

Conflicts between Students Living on-Campus Dormitories: The Case of Dormitories at Eastern Mediterranean University Campus

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Abstract

Purpose- In the current century, the number of students who travel abroad to study at international higher education institutions universally has increased. Accordingly, a considerable number of young generations from different countries are coming together, and most of them prefer to live at the university's dormitories. The main aim of this research has identified and examined the impacts of roommate conflicts, on the lifestyle and academic success of students living in dormitories.

Design/Methodology- The study area of this research is the dormitories located inside the Campus of Eastern Mediterranean University in Famagusta, Northern Cyprus. Data was collected by utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Findings- The results showed that conflicts amidst roommates negatively influenced their lifestyle and academic success. Although it is impossible to solve problems and conflicts at all, however, it is possible to minimize and control them. Moreover, management styles and approaches play a fundamental role in reducing or increasing negative impacts.

Practical Implications- Several suggestions mentioned for managers to minimize problems, like price reduction, qualified staff employment, evaluation of dormitories, rewriting the rules against alcohol consumption and making noise, and etc.

Introduction

As the need to acquire a higher education has augmented worldwide, more and more students travel abroad to study. Leaving home, parents, family, and friends traveling and settling in an entirely new environment is not as easy as it seems. It brings many challenges to a student's life. Clash/conflict presently continues as a factor in educational life. Campuses of international Universities are considered the center of tensions since people from different countries with diverse cultural backgrounds are coming together (Fleetwood, 1987).

Most students, especially in their first year, choose to stay in dormitories (on-campus residence halls). Dormitories are essential in terms of psychological bonding and sharing physical space (Cloven & Roloff, 1991; James, Nadarajah, Haive, & Stead, 2012). The life quality in dormitories can affect the psychosocial aspect and academic success of the students (Kim, Kwak, Yang, Lim, & Zhang, 2019). The first relationship, especially for freshmen students, is the roommate relationship. Unfortunately, cultural and personality diversifications are the leading cause of conflicts among roommates (Lee, 2008). Accordingly, living harmoniously, socially, and culturally with others became quite difficult among university students. This dilemma is widely known across the globe as some academic scholars considered roommate conflicts in their studies (Erb, Renshaw, Short, & Pollard, 2014; Halpin, 2009; McCorkle & Mason, 2009). In this regard, Halpin (2009) in his research mentioned that, future researchers should conduct their studies in universities with more cultural diversification and collect more data to fill the existing gap regarding this topic.

Given that, this research aims to identify the cultural and personality clashes among the students living in dormitories to explore some frequent conflicts that students face every day, to examine their impacts on students' lifestyle and academic success, and finally to investigate what kind of strategies are followed or suggested by the managers of dormitories to resolve such issues.

The case study of this research are dormitories of Eastern Mediterranean University in Famagusta city in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, where there are more than 15000 students from 106 countries, who came from diverse backgrounds for the sake of proper education. As a matter of fact, due to the continuous growth in the number of students, which results in raising the number of dormitories, consequently, increase the conflicts among students.

Research Objectives

- To obtain the mentioned aim, the objectives of the study are to:
- Identify what the common and frequent clashes faced by the students are
- Determine what are the impacts of those clashes on students' lifestyle, habits, behaviors, achievements and academic accomplishments
- Figure out specific strategies and approaches to settle some solutions for such a clash
- Propose some recommendations to make these contentious matters less effectual

Literature Review

The term clash has been used in various aspects, and it has appeared in different forms, types, and places around the world. The form of clashes can be defined by considering the different variables such as gender, racial, religious, ethnic, and political. Besides, types of clashes can be categorized in different categories, such as clash within individuals, between individuals, within and between groups. However, clashes can take place in various places, including home, organizations, university campuses, residential settlements, and on battlefields (Erb et al., 2014; Hartwick & Barki, 2002). However, researches have concurred that this term is synonymous with a

group or individual disagreements, disputes, physical conflict, quarrels, and confrontations (Salleh & Adulpakdee, 2012).

