



## Shri Vile Parle Kelvani Mandal's Dwarkadas J. Sanghvi College of Engineering



NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME  
2016-17



### **TREE PLANTATION DRIVE**

"Take efforts to plant a tree, help environment become pollution free."



The Tree Plantation Drive was conducted on 26th June, 2016 at the Aarey Colony, Goregaon.

As the volunteers arrived, they were divided into groups of six and each group was given one sapling, at a time, for planting. They were given shovels and spades to plant the saplings. Each group was monitored and assisted on the planting techniques by the Vanashakti members. The members guided the volunteers on how to dig, plant and cover up the soil on planting.

Despite a drizzle, the volunteers did not let their enthusiasm waver and a total of 60 saplings were successfully planted in the Colony that day.

The saplings planted were of Peltiform, Raintree, Bavacaisa and Kanchan trees.



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### CHARITY DRIVE



During the Rakshabandhan week this year i.e. from 2nd August 2016 to 12th August 2016, the NSS unit of D J Sanghvi college organised a Charity Drive. A stall was set up where rakhis, pouches, sling bags, earrings, chocolates and many more things made by the specially abled students of Vallabhdas Dagara School and Punarvas special school were displayed.

Each day the stall attracted a large crowd. The efforts and the creativity of these children were appreciated and motivated by both, the students as well as the teaching and the non teaching staff of the college. Everyone appreciated the intricate detailings on the rakhis and the when each day ended, we were always left with empty boxes of chocolates and ornaments. New stock had to be then brought in the next day.

The students and the faculty bolstered this drive enthusiastically and helped in raising huge funds by its end.



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#### ANIMAL HOSPITAL VISIT

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress are determined by the way its animals are treated."  
- Mahatma Gandhi.



On 7th August 2016, the NSS Unit of D J Sanghvi College organised a visit to The Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital in Parel to celebrate this year's Friendship Day with disabled animals such as horses, cows, dogs, rabbits, birds, etc. The Hospital consisted of animals who were either abandoned when they'd become incompetent or kept there by unwilling owners because their pets had become too ill to be cared for at home.

Grass and bananas were fed to the cattle while the birds were fed grains. The dogs were given milk and biscuits and the horses were fed with chana and jaggery. The cats which were ill, were given milk and taken care of. Also, each dog was taken for a walk by two different volunteers.

Later, the volunteers were given a tour of the Hospital and shown its different wards and departments. They were shown how sick animals were treated for their injuries and diseases. They were also made aware of the pain the animals feel when they are injured and thus imply the message to not harm animals and treat them properly.



## ORPHANAGE VISIT

"Orphanages are the only place that left me feeling empty and full at the same time."



The Orphanage Visit was held on 15th August, 2016 by the NSS Unit of DJ Sanghvi College, at three orphanages in Malad, Jogeshwari and Andheri.

The Visit started with introductions being given out by the kids and us, NSS volunteers. We then distributed among the kids, the fun-filled activity sheets we had prepared for them, to engage the kids in a competitive yet entertaining exercise. Following that, we all indulged in a session of music and dance wherein all kids, even the reluctant ones, ultimately danced and enjoyed themselves.

Also, a cake was bought for the kids and was cut by them. They relished our this gesture. The Visit ended with one of the volunteers giving a brief speech about the Independence Day and how this day came into making. The struggles of our freedom fighters and their sacrifices were also highlighted.

Each child is special in his or her own way. They have their own special talent. Honing and encouraging those talents to bloom was what we had intended to achieve by this Visit. And by the smiles and lit-up faces of the children, we believe we managed to do that, in whatever small way we could.



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### BEACH CLEANUP DRIVE



You go to the beach, deciding to take a stroll and relax while listening to the waves lapping the shore but you reach there to find litter scattered at various places on its sands.

After Ganesh Pujan, the beaches get impregnated with flowers, ornaments, idols and other waste material. Hence the DJ NSS Unit took an initiative to clean the Juhu Beach. The Beach Clean Up Drive was carried out on the 16th of September, 2016.

The Drive started at 5:00am. Volunteers were divided in groups. Some helped move the idols and heavy stuff out of water while others collected the dry and wet waste in garbage bags and disposed them in the BMC garbage trucks. The cleaning process was completed by 9:00am.

On depositing the waste in the trucks, the difference made was evident.



