



## ROLE OF YOUTH IN COMMUNITY SERVICES WITH REFERENCE TO NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS): A CASE STUDY

DR. PREETI SHARMA

Assistant Professor, Public Administration, Government Degree College Karsog, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

### Abstract

“Youth is the joy, the little bird that has broken out of the eggs and is eagerly waiting to spread out its wings in the open sky of freedom and hope.”

Henry James (an American Scholar)

Youth can play an important role in the welfare of nation. Youth is a backbone of a nation. Unfortunately youth have been neglected for decades. Sometimes they get wander off from their original goals. They need some directions, involvement and responsibility. The energy of youth should be used to tackle the social evils. In this directions many government agencies such as National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), Bharat Scouts and Guides, Indian Red Cross Society, Nehru Yuva Kandra, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, etc. are some of the premier agencies in India are grooming the Indian youth for national welfare. The study was conducted with the objectives to analyse the awareness among the youth related to NSS, analyse the working of NSS for youth development, analyse the attitude of volunteers towards NSS after joining NSS and to analyse the administrative difficulties. The study was based on primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained from the field with the help of selected samples and secondary data was generated from existing resources related to the present study.

**Keywords:** Youth, Community Services, National Services Scheme, National Development, Youth Development

### INTRODUCTION

Youth throughout the world can play a pivotal role on revolutions in different fields. Youth has potential to change the society. The freedom struggle of India is one of the best examples where many youth participated actively and even sacrificed their lives. There are many such examples in the world where youth have played important role. NSS is a programme sponsored by Government of India lead for public assistance program led by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India. The scheme was started in 1969 the year of Gandhiji's Centenary. The objective of the scheme is to fostering the personality of students' through community services. NSS is a voluntary group of youngsters in Colleges, Universities and school (10+1 and 10+2 class only) level. NSS give hands on experience to its volunteers in providing community services. At the beginning of the NSS in the year 1969, the numbers of its volunteers were 40,000. Up to March 2018 there are over 3.8 million NSS volunteers in different educational institutions of India. They are actively participating in different community services. The volunteers who choose to serve the country through the NSS wear the NSS badge with pride and an awareness of others'



expectations towards aiding penniless. All the volunteers who choose to serve the country through the NSS wear the badge with pride and an awareness of others' expectations towards aiding penniless. The NSS badge includes Konark wheel having eight bars which indicate that the badge wearers are ready for the service of the nation 24×7. The colour of the badge consist blue and red colours. Red colour indicates the spirit and energy of the NSS volunteers and blue colour indicates the system in which the NSS is a part and is ready to serve for the welfare of humanity.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF NSS**

After independence, the Chairman of University Grant Commission Sh. S. Radhakrishnan suggested that there should be voluntary national service scheme in educational institutions. In January, 1950 the suggestion was further take up by the Central Advisory Board of Education at its meeting. After deep discussion on this particular suggestion and examining the experiences of other countries, the board finally adopted this idea and recommended that the teachers and students should spare time to voluntary manual work. In 1952 the Government of India adopted this recommendation in its first Five Year Plan. In 1958 the than Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru circulated a letter to all the Chief Ministers of Stated and Union Territories to adopt the idea of voluntary social service. Pt. Nehru also directed the than Education Minister of Government of India to frame a scheme and its guidelines to be introduce in the educational institutions of India.

