



THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS) IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO EVERY VOLUNTEERS DEVELOP THE PERSONALITY THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICES

Shantaram Bhoje

Assistant Professor (NSS Programme Officer), Department of Zoology, Shri Pundlik Maharaj Mahavidyalaya, Nandura Rly. Dist. Buldana (Maharashtra)-443404.

ABSTRACT

The National Service Scheme (NSS) operates under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. NSS was started in 1969 by the then Union Education Minister Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao in 37 universities with the strength of 40,000 volunteers on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth centenary. The main objectives of NSS are personality and self-development through experiential learning by serving the society with the motto "Not Me, But You". NSS volunteers work in rural areas, working to serve the community through adoption village and school surveys, education and health awareness programs. NSS volunteers benefit from NSS activities, including employment opportunities, self-confidence, and leadership skills. Engaging youth in colleges and universities in community service on a voluntary basis for rural development and inculcating the idea of social welfare among students is a major initiative. Graduate students pursuing a three-year degree with their participation status in the National Service Scheme will have more input and responsiveness to society than graduate students pursuing a three-year degree without participation in the National Service Scheme. This study involves identifying the importance, aims and objectives of NSS in higher education to inculcate social responsibility in students.

KEYWORDS: NSS, Personality Development, Volunteers, Community, Social responsibility

INTRODUCTION

National Service Scheme, also known as NSS, is a major youth activity aimed at involving college and university students in voluntary community service. The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a public service program of the Government of India administered by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.[1] The ultimate goal of national service is educational. NSS provides opportunities for intermediate, technical education, graduate and post-graduate students from colleges and universities in India to participate in community development activities.[2]

During the period from 1950 to 1969, the then Chairman of the University Commission Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Union Minister Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, Education Committee Chairman Dr. Daulat Singh Kothari, Education Minister Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, Vice-Chancellors Indian universities and student representatives exchanged views. National service could prove to be a "powerful tool" for national integration, urban students would be exposed to rural life.[3] It was appropriate to start this program during the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi as it was Gandhiji who inspired the Indian youth to participate in the Indian freedom movement and for the social upliftment of the Dalit masses in our country. On 24

September 1969, the National Service Scheme was launched on an experimental basis for two years for undergraduate college students in 37 universities in all states of India. 24th September is celebrated as NSS Foundation Day.[4]

In the first year, 37 universities and 40,000 students across India started the scheme[5] and it has grown over the years and today 402 universities, 16330 colleges and 19994 higher secondary schools are participating in it. Taking advantage of this scheme, students have developed themselves and represented the society as ideal citizens.[3]

"Not Me, But You" is the National Service Scheme's motto. The motto represents selfless service which means putting the needs of others and society first before ourselves. Aiming to develop personality of students through community service.[5] The National Service Scheme is a Nobel experiment in educational expansion. It develops a spirit of volunteerism among students and teachers through sustained community interaction. It brings our educational institutions closer to society. It shows how to combine knowledge and action to achieve results, which are desirable for the development of society.[6]



The NSS symbol is based on the giant Rath Wheel of the world famous Konark Sun Temple (The Black Pagoda) in Odisha, India. The wheel depicts the cycle of creation, preservation and release. It represents the movement of life across time and space, thus symbolizing continuity as well as change and signifies NSS continuous efforts for social change.[7] The 24 hours of the day are symbolized by the wheel's eight spokes. The red color indicates that the volunteer is full of young blood who is lively, active, energetic and full of vigor. The navy-blue color represents the cosmos, a small part of which NSS is ready to contribute to the well-being of mankind.[8]

NSS has successfully crossed half a century in the field of youth development. During this period thousands of volunteers made their living through NSS in higher education institutions.[9] The basic rule of the NSS program is that it is designed by the students themselves and both students and teachers gain the wisdom to participate in nation building through their collective participation in community service.[10]

The main objective of the NSS program is to inculcate the idea of social welfare among the students. Also serving the society. NSS volunteers work to guarantee that the destitute get assistance to make strides their standard of living and lead a stately life. NSS provides food, clothing and first aid to disaster victims to prevent man-made disasters. It is a social initiative organized by student and staff volunteers of various colleges and it is mainly organized for rural development through various initiatives.[11]

