

GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH, Darmstadt



# PhD Students Survey Report - 2013

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Survey on relocation issue of PhD Students at GSI

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## 1. Introduction

The survey was conducted in GSI among PhD students using the "Google-forms" powered by Google Inc. The PhD student mailing list [[PhD-ALL@gsi.de](mailto:PhD-ALL@gsi.de)] consists of 170 registered email addresses from with [f.lastname@gsi.de](mailto:f.lastname@gsi.de) format only. Some of these email addresses are no longer active or active PhD students. These can be categorized as follows:

- No longer PhD students (Promoted to Post-Doc positions) [ $10 \pm 2$ ]\*<sup>1</sup>
- PhD students no longer in GSI (finished their PhD) [ $10 \pm 2$ ]\*
- Not a PhD Student but registered! (??) [ $5 \pm 1$ ]\*

Total number of these people can be estimated roughly to  $25 \pm 5$ . So it can be assumed that PhD Students currently in GSI is around  $145 \pm 15$ . So for an efficient survey we need to have a good representation of these 150 PhD students. From the Survey we have received 53 unique responses ( $\approx 37\%$  of the total PhD Population<sup>2</sup>) From the Statistical point of view with a these number it has been shown that having more than 25% [1] respondents is already a good sample and we can trust the survey analysis on the basis of respondents more than or equal to 25%. In our case it is 36.55%. Also from [2] it gives an idea that out confidence level is 95% and the margin of error can be estimated to be 10%.

## 2. Motivation for the Survey

The Survey was intended to have a broader picture of the situation of PhD students in GSI. With reference to some complaints in the last month which were encountered by the Helmholtz-Juniors (HeJu) at GSI some students faced problems with the relocation of the students to new office etc positions. This survey is also to realize and identify the situation and also to investigate the scenario of this situation among all PhD students from various departments.

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<sup>1</sup> These numbers are estimated randomly as an observation. The real number may vary with a range of 10 %

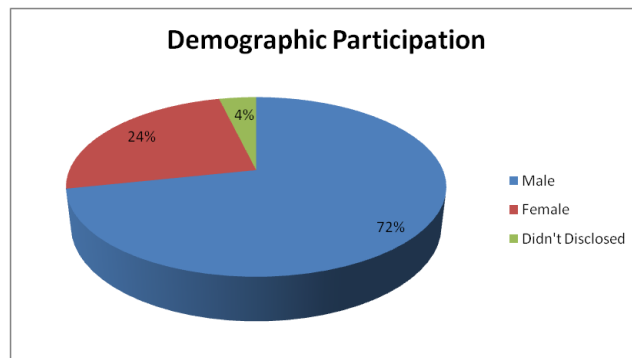
<sup>2</sup> Expected population of PhD students at GSI

### 3. General Demographic Analysis

#### 1. PhD Students: Demography and Distribution

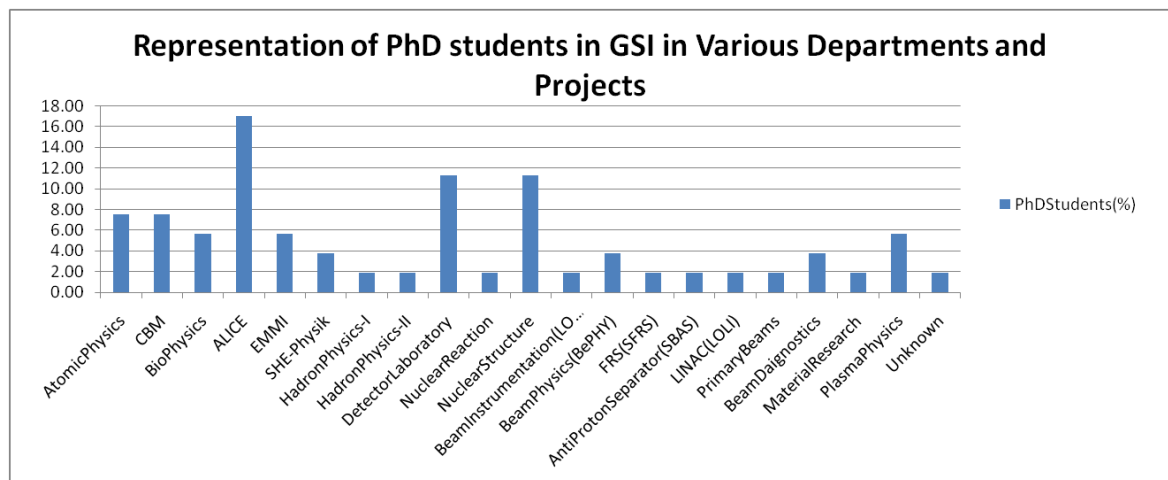
Among the participation, In GSI 74% of the male, 24% of the female responded and 4 % did not disclose their gender. This gives an idea that we have more male PhD Students in GSI than female.

Demographic Participation				
Categories	Male	Female	Didn't Disclosed	Total
Percentage	71.70	24.53	3.77	100.00
Actual Numbers	38	13	2	53



#### 2. PhD Students: Representation in Various departments

This chart below shows the effective participation of the students in various departments of the GSI. This chart also gives an idea about the number of students working in different project/departments of GSI.

