Role of National Service Scheme (NSS) in Creating Social Responsibility among Students of Higher Education: Some Preliminary Observations

[1]Dr. Vikram Jograna

Assistant Professor
Anand Law College
Anand, Gujarat, India

Abstract- **The N.S.S. camp activities will undoubtedly improve volunteers' communication skills, collective spirit, teamwork, and teamwork abilities. Students can engage in social activities on a daily basis through regular activity. It provides a link between the cognitive growth of students and the general instillation of reasoned values seeking in higher education. Students get the opportunity to comprehend societal issues and demands through the national service programme. N.S.S. volunteers use what they have learned from the past to the present to provide stronger leadership in the future. Our existence is fundamentally shaped by our values. Values reflect the changing aspect of culture and serve as a link between each individual and the social, cultural, and philosophical milieu of the community. Values come in many forms, such as universal, social, cultural, spiritual, and artistic values.**

***Key Words*: National Service Scheme, Social Responsibility, Higher Education, Preliminary.**

Introduction

Gender and rural segregation play a major role in the Indian Higher Education system. Given that the majority of higher education institutions are found in cities, major towns, etc., the government has focused on raising student understanding of social responsibility and implementing programmes to that end. Targeting the educated youth of our society to raise their awareness of social work programmes on a regular basis is a better way to promote social responsibility to society. (Das, 2020)

A social issue is defined in India as one that affects a sizable portion of the population within a society. Numerous social challenges exist, including poverty, inequality, disputes between religions, government accountability, transparency, and corruption, the security of food and water, a lack of education, safety and well-being, unemployment and a lack of economic opportunity, problems facing farmers, etc. The acronym N.S.S. stands for National Service Scheme. One important voluntary basis is NSS. The primary goal of the NSS programme is to instill in pupils a sense of social welfare, additionally to benefit society. The goal of NSS volunteers is to make sure that everyone who needs assistance can raise their level of living and live with dignity. NSS supplies the victims of the disaster with food, clothing, and first aid. (Vijay & Esave, 2021)

NSS is a social activity program conducted by students and staff volunteer of various colleges and it is mainly conducted for rural development through various activities. As the study conducted by researcher to analyze the performance of NSS unit's researcher has collected data from staff and students' volunteers of various colleges regarding NSS activities and analyzed accordingly. (Vijay & Esave, 2021)

The Origin of NSS

Following independence, S. Radhakrishnan, the chairman of the University Grants Commission, suggested that academic institutions implement volunteer national service. At its meeting in January 1950, the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) gave this concept another look. Following a review of the concept and international experiences in this area, the board suggested that educators and students allocate time for volunteer manual labour. The government's 1952 draught of the first Five-Year Plan placed emphasis on the need that Indian students perform one year of community service and employment. In a 1958 letter to the chief ministers, Jawaharlal Nehru expressed his consideration of making social service a requirement for graduation.

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 details were spam worked out and orientation camp was organized by Rajghat. This camp was concluded on 7the June 1969. K. K. Gupta from university of Delhi was declared first volunteer. The Planning Commission sanctioned ad outlay of Rs. 5 Crore for the NSS during the Fourth Five-Year Plan,

stipulating that the NSS be a pilot project in selected institutions and universities on24th September 1969. Then Union Education Minister V.K.R.V. Rao launched the NSS at 37 Universities across all stated. The scheme has been expended to all stated and universities in the Country, and also 10+2 level institutes in many states.

The broad objectives of NSS are to: (i) understand the community in which they work (ii) understand themselves in relation to their community; (iii) identify the needs and problems of the community and involve them in problem solving process; (iv) develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility; (v) utilize their knowledge in finding practical solution to individual and community problems; (vi) develop competence required for group living and sharing of responsibilities; (vii) gain skills in mobilizing community participation; (viii) acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude; (ix) develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters and (x) practice national integration and social harmony.

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 also to show consideration for fellow human beings. It underlines that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of society on the whole. Therefore, it should be the aim of the NSS to demonstrate this motto in its day-to-day programme.

Objectives

- To analyse the performance of NSS Unit and its activities for the creation of social responsibility under the study area
- To study activities carried out by the NSS unit both Regular activities and NSS annual camp to develop social values among students
- To study the role of NSS units of Higher Educational Institutions for enhancement of the community welfare under the study district

Review of Literature

Sen (2010) found that the hierarchy of involvement among various socio-religious categories does vary depending on the deficit indicators used. Affirmative action for marginalized groups should take into account relevant measurements of "deficits" in participation, according to Basant and Sen (2010).

Agarwal (2006) and Kaul (2006) discussed how the reduced participation in higher education results from supply-side constraints that present in Indian higher education as well as at the school level, in addition to a lack of demand.

Alok Chantia (2008) conducted research on volunteers' awareness of the NSS's goals and objectives as well as its outreach initiatives. The author also outlined the challenges that NSS faces and offered solutions for directing young people's energies towards the creation of a robust and healthy country. Aya Okada (2012) investigated employment, skill development, and education today.

According to Deekshitha (2016), NSS is important and has goals in higher education that help students develop social responsibility. Additionally, the NSS and the students in the system were examined, and solutions to the problems were proposed so that the next generation might be used constructively.

Participation of NSS in Disaster Relief

National Service Scheme programmes consistently contribute significantly to nation-building through catastrophe management. When the country needs young people to defend themselves against natural disasters, the N.S.S. steps up. When a country experiences severe natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, droughts, or epidemic diseases like COVID-19, it provides assistance. Volunteers provide a helping hand by creating various tools from every angle. In Maharashtra's 2019 flood-affected areas, including Satara, Sangli, and Kolhapur, N.S.S. has fulfilled its obligations. Through online media, N.S.S. is leading the charge in 2020 against COVID-19, performing the functions of police and medics. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for 60000 N.S.S. volunteers to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in the Pune university zone. (Nikam, Kapadnis & Borse, 2020)

Conclusion

NSS is a social activity programme run by volunteers from various institutions' staff and students. Its primary goal is to promote rural development through a range of activities. As part of a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the NSS unit, staff and volunteer students from a variety of colleges provided data on NSS activities, which the researcher then analysed. The NSS programmes also foster positive group dynamics, democratic attitudes, leadership traits, and the ability to deal with catastrophes and natural disasters, all of which support social cohesion and national integration. The discussion also inspires young people to adopt a scientific mindset in order to create a world free from all social and environmental ills. It raises knowledge of environmental risks, women's rights, political and civic problems, health protection, and HIV/AIDS prevention. Social and human values like honesty, integrity, truthfulness, compassion, helpfulness, love, respect, and hard work are together referred to as moral values. Moral values are a person's set of

principles or rules that tell them to aspire to greatness and follow the road of fairness. Moral standards help determine if a student's character is excellent or bad. Moral principles are advantageous. Among the challenges faced by young students are personality changes, self-doubt, and identity issues. The complete developmental process of an infant is best illustrated by the contrast between nurture and the natural world. While certain qualities are innate, others need to be imparted to the students. It is essential that establishments to impart moral values to pupils in order to make them.

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