

# Perception of International Students on Facilities Management Service Delivery at UTHM Students' Housing

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## ABSTRACT

Malaysia's higher education is now on a par with those of developed countries, including Britain, Germany and Australia. Recently, international students' enrolment has grown rapidly in Malaysia. This raises the demand for student housing. The establishment and development of students' housing is a challenge for many universities in Malaysia, as a result of the continuing extension of higher education and the internationalization policy of Malaysia which led to rising number of international students. Malaysia has become a strong force in international education there is a need to examine and understand how these students fit-in and perceive the facilities management services delivered in the students' housing of the universities. Therefore, the aim of this study is to evaluate the international students' perception on the facilities management service delivery at University Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) students' housing. The study identified the most important physical attributes that influence international students' perception on the facilities management service delivery in the study area. The quantitative data collection technique was employed in this study by use of face to face survey and a sample population of 210 international students was involved using stratified random sampling technique. The most important physical attributes that influence international students' perception was identified using SPSS (Version 20) in which descriptive statistics was used. The implication of the study is that it will help to formulate guidelines in terms of designs, construction and maintenance for future developments of students' housing.

**Keywords:** international students; facilities management; student housing and physical attributes

## INTRODUCTION

In today's competitive educational setting where students have many choices available, attributes that enable higher institutions of learning to attract and maintain more international students should be studied seriously. Universities that aimed

to gain competitive advantage in the future may need to begin searching for creative and effective means to attract, maintain and foster stronger relationships with international students. <sup>[1]</sup> International students have been described as a special asset in today's higher learning arena, and

some countries like Britain, United States and Australia has put in place some techniques to attract more students. [2] However, in the East Asian region some countries like Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia have expressed their intention of becoming education hubs of higher learning in the region. Most universities in Malaysia do give a great deal of importance in meeting students' expectations which is related to business organization. [1] Generally, the enrolment of international students in Malaysia has increased gradually since 1996, when several higher educational transformations were introduced to enable the entry of international students into universities. [3] The National Mission and 9th -10th Malaysia Plans set out the dream of moving Malaysia into a high-income knowledge-based economy by 2020. The National Higher Education Strategic Plan (NHESP) was formulated with a vision to transform higher education within the context of establishing Malaysia as an international hub of excellence for higher education. [4] More so, the target of NHESP is to have the total number of 200,000 international students by the year 2020. [5] It can be understood that there is a provision to accommodate this expansion from now to 2020 based on the internationalization policy for higher education in Malaysia which aimed at accelerating the inflow of international students to 150,000 by 2015. [6]

**Table 1.1: Enrolment of international students in Malaysian higher education institutions (NHESP, 2011-2015)**

Year	Public HEIs	Private HEIs	TOTAL
2007	14,324	33,604	47,928
2008	18,495	50,679	69,174
2009	22,456	58,294	80,750
2010	24,214	62,705	86,919

The international students' enrolment in private and public universities has increased from 40,525 in the year 2005, to 80,750 students, in the year 2009. [6] Therefore, Malaysia has become a strong

force in international education and they need to examine and understand how these students fit into and perceive the physical environment and the services delivered in their higher institutions of learning. [7] Similarly, University Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) is among the Universities in Malaysia that have witnessed an increase in the number of international students. According to the UTHM International Office, (2014) the statistical data has shown that the number of international students increased from seventeen (17) students, in 2007 to four hundred and ninety three (493) students in 2014. Moreover, as the number of international students increased, also their needs, in terms of adequate facilities such as accommodation, transportation, restaurants and other facilitating services increases. These facilities need to be aligned from time to time to ensure that international students' satisfaction is achieved.