One of the main challenges faced by the students who travel to another place is to find a suitable residence and adapt to the new environment. Most students, especially in their freshmen year, choose to stay in on-campus dormitories. Globally, in most universities, students share a room with other students. The most important and intriguing part of any fresh student in the university is to find out the room partner and to catch out on the unknown future roommate. Although, this anonymous person might be the first-year friend for the freshman or a new friend for a returning student from the vacation to the dorms. But, the general thoughts of each one is that not every roommate experience is going to be perfect. Previous studies showed that the choice of residence could influence the lifestyle and academic success of students. For instance, Duran and Zakahi (1988) mentioned that a weak relationship between roommates is one of the most compelling issues for dissatisfaction with the university; thus, it results in a lower GPA. According to Nasrazadani, Maghsoudi, and Mahrabi (2017), multiple social factors can be considered as an emotional challenge that can cause stress and anxiety among dormitory students, such as new social relationships, fear of the future, and separation from the family, which could also cause extreme troubles for them such as a tendency toward drug abuse. The process of leaving homes and adjusting in a new environment and culture is often viewed by many prospective students as anxiety-producing and a cause of homesickness (McCorkle & Mason, 2009). A study done by Brooks and DuBois (1995) found that adjustment to a new environment was dependent on the individuals' personality, background characteristics, and other environmental factors.

Apart from the personality and environmental factors, according to Draguns and Tanaka-Matsumi (2003) and Tseng (2001), anxiety and psychological distress can also be caused by cultural values, beliefs, and behaviors, yet, affect the lifestyle and academic success of the students. But personality factors influence the level of distress and anxiety that are mostly caused in the stage of adapting to a new environment (Tognoli, 2003).

Indeed, it is not just about cultural or personality conflicts. However, residents in dormitories feel that their freedom of action is tied and limited because they don't know how to deal with these differences between each other in a crowded place. It was determined by a study of Schroeder and Jackson (1987) that some widespread and noticeable contradictions among students are repeatedly being the source of the disturbance. Such contradictions the preferred sleeping time, study conditions, bedtimes, and cleanliness. Different preferences for sleeping and study habits can be readily explained by roommates' abilities to concentrate or relax with different amounts of background noise-music, talking, TV, etc. Some students are easily able to tune out distractions (screeners) while others cannot (non-screeners) since they are having their large-space boundary. Hence, this type might seem overly controlling and unfriendly; in this case, they prefer to pay a high cost just to achieve their privacy.

Similarly, the difference in bedtime and getting up between roommates is also a prevalent struggle. Besides, different levels of students' cleanliness became an apparent one in confined places. Thus, neat students prefer neat roommates, whereas messy students prefer messy roommates.

Adamu (2014) indicated the cause of clash in dorms, which was mainly the religious songs played with mobile devices. Indeed, students with a high ethnocentric nature considered other as inferior and worthless, thus rejecting others' culture, religion, and ethnic groups. Zikargae (2013) expressed that roommates with clashes and dissatisfied with their room partners will be less successful than others; high capability students make better results.

Besides, residential density also plays a pivotal role in elevating the psychological symptoms among students, such as mild depression, anxiety, and social withdrawal (Tao, Wu, & Wang, 2016). Although the number of roommates will depend upon the university but will range anywhere from one to three and sometimes even

more, especially in what is called low budget-hostels or residence halls. The most common standard is for two students to share one room and one bathroom. However, rooms usually have standard, basic, understandable, and adequate furniture, including beds, desks, closets, storage compartments (drawers) for personal items. Because residence halls are a closed area with a high density of occupancy, it is effortless to observe what kind of issues are happening among students. Conflicts in residence halls raise unique challenges as students confront the widely diverse individual and cultural styles (McCorkle & Mason, 2009).

Besides, the capacity and ability of students to create a good relationship with their roommates and others influence their success and satisfaction with the university (Hawken, Duran, & Kelly, 1991). Without a satisfying relationship with a roommate, students may experience aloneness and may try to alleviate that aloneness by leaving university (Azevedo, Howell, Mora, Thomas, & Tovar, 2018; Hawken et al., 1991).

