

Regular Activities and Special Camping Activities under National Service Scheme {NSS} in the Dogra Group of Colleges {Affiliated to the University of Jammu} Jammu, J&K UT

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Abstract

The current study intends to examine the regular tasks and special camping activities carried out by NSS volunteers in the Dogra Group of Colleges, affiliated with the University of Jammu. The study included a sample of 3 program officers, 9 NSS committee members, and 300 NSS volunteers, including 100 volunteers from the Dogra Degree College, 100 volunteers from the Dogra College of Education, and 100 volunteers from the Dogra Law College, all of which are part of the Dogra Group of Colleges and are affiliated with the University of Jammu in UT J&K, India. The study observed that up to 18 regular activities, including NSS Foundation Day, Gandhi Jayanti, International Girl Child Day, visits old age homes, National Voters' Day, Panchayat Day, World Red Cross Day, Anti-Tobacco Day, International Yoga Day, cleaning initiatives, health awareness, plantation drives, sanitation, environmental awareness, HIV/AIDS awareness, blood donations, and the eradication of illiteracy, were organized by NSS unit. The study also observed that up to 9 NSS Special Camping Programs, such as plantation drives in adopted villages, medical services {health check-up}, sanitation programs, women's empowerment initiatives, digital awareness, Cleanliness campaigns, Awareness programs on drug abuse, and socioeconomic surveys were held in campus, adopted villages, government schools {primary, middle, and secondary}. "NOT ME BUT YOU" is the National Service Scheme's motto.

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Introduction

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is an initiative supported by the federal government that works with state governments to operate at institutions that are affiliated with universities and councils for higher secondary education. It is an admirable example of academic growth. On Gandhiji's 100th birthday, it was introduced. Gandhiji was the one who came up with the concept of getting youths involved in productive social work. The way that students have responded to the program has been really promising. Initially, with 40,000 volunteers enrolled in 1969, there are currently 657 universities, 51+2 councils/directories, 20,669 colleges/technical institutions, and 11,988 senior secondary schools covered by this organization. There are 35600 NSS Volunteers enrolled in J&K as of March 31st, 2023.

There are two main categories for NSS activity. The Special Camping Program and Regular NSS Activities are there. The NSS Regular and Special Camping Program's objective is to engage youth in community life and encourage them to work toward a better quality of life. To accomplish 120 hours of NSS Regular Activity throughout an academic year, students participate in a variety of programs in the adopted villages, city slums, and college campuses.

Out of the 120 hours, 20 hours are devoted to orienting NSS volunteers through lectures, discussions, field trips, and audiovisuals; 30 hours are devoted to campus tasks that benefit the organization and college students; and 70 hours are devoted to community service in adopted village/urban slums. During the summer and winter camps of a week-long duration are arranged under the Special Camping Programme

in adopted villages or urban slums with some specific projects involving local populations. Usually, special camps are arranged on a variety of national developmental topics. Each NSS unit's volunteers are required to attend special camps annually with 50% of them. The special camps' objectives may occasionally change, and regular programs are planned in response to local requirements on a micro level. Some major categories of activity include:

1. Plantation Drive
2. Cleanliness Initiative
3. preservation and improvement of the environment
4. A health camps
5. Nutrition and family welfare program
6. Education campaigns aimed at enhancing women's standing
7. Programs for social services
8. Socioeconomic survey
9. Digital Awareness
10. Activities related to relief and recovery after natural disasters.
11. Education and recreational activities, the basic principle of the program is that it is run by the students themselves and that by participating in social service work together, both students and teachers feel a sense of ownership over the process of fostering national development.

The Dogra Group of Colleges, affiliated with the University of Jammu, formed the NSS Bureau in 2019 with a total of 300 student volunteers, 100 for each college. As part of the NSS Special Camping Program and Regular Activities, the NSS Bureau has always included faculty and students. The report emphasizes the NSS Volunteers' regular activities and special camping program at the Dogra Group of Colleges, which is associated with the University of Jammu and UT J&K.

