

## CONTRIBUTING IN NATION BUILDING THROUGH NSS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

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### Abstract

*National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. Initially it was launched in 37 Universities involving about 40,000 volunteers. However, with the passage of time and as a Pan Indian programme, the number of educational institutions covered under NSS has been increasing year after year. Currently more than 36.5 lakh volunteers are enrolled in 39,695 NSS units spread over 391 Universities/ +2 Councils, 16,278 Colleges and Technical Institutions and 12,483 Senior Secondary Schools.*

**Key words:** NSS, nation, nation building

National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. Since its inception, over 4.78 cores students have benefited from NSS. Each NSS volunteer is required to put in minimum 120 hours of service per year for two years, i.e., total 240 hours. This work is undertaken in villages/ slums adopted by NSS unit or in school/ college campuses. Usually after study hours or during weekends/ vacations. Besides, Each NSS unit organises a Special Camp of 7 days' duration in adopted villages or urban slums during vacations, with some specific projects, by involving the local communities. Each volunteer is required to participate in the Special Camp once during the 2-year period. Thus, about 50 percent of the NSS volunteers in a Unit participate in a particular Special Camp. NSS is a Central government programme, yet the Central government, the States/UTs and the Educational Institutions are the 3 pillars of this Programme. It would have been impossible to effectively run a programme directly from the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, dealing with over 29,000 educational institutions across the country. The implementation of the programme has been possible due to effective collaboration/ partnership between the Centre and the States on the one hand and the States and Educational Institutions on the other.

As mentioned earlier, NSS was introduced with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through *voluntary community service*. 'Education through Service' is the purpose of the NSS. The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. Very appropriately, the motto of NSS is "NOT ME, BUT YOU". An NSS volunteer places the 'community' before 'self'. This is part of the *third dimension of education*, namely, *value education*, which is becoming increasingly important.

While a lot of good work is being done under NSS, there is potential to do much more. The students and NSS volunteers are young Indians and they represent the most dynamic and vibrant section of the Society. These are exciting times in India. The Government of India, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has embarked on the mission of building a united, strong and modern India – "*Eka Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat*", following the principle of "*SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas*". A number of path-breaking initiatives have been taken. 'Make in India' campaign has been launched to develop India as a global manufacturing hub. 'Digital India' initiative seeks to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. A nation-wide campaign to promote Digital Payments is

underway. 'Skill India' has been launched to impart necessary skills to prepare Indians for the opportunities in Indian economy as also the opportunities abroad.

A number of initiatives, including Smart Cities Project, have been launched for developing infrastructure. 'Swachh Bharat Mission' and 'Clean Ganga' Mission have been launched for building a clean and green India. A sustained and determined campaign is underway to eliminate the black money and to clean up our Society. NSS volunteers can be contributors as well as beneficiaries of these initiatives. The programme design of NSS needs to constantly evolve to reflect the priorities of the Government and the nation.

The importance of NSS was underlined in an Evaluation Study conducted through Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). In their Study Report, TISS concluded that NSS has been a well-intentioned and an ideologically motivated scheme of the Government of India and that NSS is one of the greatest experiments in the field of youth work in the world. In fact, TISS recommended that NSS should be made mandatory for all public and private funded universities, colleges and institutions and should be integrated as part of the curriculum.

Actually nearly everyone has a certificate of NSS or NCC now a days, so one might feel that it is useless in that sense. But if you add related field of interest in the hobby section like- social work, policy making, youth transformation, public service, etc. Then things do change in an interview. Then the panel takes interest in your certificate and ask you about the work you did in the NSS time.

If you were lucky inoff to have certificates of state/national camp in the file then definitely your interview turn on NSS then it matters alot.

Mahatma Gandhi believed that instead of undertaking academic research about economic and social disability the student do "Something positive that the life of villagers might be raised to higher material and moral level".