## GATEWAY OF INDIA RALLY



We all know 2nd October as Gandhi Jayanti. We, the DJNSS members decided to celebrate this day by participating in the Non-Violence and Patriotic Rally conducted at the Gateway of India.

The day started with all the NSS members meeting up at CST station. Every member made sure that they had dressed accordingly in NSS T-shirts or white kurtas for boys and salwar kameez for girls, to represent and personify Unity.

The event started with everyone marching towards the Gateway of India. Despite a light drizzle throughout the afternoon, our enthusiasm didn't deter. A feeling of pride and patriotism rushed within each one of us present, as we picked our placards and headed towards the Gateway. Various NSS units from other colleges were also seen walking together towards the venue. The message on the placards was bold enough to registered patriotism in innumerable minds that day.

In the Bhajan-Sandhya, we firstly received a speech by Mumbai University officials followed by a beautiful evening that presented some artistic and classical melodies by different college students and also a display of various art forms.

The whole drive was quite inspiring and motivating for all those present. As NSS volunteers, we realized the essential values of integrity and nonviolence. All the volunteers took a pledge to stand against all kinds of violence, helping those in need and to be the voice of the upcoming youth.

Towards the end, we were given some handy tips to help us inculcate such basic things in our day to day lives. The dedication with which the entire event was conducted was indeed applaudable.



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### ORIENTATION CEREMONY

The Orientation Ceremony of the NSS Unit of DJ Sanghvi was held on the 7th of October. The ceremony initiated the beginning of the new year of NSS and introduced to the students, the new NSS Committee. It began on an auspicious note with a prayer and lighting of the diya by the dignitaries. The ceremony then proceeded with speeches being delivered by the Secretary of DJ NSS, the Vice-Principal, the Principal, the Program Officers of DJ Sanghvi followed by a presentation being shown by the NSS District Coordinator, Mr. Ketan Rawal about NSS at the state and national level. Students were informed of the events conducted up until now and the events yet to be conducted. The Ex-NSS Committee was applauded for their efforts put in last year and the members were handed over certificates from the Mumbai University. The collaboration of DJ NSS Unit with the DJ CSI Committee was introduced to everyone and the Chairperson of DJ CSI unveiled the DJ NSS website. The Ceremony concluded with the National Anthem being sung by everyone present.



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### **VOTER ID DRIVE**

DJNSS conducted the Voter ID Registration Drive on 20th and 21st October. A desk had been set up on the ground floor lobby on both the days. Students had been told beforehand to mail the required documents to NSS email ID. They then provided us with their necessary details needed in the Voter ID Form, at the desk.

NSS Committee members sat at the desk throughout the day to fill out the forms in accordance to the details provided to them. Thus, through this drive, we managed to help students enroll for their Election Card without any hassle, in the college itself. Our effort proved to be unexacting and beneficial for their future.



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### Coffee with V-C

Most of us walk unaware of some of the striking facts of the University we are a big part of. The Mumbai University! It is the widest not to mention the oldest University of all times, in India, educating more than 8 lac students. Educating a vast variety of young minds for over 160 years is not an easy task, definitely not unappreciative. The massive responsibility of the future generations was bestowed upon our honourable Vice Chancellor Dr Sanjay Deshmukh since July 2015. He has till date done an exceptional job in giving the University and its student's everything he can.

The struggle of thoughts began when one of Dr.Deshmukh's colleague intrigued him by inquiring about his communications with the students of the University. He began to wonder and believe that he should compensate the gap between the University as a body and its units, the students. He pledged to visit all colleges and have a sit down with the students to get to know them on a personal level. He made a decision to visit one college every week within his term and is exceedingly ahead of his target (71 colleges in 60 weeks). Quite recently he came up with an idea where the students could themselves have a meet with him and share what they really need and expect from their University. This is how the concept of "Coffee with VC" came into existence.

The VC began with 20 colleges at a time inviting 25 students per college, as the representatives, travelling throughout all the districts. On 20th of December, he was present at the Kalina, University of Mumbai to interact with the students of 20 colleges of the district in the morning. This was his 5th convention and he had achieved what he hoped for. The students opened up to him about their queries and we were enlightened with the knowledge of the University that we never knew of.



I quote from the song, (translation of the 3rd verse)

*If the youth decide what they want and dedicate themselves to the goal and their nation, there is nothing that can stop them from achieving their goal. If they are firm on their decision they will make our nation proud.*

This is what the VC expects from the students and believes them capable of achieving.

