandescent bulb. These conditions are not conducive for students to read and write in the nights. Studying in the hostels at nights is an impossible task in few hostels. With broken windows, under-lit rooms and unhygienic conditions, some hostel boarders face severe mosquito menace.

In few places, kitchen, dining place and living rooms are not spaced out. Safe storage of raw food materials such as vegetables and grains is not found. Dining places and kitchens are also under lit. Exclusive dining places are rarely found. Often, corridors near the kitchen are used as dining

places. Furniture for dining is very rare and it is completely dining on the floor, with minimal, rudimentary utensils and cutlery.

The conditions in a large number of welfare hostels in the districts are simply unlivable, unhygienic and inhuman. Several hostels are plagued with problems. In about forty social welfare and tribal welfare hostels in Anantapur, Tadipatri, Dharmavaram, Uravakonda, Penukonda, Gorantla and Kadiri areas, most common problems noticed were drinking water problem, lack of water for other uses, dilapidated buildings, lack of proper maintenance of buildings including toilets and bathrooms, non-compliance of diet menu and non-supply of essential items to students.

There is shortage of lodging facilities. There are more boarders, with less number of rooms. Toilets are under construction and there is no maintenance of bathrooms. Boarders were forced to go outside for attending to nature's calls as the toilets either had no doors or were clogged. A tribal welfare girl's hostel had only four rooms for 218 students and food was being cooked with salty water due to lack of drinking water. Diet menu was not being followed in any of the hostels due to price rise. Boarders often ask for arrangement of libraries, reading rooms, newspapers, television sets, tutors, tube lights and fans in hostels. They also want regular visits of doctors, provision of play facilities and supply of essential items among others.

Telangana

According to Socio-Economic Outlook 2016-17, published by Planning Department, Government of Telangana, the state has 1,358 welfare hostels to facilitate education of children belonging to Schedule Tribe, Schedule Castes, Backward Caste and economically weaker sections for pursuing pre-matric studies. There are 170 ST hostels, 734 SC hostels and 454 BC hostels in the state. Hostels and residential schools have been established with the primary aim of providing congenial environment for the children to study, support children who are in difficult circumstances, and reduce dropout rate among SC, ST, BC communities. Overall, 1,34,161 children were admitted in the hostels in the academic year 2016-17, of which, 30,882 are accommodated in ST hostels, 59,928 joined SC hostels and 43,351 are in BC hostels.

Telangana government has spent Rs.149.43 crores in 2015-16 on hostels. It has allocated Rs.234.40 crores in 2016-17. However, in 2017-18 budget it has decreased the allocation to Rs.222.45 crores. On salaries, it has spent Rs.111.17 crores in 2015-16, and the allocation for the same has increased to Rs.179.92 crores in 2016-17, and Rs.191.04 crores in 2017-18.

Table 3: Spending on Telangana Hostels 2015-16 (Rs. in crores)

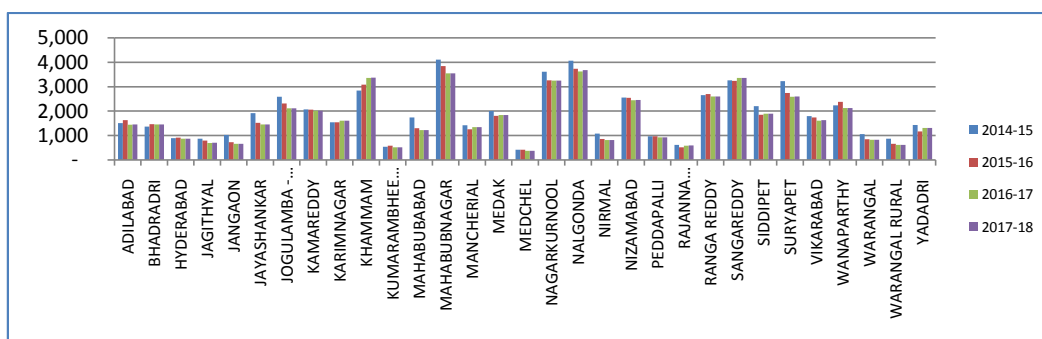
| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Salaries | 111.17 |
| Daily wages | 3.35 |
| Water and electricity charges | 4.84 |
| Materials and supplies | 11.42 |
| Maintenance | 8.41 |
| Cost of ration/ diet charges | 31.87 |
| Cosmetic charges | 3.23 |
| Other contractual services | 2.55 |

Spending on salaries is 74.4 % of the total expenditure in 2015-16. Interestingly, an additional payment to daily wage employees was a significant Rs.3.35 crores. Cost of ration/ diet charges were Rs.31.87 crores. Materials and supplies spending was Rs.11.42 crores. Expenditure on cosmetic charges was Rs.3.23 crores. Further, the expenditure on college hostels of boys and girls, under expenditure account on welfare of SCs, STs and other Backward classes and Minorities, was Rs.52.67 crores. Under Backward Classes welfare, spending on government hostels was another Rs.94.39 crores.

Strength of Borders

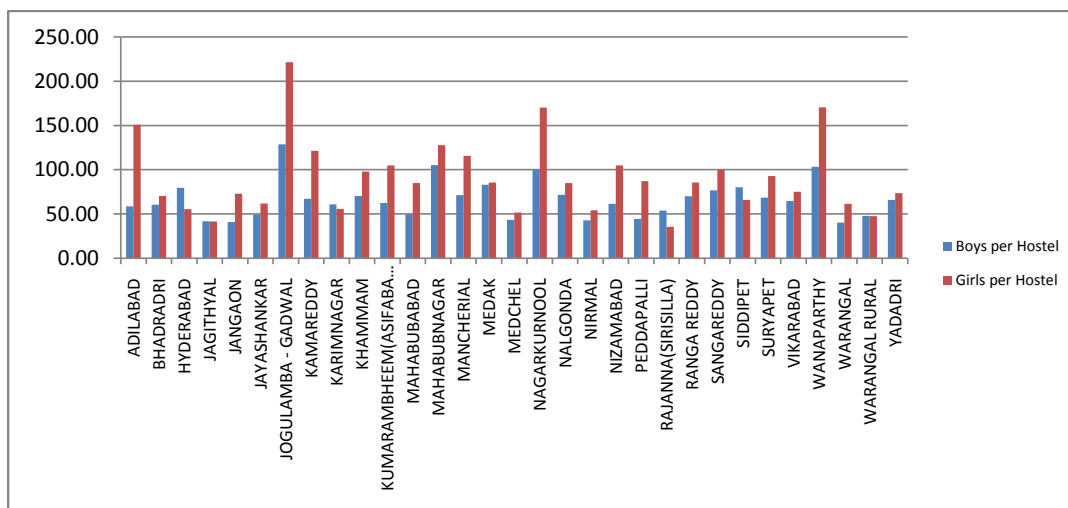
The admission pattern in BC hostels shows that 76% children admitted are from Backward Classes. The rest of the children admitted in BC hostels are children from Scheduled Castes (10%), Scheduled Tribes (5%) and other communities (9%). The admission pattern in residential schools meant for fishermen community is fishermen children (46%), BC-A (7%), BC-B (10%), BC-C (1%), BC-D (7%), BC-E (4%), SC (15%), ST (6%), EBC (1%) and Orphans (3%).

Figure 4: Boarders Registered in Pre-matric Hostels in Telangana



There is a decline in the registered boarders in pre-matric hostels across all the districts of Telangana. From a total 58,464 members in 2014-15, the number has declined to 53,245 in 2017-18, as per the information available on Hostel Management System. This decrease is consistent over a four year period. The objective of the Hostel Management System (HMS) is to improve hostel conditions, which would have reflected in boarding percentages. A decline is an indicator of

Figure 5: Boarders Density Per Hostel Across all Districts

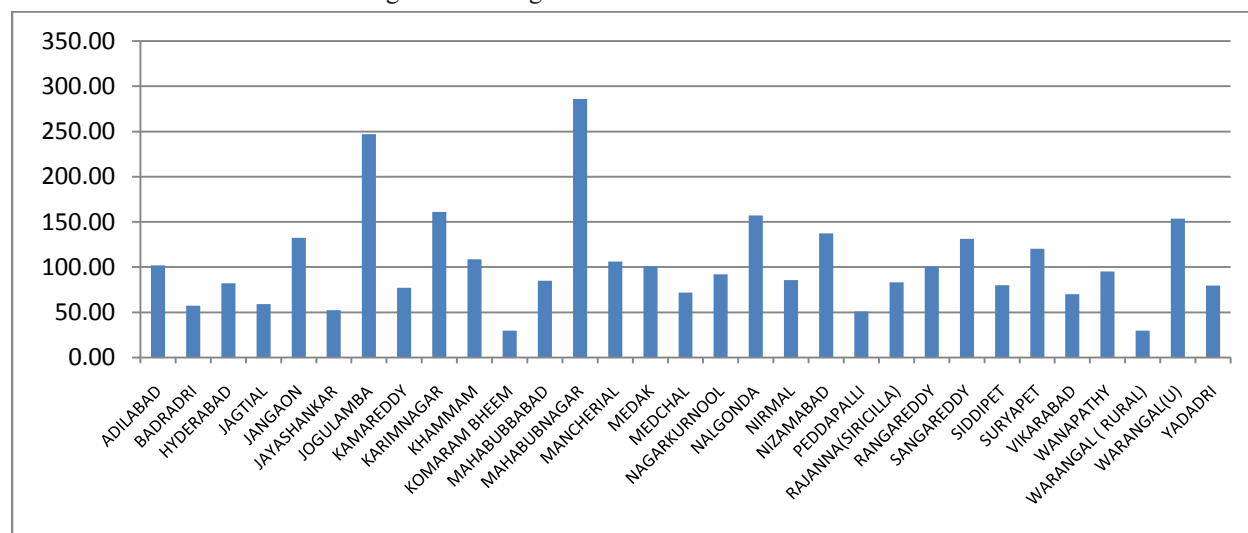


non-improvement in stay conditions, or some other external factor that needs to be explored. The biggest decline can be seen in Janagaon district, followed by Mahabubabad and Warangal.

