

**A STUDY OF PERCEPTION OF COLLEGE STUDENTS TOWARDS NSS PROGRAM AS  
AN EFFECTIVE TOOL OF IMPROVEMENT IN PERSONALITY**

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**Abstract:**

*As per the University Grants Commission, Industries want for human resources with multiple skills rather than specialists in one particular field. Therefore, students need to be exposed to a full range of conventional academics, community service, environmental awareness and value-based education. Internships and apprenticeships with local business and industry are also required in order to meet the demands of industries. So it is necessary that, the curriculum of general education needs to be transformed. In light of this, the study of extension program like NSS becomes necessary to find out its effectiveness in improvement of the personality of the students participating in the program. This study involves in identifying the various positive traits shown by the NSS volunteers after joining NSS programs. The study also highlights various competitions, activities and tasks which are performed by the NSS volunteers for successful completion of the program, which enriches certain soft skills and imbibe social responsibility among the volunteers.. This paper also highlights the disadvantages and difficulties faced by the volunteers during the conduct of regular and special activities.*

**Keywords:** *Community Service, Personality Development Program, Special Camp, Enrichment.*

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**Introduction:**

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is voluntary community service program for students sponsored by Indian government and conducted by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India. The scheme was launched in Gandhiji's Centenary year, 1969 with the objective developing student's personality through community and social service, NSS is a voluntary association of young people in Colleges, Universities and focuses on campus-community linkage. The University Grants Commission headed by Dr. Radhakrishnan recommended that community service should be included in academic program on a voluntary basis to develop healthy rapport between the students and teachers on the one hand and establishing a constructive relation between the campus and the community on the other hand. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, tried to impress upon his student audience time and again, awareness of their social responsibility along with acquiring intellect, knowledge and academic excellence during their college days.

**The Primary objective of National Service Scheme (NSS):**

“Understanding the community and the role of volunteers in their community, identifying the needs and problems of the community and utilize their knowledge gained in academics in finding practical solutions to community problems; Gaining skills in mobilizing community participation; ,acquiring leadership qualities and democratic attitude by working in the community, acquiring competence to meet emergencies or disasters and develop spirit

Of national integration and social harmony”

#### **Regular activities of National Service Scheme:**

Regular activities includes tree plantation, preservation of trees, construction and repair of roads, cleaning of adopted areas, construction of compost soak pits, health education and primary health care, first aid awareness, blood donation, anti-drug addiction drives, AIDS awareness, disaster management, empowerment of women, road safety campaign, survey of socio-economic status, development of campus etc. Literacy/Educational Programme, pulse polio /Health camps. Blood donation drive, Awareness camps on drug Abuse/AIDS/HIV, Programmes for Woman. Empowerment, Work in Orphanages/ Destitute Homes, National Integration/Communal Harmony Programmes. Activities during natural emergencies and disasters. Celebration of days of national importance.

#### **Special activities in adopted village:**

Adoption of a village area is a very useful programme in NSS. A seven days residential camp is organized in the adopted village to sensitize the students about various problems and try to give contribution towards solving this problems various activities like awareness programs, street plays, cleanliness drive, construction and repairs of roads, plastic bandi, health camps, tree plantation, construction of vanrai bandharas, compost pits, socio economic survey are undertaken by the volunteers.

All this activities give the volunteers a first-hand experience and exposure to social, economic, cultural environment and an opportunity to interact with the villagers. This entire process helps the volunteers to come out of their protected environment and adapt themselves to the real life village scenario. This definitely changes the mind-set and attitude and remarkable changes in the volunteer’s personality.

#### **Motto of National Service Scheme:**

“The Motto of NSS "Not Me, But You”. The philosophy of the NSS is well described in this motto, which highlights on the belief that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on The welfare of the society as a whole and therefore, the NSS volunteers should strive for the well-being of the society in which he lives.”

#### **Logo of National Service Scheme:**

“The symbol for the NSS has been based on the giant Rath Wheel of the world famous Konark Sun Temple situated in Orissa, India. The Konark wheel in the symbol has eight bars which represent the 24 hours of the day “

#### **Objectives of the Study:**

- The main objective of this research is to find out students perception towards NSS program as an effective tool for improvement in personality.
- To find out the students preference towards Extension Program like NSS to be implemented in future along with Traditional Education

#### **Review of Literature:**

**1. Rohit Madhukar Nikam, Kailash Haribhau Kapadnis, Ratan Yadav Borse (2020)** Role of National Service Scheme in Enhancing Rational Values in Society .National service scheme has been playing a vital role in improvement of human life through inculcating social, economic, cultural and ethical values in volunteers. Graduate students seeking their degree for three years along with their role of participation in national service scheme of two years must render better feedback and response for society rather than graduate students with their degree for three years without participation in national service scheme. In India there are 52 percent people come under youth category. Students are backbone of society. Role of youth students is to provide stability to society by participating in different schemes, jobs, administrative and academic bodies, counselors and guides. They would become a responsible citizen in society. When such a youth students would have been the part of N.S.S in their graduate level education, the effectiveness of their role will be perked. If they are allowed to admit

in national service scheme of universities and colleges in their graduation level, they will definitely play effective role becoming a crucial part of society.