In facilities management, full users' complaints or requests must be recorded accordingly into an integrated maintenance schedule which is transparent, dependable and reliable. [8] Facilities management service providers should be proactive in finding out the users' needs and wants, here, communication is a very important aspect in achieving that goal. [9] Students' needs should be fully incorporated into the design and development of products and services, especially in students' housing. [10]

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Facilities Management*

There are several of definitions of facilities management. FM is a process by which an organization provides quality working environment through sustainability and facilitating quality service to meet organization demands as well as satisfying clients at best cost possible. [11] FM has been defined as the management of infrastructure resources and services to support and sustain

the operational strategy of an organization over time. [12] Facilities management is a profession that involves multiple disciplines to ensure functionality of the building environment by integrating technology, process, places and people. [13] FM is the one that is commonly used is 'an integrated approach to operating, maintaining, improving and adapting the buildings and infrastructure of an organization in order to create an environment that strongly supports the primary objectives of that. [14] FM is responsible for co-coordinating all efforts related to planning, designing and managing buildings and their systems, equipment and furniture to enhance the organization's ability to compete successfully in a rapidly changing world. [15] Facilities management is not a new concept in the USA, Japan, Western Europe and other parts of Asia. Facilities managers are found in large organizations, universities and banks, in fact, in almost everywhere, where there are facilities such as buildings, equipment, signage furniture, catering, security and other services to be provided in support of the main core business. [16] The move towards better management of facilities is set to continue as buildings with their infrastructure and equipment contents become ever more sophisticated. [17] Facilities management is concerned with all the processes that ensure user needs is satisfied in particular business context. Today, institutions and organizations have to be proactive in their service delivery and ensure such services or facilities delivered meet customer needs. [18]

Facilities management is one of the fastest-growing professions in the UK and was one of the main cost-cutting initiatives during the 1970s when outsourcing of services became popular. The discipline is still in its infancy and its related duties are fragmented with limited knowledge on the subject. [15] Facilities managers are generally

known to be responsible for buildings and services which support businesses and organizations. This view does not comprise the holistic FM perspectives in the corporate world. [19] Facilities management is still in its infancy stage in South East Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong) but is expanding gradually particularly in Hong Kong in recent years. [20] Globalization, employee expectations, property market and information technology are among the factors that contribute to the expansion of FM in South East Asia. In recent times there is a great increment in the number of facilities in the South East Asia that shows the maturity of FM in a short. [21]

### ***Students' housing facilities***

Students' housing has been characterized as a densely building with many rooms in which each room contains several beds. Thus students' housing provides sleeping and living quarters, usually without private baths, for a large number of students and such housing is furnished and rented by bed. [21] However, some universities embarked on a strong student housing programs to enhance their educational environments. [22] Student housing, is a supervised living-learning accommodation consisting of shared housing amenities and facilities for the community of residents, which is constructed on-or off campus, and owned or rented by the Universities. It provides low-cost chargeable rooms, and administered to accommodate the undergraduate or postgraduate students. [23] Students' housing have been introduced to provide relatively low-cost, sanitary, safe and comfortable living environment to promote the social, personality, intellectual, physical, carrier, educational and moral development of those who live there. [24] Moreover, Student housing has been described for long as an essential component of the facilities provided by the Universities in helping

students to expand their intellectual competence. [22] Physical attributes of students' housing, such as architectural design, bedroom size, floor level and density can influence students' perceptions. In recent years, international student enrolments have grown rapidly in Malaysia, this lead to the increase demand for student housing. The establishment and development of student housing is a challenge for many universities in Malaysia, as a result of the continuing extension of higher education institutions and rising number of students. [25] The Universities that provided students' housing facilities in Malaysia generally, have few vacancies and each year the number of applicants exceeds the available accommodation. Universities that provided students' housing facilities in Malaysia generally have insufficient vacancies, and every year the number of applicants seeking accommodation exceeds the available accommodation. [25] Provision of student housing facilities has been described as a subject of concern which students considered in choosing a university. If universities fail to provide housing facilities for students, the students may face increase stress, and lack of affordable off-campus housing may create a significant problem. [26] Consequently, in selecting among two similar universities, students may prefer the university that provides students' housing facilities that meets students requirement. [27] Students' housing facilities can fulfill various needs and desires, and will provide rooms that are equipped with complete facilities and services, the space will also encourage friendship and provide friendly learning environment. [28]

The main objective of this study is to identify the most important physical attributes that influence international students' perception on facilities provisions at the study area. The overall aim is to

evaluate international students' perception on the facilities provided at five UTHM students' housings which include Taman University, Perwira, Taman Kelisa, Malewar and Tun Syed-Naseer. The study intends to help in formulating guidelines in terms of design, construction and maintenance for future developments of students' residential colleges.