Also, density of boarders per hostel is varied across all districts. The state average for boys is 69.20 and is higher for girls at 87.79. The density of girl boarders is high in Gadwal district, where the number of boarders per hostel average is 221, followed by Nagarkurnool (170), Wanaparthi (170) and Adilabad (150). Lowest density of girl boarders is in Sirsilla district, where the average is a mere 35 per hostel, followed by Jagithyal (41), Medchal (51), Karimnagar (55) and Hyderabad (55). For boys, highest density is in Gadwal (128), followed by Mahabubnagar, Wanaparthi and Nagarkurnool. The lowest density of boy boarders is in Warangal (40). There are only 195 hostels for girls, while 522 hostels are for boys. At state level, the total strength of girl boarders is 17,120, while boys strength is 36,125. The hostels for girls are less, and the number of hostels is also not commensurate with the boarding population. This can be a huge dampener on the aspirations of parents and girls who want to get themselves educated with state support.

There is no data on post-matric hostels for the previous years, except for the current year. Interestingly, girls registered as boarders across the state in post-matric hostels is 11,067, while boys are mere 7,832. There is drastic fall in the boarding strength, from pre-matric to post-matric hostels. Boys who were 36,125 strong in pre-matric hostels, went down to a mere 7,832 in post-matric hostels, some 78 % reduction. In the case of girls, the situation is not as drastic. Girls were 17,120 in pre-matric hostels and 11,067 in post-matric hostels, a mere 35 percent reduction in comparison. Drop in girls enrollment, as they transit from pre-matric to post-matric hostels, is lesser than boys. This is despite less number of girl hostels, higher density and lower availability of facilities.

Figure 6: Average Boarders Per Post-matric Hostel

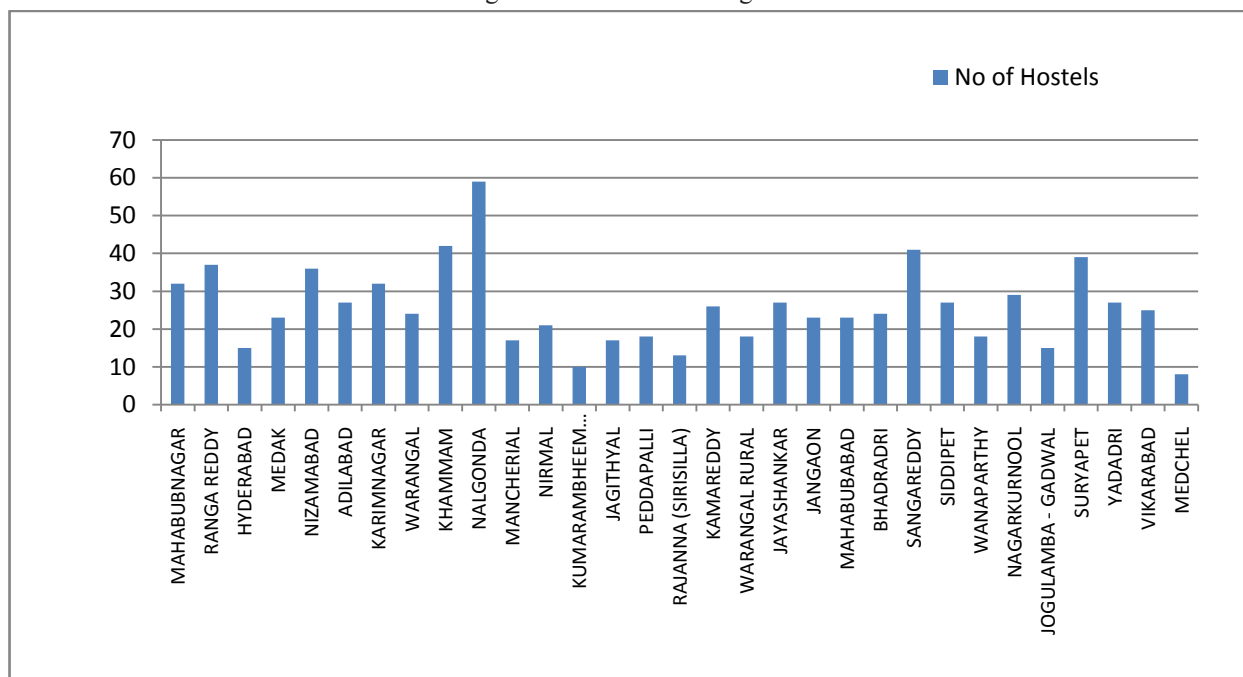


In the absence of disaggregated data on post-matric hostels, separate for girls and boys, the average of total registered boarders was taken. While the State average is 111 per hostel, highest average is in Mahbubnagar district (286) and Gadwal (247). Lowest is in Komaram Bheem and Warangal rural district. Komaram Bheem, carved from erstwhile Adilabad district, is predominantly tribal, far away from Hyderabad and hence has low boarding strength. Though Warangal rural district is geographically abutting Warangal city, yet the boarding strength is lowest. Post-matric hostels need more detailed scrutiny to understand the indicators thrown by this data. However, reduction

in boarding strength, which is varied for girls and boys, is a cause of concern. It can be an indicator of hostel conditions as well.

There are 559 post-matric hostels for college going boys and girls in the state. This includes 153 hostels for ST students, 169 hostels for SC students and 246 hostels for BC students. In 2016-17, the total number of inmates in the hostels is 18,377, 19,077, and 24,517 respectively in ST, SC and BC post-matric hostels. The government has also sanctioned 52 post-matric ST hotels, 120 residential schools for Minorities, and additional SC hostels. This academic year 71 schools have started functioning with 12,554 students. The total staff strength in these schools is 1,349 with 710 teaching staff and 639 non-teaching staff.

Figure 7: Hostels in Telangana



E-Hostel Management system reports 793 hostels in Telangana, at an average of 25 per district. Though Medchal is suburb area of Hyderabad, there are less than 10 hostels which are far less than the state average. This district has the lowest number of hostels in the state of Telangana. The highest numbers of 60 hostels are in Nalgonda district. Among 31 districts, 15 districts are below state average of 25 hostels per district.

The website (<http://swhostels.cgg.gov.in>) also reports 717 pre-matric hostels, 522 for boys and 195 for girls. There is 4,203 staff, with average of 6 per hostel. Each staff has to respond to 12.6 students on an average which appears to be inappropriate. The number of hostels for boys is more than girls. Boys' hostels are 2.5 times more than girls' hostels. In 2016-17, HMS shows that the Department gave a figure of 156 post-matric hostels, while registered hostels on the system were 169 hostels, 13 more than the department figure. This is probably a glitch in the registering system. In any case, it indicates that Hostel Management System, even after six years under implementation, is yet to become efficient.

Hyderabad, being a State capital, it is obvious that number of post-matric hostels in this district are 16, highest in the state. It is followed by Nizamabad (13), Warangal (12), Nalgonda (12), Khammam (11) and Bhadadri (10). Only these six districts have double figure of hostels, while the remaining 25 districts have lesser than 10 hostels. Many of them have only two hostels. Higher education-linked hostels seem to be less in number. This necessitates a detailed study to find out the reasons and causes for lesser number of social welfare hostels for both boys and girls.

Facilities

As regards facilities, all basic facilities in these hostels are provided by the government free of cost to the inmates. It includes uniforms, four pairs of dresses, educational aids like books and stationeries, food, and other boarding facilities like bedding and blankets. The boarders are also provided with cosmetics at the rate of Rs.12/- per month as hair cutting charges and Rs.50/- per month for boys and Rs.55/- per month for girls up to class VII and Rs.75/- per month for girls from class VIII to X class. The money is expected to cover for products such as toilet and detergent soaps, talcum powder and hair oil for an entire month. It becomes particularly tough for girls who have to buy even sanitary pads out of this money. These hostels also are provided with sports and games materials, and first aid kits. As per norms, which are reviewed periodically, hostel inmates are provided with diet charges of Rs.750/- per month per boarder for III to VII class, and Rs.850/- per month per boarder for VIII to X class.

However, in 2017, mess charges have been increased to Rs 950 from Rs 750 for the students from Class III to VII, Rs.1, 100 from Rs.850 for students of Class VIII to X and from Rs.1,050 to Rs.1,400 for the students of Intermediate and Degree courses. The state government has taken initiatives of providing fine rice and hike in mess charges.

It can be observed from the report that there are a lot of variations in the data. Though there are 1740 social welfare hostels in Andhra Pradesh, only 1259 hostels have been registered on the e- monitoring system. E- hostel management reports that there are 793 hostels in Telangana. The data of unregistered hostels is not mentioned. The strength of the hostels is not commensurate with the facilities provided. An objective analysis can only be possible when there is clarity on the data. However, as per the statistics presented in the report from the secondary data, it is clear that lot needs to be done to improve the status and conditions of social welfare hostels. Children join the hostels with lot of expectations, but if the hostels cannot ensure minimum facilities and hygiene, the desired objective may not be realized. Their stay in the hostels may not be motivating and cannot focus on their studies. It seems as if only a lip service is being paid to the social welfare of disadvantaged children diluting the purpose for which the hostel scheme has been initiated. Some case studies presented in the next chapter, will reinforce the conclusions of this chapter.

Chapter 4

Case Studies
of
Andhra Pradesh
&
Telangana

This chapter presents the case studies of hostels selected randomly. These case studies are an eye opener to the mediocre maintenance of the social welfare hostels, despite Hostel Management System. HMS has promised instant communication and application of solutions quickly. However, the reality presents a different picture. In this chapter, facts regarding basic infrastructure and amenities in four hostels of Andhra Pradesh and three hostels of Telangana are presented.

In Andhra Pradesh, the Government SC Hostel in Cumbum, Kurnool, Social Welfare Boys Hostels, Ongole and KGBV Minority Girls Hostel, Banaganepalle have been taken up for study.

