

Introduction to NSS

Unit-1

National service Scheme (NSS):

National Service Scheme is a Nobel experiment in academic expansion. It inculcates the spirit of voluntary work among the students and teachers through sustained community interactions. It brings our academic institutions closer to society. It shows how to combine knowledge and action to achieve results, which are desirable for community development.

The overall aim of National Service Scheme is to give an extensive dimension to the higher education system and orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in educational institution. The reason for the formulation of this objective is the general realization that the college students have tendency to get alienated from the village or slum masses which constitute the majority of the population of the country. The educated youth who are expected to take the reins of administration in future are found to be unaware of the problems of the village or slum community and in certain cases are indifferent towards their needs and problems. Therefore, it is necessary to arouse the social conscience of the students, and to provide them an opportunity to work with the people in the villages and slums.

History and Philosophy of NSS (National Service Scheme):

The National Service Scheme, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, popularly known as NSS was launched in Mahatma Gandhiji's Birth Centenary Year 1969, in 37 Universities involving 40,000 students.

In India, the idea of involving students in the task of national service dates back to the times of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. The central theme which he tried to impress upon his student audience time and again, was that they should always keep before them, their social responsibility. Advising them to form a living contact with the community in whose midst their institution is located, he suggested that the students should do “something positive so that the life of the villagers might be raised to a higher material and moral level”.

Therefore, keeping the primary focus on the development of personality of students through community service, On September 24, 1969, the then Union Education Minister Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao (Father of NSS), launched the NSS programme as a result of discussions and studies at various academic and administrative levels by eminent personalities such as Dr. S Radhakrishnan, Prof. K.G. Saiyidain, Dr. D S Kothari, Dr. C D Deshmukh etc. It was appropriate that the programme was started during the Gandhi Centenary Year as it was Gandhiji who inspired the Indian youth to participate in the movement for Indian independence and the social uplift of the downtrodden masses of our nation.

The Scheme was started to establish a meaningful linkage between the campus and the community. Mahatma Gandhiji had recognized that the country could not progress in a desired direction until the student youth were motivated to work for the upliftment of the villages/community. For Gandhiji the villages, where majority of the population lived, represent the country like India. Therefore, for the national reconstruction and national resurgence it was deemed fit that the students and teachers should be properly sensitized and utilized for

strengthening the Indian society as a whole with particular emphasis on rural community. Therefore, student youth, teachers and the community are considered the three basic components of the National Service Scheme.

The NSS scheme now extends to all the states and universities in the country and covers H.S. level also in many states. Students, teachers, guardians, persons in authority in government, universities and colleges/schools and the people in general now realize the need and significance of NSS.

The programme aims to inculcate social welfare in students, and to provide service to society without bias. NSS volunteers work to ensure that everyone who is needy gets help to enhance their standard of living and lead a life of dignity. In doing so, volunteers learn from people in villages how to lead a good life despite a scarcity of resources. The cardinal principle of the programme is that it is organized by the students themselves and both students and teachers through their combined participation in social service, get a sense of involvement in the tasks of national development. Besides, the students, particularly, obtain work experience which might help them to find avenues of self-employment or employment in any organization at the end of their university career.

The National Service Scheme helps youths to channelize their energies and capabilities towards nation building activities by organizing them into volunteer groups. It plays a vital role in the personality development of the students and engages them in the upliftment of the society and gives them a sense of participation in national reconstruction.

Aims of NSS:

The overall aim of NSS is to give a wide dimension to the higher education system and orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in educational institution.

The reason for the formulation of this objective is the general realization that the U.G. and H.S. level students have a tendency to get isolated from the village/slum masses which constitute the majority of the population of the country. The educated youth who are expected to take the wheels of administration in future are found to be unaware of the problems of the village/slum/rural community and in certain cases are unresponsive towards their needs and problems. Therefore, it is necessary to create the social conscience of the students and to provide them an opportunity to work with the people in the villages and slums.

Objectives of NSS:

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. Develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters and Practice national integration and social harmony.

NSS Motto (Slogan):

The motto of National Service Scheme is “**NOT ME BUT YOU**”. This reflects the essence of democratic living and upholds the need for self-less service. The philosophy of the NSS underlines on the belief that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of the society as a whole and therefore, the NSS volunteers shall strive for the well-being of the society.

