

**MANAGEMENT OF YOUTH HOSTEL: RESPONSIBILITIES  
OF STAKEHOLDERS IN EMPOWERING YOUTH  
TRAVELLERS IN INDIA**

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**Abstract**

The Youth Hostels could not be popularized among youth/ students group. And even the construction, commissioning has been done in slow phase .Thereis a need for the expansion of Youth Hostel network in the country as youth are one of the most mobile and migrant section of the society. These can be developed to Youth Resource Centres with various activities needed for the youth travelers.The present paper focuses into the problems of management of Youth Hostels and suggests them for developing various activities to empower the youth travelers..

**Key words:** Youth Hostel Management, Youth Travelers and Stakeholders Responsibility

## 1.0 Introduction

The Youth Hostel Movement is the brainchild of an eminent German school teacher, Richard Schirrmann, who set up the first Youth Hostel in Altenia, Germany. As a consequence, the Youth Hostels Association was formed in Germany in 1919. The inauguration of the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) was an outcome of the first International Youth Hostel Federation Conference held in Amsterdam in 1932. Youth Hostels were established in Europe with hygienic and sanitary conditions. IYHF is presently represented by 62 National Member Associations and 18 Associate Organizations and 18 Accredited Agents with a chain of more than 4,500 Youth Hostels and 4.5 million youth members worldwide. The hostels provide 35 million bed nights and an estimated contribution of \$ 1.6 million (US) to the World Tourist revenue every year. With the computerized services available in a number of Youth Hostels for accommodation booking, more than 4 million people see the world through Youth Hostelling International.

The movement of Youth Hostelling started in India in the year 1945 before our Independence with Mysore Youth Hostel (much before starting of NSS, NYK). The Government of India has been extending support to Youth Hostel Movement since 1966. The Youth Hostels Scheme was formulated as per the guidelines prescribed in the manual of the International Youth Hostel Federation. Youth Hostels Scheme has been functioning as a joint venture between the Central and the State Governments. While the Central Government bears the cost of construction, the State Governments provide fully developed land free of cost, with water, electricity and approach road. After construction the Hostels are handed over to the State Governments for management. The Youth Hostels are looked after by a Warden and the Assistant.

Youth Hostels are:

- Non-religious, non-political and non-commercial unit without discrimination to race, color, sex, caste, creed, or social background.
- Overnight charges are kept to the minimum so that the youth with limited means can avail the stay facility.
- As the travel industry booming up in India, youth student will be accommodated in safe and hygiene with nominal cost.
- It promotes youth travel and youth activity program like
  - National Integration camp

- Training and Development programs for youth
- Awareness classes conducting
- Youth exchange programs
- To conduct cultural event
- Group accommodation
- Adventure camp
- Health camp etc.

### 1.1 Management of Youth Hostels in India :

Youth Hostels Scheme has been functioning as a joint venture between the Central and the State Governments. While the Central Government bears the cost of construction, the State Governments provide fully developed land free of cost, with water, electricity and approach road. After construction the Hostels are handed over to the State Governments for management. The Youth Hostels are looked after by a Warden and the Assistant Warden, usually, a husband – wife team, who are paid an honorarium of Rs.5,000/- for both and conveyance allowance of Rs.500/- per month. A special allowance of Rs.500/- per month is also paid to the team of Warden/Assistant Warden working in the Youth Hostels located in North-Eastern Region of the country. The 9th Five Year Plan (Vol-2) under the heading Performance Review of Eighth Plan mentions that 50 Youth Hostels have already been commissioned by then and 23 were under various stages of construction.