### **Background & History of NSS**

Mahatma Gandhi tried for the best utilization of the youth for the social development, rural reconstruction and the nation's progress. He thought that students should be conscious of their social responsibilities. Every student of the country should be aware of how to develop the social, moral and cultural life of economically backward people of rural area. After the attainment of independence this concept changed and material wealth and physical power got more importance than moral values.

After Independence, Government appointed Education Commission under the Chairmanship Dr. Radhakrishnan to change educational system of the British time. This committee suggested that introduce the NSS in the academic institutions on the voluntary basis with a view to develop healthy relation between the students and the teachers & establish the constructive linkage between the student, teachers & community. NSS will be useful to develop relation between volunteer and teacher through interacting work of society and universities.

In 1959 a committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.D. Deshmukh. This committee suggested that national service should be provide more lively awareness among the educated youth of purposes & the process of the Nation's reconstruction efforts specially in rural areas & create awareness among them about the social service. One of the recommendations of this committee was that student render one year compulsory in national service before they entered in university.

In 1966 Dr. D.S.Kothari Commission had recommended that students all stages of education should be associated with some form of social service.

The Education Commission (1964-66) recommended that give an opportunity for the youth to participate in variety of programmes which are related to social services, be made available to the NSS students.

The Conference of Vice-Chancellors in September 1967 accepted these recommendations about the National service and suggested that form a special committee of VC's for study on the proposal. Professor K.G.Saiyidain, former educational adviser to the government of India was one of the members of this committee.

In 1960 Dr.K.G.Saiyidain deputed by the Government of India for the special assignment to study the youth development and youth service in the other countries and examine the facts of national service.

Also to examine what light their experience could throw on the Indian scheme of national service for the youth. He was visited a number of European countries for the study of youth services run by them. Professor Saiyidain came to the conclusion that this scheme was must be as a part of the effort to achieve the wider objective of bringing education into closer and more vital relationship with community life.

As noted above, Prof K.G.Saiyidain studied the national service by the students implemented in the several countries of the world and submitted his report under the tile " National Service for the Youth" to government of India with some number of recommendations.

Today NSS has about 3.86 million student youth enrolled in 41,442 NSS units spread over through 396 Universities/ +2 Councils, 16,331 Colleges/ Technical Institutions and 28,621 Senior Secondary Schools across the country.

### **Role of NSS volunteers**

A NSS Volunteer is a student in the college who was enrolled his name in the National service Scheme. The roles of the NSS volunteers are very important according to the National Service Scheme because they are main beneficiary of the programme. The NSS volunteers are must be actively participate in the NSS activities. The volunteers are making the coordination between the PO's and the students in the colleges. They are helps the advisory committee of the college for proper executing the NSS activities. The NSS volunteers are performing the role of mediator between the education system and the community which is helpful for the nation building. They are developing their qualities of leadership, skills to become an organizer, and an administrator and to attain the multi-faceted development of his personality as a whole. Any student enrolled as an NSS Volunteers, as per NSS Manual should put in at least 240 hours of useful social work in a continuous period of two year (i.e. 120 hours per year). A work diary is to be maintained by each NSS Volunteer, which will help him/her in the assessment his/her performance. Such volunteer is eligible to get NSS Service Certificate from the colleges. The Service Certificate given in the NSS Manual should be strictly adhered

NSS Day: NSS was officially launched on 24th September 1969, on the birth centenary year of the Father of the Nation. Therefore, 24th September is celebrated every year as NSS Day with organizing various activities

NSS Song: During Silver Jubilee Year the NSS theme song has been composed. All NSS volunteers are expected to learn the theme along and sing the song during NSS programmes and celebrations. The theme song cassette is available.

Motto: The Motto of NSS "Not Me But You", reflects the essence of democratic living and upholds the need for self-less service. NSS helps the students development

& appreciation to other person's point of view and also show consideration towards other living beings.