2. **K, Deekshitha, Role of National Service Scheme (NSS) in Creating Social Responsibility at Higher Education (2016)**The concept of National Service Scheme is started in the year 1969 to build sense of social responsibility through teacher and students involvement in constructive service with the motto of “Not Me But You”. NSS volunteers work in rural areas, adopted villages and school to the serving the cause of society through survey, education and health awareness programme. This study involves in identifying the importance, aims and objectives of NSS in higher education which in turn create social responsibility among the students. This paper also highlights the constraints faced by the NSS, and students in the system and also suggests measure to overcome in order to utilize future generation in positive direction.

**Research Methodology:**

The Research is based on secondary as well as primary data. secondary data includes various journals, articles, internet sources. The primary data is collected through structured questionnaire in Google form through survey of current students of different colleges. The Collected information is classified and presented in form of tables and diagram

**Sample size and sampling method:**

Total 75 students responses were collected by stratified random sampling method from the respondents comprising of current volunteers from all academic batches of different colleges in Mumbai.

**Data Analysis:**

1. **Demographic Information:** The researcher collected basic demographic details to study the perception of college students towards NSS program which is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Frequency Table**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Age</b>		
15 to 18	13	18%
19 to 21	42	56%
22 to 25	20	27%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	35	47%
Female	40	53%
<b>Class</b>		
First year	19	25%
Second year	19	25%
Third year	37	50%

**Source:** Primary Data

Frequencies and percentages were calculated for age, gender and class. Table 1 reveals that 18 % of the respondents were from the age group of 15 years to 18 years and 56 % were from the age group of 19 to 21 years. About 53 % of the respondents were female and 47 % were male. Nearly 25 % of the respondents were from First year class, 25 % from Second year class and 50% from Third year class.

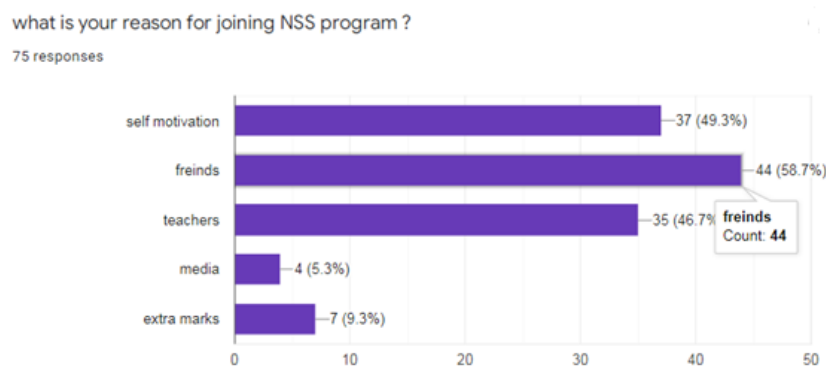
2. **Reason for joining NSS program:** The researcher was keen on knowing the number of respondents who had experience in Online teaching in the subject of Accountancy.

**Table 2: Online Teaching**

Variable	N	%
Reason of joining NSS		
Self-motivation	37	49%
Friends	44	59%
Teachers	35	47%
Media	4	5%
Extra Marks	7	9%

Source: Primary Data

**Figure 1**



Source: Primary Data

Table 2 and figure 1 indicates that 49 % respondents joined NSS out of self-motivation, 59 % joined due to their friends. Nearly 47 % respondents were influenced by the teachers to join NSS and only 9 % of the respondents joined NSS for extra marks. Contribution of Media for joining NSS was only 5%.