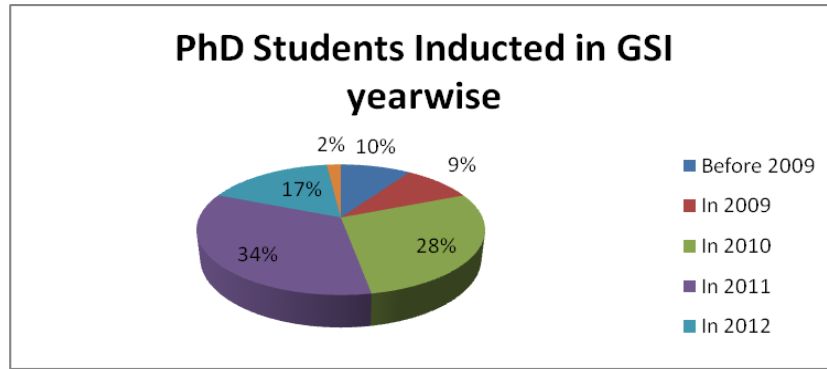


<b>PhD Representation from Departments</b>		
<b>Departments</b>	<b>PhDStudents</b>	<b>PhDStudents(%)</b>
AtomicPhysics	4	7.55
CBM	3	7.55
BioPhysics	9	5.66
ALICE	3	16.98
EMMI	2	5.66
SHE-Physik	1	3.77
HadronPhysics-I	1	1.89
HadronPhysics-II	6	1.89
DetectorLaboratory	1	11.32
NuclearReaction	6	1.89
NuclearStructure	1	11.32
BeamInstrumentation(LOBI)	2	1.89
BeamPhysics(BePHY)	1	3.77
FRS(SFRS)	1	1.89
AntiProtonSeparator(SBAS)	1	1.89
LINAC(LOLI)	1	1.89
PrimaryBeams	2	1.89
BeamDaignostics	1	3.77
MaterialResearch	3	1.89
PlasmaPhysics	3	5.66
Unknown	1	1.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3. PhD Students: Enrolled in GSI

The chart below shows the induction of the PhD students in GSI. This indicated that the majority of the PhD students present in the GSI are from 2011 and 2010 with 34% and 28% of the total respectively. Interestingly, from the chart it is also clear that about 20% of the students are taking more than 3 years to complete the PhD in GSI.

<b>Year of Joining PhD at GSI</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>PhD Students</b>	<b>PhD Students (%)</b>
<b>Before 2009</b>	9.43	5
<b>In 2009</b>	9.43	5
<b>In 2010</b>	28.30	15
<b>In 2011</b>	33.96	18
<b>In 2012</b>	16.98	9
<b>In 2013</b>	1.89	1
<b>total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

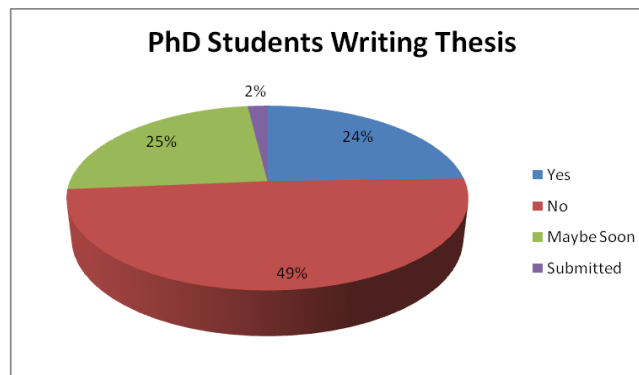


We still have students of about 9% from 2009 and 10% from before 2009. This is an alarming figure for the Graduate School.

#### 4. PhD Students: Writing Thesis

This chart gives the idea about how many students in GSI are just writing their thesis now. Only 24% of the responded students said that they are writing their thesis. Interesting fact is these student are the worst affected by the relocation as they are not moved to library.

<b>Are you writing your Thesis?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>PhD Students</b>	<b>PhD Students (%)</b>
Yes	13	24.5
No	26	49.1
Maybe Soon	13	24.5
Submitted	1	1.9
Total	53	100.0

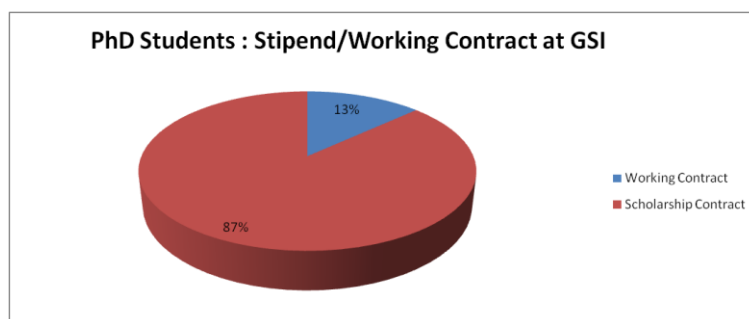


## 4. Working Contract/Scholarship at GSI: Analysis

### 1. Contract vs. Scholarship Issue at GSI

The plots below show the condition of contracts in GSI among the PhD students. It is clear that 87 % of the students are having normal scholarship contract and rest have Working contracts equivalent to a normal JOB in GSI.

PhD Students Contract/Stipend situation		
Categories	PhD Students (%)	PhD Students
Working Contract	13.21	7
Scholarship Contract	86.79	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>

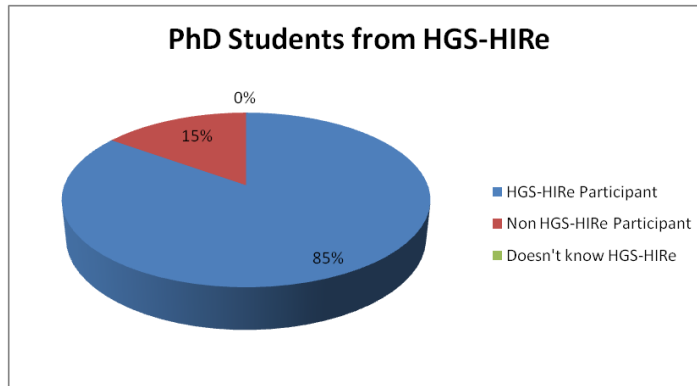


### 2. Graduate School (HGS-HIRe) at GSI

The chart gives the number of PhD students in GSI who is also participant in the Helmholtz Graduate School for Heavy Ion and Research. 85% participants are from the HGS-HIRe and rest from other Institutes etc.

