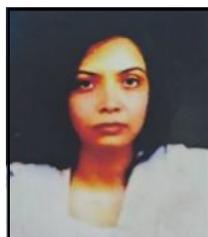# Survey of the Infrastructure available at State Open Universities in India

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**ORIGINAL  ARTICLE**

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Originality Assessment

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## ABSTRACT

This paper reveals that there is huge infrastructural development in recent time in the Open Universities. The findings of the study go in contrast with the set mindset that Open Universities are the institutions engaged mainly in giving assignment, taking exams and distributing results. Hence, they lack in basic infrastructural facilities. But findings reveal that most of the Open Universities are rich in infrastructural facilities. Although some common lacking was seen yet mostly were found in place.

## KEY WORDS

## INTRODUCTION

Higher education creates professionals, thinkers, future teachers, researchers, economists and knowledge workers, who, besides inhabiting knowledge societies, can be instrumental in creating them. Higher education in the country is available to the top 30 percent of our population only. The conventional system of education has undoubtedly contributed significantly both to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge, yet the fact remains that the conventional system has neither been able to solve the problem of access, nor of equity and equality. The education through distance and open system is an alternative mode of imparting instruction, which has helped to meet the demands for education of millions of people at different level.

## Objectives of Open Universities

· To facilitate by providing equal opportunities of education to citizen of India including the disadvantaged group.

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· To provide education and training as well as orientation of various segments of the population to achieve self-employment managerial skills.
· To build up the capabilities of educational functionaries for achieving UEE and to make provision for substandard demand for Secondary education.
· To provide diversified academic and vocational education or good quality at Secondary level and beyond to meet the emerging needs for personal, social and academic growth.
· To provide wider access to higher education to a large population and maintain high quality of education on a part-time or own-time basis.

**Table No. 1:** Percentage of Institutions having Various Infrastructure

| Infrastructure | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Playground | 87 | 88 | 89 | 88 |
| Auditorium | 76 | 80 | 79 | 80 |
| Theatre | 42 | 44 | 45 | 47 |
| Library | 95 | 94 | 95 | 94 |
| Laboratory | 86 | 85 | 86 | 84 |
| Conference Hall | 92 | 93 | 93 | 93 |
| Health Center | 80 | 79 | 80 | 78 |
| Gymnasium | 74 | 76 | 76 | 78 |
| Indoor Stadium | 49 | 49 | 50 | 51 |
| Common Room | 82 | 84 | 86 | 86 |
| Computer Center | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Cafeteria | 83 | 86 | 86 | 87 |
| Guest House | 84 | 82 | 82 | 82 |
| Separate Rooms for Girls | - | - | - | 79 |
| Student Hostel | - | - | - | 84 |
| Staff Quarter | - | - | - | 79 |
| Separate Toilet for disabled females | - | - | - | 63 |
| Ramp Attached to Classroom Library | - | - | - | 68 |
| Sexual Harassment Anti Ragging Cell | - | - | - | 88 |
| Counselors for Students | - | - | - | 76 |
| Clinic First Aid Room | - | - | - | 81 |
| Separate Toilet for Girls | - | - | - | 91 |
| Skill Development Centre | - | - | - | 59 |
| Self Defense Class for Females | - | - | - | 40 |
| Capacity Building & Training Aware Programme | - | - | - | 56 |

*(Source: AISHE 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19)*

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## Rationale of the Study

In this Modern era when the entire world is creating new vistas of modern civilization with supersonic speed, Indian population is yet to enrich itself with the strongest weapon of development i.e. Education. When we talk of Education and look to census, it has been found that rural population is still lagging behind with respect to higher education as compared to urban population. This imbalance needs to be filled. Research work and innovation in the field of higher education to reach the masses with qualitative offerings to population is the essence of highlighting the core facts about gap existing in higher education. Such gap can be filled by State Open Universities together with support of Government, academicians, Administration and policy makers. This study will suffice and highlight all above facilitators with the infrastructure available at State Open Universities and facilitate with suggestions to fill the existing gap in Higher Education.

## Gap Areas Derived from the Reviews of Previous Studies Conducted

Studies related to Distance Education and Open Universities shows that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution for all countries. Government needs to make strategies as per the National and Regional requirement so as to enhance the quality of distance education in India. Since, most of the results are mixed and cannot be generalized so result and rational of the present study is self-evident.

## Objectives of the Study

➢ To find out the infrastructure available at State Open Universities.

## Research Questions

➢ What is the Infrastructure/Facilities Available in the State Open Universities, and do they need to improve?

➢ Do the State Open Universities have good infrastructure?

## Sample Size

Out of 14 State Open Universities in India, 5 State Open Universities were selected through Stratified Random Sampling, one each from 5 different Zone. As per the Nature, Objective of Project Work only Academic and Administrative Staff Comprising of Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Finance Officer, Full Time Faculty members were surveyed (for academic session 2017-18). Population of Study is 460; Sample size of 140 has been selected (for academic session 2017-18) as follows which is approximately more than 30% of Population.