Case Studies from Andhra Pradesh

Government SC Hostel in Cumbum, Kurnool

The hostel has six bathrooms with water supply and all are in use. There are six buckets, but no mugs. It has six toilets, but only four are in use. Water facility is available and there are seven buckets and seven mugs. The staff cleans the toilets and bathrooms using phenyl and acid. The hostel boarders have access to mineral water, which is stored in sintex tank. They have a bore well, with pumping facility. There are in total ten rooms, with an average of twelve boarders per room. However, presently they have eighty boarders. The rooms have windows with proper ventilation. If there is power cut, hostel does not have alternative methods of electricity supply. There are visits by Assistant Social Welfare Officer and District Social Welfare Officer to the hostel. The playground is about 1 km away from the hostel but boarders can play carom board. Though no doctor visits the hostel, government public health centre is about half a kilometer away.

There are two watchmen and one cook who live on the premises. The distance between school and the hostel is about one kilometer. The hostel warden lives nearby. The boarders take their food by sitting on the floor. They get coarse rice to eat and food is cooked on gas stove. They get special food every Sunday. Boarders get four pairs of clothes. In a month, they get only one bathing and a washing soap, 100 grams of hair oil and one trunk box. The hostel has eighty plates and glasses. The boarders get twenty two notebooks and textbooks. They have tuition masters for four subjects, science, hindi, maths and english. In the opinion of boarders, cosmetic charges have to be raised. Every year, hostel needs to be painted. Cook and helper should be given uniform, torchlight and stick. The boarders want water facilities to be improved since there is severe water shortage. They feel that the height of the compound wall has to be raised and doors and windows should be of good quality. The gate at the entrance should be strong and wire mesh to doors and windows is required to prevent mosquitoes.

In this hostel, the bathrooms have buckets with absolutely no mugs. Only four out of six toilets are in use and the playground is not in the premises. It has minimum facilities though inmates are not totally satisfied.

Social Welfare Hostel SC – I, Mamidipalem, Ongole

This hostel located in Ongole town, district headquarters of Prakasham district is in government

building. They have six bathrooms, but only three are in use with no bathing buckets and only two mugs. It has four toilets, but only two are in use. There are only two buckets for use in toilets, and one mug. Workers clean toilets and bathrooms once in a month and bleaching powder are used to clean them.

The boarders get municipal water and water is stored in a sintex tank. A bore well with pumping facility is available. There are ten rooms, with an average of twenty five boarders in each room, sharing the space. There are no waste bins in the hostel. Sewer cesspool can be seen in the hostel. The hostel has no sports facilities. Boarders have their food by sitting on the floor. They have gas stoves, but also firewood-based cooking is done in need. They do not get any other material, including soaps, toiletries, hair oil, books, etc. About 97 % of the boarders belong to SC communities. Boarders opine that space is a severe constraint. They expressed the need for additional building, and also a computer lab.

In this particular hostel, twenty five boarders share a single room and only three out of six bathrooms are in use without any buckets. Sports activities and other basic amenities are missing in the hostel.

Social Welfare Boys Hostel – 2, Ongole

This is a hostel for boys studying in college up to post graduation. It is in a government building. There are six bathrooms, and all of which are in use with taps, ten buckets and two mugs. There are seven toilets, but only six are in use. Bleaching powder is used to clean toilets and bathrooms, which is done once in a week.

Water is stored in a sintex tank. There is a bore well with pumping facility. There are ten rooms in the hostel. Each room is shared by an average of 35 boarders. These rooms have windows and no seepage of water has been noticed into the rooms, when there is rain.

There is waste water cesspool within the hostel premises. This hostel does not have any solid waste bins and no alternative source for lighting is available when there is power cut. There are no sports facilities and no playing ground nearby. Doctors do not visit this hostel. As there is no dining furniture, boarders sit on the floor for dinner. There is one watchman and three cooks/helpers. All of them live outside hostel. The hostel warden also stays outside the hostel in an urban area.

The boarders get rice, which is thicker. Cooking is generally done on gas stoves and occasionally firewood is used. The boarders get breakfast, lunch and dinner but quality of food served is very low and basic. The menu is regular and no special food is provided on any occasion. The boarders do not get bed sheets and toiletries (including bathing and washing soaps, hair oil, etc). They do not get uniforms/ dresses or books either. The hostel has a compound wall. Almost 90% of the boarders belong to SCs and do not get tuition or specialized coaching in the hostel. According to boarders, mess charges are low. They demand increase in mess charges, as costs are going up. They are also asking for a library and computer lab.

It is surprising that 35 boarders share a single room. As per the facts stated above, the hostel premises lack cleanliness without solid waste bins. It is a paradox that the hostel warden, who is supposed to be the caretaker and guardian of the students, resides away from the hostel in an urban

area. There are many inconsistencies as regards the basic facilities. The hostel cannot serve the needs of the boarders with low quality of food, lack of adequate sports, medical and dining facilities and non provision of basic necessities like books, uniforms, bed sheets, soaps etc.

KGBV Minority Girls Hostel, Banaganepalle

This is housed in a government building. It has seventeen bathrooms, but only eleven are in use. Water facility is available in the bathrooms. Buckets have to be brought by the boarders on their own. There are nineteen toilets, but only nine are in use. Water facility is available in the toilets. There are only 5 buckets for use in toilets. Toilets are cleaned twice in a week with phenyl.

Bore well water is used for drinking. There is a sintex storage tank and pump facility is fitted to the bore well. There are seven rooms in the hostel. Each room on an average has 20 residents. There is no furniture in the dining area and boarders eat by sitting on the floor. Sewer cesspool can be seen in the hostel premises. Waste bins are available in the hostel.

There is a compound wall, with a gate to the hostel. There are three staff members, one cook, one watchman and a kamati. Every boarder gets one plate, one glass, one trunk box each, eighteen note books, four pairs of clothes and two bed sheets every year. According to a resident, cleanliness is maintained in the hostel but want more bathrooms. They have tuition masters only for hindi and mathematics. One of the residents suggested having intermediate and degree students along with the X class students as fellow boarders, so that they can learn a lot. It was also said that the hostel should have karate and dance teaching facilities.

In spite of being a girl's hostel, not all bathrooms and toilets are in use and twenty boarders share a single room with inadequate furniture and dining space.

Case Studies from Telangana

In Telangana, 3 hostels, ST Boys Hostel, Kotayya Camp, Varni, Nizamabad, Social Welfare Hostel, Nelapatla, Choutuppal, Yadadri district and Social Welfare Hostel, Pasalamadla, Janagama district have been taken up for the study.

ST Boys Hostel, Kotayya Camp, Varni, Nizamabad

This is a government building. The hostel does not have any bathrooms and residents take bath in the open. There are six buckets for bathing purposes. There are twenty toilets, with only ten in use. No water facility is available in the toilets, indicating lack of running tap water. There is just one person to clean the toilets in use, every day, using phenyl.

They get water from gram panchayat supply system. Water is stored in a sintex tank and pumping facility is available with the bore well. There are eight rooms, with twenty to thirty students in each room. The rooms have windows, with good ventilation. Waste bins are available. Often, District Tribal Development Officer visits the hostel. The residents do not do any work and they do not have any sports equipment. The doctors visit once in two months. The residents take their food by sitting on the floor. They get fine rice, raagi porridge, milk and regular lunch and dinner. Sometimes they are given bananas and biscuits.

The hostel warden stays in Bodhan town, about fifteen kilometers away. The hostel and school are attached. They eat fine rice. They get four bathing and washing soaps once in every three months. They are given 500 gms of hair oil, 18 small and six big notebooks. There is no special teaching staff, or sessions, at the hostel. This hostel has a compound wall with a gate. Boarders face mosquito menace. There is no playground and sports equipment. Staff and furniture are also not commensurate to the number of boarders.

Drinking water facility is not available and the existing RO plant is not working. Buckets and bathrooms are not enough. They do not have beds. Water jugs are not available. Notebooks are not given. Sports equipment, soaps and hair oil supply is not enough. Mosquito problem is very high. This has been cited by the hostel warden as a main problem. It was stated that more number of staff especially cooks and a day-time watchman are needed. The hostel does not have chairs and tables. Without bathrooms, boarders bathe near the open water storage point. Only ten toilets are in use and do not have water supply. The users have to carry water in buckets for which enough buckets are not available. There is shortage in dining furniture.

As in Andhra Pradesh, even in Telangana it has been observed that hostels are not fully equipped in terms of basic infrastructure and facilities. In this hostel, it is strange that the warden stays fifteen kilometers away from the hostel.

Social Welfare Hostel, Nelapatla, Choutuppal, Yadadri district

This is a government hostel, with ten bathrooms, of which only five are in use with water facility available in the bathrooms. There are ten toilets with water facility and every day all of them are in use, which are cleaned by a designated staffer, using phenyl.

Drinking water is filtered and supplied in cans. This hostel has a bore well with pumping facility. There are ten rooms in the hostel, with an average of ten residents per room. Each room has windows, without any grill or mesh. There is no alternative source of electricity. The residents are not assigned any hostel maintenance related works. This hostel has cricket kits, volley ball and chessboard. There is a playground nearby. This hostel has a compound wall with a gate. As per records, medical doctors visit the hostel once in a month and Public Health Centre is three kilometers away.

The boarders have their lunch and dinner by sitting on the floor as there is no dining furniture. There are only three support staff including watchman and cook. They get fine rice and cooking is done on gas stoves. They get regular menu of breakfast, lunch and dinner. Often, boarders get bananas and biscuits in the evening. However, milk is not being given regularly. The breakfast is mostly pulihora or kichidi. They get to eat idli or upma only on Sundays or Monday. They get bathing and washing soaps and hair oil. Every boarder gets a plate, bed sheets, trunk box, text books and note books. They do not have tuition masters and special teaching classes at the hostel.

The boarders sleep on the floor. The hostel repairs are not carried out on a regular basis. Boarders do not have enough buckets and jugs, for bathing and other purposes. They complain that doctors are not visiting regularly. Supply of soaps and hair oil is not sufficient. They do not have prescribed text books and not enough notebooks. Quality of vegetable curries and pulses is very low and are almost watery. Specific protein rich food is not given.

According to the hostel warden, with residential schools on the rise, boarders' strength in social welfare hostels is on the decline. The hostel building requires repairs. There aren't enough bathrooms. Adequate dining furniture, tuition masters to give focused attention and clarifying doubts of boarders is necessary to help boarders.

