

Compliance of Lyceum of the Philippines University Accredited Boarding Houses: Basis for a Proposed Plan of Action

Discipline: Business

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INTRODUCTION

College students who came from far places usually look for a boarding house or dormitory in order for them to adjust to their new college life and live independently. As their temporary home, they are also expecting most of the facilities they are enjoying in their respective home places. However, in Davao City in their research regarding the living conditions of university students in boarding houses and dormitories reports reveal that these housing facilities, most of the time, fail to consider students' safety and welfare and most of them violated the provisions stipulated in the Building Code of the Philippines. Other facilities like study rooms, bathrooms and safety lockers are missing in several boarding houses/dormitories.

Lyceum of the Philippines University in Batangas in its mission to provide better service to its students conducted a study on the operation of boarding houses in 2008 and found the necessity to provide accredited boarding houses thru the initiative of the Office of student affairs.

In Kumintang Ibaba, where most students of LPU are boarding, Office of Student Affairs in its standards set was able to identify 4 Accredited boarding houses namely. Queen Abby's Apartment, Romeo – Razy Dormitory, .Rosales Apartment and .Virtucio's Apartment.

The provisions of Executive Order No. 120 in governing the accreditation of accommodation specifically boarding houses/ lodging houses, they need to comply with official documents as permit from concerned authority and license to operate approved by the proper city authorities. As LPU- Office of the Student Affairs take its bold step to provide better customer services, Accreditation of boarding houses was launched in April 2008 and therefore its operation need to be evaluated. In this respect this study was deemed necessary to undertake.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study endeavors to determine the compliance of LPU accredited boarding houses located in the vicinity of Lyceum University. More specifically, it will present the student boarders profile variables, compliance of boarding houses to give better facilities and the proposed plan of action to improve the operation of accredited boarding houses.

Review of Literature

Boarding houses or dormitories are usually diverse, multicultural, and co-ed, permitting a wide range of friendships to develop. Boarding House Business is a service type of business because it offers intangible goods or services which typically generate a profit by charging services to consumers. (Megallon, 2006). Bed space is the leading service being offered by majority of the boarding houses. Social activities in boarding houses/ dormitories create essentialities in the lives of the students. Since, being away from one's family creates the feeling of homesickness and loneliness; experts agree that one of the best ways to cope with these is to get involved in activities (Estrada et al., 2008).

In recent years, many boarding houses arise to provide the students a temporary home during their schooling. Like in Kumintang Ibaba, many boarding houses arise to serve the increasing population of students who wants to board. Kumintang Ibaba is an urban area located at Northwestern part of Batangas City. It has a total land area of 137.28 hectares with a total population 8,866 as of 2000. As the Lyceum of the Philippines University presently located in this area, a high demand for boarding houses arises. In a study conducted by Ylagan (2006) he claimed that boarding houses in Kumintang Ibaba are complying on the requirements /permits prescribed by the government and successfully operating with an affordable rental fee, the privileges offered by boarding houses are only those which are important and necessary as part of their personal and school life. This also gives a lot of opportunity for the small entrepreneurs and residents of the place to enter into this kind of business. , on the other hand, venturing into this kind of business need to comply with policies such as on curfew, visitation, and utilization of facilities and control of noise. Boarding house operators/ owners may also integrate plans to nurture the spiritual growth of their student-renters.

In boarding houses that large numbers of students make friends with a wider variety of people. Instead of focusing only on students who share the same schedule or classes, those who live in the college dormitories make friends with students with diverse academic interest and ethnic backgrounds. Living in a dormitory does vastly improve the sociability of the students in college, especially for freshmen. It also helps students meet new people and make friends with other students they might not have otherwise met. Additionally, away from home increases leadership and interpersonal skills and cultural awareness (De Larrosa 2000).

