

## **Facility Management in Education**

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**ABSTRACT:-** The main objective of this article is to describe a role of facility management in education. Facility management in education refers to the comprehensive management of physical facilities in educational institutions such as schools, colleges, universities, and training centers. It involves ensuring that the facilities are well-maintained, safe, and conducive to learning and teaching activities. Educational Institution's facility management service/department's leader's main responsibility is to ensure facilities are in proper working order. By facility, I mean everything from structural issues of educational institution's buildings to features like heating, cooling and ventilation, lighting, internet access and anything else that contributes to creating a safe and secure learning environment for students and proper work conditions for employees. In this article, I will discuss elements of the educational institution's facility management and will try to prove the importance of proper facility management for educational development.

**Keywords:** Facility management; Leader; Students; Educational Institution

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The role of facility management in educational institution is to maintain the building as best as possible and meet the needs and requirements of the staff, students, customers and other people, who use the building. Any educational institution, which aims to provide a good quality education to their students, must provide appropriate facilities, resources and maintenance services which will contribute a more effective learning environment to their users. (Hinum, 1999)

The role of a facility manager is to deliver the needs of students, staffs and guests. Facility manager should have a demand and expectations forecast from all the people who use the building in order to fulfill the expectations and interests of the interested parties.

#### **Role of Facility management in Education.**

Facilities management strongly affects the learning experience. The physical environment in which education takes place can influence students' engagement, motivation, and overall academic achievement. First and most important is Comfort and Well-being. Students and the staff should feel comfortable and safe to study and to teach. If they are not happy to come for education, then the quality of work of the staff and academic achievements of the students will definitely be low. Well-designed and maintained school facilities contribute to a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. Adequate lighting, comfortable seating, proper ventilation, and appropriate temperature control create a conducive environment for learning. When students and personnel feel physically comfortable, they are more likely to focus and engage in their studies and work. (Authority, 2022)

Another important direction is Safety and Security, which leads to fostering a positive learning and working atmosphere. If the students and staff do not feel safe and protected, a risk that they will lose a wish to come to the educational institution is high, not to talk about the motivation and engagement. Moreover, safety and security is important to risk and incidents management. When the students and the staff are aware that the educational institution has a proper management system of safety and security, the chances of any incidents are low. Well-maintained infrastructure, proper lighting, functioning security systems, and clear emergency response protocols help create a secure environment that promotes concentration and reduces anxiety.

As far as learning is not limited to the classroom, proper and comfortable learning spaces play a huge role in facility management of educational institution. The management should understand that students and the staff need some more spaces besides the classrooms, to work on projects, have extra curriculum activities, workshops and informal or formal meetings or at least, any space to let the students and the staff think. Unfortunately, not so many educational institutions take that into consideration that the personnel and the students need some more spaces for working and education besides their classrooms. It happens often that the academic management require creative work from their staff, but when it comes to where to work, there is no facility for that, but just the classroom with a board and computer. (Mireles & Elliott, 2022)

Well-designed classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other learning spaces enhance the learning experience. Properly equipped classrooms with modern technology, interactive whiteboards, and comfortable furniture can support different teaching methods and engage students effectively. Specialized spaces like science labs, art studios, and music rooms provide the necessary facilities for hands-on learning experiences. Moreover, facilities that include common areas, gathering spaces, and outdoor areas foster social interaction, collaboration, and a sense of community. (Mireles & Elliott, 2022). These spaces encourage students to work together, engage in group discussions, and develop social skills. Collaborative spaces also promote creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. Hence, only classroom is not enough for developing such global skills as creative thinking, collaboration, analytical thinking etc. In this case, providing the appropriate collaborative space, teachers/lecturers will be pushed to planning modern, student-oriented lessons rather than those, which were planned decades ago using a board and a traditional classroom space.

Sports and Recreation Facilities are another important direction of facility management. Physical activity is crucial for students' overall well-being and cognitive development. Schools with well-maintained sports fields, gymnasiums, playgrounds, and recreational facilities provide opportunities for students to engage in physical exercise, team sports, and extracurricular activities. These facilities contribute to a holistic educational experience and promote a healthy lifestyle. (Daigneau, 2006)

Finally, in today's digital age, schools need to have up-to-date technological infrastructure. By technological infrastructure, I do not mean only computers, which is already primitive for the modern educational approach, but more technological facilities for educational development. For example, interactive whiteboards, virtual laboratories, sound and video recorders, interactive learning platforms, tablets and many others will assist the teachers/lecturers plan more interactive and interesting lessons for students. (Daigneau, 2006)

### **How to implement effective facility management**

As mentioned above, in the previous chapter, effective facility management is a supportive tool for educational quality development. As all other processes in educational institutions, it is an ongoing process, which requires regular monitoring, adaptation, and continuous improvement. By implementing these steps, educational institutions can create a safe, well-maintained, and supportive learning environment for students and staff.

Implementing effective facility management in schools requires a *systematic approach* that involves planning, coordination, and ongoing evaluation. As in all other business processes, it is important to define the goals and objectives of facility management in frame of the overall mission and vision of the educational institution. It is necessary to identify specific outcomes (KPIs), which should be achieved. After the goals and objectives of the facility management are done, it is necessary to develop a facility management plan, which outlines strategies, policies and procedures to guide facility management activities. This plan should include maintenance schedules, safety protocols, space management strategies, energy conservation initiatives, technology integration plans, and budgeting processes. Nothing will be achieved without the competent personnel, so the next step is to build a competent facility management team with a qualified facility manager as a leader who is responsible for overseeing facility management activities. (Amie-Ogan & Bikiya, 2020). The team should have the necessary skills and expertise in areas such as maintenance, safety, space planning, technology, and finance. Clear roles and responsibilities should be defined to ensure effective coordination and accountability.

Conducting regular facility assessments are vitally important for continual improvement. Regular assessments include inspections, surveys, feedback from the staff and students. All the assessments should be documented and analyzed in order to fulfill the needs and expectations of the interested parties. The aim of the assessments is to maintain the quality of the facilities, improve facilities and offer better facility management. Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of facility management practices and gather feedback from stakeholders. Monitor key performance indicators, such as maintenance response time, energy consumption, and user satisfaction. Use this information to identify areas for improvement and implement changes to enhance facility management practices. In frame of analyzing, it is important to set effective preventive actions. (Amie-Ogan & Bikiya, 2020)

For effective facility management, we need to develop a space management strategy to optimize the use of available space within the educational institution. Analyze space requirements, allocate classrooms and other areas efficiently, and track space utilization. Consider factors such as class sizes, program needs, and future growth to ensure effective space utilization. In addition, the last factor, which is necessary for implementation of effective facility management, is to foster partnerships, which include Collaboration with vendors, contractors, and service providers to ensure timely and cost-effective maintenance and repairs. Develop partnerships with local businesses, community organizations, or parent volunteers who can contribute to facility improvement projects or provide resources.

## II. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, facility management plays a vital role in education by ensuring that the physical environment of educational institutions is well-maintained, safe, and conducive to learning. Through diligent maintenance, efficient space management, safety protocols, energy management initiatives, compliance with regulations, and effective resource allocation, facility managers contribute to the overall educational experience. By creating an environment that supports teaching and learning, facility management enhances the educational journey of students, promoting their success, well-being, and growth.

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