

Role of NCC and NSS as an Effective Tool For Nation Building- A Review

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Abstract: NCC is an organization, training, the various divisions, initiatives and philosophy is introduced to the reader. Thereafter, the valuable service rendered by the youth of the nation, the invaluable community service, a trend setter of sorts is highlighted. The various other bodies collaborating in this effort are also discussed in this case study. Unity and Discipline is the motto of the NCC and in living up to its motto, it strives to be one of the biggest cohesive forces of the nation. The obtained data were analyzed and the findings indicate that there exists a positive relation between NCC training and development of conflict management ability of the cadets. National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed volunteer organisation in the world, is committed in the business of youth empowerment and is ideally suited to help the nation realise its demographic dividend, thereby making significant contributions to nation building. The military orientation of its training curriculum would also ensure handsome dividends in the security domain. NSS is a major youth activity intended to engage the students of colleges and universities in community service on a voluntary basis. It was launched in 1969 on the birth centenary of Gandhi ji, who conceived the idea of involving youth in constructive service. The student youth are harbingers of change in any society, more so if they are motivated and imbued with a sense of values that upholds Discipline, Dignity of Labour, Sincerity, inspiration service minded and patriotism. This study involves in indentifying the importance, aims and objectives of NCC and NSS in higher education which in turn create social responsibility among the students.

Keywords: NCC, NSS, National issues, Philosophy, Objectives

1. Introduction

1.1 NCC (National Cadet Corps): National Cadet Corps Act of 1949 was passed, the National Cadet Corps was founded as a volunteer organization in 1948 (Krishnan, 2021). It is a department of the Indian government's Ministry of Defense. It is a training facility for cadets that is entirely residential. This institute's major goal is to give males in high school and college military education and training in order to help them develop their personalities, sense of responsibility, discipline, professional abilities, and patriotic zeal. It makes a significant contribution to national-building initiatives like crime reduction and social integration (Asha, 2017).

1.2 Background of NCC with reference to defence

Army cadets wear khaki uniform, naval cadets wear white uniform of Navy, and Air Force cadets wear blue uniform similar to the air force uniform. The uniform is compulsory on all the occasions. Total training period for senior division is 3 years with an extension of 1 year permissible and training period for junior division is of 2 years. Every cadet of the Senior or Junior Division has to undergo service training for a period of at least 4 hours per week during the training year. However, no training is carried out during periods when the college or school through which a cadet is enrolled is closed for a vacation. Every cadet of the Senior and Junior Division has to undergo service training for a minimum period of 75% of total hours during the annual college and school session. It is staffed by personnel drawn from the three Services and teachers or lecturers in the respective schools or colleges, who volunteer to serve in the NCC. They are responsible for training and administration of the NCC sub units attached to their schools/colleges and for the overall discipline of the cadets placed under their charge. They are paid an honorarium for their service by the State Government. They are granted commission in NCC on a part time basis (Indian NCC, 2020 c). The motto of NCC is 'Unity & Discipline'. In living up to its motto, the NCC strives to be and is one of the greatest cohesive forces of the nation, bringing together the youth hailing from different parts of the country and moulding them into united, secular and disciplined citizens of the nation (Sarkar and Margaj, 2015).