The NSS unit of the organization is headed by a teacher called "Program Officer (PO)" who plays a key role as teacher, leader, manager, planner, supervisor, administrator and public relations person for the NSS unit under him.[12] NSS consists of two types of programmes, namely (a) regular programs and (b) special programs for camping. They are working for various programmes, mainly in health, child care, environmental management, water conservation, organizing health camps and blood donation camps to create awareness in selected areas, but are also committed to personal personality development.[13]

The duration of this service is 120 hours, i.e., 20 hours for orientation of NSS volunteers, 30 hours for campus work and 70 hours for community service. Regular NSS programs involve students doing various weekend activities in college campuses, adopted villages, cities and slums. Adoption of a village or area is a meaningful program in NSS.[14]

IMPORTANCE OF NSS

The National Service Scheme (NSS) plays an imperative part in advancing social duty and community association among students in India. Here are a few reasons why NSS is imperative:

1. **Community Service:** NSS offers students an opportunity to do community service and make a positive impact on society.[15] The program allows students to understand community needs and contribute to addressing them.

2. **Personal Development:** NSS offers a platform for personal development and leadership training. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for planning and implementing social service projects, which helps them develop their organizational and leadership skills.[16]
3. **Social Awareness:** NSS activities such as awareness campaigns and community service projects in rural areas help students develop social awareness and sensitivity towards various social issues. NSS activities help students develop empathy and concern for the welfare of others.[17]
4. **Civic Engagement:** NSS helps students become active citizens by providing opportunities to participate in civic activities. NSS activities involve students in activities like voter registration drives and environmental drives, which help them develop a sense of civic responsibility.[18]
5. **Employability:** NSS experience can be an added advantage for students applying for jobs. Employers value candidates who are committed to social responsibility and community service.[19]

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF NSS

The objective of National Service Scheme is "Development of personality of students through community service". Efforts are made to achieve this objective by enabling students to function in society. The objective of this program is to create a sense of social welfare among the students and to serve the society without bias. NSS volunteers work to guarantee that the destitute get assistance to make strides their standard of living and lead a stately life.[14]

The Main Objectives of National Service Scheme (NSS) are

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

NSS PROGRAMMES AND SOCIAL SERVICES

A national service plan was launched to establish meaningful connections between the campus and the community. The NSS program should provide a variety of learning experiences that foster volunteer engagement, service, and success. National Reconstruction and National Revival was deemed appropriate that students and teachers should be properly sensitized and used to strengthen the entire Indian society with special emphasis on the rural community. Therefore, the three main components of the

national service system are considered as students, teachers and society.

