



## CIVIC PARTICIPATION AMONG NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME VOLUNTEERS

<b>Sudharsan</b>	Madras Christian College
<b>Prince Annadurai*</b>	Madras Christian College *Corresponding Author
<b>Yagna Sekar</b>	Madras Christian College

### KEYWORDS :

#### INTRODUCTION

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is an Indian Government sponsored public program conducted by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India. NSS is a Flagship program. The scheme was launched in Gandhiji's Centenary year 1969. After Independence the UGC, headed by S.Radharishnan recommended the introduction of the voluntary National service in an academic institution. The idea was given considered by CABE (Central advisory board of examination) and board recommended that student and teachers should devote time and voluntary manual work in 24<sup>th</sup> sep 1969. The union education minister V.K.Rao launched the National Service Scheme. The aim of the program is to develop the personality of the student through community service and also to provide Nation Service as education.

#### HISTORY OF NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME:

On the basis of Government of Indian Act 1835, the British colonial Government introduced the "Modern Education System". The main objective of the Modern Education System in India was to create a English speaking gentleman. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Macaulay's brought out the hidden agenda behind the Modern Education in India. The British Government laid the foundation of the higher education in India since 1857 by establishing three universities namely Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. The total enrollment of students is 74.28 lakhs while number of the teachers is 3.4lakhs, as per the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) assessment of 1995.

The Government of India changed the entire education system in the country and extended the education to every corner of the country after independence, through various mode of education such as open universities, distance education etc... To rectify the whole education system the Indian policy maker and education planners of our country thought that Modern education system were mostly academic and do not support for all the round development of the students. National Education Commission (1964-1966) also wanted to develop a bridge between the education and the community. Students must explore the community, analyze the needs of the individual and the respond to the situation rather than just being in a classroom with advance technology.

The idea of National Service Scheme was bought out during the period of Mahatma Gandhi who has a great part in Indian education system. Objective of the National Service Scheme is to make the students stay away from the luxury education and make them learn self- respect, self-confidence and self-reliant through rich experience from the community. Gandhi's call for the students is to go beyond the campus, live with the community, offer social service and try to the community, their needs and problems and find out the means to solve them as possible. Pandit Nehru had a idea about the youth service movement that originated in England in 19<sup>th</sup> century in order to support students with leisure activities. Since Nehru was much interested about the service he requested the chief minister to implement social service as a compulsory subject. With the academic atmosphere and the report submitted by Prof.K.G.Saiyidain studied about the National service of youth in foreign countries helped the policy makers of the government of India to think over and formulate a proper youth policy for the higher education. With the combination of State Education Minister's conference, the vice-chancellor's conference and with the student representative body thoroughly discussed and formed "National Service Scheme". On the auspicious occasion of birth centenary of

Gandhi, on behalf of Indra Gandhi (Prime Minister) the National service scheme was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1969 as a tribute to the father of our nation. (NSS in India)

#### RELATED STUDIES

According to Dr.B.Suresh Lal in his research study on "Personality Development Of the students through Service Learning: A Study on National Service Scheme (NSS), reveals two types of benefit to the students through NSS. They are Personal benefits and Organizational benefits: Personal benefits: Personal benefits through NSS are building self-knowledge as the basis of leadership, strengthen communication skill, develop facilitation skills, learn theories and principles to approach the community, develop values and attitudes, strengthen competencies, engage in an analysis of inter-sectional between power, poverty, health, caste, gender equality and environmental sustainability, becoming connected with the growing network of peers, develop confidence and co-operation, maintain records of their day-to-day activities and obligatory for the NSS volunteers to wear NSS badge.

Organizational benefits: Organizational benefits are gaining new insight and innovational thinking, develop vision and leadership approach, integrate new analysis and strategies into education to bring change in the society, enhance performance on the area of gender, human rights, disability and environment, change in the politics and practice through campaigns and connect with the religion and transnational networks working towards the social development and social change. (Lal, July 2015)

#### EMOTIONAL MATURITY AND SELF-CONCEPT OF NSS VOLUNTEERS

The study shows that the self-concept of NSS volunteers are higher than their level of emotional maturity. There is no significant relationship between maturity and self-concept of the students depending on their gender and stream of subject. The different psychological variables support that the different NSS activities help the volunteers to build their self-concept and emotional maturity. The various NSS activities like community living, special camps and other regular activities are very helpful to develop the psycho social domains. The active participation of students in different voluntary organizations helps in personality development. (Dominic Savio and Dr.P.P Shaji Mon, 2018)

#### SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

##### Suggestions to government

- Based on the review it is know that NSS is practiced in only few schools. It is important for the students to start serve from the young age so that it will keep growing along ages. Thus, Government of India should introduce National Service Scheme in all schools in India.
- Based on the data, proper introduction or orientation about NSS should be given to all the students from the schooling.
- Bringing back the Ex NSS unit program. Those who volunteered in NSS during the college can able to fund or sponsor for all kind of NSS activities and it helps the volunteers in learning live experience.
- Government should introduce more staffs for NSS in all institution on schools and colleges to implements the program more effectively.
- Government should introduce separate website for the NSS in

each state, so that state wise activities can be display in websites. Such system generate more ideas on programs and activities and methods to handle hard situations in the community.

#### **Suggestions to University**

- The control of the NSS should not come under the University. The NSS should be coordinated by state liaison officer (SLO) or separate officers should be appointed. It will reduce the partially among colleges, the opportunity will be open to all the colleges.
- Unit reports should be submit to the state coordinator every month with minimum 10 programs or services.

#### **Suggestion to the institution**

- Vacancies in the institution need to be filled. Program officers should be separate for each unit. Each unit consist of 100 NSS volunteers. So it will be better if there are separate program officers for each unit to make effective use of the volunteers towards community.
- According to NSS rule, 3<sup>rd</sup> year students are not eligible for the NSS practice. All the students should involve in NSS practice and develop the knowledge as much as possible. This system will help the NSS to grow.
- Proper meetings should be conducted once in a month with the presence of all the NSS program officers and the State Coordinators to have a better understanding about the needs of the society.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

To conclude, proper monitor, regular meetings and discussion would help NSS volunteers to work effectively and reach more communities. It is important to sore a seed of service from the young age. Everybody should get an opportunity to serve for the community.

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