



NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Gangadhar Meher University
Amruta Vihar, Sambalpur
768004

Background:

National service Scheme provides diversified opportunities to students in colleges and universities to develop their personality through community services. Community services rendered by University level students have covered several aspects like adoption of villages for intensive development work, mass tree plantation, technology transfer programmes, technologies for rural development, various training programmes for self-help groups and rural youth etc.

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. The first duty of the students should be, not to treat their period of study as one of the opportunities for indulgence in intellectual luxury, but for preparing themselves for final dedication in the service of those who provided the sinews of the nation with the national goods & services so essential to society. Advising them to form a living contact with the community in whose midst their institution is located, he suggested that instead of undertaking academic research about economic and social disability, the students should do “something positive so that the life of the villagers might be raised to a higher material and moral level”. The post-independence era was marked by an urge for introducing social service for students, both as a measure of educational reform and as a means to improve the quality of educated manpower. The University Grants Commission headed by Dr. Radhakrishnan recommended introduction of national service in the academic institutions on a voluntary basis with a view to developing healthy contacts between the students and teachers on the one hand and establishing a constructive linkage between the campus and the community on the other hand.

The idea was again considered by the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) at its meeting held in January, 1950. After examining the various aspects of the matter and in the light of experience of other countries in this field, the Board recommended that students should devote some time to manual work on a voluntary basis and that the teachers should also associate with them in such work. In the draft First Five year Plan adopted by the Government of India in 1952, the need for social and labour service for students for one year was further stressed. Consequent upon this, labour and social service camps, campus work projects, village apprenticeship scheme etc. , were put into operation by various educational institutions. In 1958, the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in his letter to the

Chief Ministers, mooted the idea of having social service as a prerequisite for graduation. He further directed the Ministry of Education to formulate a suitable scheme for introduction of national service into the academic institutions.

In 1959, a draft outline of the scheme was placed before the Education Minister's Conference. The Conference was unanimous about the urgent need for trying out a workable scheme for national service. In view of the fact that education as it was imparted in schools and colleges, left something to be desired and it was necessary to supplement it with programmes which would arouse interest the social and economic reconstruction of the country. It was viewed that if the objectives of the scheme were to be realized, it was essential to integrate social service with the educational process as early as possible. The Conference suggested the appointment of a committee to work out details of the proposed pilot project. In pursuance of these recommendations, a National Service Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.D. Deshmukh on August 28, 1959 to make concrete suggestions in this direction.

The committee recommended that national service for a period of nine months to a year may be made compulsory for all students completing high school education and intending to enroll themselves in a college or a university. The scheme was to include some military training, social service, manual labour and general education. The recommendations of the Committee could not be accepted because of its financial implications and difficulties in implementation. In 1960, at the instance of the Government of India, Prof. K.G. Saiyidain studied national service by students implemented in several countries of the world and submitted his report under the title "National Service for the Youth" to the Government with a number of recommendations as to what could be done in India to develop a feasible scheme of social service by students. It was also recommended that social service camps should be open to students as well as non-students within the prescribed age group for better inter-relationship.

The Education Commission headed by Dr. D.S. Kothari (1964-66) recommended that students at all stages of education should be associated with some form of social service. This was taken into account by the State Education Minister during their conference in April 1967 and they recommended that at the university stage, students could be permitted to join the National Cadet Corps (NCC) which was already in existence on a voluntary basis and an alternative to this could be offered to them in the form of a new programme called the National Service Scheme (NSS). Promising sportsmen, however, should be exempted from

both and allowed to join another scheme called the National Sports Organisation (NSO), in view of the need to give priority to the development of sports and athletics.

The Vice Chancellors' Conference in September, 1969 welcomed this recommendation and suggested that a special committee of Vice Chancellors could be set up to examine this question in detail. In the statement of national policy on education of the Government of India, it was laid down that work experience and national service should be an integral part of education. In May, 1969, a conference of the students' representatives of the universities and institutions of higher learning convened by the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission also unanimously declared that national service could be a powerful instrument for national integration. It could be used to introduce urban students to rural life. Projects of permanent value could also be undertaken as a symbol of the contribution of the student community to the progress and upliftment of the nation.

