

National Education Policy 2020 and Community Engagement through NSS

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Seminar Proceedings

National Education Policy 2020 and Community Engagement through NSS

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Index

Title of paper	Name of author	Page no.
* Curriculum Content and Evaluation Procedure for NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME in NEP 2020	Archana R. Deokara Nilesh A. Kale	09
* ROLE OF NSS IN PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT OF NSS VOLUNTEERS AND DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS	Dr. Amruta M. Inamdar Dr. Narshing S. Giri	11
* HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THROUGH NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (N.S.S.)	Dr. Ashok Shelke	15
* ROLE OF VALUE EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH AWARENESS TO ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY	Dr. G.R. Pawar	18
* A STUDY OF HOW NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS) ACTIVITIES AFFECT STUDENTS' DEVELOPMENT OF LIFE SKILLS	Dr. Pimple V. Vitthal Mr. Santosh S.Tapkir	24
* ROLE OF NSS IN NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY	Dr. Savita Kulkarni	27
* A GLANCE ON NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME THROUGH SOCIAL APPROACH FOR NEW EDUCATION POLICY	R. M. Nikam B. K. Nikam A. S. Khade Sucheta Dalavi S. S. Pawar G.U. More	29
* A STUDY OF THE ROLE OF NSS IN SOCIAL WORK APPROACH DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTEERS	Dr. Manik Borhade	33
* THE ROLE OF VARIOUS NSS ACTIVITIES IN ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY	Prof. Dnyaneshwar Jambhulkar	36
* ROLE OF NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME IN IMPLEMENTING NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020	Dr. Archana Aher Prof. Arvind Wagaskar	38
* ROLE OF N.S.S. IN NEW EDUCATION POLICY	Dr. M.B. Kothawade	41
* ROLE OF VARIOUS NSS ACTIVITIES IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020	Asst. Prof. Pravin Kad	45
* NSS REPUBLIC DAY PARADE CAMP, NEW DELHI - 2021	Dr.K SUGUNA	48
* THE ROLE OF NSS IN IMPLEMENTING NEW EDUCATION POLICY	Ast.Prof.Bhagvat Shinde Dr.Sarath.S	53
* 'ROLE OF NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS) IN PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS'	Mrs. Vaishali Sinalkar	57

* VALUE EDUCATION: AN IMPORTANT PILLER IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY (N.E.P.) 2020	Asst. Prof. Janhavi Zanje	60
* HELPING HANDS: BLESSINGS AND BOON	Sitaram Longani Dr. P. K. Srivastava Suman Mishra	69
* NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY, 2020: IMPETUS TO ENTREPRENEURIAL REVOLUTION, A REVIEW OF LITERATURE	Miss. Priyanka Dixit	73
* EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME UNIT AT PUNE UNIVERSITY COLLEGES' VALUE OF EDUCATION AND PERFORMANCE.	Dr. Dalvi Sucheta Dr. Muhammed Salih Mr. Shalivan Biradar	76
* NSS WITH VALUE-ENABLED EDUCATION CAN ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE OF NEP 2020	Dr. Lesan AZADI	79
* ROLE OF NSS ACTIVITIES IN INCULCATING MORAL VALUES AMONG STUDENTS	Dr.K.P.Bairagi	80
* नवीन शैक्षणिक धोरण व तंत्रज्ञानाचा योग्य वापर	डॉ. रामेश्वर कोठावळे	82
* NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ROLL OF NSS IN IMPLEMENTING NEW EDUCATION POLICY 2020 DATE: 28 JANUARY 2023 राष्ट्रीय शिक्षण धोरण २०२०: उच्च शिक्षणातील परिवर्तने	डॉ. देविदास वायदंडे	83
* राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक धोरणात राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना विभागाची भूमिका	डॉ. तुषार चांदवडकर	85
* राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना – विद्यार्थ्यांच्या व्यक्तिमत्व विकासाचे माध्यम	डॉ. प्रमोद पाब्रेकर	87
* एन.एस.एस. : कार्यक्रम अधिकारी यांची कार्ये	डॉ.किशोर चंदनशिवे	88
* राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना स्वयंसेवकांचे जलसंधारण व मृदा संधारणातील योग योगदान एक अभ्यास	प्रा. सुशीलकुमार गुजर	92
* राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना आणि मानवी मूल्य	प्रा. डॉ. प्रभंजन चव्हाण	95
* राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना आणि जीवन कौशल्य शिक्षणाचे महत्त्व	डॉ.प्रताप फलफले डॉ.श्रीकांत फुलसुंदर	98
* नविन शैक्षणिक धोरणाचे फायदे आणि मर्यादा	डॉ. प्रकाश पांढरमिसे डॉ सारीका मोहोळ	104
* नवीन राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक धोरण: २०२० (शाळा, महाविद्यालये) स्वरूप आणि संकल्पना	प्रा.डा. शैलेन्द्र काळे	108