1.3 NSS (National Service Scheme):

is a public service program launched by the then Union Education Minister V.K.R.V. Rao in 1969. Every Indian male and female who is earlier than 18 years of age at the time of joining is eligible to join National Service Scheme (Sharma, 2005). The National Service Scheme, popularly known as the NSS, is a major youth activity intended to engage the students of colleges and universities in community service on a voluntary basis. It was launched in 1969 on the birth centenary of Gandhiji, who conceived the idea of involving youth in constructive service (Lal, 2015). The Government of India from 1948 onwards worked on the idea and entrusted to a number of committees and experts the task of designing an appropriate student programme or a package of activities for the student. The University Grants Commission, headed by S. Radhakrishnan, recommended the introduction of national service in academic institutions (JNTUH,2020). In 1959, the C.D.Deshmukh Committee recommended compulsory national service for all students for a period between nine months and one year. In 1960 K.G. Saiyidain studied student national service in various countries at the instance of the government of India and submitted a detailed report entitled National Service for the Youth (1961). Each college should have a minimum of one unit comprising not less than 100 student volunteers led by a teacher who is designated as programme officer (PO). The PO plays a pivotal role as an educator, organizer, co-ordinator, supervisor, administrator and public relation person. He/she also has to perform complex tasks of human engineering and adolescent psychology (Saiyidain, 1961). The voluntary nature of the scheme and association of students at all stages of education with some kind of social service, both these propositions constitute the ideological base of the NSS(Parmar,2018). The character of the scheme, with its aims of high social returns in the form of human resource development, is participatory (NSS Manual, 2006). The NSS experience sensitizes the teachers and the students of social reality (Hans, 1995). Each college should have a minimum of one unit comprising not less than 100 student volunteers led by a teacher who is designated as programme officer (PO). The PO plays a pivotal role as an educator, organizer, co-ordinator, supervisor, administrator and public relation person. He/she also has to perform complex tasks of human engineering and adolescent psychology (Saiyidain, 1961). Its volunteers have to spend 120 hours in regular activities in adopted villages, colleges, school campuses and urban slums, during weekends or after college hours, during one academic year. They have to participate in a special camp for seven days in adopted villages or urban slums during vacations by involving local communities in specific projects (N.S.S. Manual, 2006). It, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Govt. of India, has started in 37 Universities involving 40,000 students. Today, it has more than 34 million student volunteers on its roll spread over 302 Universities and 42 (+2) Senior Secondary Councils and Directorate of Vocational Education all over the country. From its inception, more than 4.2 crores students from Universities, Colleges and Institutions of higher learning have benefited from the NSS activities, as student volunteers. (MoYA&S-2012). It is a government-sponsored public service program conducted by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, aimed at developing student's personality through community service (Khandare and Desai, 2016)

2. The Philosophy of NSS

The National Service Scheme is the real third dimension of Higher Education System, close to social realities and community concern i.e., developing a living link with community by the institution of higher learning helps in marching towards the prosperity of the mankind. The student youth are harbingers of change in any society, more so if they are motivated and imbibed with sense of values that upholds Discipline, Dignity of Labour, Sincerity, inspiration service minded and patriotism. (UGC, 1985). The National Service Scheme strives the youth to develop a positive attitude towards the community and commitment to work for the upliftment of the weaker sections and downtrodden people in the society. The National Service Scheme also creates a module to involve the students youth for the process of social development in the country by inculcating the qualities such as, social consciousness, service to the community, and sense of responsibility, Personality Development and self-confidence. This helps them to contribute towards National Integration, attaining perfection, credibility, stability and maturity (Lal, 2011). The NSS proves to groom the student youth into an active citizen, which brings about satisfaction to an individual and promotes peace in the community. Community Service rendered by the NSS volunteers has covered several aspects like adoption of villages for intensive development work, carrying out the medico-social survey's setting up of medical centers, programmes of mass immunization, sanitation drives, adult education programmes for the weaker sections of the community, blood donation, helping inmate of orphanages and the physically handicapped etc., The NSS Volunteers did commendable relief work during natural calamities emergencies such as cyclones, floods, famine, earthquake, etc. from time to time all over the country. They have also done useful work in organizing campaigns for eradication of social evils, and popularisation of the national accepted objectives like nationalism, democracy, secularism, social harmony and development of scientific temper (Red Cross,2020).

3. Aims

The main aim of this scheme is Service through education and personality development through education and personality development through Service, it is planned for educated youth and programmed around youth and it tops the potentials of Youth and for National construction and national regeneration. Above all understanding a human beings their needs, feelings, and work for their betterment. The NSS Develops the Social ethics involves, several human values like sincerity, honesty, discipline, loyalty, freedom, dignity of labour, individuality, understanding other Cooperation, motivation, equality, integrity, brotherhood, character building and thinking for others are the prime request of NSS Volunteers and Functionaries. (Ministry of youth & sports, 1988).

