

Role of NSS in Protecting Environment

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ABSTRACT: The National Service Scheme, also known as NSS, was launched in 1969 with the aim to engage student volunteers of colleges and universities in community services. It has given platform for student volunteers to render their service to the nation at various levels. In recent times many of the NSS activities revolves around environment protection and its related issues. The environment we live in is exposed to various harmful elements causing degradation to a very large scale. Loss of forest, extinction of various animal and plant species both in land and water, increase land, air and water pollution, large scale extraction of renewable and non-renewable resources, decrease in fresh air and water, etc. needs special human attention. The study is an attempt to highlight the various activities taken up by NSS in their endeavor to enrich the environment and also protect it from further degradation. The two NSS units of Moreh College, Moreh, Tengnoupal District, Manipur are taken for the case study. The study found that NSS has given a very conducive platform for students (volunteers) to contribute to the society by protecting the environment through their activities which includes observance of world environment day, plantation of trees, cleaning of roadsides and Integrated Check Post campus, construction of sanitary latrines and urinals, cleanliness drive in Moreh town etc. It also creates a sense of awareness and responsibility among the volunteers to protect and enrich the natural environment for the benefit of the larger community. In the past the themes of the Special Camping Programmes have been 'Youth Against Famine', 'Youth Against Dirt and Disease', 'Youth for Rural Reconstruction', 'Youth for Eco-Development', 'Youth for Mass Literacy', '1 Harmony', 'Youth for Sustainable Development with special focus on Watershed Management and Wasteland Development' 'Healthy Youth For Healthy India'

KEYWORDS: NSS, protecting, environment, role, extinction, volunteers, cleanliness, community, nation

I. INTRODUCTION

Since many years environmental degradation that has occurred is marked by a large extraction of natural sources, Loss of forests, extinction of animal and plant species, depletion of the ozone layer, air, water and soil pollution, loss of marine life, and bio-diversity and so on. These have posed serious threat to the very survival of life on earth. Protecting the natural environment for the benefit of humans is the need of the hour. Environmental protection has gained momentum in recent times. In this direction the Government and NGO'S have initiated many programmes to protect the environment. One of the significant initiatives is the National Service Scheme implemented by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports popularly known as NSS was launched in Gandhiji's Birth Centenary Year 1969.[1,2]

The role of NSS in protection and conservation of environment is examined by conducting an empirical study. The data from 150 respondents are collected by questionnaire method. NSS organize activities of Environment Enrichment and Conservation, such as plantation of trees, Construction of sanitary latrines etc. Cleaning of village ponds and wells, construction of Gobar Gas Plants, use of non-conventional energy, Environmental sanitation, and disposal of garbage & composting, Watershed management and wasteland development. The study concludes that, NSS has provided a platform for the students to support the best environmental practices. Involvement of student volunteers in environmental activities through NSS can contribute to the overall development of positive qualities in young people and develops among them a sense of social and civic responsibility.

National Service Scheme(NSS) volunteers from Government Girls Intermediate College, Jwalapur, held an awareness march at Jagjeetpur village. They generated awareness among villagers about environment conservation, blood donation, girl child education and cleanliness. Girl students holding placards and handmade posters in their hands apprised villagers about social evils. Programme Officer Meena Ahuja said the younger generation had a major responsibility to create social awareness in society. "Global warming has been impacting the whole world, so environment conservation is the need of the hour to lessen its impact," Meena added. "Shortage of blood at blood banks and hospitals is another major issue that can be addressed by mass awareness. We apprised villagers about donation of blood at least twice a year can save two lives and it also purifies the blood system of the donor. The NSS students also

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talked about the need to send girls to school and maintaining hygiene and cleanliness of oneself and surrounding areas,” said Meena. Jagjeetpur village head Anju Walia lauded the initiative of the NSS students and said such programmes generate awareness and its impact would be visible in the coming days. NSS students Sarita, Shivani, Sonali, Sargam, Ashu, Vidhi, Jigyasa, Prachi, Sapna, Sakshi, Shaheen Farukhi and Manisha coordinated the event.[3,4]

