

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS)

The National Service Scheme (NSS) stands as one of India's most significant youth development and community service programs, launched on September 24, 1969, during the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi. As a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

NSS MOTTO

"NOT ME BUT YOU"

Meaning and Significance

The motto "Not Me But You" reflects the fundamental philosophy of the National Service Scheme and embodies the essence of democratic living. This powerful statement encapsulates the core values that NSS seeks to instill in its volunteers.

The motto underlines several key principles:

Selfless Service: Emphasizes putting others' needs before one's own interests, fostering a spirit of self-sacrifice and dedication to community welfare.

Democratic Values: Upholds the need for appreciation of other people's points of view and consideration for fellow human beings, which are essential for democratic functioning.

Social Interdependence: Reflects the belief that individual welfare is ultimately dependent on the welfare of society as a whole, promoting collective responsibility.

National Integration: Encourages volunteers to work beyond personal, regional, and cultural boundaries for the greater good of the nation.

Character Building: Develops moral and ethical values that transform individuals into responsible citizens.

Practical Application

The motto translates into practical action through:

- Voluntary community service activities
- Prioritizing community needs over personal convenience
- Working for the upliftment of underprivileged sections of society
- Promoting social harmony and national unity
- Developing empathy and understanding for diverse communities

OBJECTIVES OF NSS

- Community Understanding:** Enable students to understand the community in which they work and their relationship to it
- Problem Identification:** Identify needs and problems of the community and involve them in problem-solving processes
- Social Responsibility:** Develop among students a sense of social and civic responsibility towards society
- Knowledge Application:** Utilize their academic knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems
- Group Living Skills:** Develop competence required for group-living and sharing of responsibilities in democratic society
- Community Mobilization:** Gain skills in mobilizing community participation for development activities and social causes
- Leadership Development:** Acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude through practical experience in community service
- Emergency Preparedness:** Develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters through training and response activities
- National Integration:** Practice national integration and social harmony by working across cultural, religious, and regional boundaries
- Character Building:** Foster personality development through voluntary service, self-discipline, and moral values
- Democratic Values:** Promote understanding and appreciation of democratic principles, equality, and social justice
- Self-Awareness:** Understand themselves better through interaction with diverse communities and challenging situations
- Practical Experience:** Bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application through hands-on community work
- Social Consciousness:** Develop awareness about social issues, inequalities, and the role of youth in national development

- Voluntary Service Spirit:** Cultivate the habit of voluntary service and lifelong commitment to community welfare and nation-building

VISION AND MISSION

To create socially responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to national development through dedicated community service and volunteerism, building a stronger, more equitable, and harmonious society."

To engage student volunteers in meaningful community service activities that address pressing social issues, promote national integration, develop leadership qualities, and foster a spirit of social responsibility and civic engagement among the youth of India.

CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Core Values:

- **Selfless Service** - Community needs before personal interests, service without material expectations
- **Social Responsibility** - Understanding duty to society, supporting marginalized communities
- **National Integration** - Promoting unity in diversity, fostering patriotism and harmony
- **Character Building** - Developing moral and ethical values, integrity and honesty
- **Democratic Values** - Promoting equality, justice, and participatory decision-making
- **Volunteerism** - Encouraging voluntary participation in social causes, culture of giving

Guiding Principles:

- **Community-Centered Approach** - Prioritizing community needs, respecting local culture and traditions
- **Participatory Methodology** - Including all stakeholders, collaborative decision-making
- **Sustainable Development** - Focusing on long-term impact, building local capacity
- **Holistic Development** - Addressing multiple welfare dimensions, balanced development

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Regular Activities (120 Hours Annually)

NSS volunteers engage in comprehensive regular activities throughout the academic year, dedicating a minimum of 120 hours annually to diverse community service initiatives. These activities span across **Community Development** programs including village and slum adoption, infrastructure improvement, and public facility maintenance; **Health and Hygiene** initiatives such as medical camps, blood donation drives, vaccination awareness, and mental health counseling; **Education and Literacy** programs covering adult literacy classes, children's education support, digital literacy training, and skill development workshops; **Environmental Conservation** efforts including tree plantation drives, waste management programs, water conservation projects, and climate change awareness campaigns; and **Social Awareness** activities promoting gender equality, human rights, road safety, consumer awareness, and legal literacy. These regular activities are designed to address pressing community needs while providing volunteers with hands-on experience in social service, enabling them to apply their academic knowledge to real-world problems and develop

essential life skills including leadership, communication, teamwork, and civic responsibility. Through consistent engagement in these diverse activities, NSS volunteers not only contribute to meaningful community development but also undergo personal transformation, becoming socially conscious citizens who understand the interconnectedness of individual and societal welfare, thereby embodying the NSS motto "Not Me But You" in their daily lives and future endeavors.

Expected Outcomes:

NSS regular activities create triple-level impact: **For communities** - improved infrastructure, health awareness, literacy rates, environmental quality, and civic participation; **For volunteers** - enhanced leadership skills, social consciousness, practical learning, career prospects, and character development; **For society** - reduced inequality, stronger democracy, social cohesion, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development progress. Through 120 hours annual service, NSS transforms individuals into responsible citizens while strengthening communities and contributing to national development, embodying "Not Me But You" philosophy.

2. Special Camping Programs

NSS Special Camps are 7-10 day intensive residential programs held annually in rural/urban communities with volunteers. The structured approach includes community integration through surveys and need assessment, followed by intensive service activities like health camps, educational support, infrastructure development, and skill training workshops, concluding with cultural exchange, folk art documentation, and program evaluation. These camps provide volunteers with immersive community service experience, direct beneficiary interaction, leadership development, and cultural understanding while addressing specific local needs through hands-on projects

The success of NSS depends on the continued commitment of all stakeholders - government, educational institutions, community organizations, and most importantly, the young volunteers who embody the spirit of "Not Me But You." As India continues its journey toward becoming a developed nation, NSS will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that development is inclusive, sustainable, and participatory.

The National Service Scheme stands as a testament to the power of organized youth volunteerism and the enduring relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's vision of service to society. It represents not just a program, but a movement that has the potential to transform India and inspire the world.

Prof. Dr. M. N. Rode

Program Officers



Dr. Bhimanand Gajbhare