Moreover, aloneness's stress also accompanies as a significant contributor to some symptoms, including fatigue, depression, and alcohol use till addiction, anxiety, and suicidal feelings (Azevedo et al., 2018; McCorkle & Mason, 2009).

Some other obstacles that students face hurdle their lifestyle and academic success; no doubt, sleeping difficulties and contradictions with faculty staff are also correlated to stress, which is resulted from unstable roommate relationships (Dusselier, Dunn, Wang, Shelley iI, & Whalen, 2005). Some severe cases where conflicts reach the maximum level among roommates might cause mental health, suicidal ideations, and hopelessness (Erb et al., 2014). Astonishingly, some studies found that stress is not only evident in students who are having roommate conflicts, but also, students who are comfortable with their roommates are also highly experiencing this struggle due to frequent disquiet about maintaining good relations with faculty members, new friends from diverse cultures and the new environment as a whole (Jordyn & Byrd, 2003).

Generally, the clash could have different positive and negative aspects (Kıralp, Dinciyürek, & Beidoğlu, 2009). Kıralp et al. (2009) mentioned the positive aspects such as it helps to self-knowledge, gain experience in solving problems with motivation, recognizing and understanding others in a better way, learn to solve small challenges before they convert into big problems.

Furthermore, Campbell, Bridges, and Nystrand (1997) argued that clash is a normal part of regular life if it causes negative aspects such as stress, nonconformity, social anarchy, severity, and ruin between groups. Furthermore, it is supposed and believed that students can acquire academic benefits from living on campus (de Araujo & Murray, 2010).

Methodology

This research has adopted both qualitative and quantitative methods to collect data towards achieving the primary purpose of the study. The quantitative research method mainly requires quantifying and analyzing the variables to get results by utilizing statistical techniques. In short, this method demonstrates an issue or a phenomenon numerically and analyzes it with the help of mathematical methods in particular statistics. Similarly, it has been identified by (Creswell et al., 2003) that quantitative methods are fulfilled by anticipating well-designed surveys and experiments to obtain the data from the selected population (Apuke, 2017).

With the help of statistical data, the qualitative method will contribute to a deep understanding of a problem in given research from the perspective of students and managers and how students experience the specific predicament. The non-numerical research methodology was used as a means to seek social-cultural specific information, which usually linked with contradicting behavior, opinions, actions, and emotions of respondents to fully understand the picture from all angles to find the adequate solutions (Mack, 2005).

Data was collected and analyzed throughout three steps.

- A questionnaire survey to find out how widespread the problem is.
- Interview with students to find out the intensity of the impacts.
- Interview with dormitory managers to find out their strategies to sort out the problems?

Sampling and Procedure

The sampling method used in this research is based on the concept of random sampling and purposive that are the most common sampling techniques. The random sampling requires a large number of participants, while the purposive sampling demands the respondents to be selected based on their relevance to the research topic. The sample size in the qualitative method may or may not be fixed before data collection, depending on the study objectives, available resources, and time. In short, once the researcher is theoretically saturated, new data are no longer adding new insights and answers to the research questions, it is an indication that the sample size is adequate.

The sample for the quantitative method was the students who are living in on-campus dormitories. In the first step, nine dormitories among the existing 23 dormitories inside Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) campus were selected. These dormitories were divided into three categories, include 'low-cost dormitories,' 'middle-cost dormitories,' and 'luxury dormitories.' Accordingly, three dormitories were selected from each category randomly to distribute the questionnaires. The survey was written in English and then translated into the Turkish language. Questionnaires were distributed in both the Turkish and English languages—back translation method used to avoid any mistake and misunderstanding (McGorry, 2000). We conducted a pilot study with a sample of 15 students to ensure that there is not any difficulty in understanding the study measurements. The self-administered survey questionnaire was designed into four sections: (1) demographic information; (2) Type of Roommates Conflicts (20 questions that Table 1, section A represents the measurements related to the roommate conflicts); (3) Roommates Conflict's Impacts on Lifestyle (13 questions that it is shown in Table 1, section B; (4) Roommates Conflict's Impacts on Academic Success (6 questions) that are presented in Table 1, section C. All questions of sections 2, 3, and 4 were closed questions. In this way, 400 questionnaires were distributed among students who are living in the selected dormitories to obtaining feedback from them. In this respect, 232 (58%) completed questionnaires were used in the final evaluation while rests were rejected due to inadequate answers. The process of collecting data took place in March, April, and May during the spring semester of 2018-2019. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used to do statistical analysis for the quantitative part of the research.