The NSS unit of the BBK DAV College for Women organized a 3-day cleanliness and Environmental Sustainable Development Camp at one of its adopted villages Malawali under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, a flagship program of MHRD. DBT sponsored workshop on vermicomposting and manure making was organized by Dr. Adarsh Pal Vig, Head department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences, Guru Nanak Dev University. Dr. Adarsh Pal told about the harmful impact of technology on the environment and how we should practice the traditional methods of farming. He also talked about the need of organic farming and how the fertilizers and pesticides are harmful for the Environment and the earthworms act as the environmental engineers and best friends to farmers. A small scale manure making plant was also installed at the secondary school of Malawali. The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit present at ADAC & RI, Tiruchirappalli since 1992 comes under Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. NSS volunteers strength of this unit is 173. Presently 55 boys and 118 girls are enrolled in NSS programme and undergoing NSS 101 – National Service Scheme (0+1) course. It is a two years programme in four semesters. The overall objective of NSS is “Personality development of the students through community service”. Dr. S. Rathika is in-charge of this NSS unit. Selection of students for enrolling in NSS is voluntary. NSS volunteers undergo compulsory ‘Special camping programme’ in the adopted village for a period of seven days. During camps, the NSS volunteers are actively involved in the activities viz., cleaning of village surroundings, road sides, temples and ditches, desilting of ponds, tree planting, kitchen and terrace gardening, fire rescue and safety programme, agricultural conference and exhibition, soil health camp, health camp, eye camp, veterinary camp, legal aid camp, empowerment of rural youth programme, awareness procession against alcohol and tobacco, Workshop on ‘Natural Resource Conservation’, Dengu fever awareness rally, Awareness on ‘Traditional Food and Healthy life’, [5,6] Environmental awareness programme, Sports and games for village children’s, digital learning to the village people, orphanage and old age home visit to provide emotional support, promotion of health awareness, sanitation and human diseases through songs, street play and other community development programme which provide opportunity to understand and relation to the community, identify the needs in the community and to develop solutions, gained skills in mobilizing community participation, social and civic responsibilities, acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude. NSS volunteers participated in the regular social service activities like conducting blood donation camps, health awareness camp, environmental awareness camp, tree planting, creating awareness on Clean India Campaign, campus cleaning, self employment programme, visiting and donating goods to nearby orphanage and mental ill homes.[7,8]

II. DISCUSSION

NSS volunteers are participating in the International Yoga Day celebration on 21st June of every year and learning about the benefits of yoga practice. NSS volunteers are also participating and celebrating Independence Day, Republic Day, World Earth Day, World Environment Day, International Youth Day, World Women’s Day, World Forest Day, World Meteorological Day, World Blood Donors Day, Youth Awakening Day and Constitution Day, Observance of National Unity week, National Integration week, National Productivity Week and programmes which motivate them to do national duties and services. Finally, NSS programme is to prepare the NSS volunteers for the democratic, self disciplined and self-reliant way of life.[9,10]

NSS activities:-

- Clean and Green Campus programme conducted regularly to clean the class room, in and around the campus
- A massive Plastics free campus – Presentation on effects of plastics was given by NSS Representatives and cleaning work done by the NSS volunteers in the campus
- International Days are celebrated like, World Water Day, World Environment Day, Women’s Day, World Forest Day, Earth Day, Documentary film on ‘Water saving’ importance of environment were prepared by NSS volunteers and shown during this programme.