### **Physical Attributes of students' housing**

Physical factors of students' housing, such as architectural design, bedroom size, floor level and density can influence students' perceptions with the housing accommodation. [24] Physical factors in students' housing, such as architectural design, support services; space and location on campus also have influence on students' perception with their housing facilities. He further added that light, temperature, noise and air quality also has powerful influence over experience with residential college. [29] Moreover excessive noise has been rated as a significant detractor from student experience. Prolonged exposure to noise and very high noise level during sleep may cause hearing loss, mental stress and irritation. [30] Quite is the most important requirement in any students' housing. [22] Residential experience among students emanate from high-quality facilities, good roommate relationship, strong floor communities and quite study environments in the students' housing. [24] Students assess their residential housing according to the privacy and level of crowding in their rooms. [31] However, Students' perception depends on some physical attributes which include brighter and wider rooms with less noise and stress in the students' housing. [23] Proper student housing will arouse a silent study environment, provide security and privacy, encourage good friendship among users and help the students' housing administrators to satisfy students' needs and aspiration for betterment of students' housing life. [32]

They further added that physical attributes of students housing, encompassed study-bedrooms, pantries, washrooms, common and recreation rooms and support services. Moreover to create a house like environment, universities have included study facilities with bedrooms, reading room and meeting places known as common and recreation rooms for academic discussion and social gatherings within the students' housing. [33]

The distance from the university facilities, rental fare, satisfaction with transport services, external condition of the building, population, security, room size and safety has been described as the most important factors that influence students' perception in the students' housing. [21] If international students can get a lot of benefits by residing in the students' housing provided with required facilities, they can experience their study life same as home experience [34] However with positive perception in quality services and facilities, students can perform best in their studies. [32]

## METHODOLOGY

The quantitative data collection technique was employed in this study by use of face to face survey. The data was collected only from international students, who are studying and living in five out of the seven students' housing in UTHM. The students' housing under study includes, Melewar, Taman University, Tun Syed Nasir, Perwira and Taman Kelisa. A random sample of 210 international students was drawn from the residential population, using stratified random sampling technique. Stratified random sampling was adopted because it obtains estimates of known precision for certain subdivisions of the population by treating each subdivision as a stratum. [35] The total number of questionnaires distributed to the targeted population of international students living in

five UTHM students' residential colleges that served as the base for the data analysis was 210. However, 189 questionnaires were returned representing 90%. The questionnaires were distributed face-to-face to the targeted respondents in the study area. A 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 "Strongly Disagree" to 5 "Strongly agree" was used, with neutral choice of "Neither Agree nor Disagree".

The background of the respondents is very important, it disclosed the gender, age, marital status, ethnicity, level of study and residential college of the respondents. Out of 189 international students, 169 respondents representing 89% are males while 20 respondents representing 11% were females. The age distribution of the respondents ranges between 20-25 (53%), 26-30 (24%), 31-35 (10%) and 35 and above (12%). Marital status of the respondents, single 63%, married 36% and divorced 1%. Ethnicity of the respondents is classified as Arab 50%, Africans 33%, Pakistan 10%, Indian 2% and others 5%. The respondents' level of study also is classified as undergraduate 45%, masters 31% and PhD 24%. The residential colleges of the respondents were Taman University with 14% of the total number of respondents, Tun Syed Nasir 29%, Kelisa 9%, Perwira 16% and Melewar 31%. Most of the respondents (91.5%) are undergraduate students.

### *International students' perception*

A detailed analysis of international students' perception on the facilities provision at UTHM students' housing is collected through this section. It identifies the main interests of the overall responses of international students. In this regards, questions were presented to the respondents which describe various stages of international students' perception. The Likert scale approach was used to rate the answers, whereas five choices were defined. These ranged from "Strongly disagree" as

the most positive answer, to "Strongly agree" as the most negative one.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of this analysis was shown below. It is important to note that all percentages were rounded to the nearest figure.