PhD Students as Participant of HGS-HIRe		
Categories	PhD Students (%)	PhD Students
HGS-HIRe Participant	84.90566038	45
Non HGS-HIRe Participant	15.09433962	8
Doesn't know HGS-HIRe	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>

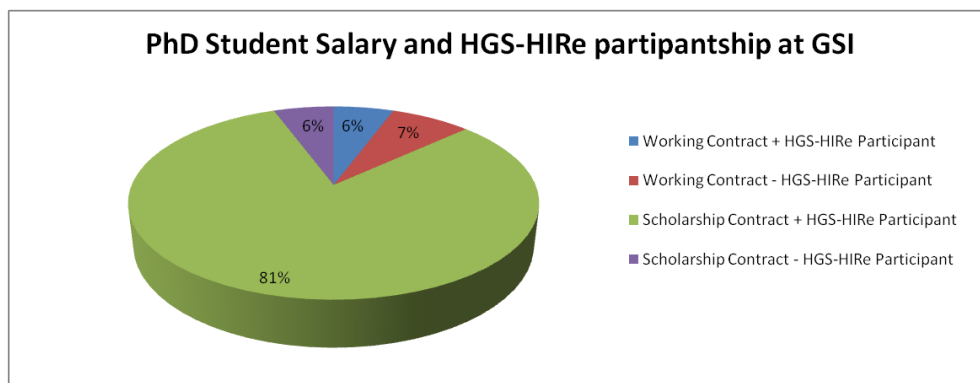




### 3. HGS-HIRE participant-ship at GSI

Interestingly it is evident that among the Working Contract students are also a part of HGS-HIRE and some Students are with Scholarship but no participantship in HGS-HIRE. This is evident from the fact that there are other Graduate schools as well in GSI which account for non-HGS-HIRE participants shown in the chart below.

PhD Student Salary and HGS-HIRE participantship at GSI		
Categories	PhD Students (%)	PhD Students
Working Contract + HGS-HIRE Participant	5.66	3
Working Contract - HGS-HIRE Participant	7.55	4
Scholarship Contract + HGS-HIRE	81.13	43
Scholarship Contract - HGS-HIRE	5.66	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>

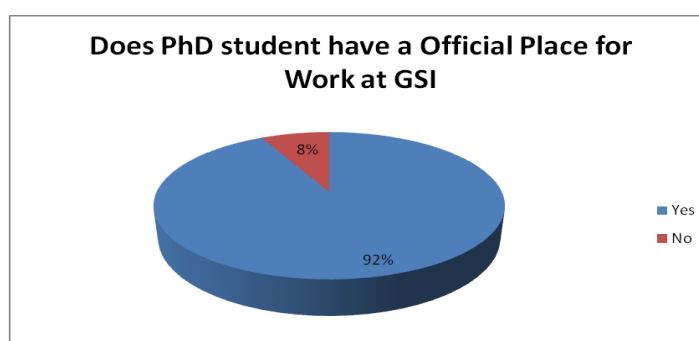


## 5. Office Situation: Survey Analysis

### 1. PhD Students: Office Situation

This chart below show how many students have an Official place to work at GSI. 92% of the total participants responded that they have an official place from where they are work for their project/PhD thesis.

<b>Do you have Office at GSI?</b>		
<b>Answers</b>	<b>PhD Students (%)</b>	<b>PhD Students</b>
<b>Yes</b>	92.45283019	49
<b>No</b>	7.547169811	4

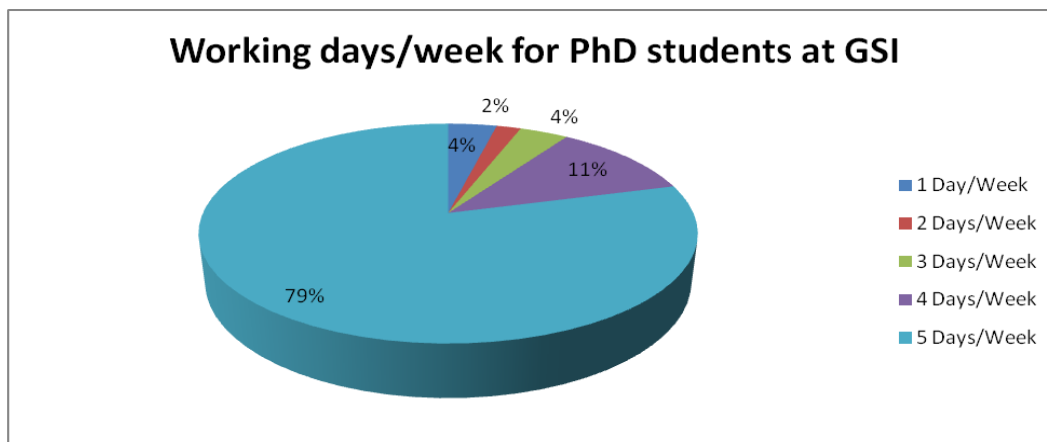


This is a good sign but we need to analyze more to know about those 8% Student who do not have any office to work at GSI.