### **INCEPTION OF NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME**

A conference of student representatives of different universities and higher educational institutions of the country was organised in 1969. The conference was convened by the Ministry of Education of Government of India and University Grant Commission collectively. All the representatives and organisers mutually consented that there should be a national service scheme which can act as an instrument of national integration. After finalising its entire documentary works an orientation camp for its implementation was organised at Rajghat. The camp was closed on 7th June 1969 and K. Gupta from Delhi University was declared its first volunteer. The Planning Commission of India (now NITI Ayog) sanctioned ₹ 5 crores for National Service Scheme. Initially it was started as pilot based in selected institutions and universities. On 24th September 1969, V. K. R. V. Rao the than Education Minister of Government of India launched this schemes in 37 universities throughout the schools at +2 level in many states with a slogan of NOT ME BUT YOU.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NSS**

At national level, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Government of India is a nodal authority having administrative, policy forming implementing and evaluating

authority. At the state level state NSS cells have been established which coordinate with the national authority and the respective state governments. In every state each educational institution where NSS units are working, institutional level NSS cells has been established. Most of the government and government-funded educational institutions have active NSS units. Commonly an NSS unit incorporates 20-40 students but the number of students in an NSS unit can be more than 40 depending on the strength of that particular educational institution. The responsibility of management of an NSS unit is given to a responsible person of the institution. This person organised different activities under NSS and reports to the regional NSS coordinator.

### **ACTIVITIES UNDER NSS AT LOCAL LEVEL**

There are generally two types of activities organised under NSS one is regular activities and another is annual special camp. Both the activities are organised for 120 hours each. The NSS volunteers who performed 240 hours of voluntary work under both the activities (120 hours for each activity) for at least two years are honoured with a certificate from the affiliating university of the institution. The certificate contains signature of Vice-Chancellor and NSS programme coordinator. Regular activities can be performed with the consents of programme coordinator and unit volunteers at any time. The annual special camps organised annually. Usually the camps organised nearby rural areas. Mostly the period of annual special camp is 7-10 days, but short camps can also be organised. All the activities are funded by the Government of India. Commonly the activities performed under NSS are cleanliness drive, plantation drive, awareness campaign (through rallies, stage shows, door to door, etc.), organising health check-up camps with the help of health department, blood donation, traffic control, managing queues in temples on special occasions and organising community surveys. The activities of the NSS volunteers are not restricted. Volunteers can provide their services to their feasibility and as per requirements of the community.

### **BENEFITS OF BEING AN NSS VOLUNTEER**

A volunteer who participates in the community service through NSS programme gets benefited. The volunteer get recognised as accomplished social leader, an efficient administrator and a person who understand human nature. Besides these recognitions in Himachal Pradesh an NSS volunteer get 2 extra marks in admission at university level and also get 2 extra marks in class III and class IV level government jobs.

### **MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF NSS**

Besides the local level activities there are some major activities under National Service Scheme. These activities are:



## **1. NATIONAL INTEGRATION CAMP (NIC)**

The National Integration Camps are organized in the country every year at national level. The duration of the camps is one week and having day and night boarding and lodging of the NSS volunteers at camp site. Each camp consists of 200 NSS volunteers.

### **Objectives of the National Integration Camp**

Spread the awareness among NSS volunteers about:

- Rich cultural heterogeneity of the country
- History of diverseness of rich culture of the country
- National dignity through information about India
- To coordinate the country through friendly assistance

## **2. ADVENTURE PROGRAM**

The adventure programmes are organised every year. These programmes include about 1500 NSS volunteers. In these programmes 50 percent participation of girl volunteers is compulsory. Mostly adventure programmes organised in the North of Himalayan Region and Arunachal Pradesh in the North East region. Water rafting, trekking, parasailing, and skiing are among the adventurous sports offered.

### **Objectives of Adventure Program**

- Promote different adventurous experience among NSS volunteers.
- Infuse the feeling of affection towards the different locales of India.
- Enhance authority characteristics, society, camaraderie and hazard taking limit.
- Strengthening of physical and mental ability of the volunteers.
- Exposure to new professional prospects.