## **Thoughts of development**

The University has always aimed for the betterment of the students and their education system. The VC thought it a must for the students to be aware of the upcoming changes. He shed light onto matters such as what really mattered in the years of our college- soft skills. He focused on the leadership skills that everybody owns but which is needed to be discovered.

He believed that every individual had the right to confirm and verify his abilities. Hence, as a result, he declared that no minimum amount of marks is required for one to apply for re-evaluating their papers. The decision was widely appreciated by everyone in the hall.

## **The two-way communication**

Apart from conveying the University's message, the students of the University got the privilege to share their thoughts, complaints and suggestions. The students welcomed the opportunity and there were loads of conversations that burst out. The students questioned the change of marking scheme, the undermined availability of soft skills training, hence asking for some additional workshops and the quality of syllabus and their practical knowledge. The VC listened patiently and answered every question that popped in the intellectual minds. He assured the attempts to change things around, especially the syllabus. He also brought to our notice the fair that is held in the University regarding the various courses one can pursue for their career.

The session was concluded by the pledge read by one of his colleagues and repeated by everyone in the hall. Also concluded with a cup of coffee as the name of the event suggested. This was a great experience for both the students and the VC. The students were grateful for such a rare opportunity and the VC was honoured by the positive response he received.



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### DEEDS OF KINDNESS WEEK

On the early morning of 24th January 2017, boxes were set up in the entrance of our college. Our volunteers had geared up the equipment with their creativity to attract everyone's attention towards the good deed. Our volunteers showed up before and after college hours to maintain these boxes and to ensure the safety of their contents.

This Deeds of Kindness Drive was carried out for one week and over this duration lots of different stuff like various clothes, books and toys were collected.

The boxes were filled with various kinds of generosity showered by the faculty and students of D J Sanghvi College. The donations of clothes both old and new, toys and books would now really enlighten someone's days. Infact, such was the collection that our volunteers had a tough time replacing the overflowing boxes of gifts! One week's time felt less since donations kept on coming everyday. Hence, today we are proud to have lots to donate to the people in need of those. All these unknown Samaritans will and should be feeling good about themselves for they are the reason for someone else's happiness. We in turn, are proud to be the medium for this happiness! Having successfully conducted another event of NSS we look forward to forwarding these and receiving bright smiles in return.





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### PLEDGE

National Voter's Day was celebrated in DJSCE on 25th of January wherein the volunteers were explained about the importance of voting and how the democracy actually gives power to the public, a power which can be harnessed only by thoughtful voting.

The significance of this day is to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process.

The event witnessed constructive debates, effective conclusions, a lecture on being a good Samaritan and an oath where we pledged to uphold the democratic traditions of our country.



There was a positive atmosphere all around which led to a belief in volunteers to vote for the upcoming elections and that too without being influenced by the considerations of any sector.





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### Newspaper Collection Drive

**"Your trash is someone else's treasure"**

As a part of responsibility towards community and contributing positively towards a sustainable environment, the NSS unit of D.J Sanghvi College decided to organise the Newspaper Collection Drive on Sunday, 29th January 2017 from 9 a.m. onwards. The aim behind this was to collect old newspapers and clothes from different places and utilise the monetary funds collected in organising the Annual Blood Donation Drive and various other NSS events.

The Drive was held at two places- Vallabh Baug lane in Ghatkopar and Mahavir Nagar in Kandivali. All the volunteers were divided into groups. The volunteers themselves carted all their collection to the place allocated to them in the main lobby of the building which was then weighed, collected and then placed in a tempo. Another thing which was heart-warming was to see the terrific enthusiasm of some of the residents to contribute whatever they could to the society.

The total weight of the newspapers collected was 1,244 kilograms.

Through this Drive, we learnt how important it is to work together and also how it is our necessity to give back to our community. We also gained a real sense of accomplishment from all our hard work.

"Charity begins at home" was well understood and implemented by all the volunteers.







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### POLIO AWARENESS



The Polio Awareness Drive was conducted on 30th January 2017. Volunteers were gathered beforehand and briefed about what they had to say to people to convince them to get their kids to the Polio Camp.

The volunteers went from door-to-door informing and advising people living in a few buildings of Malvani and Nehru Nagar areas. The Polio vaccination members guided them throughout the duration and at the end appreciated the efforts taken by our volunteers in assisting them.