### 2. PhD Students: Working Days/Week

The chart below shows that the most of the PhD student are working all 5 days/week (~80%). If we consider the total of 5 days/week and 4 days/week than it goes as big as ~90%. It is interesting to know who are most effected. If the students who is coming 5 days/week or 4 days/week is having no office then it is a serious issue but the vice-versa doesn't hold good.

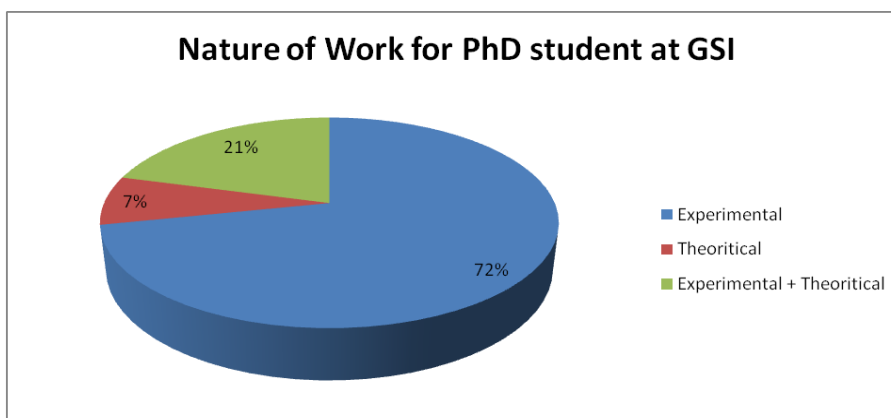
<b>Working days per week for PhD students</b>		
<b>Working days/week</b>	<b>PhD Students (%)</b>	<b>PhD Students</b>
<b>1 Day/Week</b>	3.77	2
<b>2 Days/Week</b>	1.89	1
<b>3 Days/Week</b>	3.77	2
<b>4 Days/Week</b>	11.32	6
<b>5 Days/Week</b>	79.25	42
<b>Total</b>	100	53



### 3. PhD Students: Nature of Work

The nature of work can be criteria to have a special place of work or working condition. This chart gives an idea about the nature of work for the students in GSI. Mostly work with experimental kind of work and only 7% of the total responded to be engaged in theoretical work.

Nature of Work for PhD Students at GSI		
Answers	PhD Students (%)	PhD Students
Experimental	71.70	38
Theoretical	7.55	4
Experimental + Theoretical	20.75	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>

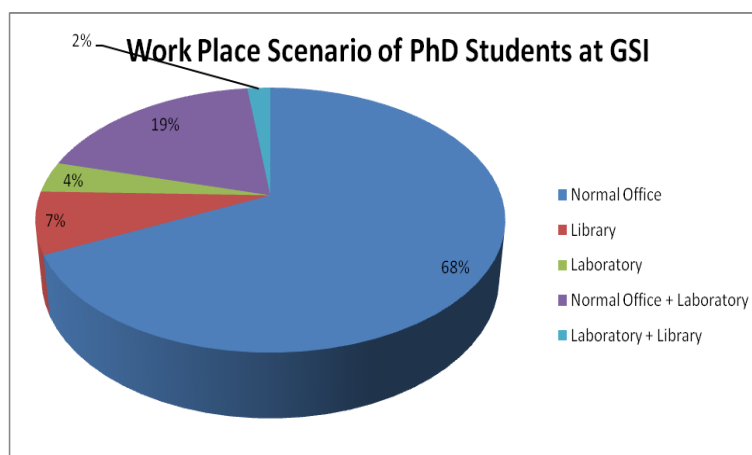


### 4. Work Place Scenario for the PhD Students

In this section we try to investigate the Workplace scenario of the PhD Students based on the location they work from. This chart gives a clear indication that most of the students have a normal office (68%) and if you include students working from both

Office and laboratory (19%) then the majority is looks to have a good working space around 90%. Only 10% of the Students are affected from the relocation/movement.

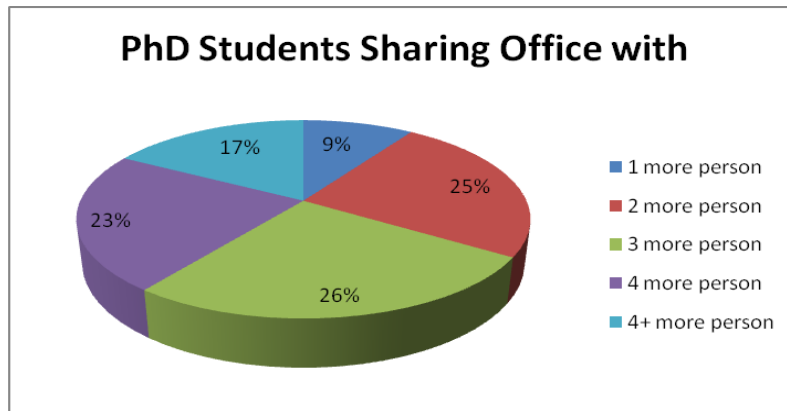
<b>PhD Students WorkPlace type at GSI</b>		
<b>Answers</b>	<b>PhD Students (%)</b>	<b>PhD Students</b>
<b>Normal Office</b>	67.92	36
<b>Library</b>	7.55	4
<b>Laboratory</b>	3.77	2
<b>Normal Office + Laboratory</b>	18.87	10
<b>Laboratory + Library</b>	1.89	1
<b>Total</b>	100	53



### 5. PhD Students: Situation with Office Sharing

This chart gives us information about the situation of the office sharing of the PhD Student in GSI. Around 10% work with a twin sharing room. Only a few bout 17 % are working with 4 or more colleagues but they are mostly located in the laboratory.

