



Opinions of the NSS Programme Co-ordinators on the Implementation of National Service Scheme: A Study

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Abstract

The National Service Scheme was started to establish a meaningful linkage between the campus and community for making education socially relevant and community oriented. 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. Hence, student youth, teachers and the community are considered the three basic components of the National Service Scheme. There are 18 Empanelled Training Institutes functioning in India under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, New Delhi. The present study is conducted on Empanelled Training Institute, Andhra University to find out the effectiveness of various components of training and its outcomes. The present study is a descriptive method which portrays the information about various aspects of NSS functions in general and 80 Empanelled Training Institute in particular. 170 respondents were selected for the study. This forms the sample size of the study. Besides this, the Investigator collected data from 28 NSS Programme Co-ordinators working in the State of composite Andhra Pradesh. The study found that A significant percentage of them opined that the goal of NSS is to develop student personality (42.9%) and community development (28.6%) in that order. Disinterest in NSS was one of the reasons for not able to attend training programmes by the Programme Officers

Key words: opinions, National Service Schme, Program Coordinators

Introduction

The National Service Scheme was started to establish a meaningful linkage between the campus and community for making education socially relevant and community oriented. 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. Hence, student youth, teachers and the community are considered the three basic components of the National Service Scheme. There are 18 Empanelled Training Institutes functioning in India under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, New Delhi. The present study is conducted on Empanelled Training Institute, Andhra University to find out the effectiveness of various components of training and its outcomes.



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 challenged, etc. NSS volunteers did commendable relief work during natural calamities/emergencies such as cyclones, floods, famine, earthquake, etc. 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.

Programme Coordinator

The Programme Co-ordinator is a liaison between NSS Units at College, Government and State who is responsible for monitoring, supervising, documenting and administering the NSS Units besides timely release of grants.

Methodology

The present study is a descriptive method which portrays the information about various aspects of NSS functions in general and 80 Empanelled Training Institute in particular. 170 respondents were selected for the study. This forms the sample size of the study. Besides this, the Investigator collected data from 28 NSS Programme Co-ordinators working in the State of composite Andhra Pradesh. A separate schedule is designed for them to elicit information.

Personal details: The details of age, education and academic discipline were presented in this part.

Table 1: Age and Education of the Programme Co-Ordinators

Age (in years)	Percent (n=28)
< 40	32.1
41-50	25.0
> 50	42.9
Education	
Post Graduation	35.7
PG with M.Phil.	7.1
PG with M.Phil. & Ph.D.	25.0
PG with Ph.D.,	32.2



The age of the Programme Co-ordinators reveals that 42.0 percent of them were above 50 years and another 32.1 percent were below 40 years. As regards their educational

background, the study found that 35.7 percent of the Programme Co-ordinators had post graduation and the rest had higher qualification i.e., M.Phil. or Ph.D., or both.

Table -2: Academic Discipline Of The Programme Co-Ordinators

Discipline	Percent (n=28)
Social Sciences and Law	39.3
Civil Engineering	3.6
Commerce and Management	14.3
Community Medicine	3.6
Engineering	7.1
Science	32.1

The table depicts the information of the Programme Co-ordinators' academic discipline. Nearly 40 percent of them were from Social Sciences and Law background, followed by Sciences (32.1%) and 14.3 percent belong to Commerce and Management Studies. A few were from Engineering and Medicine, however.

Opinions on NSS

The Programme Co-ordinators were asked to express their opinions on NSS. The same is furnished below.

Table - 3 Opinions on National Service Schme

NSS is	Percent (n=28)
a curricular activity	32.1
a co-curricular activity	35.8
an extra-curricular activity	32.1
Goals of NSS	
Community development	28.6
National development	14.3
Development of students personality	42.9
Any other, specify	14.2

Divergent opinions were expressed by the Programme Coordinators as regards the status of NSS in the academic parlance i.e., academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular. A significant percentage of them opined that the goal of NSS is to develop student personality (42.9%) and

community development (28.6%) in that order. Whereas 14.3 percent opined that National Development is the goal of NSS.