## **NSS REPUBLIC DAY PARADE CAMP**

In 1988, the 1st Republic Day Camp for NSS Volunteers was organised in Delhi. The camp is organised in Delhi every year between 1st January to 31st January. In this parade camp 200 selected NSS volunteers throughout the country participate. The NSS volunteers who are disciplined and having good performance in march-past and cultural activities got selected for this camp. These NSS volunteers participate in the Indian Republic Day Parade on 26th January at Rajpath, New Delhi under the guidance of Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

### **Objectives of NSS Republic Day Parade Camp**

- Enabling the volunteers to collaborate with each other hailing from different areas of the country.
- Experience the practices, customs, culture, languages of different states of the country.
- Provide a platform to develop personality and character of the volunteers.
- Inculcate the spirit of patriotism, public incorporation, national integration, brotherhood, fellowship and mutual concordance and communal harmony.

### **NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVALS**

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports of Government of India organise National Youth Festivals every year from 12th January to 16th January. The ministry organise these youth festivals in collaboration with the state governments. In these youth festivals 1500 NSS volunteers participate. Distinguished speakers, youth icons and guests participate with the NSS volunteers.

### **OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVALS**

- Make the volunteers mindful of the different celebrations celebrated in the country.
- Remind the volunteers of the social significance of celebrations celebrated in our country.
- Provide an opportunity to the NSS volunteers to associate with the resource persons, speakers and youth icons

### **NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS) AWARDS**

The Government of India made a provision of National Service Scheme Awards under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to recognise the services of the volunteers under NSS services. These awards are given to University/+Councils, Upcoming Universities, Programme Officers, NSS Units and NSS volunteers every year. The awards were started in 1993-1994. The details of these awards are as:

**Table No. 1 Category wise Details of Awards and their Values**

Category	No. of Awards	Value of Each Award
University/+Councils	1	₹ 3,00,000/-
Upcoming University	1	₹ 2,00,000/-
Programme Officer	10	₹ 70,000/-
NSS Units	10	₹ 1,00,000/-
NSS Volunteer	30	₹ 50,000/-

Source: <https://nss.gov.in/nss-detail-page>

### **Objectives of National Service Scheme Award**

- To perceive remarkable commitment by NSS volunteers, NSS Program Officers and the Program Coordinators in community services.
- To urge NSS volunteers to foster their character through community services.
- To energize the Program Officers and the Program Coordinators of NSS for satisfying the requirements of National Service Scheme through the NSS volunteers.
- To inspire NSS volunteers for proceeding their voluntary service towards community work.

### **IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH GAP**

For the purpose of the present study literature review was conducted. The reviewed literature depicts that NSS is playing an important role in the country in different fields. We are facing many problems in the society. That is why the role of youth becomes important and it is also important to do the research on the role of youth. During literature review it was found that the studies conducted on the issue related to National Service Scheme are at small scale. Large scale studies were not found. It shows that there is shortage of proper literature on National Service Scheme. A gap related to suggestions to how to strengthen the NSS was found during the literature. Theoretical gap was also found. In this paper researcher has made an attempt to contribute a small literature related to National Service Scheme. In this regard articles, research papers and published reports related to NSS were consulted.

### **PROBLEM SELECTION AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

Youth can play an important role in the development of any nation. Youth is a backbone of a nation. Unfortunately youth have been neglected for decades. Sometimes they get wander off from their original goals. They need some directions, involvement and responsibility. The energy of youth should be used to tackle the social evils. The present study is focused on the role of youth in community services. The present problem was selected for the study because it has been observed that the youth is destroying its energy in anti-social activities. There may be several reasons behind this. In this situation it is important to study such issues. The Indian youth (18-29 years of age) contributes 22 percent to the total Indian population. A United Nation's report revealed that India has youngest population of the world. Intoxications are in high trends among youth. Different agencies are working for diverting the youth to a better direction. In this regard National Service Scheme (NSS) is also playing an important role. NSS is not only providing a platform for community services to the youth but also inculcation the spirit of nationalism, brotherhood,

respect to the fellows, respect the culture, caste, language, personality development, sports habits, etc. That is why this issue is important in research point of view.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To know the awareness among students about NSS.
- To analyse the working of NSS.
- To analyse the personality change among the NSS volunteers after joining NSS.
- To know the role of NSS volunteers in community services.
- To analyse the administrative difficulties during the implication of National Service Scheme at ground level.

