

National Service Scheme

National Service Scheme (NSS) is an Indian government-sponsored public service program conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India. The first education commission (1950) recommended the introduction of national service by students on a voluntary basis. NSS was launched during 1969, the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi, in 37 universities involving 40000 students. NSS is an extension dimension to the higher education system to orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in educational institutions.

Overall Objective of NSS

Development of student's personality through community service.

Specific Objectives

1. To kindle the students social consciousness.
2. To give them opportunities:
 - (a) To work with and among people
 - (b) To develop awareness and knowledge of social realities
 - (c) To have concern for the wellbeing of the community, particularly of the weaker sections
 - (d) To engage themselves in creative and constructive social work
 - (e) To put their scholarship to practical use in mitigating at least some social problems and in promoting welfare.
 - (f) To gain skills in the exercise of democratic leadership
 - (g) To gain skills in the programme of development for self-involvement during leisure and vacation period of national development
 - (h) To enrich personality

Motto and goal of NSS

The motto or watchword of the National Service Scheme is "NOT ME BUT YOU". The goal of NSS is "Education through Community Service and Community Service through Education".

NSS Symbol

The NSS symbol is based on the "Rath" wheel of the Konark Sun Temple situated in Odisha. 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. 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 giant wheels of the Sun Temple portray the cycle of creation, preservation and release, and signify the movement in life across time and space.



The wheel signifies the progressive cycle of life. It stands for the continuity as well as change and implies on the part of the NSS for continuous striving for social transformation and upliftment. There are 24 wheels in 'Rath' of Sun temple of Konark. Each wheel has eight bars which represents 8 pahars of day.

NSS Badge:

The NSS badge embossed NSS symbol. All the NSS volunteers wear it while undertaking various community programmes of community service.

Types of Activities:

There are two types of activities: Regular Activities (120 hours) and Annual Special Camp (120 hours). All the NSS Volunteers who have served NSS for at least 2 years and have performed 240 hours of work under NSS are entitled to a certificate from the university

under the signature of the Vice-Chancellor and the Programme Coordinator. The Annual camps are known as Special Camps. Camps are held annually, funded by the government of India, and are usually located in a rural village or a city suburb. Volunteers may be involved in such activities as:

1. Cleaning
2. Afforestation
3. Stage shows or a procession creating awareness of such issues as social problems, education and cleanliness
4. Awareness Rallies
5. Inviting doctors for health camps

There are no predefined or preassigned tasks; it is left up to the volunteers to provide service in any way that is feasible. Camps typically last between a week and 10 days, although camps for shorter periods are also conducted by NSS.

College Advisory Committee

The unit at college/+2 level is the grass-root unit in NSS. An institution will be allotted NSS units according to the strength of students. The number of units will be allotted by the Programme Coordinator in consultation with NSS Regional Directorate and State NSS Officer considering the demands of the institution. The strength of a unit will be 100 NSS volunteers normally. A Programme Officer will be incharge of a NSS unit. Only those belonging to the teaching faculty will be considered for appointment as Programme Officer. Programme Officer will be responsible for the organization of NSS unit, implementation of NSS programme under the supervision and direction of Principal of the college or head of the institution.

Constitution:

1. Principal/Chairman
2. Some staff members with social service background
3. Representative of Dev. Deptt.
4. NSS student leaders

5. One representative of adopted village/slum development/welfare agency.
6. NSS Programme Officer-member secretary

Functions:

1. To prepare the NSS Programme for the year
2. To evaluate the work of the college unit
3. To enlist student participation
4. To receive reports of various projects sub- committees of NSS.

NSS Awards

To recognize the voluntary service rendered by NSS volunteers, Programme Officers (POs), NSS Units and the University NSS Cells, it has been proposed to provide suitable incentives/ awards under the scheme at national, State and University level.