

Relationship between Type of Residence and Undergraduates' Academic Performance

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Providing accommodation for undergraduates poses an important problem to university administration in Sri Lanka. Providing accommodation facilities to all undergraduates during their study period is a difficult task for universities, especially as students have expectations of the universal provision of accommodation. This leads some students to reside in privately provided accommodation (boarding places) or in their own home during their university life. Assessing the effect that type of residence has on academic performance would help university administration in planning facilities improvements. The University of Kelaniya, situated in the greater Colombo area can be considered as representative of the situation in Sri Lanka. This study was conducted with the objective of identifying the relationship between the type of residence of students' on their academic performance. Data for the study was gathered from 180 third year accounting undergraduate students using a structured questionnaire and from academic records. Variance Analysis and cross tabulation were used to analyze the data; Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) at the end of second year was used as a dependent variable and type of residence (hostel, boarding place or own home) was identified as the independent variable.

Findings revealed that the type of residence had a significant effect on students' academic performance. Forty seven percent of students lived in university managed residential facilities during the second year of their studies, fifty-two percent of these students showed poor academic performances. Twenty nine and twenty four percent of students were staying at boarding places and at their own homes respectively. Percentage of students' reporting poor performances while staying at boarding houses was thirty two percent while thirty percent of students staying at their own homes showed poor performances. This study concludes that the type of residence has a significant effect on undergraduates' academic performance and students who reside with their parents perform better.

Key words: *academic performance, type of residence, cumulative grade point average, accommodation facilities, University administration*