4. Objectives

- i. To know about NCC defence service.
- ii. To know about the system of NCC training.
- iii. How NSS is important for orientation of students in National problem.

For this study, secondary data is used to know about the NSS and NCC to find the challenges and issues persist within NSS and NCC in India. Various sources such as online and offline (print) published material such as research papers published in journals, articles and books were used to draw the issues and challenges and to arrive at conclusion.

4.1 To know about NCC defence service

National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed volunteer organisation in the world, is committed in the business of youth empowerment and is ideally suited to help the nation realise its demographic dividend, thereby making significant contributions to nation building. The military orientation of its training curriculum would also ensure handsome dividends in the security domain (Gen, 2017).

4.1.1 Social Service and Support: An outbreak of encephalitis in Bellary district of Karnataka state and adjoining areas of Andhra Pradesh which occurred during October 1986 to January, 1987 saw many deaths (George, 1990). The National Cadet Corps is the only organization of its kind, which imparts multiple faceted training including Leadership, Discipline, Integration, Adventure, Military, Physical and Community Development (Asha, 2017). Some of the civil defence services provided by NCC over the years in the country (M .A college, 2020). Today many career options are open for students; most of them choose engineering and management and other qualifications and skills currently in demand in the industry. However, some students look forward to adventure, risk and challenge. Defence service is one of the services which demands higher order skills. Today, most of the youngster's especially boys are interested in serving the nation through the armed forces including the women. The study found that there is a significant difference between characteristics of NCC and non NCC students. Basically, NCC cadets have the intension to serve compared to other students. While taking Non NCC students the spectrum of activities has expanded considerably, to keep pace with the modern need of building the overall personality of the youth and preparing them for taking on serious responsibilities towards the community and the nation (Mary & Anbazhagan, 2017). Employability skills involve propensity of a prospective candidate to exhibit attributes that employers anticipate for the future effective functioning of their organization (Harvey, 1999). It implies that employers grope for necessary attributes and desirability, which is linked to future requirements. In recent times, the concept has received increasing attention with distinction between the training for employment and training for employability and between trained recruit for workforce and a trainable recruit. On the flip side of the spectrum, the Defence environment posits challenge to the system in terms of retention of such skilled personnel and attracting the potential enlistee who are able to withstand such stressors with risk of injury and death, work pace, and control, which collectively make defence work environment unique (Bogg & Cooper, 1995)

4.2 To know about the system of NCC training

4.2.1 NCC Training

Generally NCC cadets get training in their educational institutions and in camps.

a. Institutional training: constitutes Drill, rifle shooting, physical fitness, first aid, gliding/powering flying, boat pulling, sailing and camp training (Ghosh, 1977).

b. In camps: young cadets get the thrill and joy of outdoors and community living. Various types of camps organized by NCC such as national Integration Leadership, NauSainik, VayuSainik, Army Attachment, Republic Day and Independence Day Camps in which cadets from all parts of the country work together and contribute greatly towards promoting national integration, Which widen the horizon of the young cadets and provide them an opportunity to forge bonds of national brotherhood. These camps abridge the cultural gaps,

broken regional, religious and language barriers and have brought the youth closer to each other (The Cadet, 1999) The aim of these training is to expose the youth to a regimental way of life to inculcate in them the values of discipline, dutifulness, personality orderliness and smartness, team work, group cohesion, qualities of character and leadership, self confidence and self reliance (The National Cadet Corps Uttar Pradesh, 2000).

4.2.2 Community Development by NCC

The purpose of organising community development activities in NCC is to make young people conscious and sensitive to the needs and problems of their fellow countrymen as also to contribute meaningfully to enriching the community life. During natural calamities NCC cadets devote a great deal of time and effort on activities that assist the community providing succor and relief to the needy. In community development the major activities are blood donation, adult-literacy, and anti-dowry, antileprosy, anti-drug, tree plantation, work in Cheshire homes, eye donation and construction of roads etc. in this way the feeling of doing something for their country increases in them (Gupta,1981).

