**HOMESTAYS**

**(Android Application)**

*Project synopsis submitted*

*In the partial fulfillment of requirements for the award of Degree in Integrated BCA- MCA (5yrs) in Computer Applications 2018*

**Integrated BCA- MCA (5yrs)**

By-

Pritam Shah Shyam Kharel

(Roll No: 14UCA014) (Roll No: 14UCA021)



**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**

**SIKKIM UNIVERSITY**

**(3th August 18)**

**PROPOSED TITLE:**  HOMESTAYS – An Android Application for providing platform to different Homestays in and around Sikkim.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Homestay is a popular form of [hospitality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hospitality) and [lodging](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lodging) whereby visitors sleep at the [residence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Residence) of a local of the city to which they are traveling. The length of stay can vary from one night to over a year and can be free, in exchange for monetary compensation, in exchange for a stay at the guest's property either simultaneously or at another time ([home exchange](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_exchange)), or in exchange for [housekeeping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Housekeeping) or work on the host's property. Homestays are examples of [collaborative consumption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaborative_consumption) and [sharing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharing). In cases where money is not exchanged in return for lodging, they are examples of a [barter economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barter_economy) or [gift economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gift_economy).

The terms of the homestay are generally worked out by the host and guest in advance and can include items such as the type of lodging, length of stay, [housekeeping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Housekeeping) or work required to be performed, curfews, use of utilities and household facilities, food to be provided, and rules related to smoking, drinking, and drugs.

Hosts

Hosts may receive monetary compensation and/or [housekeeping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Housekeeping) or work on their property. However, they must be comfortable with others using at least part of their home.

Guests

Homestays can provide several benefits to guests:

* Savings on lodging costs
* Local perspective and information about the city that is not easily found in [guidebooks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guidebook)
* A deeper understanding of the [everyday life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everyday_life) of the locals
* Opportunities to stay in areas under-served by [hotels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotel) or [hostels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hostel)
* Opportunities to stay in unique properties such as [igloos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igloo), cabins, and [castles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle)
* Compared to staying in a hotel, a homestay may result in a lower [carbon footprint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_footprint)
* In certain cases where students that are studying abroad stay with a family, the [host family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Host_family) may play a pseudo-parental role, giving advice and sometimes supervising students' activities. In some homestays, families act as cross-cultural advisers, helping the students understand and adjust to their new culture.

Homestays may have disadvantages over lodging in [hotels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotel) and [hostels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hostel):

* May require additional planning before travel
* Inconvenience due to last minute changes or cancellations by either the host or the guest
* Lodging and sleeping surfaces may be less comfortable and/or have less privacy
* Fewer amenities, such as cleaning services, compared to hotels
* Guests may be required to adhere to a schedule or follow rules set by a host, which restrict freedom
* Lodging may not be close to tourist attractions
* If the guest and host do not get along, the homestay can make a visit to an otherwise pleasant city unbearable
* In cases where the guest must perform a service for the host, the homestay can deplete the amount of time available for sightseeing

**OBJECTIVE:**

* To provide a platform to Homestays of Sikkim.
* To develop an Android Application.
* To implement every possible Online payment option (excluding cryptocurrency).
* To provide location of homestays.
* To provide all the features and offerings of homestays
* To get the No. of days out of Date selected for staying and calculating Fare.
* To give the best UI design like others Hotel Booking apps.
* App will contain online pay option.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS:**

METHODOLOGY: Use of Firebase Server, Payment Gateway API and appropriate Software Model.

MATERIALS: Android Studio, Firebase, Java, XML, PHP, Payment Gateway (any one of –PayUMoney, Track-N-Pay, Paytm, PayPal, PayUBiz , CCAvenue).

Min 4GB RAM, 8GB recommended (if less than this configuration the system, android studio will be installed but not run smoothly and the system may crash) Min Intel i5 Core Processor. Min 250 GB Disk space

Android Studio 3.1.3 Windows/Linux/ Mac Operating System. Git Installation. Java JDK 7 or later version and Java Runtime Environment (JRE) Android SDK Android Development Tools (ADT) Eclipse Plug-in (optional).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Task Name | Start | Finish | Duration | Aug 18 | Sept 18 | Oct 18 | Nov 18 |
| Planning | **1/8/18** | **10/8/18** | **10 days** |  |  |  |  |
| Literature Review | **11/8/18** | **20/8/18** | **10 days** |  |  |  |  |
| Data Collection | **21/8/18** | **31/8/18** | **11days** |  |  |  |  |
| Design | **1/9/18** | **10/9/18** | **10days** |  |  |  |  |
| Coding | **11/9/18** | **11/10/18** | **30days** |  |  |  |  |
| Testing | **12/10/18** | **22/10/18** | **20days** |  |  |  |  |
| Deployment | **22/10/18** | **31/10/18** | **10days** |  |  |  |  |
| Documentation | **5/8/18** | **5/11/18** | **94days** |  |  |  |  |

Figure 1. Gantt chart of Homestay.

**OUTCOME:**

* A **fully fledged** **Android app** to provide a platform to Homestays of Sikkim
* Every possible **Online payment** option (excluding cryptocurrency).
* User can book homestays in an around them with **Check in and Check Out** date.
* **Automated calculation** of no. of days to stay in.
* Also **real time Fare calculation**
* **SMS notification** and much more.

**CONCLUSION:**

Homestays are examples of [collaborative consumption](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaborative_consumption) and [sharing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharing). Uniqueness of this project is that no one have ever thought of giving platform to Homestays. This app provides a platform to get them grow in society. This app may help in doing so. It may also help nature loving travelers, researchers, students and all those who want a culture experience of how people live in related places in cheap prices.

This may bring connectedness in peoples and may get them the source of income.

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