### *Perception of International students' on study bedroom*

As illustrated in Table 2.1 below, 51 respondents, representing 27% *neither agree nor disagree* with the *comfortability of study bedroom size*, also 55 respondents representing 29% simply *disagree* that *the furniture provided are comfortable for reading*. On the other hand 60 respondents, representing 32% *agree* that there is *adequate storage facilities in the study bedroom*, 73 respondents, representing 39% also *agree* that there is *natural and artificial lighting in the study bedroom*.

Table 2.1: Perception of International students' on study bedroom (Field survey, 2014)

Study Bedroom	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. dev.
Comfortability of study bedroom size	27 (14%)	37 (20%)	52 (27%)	52 (27%)	22 (12%)	3.03	1.231
Furniture provided comfortable for reading	20 (11%)	55 (29%)	47 (25%)	49 (26%)	18 (10%)	2.95	1.166
Adequate storage facilities	15 (8%)	44 (23%)	52 (28%)	60 (32%)	18 (10%)	3.12	1.114
Natural/artificial lighting	13 (7%)	28 (15%)	48 (25%)	73 (39%)	27 (14%)	3.39	1.113
Provision of cross ventilation	22 (12%)	32 (17%)	59 (31%)	56 (30%)	20 (11%)	3.11	1.162
High level of privacy	24 (13%)	42 (22%)	49 (26%)	44 (23%)	30 (16%)	3.07	1.265
Net on windows	61 (32%)	48 (25%)	39 (21%)	27 (14%)	14 (7%)	2.39	1.274
Provision of cooling/heating facilities	53 (28%)	52 (27%)	34 (18%)	36 (19%)	14 (7%)	2.50	1.283

Moreover, 59 respondents, representing 31% *neither agree nor disagree* with the *provision of cross ventilation*. 49 respondents, representing 26% also *neither agree nor disagree* that there is a *high level of privacy in the bedroom*, while 61 respondents, representing 32% *disagree* that there is a *net on windows*, also 53 respondents representing 28% *disagree* with the provision of *cooling/heating facilities*. From the data analysis, the descriptive statistics provides more summary information of the findings on students' perception with study bedroom. The findings indicates that the vast majority of user's has negative perception with the *provision of net on windows, cooling/heating facilities and the furniture provided*. (Refer to Table 2.1 above).

### *Perception of International students' on building layout*

As illustrated Table 2.2 below, 68 out of 189 respondents, representing 36% has *neither agree nor disagree* with the *architectural design of the students housing*, whilst 32 respondents, representing 17% *neither agree nor disagree* that the *study bedrooms are well design*. Moreover, 74 respondents representing 39% also *neither agree, nor disagree* with the conducive environment. On the other hand, 74 representing 39% respondents *agree* that there is a *convenient walkway in the student housing*. Whilst, 79 representing 42% respondents has *agree* that there is a *provision of emergency exit in case of fire*. Similarly, 85 respondents, representing 45% respondent's experience *agree* that *firefighting equipment's* were provided in the students' housing, whilst 70 of 189 representing 37% respondents perception also *agree* that there is a *green space in the students' housing*. In addition, 85

respondents, representing 45% also *agree* with a *good drainage system* in the students' housing.

**Table 2.2: Perception of International students on the building layout (Field survey, 2014)**

Building Layout	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
There is good architectural design of the residential college	33 (18%)	35 (19%)	68 (36%)	41 (22%)	12 (6%)	2.81	1.151
The rooms are well design	21 (11%)	53 (28%)	62 (32%)	47 (25%)	6 (3%)	2.81	1.034
Conducive living environment	15 (8%)	26 (14%)	74 (39%)	64 (34%)	11 (6%)	3.16	1.003
There is a convenient walkway	12 (6%)	35 (19%)	53 (28%)	74 (39%)	15 (8%)	3.24	1.048
Provision of emergency exit in case of fire	19 (10%)	33 (18%)	36 (19%)	76 (40%)	25 (13%)	3.29	1.196
There is provision of firefighting equipment's	16 (9%)	24 (13%)	40 (21%)	79 (42%)	30 (16%)	3.44	1.154
Provision of green space area	18 (10%)	28 (15%)	50 (27%)	70 (37%)	12 (6%)	3.28	1.148
There is a good drainage system	11 (6%)	27 (14%)	41 (22%)	85 (45%)	25 (13%)	3.46	1.074