**Table No: 1: Statewise Number of Youth Hostels**

Name of the State	Number of Youth Hostels
1. Andaman & Nicobar	-
2. Arunachal Pradesh	-
3. Andhra Pradesh	3
4. Assam	-
5. Bihar	-

6. Chhatisgarh	-
7. Delhi	1
8. Goa	4
9. Gujrat	2
10. Haryana	-
11. Himachal Pradesh	2
12. Jammu & Kashmir	3
13. Jharkhand	1
14. Karnatak	2
15. Kerala	2
16. Madhya Pradesh	2
17. Maharashtra	
18. Mizoram	-
19. Meghalaya	1
20. Nagaland	-
21. Orissa	1
22. Pondichery	1
23. Punjab	1
24. Rajastan	8
25. Tamilnadu	3
26. Tripura	1
27. Uttarpradesh	3
28. Uttarakhand	10
29. West Bengal	9
30. Sikkim	1
TOTAL	61

Source: Youth Hostel Association of India of India

### 1.2 Problems faced in Management of Youth Hostels:

The Youth Hostels could not be popularized among youth/ students group. And even the construction, commissioning has been done in slow phase that is less than 1.5 hostels per year are added. As mentioned in the report of the working group on Youth Affairs and Adolescents Development for Formulation of 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2007- 2012) under the Youth Development (page No. 105, 3.25, 3.26) the number of Youth Hostels in the country to be increased to 200 where as only 80 youth hostel functioning as on date. Even the capital of India and metro cities like Mumbai and Kolkatta does not having Government Youth Hostel and also most of the state / UT capitals like Chandigarh, Bangalore, Lucknow, Lakshadweep does not have Youth Hostel. There is a need for the expansion of Youth Hostel network in the country as youth are one of the most mobile and migrant section of the society.

- Among the 80 Youth Hostels 12 were handed over to NSS/ NYK for some other purpose than hostelling. Now, only 68 Youth Hostels were available for travelers. Among 68, in terms of performance is mixed.
- The Hostel Management Committee not able to spare adequate time for Youth Hostel activity. The Hostel Management Committee not able to meet at every three months interval.
- Hostel Management Committee to be may be re-designed.
- Standing instruction to be issued to NYK, NSS, Scouts, NCC, all State tourism department, Schools/ colleges, Education department regarding Youth Hostel, and its resources and for effective use for the youth.
- The training program for the managers to be organized as most of them is new to this industry.
- And also all the staffs to be trained in phased manner related to their work area.
  - Like all receptionist to be trained for hospitality
  - All security/ watchman to be trained for firefighting/ security.
  - Sanitary workers to be trained on hygiene/ housekeeping.
- Staff working in Youth Hostel are on the basis of temporary/ daily rated/ consolidated/ honorarium etc., (as no clear pattern available). Required uniform pattern for staffing

and salary.

- To encourage the staff, the incentive pattern on revenue collection may be worked out and order may be issued centrally, without passing the responsibility to Hostel Management Committee.
- Constant Guidelines/ instruction to be issued centrally to all the Youth Hostel.
- One time communication to be made to the entire State Government department concerned to support Youth Hostel at their region.
- All Youth Hostel to be linked with the dedicated network and website.
- Promotion activity to be done on major railway station and bus station for Youth Hostel.
- During the past the myth in the travelers mind, like to stay in the Youth Hostel are permitted only those who have “the Youth Hostel Association membership card” , “ the hostel is only for students” and “ not for travelers” etc., to be eradicated by making wide publicity and promotion activities.
- The focus and progress of Youth Hostel is not up to the mark, because
  - Low financial allocation.
  - Administration problem/ mismanagement.
  - Less effectiveness of Hostel Management Committee.
  - Low salary structure
  - Poor job security and involvement of workers.
  - Lack of State Government support.
  - Lack of popularity and promotion activity.
  - Lack of tourist turn out and revenue collection.
  - Lack of team work (Zone/ Region/ State/ National).
- In sufficient staffing.
- Short of uniform guidelines/ instruction etc.,

**Table: 2 Youth Hostel Management Committees**

The Youth Hostel Management Committee proposed by Government of India is outlined below.