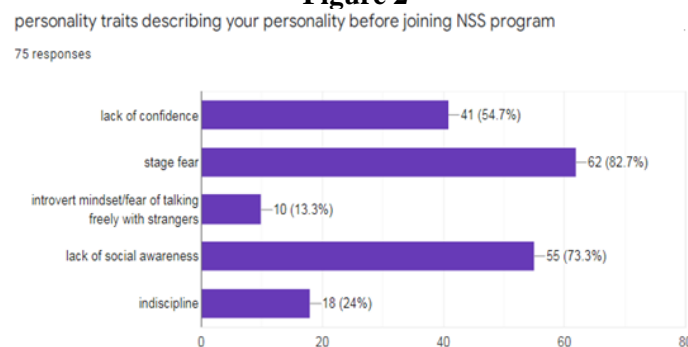
**3. Personality traits describing your personality before joining NSS program:** The researcher was keen on knowing what the personality traits were demonstrated before joining NSS program

**Table: 3**

Variable	N	%
Lack of confidence	41	55%
Stage of fear	62	82%
Introvert mindset/ Fear of talking freely with stranger	10	13%
Lack of social awareness	55	73%
indiscipline	18	24%

Source: Primary Data

**Figure 2**



Source: Primary Data

Table 3 and figure 2 reveals that 54 % of the respondents were lack of confidence, 82 % had phobia of stage fear Whereas 13 % were afraid of of talking to strangers. Nearly 73 % were lack of social awareness and 24 % admitted that they were indiscipline in life.

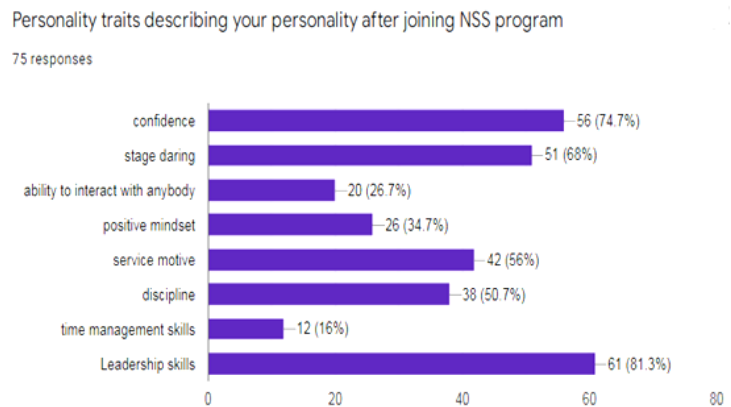
**4. Personality traits describing your personality after joining NSS program:** The researcher felt that it was essential to examine the changes in the personality traits after joining the NSS program

**Table 4**  
**Personality traits describing your personality after joining NSS program:**

Variable	N	%
Confidence	56	75 %
Stage daring	51	68 %
Ability to interact with anybody	20	27 %
Positive mindset	26	35 %
Service motive	42	56 %
Discipline	38	51 %
Time management skills	12	16 %
Leadership skill	61	81 %

Source: Primary Data

**Figure 3**



Source: Primary Data

Table 4 and figure 3 indicates that 75% of the respondents gained confidence, 68 % respondents had acquired stage daring, whereas 27 % could interact with anybody. Nearly 81 % acquired leadership skills. It was also seen that 50 % respondents experienced discipline in their conduct 56 % respondents felt service motive whereas 35 % developed mind-set. The details are represented in figure 3.

**5. Participation in various competitions during NSS program:** The researcher felt it was essential to examine the participation in various competitions during the NSS program.

**Table 5**  
**Participation in various competitions during NSS program**

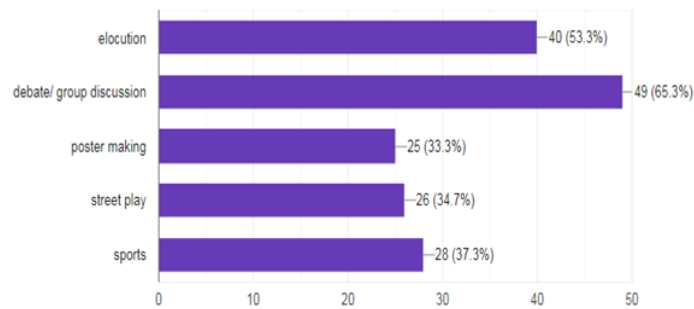
Variable	N	%
Elocution	40	53%
Debate/group discussion	49	65%
Poster making	25	33%
Street play	26	35%
sports	28	37%

Source: Primary Data

**Figure 4**

Your participation in various competitions during NSS program

75 responses



**Source:** Primary Data

Table 5 and figure 4 shows that, the volunteers participated in various competition during the NSS program. 53 % respondents took part in elocution completion whereas 65 % took part in debate and group discussion. It was also found that 35 % respondents were part of street plays, 33 % participated in poster making and 37 % competed in sports events.

**6. Participation in social activities in the society during NSS program:**

The Researcher observed that the respondents took part in many social activities during the NSS program which has helped them to give their contribution to the society.