Opinions on NSS Training to Programme Coordinators



About 82.1 percent opined that they require training on different aspects related to NSS which in turn helps them to upgrade their capacities. The following table presents the opinions on NSS training.

Table – 4

Opinions on NSS Training to Programme Coordinators RESPONDENT'S OPINIONS ON NSS

Opinions	Percent (n=28)*
Helps to maintain records/accounts/ auditing procedures	52.2
Promotes documentation	56.0
Enhances skill in NSS Administration and Management	71.7
Acquires motivational techniques and Life skills	48.7
Provides awareness on Youth Festivals/ Youth Parliament/National Programmes, etc.	74.3

*Multiple responses

Undoubtedly, the NSS Programme Co-ordinators need training on administration and managerial skills besides life skills. They also stated that they need training on organization of youth festivals and national programmes being taken up by NSS from time to time. Further, they stated that they need training on documentation, financial management, etc. It can be inferred from the data that 52.2 percent opined that the training period could be for 2-3 days whereas 26.1 percent opined that they need at least a week to undergo training.

Opinions about training to NSS Programme Officers

As Co-ordinator of NSS Units in their jurisdiction, the success or failure of NSS Units largely depends on NSS Programme Officers. A good training would help them to function well and helps to realize objectives of NSS. Keeping this in view, the Programme Co-ordinators expressed their opinions on present set up of training to Programme Officers. Nearly 93 percent stated that they were satisfied with present set up of training to NSS Programme Officers. Further, the Programme Co-ordinators were asked to suggest changes in nature of training.

Table – 5 Changes Suggested in the NSS Programme Officers Training

Suggestions	Percent (n=28)*
Communicate the training details to the Programme Co-ordinator / University	53.3
Implement innovative activities/Success stories of different units	44.4
More focus on group discussion / folk arts/drama	22.2

*Multiple responses



More than half of the Programme Co-ordinators stated that the Training Institute should send the details of training both content and outcomes to the office of the Programme Co-ordinator. More information on success stories, group discussion and training on folk arts, drama, etc., would enable the Programme Officers to organize innovative programmes at the field level.

Opinions on Crash training for Programme Officers

The opinions of NSS Programme Co-ordinators were elicited about conduct of crash training for Programme Officers. Following table explains the opinions on crash training programme.

Table – 6 Opinions on Crash Training Programmes

Opinions	Percent* (n=28)
Organise Seminars on focused topics	51.4
Planning and implementation (case study method)	68.6
Documentation and Report writing	74.3
DO's and Don't in NSS	34.3

*Multiple responses

The NSS Programme Co-ordinators have opined that there is a need to organize a Crash programme for NSS Programme Officers for shorter durations ranging from two to three days. Further, they stated that the training centre should conduct seminars on focused themes to enhance capacities. They also stated that some case studies emanated from field practice should be prepared and can be discussed at length in a workshop. Documentation and report writing is also a very important aspect and according to the

Programme Co-ordinators, the NSS Programme Officers are not submitting proper reports, Documentation is also found to be poor.

Opinions on training for Principals

Interestingly, the respondents also suggested that there is a need to organize training for Principals of the affiliated colleges. The following table makes presentation on the topics to be covered by the Training Institute to the Principals.

Table – 7 Opinions on Training Programmes to Principals

Training should cover	Percent (n=28)*
Goals and objectives of NSS	70.5
Regular and Special Camp	65.2
Role of Principal in Management of NSS	56.0

*Multiple responses



The Programme Co-ordinators were of the view that the Principals should have knowledge about goals and objectives of NSS and its activities besides their role in managing the affairs of NSS at college level.