A STUDY OF THE ROLE OF NSS IN SOCIAL WORK APPROACH DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

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National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. Initially it was launched in 37 Universities involving about 40,000 volunteers. However, with the passage of time and as a Pan Indian programme, the number of educational institutions covered under NSS has been increasing year after year. Currently more than 36.5 lakh volunteers are enrolled in 39,695 NSS units spread over 391 Universities/ +2 Councils, 16,278 Colleges and Technical Institutions and 12,483 Senior Secondary Schools. Since its inception, over 4.78 crore students have benefited from NSS. NSS Objectives helps students Moto towards Society. Role of NSS is important in the overall personality development of the Student volunteer.

Key Words: NSS, Colleges, Role, volunteer, Approaches, etc.

***Introduction -**

National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. Initially it was launched in 37 Universities involving about 40,000 volunteers. However, with the passage of time and as a Pan Indian programme, the number of educational institutions covered under NSS has been increasing year after year. Currently more than 36.5 lakh volunteers are enrolled in 39,695 NSS units spread over 391 Universities/ +2 Councils, 16,278 Colleges and Technical Institutions and 12,483 Senior Secondary Schools. Since its inception, over 4.78 crore students have benefited from NSS.

Each NSS volunteer is required to put in minimum 120 hours of service per year for two years, i.e., total 240 hours. This work is undertaken in villages/ slums adopted by NSS unit or in school/ college campuses. usually after study hours or during weekends/ vacations. Besides, Each NSS unit organises a Special Camp of 7 days' duration in adopted villages or urban slums during vacations, with some specific projects, by involving the local communities. Each volunteer is required to participate in the Special Camp once during the 2-year period. Thus, about 50 percent of the NSS volunteers in a Unit participate in a particular Special Camp.

*** Objectives of the Study-**

1) To Study the Role of NSS in the overall personality development of the Student volunteer.

2) To Study the Vital Role of NSS in the Social Work Development of the Student volunteer.

3) To Study the NSS Objectives which helps students Moto towards Soiety.

*** Hypothesis of the Study –**

1) NSS activities Play Positive Role in the social work development approach of the student.

2) NSS connects the volunteers with Social work in the long term or lifelong.

*** Collection of the Data –**

1) Data was collected for the research topic using Primary data collection sources. like Questionnaire.

2) Data was collected for the research topic using

secondary data collection sources.

*** Explanation –**

NSS units can take up any activity that has relevant to the community. The activities continue to evolve in response to the needs of the community. The core activities could be in the field of education and literacy, health, family welfare and nutrition, sanitation and cleanliness, environment conservation, social service programmes, programmes for improving status of women, production-oriented programmes, disaster relief and rehabilitation, campaigning against social evils, creating awareness about Flagship Programmes of the Government like Digital India, Skill India, Promotion of Yoga etc.

NSS is a Central government programme. yet the Central government, the States/UTs and the Educational Institutions are the 3 pillars of this Programme. It would have been impossible to effectively run a programme directly from the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, dealing with over 29,000 educational institutions across the country. The implementation of the programme has been possible due to effective collaboration/ partnership between the Centre and the States on the one hand and the States and Educational Institutions on the other.

As mentioned earlier, NSS was introduced with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. 'Education through Service' is the purpose of the NSS. The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. Very appropriately, the motto of NSS is "NOT ME, BUT YOU". An NSS volunteer places the 'community' before 'self'. This is part of the third dimension of education, namely, value education, which is becoming increasingly important.