As can be seen, the vast majority of respondents, *neither agree nor disagree* with the *architectural design of the students' housing, study bedroom design and conducive living environment* (Refer to Table 5.14 above). One should note that more attention is needed to improve these elements.

***Perception of International students on toilet/bathroom***

As shown in Table 2.3 below, 76 out of 189 respondents, representing 40% has *agree* that, there is a *provision of toilet facilities* in the students' housing, whilst 64 respondents, representing 34% also agree with the *toilet location*. Similarly, 69 respondents, representing 37% also *agree* that the *number of user's sharing toilet/bathroom is adequate*. 72 respondents representing 38%, *agree* that the cleanliness of toilet/bathroom is to standard.

**Table 2.3: Perception of International students on toilet/bathroom (Field survey, 2014)**

Toilet Location	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
There is provision of toilet facilities	23 (12%)	32 (17%)	36 (19%)	76 (40%)	22 (12%)	3.22	1.217
The toilet/bathroom is located in appropriate place	25 (13%)	31 (16%)	50 (26%)	64 (34%)	19 (10%)	3.11	1.195
The number of people sharing toilet/bathroom is adequate	16 (9%)	43 (23%)	46 (24%)	66 (35%)	18 (10%)	3.14	1.133
The cleanliness of toilet/bathroom is to standard	21 (11%)	34 (18%)	38 (20%)	72 (38%)	24 (13%)	3.23	1.211

As shown in Table 2.3 above, the findings indicate that, the majority of respondents, simply *agree* with the *provision of toilet*

*facilities, location, number of people sharing toilet and the toilet cleanliness.*

**Table 2.4: Perception of International students on the study area (Field survey, 2014)**

Study area	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
There is a provision of study area in your residential college	18 (10%)	31 (16%)	38 (20%)	75 (40%)	27 (14%)	3.33	1.189
The study area is accessible always	13 (7%)	30 (16%)	43 (23%)	66 (35%)	37 (20%)	3.44	1.173
There is a provision of internet facility in the study area	33 (18%)	25 (13%)	39 (21%)	69 (37%)	23 (12%)	3.13	1.294
The connectivity of internet is highly efficient	49 (26%)	39 (21%)	41 (22%)	40 (21%)	10 (11%)	2.70	1.340
Study area is arrange with good furniture	29 (15%)	41 (22%)	45 (24%)	49 (26%)	25 (13%)	3.00	1.276

**Perception of International students on study area**

A large percentage of 40% representing 75 out of 189 respondents has agree that there is a provision of study area in the students' housing, whilst 35%, representing 66 respondents also agree that the study room is always accessible. Moreover, 37% representing, 66 respondents, also agree that there is a provision of internet facilities in the study area. 26% representing 49 respondents, strongly disagree that the internet connectivity is highly efficient as shown in Table 2.4.

From the analysis above, the findings reveals that respondents has agree with the provision of study area, accessibility, provision of internet facility and the furniture provided in the study room, whilst

on the other hand, they strongly disagree with the efficiency of internet connectivity in the study area. (Refer to Table 2.4 above).

**Perception International students on the student's housing location**

As highlighted in Table 2.5 below, 66 representing 27% of respondents simply agree that there is proximity from the students' housing to the university, another 66 representing 29% of respondents also agree with the proximity of students' housing to health facilities. On the other hand, 63 representing 32% of respondents agree with the proximity of the students' housing to public transportation, 65 representing 39% of respondents also agree with the proximity of the students' housing to restaurants.