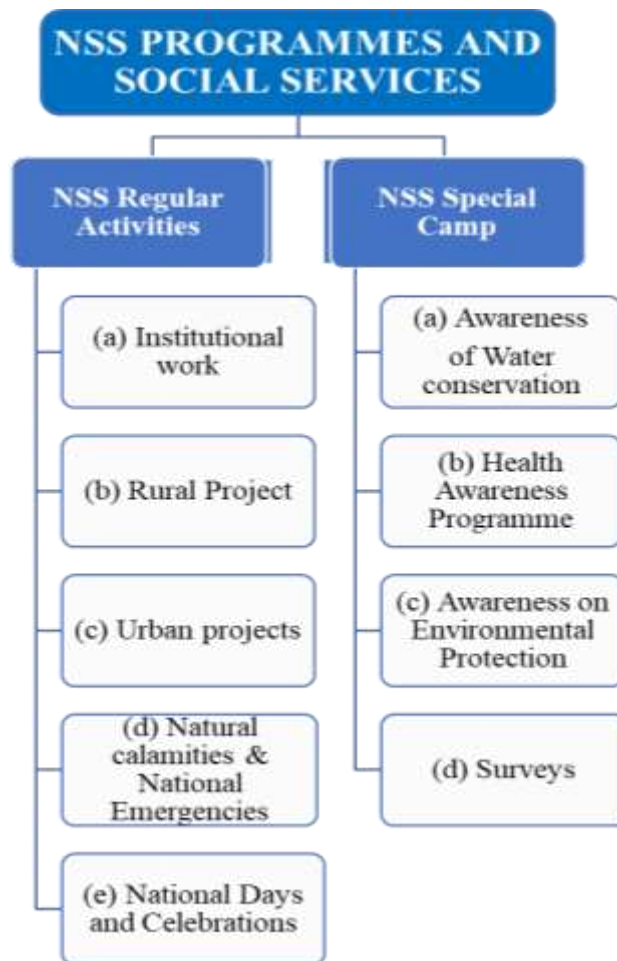


Fig. NSS Programmes and Social Services

A) NSS Regular Activities

Under these students undertake various community service programs in adopted villages and slums, college campuses on weekends or after college hours. This service takes 120 hours to complete, which is divided into 20 hours for NSS volunteer orientation, 30 hours for campus work and 70 hours for community service.[20] NSS units organize regular activities:

(a) Organizational Work: Students can be placed outside the campus with selected NGOs working for the welfare of women, children, the elderly and the disabled.

(b) Rural Projects: Rural projects generally include work on illiteracy eradication, watershed management and wasteland development, agricultural work, health, nutrition, sanitation, hygiene, mother and child care, family life education, gender justice, development of rural cooperative societies, savings campaign, construction of rural roads, campaign against social evils etc. work of NSS volunteers in adopted villages.[21]

(c) Urban projects: Urban projects: Other than rural projects, include adult education, slum dwellers' welfare, civil defense training, traffic control, setting up of first aid posts, hospitals, orphanages, destitute homes, environment, population education,

medicine, AIDS awareness, and income generation projects etc.[22] Professional and technical organizations with NSS have to create programs suitable for the community based on needs.

(d) Natural calamities & National Emergencies: During natural disasters and other national emergencies, NSS units are supposed to use NSS volunteers' services to rally the public's support and give authorities the help they need for rescue, relief, and recovery. In such emergencies and calamities, the program officers are expected to take the initiative and provide the services of the NSS unit and its volunteers to assist the administration.[23]

(e) National Days and Celebrations: National Service Scheme programs also include celebrating National Day. Important days observed by volunteers through NSS are World Environment Day, International Women's Day, Elderly Day, International Yoga Day, International Human Rights Day, Indian Constitution Day, Literacy Day, Unity Day, World AIDS Day, Youth Day, Independence Day and Republic Day. Colleges and universities organize various activities on this day based on funding and other sources.[24]



B) NSS Special Camp

Each NSS unit should adopt a nearby village or slum to organize programs as per the need for the benefit of the students and the society in general. Special camps of 07 days duration in adopted villages or urban slums should be organized during vacations with specific projects involving local communities.[25] 50% NSS volunteers are expected to participate in these camps.

An adopted village should not be changed frequently without tangible development. This may take three to four years or even more. The majority of colleges and universities are situated in cities. About 10 km. Distances between college campuses and villages can make visits to adopted villages by NSS volunteers expensive and time-consuming. In view of this, it is especially desirable for colleges located in urban areas to adopt slums.[26]

A slum can be adopted by the NSS unit for the purpose of slum improvement and check its prevalence. Under this water, water storage, sanitation, electricity, organization of recreational programs, socio-economic survey of various aspects of rural life, tree plantation, cleaning of drains, lakes, ponds etc. which contribute to village health. These activities are expected to be implemented in winter camps.[27]

ROLE OF NSS VOLUNTEERS IN SLUM

Considering the living condition and status of the slum dwellers, only highly motivated, mature and skilled students should be selected for slum development.