Table 1: Measurements

A: Roommate conflicts	B: Roommate conflicts' impacts on students' lifestyle
1. Bedtime Conflict	1. Stress
2. Room Cleanliness Conflict	2. Sleep Difficulties
3. Noise Conflict	3. Aggressiveness
4. Loud Music Conflict	4. Leave the Dormitory
5. Different Personalities Conflict	5. Depression
6. Staying Out till Late at Night Conflict	6. Loneliness
7. Lack of Privacy Conflict	7. Unhealthy Eating
8. Un-use of Headsets/Headphones Conflict	8. Internet Addiction
9. Inviting Friends Conflict	9. Hopelessness
10. Lack of Personal Hygiene Conflict	10. Tetchiness

11. Use of Personal Stuff without Permission Conflict	11. Drugs Addiction
12. Loss of Private Space Conflict	12. Alcohol Consumption/Addiction
13. Eating Habits Conflict	13. Suicidal Thoughts
14. Different Cultures Conflict	<i>C: Roommate conflicts' impacts on students' academic success</i>
15. Alcohol Consumption Conflict	1. Late Submission
16. Different Dressing Style Conflict	2. Being Late for Classes
17. Religious Practices Conflict	3. Low Grades
18. Different Nationalities Conflict	4. Failure in Exams
19. Use of Drugs Conflict	5. An argument with Faculty Members/Miscommunication
20. Different Religions Conflict	6. The argument with Class Fellows

Demographic Characteristics

The gender ratio was 132 female and 98 male, and the rest were not clarified. Moreover, the majority of respondents' religious were Muslim (155), Christian (26), and not clarified (52). In terms of education level, undergraduate students were 192, 26 master students, and 6 Ph.D. students. The age range of responders was between 17 to 30 years.

Semi-Structured Interviews

As a second step of collecting the data, comprehensive 'open-ended' questions for in-depth interviews were conducted by interviewing with nine students, 3 of them were male, and six were female.

Finally, semi-structured interviews were conducted with three managers of the selected dormitories, where each interview lasted for almost 45 minutes. All interviews were recorded; besides, taking notes was an essential part of this stage. Semi-structured questions are given below:

1. Demographic information (age, nationality)
2. For how long have you been working as a manager in dormitories?
3. How many dormitories have you worked in?
4. Do you get students' complaints about their roommates frequently?
5. What were the chief complaints?
6. What were your strategies to solve the problems?
7. Have you ever refused any student due to his/her lousy behavior inside dormitories?
8. Have any students left the dormitory due to the conflicts with the roommates?

Results and Discussion

Figure 1 represents the results of questions related to the roommate conflicts by percentage, measurements coded by numbers from 1 to 20 in order (see table 1, column A).