Polio drops, as we all know should be given every year to children upto the age of 5 years. This step is taken by the government of India to eliminate poliomyelitis (polio) in India by vaccinating all children under the age of five years against the polio virus. The project fights poliomyelitis through a large-scale pulse vaccination programme and monitoring for polio cases.

The best gift which we can give to a child is a healthy life. It is always important to take care of the child in relation to vaccines and polio drops. It is to be noted that even though the child might have been given regular vaccination but absence of polio drops may still cause the disease.

Absence of Polio drops might make the children handicapped for lifelong. Even if we miss the drops one time, it still remains a possibility. Therefore, it is mandatory to give the Polio drops every time without missing it. It is the duty of every educated person to explain about it to everyone and bring awareness so that we can fight against it together.



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### ELECTION RALLY

The University of Mumbai conducted a Voter Awareness Rally on 7th of Feb, 2017. The volunteers were asked to report to the Mithibai college, Vile Parle (W) at 9:30am and they were addressed by the officers in charge from the University and Election Office. Volunteers were handed out placards and flexes which held information about the BMC Elections on 21st February and signifying the importance of voting. The volunteers were accompanied by a 'Vasudev' during the course of the rally which commenced at 10am from Mithibai College and ended up at Dinanath Natyagruha in Vile Parle (E).



Students from NSS Units of different colleges showed up and contributed in making people aware about their voting rights and the day of elections. The rally lasted for almost over 2:30 hours wherein the students present in the rally kept on enthusiastically shouting slogans which were encouraging people to vote.



At the Natyagruha, students were then served tea and parle g biscuits and were appreciated for the efforts that they put for this 3 hour long rally. The event concluded with a speech from the Election Officer.



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### **HEARTFULNESS SEMINAR**

NSS unit of DJSCE in association with Heartfulness - an organization which enlightens the volunteers about benefits of meditation, arranged meditation and relaxation seminars for both student and teachers.

One hour session spread over 3 days of college, from 8th Feb to 10th Feb 2017, refreshed all the participants. Meditation gave us a way to wash away all our sadness, anxiety, fears, anger and regrets.



Standard techniques to start meditation and eliminate negative thoughts from mind, were taught to us. We were asked to reflect upon ourselves and answer some questions, which eventually made our mind clear from all impurities.

We also had a positive interactive session where participants would discuss their personal issues and get them clarified from the Heartfulness team. We students took away home a beautiful tool - Meditation, which when applied regularly in our daily lives, gives us a refreshed and purified mind.





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### ROAD SAFETY

Mumbai University conducted the event " 2 wheels, 1 life" at LS Raheja College, Santacruz(W). This event was basically about Road Safety and its awareness. Students from NSS Units of different colleges participated in poster-making and street play competition.

The reporting time was 10:00am. Two hours were given as prep time for the street play students and during that time few fun activities were kept which were related to traffic and road safety. The event was explained to us through a speech at 12pm.

Around 12:30 poster making competition began wherein students who participated had to draw or sketch an image portraying importance of road safety awareness. At the same time short films were shown regarding the event. The street plays by different colleges followed thereafter. Road safety and its importance was shown very cleverly through all the plays. Towards the end, winners were announced who would then go on to participate in district level competition.

This event helped us realise how often we ignore basic rules of safety on roads and made us realise their actual value and importance. We also came to know the different ways in which we can spread awareness about Road Safety.





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### THALASSEMIA CHECKUP DRIVE

The Thalassemia Awareness and Checkup Drive was conducted on 20th February 2017. Doctors from the Mahatma Gandhi Seva Mandir Blood Bank were called to conduct this Drive in our college.

Quite a number of students and staff of the college turned up to get the free checkup. The doctors were more than happy to get the doubts of the people answered.

Doctors diagnosed thalassemia using blood tests, including a complete blood count (CBC) and special hemoglobin tests. A CBC measures the amount of hemoglobin and the different kinds of blood cells, such as red blood cells, in a sample of blood. People who have thalassemia have fewer healthy red blood cells and less hemoglobin than normal in their blood. People who have alpha or beta thalassemia trait may have red blood cells that are smaller than normal. Hemoglobin tests measure the types of hemoglobin in a blood sample. People who have thalassemias have problems with the alpha or beta globin protein chains of hemoglobin.