Review of Similar Studies

Mohapatra (1985) the influence of NSS on the views of college students was the subject of a critical study. According to the survey, the NSS program attracted more men than women as volunteers. A substantial portion of respondents' ignorance of the scheme's goals and objectives demonstrated how inadequate the publicity component of the plan was. Hans and Vadhyar (1988) [5] discovered that after the instruction, the NSS volunteers demonstrated a significant improvement in understanding of the subject. According to Chandrasekhar and Vishweshwar's (2000) [1] study, students majoring in the humanities and social sciences had better attitudes about NSS and social integration scores. According to Dilshad (2001) [2], the NSS had a significant issue with the release of funding. Suresh (2002) the role views of the Programme Officers and the role expectations of NSS were found to be positively correlated. Lokhande (2006) made an effort to research how the NSS program affected NSS volunteers and the general society. The study found that NSS activities had a significant positive impact on NSS volunteers' self-confidence, communication skills, social commitment, and problem-solving abilities in both private and public life. Ghorpade (2008) noted that a college principal's contribution was crucial to the NSS special camps' success. According to a study conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai in 2008-2009, NSS underperformance was mostly the result of flaws in the regular activities. Some colleges didn't have an NSS Advisory Committee, which had an impact on how well various programs were planned and

carried out. The weakest part of this plan was judged to be supervision, monitoring, and assessment. Swain and Das (2011) [8] emphasized the need to conduct NSS-related research in universities and colleges. In his study, Swain (2012) [7] discovered that nearly all (100%) of the program officers and volunteers identified several issues with the planning of NSS events, including the following: Lack of funding, principals' and community members' lack of cooperation, the difficulty of preparing meals for NSS volunteers, and inadequate instruction given to students regarding how to participate in various NSS activities are all contributing factors. According to Mohanty (2013), the NSS Unit identified two key issues with educating young people about social service at the grassroots level that were caused by a lack of college administration initiatives and improper volunteer orientation for managing NSS Project activities. Analysis of related works indicates that very few studies on NSS in India. The majority of NSS research studies have a small geographic scope. In-depth research studies are required in the field of NSS. The current investigation is thus both desirable and distinctive.

Objective of Studies

1. To examine the regular tasks carried out by NSS Volunteers in the Dogra group of colleges.
2. To investigate the activities conducted by NSS volunteers during a special camping program in the Dogra group of institutions.
3. To suggest strategies for the effective administration of NSS's regular activities and special camping programs in the Dogra group of colleges.

Method: The present study was conducted using the descriptive survey method.

Sample: The sample for this study was limited to three NSS Program Officers, nine NSS Committee Members, and 300 NSS Volunteers from the Dogra Group of Colleges Affiliated with the University of Jammu comprised the sample for the current study. 300 volunteers were chosen at random from the Dogra group of colleges for the study 40 volunteers from the BA course, 40 from the B.com course, 20 from the BBA course, and 100 from the B.Ed. course, 60 from the 5-year BA.LLB course, and 40 from the 3-year LLB degree. Both Men and women who were NSS Volunteers were included in the sample.

Tools Applied: The Researcher created and employed the tools listed below to gather data.

1. Questionnaire for Program officers and NSS committee members
2. Questionnaire for NSS Volunteers

Results and Discussion: The following are the study's significant results:

1. In the Dogra group of colleges, up to 18 distinct NSS Regular Activities were conducted. NSS regular events are being organized in educational institutions and in the adopted villages, as reported by almost all the program officers, NSS committee members (100%), and NSS volunteers (100%) who participated in the questionnaire.
2. More than 81 percent of program officers, NSS committee members, and NSS volunteers said that regular NSS events like NSS Foundation Day, Gandhi Jayanti, and International Girl Child Day were being organized in the Dogra group of colleges.