NSS Emblem/flag:

The symbol of the National Service Scheme is shown in adjacent fig which is based on the ‘Rath’ wheel of the Konark Sun Temple situated in Orissa. 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 wheel signifies the progressive cycle of life. It stands for continuity and implies the continuous striving of NSS for social transformation and upliftment.



NSS Day:

NSS was formally launched on 24th September, 1969, the birth centenary year of the Father of the Nation. Therefore, 24 September is celebrated every year as NSS Day.

NSS Badge:

The NSS symbol is embossed on the NSS badge. The NSS volunteers wear it while undertaking any programme of community service. The Konark wheel in the symbol has **8 bars** which represent the 24 hours of the day. Hence, the badge reminds the wearer to be in readiness for service of the nation for 24 hours. 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 navy-blue colour** indicates the space of which the NSS is a tiny part, ready to contribute its share for the welfare of the mankind. The giant wheel of the Sun Temple portrays the cycle of creation, preservation and signifies the movement in life across time and space.



NSS Headquarter: The NSS headquarter is situated in New Delhi.

NSS Award: The name of NSS award is National service Scheme award.

NSS Song:

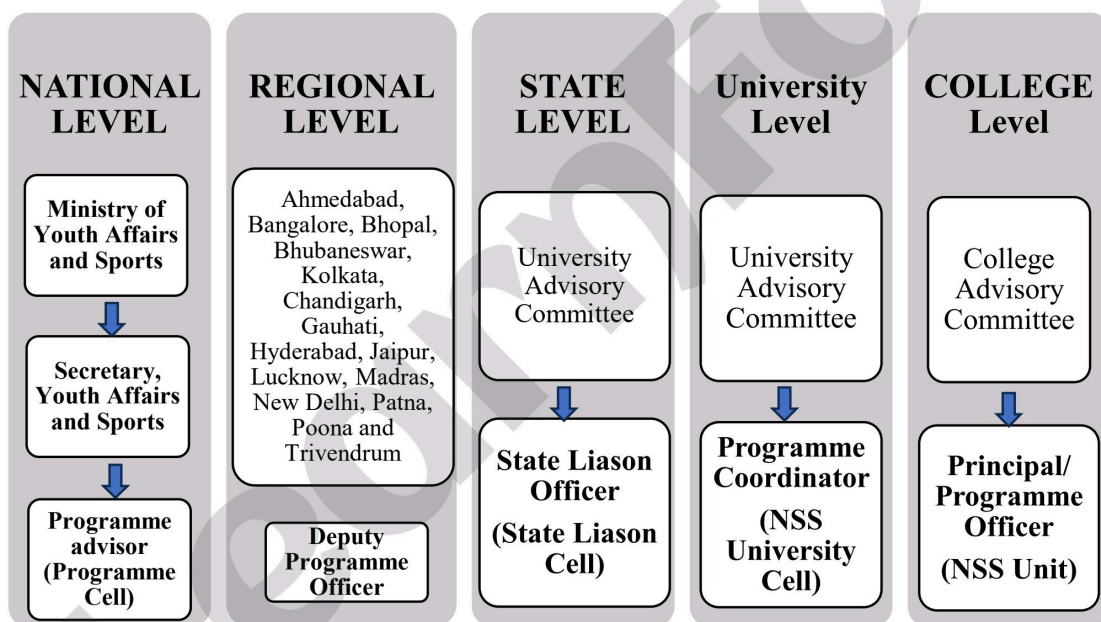
During Silver Jubilee Year the NSS theme song has been composed. All NSS volunteers are expected to learn the theme song and sing the song during NSS programmes.

Organizational structure:

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a scheme of Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. It provides opportunity to the student youth of 11th, 12th Class of various institutes, student youth of Technical Institution, Graduate & Post Graduate students at many institutes of India to take part in various Government led community service activities and programmes. **Education through Service** is the **purpose of the NSS**.

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** is the **nodal Ministry** for NSS and has been given the administrative responsibility for the Policy Planning, Implementation and Evaluation of NSS programme.

To plan, implement and evaluate NSS programmes, functional set ups have been created at National level, state level, University level and College level.