The activities that students can do in slum areas are as follows:[28]

a) As a Community Investigator: They can prepare a brief community profile of various slums in a city or town including various amenities, services and living conditions etc.

b) As Community Activists: They can identify local leaders and discuss local issues with them on which cooperative action can be initiated.[29]

c) As a Program Assistant: Students can help local communities start many programs like free milk distribution centers, sanitation drives, recreation, adult primary education, immunization, first aid centers, child care, free legal aid centers, nutrition classes and health projects. They can help form youth clubs, children's groups, women's circles.[30]

d) As Community Organizers: NSS students can form community organizations to solve local problems by relying on local resources, self-help and mutual aid, and some minimal external assistance, after establishing rapport with slum dwellers.

FUTURE OF NSS

The National Service Scheme has the potential to play a significant role in the development of the youth of India and in promoting national development and social harmony. To ensure its continued success, the NSS must address the challenges it faces and take steps to reach out to other segments of the population. One way to expand NSS is to introduce it in schools. This will help inculcate the values of social responsibility and national integration in students at an early age and give them

opportunities to participate in community service and national development.

Another way to increase the effectiveness of the NSS is to provide it with adequate resources such as funds, equipment and manpower. This will enable NSS units to carry out their activities more effectively and make a meaningful impact in their communities. Finally, the National Service Scheme is a valuable program that has played a significant role in the development of the youth of India. With the right support and resources, it has the potential to make an even bigger impact in the future and promote national development and social harmony.

CONCLUSION

NSS is not just a service scheme; It is a platform for youth to contribute their efforts, skills and talents for the betterment of rural society. It is providing opportunities to students in colleges and universities to develop their personality through community services. NSS volunteering has helped in their personality development in terms of general awareness and knowledge, building confidence and courage, improving communication and presentation skills, developing decision making skills, adapting to people and situations, creativity and innovation, optimistic development, resilience, etc.

Participation of students in various activities of N.S.S reflects the process of value inculcation and equips them with social, humane, national, universal and democratic values as well as leadership qualities. It will not only help the students to develop a well-rounded personality but also help nurture an army of dedicated citizens for the country. N.S.S camp programs will definitely improve the values of volunteer leadership, team spirit, constructive activities and communication skills in the community. The NSS supported both male and female volunteers in their personality and professional/career development.

REFERENCES

- [1] Biswamitra P, Iswar P. "A Comparative Study of Empowerment of NSS and non NSS Girls Volunteers," *International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews*, pp. 3565–3572, Jul. 2022, doi: 10.55248/gengpi.2022.3.7.23.
- [2] Subhash SK, "A Study on Impact of NSS Volunteering on Personality and Career Development of Passed Out Graduates." 2022. [Online]. Available: <http://journalppw.com>
- [3] Suresh BL, "Personality Development of the Students through Service Learning: A Study on National Service Scheme (NSS)," 2017. [Online]. Available: <http://www.ijmra.us>
- [4] Deekshitha, "Role of National Service Scheme (NSS) In Creating Social Responsibility at Higher Education," 2016. [Online]. Available: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2980022>
- [5] Jyoti M., Ameena S, "Impact of N.S.S. on personality development of college students," 2011. Accessed: Nov. 22, 2011. [Online]. Available: http://researchjournal.co.in/upload/assignments/2_221-223.pdf
- [6] Kiran BK, Preeti D., "Effect of NSS (National Service Scheme) in Developing Communication Skill and Leadership in Undergraduate Students of Ayurveda," 2016. [Online].