NSS volunteers have been making very valuable contribution to the Society, besides developing their own personality. During the previous year, NSS units organised 12,628 special camps in adopted villages/ slums across the country. NSS volunteers undertook 91 lakh volunteer-hours of Shramadaan, donated 1.98 lakh units of blood and planted over 13.27 lakh saplings. The volunteers were instrumental in organising about 7,051 Health, Eye and Immunization camps and also 30,011 awareness programmes through rallies and campaigns on various important government programmes and social issues. NSS volunteers facilitated pulse polio immunization of about 6 lakh children. The volunteers have been playing key role in Swachh Bharat Mission, spreading digital literacy and in popularization of Yoga. On the occasion of International Day of Yoga last year, about 11.19 lakh NSS volunteers participated in yoga programmes across the country.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is committed to expand NSS in a big way. So far, the NSS covers less than 10% of the students eligible to join it. Efforts are being made to increase funding support for NSS and meanwhile, setting up of Self-Financing Units of NSS has also been permitted. To encourage students to take up NSS, UGC has issued an Advisory to all Universities to introduce NSS as an Elective subject with credits. The Ministry has been rewarding good work done by NSS volunteers by conferring Annual NSS Awards at national level, by providing opportunities to NSS volunteers to participate in Republic Day Parade, International Youth Delegations, Adventure Camps, etc.

While a lot of good work is being done under NSS, there is potential to do much more. The students and NSS volunteers are young Indians and they represent the most dynamic and vibrant section of the Society.

*** Objectives of the NSS-**

The main objectives of National Service Scheme (NSS) are :

A) To understand the community in which they work.

B) To understand themselves in relation to their community.

C) To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve them in problem-solving.

D) To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility.

E) To utilise their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems.

F) To develop competence required for group-living and sharing of responsibilities.

G) To gain skills in mobilising community participation.

H) To acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitudes.

I) To develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters and.

J) To practise national integration and social harmony.

*** Aims of NSS Activities:**

1) Awareness on Environmental Protection-

In present scenario environmental damages is causing loss to the national economy in billions in the form of deforestation and soil erosion only. On the other hand water air and noise pollution are causing havoc to the health of the nationals. In spite of govt. policies and number of laws, nothing concrete has been done at the individual level to fight the environmental pollution. The role of N.S.S. becomes very important in this context as constitution of India also envisages that it is fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment. NSS activities will create awareness on protection of environment.

2) Health Awareness Programme-

Progress and development of a nation depends upon the health of its nationals. Every year thousands of mothers and infants die due to lack of post natal care facilities. Even during pregnancy women are not provided with healthy and nutritious food. Overall general health of Indian nationals is very-very poor as they cannot afford even the minimum calorie intake required. The aim of NSS is to provide necessary basic information and awareness on health related concepts.

3) Literacy Programme-

The constitutions of India provides for the right to education (Article 21), the right to free and compulsory education to all children upto 14 years is also now guaranteed as a fundamental right under Art. 21 A of the constitution (constitution 86th Amendment Act, 2001). But without making right to education a reality the fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution shall remain beyond the reach of large majority which is illiterate. **N.S.S. volunteers are required to take up number of activities for the eradication of illiteracy** such as adult education, non formal education, and women literacy programmes etc.

4) Community Development-

Other intervention areas for the N.S.S. activities areü sustainable development, rural reconstruction, watershed management and wasteland development. N.S.S. volunteers are required to take steps to develop community assets infrastructure and preserve natural resources of the country.

5) Student Development-

The motto of NSS is to develop the community by educating the society along with that student personal development. One of the objectives of NSS is uphold personal growth of students through involvement in community development.

*** Conclusion-**

A survey and research of the evolution of NSS clearly indicates its bias towards social work attachment of the student volunteers. 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; NSS helps to overall development of the students, it can be used for betterment of the society by proper implementation at higher education to create social responsibility of the students. NSS provided positive approach to the students about good social work and its lifelong attachments.

Reference -1) https://pib.gov.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=160433

2) https://nss.gov.in/mission-objectives

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