4.2.3 Youth Exchange Program (YEP)

NCC has exchange programs with Youth Organisations/ NCC of various countries like Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom to increasing international understanding and heighten awareness. The cadets who visit other countries represent the cultural heritage of our country which increases nationalism value in them (Kumar, 1995).

4.2.4 Sports in NCC

NCC includes games and sports in the curriculum to make activities more attractive to the students and to explore the untapped source for sports persons (Basu and Rao,1979).

4.2.5 Adventure Training in NCC

Adventure activities develop special qualities of courage, leadership, spirit of adventure, sportsmanship, spirit of camaraderie, team work and self confidence among the cadets which promote them to do something for their country (Gupta,1981).

5. How NSS is important for orientation of students in National problem

NSS was introduced with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. 'Education through Service' is the purpose of the NSS. The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. Very appropriately, the motto of NSS is "NOT ME, BUT YOU". An NSS volunteer places the 'community' before 'self'. This is part of the third dimension of education, namely, value education, which is becoming increasingly important (Dikshit, 1995) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is committed to expand NSS in a big way. So far, the NSS covers less than 10% of the students eligible to join it. Efforts are being made to increase funding support for NSS and meanwhile, setting up of Self-Financing Units of NSS has also been permitted. To encourage students to take up NSS, UGC has issued an Advisory to all Universities to introduce NSS as an Elective subject with credits. The Ministry has been rewarding good work done by NSS volunteers by conferring Annual NSS Awards at national level, by providing opportunities to NSS volunteers to participate in Republic Day Parade, International Youth Delegations, Adventure Camps, etc (JNTUH,2020). While a lot of good work is being done under NSS, there is potential to do much more. The students and NSS volunteers are young Indians and they represent the most dynamic and vibrant section of the Society (Lal, 2015). The Government of India, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has embarked on the mission of building a united, strong and modern India – "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat", following the principle of "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas" (Vishal, 2014). A number of path-breaking initiatives have been taken. 'Make in India' campaign has been launched to develop India as a global manufacturing hub. 'Digital India' initiative seeks to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy (Sharma, 2015). A nation-wide campaign to promote Digital Payments is underway. 'Skill India' has been launched to impart necessary skills to prepare Indians for the opportunities in Indian economy as also the opportunities abroad (Govt. of India 2014) A number of initiatives, including Smart Cities Project, have been launched for developing infrastructure. 'Swachh Bharat Mission' and 'Clean Ganga' Mission have been launched for building a clean and green India. A sustained and determined campaign is underway to eliminate the black money and to clean up our Society. NSS volunteers can be

contributors as well as beneficiaries of these initiatives. The programme design of NSS needs to constantly evolve to reflect the priorities of the Government and the nation.

6. Conclusion

A survey of the evolution of educational thought in India clearly indicates its bias towards social commitment. And a review of the planning process which preceded the formulation of National Service Scheme reveals that NSS has been designed to promote the social goals of higher education. NSS has its own identity; it can be used for betterment of the society by proper implementation at higher education to create social responsibility of the students. The researchers have successfully completed the analysis of performance of NSS units. Researchers understood the process of NSS Units and also identified the problems faced by the colleges while performing the NSS activities. Researcher has also suggested various ways for improvement of performance of NSS units. NCC, the Bharat Scouts and Guides, NSS and Indian Red Cross society have been playing a role in social service and disaster recovery management in the country for a long time. The NCC plays an important role while other support groups as listed above do pitch in social service and disaster management. However, NCC can take a leaf from the Israel model of compulsory military training to ensure a welltrained, motivated and committed youth force is available in our country at all times. We surely need to step up the enrolment of cadets to ensure in the current world the youth are focussed on community service and partake in the nation development. Over the years the focus of the armed forces personnel during active service has paid rich dividends to the NCC.

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