

STUDENT'S PERCEPTION OF RESIDENTIAL HALL SAFETY AND SECURITY IN UUM CAMPUS

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Abstract: This aims of this study is to study the perceptions of Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) students toward residential hall safety and security and proposing ways to improve residential hall safety in UUM. Safety and security of residential halls are very important because a safe environment has long been considered a prerequisite for effective learning. However, it is not safe even in university. Problems like theft, burglary, bully, sexual harassment and other problems have occurred in other schools. Thus, this study focuses on identifying the perception of UUM students whether they feel safe or not, if not, how to improve the safety of the residential hall in UUM? This study design used a qualitative research method. The respondents are the students of each residential hall in UUM. The result showed that a majority of the students feel safe in the residential hall and a minority of them unsatisfied about the safety in the residential hall. Regardless of satisfaction or dissatisfaction, they provided a lot of suggestions to improve the safety of the residential hall. This study raises awareness for students to pay attention to their safety and improve the safety of the UUM residential hall.

Keywords: Safety and security, perception, residential hall, UUM

1. INTRODUCTION

Most universities are open to the public, making them vulnerable targets for crime and violence. The security department of a university must not only protect the campus community from external threats but also protect them from crimes (Muscat, 2011). The objective of this study is to study the perceptions of UUM students toward the safety of a residential hall at the campus and to improve residential hall safety at UUM. Campus safety, students and safety, theory and student perceptions of campus safety have been reviewed in the literature review. Since the campus has been redesigned to be available all day long, with increased enrolment and potential loopholes reported by national media, hence the strategies to improve campus safety also state in the literature review. A safe environment has long been considered a prerequisite for effective learning (Rubio, 2010). To create and maintain a secure learning environment, it has been identified as an institutional responsibility that requires multiple engagements and inputs within the organization. The most effective way is to provide resources, raise awareness of threats and maintain open communication channels.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study using semi-structured interview technique and set with a list of questions aims to ask respondents. The qualitative method made an interview only focus on students who live in a residential hall at UUM. 24 respondents who stay in SME, Bank Rakyat, YAB, Muamalat, Sime Darby, TM, Grantt, Petronas, BSN, MISC, MAS, Tradewind, TNB, and Proton have been interviewed by the researcher in this study. All of the interview sessions been recorded. Moreover, this study involved searching for some information from the secondary data that are related to the study such as journals, articles, news, report, and so on. Data analysis

involves the process of developed answers to questions through the interpretation of data. NVIVO 9 computer software package produced by QSR International was used in this study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of this study has shown that problems like theft, sexual harassment, violence, attack by wildlife animal, shady spots, ease of entry outsider, etc. make students worry. Although the majority of students which is 62.5% think the residential hall is safe. This includes 29.2% of female students and 33.3% of male students. However, there are also a minority of students which is 37.5%, 29.2% of female students plus only 8.3% of male students feel insecure due to the problems stated.

62.5% of respondents have discussed security of residence hall, mostly with their friends, coursemate and roommate. 37.5% of respondents do not discuss anything at all. 58.3% of respondents think of other concerns about residence hall safety. However, 29.2% of respondents think that other doesn't concern about residence hall safety. Another 12.5% do not sure about other concerned about residence hall safety or not.

This study provided suggestions by respondents to improve the safety and security of residential halls to reduce the anxiety of students. 95.8% of respondents have provided suggestions while 4.2% of respondents do not have any suggestions. Besides, the perception of students towards safety and security of residential hall and suggestions provided by students is related and parallel with the theories that stated in the literature review. For example, outsiders must sign and hand out identity cards before entry to the university.

4. CONCLUSION

Many of the study's findings are important for future studies of students' perceptions of campus safety. Further studies on a larger scale are needed to use the framework and methodology of this study, which will benefit educators, administrators, students and faculty at the specific universities surveyed (Roberts, 2012). Significant studies incorporate the perception of students perceiving the advantages of being heard. By extending the extension and number of respondents, more information can be gathered, deconstructed and recreated to all the more likely comprehend moderating variables that influence students' perceptions (Roberts, 2012). In conclusion, the finding of this study will redound to the benefit of multiple parties considering safety in the residential hall plays an important role in the learning environment.

5. REFERENCES

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