The details were soon worked out and the Planning Commission sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 5 crores for National Service Scheme (NSS) during the Fourth Five Year Plan. It was stipulated that the NSS programme should be started as a pilot project in select institutions and universities. On September 24, 1969, the then Union Education Minister Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, launched the NSS programme in 37 universities covering all States and simultaneously requested the Chief Ministers of States for their cooperation and help. 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 cardinal principle of the programme is that it is organised 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 organisation at the end of their university career.

Objectives:

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. acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude;
- ix. develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters and
- x. practice national integration and social harmony.

The Motto of NSS

The motto or watchword of the National Service Scheme is : ‘NOT ME BUT YOU’. This reflects the essence of democratic living and upholds the need for selfless service and appreciation of the other person’s point of view and also to show consideration for fellow human beings. It underlines that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of society on the whole. Therefore, it should be the aim of the NSS to demonstrate this motto in its day-to-day programme.

NSS Symbol

The symbol of the National Service Scheme is based on the wheel of the Konark Sun Temple situated in Odisha. These giant wheels of the Sun Temple portray the cycle of creation, preservation and release, and signify the movement in life across time and space. The design of the symbol, a simplified form of the Sun-chariot wheel primarily depicts movement. as change and implies the continuous striving of NSS for social transformation and upliftment.



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 eight bars which represent the 24 hours of the day. Hence, the badge reminds the wearer to be in readiness for service of the nation round the clock i.e. 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 cosmos of which the NSS is a tiny part, ready to contribute its share for the welfare of the mankind.

NSS Day:

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

NSS PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

The National Service Scheme was started to establish a meaningful linkage between the campus and the community. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, 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 i.e. 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.

ACTIVITIES OF NSS VOLUNTEERS

The activities under NSS are two-fold,

1) Regular Activities - during the working days.

General orientation for NSS volunteers, career guidance by experts, campus beautification, skill development programmes (First Aid, Public speaking, Disaster management, Personality development), community development projects (Health, Road safety, Visits to homes, Consumer awareness etc.).

2) Special Camping - during vacation seven days camp at adopted village.

**LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS/WEEKS TO BE
OBSERVED BY NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME**

Sl. No.	DAYS	DATE
01	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	11 th January
02	National Youth Day	12 th January
03	Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti	23 rd January
04	National Girl Child Day/ International Day of Education	24 th January
05	National Voter's Day	25 th January
06	Republic Day	26 th January
07	Martyr Day	30 th January
08	World Leprosy Day	Last Sunday of January
09	World Cancer Day	04 th February
10	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	06 th February
11	World Day of Social Justice	20 th February
12	International Women Day	8 th March
13	No Smoking Day	Second Wednesday of March
14	World Oral Health Day	20 th March
15	World Meteorological Day	23 rd March
16	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day	24 th March
17	World Health Day	7 th April
18	World Heritage Day	18 th April
19	World Malaria Day	25 th April
20	Anti-Terrorism Day	21 st May
21	World No Tobacco Day	31 st May
22	World Bicycle Day	03 June
23	World Environment Day	05 th June
24	World Day Against Child Labour	12 th June
25	International Day of Yoga	21 st June
26	World Sickle Cell Day	19 th June
27	World Population Day	11 th July
28	National Handloom Day	07 th August
29	Independence Day	15 th August
30	Sadbavana Day	20 th August
31	International Literacy Day	8 th September
32	International Peace Day	21 st September
33	NSS Day	24 th September
34	World Tourism Day	27 th September
35	National Blood Donation Day	01 st October
36	Communal Harmony Day/Gandhi Jayanti/International Day of Non-Violence	02 nd October
37	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day	31 st October
38	National Cancer Awareness Day	07 th November
39	National Integration Day	19 th November
40	World AIDS Day	1 st December
41	World Human Rights Day	10 th December
	WEEK	
01	National Youth Week	12-19 January
02	Van Mahotsava Week	1-7 July
03	International Literacy week	8-14 July
04	Road Safety Week	11th - 17th January*
05	Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Awareness Drive	19 th June to 03 rd July

*Modify as per Govt order

Other important observation days and weeks will notify by Govt. of India and Govt. of Odisha.