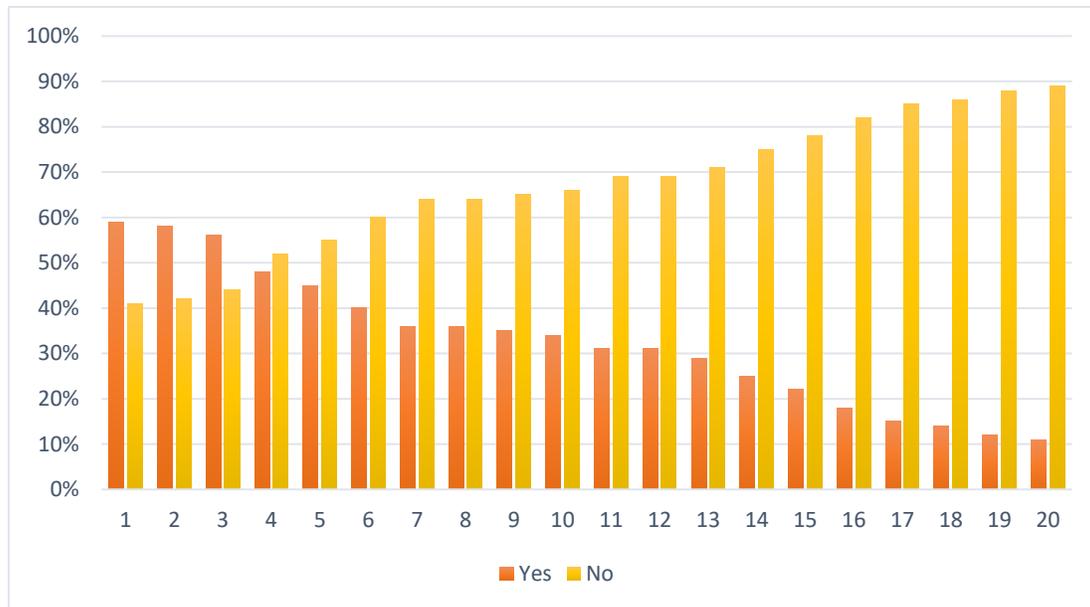


Figure 1: Percentages of Yes/No responses to Roommate Conflicts

Percentages indicated the existence of some frequent clashes that influenced the students' way of life and their academic success. Indeed, as shown in Figure 1, bedtime, room cleanliness, and noise conflicts were the most important ones, at 59%, 58%, and 56%, respectively. The fact behind having a high frequency for noise conflicts at the mentioned percentage might be due to two reasons which are the un-use of headsets while listening to music in a high volume (48%) and/or the normal noise caused by the roommate while watching television during bedtime, talking on the phone in a loud voice, banging the doors and dragging furniture, as experienced by the researchers themselves. Referring to students' interviews, respondent 1 mentioned that the source of the noise was not putting the phone on the silent mode at night and switching on/off the lights particularly. She also added that she is experiencing an extreme noise conflict with her roommate because sometimes she keeps working the whole night on her models while listening to loud music without earphones as she is an architecture student. Students' sleep difficulties and roommate conflicts resulted in stress (Dusselier et al., 2005). Nonetheless, as said by respondent 3:

"I am suffering from insomnia; hence, unable to sleep at night due to the noise created by my room and dorm mates. I feel headache and nausea constantly and thus was unable to give presentations/ submit assignments in the class".

Not only that, but also participant 4 stated that *"One of my roommates used to keep the television on while I was still asleep, which caused me to sleep difficulties and stress consequently."*

Another reason for having noise conflicts is the noise created by those roommates who come back to the room very late at night (40%), as shown in Figure 1. As pointed out by participant 4:

"My first roommate was a party girl, so she used to come back to the room very late at night, drunk, and used to wake me up and disturb my sleep."

So, because of having different bedtimes, she had frequent arguments with her roommate, which resulted in having stress and depression (Dusselier et al., 2005).

Overall all interviewees mentioned almost the same reasons behind having the noise conflicts.

To emphasize, participant 2 also commented on bedtime conflict by saying that if he is sleeping at a particular time, his roommate keeps on doing his regular stuff that again generates more noise-causing discomfort, which then results in arguments and fights.

Figure 2 illustrates the results of questions related to the roommate on lifestyle by percentages, measurements coded by numbers from 1 to 13 in order (see table 1 column B).