The routine complaints and inadequacies of social welfare hostels have been noticed in this hotel too. It has also been observed that nutritious diet and books, which the hostel should provide are not supplied.

Social Welfare Hostel, Pasalamadla, Janagama district

This is a government hostel, with eight rooms. It has forty to forty five boarders per room. This hostel has eight bathrooms, all of which are in use. It has eight toilets, and all are in use. Every day toilets are cleaned by a staffer. They use ground water, using a bore well. There is no pumping facility. They also get water from panchayat supply system. The rooms have windows and grills to support them. There are no waste bins and no alternatives to electricity, such as emergency lighting.

Hostel residents are not assigned any works. They do not have sports equipment and facilities. The residents eat by sitting on the floor. The staff includes a watchman, five cooks and one kamati. They live nearby. The hostel warden lives in Janagaon, about eight kilometers away. They get fine rice to eat, and regular menu of food. They are promised four pairs of clothes but only two pairs have been given. They get four soaps, for every three months. Hair oil is also given. One plate, glass and trunk box are also given to each resident. They get four to five small notebooks and there is only one tuition master for all subjects. This hostel neither has a compound wall nor a gate.

The boarders do not have beds, and all of them sleep on the floor. They have shortage of plates, glasses, water jugs and buckets. They do not have enough bathrooms as per resident population.

There are only ten bathrooms and ten toilets for 200 boarders. Drinking water quality and supply is also a problem. Boarders are drinking water from bore well, which is hard and with possible fluoride content. The doctor visits are not regular. There is no playground and no sports equipment. Soaps and hair oil is not supplied as per requirement.

This hostel too presents a similar picture like the other hostels in the study. It is astonishing that forty to forty five boarders share a single room.

Media Reports

Sakshi (a Telugu daily newspaper) reported a story on hostel conditions, on 31st December, 2016. It mentions following conditions in various hostels in Telangana State.

1. In Sangareddy district, ST boys hostel in Zahirabad, there are 248 boarders who sleep on the floor as they do not have bed sheets. Only sixty bed sheets were supplied this year. Boarders had to bring their own bed sheets and rugs.
2. In the same district, in Bagareddypalle village, in BC (A) hostel, there are 215 school and college going boarders. There is huge sewage cesspool in the hostel premises. In the nearby SC (A) hostel, toilets are unusable completely.
3. In Medak, ST hostel, with 114 boarders, only seventy boarders were given bed sheets.

4. In Regode BC hostel, with forty five boarders, only twenty received bed sheets.
5. In Vikarabad district, Tharur BC hostel there are 140 boarders. The fifteen boarders, who joined later, did not get bed sheets. They sleep on the floor, using plastic sheets. There are no doors for bathrooms. Despite eight toilets, only three are in usable conditions. However, due to lack of water, boarders go for open defecation. Pigs roam freely in hostel premises.

It also reports about other hostels, where doors are not proper, windows are without doors or grills. Winter is horrible for boarders, without bed sheets and floor spreads, to cover themselves. There is no hot water facility.

Andhra Jyothi, another Telugu daily newspaper reported on 24th January, 2017, on hostel conditions in Andhra Pradesh.

1. In BC girl's hostel in Kamavarapukota, West Godavari district bathrooms do not have doors. In Bacchupeta girl's hostel, Machilipatnam town, Krishna district, there are no doors to toilets and bathrooms. Girls have to go for open defecation.
2. In Kurnool town, SC-1 hostel, for 110 inmates there are no toilets or bathrooms. In Adoni town, SC-1 hostel with 107 boarders and BC Hostel with 221 boarders, there are no toilets and SC hostel inmates go for open defecation in the nearby burial ground.
3. In Pudimadaka village, Achyuthapuram mandal, Vishakhapatnam, a BC hostel was housed for long in a cyclone shelter. It was closed due to dilapidated conditions of the building on 4th August, 2016. However, on the insistence of parents it was restarted again on 19th September, 2016.
4. In Ranigarithota, Guntur, SC-2 girl's hostel, 180 students have to share five rooms.

Case studies indicate that facilities, amenities and basic infrastructure in the hostels is found wanting. With meager facilities and inadequate nutritional diet, all round development of the students residing in the hostel is not possible. The provision of hostels for the children hailing from oppressed sections of the community like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes is an important social welfare measure. The role of these hostels in their education advancement is considerable.¹¹

The educational advancement and amelioration of the disadvantaged sections, especially of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through various welfare programmes is crucial for transformation of Indian Society. In this connection, a comprehensive institutional care assumes importance. Such a care fosters learning and enables the children in social welfare hostels to remain in schools rather than dropping out of them.

A Committee on Residential Accommodation in the year 1965 observed that:¹² "A Hostel is not just a place for living; it is also an important centre of education. For most students there is no satisfactory substitute for a proper hall of residence, if they are to participate fully in the education of the students by the students.... Adding it further observed that, a group of young men and women, coming from different backgrounds, both domestic as well as educational, one expects in hostels to imbibe the attitudes and qualities necessary for living together and to participate in significant

¹¹Laxmi S., Challenges in ~Indian~Education, New Delhi: Sterling, 1993, P.6.

¹²Govt. of India, Ministry of Education, Report of the Committee on Residential Accommodation for Students and Teachers, 1965.

measure in the efforts to organise some of the conditions and aspects of such communal living. A hostel thus provides a significant component of the education of the growing generation, students often learn as much or more from each other than from their teachers and this educated truth can be realized in a large measure through living in a hostel”.

In the light of above observation, the case studies of social welfare hostels in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana do not match the desired expectations of residential hostels. Much needs to be done to achieve the objectives for which the hostels have been set up. It needs to be understood that boys and girls need a congenial atmosphere for their growth and development. The hostels should be a place where they are nurtured properly to become responsible citizens of the society.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

Social welfare hostels have always been an aspirational destination for millions of downtrodden sections. They are a means to educate their children. The core objective of social welfare hostels has been to respond to the needs of downtrodden families, who are disempowered in many ways. However, for years, these hostels could not get out of a cyclical rut of under-funding, under-utilisation and corruption. Children, small and big, have been promised many facilities and accessories, through these hostels, but the delivery has always been less than the demand and need. The quality of services, food, water and other facilities has always remained wanting.

Governments, intermittently, have also made sincere attempts to improve the hostel system to enable proper stay conditions for the boarders. However, every new attempt could deliver for a period and could not sustain beyond a point. Regulation, supervision and oversight was sought to be improved. Many methods have been brought in. However, at the cutting edge level, not much difference could be seen.

The Hostel Management System, introduced in united Andhra Pradesh, which continued after the bifurcation of the state into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, was a revolutionary attempt. It has been brought in with deep thought and in great detail. The monitoring level increased and was on a day-to-day basis, while the decision-making has been liberalized and quickened. The hostel wardens were given more powers, while being subject to supervision and oversight. Procurement of materials, for food and other needs, was made more innovative, primarily to improve quality and quantity.

The information available on HMS has some glaring information gaps for both the states. Most hostels which have registered in the initial years did not continue with the practice. Thus, principal changes in reporting, supervision and oversight seem to have been lost. Variations in registrations, and unexplained increase/ decrease in boarding, in years point to this fact. Given the current scenario in hostels in both the states, after six years of HMS introduction, an external evaluation should have been done, to fix gaps and plug loopholes.

Despite the innovative initiatives, information from case studies and other sources prove that hostel conditions have not improved. The hostel culture remained as it is, plagued by shortages and poor quality. Pilferages and corruption continued and attitudes of staff did not improve. There is no desirable improvement in the facilities provided to boarders. The funds for maintenance continue to remain a problem. Government has long back made funds available for social welfare hostels a priority, through a 'green channel' list. However, this has not removed the barrier for repairs and maintenance.

The bureaucracy involved with social welfare seems to think that HMS is a solution. HMS is only a mechanism to communicate information faster and easier. Without supervision and watchdog roles performed by various stakeholders, including senior public servants, social welfare hostels are not going to improve.

New constructions, in the form of additional facilities, have been slow to come, with some variance between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. However, in both the states, a shift in priorities is in the offing, from social welfare hostels, to focus on residential schools, ashram schools, gurukuls, etc. On the face

of it, integration of schooling and boarding appears better, but it has the possibility of ‘segregating’ children from regular social stream, which has the potential consequence of alienation and isolation.

Most hostels seem to suffer from lack of enough bathrooms and toilets. Daily maintenance is a problem with no or inadequate staff, no or irregular water supplies and probably improper toilet training for youngsters. Water supply for drinking and other purposes has always been cited as a critical issue, both in terms of quality and quantity. Severe water shortage is a common problem for many hostels. Most hostels depend on groundwater and direct consumption of the same, without any cleaning. In many places, groundwater has high Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and most possibly fluorine content. Water storage is also a concern. An overhead sintex tank serves storage purpose. However, this is not maintained properly. Hostel mates, unlike their counterparts in private schools, do not have facility to carry water to schools.

Sanitation, solid waste disposal and sewerage outflows have been completely ignored. Cleanliness and hygiene is an individual and also systemic issue which calls for sustainable measures. With toilets, for urination and defecation, in bad condition, at the schools and also in hostels, social welfare boarders become habituated to open urination and defecation. Girls find it much more difficult. Invariably, lack of water and toilets and other basic facilities adversely impact personality development, physically and mentally.

Cooking quality is not only a skill, but also includes decisions. It is not just about taste, based on the appropriateness of the ingredients. It is also about quantities. Curries and sambhar are watery with less vegetables and pulses. Other protein and nutrition fortifying food such as milk, meat and eggs have been a problem themselves. Vegetable cooking has also become expensive, starting with selection, grading, cleaning, peeling and cutting. Large number of boarders would require sufficient number to do this daily chore without compromising on quality. Cooking staff is often manned by a single person, because it is seen as part time engagement. Utensils for cooking, washing and cleaning also require appropriate number of staff. In most hostels, this entire gamut of activities is most probably done by a single person. Though, additional daily wage labourers are also involved, but it is difficult to sustain them.