**Table 2.5: Perception of International students on students' housing location (Field survey, 2014)**

Location	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. dev.
Proximity to university	22 (12%)	31(16%)	44 (23%)	66 (35%)	26 (14%)	3.23	1.219
Proximity to health facilities	15 (8%)	35 (19%)	54 (29%)	66 (35%)	20 (10%)	3.21	1.104
Proximity to public transportation	19 (10%)	27 (14%)	60 (32%)	63 (33%)	20 (11%)	3.20	1.126
Proximity to restaurants	21 (11%)	29 (15%)	48 (25%)	65 (34%)	26 (14%)	3.24	1.200
Proximity to ATM machine	25 (13%)	48 (25%)	41 (21%)	49 (26%)	26 (14%)	3.02	1.265
Proximity to market	19 (10%)	42 (22%)	60 (32%)	51 (27%)	17 (9%)	3.03	1.122
Proximity to recreational centers	24 (13%)	40 (21%)	60 (32%)	48 (25%)	17(9%)	2.97	1.157
Proximity to waste collection centers	19 (10%)	32 (17%)	52 (28%)	63 (33%)	23 (12%)	3.21	1.165
Proximity to local shops	12 (6%)	31 (16%)	43 (23%)	81 (43%)	22 (11%)	3.37	1.087

Moreover, 49 representing 26% respondents simply agree with the proximity of students' housing to ATM machine. On the other hand 60 representing 32% of respondents neither agree nor disagree with the proximity of students' housing to market, similarly, 60 representing 32% of respondents, also neither agree nor disagree with the proximity of students' housing to recreational centres, while 63 representing 33% of the respondents agree with the

proximity of students' housing to waste collection centres, also 81 presenting 28% of the respondents agree with the proximity of students' housing to local shops. It can be said here that, the vast majority of user's has negative experience with the proximity of students' housing to recreational centre, proximity to ATM and proximity to market.

**Perception of International students' on transportation services**

As shown in Table 2.6 below, 29 out of 189 respondents, representing 55% has *agree* that, there is *transportation link from the students' housing to the university and city centre*, whilst 52 respondents, representing 28% *neither agree nor disagree*

*with the efficiency of transportation service from the students' housing to the university. Similarly, 46 respondents, representing 24% strongly disagree that the bus service operates in weekends and holidays.*

**Table 2.6: Perception of International students on the transportation services (Field survey, 2014).**

Transportation Services	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
Transportation links to university and city center	38 (20%)	20 (11%)	51 (27%)	55 (29%)	25 (13%)	3.05	1.318
Efficiency of transportation service (Bus)	36 (19%)	37 (20%)	52 (28%)	40 (21%)	24 (13%)	2.89	1.294
Operation of bus services in weekends	46 (24%)	43 (23%)	43 (23%)	35 (19%)	22 (12%)	2.70	1.332

The findings indicate that, international students has negative perceptions on the efficiency of transportation service and the operation of bus service during weekends and holidays (Refer to Table 2.6 above).

***Perception of International students' on Mosque***

As illustrated in Table 2.7 below, 75 out of 189 respondents, representing 40%

has *agree* that, the Mosque is located in appropriate place, whilst 67 respondents, representing 35% agree that there is adequate space to accommodate all the worshippers in the Mosque. Similarly, 64 respondents, representing 34% also *agree* that the Mosque was provided with all good amenities. 78 representing 41% respondents *agree* that the Mosque was always kept clean.

**Table 2.7: Perception of International students on Mosque (Field survey, 2014)**

Mosque	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
Location of the Mosque	12 (6%)	16 (9%)	29 (15%)	75 (40%)	57 (30%)	3.79	1.152
Adequate space to accommodate all worshippers	9 (5%)	10 (5%)	46 (24%)	67 (35%)	57 (30%)	3.81	1.075
Good amenities	8 (4%)	18 (10%)	48 (25%)	64 (34%)	51 (27%)	3.70	1.096
The Mosque is always kept clean	7 (4%)	11 (6%)	34 (18%)	78 (41%)	59 (31%)	3.90	1.027

From the descriptive statistics shown in Table 2.7 above, majority of respondents have simply *agree* with the *location, adequate space, good amenities and the cleanliness of the Mosque*. This indicates positive perception by the international students.

