

A study of
Attitudes to School Boarding
among adolescent School Boarders

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ABSTRACT

A major part of Sri Lanka population comprises of adolescents of school going age. A positive attitude towards school life should be developed in adolescents to ensure productive learning specially because the future of the country depends on them. In a society where transport problems, lack of schools in certain areas etc. necessitate the running of school boardings, it is very important that these boardings where school going adolescents reside are carefully and methodically planned so as to help the physical, emotional and social development of the adolescents during the critical period of their life. The purpose of this study was to explore the attitude of adolescent students towards school hostel living. Subjects attended and resided in private or government boarding schools in an urban area of Sri Lanka. Their average age was 16 years. The present study investigated the attitude of the adolescents towards hostel living as indicated by their response to friends and friendship, home and family, school work, hostel administration, self development and a few miscellaneous aspects. Students reported an overall favourable attitude to living in a school hostel especially with respect to opportunities provided for friendship, living with different people, study and school work and self development. Students had less favourable attitude towards hostel administration, physical facilities and relationship with family. The researcher concluded that adolescent subjects had a positive attitude towards hostel life. However the research indicates certain areas which need to be changed in order to make hostel living more fruitful.