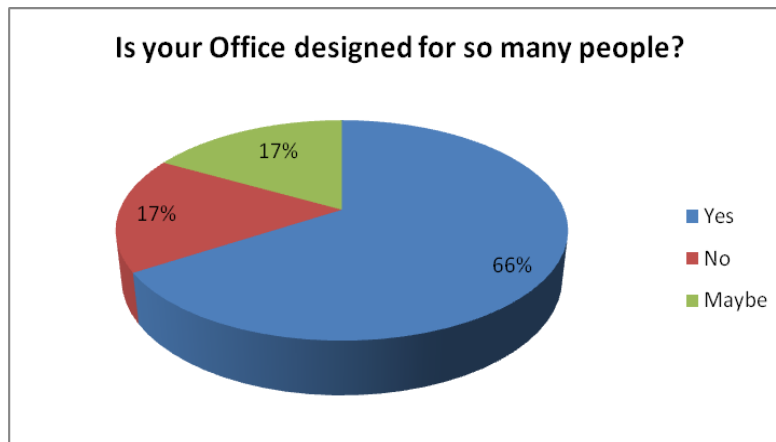
<b>How many people Share the Office/Room with you?</b>		
<b>Answers</b>	<b>PhD Students (%)</b>	<b>PhD Students</b>
<b>1 more person</b>	9.43	5
<b>2 more person</b>	24.53	13
<b>3 more person</b>	26.42	14
<b>4 more person</b>	22.64	12
<b>4+ more person</b>	16.98	9
<b>Total</b>	100	53



### 6. PhD Students: Office Design and Comfortless

In this chart we observe that most of the office are perfectly designed and hold correct number of people in it. But still there is very small percentage of PhD Students who is not happy with the number of people sharing their work place.

Is you Office designed for so many people?				
Answers	Yes	No	Maybe	Total
PhD Students (%)	66.04	16.98	16.98	100
PhD Students	35	9	9	53



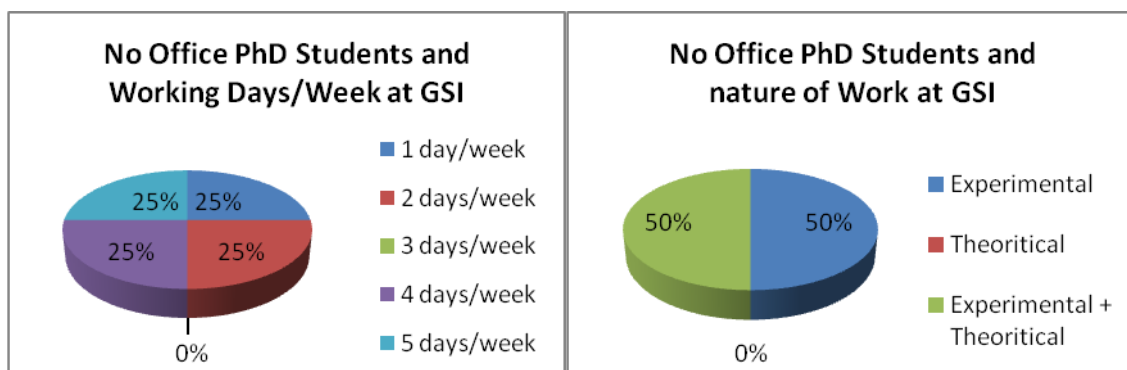
### 7. PhD Students with No Office

No office situation students were asked more questions to specify their working days per week at GSI. The chart below shows that only four students responded with no

Office in the total of 53 students and only one person is coming for all days in a week. So the problem is not severe as it was complained.

<b>No Office PhD Students &amp; Working Days/Week</b>		
Situation	PhD Students (%)	PhD Students
1 day/week	25	1
2 days/week	25	1
3 days/week	0	0
4 days/week	25	1
5 days/week	25	1
<b>Total</b>	100	4

<b>No Office PhD Students &amp; nature of work</b>		
Situation	PhD Students (%)	PhD Students
Experimental	50	2
Theoretical	0	0
Experimental	50	2
<b>Total</b>	100	4

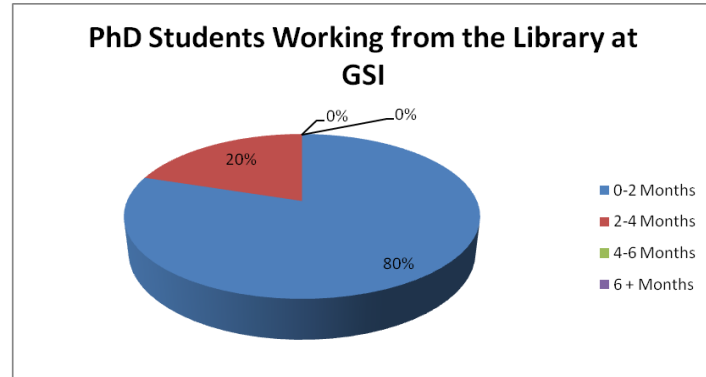


Furthermore, they were are for the nature of work so no body works purely theoretical at GSI the share of work was 2 person working purely experimental and 2 with both theoretical and experimental.

### 8. PhD Students: Working from Library

This chart shows the duration for which these students have been working from the library. Most of them have been just moved to work from the library only one person is been there for more than 2 months.