***Perception of International students on security provision***

As shown in Table 2.8, large percentage of 46% representing 86 out of

189 respondents has *agree* that the *environment is safe for living*, whilst 41%, representing 77 respondents also *agree* that *there is a security guards* in the students' housing college. Moreover, 40% representing, 75 respondents, also *agree* that there is building *security* in the students' housing. 33% representing 63 respondents, *agree* that there is perimeter fence in the students' housing, another 59 representing 31% *neither agree nor disagree* with the *burglary proof* in the students' housing.

**Table 2.8: Perception of International studentson security (Field survey, 2014)**

Security	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
Safe living environment	13 (7%)	18 (10%)	25 (13%)	86 (46%)	47 (25%)	3.72	1.144
Security guards	7 (4%)	12 (6%)	41 (22%)	77 (41%)	52 (28%)	3.82	1.026
Building security	8 (4%)	16 (9%)	45 (24%)	75 (40%)	45 (24%)	3.70	1.055
There is a perimeter fence	8 (4%)	25 (13%)	54 (29%)	63 (33%)	39 (21%)	3.53	1.089
There is burglary proof	17 (9%)	27 (14%)	59 (31%)	53 (28%)	33 (18%)	3.31	1.181

It is clear from the result as shown in Table 2.8 above, majority of respondents were fairly impressed with the security provided in the student housing, but they disagree with the provision of burglary proof, therefore more attention is needed in that area.

**Perception of International students’ on other support services**

As illustrated in table 2.10 below, 60 respondents, representing 32% *neither agree nor disagree* that there is *enough parking space in the students’ housing*, also 70 respondents, representing 37% *agree* that *the parking facilities are*. On the other hand 50 respondents, representing 27% *strongly disagree* that the internet connectivity is

highly efficient, 53 respondents, representing 28% *neither agree nor disagree* with the *availability of sport facilities* in the students housing.

Moreover, 50 respondents, representing 27% *neither agree nor disagree* that there is *good directional signage* in the students’ housing. 59 respondents, representing 31% also *neither agree nor disagree* that *directional signage are written in international language*, while 28 respondents, representing 53% *disagree* that the *important announcement are communicating*, also 69 respondents representing 37% *agree* that there is *adequate waste disposal* in the students’ housing.

**Table 2.10: Perception of International studentson other support services (Field Survey, 2014)**

Other support services	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
There is enough parking space	21 (11%)	38 (20%)	60 (32%)	52 (28%)	18 (10%)	3.04	1.143
The parking facilities are secured	12 (6%)	28 (15%)	54 (29%)	70 (37%)	25 (13%)	3.36	1.086
The internet connectivity is highly efficient	50 (27%)	46 (24%)	39 (21%)	37 (20%)	17 (9%)	2.60	1.307
Availability of sport facilities	33 (18%)	37 (20%)	53 (28%)	48 (25%)	18 (10%)	2.90	1.236
There is good directional signage	31 (16%)	47 (25%)	50 (27%)	46 (24%)	15 (8%)	2.83	1.201
The directional signage are written in international language	47 (25%)	55 (29%)	59 (31%)	25 (13%)	3 (2%)	2.38	1.048
The important announcement are communicating	35 (19%)	53 (28%)	42 (22%)	46 (24%)	13 (7%)	2.73	1.214
Adequate waste disposal	13 (7%)	21 (11%)	54 (29%)	69 (37%)	32 (17%)	3.46	1.108
There is provision for cafeteria and mini market	26 (14%)	46 (24%)	59 (31%)	40 (21%)	18 (10%)	2.88	1.175
Laundry facilities are provided	21 (11%)	22 (12%)	49 (26%)	68 (36%)	29 (15%)	3.33	1.198
There is a provision for pantry/kitchen	48 (25%)	45 (24%)	44 (23%)	35 (19%)	17 (9%)	2.62	1.289
Adequate cleaning services	25 (13%)	20 (11%)	41 (22%)	73 (39%)	30 (16%)	3.33	1.246

However, 59 respondents, representing 31% *neither agree nor disagree* with the *provision of cafeteria and mini*

*market in the residential college*, whilst 68 respondents, representing 36% *agree* that *laundry facilities* are provided in the

students' housing. Similarly, 48 respondents, representing 25% strongly disagree that there is a provision for pantry/kitchen in the students' housing. 73 representing 39% respondents agree that there is adequate cleaning service in the students' housing.