People who were diagnosed with thalassemia were then informed of the further steps to be followed to themselves treated. Doctors use three standard treatments for moderate and severe forms of thalassemia. These treatments include blood transfusions, iron chelation (ke-LAY-shun) therapy, and folic acid supplements. Other treatments have been developed or are being tested, but they're used much less often.





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### COLOUR CODING

Colour Coding of all the switches with their respective appliances was done on 1st March 2017. Our college has 6 floors and all floors have two departments on either sides of the floors. Hence volunteers were divided into groups of 6 and told to cover particular departments. They were provided with different coloured chart papers to stick on the switches and thus also to that particular fan or tubelight.

This was done so that which switch operated which appliance could be realised with ease. Also, a layout was prepared for each class and each lab to show the electrical configuration of the fans and tubelights.





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### **STREET PLAY**

A street play was organised on the topic, Energy Conservation on the 2nd of March, 2017 by the NSS Unit of our college.



Volunteers reported at Daana Paani Beach, Madh at 10:00am. Few of them went around the beach to publicise about the skit. The skit which was prepared by the volunteers was then performed for the people present. As the skit commenced, many more people joined in to witness it. Some even clicked pictures. The skit portrayed the importance of saving energy by enacting the future of our world 15 years later if energy isn't used judiciously now. Applauses followed at the end of the skit and few people even approached and asked us regarding our skit and its implications. Everyone appreciated our efforts and encouraged us to perform many such skits in the future.



All in all the event garnered a positive response and we hope that our this event helped create, if not much but atleast a little difference towards saving our precious energy resources.



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### TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic police is not just a union to make you follow rules; they are the servicemen who maintain order and discipline on road having the goal of saving lives. Road safety awareness in India is of utmost importance since many people are either unaware or ignorant of the simple acts of wearing seat belts or helmets or following the signal lights to name a few.

Hence, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017 we, the students of the NSS unit of DJSCE gathered near the traffic police station near the Gokhale bridge in Andheri. The policemen started us out with some basic rules that we ought to follow despite being in a hurry to reach our destination. But then again since everybody is in a hurry in a city like Mumbai, a small union of police is not enough to get things right. Here is where the latest tech comes into picture.



We came to know that there are CCTVs installed at some of the biggest signals around Mumbai that are programmed to work with the signals in accordance with the live traffic. Say a lane has the green signal but is void of vehicles, the camera takes this upon notice and interrupts the signal timer to change a lane filled with traffic to green. This is not all, the cameras are also like the secondary traffic policemen service since they keep a note of the number of vehicles

breaking any law. This automatically generates an e-challan under the owner of the vehicle. Now that is some smart work from the government side.

The government is at pace with us when it comes to using your phones for multiple functions. They have an app where you can store all of your documents in the pdf format so that you don't have to worry about forgetting them, after all who forgets their phone, right?



Gaining all this knowledge, we set out in groups to spread awareness among the people regarding simple things that they could do to maintain decorum. Further we ourselves took an initiative to manage the traffic and change our mentality along. We displayed up posters in front of passing and stationary vehicles, went to each vehicle wherein the owner was talking on the phone or wasn't wearing a seat belt or helmet and informed them about the harms of doing so.

When the signal turned red, we made sure that every vehicle stayed behind a particular line and that none of them tried to cross the signal.



We do realise that we can't make people follow the rules all the time but taking an initiative and doing something about it is better than doing nothing, right? That is what change is all about.



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**SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAAN**

A day after the colorful festival of holi, NSS unit of DJSCE organized its marquee event Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan on 14th March 2017.

We were explained about the need to keep the surroundings clean and with the increasing number of illnesses, we decided to create awareness outside the college as well. All of us gathered and walked through the lanes of Malpani, armed with brooms and ensured that every nook and corner was spick and span. We also gave out the message of maintaining a clean surrounding to commuters.



The main purpose of this programme was to create awareness among the students and the local public regarding cleanliness and its benefits. Under this event, all the students from FE to TE had to participate. As a part of this Cleanliness Drive, we also had to ensure that no plastic waste blocked away the sewage lines.

The whole drive was quite inspiring and motivating for the students. The students realized that any work is best done when it is carried out by that person himself. It also made the students aware of significance of cleanliness in our surroundings.

