

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE UNIT,

**269, DIAMOND HARBOUR ROAD, THAKURPUKUR,
KOLKATA - 700063**



A JOURNEY FROM 2011 TO 2016



NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

**VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE UNIT,
THAKURPUKUR, KOLKATA - 700063**



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INTRODUCTION

National Service Scheme, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Govt. of India, popularly known as NSS was launched in Gandhiji's Birth Centenary Year 1969, in 37 Universities involving 40,000 students with primary focus on the development of personality of students through community service. Today, NSS has more than 3.2 million student volunteers on its roll spread over 298 Universities and 42 (+2) Senior Secondary Councils and Directorate of Vocational Education all over the country. From its inception, more than 3.75 crores students from Universities, Colleges and Institutions of higher learning have benefited from the NSS activities, as student volunteers.

The University of Calcutta incepted the NSS Cell since the introduction of the scheme in 1969. Presently it is having 126 units of NSS in different affiliated colleges which are working hand in hand with the university in Campus to Community social work drives like AIDS prevention, Health check up, Plantation, Environmental Awareness etc. Our Vivekananda College Unit is one of such Units which are actively participating in various central programmes, campus maintenance and campus to community social work activities in local areas for last few years.

DEVELOPMENT OF NSS

(Adopted from <http://nss.nic.in/intro.asp>)

1. 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".
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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 Gandhi ji who inspired the Indian youth to participate in the movement for Indian independence and the social uplift of the downtrodden masses of our nation.

10. 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. The initial financial arrangements provided for an expenditure of Rs. 120/- per NSS student per annum to be shared by the Central and the State Governments in the ratio of 7:5 i.e. the Central Government spending Rs. 70/- and State Governments Rs. 50/- respectively per NSS student per year. An amount of Rs. 120/- per NSS student per annum on programmes to be shared by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 7:5 (i.e. Rs. 70/- per student by the central government and Rs. 50/- per student by the State Governments). Keeping the inflation in view, it is now under consideration to revise the amount for Special Camping and Regular Activities.
11. The scheme now extends to all the states and universities in the country and covers +2 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. It has aroused among the student youth an awareness of the realities of life, a better understanding and appreciation of the problems of the people. NSS is, thus, a concrete attempt in making campus relevant to the needs of the community. There are several instances of excellent work and exemplary conduct of NSS units which have earned them respect and confidence of the people. The special camping programmes organised under the themes of 'Youth Against Famine (1973)', 'Youth Against Dirt & Disease (1974-75)', 'Youth for Eco-Development' and 'Youth for Rural Reconstruction' 'Youth for National Development and Youth for Literacy (1985-93)' 'Youth for National Integration and Communal Harmony (1993-95)' have resulted in gains both to the community as well as to the students. The theme for the year 1995-96 onwards for Special Camping is 'Youth for Sustainable Development with focus on Watershed Management and Water land Development'. Themes have been selected in accordance with national priorities. Also, from 1991-92 onwards NSS has launched a nationwide campaign on AIDS

Awareness called "Universities Talk AIDS" (UTA) which has earned international attention and appreciation.

12. Community service rendered by university and +2 level students has covered several aspects like adoption of villages for intensive development work, carrying out the medico-social surveys, setting up of medical centres, programmes of mass immunization, sanitation drives, adult education programmes for the weaker sections of the community, blood donation, helping patients in hospitals, helping inmates of orphanages and the physically handicapped etc. NSS volunteers did commendable relief work during natural calamities/emergencies such as cyclones, floods, famine, earthquake, et. From time to time all over the country. The NSS students have also done useful work in organising campaigns for eradication of social evils, and popularization of the nationally accepted objectives like nationalism, democracy, secularism, social harmony and development of scientific temper.

NSS ACTIVITIES AT VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE

Vivekananda College, used to host a NSS unit earlier, which got inactive for the session 2009 to 2011. However, the unit was rejuvenated in 2011 – 12 session, and since then is working untiringly to comply with its' responsibilities to the society.

