

NSS

The concept of involving Indian students in national service traces back to Mahatma Gandhi's teachings, emphasizing their social responsibility. Post-independence, the University Grants Commission proposed voluntary national service to foster student-teacher and campus-community interactions. The Central Advisory Board of Education endorsed student involvement in manual work and social service. In 1960, Prof. K.G. Saiyidain recommended feasible student social service schemes based on global models. The Education Commission led by Dr. D.S. Kothari proposed students engage in social service at all education levels. This led to the National Service Scheme (NSS), an alternative to the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for university students. In 1969, Vice Chancellors supported the NSS idea, and the government allocated funds for its pilot implementation in select institutions. On September 24, 1969, the Union Education Minister Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao launched the NSS in 37 universities, aligning with Gandhi's ideals and the Indian independence movement.

Expansion at +2/University Level:-

Introduced in 1985 on a trial basis, the +2/University stage scheme of NSS began in select states and expanded after evaluation. By 1992, it covered states like Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab, etc., engaging 1.6 lakh students. With recognition in the New Education Policy, NSS's role is acknowledged, urging state governments to expand coverage. They're asked to allocate funds for a yearly 10% increase in NSS volunteers, as the total strength now surpasses 1.3 million students.

Objectives:-

The primary goals of NSS encompass:

- (i) Grasping the community's dynamics where they engage.
- (ii) Establishing self-awareness within the community context.
- (iii) Recognizing and addressing community needs and challenges.
- (iv) Fostering a sense of civic duty and social consciousness.
- (v) Applying knowledge to resolve personal and communal issues.
- (vi) Cultivating teamwork aptitude and shared responsibility.
- (vii) Mastering community engagement and mobilization skills.
- (viii) Nurturing leadership qualities and democratic values.
- (ix) Enhancing the ability to manage crises and natural calamities.
- (x) Promoting national unity and social cohesion.

Certificate:-

NSS volunteers generally work with villages, slums and voluntary agencies to complete 120 hours of regular activities during an academic year. NSS volunteer who has completed 120 hours of regular activities in the period of 1 year will be considered for the award of 2 credits towards community internship.

Activities:-

NSS volunteers engage in various activities for community service, completing a total of 240 hours over 2 years. These activities comprise orientation (20 hours), campus work (up to 30 hours), and community service (up to 190 hours). Campus work involves projects within the institution, while community service encompasses initiatives in adopted villages and slums. Rural projects include eradicating illiteracy, health care, rural development, and social awareness campaigns. Urban projects cover adult education, slum welfare, medical assistance, and environmental initiatives. Additionally, NSS assists during natural calamities and national emergencies. National days are also celebrated to commemorate important occasions. NSS volunteers contribute to diverse projects, fostering community well-being, education, and social upliftment.