The quality of food is also a serious concern. Eggs are under-quality because of corruption and maximum cap on price. The milk supplied in many hostels is watery. Ubiquitous corruption in quality and quantity of food continues.

The room space in hostels is being over utilized, with more number than possible. Hence, bedding and wardrobe facilities are minimal, if not absent completely. Privacy and safety of personal belongings, including money, certificates, etc., is out of the scope of this kind of boarding. One trunk box, per student, on the floor, is everything for the boarder – wardrobe, safety box, etc. With space constraints, even these trunk boxes occupy more space when more than twenty people share a twelve feet by twelve feet dimension room. Some rooms are of lesser dimension. Windows, especially in hostels housed in private buildings, are absent or rudimentary as well. In some hostels, ventilation of air and light is average and minimal. However, wherever ventilation is good, often in hostels located on the edges of towns and villages, mosquito menace is a constant threat.

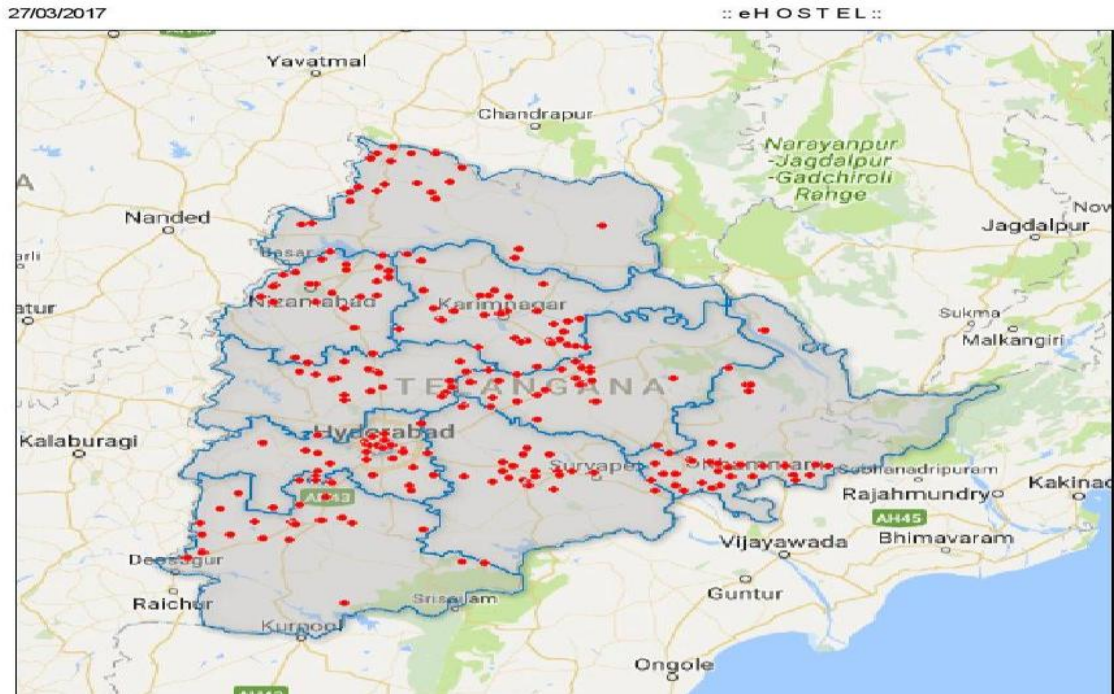
Sports facilities are mostly absent and in some hostels, they are rudimentary. Play grounds

are also missing, unless the hostel has its own premises, with a compound wall secured with boundaries. A compound wall is necessary for a girl's hostel. However, girls have often been victims of staff. Mechanisms have to be evolved to increase supervision and oversight to prevent sexual victimization of girls. Even in this case too, both individual and systemic preparation would be helpful. Bathrooms, toilets and sleeping areas for girls have to be secure from intrusion, including cameras. The supplies of notebooks, clothes, toiletries continue to be a challenge for most boarders. They do not get them as per norms. Corruption is the root cause of under-supplies and a quality of supplies is also an issue here.

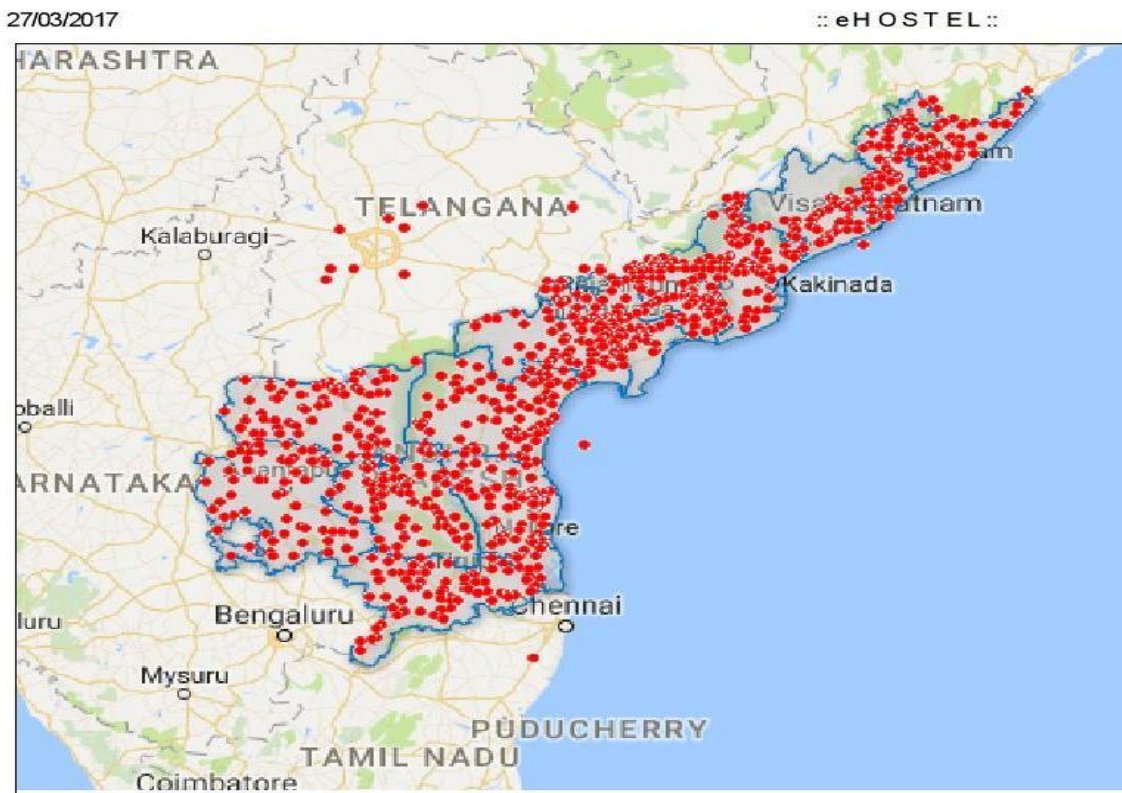
No doubt, with so many challenges, concerns and problems faced by their children, parents belonging to dalit and adivasi communities would think twice to send them to social welfare hostels. The vulnerability of girls increases the anxiety of parents. Social welfare hostels have to be improved to deliver services to boarders efficiently and qualitatively. With every day monitoring, timely decision-making and encouragement of frequent visits by higher officials social welfare hostels could definitely be better living places. In spite of measures and initiatives, enough has not been done to make these systems efficient. This calls for an in depth study, in collaboration with state governments, taking into consideration the perception of critical stakeholders. Such a study can help in revealing the factors that act as barriers to the betterment of social welfare hostels. In any case, participation of boarders and their parents, empowering them in voicing their concerns, swift and effective response to aberrations, complaints and victimization, creation of redressal mechanisms and space for innovative ideas (not necessarily dependent on technology) should also be part of corrective measures.

The goal of social welfare hostels is to prepare, train and empower children from disadvantaged, poor communities to become better citizens of this country. Hostels should also be turned into centres of learning, personality development and discipline inculcating centres. With adequate facilities and a good environment for mental and physical growth, hostels can transform the boarders into potential builders of the nation. Social welfare hostels should be designed and maintained in such a way that the purpose for which they were set up is fulfilled and target group derives benefits due to them.

Telangana Hostels on a map



Andhra Pradesh Hostels on a map



Some Photographs



Some News Items on Social Welfare Hostels

Photographs in print media depicting the hindrances faced by boarders due to lack of basic facilities in hostels in Sangareddy district as reported in "Enadu" Telugu daily



సంగారెడ్డిలోని ఎస్సీ పి బాలికల వసతిగృహంలో మురుగునీటి పంపిన కాలువ



కలంపగర్ జిల్లాలోని ఓ వసతి గృహంలో మంచాల చికాకించినవసుల విద్యార్థులు

మహబూబ్ నగర్ జిల్లా కేంద్రంలోని ఎస్సీ బాలికల వసతిగృహంలో స్నానాలు గడులు పట్టగా లేకపోవడంతో బయటనే స్నానం చేస్తున్న విద్యార్థులు



రంగారెడ్డి జిల్లా కేంద్రంలోని మండల కేంద్రంలోని దళిత బాలికల వసతిగృహంలో సెడుబాడుతున్న పైకప్పు

వసతుల్లేక విలవిల..

సంక్షేమ వసతిగృహాల్లో విద్యార్థుల సమస్యలు వర్ణనాతీతం

తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్రంలోని భారత, గిరిజన, వెనకబడిన తరగతుల విద్యార్థుల సంక్షేమ వసతి గృహాల్లో సమస్యలు ముసురుతున్నాయి. చాలా చాలని మరుగుదొడ్లు, స్నానశుభ్రతను విద్యార్థుల ఆవేషం వ్యభాషించి ఉన్నాటిలో సైతం పరిశుభ్రత కల్పించి దురియ్యాలను నివారించే మట్టి ప్రపాటికైనా స్నానశుభ్రతలో విద్యార్థులకు సౌకర్యం అందేలా కాస్త అప్రోవ్ బాటలో స్నానశుభ్రత గడులు, మరుగుదొడ్లు సరిపడా లేకపో



అద్దూరులో కనిపిస్తున్న ఈ భవనం సంగారెడ్డి జిల్లా వాయవ్యాభివృద్ధిలోని ఎస్సీ బాలికల వసతి గృహం. 4 లంకలతో కూడిన ఈ భవనంలో వర్ష మరుగుదొడ్డి, స్నానాలు గోడ లేవు. రాజాపురం నుండి విద్యార్థులకు బస్ చేస్తున్నారు. ప్రాంతంలోని పాఠశాలలలో 11 మరుగుదొడ్డు-పైకప్పు గడులు ఉండగా 5 మాత్రమే వినియోగంలో ఉంటాయి.