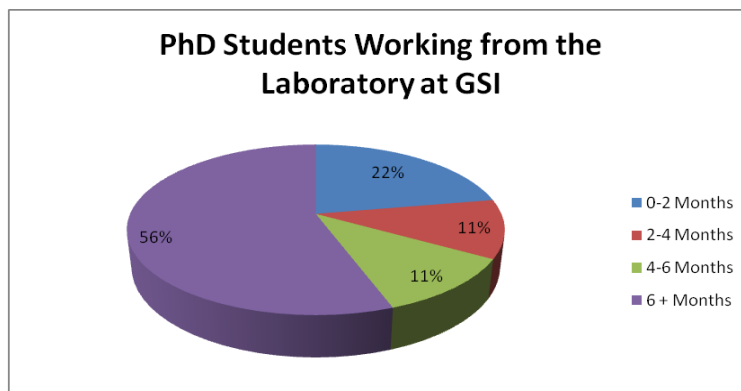
<b>PhD Students working from Library</b>		
<b>Duration</b>	<b>PhD Students (%)</b>	<b>PhD Students</b>
<b>0-2 Months</b>	80.00	4
<b>2-4 Months</b>	20.00	1
<b>4-6 Months</b>	0.00	0
<b>6 + Months</b>	0.00	0
<b>Total</b>	100	5



### 9. PhD Students: Working from Laboratory

Here we see that some contrast as the students are who are working from Laboratory is a majority. But the PhD students who is been moved to laboratory recently is only 22% which is 2 in 9 people working from Laboratory.

<b>PhD Students working from Laboratory</b>		
<b>Duration</b>	<b>PhD Students (%)</b>	<b>PhD Students</b>
<b>0-2 Months</b>	22.22	2
<b>2-4 Months</b>	11.11	1
<b>4-6 Months</b>	11.11	1
<b>6 + Months</b>	55.56	5
<b>Total</b>	100	9

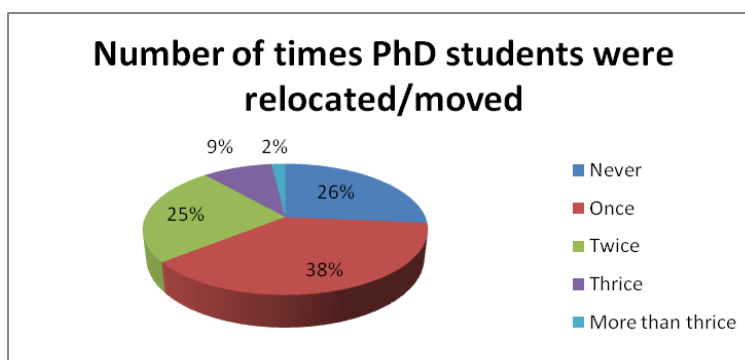


## 6. Relocation Issue at GSI: Survey Analysis

### 1. Frequency of relocation

This chart below shows the response of students on the question about the number of times they have been relocated/moved during their PhD. It is clear that one fourth were never moved. More than One third were moved one and one fourth were moved twice. A little as 2 % responded that they were moved/relocated more than 3 times or so. It is clear that relocation of PhD students is not a rare feature in GSI.

How often were you relocated?		
Answer	PhDStudents	PhDStudents(%)
Never	26.42	14
Once	37.74	20
Twice	24.53	13
Thrice	9.43	5
More than thrice	1.89	1
Total	100	53

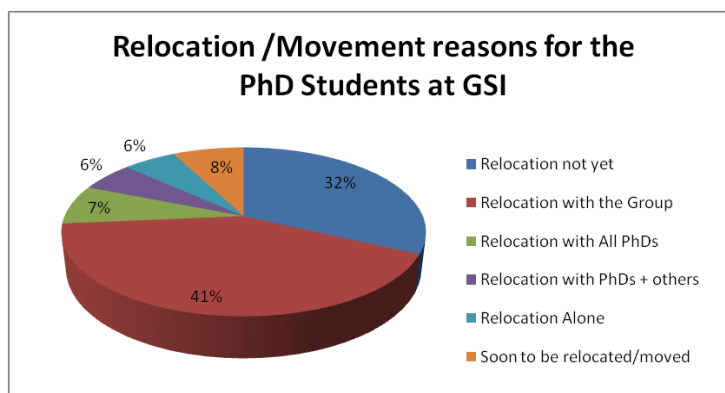


### 2. Reason for relocation

Reasons for the relocation in GSI were also asked to students and it is clear that One third were never moved (also evident from the previous picture). Almost 41% were moved because they have to move with the whole group/department they work for. 6% of students reported that they moved along with some others which are also not a partiality with Students. Interesting data is only 6% of them said that they have to move alone. The number suggests that the students effected with negligence and partial movement is less and is in minority.



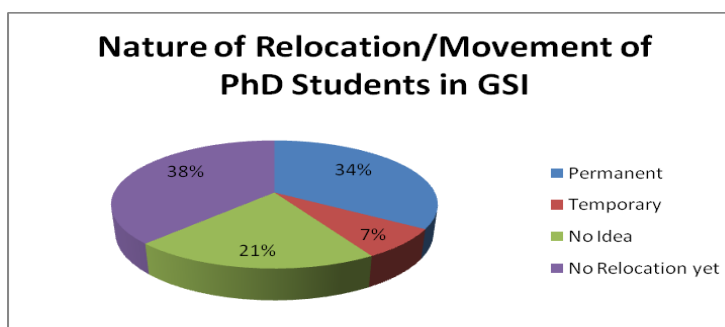
Reason for Movement/Relocation		
Answers	PhD Students (%)	PhD Students
Relocation not yet	32.08	17
Relocation with the Group	41.51	22
Relocation with All PhDs	7.55	4
Relocation with PhDs +	5.66	3
Relocation Alone	5.66	3
Soon to be relocated/moved	7.55	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>



### 3. Type of relocation

From this chart it is clear that the only 7% students have been moved to temporary location. Rest of the students have been either in permanent location or they have no idea if its temporary.