## Tools

Closed Ended Questionnaire and Interview and Records of State Universities, UGC, NAAC, Government Reports and Seminars.

## Statistical Devices

Percentage Analysis and Bar Chart was used for Analysis.

## Methodology Followed

The study started with identification of Population for the study, which gave 14 State Open Universities as the population. Five State Open Universities, one from each region were selected with the help of Stratified Random Sampling Method. Simple Random Sampling Method was adapted to select Full Time Academic and Administrative Staff from 5 State Open Universities for the study. Questionnaire consisting of 47 closed ended questions was made keeping in mind the objectives and hypothesis of study. Decision was also made regarding whom to Survey and appointment was taken accordingly. Secondary Sources like Record of State Universities, UGC, NAAC, Government reports and Seminars were referred and documented. Repo with the authorities, staff and colleagues was maintained. In the second stage, data was collected through Survey

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and Interview. Related questions were asked to the concerned authority and department. In the third stage, Data Analysis using Percentage method, Interpretation of data along with presentation of data using Bar Chart was done. Bar chart was used for pictorial presentation of Data. In the last stage, findings were noted down based on analysis done and suitable suggestions were framed.

## Functional Definitions

➢ **Higher Education:** Higher Education means education after higher secondary, i.e. admissions in Under Graduate, Post-Graduation and Professional Courses.

➢ **Distance Education:** A generic term for modes of education in which the student and the teacher are separated in time and space. It includes modes of education using printed material delivered by post and/or other tools and blended methods used for bridging the distance.

➢ **State Open Universities:** The State Open Universities formed by state Government through an act of legislative assembly for imparting education through distance mode.

➢ **Distance Learners:** Students enrolled of any age returning to higher education after a period of work, unemployment, gap, leave etc.

➢ **Infrastructure:** On campus and Off-campus facilities available in Open Universities like, Library, Faculty, ICT etc.

➢ **SSS:** Student Support Services provided by Open Universities to distance learners enrolled with the University.

➢ **SOU:** State Open Universities.

➢ **PCP:** Personal Contact Program

➢ **HE:** Higher Education

➢ **AISHE:** All India Survey of Higher Education.

## Delimitations

➢ **Number of Open Universities:** Study was conducted on region wise randomly selected five Open Universities only.

➢ **Areas under Study:** Enrolment, Infrastructure, Financial Assistance, Programmes, Motivation, Target Group, Learner Support areas of Open universities are studied.

➢ **Time Duration:** Study is done in Academic Session 2017-18.

## Data Analysis

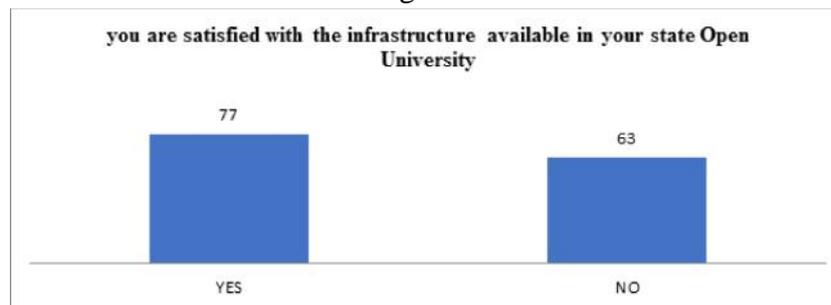RQ 1.Are you satisfied with the infrastructure available in your state Open University?

Table- 1

| Response | You are satisfied with the infrastructure available in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| YES | 77 | 55 |
| NO | 63 | 45 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 55% respondent agreed that SOU have good infrastructure.

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Bar Diagram No – 1



RQ 2.Are you satisfied with following infrastructure facility in your state Open University?

Table- 2 (i)

i.      Auditorium

| Response | Satisfied with Auditorium in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 98 | 70 |
| NO | 42 | 30 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 70% respondents are satisfied with the auditorium in SOU.
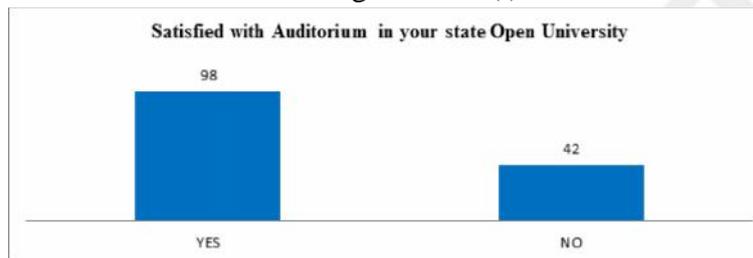
Bar Diagram No 2 (I)