పాలు హానికరం.. గుడ్లు నామమాత్రం!

(మొదటి పేజీ తరువాయి)

చేసేవి. పెళ్లవస్తే మార్కెట్ తరలిస్తాం' అని గుడ్ల వ్యాపారి ఒకరు తెలిపారు. వంద మంది విద్యార్థులన్న ఒక్కో వసతిగృహంలో ఒక్కో గుడ్డుపై రూ.1.50 చొప్పున మిగులు లెక్కకట్టినా రోజుకి రూ.150, చొప్పున 10 నెలలకు రూ.24 వేల గోల్ మూల్ జరుగుతోంది. స్థానికంగా ఎవరైనా వచ్చి ఆడిగితే రెండు మూడు రోజులు పాలు, గుడ్లు ఇస్తున్నారు. లేకుంటే ఇవ్వడం లేదు. ఉన్నతాధికారులు వచ్చినప్పుడు సమస్యలు చెబితే వార్డెన్ చేతిలో దెబ్బలు తాయం అంటూ సంగారెడ్డి జిల్లాలో విద్యార్థిని ఆమెను వ్యక్తం చేసింది. విద్యార్థులకు ఉదయాన్నే 50 మి. లీ. పాలు ఇస్తున్నారు. అవి కూడా కాలంచెల్లిన హాని

కరమైన పాలు. వార్డెన్లు నిబంధనలకు విరుద్ధంగా టెట్రాపాక్ పాలును విద్యార్థులకు ఇస్తున్నారు. పాల బ్యాచ్ లో పాలు ఆర లీటరు రూ.30 వరకు ఉండగా, టెట్రాపాక్ పాలు రూ.20-22 కే దొరుకుతున్నాయి. హాస్టల్ లో లీటరు పాలకు నీళ్లు కలిపి 30 మందికి ఇస్తున్నారు. బొబ్బిల్లు శనగలతో కూడిన ఆల్కహాళం సాయంత్రం ఇవ్వాలి. వసతిగృహాల్లో ఆల్కహాళాన్ని టోజన్ తో కలిపి వడ్డిస్తున్నారు. కూరల్లో ఎక్కువగా కూరగాయలు కనిపించవు. ఏదిగో పిల్లలకు రోజుకి కనీసం 2,500 కేలరీలు అవసరం. సాయంత్రం త్వరగా టోజన్ చేస్తే పడుకనే ముందు గ్లాసు పాలు త్రాసుకోవాలి' అని యశోద ఆసుపత్రి డిప్ డిప్ న్యూట్రిషనిస్టు సుజాత క్షీ సెన్ తెలిపారు.

పాలు హానికరం.. గుడ్లు నామమాత్రం!

- భోజనంతో కలిపి అల్పాహారం
- వసతి గృహాల్లో మాయాజాలం
- పోషకాహారం కరరై పేద విద్యార్థుల వెతలు

ఈనాడు - హైదరాబాద్

పిట్ట గుడ్లు లాంటి కోడి గుడ్లు. కాలం చెల్లిన టెట్రాపాక్ పాలు.. లేదా నాణ్యత లేని నీళ్లపాలు. కూరగాయలు కనిపించని కూరలు.. ఇవీ సంక్షేమ వసతి గృహాల్లో విద్యార్థులకు అభివృద్ధి పథకం ద్వారా పోషకాల మాట చెప్పడెదురుగా.. ఆకలి కూడా తీరని పరిమాణంలో ఈ విద్యార్థులకు ఆహారం అందుతోంది. మూడు నుంచి ఏడో తరగతి వరకు చదివే విద్యార్థులకు రూ.750, ఎనిమిది నుంచి పది వరకు చదివే విద్యార్థులకు రూ.850 చొప్పున ప్రభుత్వం మెన్ టాక్ కింద చెల్లిస్తోంది. సన్నచి ర్యాష్ట్రా రూపాయికే కిలో చొప్పున ఇస్తోంది. వీటితో నాణ్యమైన ఆహారాన్ని అందించవచ్చు కానీ, క్షేత్రస్థాయిలో పరిస్థితి భిన్నంగా ఉంది. గుడ్ల పేరుతో గోల్ మూల్: తెలంగాణలో 2,200 సంక్షేమ వసతి గృహాల్లో దాదాపు 2.5 లక్షల



జూన్ 29న ప్యాక్ చేసిన పాలిని. కాల పరిమితి 4 నెలలు. సంగారెడ్డి జిల్లా మన్సూర్ ఎస్సీ వసతి గృహంలో విద్యార్థులకు నేటికీ ఇవే ఇస్తున్నారు. ★ సాధారణ గుడ్డులో సగం బరువుండే చిన్న గుడ్డు ఇది. సంగారెడ్డి జిల్లా నారాయణపేట ఎస్సీ వసతి గృహ విద్యార్థులకు వీటినే పంపిణీ చేస్తున్నారు

మంది విద్యార్థులు ఉంటున్నారు. మెహూ ప్రకారం వారానికి ఒక్కో విద్యార్థికి 4 గుడ్లు ఇవ్వాలి. గుడ్లు బరువు సాధారణంగా 55-70 గ్రాములు ఉంటుంది. ధర రూ.3.50 - రూ.4.50 మధ్య ఉంటుంది. విద్యార్థులకు ఇస్తున్న గుడ్డు బరువు 30 గ్రాములు దాటడం లేదు. తక్కువ ధరకు దొరికే ఈ చిన్న గుడ్లను సాధారణ ధరకే కాసు గోలు చేసినట్లు రికార్డుల్లో చూపుతూ వాడెన్ను మాయాజాలం చేస్తున్నారు. టోకు వ్యాపారులతో స్థానికంగా ఒప్పందం కుదుర్చుకుని వారానికి మూడు గుడ్లను తెప్పించుకుంటారు. బిల్లులు వెల వారీగా చెల్లిస్తుంటారు. 'ఈ చిన్న గుడ్డు వివశిలో రూపాయిన్నర తక్కువ ధరకే లభిస్తుంది. ఇవన్నీ మేము హాస్టల్ కు సరఫరా (మిగతా 2లో)

Children sleeping on the floor without proper bed sheets, floor spreads and cooked dishes without lids in Ponnuru in Ananthapuramu district as reported in "Andhra Jyoti" Telugu daily dated 24th January 2017



పొన్నూరులోని హాస్టల్ గదిలో దుప్పటి లేకుండా నేలపై నిద్రిస్తున్న విద్యార్థులు; అసంతులనం ఎన్నో హాస్టల్లో ముష్టస్థం

దుప్పటి ఏదీ?

వసతి గృహాలు కావు; శాప గృహాలు.. కఠిక నేలపైనే విద్యార్థుల పడక

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| <p>దుప్పట్టు లేక చలికి చిలవల తాగునీటి కోసం అష్టకష్టాలు శిథిల భవనాల్లో బిక్కు బిక్కు ముద్దన్నం.. సీక్స్ చాలే మెనూ 'అంధ్రజ్యోతి' విజిట్ లో వెల్లడి</p> | <p>(ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి న్యూస్ నెట్ వర్క్) సంక్షేమ వసతిగృహాల పేరులోనే సంక్షేమం. క్షేత్రస్థాయిలో మాత్రం దారుణమైన పరిస్థితి కనిపిస్తుంది. తాగడానికి నీరు లేక.. పడుకోవడానికి సరైన వసతి లేక.. ఎముకలు కొరికే చరిలో కప్పకొసేం</p> | <p>దుకు కనీసం దుప్పట్టు లేక వసతిగృహాల విద్యార్థులు నానా అగణాట్లు పడుతున్నారు. టోబాకో, కాన్సెట్రిక్ తదితర అవసరాలకు ఒక్కో విద్యార్థికి ప్రభుత్వం నెలకు రూ.950 అర్హు చేస్తోంది. కానీ ఆ స్థాయిలో విద్యార్థులకు సౌకర్యాలు</p> <p style="text-align: right;">మిగతా 11వ పేజీలో</p> |
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Tue, 24 January 2017
 epaper.andhrasjyothy.com/c/16315359

Signs of insensitive administration

Children have no place to sit and read. The hostel room seen is used for multiple purposes

సజ్జవి ఈ విద్యార్థుల ఫీట్లు యాశానా? వీరి చదువు ఇక్కడే.. నిద్రా ఇక్కడే! అయ్యో...? ప్రమాదవశాత్తూ అక్కర్లుంది పదిహేనే అంటారా? అది వారి విధి.. ఖర్చు! అప్పుడు మరి.. మన నిర్మాణ వికాసాల్లో చాలామందికి చదువులు ఇలాగే సాగుతున్నాయి. దాని ద్వారా నిద్రా అంధ్రజ్యోతి విద్యార్థులను కుక్కేస్తున్నాడు. స్థలం లేక విద్యార్థులకు ఇలా సజ్జవి దిక్కుతున్నాయి. నాగర్ కర్నూల్ జిల్లా కేంద్రంలోని ఎస్సీ-వి హాస్టల్ లో పరిస్థితి ఇది.

'చలి'ంచే వారేలి?