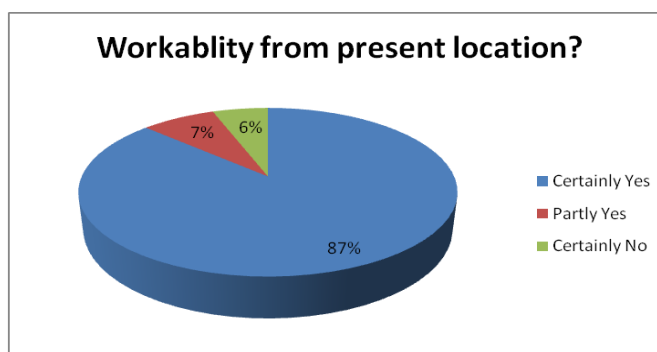
Relocation/Movement type		
Answers	PhD Students (%)	PhD Students
Permanent	33.96	18
Temporary	7.55	4
No Idea	20.75	11
No Relocation yet	37.74	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>



#### 4. Workability from relocated place

From this chart it is very predominantly give us a verdict that the work of the student is not affected from the relocation. About 87% say they can work efficiently and if the partially yes candidates are also taken then only 6% is left who can really not work. This gives us a hint that the issue of relocation is local and not global to GSI.

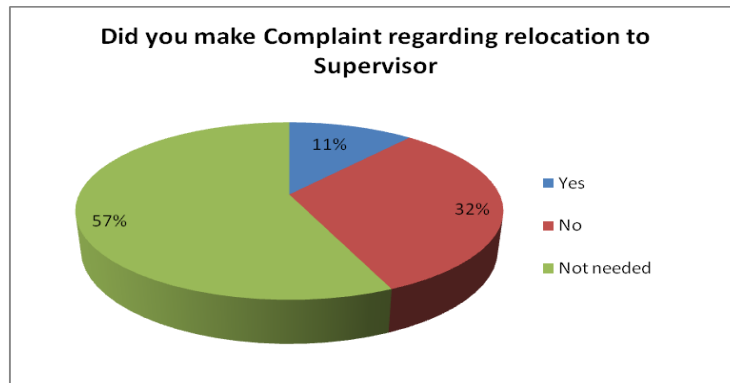
<b>Workability from the present situation</b>				
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Certainly Yes</b>	<b>Partly Yes</b>	<b>Certainly No</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>PhD Students (%)</b>	86.79245283	7.547169811	5.660377358	100
<b>PhD Students</b>	46	4	3	53



#### 5. Complaints about relocation to Supervisor

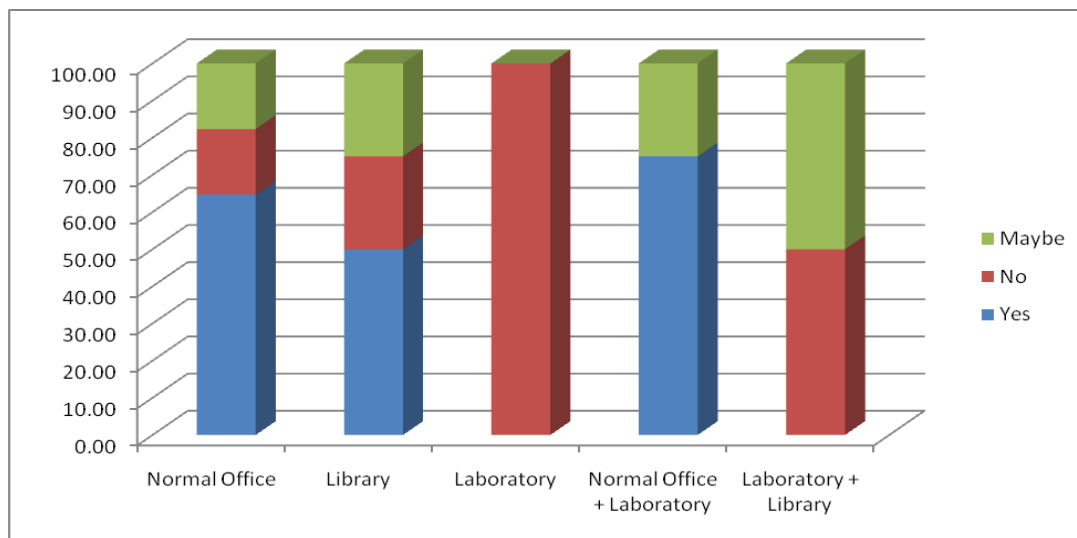
The number of students that complained about their relocated place/position for working is very few around 10% only. Whereas almost 63% think that they do not need to complain about it and about 27% have not complained yet. It was evident from the previous chart about majority can work from their present location so this gives a clear indication of the situation.