Table- 2 (ii)

ii.     Playground

| Response | Satisfied with Playground in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 105 | 75 |
| NO | 35 | 25 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 75% respondents are satisfied with the playground in SOU.
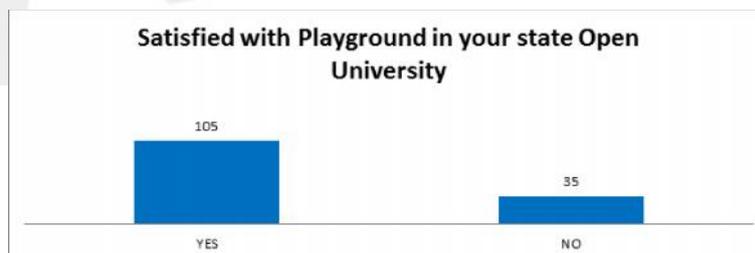
Bar Diagram No 2 (ii)

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Table- 2 (iii)

iii. Laboratory

| Response | Satisfied with laboratory in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 91 | 65 |
| NO | 49 | 35 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 65% respondents are satisfied with the laboratories in SOU.
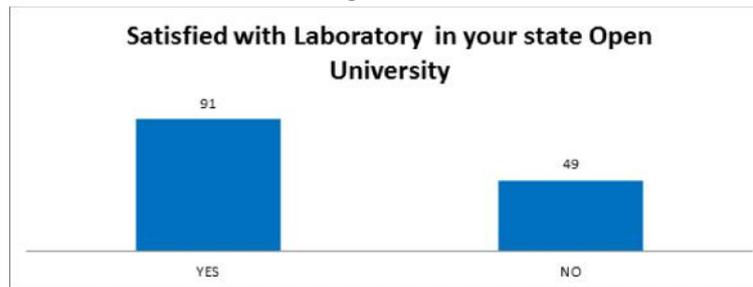
Bar Diagram No 3 (iii)



Table- 2 (iv)

iv. Conference Hall

| Response | Satisfied with conference hall in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 77 | 55 |
| NO | 63 | 45 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 55% respondents are satisfied with the conference hall in SOU.
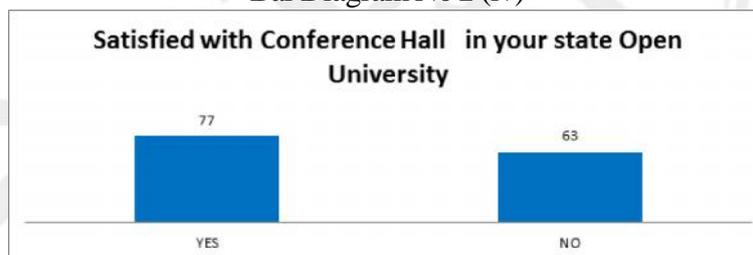
Bar Diagram No 2 (iv)



Table- 2 (v)

v. Gymnasium

| Response | Satisfied with Gymnasium in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 84 | 60 |
| NO | 56 | 40 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 60% respondents are satisfied with the Gymnasium in SOU.

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Bar Diagram No 2 (v)
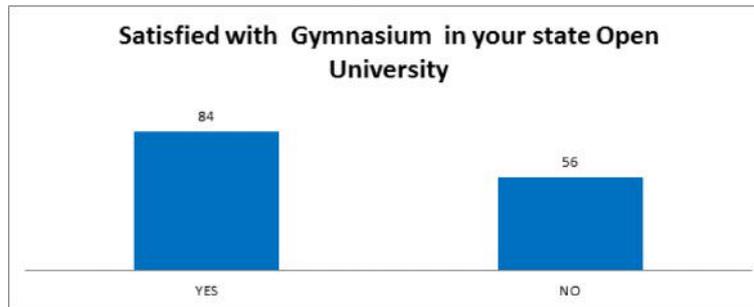


Table- 2 (vi)

vi.    Indoor Stadium

| Response | Satisfied with Indoor Stadium in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 112 | 80 |
| NO | 28 | 20 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 80% respondents are satisfied with the Indoor stadium in SOU.
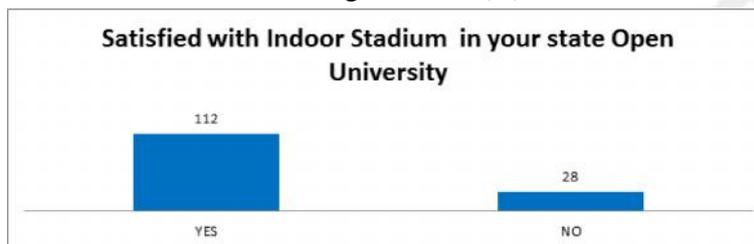
Bar Diagram No 2 (vi)



