

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF NSS AND ITS PHILOSOPHY, AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The National Service Scheme will be in the forefront, when we consider the popular youth moments in the post independent India. However, it was in the year 1958, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took initiative and advised the academicians to suggest the programme to involve student Youth in Social Service activities. Since then various committees were appointed, first a Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr.C.D.Deshumkh to prepare a scheme for compulsory national service by students prior to their admission for degree courses. At the second stage Prof.K.G.Saiyidain had undertaken a study of National Service by student youth in several countries and he had recommended that the national service may be introduced on a Voluntary basis.

The Education Commission was appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. B.S. Kothari, (1964) after a deep study, he recommended that students at all stages of education should be associated with some form of Social Service. This was taken into account by the State Education Ministers during their conference in April, 1967, and they recommended that at the University students could be permitted to Join the (NCC) the National Cadet Corps, which was already in existence on a Voluntary basis an alternative to NCC they could be adored in the form of a new programme that is National Service Scheme (NSS).

The Vice-chancellors conference was held in September 1967 and welcomed those recommendations and suggested a Special Committee of Vice-Chancellors should be set up to examine this proposal in details the details were examined and suggested to include into 4th five year plan under the Ministry of Education. The planning commission sanctioned of outlet of Rs. 5 Crore for introduction of NSS in selected Colleges and Universities. In the pursuance of these recommendations the NSS programme was started on 24th September, 1969, during the Mahatma Gandhiji Centenary years. Since Gandhiji had inspired the Youth to participate in the National Movement such as Non Cooperation, Civil disobedience and Quit India Movements for the Independence of India and for the Social upliftment of the downtrodden masses.

Then the Union Education Minister Dr. V.R.V.Rao, launched the NSS Programme in 37 Universities covering all the states initially 40,000 student volunteers were enrolled in this NSS Scheme. This scheme has tremendous effect upon the youth one ray of hope could be the proper utilization of youth power through NSS programmes in universities and colleges at present the scheme is extended to all the State and Universities in the country, Students, teachers, parents, guardians, persons in authority of government, Universities and Colleges and the people in general now realize the need and significance of NSS.

The National Service Scheme was started to establish a meaningful linkage between the Campus and the Community. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, believed in "Manava Seva ya Madhava Seva" Service to man is service to God, he had recognised that the country could not progress in a desired direction until the student youth, who are committed, sincere and dedicated to the nation were motivated to work for the upliftment of the villages/slums/ community. For Gandhiji the villages, where majority of the population lived, represent the country, i.e. India. Therefore, for the national reconstruction and national resurgence it was deemed fit that the student youth, teachers and intellectuals should be properly sensitized and utilized for strengthening the Indian Society, as a hole with particular emphasis on rural community, who are living in poverty, illiteracy, with social backwardness. Therefore, student youth, teachers and intellectuals are considered the three basic components of the National Service Scheme.

The cordial principal of the programme is that it is organized by the students themselves and both students and teachers through their combined participation in social service, get a development. Besides, the students particularly obtain work-experience which might help them to find avenues of Self-employment or employment in any organization at the end of their university career. The response of students to the scheme has been quite encouraging starting with an enrolment of 40,000 students in 1969, the coverage of NSS students increased.

The concept of NSS

The overall concept of National Service Scheme as envisaged earlier, is to give an extension dimension to the higher education system and orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in educational institution. The reason for the formulation of this objective is the general realisation that the colleges and +2 level students have a tendency to get alienated from the villages/slum masses which constitute the majority of the population of the country. The educated youth who are expected to take the reins of an administration in future are found to be unaware of the problems of the village/slum community and in certain cases are indifferent towards their needs and problems. Therefore, it is necessary to arouse the social conscience of the students, and to provide them an opportunity to work with the people in the villages and slums. It is felt that their interaction with the common villagers and slum dwellers will expose them to the realities of life and bring about a change in their social perception.

The Philosophy of NSS

The National Service Scheme is the real third dimension of Higher Education System, close to social realities and community concern i.e., developing a living link with community by the institution of higher learning helps in marching towards the prosperity of the mankind. The student youth are harbingers of change in any society, more so if they are motivated and imbued with sense of values that upholds Discipline, Dignity of Labour, Sincerity, inspiration service minded and patriotism.

The National Service Scheme strives the youth to develop a positive attitude towards the community and commitment to work for the upliftment of the weaker sections and downtrodden people in the society. The National Service Scheme also creates a module to involve the students youth for the process of social development in the country by inculcating the qualities such as, social consciousness, service to the community, and sense of responsibility, Personality Development and self-confidence. This helps them to contribute towards National Integration, attaining perfection, credibility, stability and maturity. The NSS proves to groom the student youth into an active citizen, which brings about satisfaction to an individual and promotes peace in the community.