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- Awareness on Road safety, Blood and organ donation, Rally on helmet wearing, S.Ratika, AP (Agronomy) presented a lecture on Parthenium eradication, Campaign on national integration week.
- Campaign on “Mushroom production” – Created awareness on self employment opportunities among NSS volunteers
- International Yoga Day on 21.6.18- Around 425 members of students, NSS volunteers and Staff of the both the colleges were participated the programme and demonstrated the yoga in the college ground.
- Fire safety awareness lecture and Demonstration. More than 300 numbers of staff as well as students were practiced as hands on experiences to control different fire situation.
- Tree planting were done by NSS volunteers around boys hostel
- Best Meme creator social awareness topic were organized and presented prizes for best meme creation
- NSS Co – ordinator presented a lecture on conservation of environment, Water Management.
- On 16.3.2109, As a part of Red Ribbon Club , Organised a Medical awareness camp on B.John Mary, ICTC Counsellor, PHC, Inamkuzhathur delivered lecture on “Women health care” and Mrs. A.Tamil, Director, NPT, Trichy delivered lecture on “AIDS Awareness
- Blood donation camp were organized NSS & NCC unit of ADAC&RI, HC&RI(W), donated 45 units of blood to the Government Hospital.
- VOLS SPL a State Level Cultural Meet is held at Bishop Heber College, Trichy-17 and bagged best supporting college award.[11,12]
- Students were participated state level ChemFest cultural competition for NSS students held at St.Josephs College, Trichy 22.2.19 and bagged best performer award.
- Five NSS Volunteers were participated National Integration camp held at Belgam,Karnataka from 2.19 to 5 .3.19. Bagged first prize in Essay competition.
- As a part of NSS Special Camp was held at Samudram village of Manaparai Block of Trichy District. About 49 girl student volunteers and 28 male student volunteers attended the camp and contributed worth mentioned services to the rural people the following activities are Agricultural Technological Exhibition conducted in the school premises,26 Special lectures were delivered by the scientists of ADAC & RI, Trichy to the farmers of Samudram village.
- About 200 seedlings were planted in the village road sides and other public places by NSS volunteers.
- NSS volunteers conducted a rally on “Environmental Awareness”, Women Empowerment Awareness procession”, “Awareness against Cancer”
- Free eye camp organized in the village with the help of Vasan Eye Hospital,Trichy
- Free Law Camp and Ulavan App Awareness camp by ADA, Manaparai and Team
- A free medical camp was organized by the NSS volunteers. Dr.O.Ajitha, Medical officer, ADAC&RI, Trichy gave consultations and treatment to the village people. About 91 village peoples got benefited from the camp.
- Free veterinary camp was organized. During this camp, 145 livestock including 35 cows, 20 heifer, 75 goats and 25 kids were given treatment by Dr.Vivek, M.V.Sc., Research Associate, ADAC&RI, Trichy[13,14]

The symbol for the NSS has been based on the giant Rath Wheel of the world-famous Konark Sun Temple (The Black Pagoda) situated in Odisha, India. The wheel portrays the cycle of creation, preservation and release. It signifies the movement in life across time and space, the symbol thus stands for continuity as well as change and implies the continuous striving of NSS for social change. The eight bars in the wheel represents 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. The programme aims to instilling the idea of social welfare in students, and to provide service to society without bias. NSS volunteers work to ensure that everyone who is needy gets help to enhance their standard of living and lead a life of dignity. In doing so, volunteers learn from people in villages how to lead a good life despite a scarcity of resources. it also provides help in natural and man-made disasters by providing food, clothing and first aid to the disaster's victims. At National level Headquarters,the Directorate of NSS, New Delhi is the Nodal Authority of the NSS Scheme and covers 28 States and 8 UTs across the country. The 15 Regional Directorates are the nodal authority in the regions, which works with state-level NSS cells, within states each university has University level NSS cell under which institutions (schools and colleges) based NSS units operate. Most government and government-aided institutions have volunteer NSS units. Institutions are encouraged to have NSS volunteers. A unit typically comprises 20–40 students (it

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can be more base on the capacity of institution). They are managed internally by a responsible party from the school or college, who reports to the NSS coordinator. Most institutions do not have a separate uniform for NSS volunteers as one of the great and dedicated toward welfare of India Captain.[15,16]

To recognize the voluntary service rendered by NSS volunteers, Programme Officers (PO's), NSS Units and the University NSS Cells, it has been proposed to provide suitable incentives/ awards under the scheme. Awards include:

- NSS National Award
- State level awards
- University level awards
- District level awards
- College level awards

This award for the appreciable work of the volunteer in the College level camp. and overall performance of the student in the given year.

III. RESULTS

The volunteers of the NSS units enthusiastically celebrated the World Environment Day (WED) of this year by organising several programmes. Even though the WED falls on 4th June, to the surprise of many, the celebrations began from 3rd June itself by planting saplings in and around by planting a sapling of the custard apple tree. About 50 saplings had been donated to the NSS units by EAZY Books team as part of this celebration. The World Environment Day is "Connecting People to Nature." This theme implores all of us to go outdoors and appreciate nature's beauty and importance and to take forward the call to protect the planet Earth. As part of carrying forward this message, the NSS volunteers made a small size soakage pits in the compounds of their homes for water conservation. The pits, each of which had a diameter of 1m each, were filled with coarse rocks, brick ballast and coconut husk. These activities, it was hoped, would help save mother earth from total deforestation.[17]