Table- 2 (vii)

vii.    Common Rooms

| Response | Satisfied with common rooms in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 126 | 90 |
| NO | 14 | 10 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 90% respondents are satisfied with the common rooms in SOU.
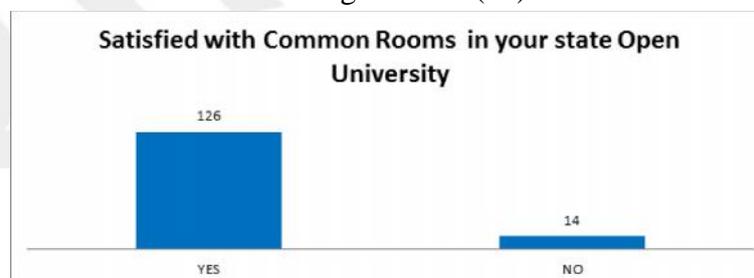
Bar Diagram No 2 (vii)

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Table- 2 (viii)

viii. Computer Centers

| Response | Satisfied with computer centers in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 133 | 95 |
| NO | 7 | 5 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 95% respondents are satisfied with the computer centers in SOU.
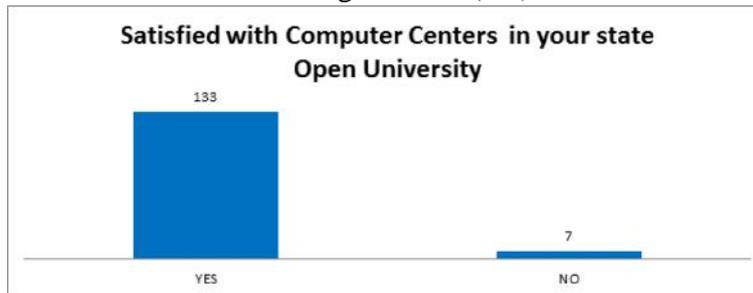
Bar Diagram No 2 (viii)



Table- 2 (ix)

ix. WI-FI

| Response | Satisfied with WI-FI in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 91 | 65 |
| NO | 49 | 35 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 65% respondents are satisfied with WI-FI in SOU.

Bar Diagram No 2 (ix)
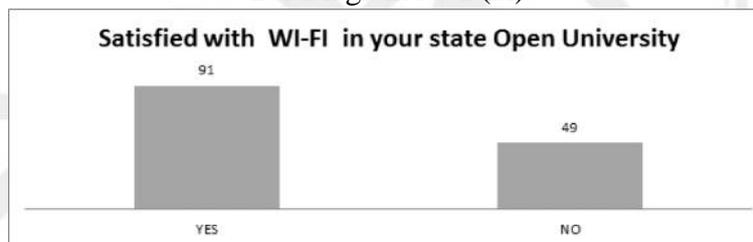


Table- 2 (x)

x. Cafeteria

| Response | Satisfied with Cafeteria in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 77 | 55 |
| NO | 63 | 45 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 55% respondents are satisfied with Cafeteria in SOU.

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Bar Diagram No 2 (x)



Satisfied with Cafeteria in your state Open University
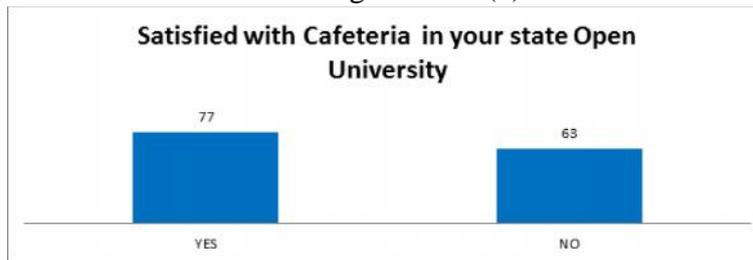
Table- 2 (xi)

xi.      Guest House

| Response | Satisfied with Guest house in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 84 | 60 |
| NO | 56 | 40 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 60% respondents are satisfied with Guest house in SOU.

Bar Diagram No 2 (xi)



Satisfied with Guest house in your state Open University
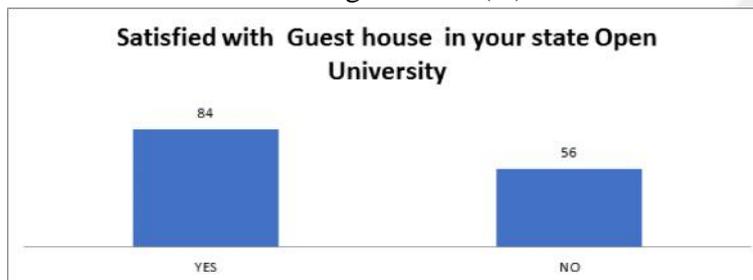
Table- 2 (xii)

xii.      Hostel

| Response | Satisfied with hostel in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 100 | 71.43 |
| NO | 40 | 28.57 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 71.43% respondents are satisfied with Hostel in SOU.

Bar Diagram No 2 (xii)



Satisfied with Hostel in your state Open University

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Table- 2 (xiii)

xiii.    Staff Quarter

| Response | Satisfied with staff quarter in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 15 | 37.50 |
| NO | 25 | 62.50 |
| Total | 40 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

*only SOU have staff quarter facility.