Programme Adviser:

In the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports a Senior Officer is designated as Programme Adviser. The functions of the Programme Adviser are:

- To advise the Ministry for the development of NSS Programme in all respects.
- To help the Ministry to plan and implement the NSS programmes.
- To communicate with the State Governments, Universities and with other organisations which may help in the growth and development of the programme directly or indirectly.
- To make the arrangements of training of key persons and Programme Officers through the training and orientation centres (TOCs) and training orientation and research centres (TORCs).
- To make arrangements for the evaluation of NSS from time to time.
- To see the maintenance of State-wise, University-wise record on implementation of the Programme.

- To supervise the functioning of NSS Regional Centre (RCs) set up by the Department in the various regions/States in the country.

Programme Adviser's Cell (PA Cell):

The Ministry has set up Programme Adviser's Cell to assist the Programme Adviser for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the NSS Programme at various levels. The Programme Adviser's Cell is headed by a Deputy Programme Adviser and a core support staff. The cell also functions as programme monitoring centre for the collection and compilation of data from the states, Universities and NSS Regional Centres and provides this information to the Ministry as feedback. Therefore, the PA Cell for all practical purpose functions as the **NSS Headquarter**.

NSS Regional Centres (RC):

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has set up NSS Regional Centres in the country to maintain link with the State Governments, Universities and TOC/TORCs for the effective implementation of NSS Programme. Regional Centre is either headed by a Deputy Programme Adviser or an Assistant Programme Adviser. There are a **total of 15 number of Regional Directorates** across the nation. (Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Gauhati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Madras, New Delhi, Patna, Poona and Trivendrum).

Functions of NSS Regional Centres:

The functions of the NSS Regional Centres with reference to the State Governments, Universities and TOC/TORCs are as follows:

(a) Responsibility

- i. As the NSS Regional Centres are subordinate field offices of the Ministry, it is their main responsibility to ensure the implementation of NSS and other Youth Programmes as per the spirit and letter of the guidelines issued by the Government of India.
- ii. It is the duty of the heads of the Regional Centres to explain the Government policies to the universities and colleges.

(b) State Government

- i. To explain the policies of the Ministry regarding NSS and other Youth Programme to the State Governments, for the successful implementation of NSS and other Youth Programmes.
- ii. To ensure that the grants including central and state share reach the Universities and colleges in time, so that NSS activities are implemented as per time schedule.
- iii. The NSS Regional Centre will keep the State Governments informed of the recent developments in different aspects of NSS and the Youth Programme of Government of India for their implementation.
- iv. Remain in touch with State government officials for expediting accounts and other reports.

- v. Collaborate with the State Liaison Officer for proper implementation of NSS Programme and timely action.

State NSS Cell:

At the State level, there will be a State NSS Cell headed by the State Liaison Officer (SLO).

The main functions of the State NSS Cell are

- i. To ensure that budgetary provisions are made for NSS programme in the State budget.
- ii. To release of grants to universities and colleges and other institutes timely.
- iii. To submit of statement of expenditures and programme reports to Government of India.
- iv. Conducting the meetings of State NSS Advisory Committee from time to time.
- v. Monitoring of the programme through universities, colleges and in consultation with NSS Regional Centre.

University Level:

The successful functioning of NSS cell at university level will give energy for proper implementation of NSS in the unit level.

NSS University Cell

Every University should have an NSS Cell to supervise and coordinate NSS Programme in Colleges affiliated to it. The cell will function under the Vice-Chancellor and the Programme Coordinator.

Programme Coordinator:

The Programme Coordinator is the key functionary as far as NSS is concerned. Therefore, a dedicated and devoted Programme Coordinator can plan, execute and evaluate the NSS activities in a proper perspective. The Programme Coordinator will execute all administrative and policy directives of the government, State Advisory Committee and University Advisory Committee.

Term/Tenure of the Programme Coordinator:

The Programme Coordinator will be appointed on deputation/short term contract for the period of three years extendable by one year further.

Functions of the Programme Coordinators:

- i. To assist and guide the NSS unit for implementation of NSS programmes at college level.
- ii. To help in organising camps, training and orientation programmes for the NSS leaders.
- iii. To ensure implementation of NSS Regular activities and special camping programmes.
- iv. To ensure timely release of grants to colleges.