The study conducted by Cantos (2006) revealed problems of student nurses in selected Boarding Houses in Batangas City, that respondents experience a lot of problems as money and other finances and disturbed sleeping pattern because of some disturbances like noise. Further , Megallon (2006), on found out that boarding houses in Baguio city portrays service-oriented

establishments that cater to the needs of boarders. These boarding houses are competitive in terms of services and facilities and are not burdened by serious problems. The researcher

recommends boarding houses can be improved through continual attractive services and improvement of facilities. On the effects of boarding house/ dormitory habitation, students who live in these temporary dwellings are orderly, independent, responsible and time-conscious; likewise they are concerned about their academic performance.

METHODS

The researcher used the descriptive method to determine the compliance of LPU accredited boarding houses located in the vicinity of Lyceum University.

The respondents of the study were composed of 50 boarders of Accredited boarding houses in Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City, subject to their desire to be respondents of this research. Through the help of OSSA officers that questionnaire was distributed.

Questionnaire is the main instrument used in gathering data. It is composed of two parts.

The first part it will include questions regarding the profile of student boarders, the second part is the compliance of accredited boarding houses in terms of the services offered to the students

Data gathered was subjected to the following statistical tools: percentage and weighted mean .

Results and Discussions

Table 1
 PROFILE OF BOARDERS
 N = 50

Profile Variables		Frequency	Percentage %
Course			
1	College of Allied and Medical Profession	11	22
2	College of Business Administration	11	22
3	College of Computer Sciences	3	6
4	College of Criminology	1	2
5	College of Education, Arts and Sciences	4	8
6	College of International Tourism and Hotel Management	18	36
7	College of Nursing	2	4
Length of Stay			
	6 months and below	5	10
	7 months to 1 year	32	64
	1 1/2 years to 2 years	4	8
	2 years and above	9	18
Place of Origin			
1	Batangas	31	62
2	Cavite	2	4
3	Korea	1	2
4	Laguna	3	6
5	Mindoro	7	14
6	Quezon	5	10
7	Scotland	1	2

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of student boarders in terms of course, Most boarders are from CITHM, CBA and Allied; they are from Batangas (62%) and Mindoro (14%) and are relatively new for their length of stay in 6 months to 1 year.

For about approximately, 100 boarding houses within the vicinity of LPU, it so not surprising that there are only few who stayed in the accredited LPU, boarding houses. Even it is recommended by the Office of Student Affairs, still students are given the freedom to choose for personal reasons of financial affordability, issue on friends or relatives and others. .

Based from the past study done by Ylagan in Operation of Boarding Houses in Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City: Basis for a Proposed Accredited Dormitory (2008), Boarding houses in Kumintang Ibaba are complying on the requirements /permits prescribed by the government and successfully operating with an affordable rental fee, the privileges offered by boarding houses are only those which are important and necessary as part of their personal and school life. In services offered, boarding houses only provides boarders a comfortable room to sleep with limitations on their safety. On the other hand, terms of payment is significant to the overall operation of boarding houses. In this result, accredited boarding houses in Kumintang Ibaba need to look for other amenities to be provided among students in order to be at –par with the existing operational services offered by non accredited lodging business in the vicinity of LPU.

Table 2
COMPLIANCE OF ACCREDITED BOARDING HOUSE
N = 50

Items	SUMMARY					
	VMC (3)	V (2)	NC (1)	f	Weighted Mean	VL RANK
1 There is a sticker identifying the dorm as an accredited boarding house	42	8		50	2.84	VMC 1
2 There is a separate room for men and women boarders.	16	33	1	50	2.28	c 9
3 There is a room provided for brothers/sisters as long as there is a document of birth cert. or their parents are also living with them.	10	35	5	50	2.00	C 13
4 LPU officials visits the dormitory every month.		43	7	50	1.72	C 17
5 The increase in dorm fees is subject to the approval of LPU.	10	31	9	50	1.84	C 15
6 Visitors are not allowed to enter rooms without permission from the dorm owner even if he /she is a member or relative of the boarder.	13	33	4	50	2.10	C 12
7 Dormitories do not allow smoking, drinking, gambling and use of prohibited drugs inside and outside and use of prohibited drugs inside and outside	27	19	4	50	2.38	C 5
8 Student boarders are required to submit 2 copies of registration forms (photocopy for the dorm owner and one for barangay document)	16	31	3	50	2.20	C 11
9 There is a curfew hour as discussed by the dorm owners.	17	32	1	50	2.30	C 7.5
10 There is an available log book to monitor the whereabouts of the in and out of their boarders.	7	37	6	50	1.90	C 14

