



Exploring the transformation of hostels from accommodation to long-term rentals

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Introduction

- The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the hostel industry
- International tourism declined; hostels now rely on local guests
- Rising rental costs in Taipei limit housing choices for youth



Introduction

- Explore whether hostels can shift to long-term rental models
- Investigate the willingness of youth (age 18–24) to rent long-term
- Identify sustainable practices for hostel business models



Methodology

- In-depth semi-structured interviews
- Participants: hostel operators, YHA Taiwan, a government official, scholars
- Grounded theory; NVivo 12 used for data analysis



Interview Focus Areas

- Business operations and long-stay models
- Policy and legal considerations
- Youth rental demand and expectations
Hostel sustainability and adaptation strategies



Key Findings – Hostel Operators

- Long-term stays: only 10–20% of capacity is allocated
- Monthly rent: NT\$9,000/bed, NT\$15,000/suite
- Benefits: lower operation costs, stable income
- Concerns: profit margin still uncertain



Key Findings –YHA & Government

- YHA: Long stays may go against travel values
- Government: Legal if hostels are licensed properly
- No official restrictions on rental duration



Key Findings –Academic Insights

- Emphasize smart tech and automation
- Recommend community-based tourism in off-seasons
- Stress affordability, safety, and hygiene as essentials



Conclusion & Implications

- Long-term rental offers new survival path for hostels
- Addresses youth housing shortages
- Sets the stage for future large-scale studies



Thanks for listening.