**NSS Logo:** The logo for the NSS has been based on the giant Rath Wheel of the world famous Konark Sun Temple (The Black Pagoda) situated in Orissa, India. The Red & Blue colors contained in the logo motivate the NSS Volunteers to be active & energetic for the nation-building social activities. The wheel portrays the cycle of creation, preservation and release and signifies the movement in life across time and space, The wheel thus stands for continuity as well as change and implies the continuous striving of NSS for social change.

**NSS Badge:** The NSS logo is embossed on the badge of NSS. The eight bars in the wheel of NSS logo represent the 24 hours of a day. The red colour indicates that the volunteer is full of young blood that is lively, active, energetic and full of high spirit. The navy blue colour indicates the cosmos of which the NSS is tiny part, ready to contribute its share for the welfare of the mankind.

### **Financial Arrangements:**

The scheme is now a central sector scheme to organize Regular Activities (RA) and special Camping Programmes (SCPs). An amount of Rs.250/-per volunteer per annum is released towards Regular Activities (RAs) and Rs.450/- per volunteer per Special Camping Programme (SCP) which is of 7-days duration to be organized in the adopted villages/urban slums. In addition, the Government of India provides 100% financial assistance to run NSS Regional Directorates, State NSS Cells and Empanelled Training Institute (ETI).

### **The main Aims and objectives of National Service Scheme (NSS) are**

To understand the community in which they work; To understand themselves in relation to their community; To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve them in problem solving process; To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility; To utilise their knowledge in finding practical solution to individual and community problems; To develop competence required for group-living and sharing of responsibilities; To gain skills in mobilising community participation; To acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude; To develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters; and To practice national integration and social harmony

### **Activities of CAMP**

The schedule and the daily routine is divided into 5 different sessions which include Morning exercise, Shramadaan, Lecture Session, Interactive Session, Diary writing and Group Discussion, Preparing road for connecting two villages, Cleaning Temple area, Cleaning Drainage system of Village, Spreading awareness washing of hands, cleanliness, use of toilet, education, etc., Conducting “Wash Your Hand” campaign, Educating village children through “Fun School – For the Children by the NSS volunteers”, Free Health Check up Camp for Villagers, BhajanKirtan for Villagers and Visit to Gaumukh. The following are a few benefits of many

**Discipline:** during the camp, you are given a fixed schedule and it requires you to wake up at 5, followed by exercise and so on. Having a routine induces discipline in your day to day life; **Understanding ground realities:** living in the comforts of our homes we fail to realize grassroot level problems. Once you get exposed or when you are assigned task which involves physical work you realize it is not as easy as it sounds; **You learn to work as a team:** several teams are formed and you are assigned different tasks or games based on this; **Time management:** every task is given a fixed time

within which you have to complete it. Tasks and games includes skit, myme, debates, newspaper making etc; You get rid of stage fear: here, you get a lot of opportunities to perform in stage whether it dance, music or literary; You make a lot of friends: last but not the least, staying together for 7 days and working as a team will let you have awesome friends; You learn to cook: as I said earlier,each team will have to take up mess duty on a particular day. Hence for me personally I learnt basics of cooking from novice; You learn to socialise: since you are not given you phones you spent most of the time talking; You'll have a lot of fun: feildtrips,games ,camp fire and other activities makes the camp memorable; Sharing is caring: you have your food together often sharing your plate with two or three; You learn to socialise: since you are not given you phones you spent most of the time talking; You also get several other benefits like leadership qualities, adjust with limited facilities,game tactics etc.; You also have several personality development talks and games.

### **Conclusion**

Overall development of student through NSS. National Service Scheme is an organization aiming for developing student's personality through community service, NSS is a voluntary association of young people. NSS was one of my best part in college life. I was able to meet many new people from all over India and made many friends while in my time with NSS. While i was having a lot of fun i was also learning to take many responsibilities. I was also rewarded with some grace mark for my participation in the organization and you can definitely write in your CV, about your volunteering at NSS. If the student participated in the NSS activity he or she will become a good citizen. He or she does not disturb anybody in work. He or she always help the citizen.

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