

Kudumbashree Hostel Network being a boon to the women

Even nowadays travelling alone is considered a risky, frivolous pursuit for women. Many women hold themselves back from travelling. But for what reason? It is a question that women had been asking to themselves for many decades. Night stay had always been an issue for women. Well, there is a good news for all women out there! Say good bye to those issues that pulled you back. The Kudumbashree Hostel Network at Kozhikode is being a boon to the women. Travelling alone will not be a night mare anymore. Four women's hostels were started under Kudumbashree Kozhikode District Mission and are offering comfort stay to many. Let's have a look into them, and knew about how they had evolved.

Railview women's Hostel (November 2017)

Hostels run by Kudumbashree CDS are of high demand in Kozhikode city. So is Railview Hostel. Located at Francis road, near fourth platform of Kozhikode Railway station, the recently started 'Rail view' women's hostel which have 33 rooms, including single, double and triple rooms providing the state of the art facilities like free WiFi, CCTV, recreation club, library and reading room, laundry,

conference hall, counselling centre etc. Rail view hostel was inaugurated by Shri. T.P Ramakrishnan, Minister for Labour and Excise, Government of Kerala on 30 November 2017.

The all-women management which provide online booking facility, has also made arrangements to accommodate women working on late night shifts. The counselling centre at the hostel which provide free counselling for women and children and the 'Railway tasty corner' food court which serve tasty food are also accessible to the public as well. The tariff of the hostel ranges from Rs. 3500- Rs 8000. Rail view is the fourth hostel started by Kudumbashree CDS. Smt. P.P Sheeja and Smt. V. Pushpalatha, Smt. Savithri, officer bearers of Kozhikode Corporation Kudumbashree CDS North are in charge of the the 'Railview' Hostel. The Railview hostel was started focusing on women travelers as well.

She Homes Hostel (October 2017)

She Homes was started by a group of 4 women, of which 3 were the investors and one was a marketing co-coordinator. Even though the initiative was launched soft launched in February 2017, the Hostel was fully opened when Dr. K.T Jaleel, Minister, Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala inaugurated the hostel on 30 October 2017. The hostel can provide comfortable stay for 100 women at a time. One of the investor of the enterprise is Smt. Smiji, who had been the administrator of Eksath Training centre and was also the admin of Feminara Ladies Hostel, the first hostel in the series. She felt the need of such hostels in a city like Kozhikode and discussed the idea within the CDS. The idea was much appreciated and was decided to implement. Around Rs. 6.5 lakh

rupees was taken as loan and now each of the investor can have around Rs 20,000 as salary or monthly income. They are investing the share of their income into this venture itself and now they have an asset worth Rs 85 lakh.

The interesting feature of She Homes Hostel is that they had employed women who were sidelined in the society. Out of the 4 staff in the hostel, 3 of them are widows and one had been living lonely as no one had been there to take care of her. They had been paying Rs 12,000 for each staff. Not only to its inmates by providing a comfortable stay, but also by being support few lonely women staff who were in despair, She Homes is being a boon to many.

She Homes works round the year. They have rooms of tariff from Rs 3500- Rs 8000. A tailoring institute name She Style was also launched to teach basic stitching techniques to women, thereby enabling them to acquire a skill.

'Sky Way' Hostel (August 2017)

Compared to other Hostels, Sky way had a different start. In July 2016 a Pakal veed (Day Stay Home) named 'Heaven on Earth' for Elderly was started by the Central CD, Kozhikode. Even though 6 old people came in they could make regular visits and therefore the working of Pakal veed was partially stopped. The place was lying vacant. Then they had an idea to start a ladies hostel in that vacant space. An apartment was taken for rent and Sky Homes was started.

Smt. Beena, Smt. Jiji Raveendran, Smt Geetha and Smt. Suhara are the entrepreneurs behind Sky Way Hostel. Sky Homes can provide comfortable stay to around 25 people. Located near MIMS Hospital, most of the inmates are the

staff of MIMS Hospital. Sky Way charges Rs 5000 per person, but considering the financial situation of the inmates, they reduce it upto Rs 3500. Even though the Old age home was partially stopped it will continue working if any interested people wish to step in.

Feminara Ladies Hostel (2014)

The first in the series, 'Feminara' Womens Hostel was started at Gujarathi street in 2014, which was an instant hit. Following its success, 'Sky Way' Hostel, 'She Homes' Hostel and Railview Hostel were started at Govindapuram and Parayancheri and Railway Station respectively.

Feminara was started by Eksath, the HRD training institute and research institute in Kozhikode. Eksath launched it with an idea of providing comfortable stay for women, during the time women were struggling for a comfortable and affordable stay at Kozhikode. Even though it was started by Eksath, the staff of Eksath are few Kudumbashree women. The hostel was started availing Rs 5 lakh as loan and an amount of Rs 14 lakh was collected from the permanent members. The hostel can provide comfortable stay for 52 people. The home made food prepared by house wives are served at the hostel. The Hostel started functioning as Smt. A.K Premajam, Mayor of Kozhikode inaugurated the same.

Scope of such enterprises

The demand for women's hostels rise during entrance examinations and other tests. Kudumbashree hostels can accommodate around 300 people altogether in its four hostels. The hostels provide all the modern facilities for a comfortable stay in affordable price, had became a second home for its inhabitants. Kudumbashree Kozhikode District Mission had sets a unique model by starting such women friendly initiatives. The bench mark set by them will undoubtedly be a model for other district missions as well.