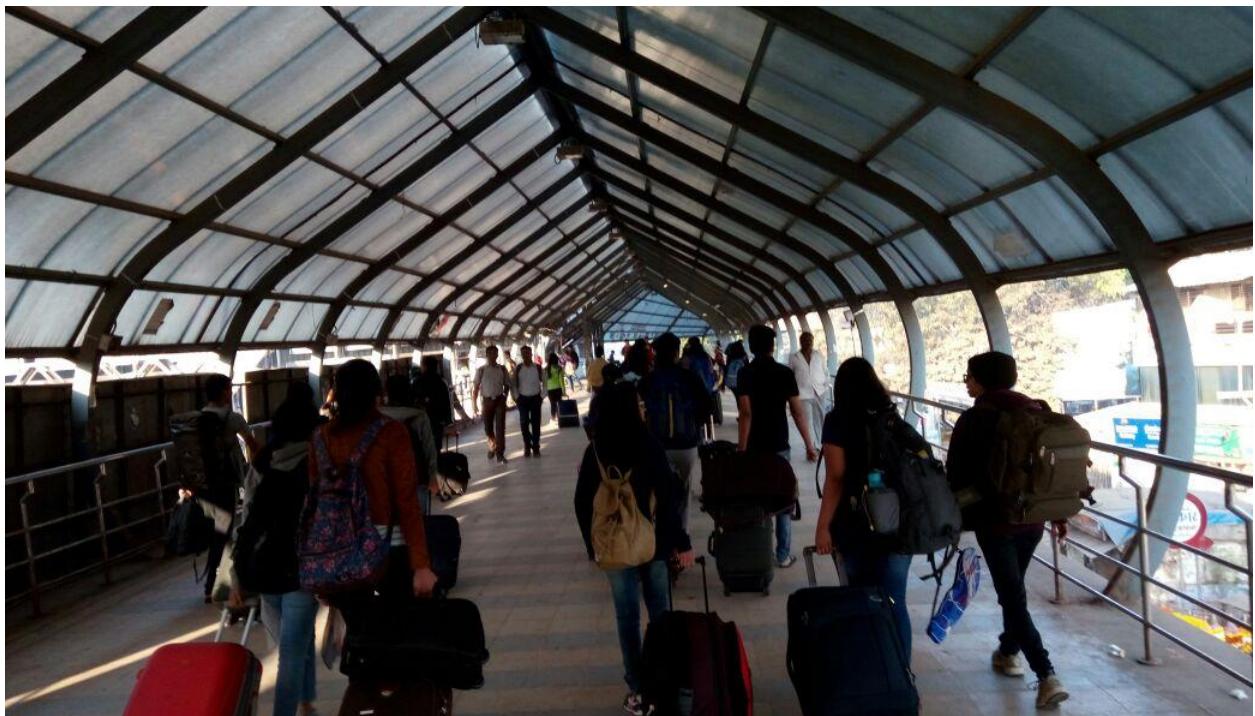


# NSS CAMP REPORT

(4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017)

## Day 1 – 04/01/17

The day began with an unusual start since it was unusual for us to wake up before 5:00 am. With eyes full of sleep and hearts filled with excitement we began our journey to Badlapur on the Wednesday morning of 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2017. The journey was bound to be a beginning of new friendships, new lessons and a new perspective towards the things around us.



We arrived at the Swanandyyog ashram with limited expectations. But seven days off mobile networks we figured out what really mattered in life. The responsibilities entitled to us and the unknown team members we had to work proved to be a challenge in the beginning. But it was one which we soon overcame. We served and realized the satisfaction of seeing others happy. We cleaned and learned how hard it is for the ones who clean up after our mistakes.

We were grateful for the people at the ashram and we expressed this gratitude by extending them a helping hand in their daily routine. We did “shramdaan” wherein few volunteers went out to the fields and dug up and cleared up spaces there and the remaining helped the locals in plucking seeds from a type of pulse known as ‘toor dal’. The dedicated hard work and patience were both a new experience to learn. Either way these became the hot topic among the groups for it was what we began looking forward to.

After dinner we analyzed the day we spent and anticipated about the rest of the camp. Seven days with staple food, a mattress for a bed and putting others before ourselves! Seemed tough but that is what we planned to conquer. We ended the day with a successful display of enthusiasm for the future and prepped ourselves to get back to work by 5:45 in the morning.



## Day2 – 05/01/17

The day started with a bang on our doors at 5:30. Within fifteen minutes we were all out on the terrace working out and getting our body trained for the rest of the day.