- v. To submit the reports and returns to Programme Adviser, Regional Centre and State Liaison Officer.
- vi. To submit half yearly reports and other information to Government of India, Regional Centre and State Liaison Officer.
- vii. To have the contact with Regional Centre and State Liaison Officer and TOC/TORC for the implementation of NSS programme.
- viii. To bring out documents and reports on the achievements of NSS.
- ix. To visit different NSS units and camps for supervision, consultancy, guidance etc;
- x. To ensure that the NSS programme is implemented as per NSS manual and administrative instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time.

NSS Unit:

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 Centre and State Liaison Officer considering the demands of the institution. The strength of a unit will be 100 NSS volunteers normally. In exceptional cases, a smaller NSS unit can be started with the strength of 75 NSS volunteers.

Programme Officers:

The Programme Officer is one of the important persons in NSS Organization who plays pivotal role and responsible for the organization of NSS Unit, implementation of NSS Programme. One Programme Officer will be in-charge of one unit only. Only those belonging to the teaching faculty will be considered for appointment as Programme Officer. The Programme Officer will be responsible to carry out the instructions issued by the Programme Coordinator of the University, NSS Regional Centre and State Liaison Officer for the implementation of NSS activities as per the NSS guidelines and administrative and policy directives.

The duties and functions of Programme Officer:

1. As an Organiser

- i. To interpret the scheme to the students / volunteers and other members of the college community and create awareness about the NSS Programmes.
- ii. To provide information about NSS motto aims and objectives, philosophy and activities.
- iii. To enlist cooperation and coordination of community, agencies, government departments and non-governmental agencies.

2. As an Educator

- i. To prepare and conduct the orientation Programme for NSS Volunteers, explain them about the concept of social service.
- ii. To prepare and teach them the methods and skills required for achieving the objectives of the NSS scheme.

3. As a Motivator

- i. He/she co-ordinate the NSS activities in accordance with the volunteer's ability and community demands.
- ii. He/She to coordinate various external resources available in the forms of government services, welfare agencies and voluntary organizations for the success of the NSS Programmes.

4. As a Supervisor

- i. He/She supervises the NSS Programme undertaken by Volunteers.
- ii. He/She supervisory and consultative skills should enable students to set realistic goals and see problems as a challenge and take appropriate steps to solve them.

5. As an Administrator

- i. To run day-to-day administration of the programmes.
- ii. To attend correspondence regularly between college and university.
- iii. To prepare progress report periodically for submission to college and university.
- iv. To maintain record of volunteer's participation and programmes undertaken.

6. As a Public Relation Person

- i. To inform the community about the NSS programmes through press reports, radio and television programmes.
- ii. To create awareness, through pamphlets, seminars and meetings.
- iii. To initiate to create awareness for image building of NSS in order to inspire and motivate the NSS Volunteers.

NSS Volunteers:

At college level the NSS volunteers will be enrolled from the 1st and 2nd year degree-class students. Since National Service Scheme is aimed at developing the personality of NSS volunteers through community service, hence, all NSS activities provide an opportunity to NSS Volunteers to involve themselves in community services. Being an active member, the student volunteers would have the exposure and experience to be the following:

- An accomplished Social Leader.
- An efficient Administrator.
- A good Manager and Planner.
- An ideal and Sensible Personality.

Duties and Functions of NSS Volunteer:

1. Participation in NSS Programme/Training

A student enrolled as NSS volunteer will have to put in 120 hours for community work in a year for a period of 2 years. He/she has to participate in different programmes and projects under NSS. The distribution of 120 hours on NSS activities is given as under:

a) Orientation

- i. Each NSS volunteer who joins NSS will undergo an orientation in NSS programme for 20 hours out of 120 hours. The 20 hours meant for orientation will further be divided as general orientation - 2 hours; special orientation - 8 hours and programme skill learning - 10 hours. During the general orientation the NSS volunteers will get to know the history and growth of NSS programme, aims, objectives and other basic concepts of NSS.
- ii. After the general orientation the volunteers will be encouraged to know more about the problems of village/urban slums and will be oriented for the schemes which are sponsored by the Government agencies and voluntary organisations in the field of community service;
- iii. The 3rd phase of orientation will consist of developing programme skills which are essential for community work and completion of NSS projects.

a) Campus Projects

The NSS volunteers may be asked to participate in the campus projects not exceeding 20 hours. The purpose of the campus project is to motivate the NSS volunteer for manual work and to instill in them the dignity of labour.

b) Community Work

Remaining 80 hours will be devoted to the community work. The NSS volunteer is expected to participate in projects prepared by the Programme Officer for community work. The aim of such projects is to bring the NSS volunteer face to face with the realities of life along with needs & requirements of the community. This type of community work does help to develop the personality of the volunteer.