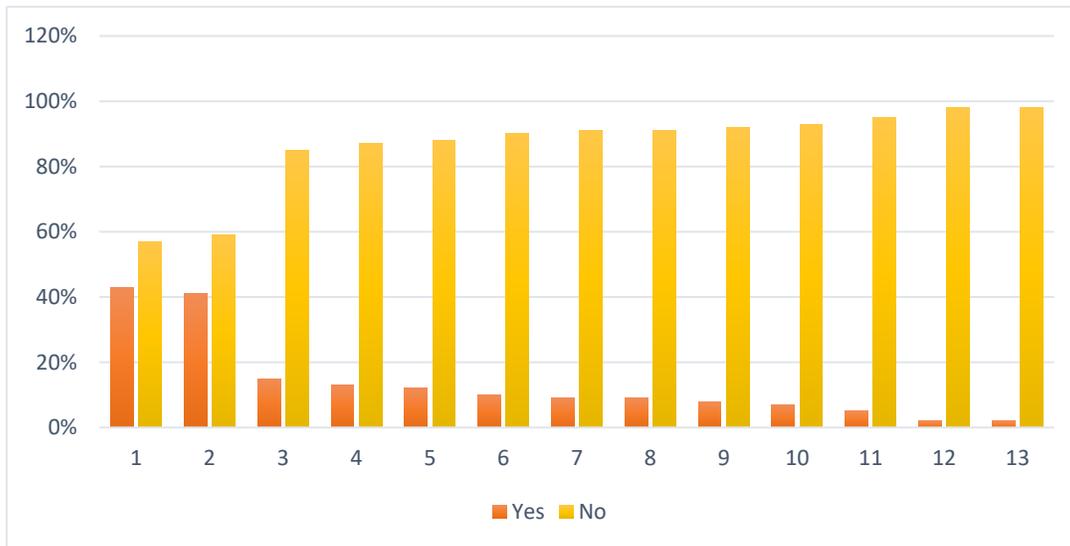


Figure 2: Roommates Conflicts' Impacts on Lifestyle

Figure 3 represents the results of the questions related to the roommate conflicts' impact of academic success by percentage, measurements coded by numbers from 1 to 6 in order of table 1 C's elements.

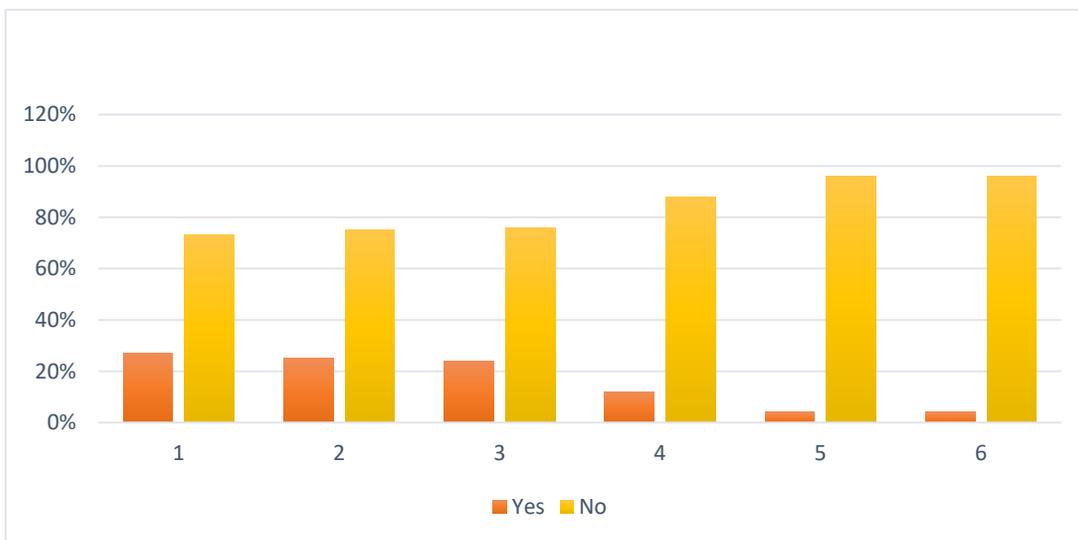


Figure 3: Roommates Conflict's Impacts on Academic Success

Figure 2 shows evidence of the conflicts' impact by having the aggressiveness at 15%. Accordingly, students sometimes response in different ways to overcome the stress and depression caused by these conflicts by consuming alcohol (2%), drugs (5%), using internet excessively (9%) and mostly leave the dormitory (13%) which most likely will cause the feeling of loneliness (10%) and hopelessness (8%) and that can also be the

reason for the existence of at least 2% of suicidal thoughts. A case in point, in one of the on-campus dormitories, a murder case was reported in 2015 due to a roommate conflict.