As per the provisions of the National Service Scheme, the unit serve the society in under three basically two sets of activities, viz. Regular Activities and Special Camp. However, since last three years the unit is receiving a special grant under Red-Ribbon programme, with which it organizes special drive for AIDS and other blood related disease awareness. Some of the noted activities are discussed in following pages of this document.

However, as recognition of the activities the unit has got awards from the University of Calcutta.

Achievements:

- ★ The Unit was awarded the BEST UNIT award of 2012 – 2013 session.
- ★ Nataraj Bhattacharya, was awarded the BEST MALE VOLUNTEER award of 2012 – 13 session.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

The regular activities of the NSS unit basically are focused in and around the college campus, which includes:

1. Campus cleaning: the volunteers periodically take initiatives to clean the campus as and when it is necessary. However, with view of penetrating the sense of belongings more in students of different departments, sometimes NSS volunteers lead campus cleaning drives by different departments.
2. Special drives of for health and hygiene related issues like mosquito eradication by treating the drainage are sometimes taken by the unit.
3. The NSS Unit regularly helps in maintenance of campus garden under supervision of the gardener.
4. For awareness building and to keep the campus clean the unit has taken initiatives to put some instruction boards on the walls of college corridors. With same goals several waste bins have been placed throughout the college campus from NSS unit.
5. The unit also runs the First Aid facility of the college, which are being used regularly by the staff members and students. A camp is also put during the annual sports activities on behalf of the unit.
6. The unit observes several 'Day' with a vision of awareness building. Specifically it observes the Earth Day, World Environment Day, Independence day, NSS Day, as regular activity. The celebrations generally includes discussion forum, special lectures, plantation, rally etc.
7. The unit organized Health Camps for health check up, which includes Blood Pressure monitoring, Blood Sugar monitoring, ECG etc. for the students and staff members of the college.
8. With collaboration of the Titan Eye, once an eye testing camp was organized where nearly 100 students got the opportunity for power testing and screening of any other eye problems.

9. The NSS unit on being requested by the blood bank of Saroj Gupta Cancer Hospital organized Blood donation camp, where nearly 50 units of bloods were collected. Several students offered their blood for the first time there, which is a big achievement for the unit.
10. Recently, NSS unit of this college has taken an initiative for regular Thalassaemia screening with the help of Thalassaemia Control Unit, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata. Both the screening, family screening and post screening counseling are done under this special drive. Already in a single year nearly 175 students and related family members have been screened for thalassaemia through this activity.
11. The NSS unit receives a special grant for AIDS awareness under Red Ribbon programme of the Govt. of India. Under this head every year the unit observes the International AIDS day. The observation is done in different ways like lectures on Blood or Sexually Transmittable Diseases, Skits and folksongs to spread knowledge about the same and through rally as off campus awareness programme.
12. In addition to these own organized programmes NSS unit of the college also sends volunteers to the central programmes conducted by University of Calcutta NSS units. The unit also extends help by means of volunteer participations to off campus rallies for a cause organised by different well known organizations like Bharat Sevashram Sangha, USIS (Walk for Books programme), World Handicapped Day rally etc.
13. Volunteers of NSS also are engaged in different in campus central programmes.

Some Regular Activities of NSS Volunteers



Volunteers are cleaning the campus

NSS Volunteers cleaning the campus in collaboration with Academic Departments



NSS Volunteers spreading Bleaching powder and mosquito repellent in special mosquito eradication drive at College campus

First Aid Camp of NSS at College during sports event.



**Dr. Siddhartha Guha Roy,
IQAC-Coordinator,
delivering lecture in NSS
Sensitization Workshop.**

**Independence Day Rally by
NSS Volunteers**





Blood sugar testing for College Staff: An initiative by NSS Unit.

Health Camp Organised by NSS at the College Campus for Students and Staff of the College.



Doctor Examining one of the faculty members of the College in the Health camp.

Eye Testing Camp of NSS with assistance from Titan Eye.