3. More than 73 percent of program officers, NSS committee members, and NSS volunteers said that regular NSS activities such as visits to old age homes, National Voters' Day, and Panchayat Day were being organized under regular activities of NSS.
4. More than 65 percent of program officers, NSS committee members, and NSS volunteers said that regular NSS activities such as World Red Cross Day, Anti-Tobacco Day, and International Yoga Day were being organized under the regular activities of NSS.
5. More than 69 percent of program officers, NSS committee members, and NSS volunteers said that regular NSS activities such as cleaning initiatives, health awareness, plantation drives, and sanitation were being organized under the regular activities of NSS.
6. More than 69 percent of program officers, NSS committee members, and NSS volunteers said that regular NSS activities such as environmental awareness, HIV/AIDS awareness, blood donations, and the eradication of illiteracy, were organized by the NSS unit.
7. The NSS's unique camping program included up to 9 different activities in the Dogra Group of Colleges.
8. Most program officers, NSS committee members, and NSS volunteers (100%) reported that special camping programs were held at the Dogra Group of institutions and adopted villages.
9. More than 85% of Program Officers, Committee Members, and NSS Volunteers said that NSS activities such as plantation drives in adopted villages, medical services "health check-ups," and cleanliness initiatives were undertaken under the Special Camping Programme.
10. More than 70% of committee members, program officers, and NSS Volunteers said that NSS Volunteers took part in campaigns for women's empowerment, digital awareness, and cleanliness under a special camping program.
11. More than 45% of NSS Volunteers said that awareness campaigns about drug misuse, and socioeconomic surveys were also being organized under the special camping program of NSS.

Recommendations

To successfully organize NSS regular activities and the special camping program in the Dogra group of colleges, the following recommendations may be made based on the study's findings.

1. According to the program guidelines issued by the Government of India and the University of Jammu's program coordinator, the program officers could organize the NSS's regular activities and special camping programs.
2. The NSS volunteers' orientation could be carried out suitably, and 20 hours should be set aside for it.
3. Some physical amenities are crucial given the National Service Scheme's expanding significance. Therefore, it is recommended that the institution's principal allow the NSS Unit to have a distinct space with furniture and other amenities. This institution must offer the space required for the storage of NSS supplies and equipment.
4. The items/materials bought with NSS funds may be maintained separately and utilized solely for NSS purposes.

5. During NSS regular and special camping programs, some specific activities such as health care, water literacy, national integration and social harmony, employment, and livelihood, may be carried out.
6. Regarding the preservation and protection of planted trees, additional monitoring work is required.
7. The Government of India has the right to periodically increase the regular and exceptional camping grant amounts. The NSS program can only be successfully implemented if funds are supplied at multiple levels and times.
8. To enhance the standard of the NSS program in his or her institution, the program officers must also serve as coordinators, educators, administrators, supervisors, and public relations specialists. It is expected of them to inspire young people to comprehend NSS's guiding principles.
9. The work diaries for the NSS regular and special camping programs can be kept by the program officers and NSS volunteers.
10. The presence of student volunteers at various NSS session camps must be documented, and their signatures must be acquired.
11. To engage the community in the regular and special camping programs of the NSS, program officers, and NSS volunteers must interact with members of the community.
12. Principals and faculty members may effectively collaborate for the smooth running of NSS regular as well as special camping programs.
13. It is important to keep an eye on the development of field activities to ensure the effective development of NSS. Through field trips and meetings with the key stakeholders, the NSS program may be continuously monitored.
14. In order to increase the motivation of the NSS volunteers, participation certificates must be provided.

Conclusion

College and university students can develop their identities by performing community service under the national service program. NSS has a distinct character and may successfully enforce students' social duty in higher education, strengthening society in the process. Student activities can be better utilized to build a strong, healthy nation, therefore more students should be encouraged to join N.S.S. The N.S.S. camp activities would undoubtedly enhance the values of community communication skills, teamwork, volunteer leadership, and positive change. Students can learn to think about the needs and issues of society through the National Service Scheme. The experience that N.S.S. volunteers gained helped shape the present and the future.

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