**Interpretation:** Only 37.50 % respondents are satisfied with Staff quarter in SOU.

Bar Diagram No 2 (xiii)



Table- 2 (xiv)

xiv.    Toilet

| Response | Satisfied with toilet   in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 105 | 75 |
| NO | 35 | 25 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

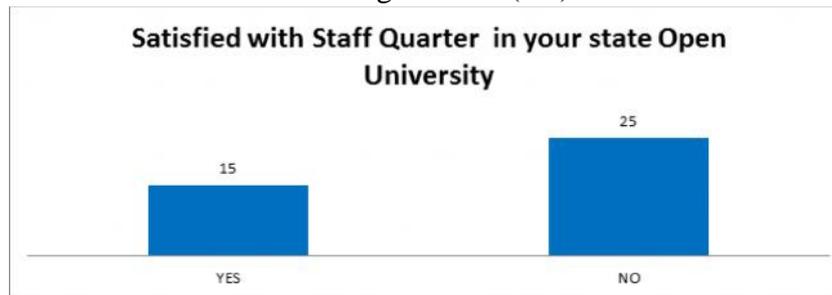**Interpretation:** 75 % respondents are satisfied with Toilet in SOU.

Bar Diagram No 2 (xiv)
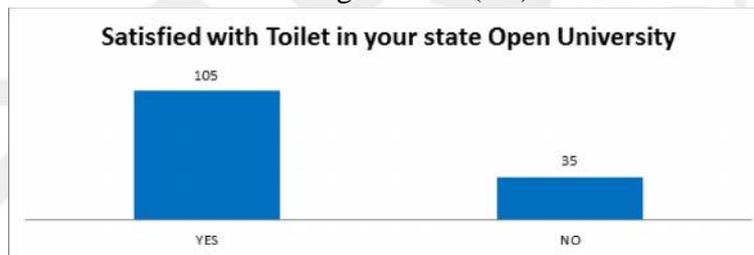


Table- 2 (xv)

xv.    Skill Development Centre

| Response | Satisfied with skill development center in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 91 | 65 |
| NO | 49 | 35 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 65 % respondents are satisfied with skill development center in SOU.

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Bar Diagram No 2 (xv)



Table- 2 (xvi)

xvi.    Sexual Harassment Cell

| Response | Satisfied with sexual harassment cell in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 120 | 85.71 |
| NO | 20 | 14.29 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 85.71 % respondents are satisfied with sexual harassment cell in SOU.

Bar Diagram No 2 (xvi)
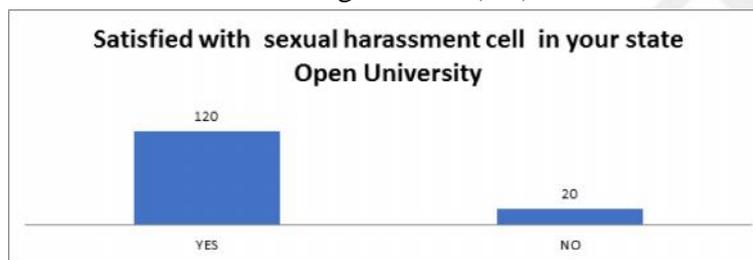


Table- 2 (xvii)

xvii.    Placement Cell

| Response | Satisfied with placement in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 70 | 50 |
| NO | 70 | 50 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 50 % respondents are satisfied with placement cell in SOU.
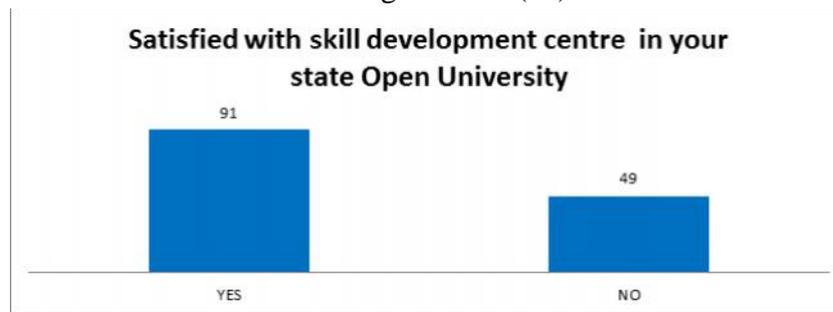
Bar Diagram No 2 (xvii)

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Table- 2 (xviii)