Similarly, participant 6 seemed quite upset and depressed while talking about the conflicts he has faced with his roommates. He mentioned he is ‘unfortunate’ to stay in x-dormitory and referred to his dormitory as a prison saying:

“I’m living in prison. I’ve no life of my own. I’m unable to get enough sleep because my roommates do not respect if I’m sleeping, and they create a lot of noise. Sometimes they watch movies in high volume without earphones. They invite their friends as well in the room for overnight stays. This selfish attitude of my roommates is affecting my life very badly. I’m unable to go to my classes on time, or I’ve to attend classes without having any sleep at all”.

He further explained the consequences of having conflicts and arguments regularly by saying that he has become more aggressive over time and might turn into a ‘psychopath’ since he is unable to go and study in his room. “I live in my department,” said the participant. Self-confessing about having suicidal thoughts,

“I was thinking about it, and it has been one year since I am suffering.”

Another conflict with high frequency was room cleanliness (McCorkle & Mason, 2009). As it was expected that this conflict takes place amidst most of the roommates due to different cultures (Lee, 2008), but, surprisingly, this conflict was witnessed more among roommates of the same culture and nationalities. Instead, having different personalities (45%) played a pivotal role in having most of the conflicts, as illustrated in Figure 1. Participant 5 went through severe stress and anxiety saying:

“My roommate never participated in room cleanliness; she used to walk around the room in her dirty shoes, and besides, keeping her sticky socks on the sofa.”

Again interview participant 1, suffered from having frequent arguments regarding the room cleanliness with her roommate, stating:

“My roommate keeps dirty dishes in the sink for days and messes up the kitchen counter every time she prepares her food; she even leaves the small bits of food all over the floor. Also, whenever she is working on her models, the room is turned into garbage by leaving pieces of paper and cardboard everywhere. It annoys me and stresses me out”.

Indeed, as confirmed by a manager of one of the dormitories, who has been working in this position for almost 17 years, that room cleanliness is the most common complaint that they receive from the students especially, from the girl’s side.

Referring to the data collected, 133 respondents confirmed to have frequent arguments with their roommates at 57%. The most common reason for having these repeated arguments is because of using personal stuff without asking for permission (31%). As stated by participants 2, 4, 7, and 8, they had arguments with roommates due to this conflict. All of these participants said:

“My roommate eats all my food and uses my stuff like clothes, toiletry, and stationary without asking for my permission. I had arguments almost every day due to this conflict.”

Participant 7 said:

“I suffered from stress, depression, and hopelessness because my roommate used all my cosmetics without even asking me. She used my clothes and jewelry as well. Despite telling and arguing with her several times that I’m not comfortable with this, she kept on doing it again and again.”

Among many conflicts, another worth mentioning is the conflict due to alcohol consumption (Rawls, Johnson, & Bartels, 2004). However, alcohol inside the campus and specifically in dormitories forbidden, 22% of the respondents reported having this conflict with their roommates. Participant 5 explained this conflict in detail by saying:

“My x-roommate was an alcoholic one; she has no control over herself while she is drunk. She used to behave weirdly, like opening and closing the drawers, banging the doors at night, and eating snacks while creating a lot of noise. I was unable to sleep most nights. I felt more aggressive and sometimes felt like punching her face”.

All of the interviewees confirmed that they became highly addicted to the internet to avoid communicating and having any arguments with their roommates. By referring to our data, participant 4 said:

“Just to avoid my roommate, I try to use the internet more.”

Unfortunately, these impacts were not only limited to their lifestyle but, surprisingly, it profoundly influenced their academic success (Hawken et al., 1991), like being late for classes and not being able to submit projects and/or assignments on time, which, in turn, affects their grades. As observed in Figures 2 and 3, the impacts of these conflicts on students' lifestyles are stress and sleep difficulties at 43% and 41%, respectively. At the same time, their academic success is late submissions, being late for classes and low grades at 27%, 25%, and 24% orderly.