దుప్పట్టు లేక చలికి వణుకుతున్న వసతి గృహాల విద్యార్థులు

- గదులకు తిలుపుట్టేవు.. కిటికీలకు రాక్కట్టేవు.. నేలపైనే నిద్ర
- బాతగారంలు లేక అందుకుంటు చుట్టూ సాగుతుంది
- మరుగుదొడ్లు కరువు.. చెట్లు, పొదలే దిక్కు.. అద్దె భవనాల్లోని హాస్టల్ కు వీలైనా దారుణం

సాక్షి నికెట్ వర్క్: ఎవ్వరికీ చలికాలం వచ్చేసింది. అంతే పహాళంగా విద్యార్థులను కట్టించి చుట్టూ ముట్టాయి. ఏవిధ హాస్టల్ లోని పట్టణ చలికి గణనక పటికీపాడుతున్నాడు. ప్రభుత్వం పూర్తిస్థాయిలో దుప్పట్టు వసతికి సమకాలీనం అయ్యే వ్యాప్తంగా ఎస్సీ, ఎస్టీ, బీసీ హాస్టల్ లోని విద్యార్థులు రాత్రిపూట చలికి చిలవబడుతున్నారు. దుప్పట్టు లేకుండా తోడు హాస్టల్ లకు తిలుపులు, కిటికీలు లేకపోవడంతో చలికాలం దయనియంగా మారింది. కొందరు విద్యార్థులు ఇంటి నుంచి దుప్పట్టు తెచ్చుకుంటు.. వాటిని ఇద్దరు ముగ్గురు వదిలి కప్పిపెట్టుతున్నారు. చాలా వసతి గృహాల్లో మంచాలు లేకపోవడంతో నానా అంధ్రజ్యోతి పడుకోవాల్సి వస్తుంది. దీనికి తోడు మోతాదు వసతి తుల లేమి విద్యార్థులను మరింత ఇబ్బంది పెడుతోంది. హాస్టల్ వదిలరాల్లో పెరిగిన విద్యుత్తు కట్టలు, ముందుగా కాదంటూ చాలామంది విద్యార్థులు అబ్బాయిలు. దీంతో తరచూ విద్యార్థులు అబ్బాయిల వారినే పడుతున్నారు. అద్దె భవనాల్లో దిక్కు.. చాలా ప్రాంతాల్లో హాస్టల్ అద్దె భవనాల్లోనే కొనసాగుతున్నాయి. దీంతో ఇరుకు గదుల్లో విద్యార్థులను కుక్కేస్తున్నారు. కాస్తా ప్రాంతాల్లో

మిగతా 7వ పేజీలో

Some pictures of hostels in Ananthapur and West Godavari districts as reported in 'Andhra Jyoti' daily dated 24th January, 2017

Congested rooms with almost 30 children in one room, experiencing water scarcity and being provided poor quality food.

దుప్పటి ఏదీ?

(మొదటి పేజీ తరువాయి)
అందరం లేదు. ఒక్క కేంద్ర, రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వాల సన్న బారక, స్వచ్ఛ ఆంధ్ర ప్రదేశ్ పేరుతో ప్రతిష్ఠాత్మకంగా కార్యక్రమాల నిర్వహిస్తున్నా వసతిగృహాల్లో మాత్రం కనీసం మురుగుదొడ్డు లేక విద్యార్థులు అగణాన్ని పడుతున్నారు. రాష్ట్రవ్యాప్తంగా అతికఠిన వసతిగృహాల కనీసం సొకాల్లు లేని అద్దె బహుశాలోనే నడుస్తుండటంతో అవి విద్యార్థుల పాలిటి కావగృహాలుగా మారుతున్నాయి. నరేష్ వసతిగృహాల్లో పరిస్థితులను తెలుసుకొనేందుకు 'ఆంధ్రజ్యోతి' ఆన్లైన్ విజిట్ నిర్వహించింది. ఈ పరిశీలనలో తెలుగుదానిన దుప్పిలై ప్రత్యేక కథనం ఇది.

బహిరంగ భోజనం శృణానవాటికకు

బాలికల వసతిగృహాల్లో మురుగుదొడ్డు పరిస్థితి పుటి దారుణంగా ఉంది. పశ్చిమగోదావరి జిల్లా కామవరపులోల వీసీ బాలికల హాస్టల్లో బాలికామితలుపులు ఉడిపొయాయి. కృష్ణ జిల్లా మచిలీపట్నం బహుమిల బాలికల హాస్టల్లో మురుగుదొడ్డుకు తలుపులు లేవు. స్నానం చేయాలన్నా, టాయిలెటిక వెళ్లాలన్నా విద్యార్థినులు

వచ్చువాయి ఎన్నీ వసతి గృహంలో స్వయంగా విద్యార్థులు వర్షపునీరు తింటున్న దృశ్యం



తమ మునులను అడ్డుగా పెట్టుకుంటున్నారు. చిత్రూరు జిల్లా పి. కొత్తకోట వీసీ హాస్టల్లో 80 మంది విద్యార్థులు ఉన్నారు. వీరందరికీ ఒక్కటే టాయిలెట్. అనంతపురం జిల్లా కేంద్రంలోని ఎన్నీ హాస్టల్లో మురుగుదొడ్డు ఉన్నా విద్యార్థులు గుర్రాజా కేంద్రాన్ని సాకుతో తాగు వేయడం

గమనార్గం. దీంతో విద్యార్థులు అరుబయటకు బహిరంగ మికి వెళ్లాలి వల్లంది. కర్నూలు నగరంలోని ఎన్నీ-1 హాస్టల్లో 110 మంది ఉండగా మురుగుదొడ్డు, స్నానపు గదులు లేవు. అదేని ఎన్నీ-1 హాస్టల్లో 107 మంది, మండగిరి వీసీ హాస్టల్ 221 మంది విద్యార్థులు ఉన్నారు. ఒక్క మురుగుదొడ్డు లేదు. అదేని ఎన్నీ హాస్టల్ విద్యార్థులు బహిరంగము కోసం రాత్రి వెళ్ న్నకాన వాటికకు వెళుతున్నారు.

శిథిల గృహాలు.. తుఫాను పెల్లర్లతో వసతి

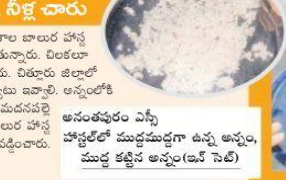
విశాఖపట్నం జిల్లాలోని అచ్చుతాపరం మండలం హుడిమడకలో వీసీ బాలల వసతిగృహాన్ని తుఫాన్ పెల్లర్ల కేంద్రంలో నిర్వహిస్తున్నారు. ఇది శిథిలావస్థకు చేరడంతో గత ఏడాది ఆగస్టు 4న మూసినేవారు. అయితే విద్యార్థుల తల్లిదండ్రులు అభ్యంతరం తెలపడంతో తిరిగి సెప్టెంబర్ 18న ప్రాచారంవించారు. అనకాపల్లి పట్టణంలోని గాంధీ నగరంలో ఉన్న వీసీ బాలల వసతిగృహం బహుశా 1978లో నిర్మించారు. ప్రస్తుతం 80 మంది విద్యార్థులు ఉన్నారు. హుడిమడక తుఫాన్వల భవనం బాగా దెబ్బతి

గిద్దూరులోని వీసీ హాస్టల్ గదులు వేరాయి. ప్రహారీ కులాకాలేకపోవడంతో తరచూ వివసర్థులు హాస్టల్లోకి వస్తున్నారు. నెల్లూరు జిల్లాలోని వాకాడు వీసీ బాలల హాస్టల్ను పురాతన శిథిల పెట్టెలో నిర్వహిస్తున్నారు. రేకులు పగలి పోవడంతో రాత్రి పూట

నుండి, శ్వాస సుబి పెట్టులాడి పడుతున్నాయి. ఎప్పుడు ఏ ప్రమాదం జరుగుతుంటేనే విద్యార్థులు భయపడుతున్నారు. ప్రకాశం జిల్లా కర్నూరు సుబి పెట్టులాడి పడుతున్నాయి. ఎప్పుడు ఏ ప్రమాదం జరుగుతుంటేనే విద్యార్థులు భయపడుతున్నారు. ప్రకాశం జిల్లా కర్నూరు సుబి పెట్టులాడి పడుతున్నాయి. ఎప్పుడు ఏ ప్రమాదం జరుగుతుంటేనే విద్యార్థులు భయపడుతున్నారు.

మంచు, వగడి పూట నూర్రక్కతో విద్యార్థులు జబ్బందులు పడుతున్నారు.

కానరాని ట్యూటర్లు పడే తరగతి పుటి



అనంతపురం ఎన్నీ హాస్టల్లో ముక్కముక్కగా ఉన్న అన్నం, ముద్ద తల్లివ అన్నం (బున్ గుట్)



అనంతపురం జిల్లాలోని ఓ వసతిగృహంలో బడుకు గదుల్లో నిద్రిస్తున్న విద్యార్థులు

క్షలు నమీమస్తున్నా చాలా హాస్టల్లో స్టడీ క్లబులు, ట్యూటర్ల జాడీ కనిపించలేదు. ప్రకాశం జిల్లాలో అత్యంత హాస్టల్లో స్టడీ క్లబులు జరగడం లేదు. జిల్లా కేంద్రమై ఒంగోలులోని తూర్పుత్రిస్సయినపాలెంలోని ఎన్నీ వసతి గృహంలో వార్షిక సాయంత్రం అరు గుంటల నుంచి రాత్రి 9 గంటల వరకు వసతి గృహంలోనే ఉండి విద్యార్థులను వర్షవేళ్ళించాలి ఉండగా ఆయన ఏడు గుంటలకే వెళ్ళిపోయాడు. పడే తరగతి విద్యార్థుల కోసం నియమించిన ట్యూటర్లు గత కొద్ది రోజులుగా విద్యార్థులు మమ్మా కొడుకున్నట్లు విద్యార్థులు తెలిపారు. అధికారి పట్టణంలోని కాకానిపాలెం ఎన్నీ బాలల వసతి గృహంలో ట్యూటర్ కన్యక లేదు. కడప జిల్లా ప్రొద్దుటూరు నియోజక వర్గం రాజావెళ్ళం మండలం టంగుటూరు బాలల వసతి గృహంలో వార్షిక, సిబ్బంది ఎవరూ లేరు. మూడు రోజులకు ఒక సారి బడేలో నుంచి వార్షిక వస్త్ర అక్షుడ పనిచేసి సిబ్బంది ప్రొద్దుటూరు, రాయలసీమ ధర్మల్ వరకే ప్రాజెక్టు నుంచి వస్తుంటారు.