Doctor Examining a student at Blood Donation Camp organized by NSS Unit, Vivekananda College.

Blood Donation Camp by NSS Unit of the College.





Dr. Tapan Saha of Wetland Institute delivering a lecture during Water fair on Water conservation.

Dr. Tapan Kr. Poddar, Principal, Sri Nabakishor Chanda, Faculty member of the college and a noted Artist and Smt. Sumana Mukherjee of Dept. of Environmental Science Judging the Posters on Water Conservation at the Water fair, hosted by NSS.



Naturalist Dr. Pranjalendu Ray delivering lecture on Earth Day, celebrated jointly by NSS and the Department of Environmental Science.

**Thalassaemia Awareness
Camp at College.**



**Thalassaemia screening
camp at College.**

**Blood samples are being
collected in Thalassaemia
screening camp at College.**



Contributions to the fight against AIDS



International AIDS Day Celebration in collaboration with Govt. of West Bengal through Folk culture.

Principal flagging off the Rally on International AIDS day.



Rally in the locality for awareness building on International AIDS day.

SPECIAL CAMP ACTIVITIES

The NSS Unit of Vivekananda College, as per the rule has adopted a village in the area where the special camp is being organized for the last five years. The village is named Kalyan Nagar and situated at Joka area. However, recently the area has been incorporated in the jurisdiction of Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

Every year during the camping days volunteers visit each and every households for survey and awareness building regarding health and environment issues. Some of the particular activities undertaken by the volunteers are as below:

1. Household level survey, as per the pre-structured questionnaire provided by the university.
2. Reconnaissance survey indentifying the major issues to be taken care of.
3. In first two years of the camping students collected ground water and surface water samples from different water bodies and tubewells of the area for **water quality assessment** with the technical helps from the department of Environmental Science. As per the report, awareness campaign was done in subsequent days and camps.
4. The volunteers **spread bleaching powder** in all the stagnant water channels of the village to control the growth of mosquitoes. This activity has gained huge response from the residents of the villages as reflected by the acceptance of the NSS unit there.
5. The volunteers used to **clean the village roads** also earlier, but after incorporation of the area under KMC the need of such work is no more there.
6. One of the major activities taken regularly as a tool of awareness building is arrangement of a **"sit and draw"** competition among all the school goers of the village. The students are divided in three groups and are asked to draw on different issues of environment and health. The response to the competition is increasing every year and last year total 131 participants were there, compared to 67 participants in the first year.
7. Last year the NSS unit arranged a **'Thalassaemia Screening Camp'** too, at the village where nearly 50 young people were screened.

Special Camp Activities of the NSS Unit



The volunteers collecting water samples from water bodies for testing.

NSS Volunteers carrying out the household survey at the village.



Leaflets are distributed among the villagers for awareness building on health and environment issues.

NSS volunteers are using bleaching powder for mosquito control at the village.



Dr. Rajarshi Mitra, Programme Officer, NSS Unit, Vivekananda College addressing the villagers and volunteers during special camp.