### **STUDY AREA**

The present study was conducted in Karsog block of Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh. One Government Degree College and three Government Senior Secondary schools of Karsog block were selected as study area for the present study where NSS units are in operation.

### **SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND SAMPLE SIZE**

For the present study all the 4 NSS programme coordinators were selected from four educational institutions as sample to know the administrative difficulties and students' attitude towards NSS. Besides these 40 samples were selected (10 from each educational institution, 5 old volunteers and 5 newly enrolled volunteers) among the NSS volunteers to know their opinion on some selected indicators. There were 20 newly enrolled samples and 20 old enrolled samples. The samples among the NSS volunteers were selected with the help of systematic sampling technique. Lists of enrolled NSS volunteers were generated from the programme coordinators of the respective NSS units. Even number was selected as sample and first 10 (five old volunteers + five new volunteers) even numbers were selected for the survey. This technique was used in all the four educational institutions.

### **RESEARCH QUESTION**

Main focus of this paper was to analyse the role of the youth in community development. The role of the youth in nation building cannot be ignored at any cost. After conducting the present research some of the questions were answered. These were:

- The youth enrolled under NSS is playing its role in the community development actively.
- The initiatives to strengthen the NSS are negligible at government level.

- Funds and infrastructure are not up to the mark as per the requirements.

### **DATA COLLECTION**

The study was based on both primary as well as secondary data. Existing publications and studies were for secondary data. To obtain primary data a field survey was conducted with the help of questionnaire.

### **FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

To complete the present study respondents were classified into three categories i.e., senior volunteers of NSS, newly enrolled volunteers of NSS and NSS programme officers. Category wise findings have been presented below.

Findings on the basis of opinion of the newly enrolled NSS volunteers:

- It was asked from the volunteers that why they joined the NSS. 58 per cent of the respondents replied that they joined NSS because they want to serve the nation without selfishness. 22 per cent respondents replied that they joined NSS because their brothers/sisters/relatives have already joined the NSS. 20 per cent replied that the senior NSS volunteers ask them to join NSS.
- 32 per cent respondents got inspired from their senior NSS volunteers to join NSS. 22 per cent respondents got inspired to join NSS. 46 per cent respondents got inspired with the spirit of nationalism spirit of NSS volunteers.
- All the newly enrolled NSS volunteers replied that the old NSS volunteers time to time help them a lot. Senior volunteers teach the day to day activities, disciplines and spirit of nationalism.
- All the newly enrolled NSS volunteers opined that they took right decision to join NSS.
- All the respondents opined that they did not join NSS forcefully.

Findings on the basis of old NSS volunteers:

- All the old volunteers opined that they motivate the students to join NSS.
- The 44 per cent old volunteers responded that they joined NSS after getting inspired with their brothers/sisters/relatives. 56 per cent respondents replied that they get inspired with their seniors to join NSS.
- The question related to change in the personality was asked from the senior volunteers. All the sample volunteers responded that they feel development in their personality after joining NSS. NSS inculcated spirit of unity, nationalism, discipline, leadership quality, and selfless services.



#### Findings on the basis of opinion of NSS Programme Officers:

- A question was asked from the programme officers that how volunteers get benefited after joining the NSS. All the respondents opined that the volunteers learn lifelong skills, spirit of nationalism, discipline, unity etc. Besides these volunteers get interacted with each other and learn spirit of brotherhood, exchange the culture, spirit to lead, and also learn other curricular activities like, sports, singing, dancing, declamation, painting, etc. Now-a-days volunteers are getting advantages of two extra marks in the selection for government jobs and admissions at university level.
- All the respondents responded that few students approach themselves to join NSS and most of the students get inspired with the senior volunteers.
- A question was asked from the programme officers that do they force the students to join the NSS. All the respondents replied that they never force the students to join the NSS. They tell them about NSS and after that ask to join the NSS willingly.
- All the programme officers responded that they spread awareness among the students about through different modes, like posters/banners in the campus, open house activities, rallies by the NSS volunteers, etc.
- All the programme officers opined that the senior volunteers always help them to enroll the new volunteers. Senior volunteers always motivate the new students to join the NSS.
- All the respondents opined that both girls and boys show equal interests to join the NSS.
- As far as administrative difficulties are concerned, all the programme officers revealed that they feel shortage of funds and infrastructure,