The daily routine always involved hard work at the field where we understood how strong a farmer’s hand is. We had to dig our way through the ground to come to respect all those who keep it up for the 365 days of a year.



A group of us also made their way to the schools of Thakurwadi and Sonavle. The kids were extremely excited to have visitors. We decided and acted upon beautifying their school buildings. The children were happy to receive a creative environment to study in. From drawing sketches of children playing in a park to designs recreating various activities carried throughout the day, we transformed it into a place invoking attraction to every student of the villages.

We were back at the ashram for our evening snacks and sharing our experiences with the rest of the group. It was a nice little chat over tea and coffee! We had been instructed about the two villages where we would be interacting and spreading awareness among the villagers during the Camp. Our tasks were simply to find unique ways of conveying our message to them. We worked our ways through skits to enact the message to be passed on. We focused on the challenges of child labor and alcoholism. Now all we had to do was hope that our voices reached out to them.

By the end of the day we had realized our purpose in the camp. We had accepted responsibilities and carried them out with our full capacity. We enjoyed them all for a change. This was what we had in mind when we got back to bed with the thought of continuing the next morning.

### **Day3 – 06/01/17**

The usual start to the day, where we jogged in the freezing night light with torches in our hands. Our body was already foretold of the workout to come. After which we did not need our jackets anymore for the cold.

We prepped up for breakfast where we helped in the kitchen like every day and got everyone to eat well before we started out for the day. We had the Aadhar institution visit to look forward to. We all met up by 8:45 in the garden and were briefed regarding the plan for the day. We were about to enter the lives of those who had it difficult since their birth.



Upon reaching the place, it didn't take us long to realize that it might not be that easy for them to stand out but it was really good for them to be in such a family like environment like Aadhar. We were welcomed by the head over there and explained that though we might simply ignore them considering them to be crazy, but in reality they are just like us with a vivid imagination. We never would have known that. Now that we spent a day with them we came to know how easy it is for us but how easy they take life to be. We prepared a performance for them and they joined in on dancing with us. Everyone in there enjoyed this ice breaker session.

We learnt how much they care for each other and how sweet and simplified they can be. The caretakers deserve a hats off for caring for them the way they do. They are a family and a pretty interesting one. Their talents are beyond measures of what people consider them to be. They are like us in many ways, proud to show what they are capable of, have hobbies like shayari, mimicry and dancing and to top it all they love their life. That spirit is what we learned from them!



The rest of the day we continued with the shramdan which was soon becoming rather fun than strenuous work. We were adapting to this lifestyle faster than we had thought. We also revisited the schools to finish what we had started. It turned out to be really beautiful and very well appreciated by the villagers, the students and the teachers. The children who were now known to our faces were really excited to see us back again.

We had never been so happier to get started out on something new like this. This was the point when we knew what we were missing in the era of technology. These little things that didn't matter in the city actually mattered so much. Once again we slept with heart full of excitement as to what may come tomorrow.

#### **Day 4 – 07/01/17**

We started our day at 5:45 in the morning with the same workout session to look forward to. We were asked to exercise really well today because it was going to be a long and tiring day.

After having our morning cup of tea and coffee, we were asked to assemble near the garden area. Volunteers were divided into two groups. The first group, being the street play group, had to go to the village for their act. And the second group had to find their way through the fields to a place where we could find enough mud to build a dam.



Dam construction, as difficult as it sounds, was immensely tiring but also fun. When we reached there, we couldn't find the mud near the pond that we had in mind. With the help of our teachers, we found a place which made our work easier. We divided ourselves into smaller groups where some of us would plough, some of us would transfer the mud to the bags, some of us would tie and finally, some of us, with our whole strength, recalling our workout sessions, would transfer the bags by forming a human chain. "United we stand, Divided we fall", made so much sense to us now. We started working at around 11 am. Even though it was an impossible task to be completed within a day, we finished in around 5-6 hours. We came to know that's what satisfaction tasted like.

The topics chosen for street play were anti-alcoholism and child labor. The street play team sent out the message in a very different and an innovative way, which would've been well understood by the villagers.

While some of the volunteers were busy constructing a dam or enacting the skits, some of us were busy in the publicity of the medical camp that was going to be held the very next day.

After all the hard work paid off, we eventually relished our lunch mid-evening.

The clock struck 10 to find us all fast asleep with all the hard work and satisfaction about dealing with this type of life so beautifully!