Opinions of the Programme Co-ordinators about the problems faced by the Principals in deputing Programme Officers

Table – 8 Problems in Deputing Programme Officers for Training

Problems	Percent* (n=28)
Busy academic schedule	72.1
Disinterest in NSS by Programme Officers	67.9
Appointment of contract Lecturers as Programme Officers	25.6
Location of training institute at a faraway place	16.5
Principals objecting to depute for training	67.7

*Multiple responses

According to the Programme Co-ordinators, the Programme Officers were not able to attend training programmes mostly due to busy academic schedule and as such some Principals did not accord permission to attend training. It is pulsating to know that disinterest in NSS was one

of the reasons why the Programme Officers were not attending training programmes. Further, the Principals have appointed contract lecturers who did not evince interest in NSS. In a few cases, the Programme Officers could not attend due to the location of Training Institute at a long distance.

Opinions about problems faced by Women Programme Officer

Table – 9

Problems Related To Women Programme Officers

Problems of Women Programme Officers	Percent* (n=28)
Not able to mobilize and participate in NSS activities	43.6
Not able to stay in the village away from families	77.1
Not able to provide better accommodation By the training centre	43.6
Not able to participate in National Integration Camps	20.7

*Multiple responses

As regards the problems of the women Programme Officers, the Programme Co-ordinators opined that they were not able to stay in the villages during special camps thus staying away from their families. Further, they find it difficult to mobilize the student volunteers. They were not provided safe and adequate

accommodation at the venues during training programmes and meetings.

Opinions on Impact of Training

Information on the outcomes of the trainings was elicited from the Programme Co-ordinator and the same is provided hereunder:



Table – 10 Impact of Training to the Programme Officers

Impact	Percent (n=28)*
Reports	96.4
Documentation	64.3
Accounts	85.7
Monitoring	50.0
Evaluation	46.4

*Multiple responses

Analyses pertaining to impact of training to the Programme Officers reveal that a majority of the Programme Co-ordinators opined that there is greater impact which resulted in preparation of reports, documentation, and maintenance of accounts, besides monitoring and evaluation of the programmes by the NSS Programme Officers.

Findings of the study

The age of the Programme Co-ordinators reveals that 42.0 percent of them were above 50 years and another 32.1 percent were below 40 years. About 35.7 percent of the Programme Co-ordinators had post graduation and the rest had the higher qualification i.e., M.Phil. or Ph.D., or both. About 82.1 percent opined that they require training on different aspects related to NSS which in turn helps them to upgrade their capacities.

The NSS Programme Co-ordinators need training on administrative and managerial skills besides life skills. About 52.2 percent opined that the training period could be for 2-3 days whereas 26.1 percent opined that they need at least a week to undergo training.

More than half of the Programme Coordinators stated that the Training

Institute should send the details of training both content and outcomes to the office of the Programme Coordinator.

More information on success stories, group discussions and training on folk arts, drama, etc., would enable the Programme Officers to organize innovative programmes at the field level.

According to the Programme Coordinators, the Programme Officers were not able to attend training programmes mostly due to busy academic schedule. Disinterest in NSS was one of the reasons for not able to attend training programmes by the Programme Officers. A majority of the Programme Co-ordinators opined that there is greater impact after training to Programme Officers which resulted in preparation of reports, documentation, and maintenance of accounts, besides monitoring and evaluation of the programmes by the NSS Programme Officers. There is a need to organize a Crash programme for NSS Programme Officers for shorter durations ranging from two to three days.

They also stated that some case studies emanated from field practice



should be prepared and can be discussed at length in a workshop.

Suggestions

The Principals suggested that NSS college unit should prepare action plan for the year and conduct periodical review of NSS activities.

They suggested that the remuneration paid to the Programme Officer to be enhanced.

Dress code to the NSS student volunteers to be introduced

NSS Cell at the University level should release the funds on time so as to carry out the programmes as per the schedule

Conclusion

The National Service Scheme was started to establish a meaningful linkage between the campus and community for making education socially relevant and community oriented. A majority of the programme coordinators expressed satisfaction in making Government Agencies to partake with NSS programmes They found satisfaction in promotion of community service (60.7%), and participation of NGOs in programmes (75.0%), besides promotion of human resources (71.4%) for effective coordination and network. 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.

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