2. Maintenance of Diary

Every NSS volunteer will keep a record of his/her project work in his/her work-diary supplied by the Programme Officer.

3. Certificate

NSS volunteer, who has completed 240 hours of regular activities in the period of 2 years and attended two 7 Days special camps, will be issued an NSS certificate by the respective university.

SUMMARY

Full Form of NSS:	National Service Scheme.
Nodal ministry of NSS:	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India.
Father of NSS:	Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao.
NSS was launched on:	September 24, 1969.

3 components of NSS: Student youth, teachers and community.

National Service Scheme: 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, under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

Aims of NSS:

- To orient the student youth to community service while they are studying in educational institution.
- To create the social conscience of the students and to provide them an opportunity to work with the people in the villages and slums.

Objectives of NSS:

- Understand the community in which they work.
- Understand themselves in relation to their community.
- Identify the needs and problems of the community and involve them in problem solving process.
- Develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility.
- Develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters and to practice national integration and social harmony.

NSS Motto (Slogan): “NOT ME BUT YOU”.

NSS Day: 24 September is celebrated every year as NSS Day.

NSS Headquarter: New Delhi.

Name of NSS Award: National service Scheme award.

Purpose of the NSS: Education through Service.

Full form of SLO: State Liaison Officer.

Full form of PO: Programme Officer.

Full form of PC: Programme Coordinator.

Full form of TOC: Training and orientation centre.

Full form of TORC: Training orientation and research centre.

Full form of PA Cell: Programme advisors cell.

Term of NSS PC: 3 year extendable upto 1 year.

NSS Certificate criteria: 240 Hours of service in 2 years.

Special Camp duration: 7 days.

NSS Symbol: The NSS Symbol is based on the **rath of wheel of the Konark Sun Temple situated in Orissa.**

NSS Unit: A specific group of NSS volunteers working under the Programme Officer in a school or college.

In-charge of an NSS Unit: NSS Programme officer.

Programme officer: In-charge of NSS Unit.

Short Questions:

1. When was the National Service Scheme launched?
2. National Service Scheme is popularly known as ...?
3. What is National Service Scheme?
4. What is the Motto of NSS?
5. Name the three components of NSS.
6. What does the color Navy Blue depict in NSS badge?
7. What does the color Red depict in NSS badge?
8. What does the giant wheel depict in NSS badge?
9. Which day is observed as NSS Day?
10. Where is the NSS Headquarter located?
11. Who is the National Head controlling this scheme?
12. What is the student in NSS known as?
13. What is an NSS unit?
14. Who is in-charge of an NSS Unit?
15. What is the nature of this scheme, whether compulsory or voluntary?
16. How much time a student will have to devote as an NSS volunteer to get a certificate?
17. Who is the Programme Officer?
18. How many regional centres are there in India to monitor the activities of NSS?
19. Write the full form of SLO, PO and PC.
20. Write down the full form of TOC and TORC.
21. Which Cell for all practical purpose functions as the NSS Headquarter.
22. Who is known as public relation officer (Person) in the context of NSS?
23. What are the benefits of NSS volunteer?
24. What is the need for NSS volunteers to undergo orientation programme?

Broad Questions:

1. Explain in brief the history of NSS.
2. What are the aims and objectives of NSS.
3. Explain the organizational structure of NSS in brief.
4. Explain the function of
5. Who is a programme advisor? Mention the functions of the Programme Adviser.
6. Explain the functions of NSS Regional Centres.
7. Explain the duties and responsibilities of NSS Programme coordinator.
8. Who is known programme coordinator? Explain how he plays the pivotal role in implementing the NSS schemes at ground level.
9. Explain the functions of programme officer in detail.
10. Write down the duties and Functions of NSS Volunteer in detail.