- Available:
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326648902>
- [7] Muskan M., Richa B, "Effect of volunteering in personality development: A case study on BSSS NSS volunteers. 2021"
- [8] Rajashekhar K., "The Role of Government First Grade College NSS in Rural Reconstruction," 2016. [Online]. Available: www.questjournals.org
- [9] Sarvasiddi H., Mutluri A., "Assessment of Student Youth Participation in National Service Scheme Activities: A Study in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram Districts of Andhra Pradesh," pp. 28–32, 2022, doi: 10.36106/ijar.
- [10] Adeline L., Okechukwu I., "Role of the Youths in Nation Building," *Journal of Policy and Development Studies*, vol. 9, no. 5, pp. 50–71, Nov. 2015, doi: 10.12816/0018243.
- [11] Swati V., Chaitrali E., "Analysis of Performance of National Service Scheme (NSS) Units at Various Graduation Colleges: Quality Management Perspective," 2021. Accessed: Aug. 11, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://archives.palarch.nl/index.php/jae/article/view/8456>
- [12] Anita P, Amruta S, Rahul J, R. Jadhav, Nikam AV., "National Service Scheme (NSS) - A Vision and Inspiration for Youth," 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/362593249>
- [13] Vijayapushpam T., Hrusikesh P., Shobana S., Balakrishna N, "Using Winter Camp Days of National Service Scheme (NSS) Volunteers to impart Nutrition and Health Education- Experience from Hyderabad." 2016. [Online]. Available: www.ijiset.com
- [14] Vinay Kumar V., Ankita S, "Role of National Service Scheme (NSS) in Developing Social and Human Values Among Students of Higher Education." Accessed: Aug. 11, 2023. [Online]. Available: https://www.academia.edu/42909324/Role_of_National_Service_Scheme_NSS_in_Developing_Social_and_Human_Values_Among_Students_of_Higher_Education?source=swp_share.
- [15] Okram SD, Surenjit AS., "The NSS, Development of The Personality of Students Through Community Service," 2015.
- [16] Arnold BB, Karen IVZ, Kerry AL, Maureen FD, "The relationship between the big five personality factors and burnout: A study among volunteer counselors," *Journal of Social Psychology*, vol. 146, no. 1, pp. 31–50, Feb. 2006, doi: 10.3200/SOCP.146.1.31-50.
- [17] Alok C, "Awareness regarding activities of National Service Scheme: An appraisal," *Anthropologist*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 289–296, 2008, doi: 10.1080/09720073.2008.11891064.
- [18] Shreyanka P., "National Service Scheme [NSS] 2023: Importance and Objectives," 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.aisdeindia.com/national-service-scheme/>
- [19] Priya A., "Youth employability: Looking beyond job placements," 2018, Accessed: Aug. 13, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://idronline.org/youth-employability-looking-beyond-jobs-as-a-metric-of-measuring-success/>
- [20] Nagabhushana HS. "Value orientation in NSS a comparative study," 2001. [Online]. Available: <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/216131>
- [21] Jaya B., Archana A., Pushpa C, "Personality Traits of National Service Scheme (NSS) Students," 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/352720909>
- [22] Rajalakshmi D., Sarat CS., "Regular Activities and Special Camping Programme Under NSS In Degree Colleges: A Study," 2014. [Online]. Available: www.srjis.com
- [23] Ramachandra R, "Personal and Professional Profile of NSS Program Officers: A Study," 2019.
- [24] "National Service Scheme Manual: Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India, New Delhi," 1997. Accessed: Aug. 13, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://nss.gov.in/sites/default/files/manualNss2006.pdf>
- [25] Nancy, Neetu "NSS In Colleges: Current Scenario," 2018, Accessed: Aug. 13, 2023. [Online]. Available: [https://www.worldwidejournals.com/indian-journal-of-applied-research-\(IJAR\)/](https://www.worldwidejournals.com/indian-journal-of-applied-research-(IJAR)/).
- [26] Syed Azaz A, "The Role of NSS towards Student in Higher Education," 2019. [Online]. Available: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>.
- [27] Grace KJ., "Maintaining Health and Safety at Workplace: Employee and Employer's Role in Ensuring a Safe Working Environment," Online, 2016. [Online]. Available: www.iiste.org
- [28] Gurmeet H., "Student Volunteers for Social Service," 1995. Accessed: Aug. 13, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://ijsw.tiss.edu/greenstone/collect/ijsw/index/assoc/HASH0f49/9cddb093.dir/doc.pdf>
- [29] Kale DH., "Development of leadership qualities among the student through N.S.S. medium with special references to Amravati university (period 1983-2000), Ph.D. Thesis, Amravati University, Amravati, M.S. (India)," 2005.
- [30] Mardi F., Michael B., Jenny D., "The Community's Most Valuable [Hidden] Asset'-Volunteering in Australia," 2002, doi: 10.26190/unsworks/310.