From the descriptive statistics shown in Table 2.10 above, majority of respondents were *strongly disagree* that *directional signage are written in international language, internet connectivity is highly efficient and the provision for pantry/kitchen*. This indicates a negative perception by international students.

**Perception of International students' on students housing administrators**

As shown in Table 2.11 below, 40% representing 76 respondents indicated that

they simply *agreed* that *students' housing administrators were approachable*, 36% representing 68 respondents agreed that *students' housing administrators were Polite*, whilst 66% representing 35 respondents also *agreed* that the *students' housing administrators were friendly and helpful*. Moreover, 37% representing 69 respondents *agreed* that students' housing administrators were *knowledgeable about their services*, 33% respondents, representing 66 respondents, also *agreed* that students' housing administrators *understand international student's service needs*, similarly 33% respondents, representing 66 respondents *agreed* that there is *prompt response to the international student's request*.

**Table 2.11: Perception of International students on students housing administrators (Field survey, 2014)**

Students' housing administrators	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
Approachable	24 (13%)	20 (11%)	41 (22)	76 (40%)	32 (17%)	3.39	1.240
Polite	18 (10%)	20 (11%)	42 (22%)	68 (36%)	41 (22%)	3.50	1.214
Friendly and helpful	18 (10%)	26 (14%)	36 (19%)	66 (35%)	43 (23%)	3.48	1.249
Knowledgeable about their services	17 (9%)	23 (12%)	41 (21%)	69 (37%)	39 (21)	3.48	1.205
Understand international students' service needs	17 (9%)	37 (20%)	45 (24%)	63 (33%)	27 (14%)	3.24	1.187
prompt response to the international students' request	27 (14%)	29 (15%)	45 (24%)	63 (33%)	26 (14%)	3.18	1.250

The results obtained from all the sub sections of the question reveal that, respondents *agreed* that the students' housing administrators were *approachable, polite, friendly, knowledgeable about their services and understand international students' service needs*, but the numbers are not sufficient to show that UTHM students' housing has moved towards the excellent service delivery (Refer to Table 2.11 above).

**CONCLUSIONS**

In order for the Facilities management Service providers to sustain surviving in the ever-turbulent condition,

they need to act more like an integrated business, by paying close attention to all constructs in a holistic method. Service providers must realize that good and services are no longer sufficient, people seek experience. This will accelerate the move in to a new era where the service is designed around the students' needs, rather than the needs of the students being forced to fit around the service already provided. If the intent is to deliver and sustain service excellence within organizations around the need of the students, obtaining feedback from them and taking account of their views and priorities is necessary for bringing about

improvements in the quality of service delivery which will help the universities to move from service quality level to service excellence level. The need to deliver service excellence in students' housing from organizational perspective has been identified; this paper has recognized the need for service providers to support and add value to the delivery of facility management services by engaging all stakeholders to better respond to the service user's demand.

Moreover, most of the positive views related to the respondents' perceptions were rated 'agree' instead of 'strongly agree'. Therefore, this is not sufficient if the UTHM students' housing, intent to achieve positive perceptions from the international students. In conclusion, this study explores the most important physical and demographic attributes that influence service user's experience on the facilities provision at the students' housing. This will benefit the university management, residential college administrators, facility and service managers in improving the method of service delivery and service quality on students' housing facilities as they advanced to improve from service quality level to service excellence level. Further study should explore the major functional and technical elements of performance on students' housing, which will help in continually improving the design, construction, performance, and maintenance of students' housing.

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