11	Student boarders are required to submit waiver either from their teacher or parents on related activities which need to be done outside their dormitory.	12	27	11	50	1.80	C	16
12	Student boarders feel secure in their dormitory.	20	29	1	50	2.36	C	6
13	Doors are locked/ windows are protected.	27	20	3	50	2.42	C	4
14	Dormitory rules are properly discussed to ensure better service.	27	23		50	2.54	VMC	3
15	Dormitories are well -maintained for cleanliness.	31	19		50	2.62	VMC	2
16	OVER ALL RATING	17	32	1	50	2.30	C	7.5
COMPOSITE MEAN						2.23	C	10
Legend: 2.50 – 3.00 Very Much Complied; 1.50 – 2.49 Complied; 1.00 – 1.49 Not Complied								

Table 2 presents the compliance of accredited boarding houses in LPU. The results show they complied very much to the following: there is a sticker identifying the dorm as an accredited boarding house(2.84), Dormitories are well –maintained for cleanliness(2.64) and dormitory rules are properly discussed to ensure better service(2.54). This compliance is very basic of a dormitory, according to the student- boarders there are a lot of things to be improved in the LPU accredited boarding houses as to safety measures, security of boarders and other amenities .It has to be noted that boarding houses serves as a shelter for many people who decided to be far from their loved ones for some important reasons, to be near from their schools and place of work. They tried to realize how they become independent as they live alone and far from their family, besides, Boarding house is not just a shelter, it is a home (Holgado, 2005).

On the other hand, LPU accredited boarding houses complied only items as: doors are locked/ windows are protected, dormitories do not allow smoking, drinking, gambling and use of prohibited drugs inside and outside and use of prohibited drugs inside and outside and student boarders feel secure in their dormitory. They even suggested that there is a need for a doorbell outside in their gate to wake up or make a signal to the owner if ever one boarder was locked outside the gate and ensure the maintenance on the cleanliness of the dorm. Students even disclosed the need for LPU officials to visit them every month.

PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION

Key Result Area	Objective	Activities	Persons involved
Safety and Security	To ensure students safety and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide logbook for visitors • Strict implementation of curfew hour • Imposed No visitors allowed policy after 10pm 	Student boarders and landlord
Linkages with Authorities	To improve the services offered by Accredited boarding houses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly meeting with LPU Officials • Provide seminar to Brgy. Captain and landlords 	Landlords, LPU Officials and Brgy. Kumintang Ibaba Officials, LSSC officers and student organizations

Conclusions

1. There are only few students who stayed in the accredited LPU, boarding houses even it is recommended by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA).
2. Accredited boarding houses in LPU complied very much to the following: there is a sticker identifying their dorm as an accredited boarding house, are well –maintained and their dormitory rules are properly discussed to their ensure better service. On the other hand, boarders suggested that there is a need for a doorbell outside in their gate to wake up or make a signal to the owner if ever one boarder was locked.
3. The proposed plan of action to improve the services of accredited boarding houses focused on safety and security and linkages with authorities.

Recommendations

1. Accredited boarding houses in Kumintang Ibaba need to look for other amenities to be provided among students in order to be at –par with the existing operational services offered by non accredited lodging business in the vicinity of LPU.
2. LPU accredited boarding houses need to improve in terms of services as to safety measures, security of boarders and other amenities.
3. Action plan need to be seriously discussed by the Office of Student Affairs and other LSSC officers.

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