xviii. Anti-Ragging Cell

| Response | Satisfied with Anti ragging cell in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 125 | 89.29 |
| NO | 15 | 10.71 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 89.29 % respondents are satisfied with Anti ragging cell in SOU.
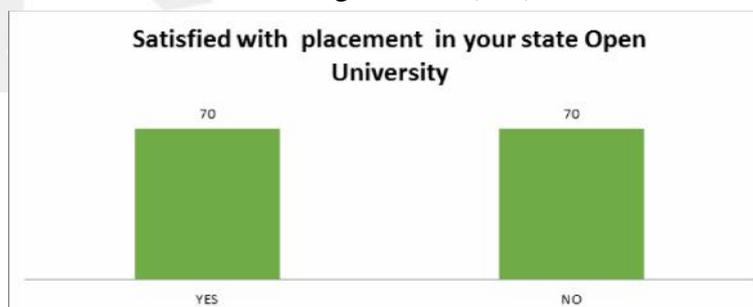
Bar Diagram No 2 (xviii)
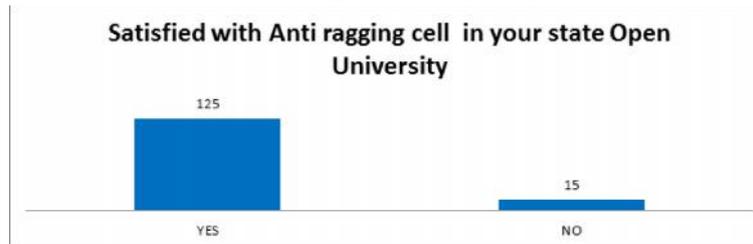


Table- 2 (xix)

xix. Capacity Building and Training Programme

| Response | Satisfied with capacity building and training programme in your state Open University | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| YES | 63 | 45 |
| NO | 77 | 55 |
| Total | 140 | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

**Interpretation:** 45 % respondents are satisfied with Capacity Building and Training Programme in SOU.

Bar Diagram No 2 (xix)
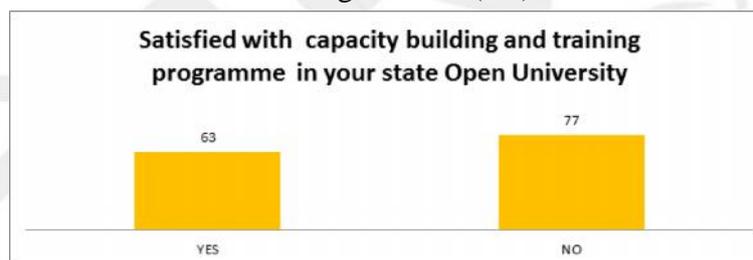


RQ 3 With Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your State Open University, Rank the Improvements You Suggest for Your University?

Table- 3 (A) Rank 1

| Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's | Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 35 | 25.00 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 14 | 10.00 |
| Improve E-Library Facility | 28 | 20.00 |
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 21 | 15.00 |

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| WI-FI Campus | 10 | 7.14 |
|---|---|---|
| Good Auditorium Needed | 11 | 7.86 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 7 | 5.00 |
| Improve Hostel Facilities | 5 | 3.57 |
| Online Admission/Application Format | 3 | 2.14 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 6 | 4.29 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

Table- 3 (B) Rank 2

| **Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's** | **Respondents** | **Percentage (%)** |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 21 | 15.00 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 56 | 40.00 |
| Improve E-Library Facility | 14 | 10.00 |
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 28 | 20.00 |
| WI-FI Campus | 7 | 5.00 |
| Good Auditorium Needed | 5 | 3.57 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 4 | 2.86 |
| Improve Hostel Facilities | 1 | 0.71 |
| Online Admission/Application Format | 2 | 1.43 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 3 | 2.14 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

Table- 3 (C) Rank 3

| **Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's** | **Respondents** | **Percentage (%)** |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 7 | 5.00 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 5 | 3.57 |
| Improve E-Library Facility | 60 | 42.86 |
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 6 | 4.29 |
| WI-FI Campus | 9 | 6.43 |
| Good Auditorium Needed | 3 | 2.14 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 4 | 2.86 |
| Improve Hostel Facilities | 2 | 1.43 |
| Online Admission/Application Format | 1 | 0.71 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 43 | 30.71 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

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Table- 3 (D) Rank 4

| Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's | Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 6 | 4.29 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 3 | 2.14 |
| Improve E-Library Facility | 12 | 8.57 |
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 55 | 39.29 |
| WI-FI Campus | 10 | 7.14 |
| Good Auditorium Needed | 4 | 2.86 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 15 | 10.71 |
| Improve Hostel Facilities | 7 | 5 |
| Online Admission/Application Format | 8 | 5.71 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 20 | 14.29 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

Table - 3 (E) Rank 5

| Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's | Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 12 | 8.57 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 20 | 14.29 |
| Improve E-Library Facility | 10 | 7.14 |
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 15 | 10.71 |
| WI-FI Campus | 58 | 41.43 |
| Good Auditorium Needed | 5 | 3.57 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 7 | 5.00 |
| Improve Hostel Facilities | 3 | 2.14 |
| Online Admission/Application Format | 2 | 1.43 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 8 | 5.71 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

Table- 3 (F) Rank 6

| Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's | Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 7 | 5.00 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 14 | 10.00 |
| Improve E-Library Facility | 5 | 3.57 |
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 10 | 7.14 |
| WI-FI Campus | 12 | 8.57 |
| Good Auditorium Needed | 63 | 45.00 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 8 | 5.71 |

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| Improve Hostel Facilities | 3 | 2.14 |
|---|---|---|
| Online Admission/Application Format | 2 | 1.43 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 16 | 11.42 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