Apart from having clashes with roommates, some of the participants mentioned that they faced difficulties due to poor and inefficient dormitory management. As specified by participant 8:

“I don't have any conflicts with my roommates, but I faced sleep difficulties due to lack of privacy and unprofessional attitude of the dormitory staff. They enter the room whenever they want without even knocking the door. I noticed that some of my things had gone missing. They sometimes come to the room at 6 AM, for such general maintenance or inspection while we are sleeping”.

He further added:

“There is no privacy while showering, one bathroom is shared by two rooms of 3 students in each, and there is no lock on the door. It is very annoying”.

As claimed by most of the participants and respondents that most of these impacts could be minimized if owners of dormitories hire professional staff, e.g., security personnel needs to be more alert, managers should be friendlier towards students, respect their need, listen to them and help them out in every possible way. As evidence of the unprofessional attitude, biased and racist behavior of the management, and lack of trust of students on management, only 91 students out of 232 complained to their dormitory managers about having conflicts with their roommates. However, 41 of them didn't get any help.

As witnessed by participant 8, security staff in his dormitory was seen sleeping instead of doing his duty. He said:

“Drunk guys come inside the dorms, and they pass out on the stairs and corridors, and security personnel doesn't care at all. Management needs to be a bit strict towards this problem”.

By analyzing the data, we figured out that the dormitory with the least impacts due to roommate conflicts had more professional staff. Going back to the records, the manager of this dormitory is an experienced female who knows how to deal with young people as she is a mother herself. While answering the question, “What do you do to minimize the impacts of roommate conflicts?” She stated:

“I deal with the students as my children, not as customers. We aim to give students a homely environment as they are far from their families. If we considered just money, everything would be destroyed”.

Manager 2 said, “We try our best to solve the problems by changing the roommates. We give verbal and written warnings to the offenders. If the bad behavior continues, we send them to the disciplinary committee and sometimes kick them out of the dorm as the last option”.

Although all the mentioned conflicts amidst roommates cannot be sorted out, as there are more than 20,000 students in EMU and most of them prefer to reside in dormitories in their freshmen year, they come from different backgrounds, different nationalities and possess different personalities. Still, their impacts can be minimized by taking appropriate measures.

Conclusion and Recommendations

To summarize, students bring a cornucopia of experiences and predispositions to their first college roommate experience (McCorkle & Mason, 2009). Our results showed that the majority of students deal with conflicts with their roommates every day. The most common ones were different bedtimes, room cleanliness, and noise (McCorkle & Mason, 2009). It was confirmed that these conflicts have an impact on their lifestyle and academic success in several ways. These clashes aggravated stress and aggression among students. Although it is impossible to solve these issues, however, they can be controlled and minimized. Dormitory management plays a pivotal role in reducing the impacts and consequences of such conflicts.

Specifically, the University’s self-dormitories (not privately owned) represent the image of the university. Therefore they should act efficiently and set an example for other dormitories by implementing some strict rules and regulations.

Nevertheless, by analyzing the results, it can be concluded that the main flaws of invested dormitories were; Alcohol and drug consumption, racism and discrimination, lack of rules and regulations, mismanagement, and finally, lack of proper maintenance in dormitories. Possible solutions might be taken into account to settle down the shortcomings above are:

- We are reducing the room prices, especially the single room, and making them affordable for students.
- Hire professional staff for dormitories.
- Put the dormitory evaluation on the students’ portal.
- Orientation sessions for the new arrivals.
- Set penalties for the offenders.
- Rules and regulations for noise; ‘lights out and strict actions against drunk.’
- Consider age groups and maturity levels of students while putting them in the same room.
- Appoint student counselors in dormitories.

Future Study

Future research may include more conflicts and impacts such as smoking, using the air conditioner, and inappropriate sexual behavior. It may also investigate more deeply if different demographic attributes play any role in the tendency of having roommate conflicts like; age, gender, nationality, religion, and culture.

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