NSS unit of Don Bosco College, Panjim, organised a session for its volunteers on 'Solid Waste Management and Sustainability.' The host for the day, Ms Tannniya Kirtani of FY BAMC began by introducing the renowned speakers, Ms Shraddha Rangnekar and Mr Vignesh Shinde both of whom are specialists in the field and work to create awareness and protect our mother earth. Ms Rangnekar is the recipient of the prestigious Power Business Excellence Award for 'Best Social Entrepreneur' while Mr Shinde is the initiator of the NoSUP Campaign in Goa, which was achieved as a Team at Arannya Environment Research Organization that conducts awareness sessions at schools and colleges. We are slaves of our conveniences and this results in the laziness of not segregating our garbage which threatens the earth. The two videos that were screened emphasised how animals suffer serious injuries and even death, due to improper segregation of waste and dumping of waste in the water bodies. The audience was deeply moved by the incident of a sea turtle that was entangled in the nets. He ended his presentation by sharing the estimated amount of plastic used every day and the solutions one can adapt to reduce this by focussing on the 5R's – Reuse, Recycle, Reduce, Refuse, Rethink. importance of using less plastic items by refusing to accept plastic packings while bringing attention to the urgent need to segregate dry and wet waste. The talk was educative and an eye opening one that left the volunteers pondering upon the consequences that result from the carelessness of man.[18] There are two types of activities: Regular Activities(120 hours) and Annual Special Camp(120 hours). All the NSS Volunteers who have served NSS for at least 2 years and have performed 240 hours of work under NSS are entitled to a certificate from the university under the signature of the Vice-Chancellor and the Programme Coordinator. The Annual camps are known as Special Camps. Camps are held annually, funded by the government of India, and are usually located in a rural village or a city suburb. Volunteers may be involved in such activities as:

1. Cleaning
2. Afforestation
3. Stage shows or a procession creating awareness of issues such as social problems, education and cleanliness
4. Awareness Rallies

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5. Inviting doctors for health camps
6. Community Survey

There are no predefined or preassigned tasks; it is left up to the volunteers to provide service in any way that is feasible. Camps typically last between a week and 10 days, although camps for shorter periods are also conducted by NSS.

1. Orientation of students in national problems.
2. Study of philosophy of NSS.
3. Basic concepts and components of NSS.
4. National service scheme (NSS) volunteers.
5. Special camping programme.
6. Fundamental rights, Directive principles of state policy.
7. Awareness programme, Consumer awareness, Highlights of consumer act.
8. Function literacy non formal education of rural youth.
9. Environment enrichment and conservation.
10. Health, family welfare and nutrition.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is an Indian government sector public service program conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India. Popularly known as NSS, the scheme was launched in Gandhiji's Centenary year in 1969. Aimed at developing student's personality through community service, NSS is a voluntary association of young people in Colleges, Universities and at +2 level working for a campus-community (esp. Villages) linkage. After independence the University Grants Commission, headed by S. Radhakrishnan, recommended the introduction of voluntary national service in academic institutions. This idea was again considered by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) at its meeting in January, 1950; after examining the idea and the experiences of other countries in this field, the board recommended that students and teachers should devote time to voluntary manual work. In the draft, the first Five-Year Plan adopted by the government in 1952 and the need for social and labour service by Indian students for one year was stressed. In 1958 Jawaharlal Nehru, in a letter to the chief ministers, considered the idea of social service as a prerequisite for graduation. He directed the Ministry of Education to formulate a suitable scheme for the introduction of national service into academic institutions. In May 1969, a conference of student representatives (of universities and institutions of higher education) convened by the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission also unanimously agreed that a national-service scheme could be an instrument for national integration. The Planning Commission sanctioned an outlay of ₹5 crores for the NSS during the Fourth Five-Year Plan, stipulating that the NSS be a pilot project in selected institutions and universities. On 24 September 1969, the then Union Education Minister Shri.V.K.R.V. Rao launched the NSS at 37 universities in several states of India. The scheme has been extended to all states and universities in the country, and also +2 level institutes in many states. The then Minister attached to PM of India legendary Smt. Nandini Satpathy had a strong hand in the conceptualisation as well as in the launch of NSS.[19]

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