## Day 5 – 08/01/17

The day started with the routine of waking up at 5:30 and assembling by 5:45. Within fifteen minutes we were all out on the terrace working out and thinking about the beautiful day it was going to be.

After the 8 a.m. breakfast, we found ourselves getting ready with a positive mindset of changing someone's life and providing them with all the knowledge and the resources we could. Today was the day of the Medical Camp. "Today is going to be the day we save lives", we thought to ourselves. The inhabitants of the two villages, Thakurwadi and Sonavle, where we set up medical camps, were ready to get checked.

Again, we were divided into two groups. One group would go to Thakurwadi and the other one to Sonavle.

At Thakurwadi, we set up the Camp outside the only school there. Since the population of Thakurwadi was just about a maximum of 20 houses, we were not expecting many people to come for the checkup. A group of us, who knew regional Marathi, had gone from house to house to aware and motivate them to attend the camp for their own benefit.



As soon as we set up our desk, one after the other, villagers started coming in. We were surprised to see almost all the children from the village show up. The Medical Camp began firstly with calculating the person's BMI. Then he/she was sent to the doctor for checking his/her hemoglobin and blood sugar level, as the major issue in villages like these, is their blood sugar level. Finally, they were sent to the Doctor who measured their blood pressure and examined their health. The patients were asked to visit the hospitals nearby, if necessary.

We came to realize that one of the major issues prevailing in the village was iron deficiency. There was no milk to be found anywhere. Also, children were walking around everywhere barefoot, due to which many infections were spreading around. We tried to help the villagers as much as we could.

After having our hearts saddened by the condition of the villagers there, but at the same time happy and content by seeing how cheerful they are with whatever they have, we went back to our ashram.

After having had our lunch, we were asked to gather and help with some shramdaan. Since it was the second last day, we helped willingly and with much more enthusiasm this time. We had never felt this connected to doing something like this before.

After the routine snacks and dinner, we were all asleep by 10.

## Day 6 – 09/01/17

This day being the last day of work, we found ourselves awake even before the alarm clock started ringing. Being more excited than ever, we started our workout session at 5:45.

Following the 8 a.m. breakfast, we were asked to gather in the garden and were briefed about today's activities. We were asked to go to schools of Thakurwadi and Sonavle and perform any and all cultural and sports activities that we could.

The schools welcomed us with the warmest hearts and were so excited to see us again. We tried and made them happier by performing for them and giving them a chance to perform for us. The kids were so well trained in their dance performance! There were smiles everywhere. We taught the dance group of the Sonavle school for their performance on 26th January. They were extremely overwhelmed.



After their lunch break, we gave them worksheets to solve which included basic math problems, connect the dots according to the number, what's the time problems, finding differences and so on. In spite of knowing only Marathi, the kids were being cooperative if we talked in Hindi too. They were very enthusiastic to solve the worksheets. Post that, we distributed gifts like pen, pencils, notebook and basic stationery. Oh! Who knew just a handful of gifts could get them to enkindle their these much-wonderful smiles.



There is no better joy known than the joy of giving and that is what we had been doing for the past 6 days of our lives and our happiness saw no bounds. NSS camp had inculcated a lot of values in us. Responsibility and How to be happy with almost nothing, definitely topped the list.

After the dinner, with heavy hearts and sad faces but wonderful memories, we were done for the day.



## Day 7 – 10/01/17

This was supposed to be our departing day. Disillusionment was palpable in the morning air. This Camp had managed to create an impact on all of us. We never realized that days were flying by, we were just living every moment to the fullest. In this camp, life lessons were learnt, connection to our souls was made stronger, we were molded to be better individuals and most importantly we came closer to realizing what our life is worth and how lucky we are to lead the life we live.

The day began with a meet headed by the Program Officers of the NSS Unit of our college who had diligently stayed with us and guided us throughout the entire duration of the Camp. They addressed all of us, praising us for achieving our goals and reinstating the fact that even though we might consider what we had done for the villagers to be trivial, for them it had meant quite a lot. Throughout the Camp, every individual was equal and was treated with the same amount of warmth and love as any other person. They encouraged us to keep going the way we had and then eventually we'd make our life a life worth living.

With hugs and promises of staying in touch, we departed from the Camp by noon via the local transport used there. We had left Camp back, but the memories and lessons which the camp had instilled within us were going to stay with us always. We had left camp, but the camp had not left us. Never would.