<b>Complaint made against relocation?</b>		
<b>Answers</b>	<b>PhD Students</b>	<b>PhD Students (%)</b>
<b>Yes</b>	6	11.32075472
<b>No</b>	17	32.0754717
<b>Not needed</b>	30	56.60377358
<b>Total</b>	53	100



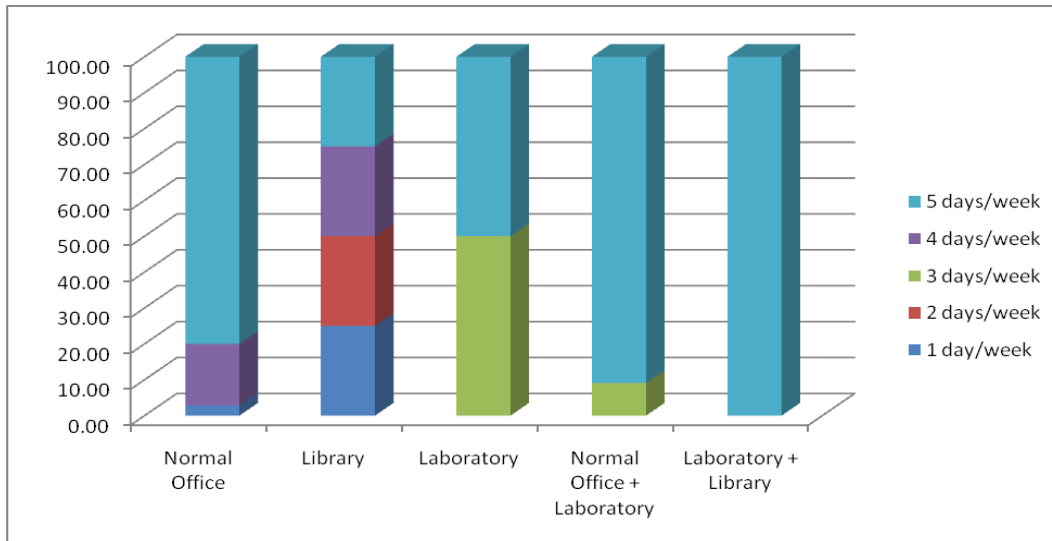
### 7. Conclusion

The Bar graph shows the response to the question to the workability from the present location. It seems that the PhD students are not happy only from a group which largely works from the Laboratory and has no office space. But it is interesting that the PhD Students who are from working library are also divided and a large portion believes they can work from the new location.

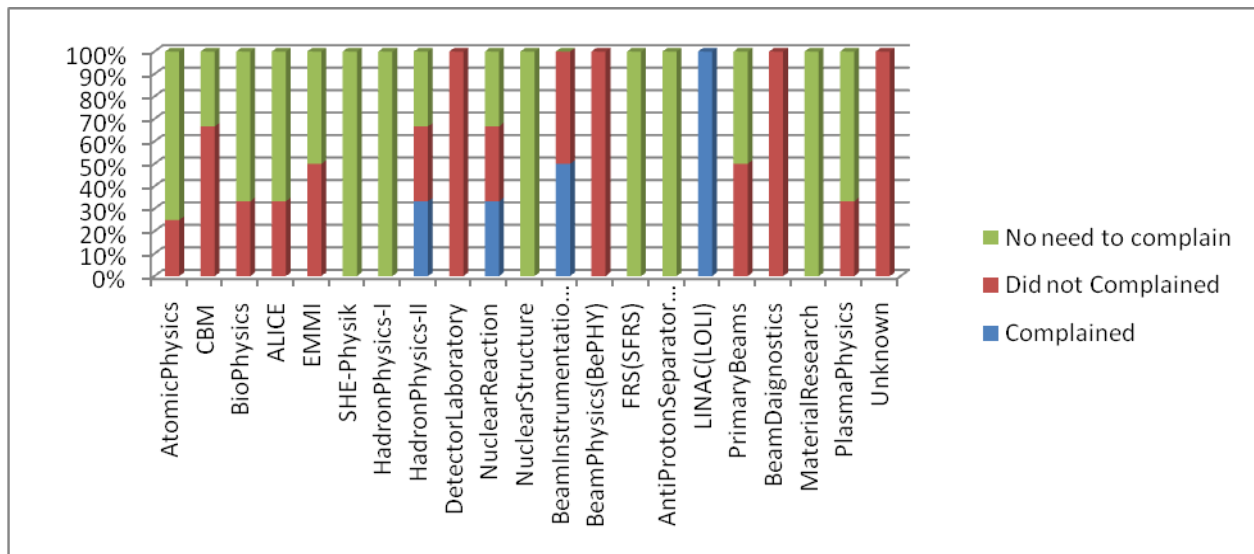


From the bar graph below it is clear that PhD Students who largely work from the Library are coming less often than others in GSI. So the reason of being shifted to Library to some of the Students may be the best possible situation. Only students are working from library out of 53 respondents. Interestingly it can be observed that half of

the students who are only working at Laboratory and has no office are coming Office only 3 days/week.



Only a small fraction of students have really complained to their Supervisor regarding the Matter. It is also clear that complaints are from hadron Physik II (2), Nuclear reactions (1), Beam Instrumentation (2) and LINAC (1). Taking into account that majority of the students responded that they are happy and certainly work easily from the new location.



So from this survey it can be concluded that:

- Relocation is common feature in GSI as many students have been relocated and majority of them are mostly with the whole group or with the PhDs of the group. Single movement are restricted to special cases and limited by number.
- Students badly affected from the relocation (No Office) or not happy to relocate to a new location are mostly coming less often to GSI and most of them could work properly from their new location. There are few exceptions.
- The problem of unsatisfactory relocation is not a global issue to GSI but a local issue limited in some of the groups/departments and is not a partial as well. Because most of the students neither complained about the problem nor think of doing so. Only a small fraction of students are affected and complained.

## 8. References

[1] See Blog from a premier survey client for more details:

<http://blog.surveymonkey.com/blog/2011/09/15/how-many-people-do-i-need-to-take-my-survey/>

[2] Survey Accuracy and confidence level: [http://www.greatbrook.com/survey\\_accuracy.pdf](http://www.greatbrook.com/survey_accuracy.pdf)