#### **SUGGESTIONS**

- The NSS is restricted to colleges and 10+1 and 10+2 level only. It should be extended to the universities level and lower level of schools. So that maximum students can be enrolled.
- There should be a proper calendar of activities. So that the activities could be organised equally and regularly in all the educational institutions.
- The infrastructure should be strengthened and different trainings like armed forces and police, disaster management, IT and employment oriented skills should be provided to the volunteers.

- More activities need more budgets. Therefore budgets should be increase.
- There should be minimum monthly stipend for the volunteers.
- This will help the needy students and also attract more students to join the NSS.

## CONCLUSION

Young population is a biggest asset for any country. Youth can commit themselves to the welfare of the country. This needs proper harnessing and guidelines to the youth. The older seek the help of the youngsters' when they need but do not allow them important status and chances according to their skills and potential. Youth is a life like a spring season. Youth is the age where you can dream and where you can discover. Youth is full of energy, courage, imagination, ambition, spirit of doing, hope, etc. These should not waste for deconstructive manners. The activities like NSS can use all these potentials of youth in a constructive manner. The organisations working for youth are involving the youth in creative works. The youth of India has power, potential and talent and can make the nation developed from developing nation. The study shows that the youth is still careless and are wasting their time in purposeless activities. NSS is playing an important role in health, education, community awareness, sanitation, cleanliness, social services, environment conservation, disaster management and campaign against drugs and other social evils, etc. NSS volunteers have also played an important role during COVID-19. The recent bye elections held in Himachal Pradesh, the NSS volunteers help the old voters and voters with disabilities. NSS volunteers have are doing a lot of work for the development of communities. They have a big role in nation building. The young volunteers have large potential to do and this potential could be used for the welfare of nation with strong efforts.

## REFERENCES

- B, Suresh Lal, (2015), Personality Development of the Students through Service Learning: A Study of National Service Scheme (NSS), International Journal of Physical and Social Science (IJPSS), Vol. 5, Issue 6, ISSN: 2249-5894, pp. 290-300.
- Chandrakantha, K. M. (2016), Influence of NSS for Development of Social Work in Youths-A Birds Eye View, International Journal of Research and Analytical Review (IJRAR) November-2016, Vol. 3, Issue 4, E-ISSN: 2348-1269, P-ISSN: 2349-5138, pp. 17-125.
- Deekshitha, (2016), Role of National Service Scheme (NSS) in Creating Social Responsibility at Higher Education, International Journal of Scientific Research and Modern Education (IJSRME), Vol. I, Issue I, ISSN (O): 2455-5630, pp. 756-760.
- Handbook on NSS of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.



- Nikam, R. M. (2020), Role of National Service Scheme in Enhancing Rational Values in Society, International Journal for Research in Science and Technology (IJRASET) Vol. 8, Issue IV, ISSN: 2321-9653, pp. 2169-2172.
- Parmar, H. H. (2019), National Service Scheme an Opportunity for Youth to Contribute in National Building, National Service Scheme and National Building, Vol. 7, Issue 4, ISSN: 2277-7733, pp. 34-37.
- Sayed Azaz Ali Amjad Ali, (2019), The Role of NSS towards Student in Higher Education, International Journal of Trends in Scientific Research and Development (IJTSRD) Vol. 3, Issue 4, May-June 2019, eISSN: 2456-6470, pp. 49-52, DOI:10.31142/ijtsrd23564