Community Service rendered by the NSS volunteers has covered several aspects like adoption of villages for intensive development work, carrying out the medico-social survey's setting up of medical centers, programmes of mass immunization, sanitation drives, adult education programmes for the weaker sections of the community, blood donation, helping inmate of orphanages and the physically handicapped etc., The NSS Volunteers did commendable relief work during natural calamities emergencies such as cyclones, floods, famine, earthquake, etc. from time to time all over the country. They have also done useful work in organizing campaigns for eradication of social evils, and popularisation of the national accepted objectives like nationalism, democracy, secularism, social harmony and development of scientific temper.

The Motto of NSS

The Motto of NSS "Not Me But You" is a sense of expression of face it appears to be very simple and short, but behind it lies a lot of meaning. It is very deep and suggestive and is quite in keeping with the spirit of NSS service for others.

The expression stands for two things.

- (i) For getting and surrendering the Self, and
- (ii) Rendering selfless service for others.

The word “Not” before ‘me’ is to reduce the self to enhance the importance of others.

The abridged expression “Not me but You” can be simply expanded as follows:

I do not live for me but for you.

The world is not only for me but for you also.

The motto of NSS reminds us of the words of Swami Vivekananda “Not I but Thou” which advise us to forget ourselves completely whatever we may be according to the swami the watchword of all moral good, is “Not I But, Thou” Here is the world and it is full of misery. We should try to lessen the misery and make it worth living for all.

This expresses the essence of democratic living and upholds the need for selfless service and appreciation of the other man’s point of view, and also to show consideration for fellow human beings. It underlines that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of society as a whole therefore it should be the aim of the NSS to demonstrate this motto in its day-to-day programme. It develops love devotion, dedication, determination and personality development. They received to concrete social use. It has been felt that the primary aim of the scheme is to enable the students to upgrade their personality.

The Nature of NSS

This Social Service Scheme which is meant for students sponsored by Ministry of Human Resources Development, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India for the students.

The Aims of NSS

The main aim of this scheme is Service through education and personality development through education and personality development through Service, it is planned for educated youth and programmed around youth and it tops the potentials of Youth and for National construction and national regeneration. Above all understanding a human beings their needs, feelings, and work for their betterment. The NSS Develops the Social ethics involves, several human values like sincerity, honesty, discipline, loyalty, freedom, dignity of labour, individuality, understanding other Co-operation, motivation, equality, integrity, brotherhood, character building and thinking for others are the prime request of NSS Volunteers and Functionaries.

The Objectives of NSS

The overall objective of the National Service Scheme, as envisaged originally was Service to the Community, offered while undergoing instruction in educational institutions. It was sought to arouse the social consciousness of students and provide them with the opportunity to work with the people around the educational campuses creatively and constructively and to put the education they received to concrete social use. It has been felt that the primary aim of the Scheme is to enable the students to upgrade their personality and experience through community service to the community is a means through which such improvements is sought to be achieved.

1. It develop a sense of respect to the Principles, Values, rights and obligations promote national unity, Integrity, nonviolence, secularism, democracy, equality before law. Socialism, self-reliance a dignity of Labour, commitment to fight against injustice, inequality and cruelty.
2. It develops sense of respect for our great historic and cultural heritage.
3. It promotes spirit of respect and scientific attitude to others encourage them to fight against evil practices corruption dogmatism, caste system, communalism etc.
4. The NSS understands the community in which they work.
5. Identify the needs of problems in the community in the solution of which they can be involved.
6. Develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility.
7. They apply their education in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems.
8. Develop competence required for group living and sharing responsibilities.
9. Acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude.
10. Develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters.
11. The NSS creates the awareness of the national and international issue and prepare them to play an effective role in the construction of national and international economic politics and social systems.

NSS Symbol



The Symbol of the National Service Scheme is based on the 'Rath' wheel of the Konark Sun Temple situated in Orissa. These giant wheel of the Sun Temple portray the cycle of creation, preservation and release, and signify the movement in life across time and space. The design of the symbol, a simplified form of the Sun-chariot wheel primarily depicts movement. The wheel signifies the progressive cycle of life. It stands for continuity as well as changed and implies the continuous striving of NSS for social transformation and upliftment.

NSS Badge



The NSS symbol is embossed on the NSS badge. The NSS volunteers wear it while undertaking any programme of community service. The Konark wheel in the symbol has eight bars which represent the 24 hours of the day. Hence, the badge reminds the wearer to be in readiness for service of the nation round the clock i.e. for 24 hours. The Red colour in the badge indicates that the NSS Volunteers are full of blood i.e. lively, active energetic and full of high spirit. The navy blue colour indicates the cosmos of which the NSS is a tiny part, ready to contribute its share for the welfare of the mankind.

NSS Day

NSS was formally launched on 24th September, 1969, the birth centenary year of the Father of the Nation. Therefore, 24th September is celebrated every year as NSS Day with appropriate programmes and activities.