Table - 3 (G) Rank 7

| Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's | Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 4 | 2.86 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 8 | 5.71 |
| Improve E-Library Facility | 10 | 7.14 |
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 15 | 10.71 |
| WI-FI Campus | 5 | 3.57 |
| Good Auditorium Needed | 3 | 2.14 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 48 | 34.29 |
| Improve Hostel Facilities | 7 | 5.00 |
| Online Admission/Application Format | 19 | 13.57 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 21 | 15.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

Table - 3 (H) Rank 8

| Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's | Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 30 | 21.43 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 4 | 2.86 |
| Improve E-Library Facility | 21 | 15.00 |
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 1 | 0.71 |
| WI-FI Campus | 9 | 6.43 |
| Good Auditorium Needed | 14 | 10.00 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 7 | 5.00 |
| Improve Hostel Facilities | 49 | 35.00 |
| Online Admission/Application Format | 2 | 1.43 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 3 | 2.14 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

Table- 3 (I) Rank 9

| Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's | Respondents | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 6 | 4.29 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 7 | 5.00 |

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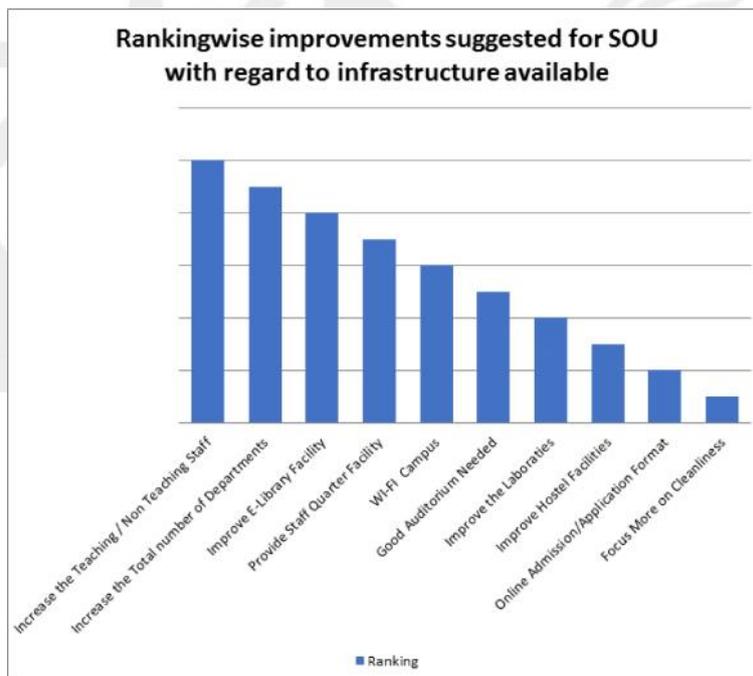| Improve E-Library Facility | 5 | 3.57 |
|---|---|---|
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 10 | 7.14 |
| WI-FI Campus | 35 | 25.00 |
| Good Auditorium Needed | 4 | 2.86 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 2 | 1.43 |
| Improve Hostel Facilities | 3 | 2.14 |
| Online Admission/Application Format | 67 | 47.86 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 1 | 0.71 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

Table- 3 (J) Rank 10

| **Improvements You Suggest for Your University with Regard to Infrastructure/Facilities Available in Your SOU's** | **Respondents** | **Percentage (%)** |
|---|---|---|
| Increase the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff | 4 | 2.86 |
| Increase the Total number of Departments | 2 | 1.43 |
| Improve E-Library Facility | 9 | 6.43 |
| Provide Staff Quarter Facility | 8 | 5.71 |
| WI-FI Campus | 7 | 5.00 |
| Good Auditorium Needed | 6 | 4.29 |
| Improve the Laboratories | 5 | 3.57 |
| Improve Hostel Facilities | 20 | 14.29 |
| Online Admission/Application Format | 3 | 2.14 |
| Focus More on Cleanliness | 76 | 54.29 |
| **TOTAL** | **140** | |

*(Source: Primary Data)*

Bar Diagram No – 3



Rankingwise improvements suggested for SOU with regard to infrastructure available

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## Interpretation & Discussion of the Analysis

1.  Table 1(A) and chart no.1 shows, 55% of respondents agreed that State Open Universities have good infrastructure whereas 45% respondents were not satisfied with the infrastructure of the State Open Universities.