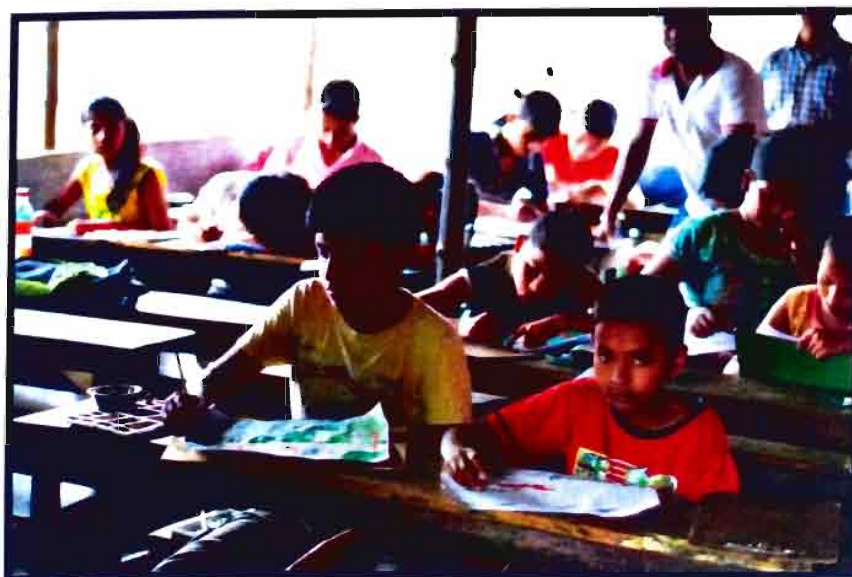
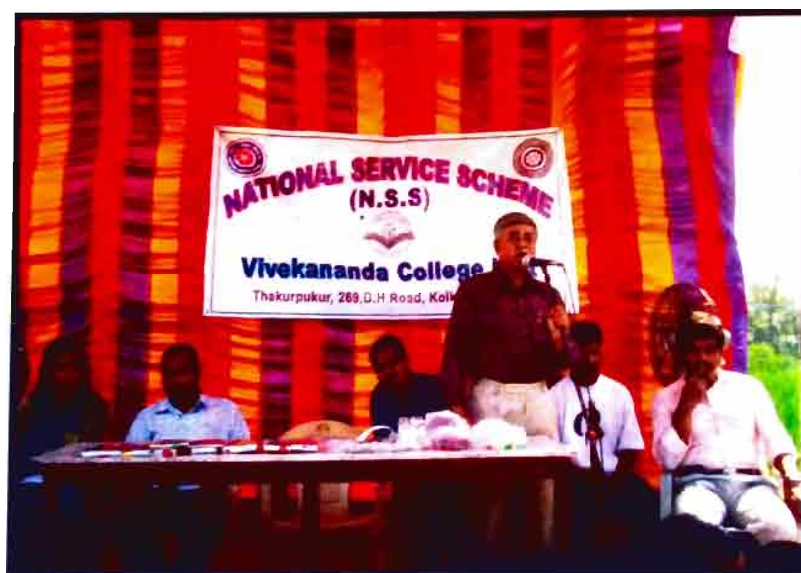
Thalassaemia Screening Camp at the village level during Special camp.





Sit and Draw Competition
for upto class five standard.

Dr. T.K.Poddar, Principal,
Vivekananda College on
prize distribution ceremony
of sit and draw competition
during special camp at
Kalyan Nagar.



Sit and Draw
competition for
students from class
eight to twelve
standard.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The NSS Unit of Vivekananda College has been actively working since 2011-12 academic session and its untiring effort in serving the society has earned recognitions too. However, there are opportunities to be achieved in the coming years and also it faces huge challenges those needs to be taken care off to achieve the desired goals.

With the advent of sessions NSS unit of the college has introduced different forms of activities in and around the college campus, which in turn can easily be extended outside at the locality.

- One of the sector where NSS volunteers can serve the society actively is their ability of face a disaster at local or household level as well. Any sort of disaster management training imparted to the volunteers on behalf of the NSS unit may therefore be of great use. Such training programme may include basic training of First Aid, Fire fighting at domestic level (i.e. hat to do and what not to do), basic rescue methodology for trapped victims and drawing person etc.
- Secondly, as it has already been introduced, if a movement be continued form NSS unit to aware people for dreaded disease like Thalassaemia and other genetic deformities, along with extending helps in screening for those to some extent at community level, then it would have been an important contribution to the society.

Instead of having such huge opportunities of work, the major challenges the NSS activities are facing are,

- Lack of motivated students to contribute for the society. In the recent days students are so focused on their personal growth that contributing even a single our for a social cause appears useless to them. Here in our college, efforts are being made to involve and motivate more and more students for the cause regularly through sensitizing workshops. And we hope to have success in near future.
- Another constraint coming on the way to NSS activities is the lack of funding and irregular release of the same from the University. However, it is beyond control of this particular unit, although college from its own fund is trying to bridge the gap always.