

Role of National Service Scheme in Self and Community Development

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Abstract

Cleanliness in local environments is one of the most important ways to prevent diseases. As the cleanliness of the house is necessary, similarly cleanliness of local surroundings is also necessary. The National Service Scheme (NSS) has a strong and effective programme media in the higher education system. It is providing the community education through student's involvement in the various activities. NSS provide the knowledge and information to student volunteers through various activities with active involvement and participation of the people from various communities. NSS activities are helps to creating the healthy relationship of the student with community for the social development & consciousness. Many innovative programme implemented by the NSS which provided plenty opportunities to student volunteers and community people to build valuable & constructive nation. The NSS plays a vital role in social mobilization and the national reconstruction by arranging the student youth in direct service to community.

The personality of the student volunteers is also developed during the NSS activities

Keywords: National Service Scheme, awareness, volunteers, students, community, education

Introduction

National Service Scheme (NSS) is a permanent youth programme under the ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. The idea of involving students in the task of national service dates back to the times of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. The central theme which he tried to impress upon his student audience time and again was that they should always keep before them, their social responsibility. The first duty of the students should be, not to treat their period of study as one of the opportunities for indulgence in intellectual luxury, but for preparing themselves for final dedication in the service of those who provided the sinews of the nation with the national goods & services so essential to society. Advising them to form a living contact with the community in whose midst their institution is located, he suggested that instead of undertaking academic research about economic and social disability, the students should do "something positive so that the life of the villagers might be raised to a higher material and moral level". Started initially in 37 universities involving 40,000 volunteers, the scheme has grown over the years and it is implemented today with an involvement of more than 2.6 million volunteers spread over in 200 Universities, Polytechnics and +2 Systems. The efforts of NSS volunteers have been widely acclaimed by the community, universities, colleges and public as the NSS volunteers have been rendering selfless service to the community. The motto or watchword of the National Service Scheme is '**NOT ME BUT YOU**' this reflects the essence of democratic living and upholds the need for selfless service and appreciation of the other person's point of view and to show consideration for fellow human beings

Objectives of the Paper

1. To project role of NSS to students and Public
2. For understanding how the students can develop their personality under this programme
3. To know the possibilities way to serve the nation through NSS
4. To make students to serve the society and develop humanity in youth

The Role of NSS and Village Cleaning

The ministry of education is recommended creating awareness about government schemes "through camps, cultural activities, and house-to-house campaigns". The activities of

NSS towards creating awareness in village cleaning comprise 1) Regular Activities and 2) Special Camping Programme

1. Regular Activities

NSS volunteers generally work with villages, slums and voluntary agencies to complete 120 hours of regular activities during an academic year. As per the fundamental principles of National Service Scheme, a volunteer is expected to remain in constant touch with the community. Hence, it is of vital importance that a particular village/slum is selected for implementation of NSS programmes. As the NSS volunteer is to live with the members of the community and learn from their experience during his/her tenure in NSS, the village/slum should be carefully selected for adoption by NSS unit. Under the regular activities the NSS undertakes various activities which have been briefed below

- Adoption of Villages- to provide road, drainage, cleaning facilities in that particular village
- Contacting Village/Area Leaders- to get their support to carry out various cleaning works in the village
- Survey of the Village/Area- to identify the area or village which is backward and which actually required NSS support for social activities or community services
- Identification of Problems- To identify the reachable problems of the village and carryout the same on priority base

It is on the basis of this need assessment that projects/programmes are to be formulated. The programme officers should use their discretion and should identify the projects which can be completed by seeking assistance from the communities/other agencies. As the aim of adoption of village or area is to give new ideas of development to the villagers which would improve their living conditions. Once the trust of the communities is won, they start cooperating with the NSS volunteers and approach them for solution of their problems. One of the important services that can be rendered by NSS volunteers is disseminating information about the latest developments in agriculture, watershed management, wastelands development, non-conventional energy, low cost housing, sanitation, nutrition and personal hygiene, schemes for skill development, income generation, government schemes, legal aid, consumer protection and allied field.

Services in Slums

The slum, services backward slums are identified and adopted by the NSS with the aim of providing water, water logging, sanitation, electricity, drainage, health and welfare services, for improving the minimum requirements of the slum dwellers.

NSS Volunteers for Slum Work

Following are the tasks, which the students can undertake in slum areas:-

- (a) As Community Investigators: They can prepare brief community profile on various slums in the city or town covering different amenities, services, and living conditions etc.
- (b) As Community Workers: They can identify local leaders and in cooperation with them discuss local problems on which cooperative action can be initiated.
- (c) As Programme Aides: Students can help the local communities' in launching a number of programmes like setting up a free milk distribution centre, sanitation drive, recreation, adult lad primary education, health projects like immunization. First aid centre, child care, nutrition classes, and free legal aid centres etc. They can also help in forming youth clubs, children's groups, MahilaMandals etc.
- (d) As Community Organizers: NSS students, after establishing rapport with the slum dwellers, can form community association to tackle local problems on a group basis with reliance on local resources, self-help and mutual aid and with some minimum external assistance.

Special Camp Programme

Special Camping forms an integral part of National Service Scheme. It has special appeal to the youth as it provides unique opportunities to the students for group living, collective experience sharing and constant interaction with community. Special camping are organised generally on various developmental issues of national importance. Besides, the current theme of Special Camp is 'Youth for Sustainable Development with special focus on Watershed Management and Wasteland Development. Every year 50 percent of the volunteers of each NSS unit are expected to participate in special camps which is of seven days duration.

Activities during Regular and Special Camping

- ✓ Plantation of trees, their preservation and upkeep (each NSS unit should plant and protect at least 1000 saplings);
- ✓ Creation of NSS parks/gardens, TarunTreveniVanas.
- ✓ Construction & maintenance of village streets, drains, etc. so as to keep the environment clean;
- ✓ Construction of sanitary latrines etc.
- ✓ Cleaning of village ponds and wells;
- ✓ Popularization and construction of Gobar Gas Plants, use of non-conventional energy
- ✓ Environmental sanitation and disposal of garbage & composting;
- ✓ Prevention of soil erosion, and work for soil conservation,
- ✓ Watershed management and wasteland development
- ✓ Preservation and upkeep of monuments, and creation of consciousness about the preservation of cultural heritage among the community.

Conclusion

A survey of the evolution of educational thought in India clearly indicates its bias towards social commitment. And a review of the planning process which preceded the formulation of National Service Scheme reveals that NSS has been designed to promote the social goals of higher education. NSS has its own identity; it can be used for betterment of the society by proper implementation at higher education to create social responsibility of the students.

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