For State Capital Youth Hostels

( i )	Secretary of the Department of Youth Affairs of the concerned State UT Government.	Chairman
( ii )	Deputy Commissioner/ District Magistrate of the concerned District.	Member
( iii )	Representative of PWD at the level of Executive Engineer/ Assistant Engineer.	Member
( iv )	District Youth Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra of the concerned District.	Member
( v )	Manager of the Youth Hostel	Member Secretary

For Non-State Capital Youth Hostels

( i )	Deputy Commissioner/ District Magistrate of the concerned District.	Chairman
( ii )	Representative of PWD at the level of Executive Engineer/ Assistant Engineer.	Member
( iii )	Representative of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports of the State Government.	Member
( iv )	District Youth Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Kendra of the concerned District.	Member
( v )	Manager of the Youth Hostel	Member Secretary

### 1.3 Responsibilities of Stakeholders in Empowering Youth Travellers :

The responsibilities of Stakeholders in the Youth Hostel Management gives significance to operating their business and operations to a high degree of ethical, social and environmental



responsibility through stakeholders i.e youth hostel staffs, youth travelers and local community , whilst providing an exceptional level of hospitality along with eco-friendly environment to their stay and travel.

The Planning Commission has allocated Rs.12crores during the 11th Five Year Plan for the completion of ongoing projects of Youth Hostels and has desired to discontinue the scheme thereafter. Youth Hostel tariff was revised as the non A/C bed charge for students Rs.80/- and general Rs. 120/- and there is no concession for youth travelers, need to be addressed. Promotion activity with the co-operation of State tourism and Education Department are being worked out and the responsibility of maintenance of the hostel building to be redesigned, as the work carried out by the local PWD/ CPWD not meeting the standard / quality/ time frame and also not cost effective to carry out the maintenance work/ repair work.

Hostel managers are to be empowered with the financial sealing from the hostel fund for carrying out the minor repair work and Annual Maintenance Work. Hostel Management Committee to be may be re-designed and Standing instruction are to be issued to NYK, NSS, Scouts, NCC, all State tourism department, Schools/ colleges, Education department regarding Youth Hostel, and its resources and for effective use for the youth.

The training program for the managers are to be organized as most of them are new to this industry and also all the staffs are to be trained in phased manner related to their work area.

- Like all receptionist to be trained for hospitality
- All security/ watchman to be trained for firefighting/ security.
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Staff working in Youth Hostel is on the basis of temporary/ daily rated/ consolidated/ honorarium etc.To encourage the staff, the incentive pattern on revenue collection may be worked out and order may be issued centrally, without passing the responsibility to Hostel Management Committee. Constant Guidelines/ instruction are to be issued centrally to all the Youth Hostel.One time communication to be made to the entire State Government department concerned to support Youth Hostel at their region. All Youth Hostel are to be linked with the dedicated network and website and Promotion activity to be done on major railway station and bus station for Youth Hostel.



#### 1.4 Proposed Multiple Responsibilities of the Stakeholders:

The multiple stakeholders in the Youth Hostel Management are Youth Hostel Managers and Employees, Youth Travelers and Community. The proposed responsibilities of the stakeholders are outlined below:

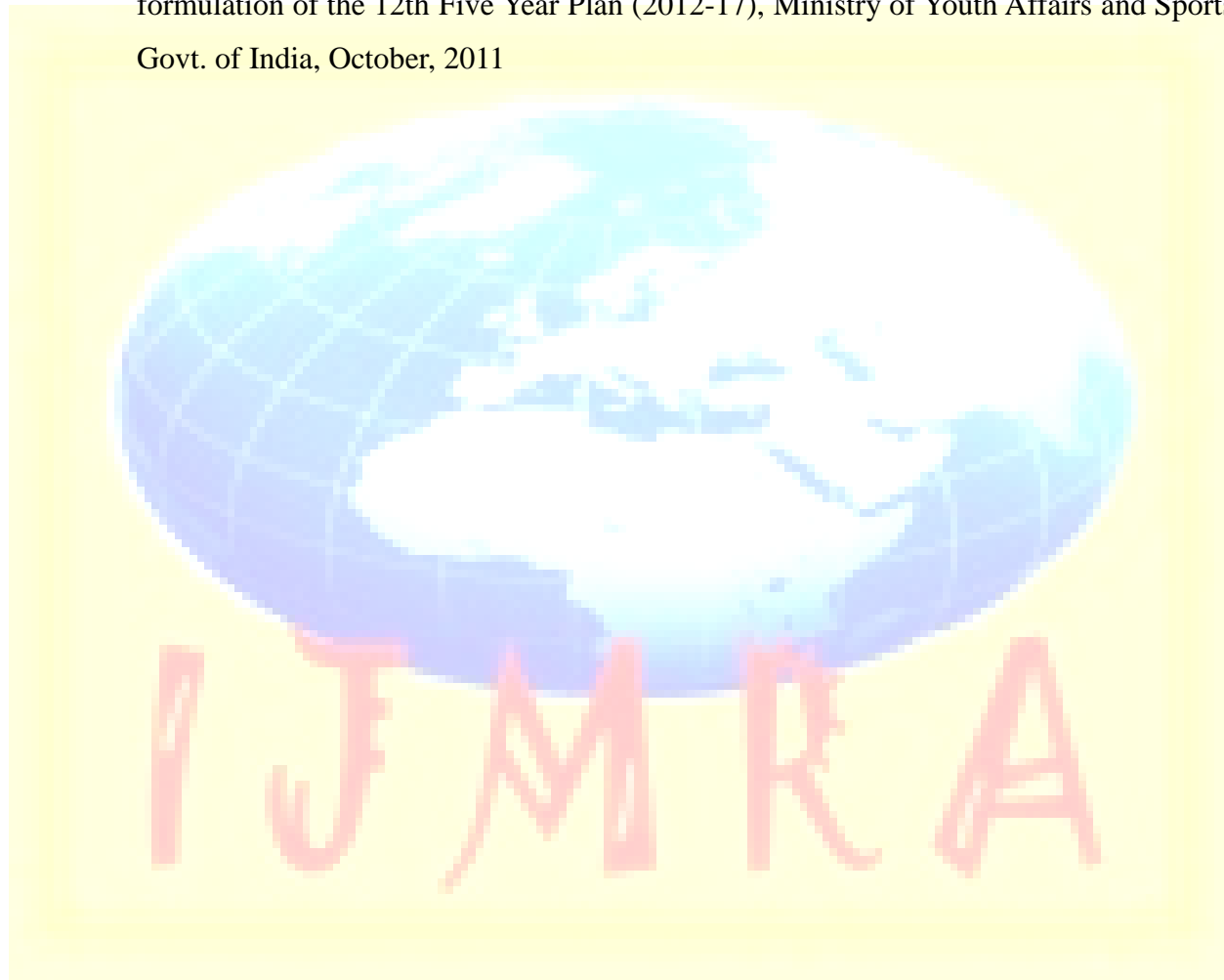
- i) A clear definition provides guidance with regard to where an organization should pursue business opportunities. Also, a statement like, “We use state-of-the-art technology” has clear implications for how resources should be allocated. To be effective, missions should be communicated to internal stakeholders on a regular basis and direct decision making and resource allocations.
- ii) Inspire higher levels of performance and pride in youth hostel management by youth hostel managers and employees ultimately inspiring human spirit.
- iii) Communication of Youth hostel purpose and values to resolve problems when faced and also help external stakeholders know what to expect from youth hostel management in specific situations.
- iv) Enhance youth hostel reputation among the most external stakeholder especially youth travelers and potential venture partner.

#### Conclusion:

The myth in the travelers mind, like to stay in the Youth Hostel are permitted only those who have “the Youth Hostel Association membership card” , “ the hostel is only for students” and “ not for travelers” etc., to be eradicated by making wide publicity and promotion activities through the stakeholders giving specific responsibilities in the management of youth hostels. In view of the above problems and low financial support made to this institution (in the 11th Five Year Plan merely 18 crore budget estimation made for 80 Youth Hostel), Youth Hostels are not able to meet the objectives and giving specific responsibility to the stakeholders. As migration for education/livelihood is common, Youth Hostel becomes a necessity, as it brings youth together. Youth Hostel will certainly play a positive role in youth travelling and bring them together and will bring commodrie and friendship and finally appreciation of culture, nature and other national endowment, if the responsibilities proposed for the stakeholders of Youth hostel management are carried out.

**Reference:**

- 1) Youth Hostel Association of India: Evaluation of Youth Hostels
- 2) 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan Document, Planning Commission, GOI, New Delhi, 2007
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