పశ్చిమ గోదావరి జిల్లా కణకులోని ఈ హాస్టల్ విద్యార్థులు వరికి వజరకాల్సివే

ఇరుకెరుకు గదులు.. ఒకే గదిలో 30 మంది

గుంటూరు నగరంలో సాంఘిక సంక్షేమ శాఖ బాలికల వసతి గృహాల్లో ఒకే గదిలో దాదాపు 30 మంది విద్యార్థులు ఉంటున్నారు. రాజీగాంధీ లోని ఎన్నీ-2 బాలికల వసతిగృహంలో 180 మంది విద్యార్థులు ఉన్నారు. వీరంతా కేవలం ఇరు గదుల్లోనే ఉంచాలి వల్లంది. అనంతపురం జిల్లా కడివి పట్టణంలోని వీసీ బాలల నక్షేమ వసతి గృహంలో ఒక్క గదిలో 20 మంది ఉంటున్నారు.

నీటికొరత..

రెండో రోజులకీసారి స్నానం

చాలా హాస్టల్లో రక్షిత మంచినీరు అన్న మాటే వినవడదు. కొన్ని బోళ్ళ స్నానం చేసేందుకు నీరు లేక విద్యార్థులు అగణాన్ని వెదాల్సి వస్తుంది. కడప జిల్లా పోరుమామిళ్ళలోని బాలికల వసతి గృహంలో 85 మంది విద్యార్థులు ఉన్నారు. ఇక్కడ తాగునీరు లేదు. మూడు రోజులకు ఒకసారి ట్యాంక్ ద్వారా నీరు పరా సేసారు. అది సరిపోవడం లేదు. కాలక్రమాల తీర్చుకోవాలన్నా, స్నానం చేయాలన్నా విద్యార్థినులు తీవ్ర జబ్బందులు పడుతున్నారు. నీటి కొరత కారణంగా అరు బయట బహిరంగమికి వెళుతున్నారు. పోరుమామిళ్ళలోని బాలల వసతి గృహం విద్యార్థులు అరు కిలోమీటరు దూరంలో ఉన్న దేవాలయం వద్దకు వెళ్ళి నీటిని తెచ్చుకుంటున్నారు. నీటి సమస్య కారణంగా రెండు రోజులకు ఒకసారి స్నానం చేస్తున్నారు. చిత్రూరు జిల్లా యాదవరం బాలికల హాస్టల్లో ధోలేనినీ వాటిలో పిల్లల పక్క వెళ్ళాలంటున్నాయి. కర్నూలు జిల్లా మండగిరి వీసీ హాస్టల్లో నీటి సమస్య అతికఠినం ఉంది. చాలా సార్లు స్నానం చేయకుండానే బడికి వెళ్ళువామని ఇక్కడ విద్యార్థులు వాపోయారు.

Poor quality of rice being served in Mannuru BC girl's hostel, Sangareddy district

సన్నబియ్యం.. ముద్ద అన్నం

- వసతి గృహాల్లో నాణ్యతలేని భోజనం
- కడుపునొండా తినలేని దుష్పాక
- అర్ధాకలితో విద్యార్థులు

సంగారెడ్డి నుంచి తనాడు ప్రత్యేక ప్రతినిధి

'విద్యార్థులు కడుపునొండా తినాలి. ఎవరూ అర్ధాకలితో ఉండకూడదు. మనం తింటున్న నాణ్యమైన ఆహారమే వారికీ అందాలి. అందుకే ఎస్సీ, ఎస్టీ, మైనారిటీ విద్యార్థులందరికీ సన్నబియ్యం సరఫరా చేస్తున్నాం' - పలు పంపరార్థి పాఠశాలలు, ఉన్నతవిద్యాలయాల చెబుతున్న మాటలెవరిది

పాఠశాలలకు, వసతి గృహాలకు సరఫరా చేస్తున్న బియ్యం సన్నగానే ఉంటున్నాయి. వందేతే అన్నం ముద్దగా తయారవుతోంది. సరిగా ఉడకడం లేదు. దీంతో విద్యార్థులు తినడానికి ఇబ్బంది పడుతున్నారు. పాఠశాల విద్యార్థులకు పాఠశాలలోనే సరఫరా కాకుండా రాసిన లేఖలోని సాధారణమిది.

ప్రభుత్వం సరఫరా చేస్తున్న సన్నబియ్యంతో చేసిన అన్నం చేదా పులిసోర ముద్దగా తయారవుతోంది. నాణ్యత లేకుండా ఉండటంతో వాటిని తినలేక విద్యార్థులు అర్ధాకలితో ఉంటున్నారు. ముద్దగా ఉండి గుంట కొట్టగానే కడుపులో ఎలుకలు పరిగెడుతుంటాయి. కంటి ముందు అన్నం.. కడుపునొండా తినడామంటి ముద్ద దిగు



మహ్యూర్ వీసీ బాలికల వసతిగృహంలో పట్టిస్తున్న అన్నం ■ నారాయణభేడ్ ఎస్సీ గురుకులంలో విద్యార్థులకు ఇస్తున్న పులిసోర ■ వసతి గృహాలకు సరఫరా అవుతున్న బియ్యం ఇవే..

పరిస్థితి ఉడికే ఉడకని బియ్యం, ముద్దగా అన్నం, రాష్ట్రంలోని సుక్షేమ వసతి గృహాల్లో పాఠశాలల్లో ముద్దాన్నం తోటన సమయంలో పిల్లల పరిస్థితి ఇది.

సరఫరాలో గోలమాలో!

విద్యార్థులు కడుపునొండా తినాలని, పోషకాహారం లభించాలని ప్రభుత్వం సమర్థకం' ఏడా కోట్లాది రూపాయల వ్యయంతో సన్నబియ్యం పంపాన్ని అమలు చేస్తోంది. కిలో బియ్యం రూ. 32 నుంచి రూ. 35కి లాభాన్ని కొనుగోలు చేసి, పాఠశాలలు, సుక్షేమ వసతి గృహాలకు సరఫరా చేస్తోంది. బియ్యం కొనుగోలు, సరఫరా బాధ్యత పాఠశాలలకే అప్పగించారు. క్షేత్రస్థాయిలో పిల్లలకు అందిన బియ్యంలో మాత్రం నాణ్యత లోపిస్తోంది. అంటే.. బియ్యం సేకరణ, సరఫరాలో గోలమాలో జరుగుతోంది. అనుమతించిన రకా

లకు బయలు ఇతర రకాల బియ్యాన్ని సరఫరా చేస్తున్నారు. పాఠశాలలకు అధికారులు బీజీటీ, సోనామ సూరి బియ్యాన్ని సరఫరా చేస్తున్నామని చెబుతున్నారు. కానీ, వసతి గృహాలకు చేరుతున్న బియ్యంలో మాత్రం నాణ్యత కనిపించడంలేదు. వందేతే అన్నం తినలేని విధంగా ఉంటోంది. బాదాపు అన్నం వసతి గృహాల్లో, పాఠశాలల్లో ఇవే పరిస్థితి గతంలో సన్నబియ్యం సరఫరా గోనెసంఘంలో జరిగింది. మూడు నెలలుగా పాలిథిన్ సంచుల్లో సరఫరాను ప్రారంభించారు. పాలిథిన్ సంచుల్లో వచ్చిన వాటినే సన్నబియ్యంగా పరిగణించాలంటూ కలికత్తె అధికారులకు సూచించారు. అయినా చాలా వసతి గృహాల్లో బియ్యం గోనెసంచుల్లోనే కనిపిస్తున్నాయి. 'మా వసతి గృహంలో రాత్రివేళల్లో అన్నం తినాలంటే ఇబ్బందిగా ఉంటోంది. అన్నం ఉడకడం లేదు. ముద్దలుగా ఉంది. వాక్చెస్ అడిగితే తమరు

కుంటున్నారు. దీంతో అర్ధాకలితో ఉంటామని వస్తుంది.' అని సంగారెడ్డి జిల్లాలోని సుక్షేమ వసతి గృహ విద్యార్థి వ్యాఖ్యానించారు.

నేనుగా సరఫరాయే పరిష్కారం

సన్నబియ్యం, రేషన్ దుకాణాల ద్వారా కాకుండా నేరుగా వసతి గృహాలకు సరఫరా చేసే కార్యక్రమంపై సర్కారు జిల్లాల్లో అమలు చేశారు. దీంతో అన్ని పంపిణీ కేంద్రాలు వచ్చాయి. కిలో రూ. 32 పెట్టి కొనుగోలు చేస్తున్నప్పుడు అక్రమ లాభాపేరితో సరఫరా చేయడం, బయోమెట్రిక్ హామరు అమలు చేయడంతో అక్రమాలు తగ్గించవచ్చని కొందరు అధికారులు పేర్కొంటున్నారు.

నాణ్యతపై ప్రత్యేక నిఘా

సన్నబియ్యం నాణ్యత, సేకరణ, తనిఖీంపై ఈ ఏడాది ప్రత్యేక దృష్టిపెట్టాలి. తెలుపు రంగులోని ప్లాస్టిక్ బ్యాగ్లో సన్న బియ్యాన్ని సరఫరా చేస్తున్నాం. తద్వారా గోనె సంచుల్లో సరఫరా అవుతున్న బియ్యంపై బీజీటీ ముద్దా తేదా సన్నంగా తెలుస్తుంది. సన్నబియ్యం తీసుకునే ముందుగానే వాటిని యగ్షి చేయాలని ఇప్పటికే అధికారులు సన్నమైన ఆహారాన్ని, సన్నబియ్యం నాణ్యతలో పరిశీలనలు అధికారులు, మండల విద్యాధికారులు, పాఠశాలలకు అధికారులను బాధ్యులుగా చేశారు. ఈ చర్యలు తీసుకున్న తరువాత గత మూడు నెలలుగా మందుతున్న అన్నం నాణ్యత పెరిగినట్లు జిల్లా నుంచి నివేదికలు వస్తున్నాయి.

- సి పి అనంద్, కమిషనర్, పాఠశాలసరఫరాకాళి