2.  Table 2(i), 2 (ii), , 2 (iii), , 2 (iv), 2 (v), 2 (vi), 2 (vii), 2 (viii), 2 (ix), 2 (x), 2 (xi), 2(xii), 2 (xiii), 2 (xiv), 2 (xv), 2 (xvi), 2 (xvii), 2 (xviii), 2 (xix) and ranking chart no.2 indicates that 70% of respondents were satisfied with the auditorium facility in SOUs, 75% of respondents were satisfied with the playground facility in SOUs, 65% of respondents were satisfied with the Laboratories in SOUs, 55% of respondents were satisfied with the Conference Halls at SOUs, 60% of respondents were satisfied with the Gymnasium facility in SOUs, 80% of respondents were satisfied with the Indoor Stadium in SOUs, 90% of respondents were satisfied with the Common room facility in SOUs, 95% of respondents were satisfied with the Computer Centers at SOUs, 65% of respondents were satisfied with the WI-FI facility in SOUs, 55% of respondents were satisfied with the Cafeteria in SOUs, 60% of respondents were satisfied with the Guest House in SOUs, 71% of respondents were satisfied with the Hostels in SOUs, only 37.50% of respondents were satisfied with the Staff Quarters facility in SOUs, 75% of respondents were satisfied with the Toilet facility in SOUs, 65% of respondents were satisfied with the Skill Development Centre in SOUs, 85.71% of respondents were satisfied with Sexual Harassment Cell in SOUs, 50% of respondents were satisfied with the Placement Cell in SOUs, 89.29% of respondents were satisfied with the Anti ragging facility in SOUs and only 45% of respondents were satisfied with the Capacity Building Training Programme in SOU's respectively.

    Secondary data table no.1.6 – 'Percentage of Institutions having various Infrastructures' also proves this finding true by providing data of year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19. The table reveals that SOU's had Playground, Auditorium, Theatre, Library, Laboratory, Conference Hall, Health Centre, Gymnasium/fitness Centre, Indoor Stadium, Common Room, Computer Centre, Cafeteria and Guest House from the year 2015till 2018. But the data of year 2018-19 shows that SOUs enriched their Infrastructure by adding Separate Rooms for Girls, Student Hostel, Staff Quarter, Separate Toilet for Disabled Female, Ramp Attached to Classroom Library, Sexual Harassment Anti Ragging Cell, Counselors for Students, Clinic First Aid Room, Separate Toilet for Girls, Skill Development Centre, Self Defense Class for Females and conducting Capacity Building and Training Aware Programmes. (Secondary data, Source - AISHE, 2015 till 2019).

3.  Tables 3(A), 3(B), 3(C), 3(D), 3(E), 3(F), 3(G), 3(H), 3(I), 3(J) and ranking chart no.3 showed that State Open Universities need to improve its infrastructure in many areas, mainly by increasing its Teaching & Non-Teaching Staff and by increasing its total number of Departments. SOU's also need to Improve E-Library Facility, Provide Staff Quarter Facility, WI-FI Campus, Good Auditorium, fully facilitated Laboratories, Good Hostel Facilities, Online Admission/Application Format and more focus on Cleanliness respectively.

## CONCLUSIONS

1.  The above result and discussion conclude that, State Open Universities have good infrastructure.

2.  The above result and discussion conclude that, most of the State Open Universities have good infrastructure facilities.

3.  The above result and discussion conclude that, State Open Universities need improvement in increasing the Teaching / Non-Teaching Staff and increasing the total number of Departments.

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## Suggestions & Recommendatations

In line with the above findings and conclusions the following suggestions and recommendations are made:

1. Open University should increase the number of Teaching & Non-Teaching Staff. Many States Open Universities were found functioning with minimum number of Teaching Staff. They need to be sanctioned teaching posts so as to establish and run as many departments to meet the demands of the learners and the market both.

2. Open University should increase the total number of departments.

3. Efforts should be made in developing e-library facilities for the learners.

4. Only few States Open Universities has Placement Cell with Well Equipped Corporate Resource Centre. Due to UGC's guidelines and NAAC requirements Universities have established Placement Cell but it's not up to the mark. They need to function properly under competent monitoring because in today's scenario Placement adds to the credibility of the University also.

## Significance of the Present Study

i. Present Study will provide true picture of existing Infrastructure, Academic and Administrative Set-Up, Work Life Balance of Staff, Support provided by Government to State Open Universities.

ii. Present Study will have tremendous significance in providing clear view about the functioning of State Open Universities, quality of staff engaged and infrastructure available in accordance to the guidelines of the governing agencies.

iii. Present Study will make significant contribution in the international knowledge on Roles and Challenges of State Open Universities in development of higher education. Internationally, all the renowned Universities and educationists are engaged in research and development in how to make effective use of formal and informal mode of higher education for improving and empowering education system. Worldwide, thousands of conferences and seminars are held in search of best ways for the same.

iv. Present Study will facilitate as an important contribution to 'ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT' and UGC/ NAAC guidelines for Open Universities to provide quality education by bringing out the gap that exists in Higher Education. It would pave way for social transformation in the society and overall development of Nation.

## Interdisciplinary Relevance

➢ This study can be useful for all the discipline of social sciences and humanities.

➢ This study will deal with the management and organizational aspects of the Institutions.

➢ This study will deal with the aspects of growing and changing needs of the society and nation.

➢ This study has profound relevance for interdisciplinary teaching and learning. This can bring paradigm shift in the way how things are and should be in distance education system.

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