**Table: 6**

**Participation in social activities in the society during NSS program**

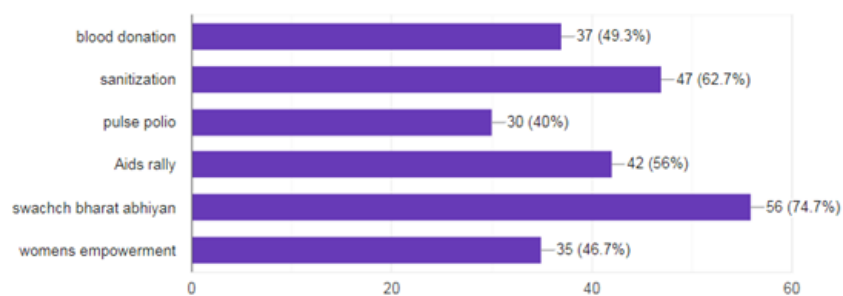
Variable	N	%
Blood donation	37	49 %
Sanitization	47	63%
Pulse polio	30	40 %
Aids rally	42	56%
Swachch bharat abhiyan	56	75 %
Womens empowerment	35	47 %

**Source:** Primary Data

**Figure 5**

Your participation in social activities in the society during NSS program

75 responses



**Source:** Primary Data

Table 6 and figure 5 shows that the respondents have participated in many socially useful activities. Nearly 74 % participated in Swachch bharat abhiyan, 63 % in sanitization drive and 56% took part in Aids Rally. 40 % of the respondents were part of pulse polio program, 49 % respondents donated blood whereas 47 % participated in women’s empowerment activities.

**7. Influence of NSS program on the academic score:**

The researcher wanted to know from the respondents about the Influence of NSS program on the academic score

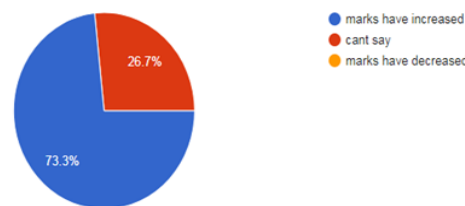
**Table: 7**  
**Influence of NSS program on the academic score**

Variable	N	%
Marks have increased	55	73 %
Can't say	20	27%
marks have decreased	00	00%

Source: Primary Data

**Figure 6**

How do you think the participation in NSS activities has influenced your academic score ?  
75 responses



Source: Primary Data

Table 7 and figure 6 clearly indicates that that 73% of respondents think that their academic marks have increased due to NSS and 27 % think that they think there is no relation of NSS program on academic score, but not a single respondent has claimed that their academic score has reduced due to NSS programs.

**8. Problems faced during the NSS program:**

The study reveals that the respondents faced a number of problems during the NSS program.

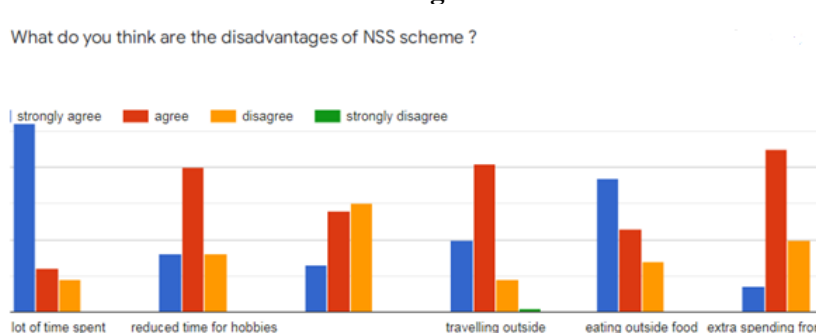
The researcher wanted to find out the various problems faced by the volunteers during the NSS program. Hence the respondents were asked to give their views which are shown in Table 8.

**Table: 8**  
**Problems faced during the NSS program**

Variable	N	%
Lot of time spent	52	69 %
Reduced time for hobbies	16	21 %
Travelling outside	20	27 %
Eating outside food	37	49 %
Spending from own pocket	7	9 %

Source: Primary Data

**Figure 7**



Source: Primary Data

Table 8 and figure 7 reveals that the respondents had some difficulties also during the NSS Programs. The Respondents reported that 69 % of the respondents feel that a lot of time needs to be devoted for NSS activities. 21%of the respondents feel that they have reduced time at their disposal for pursuing their hobbies. Nearly 27 % complained about travelling outside and 49 % had to eat outside food during the NSS activities. Even 9 % respondents complained of spending out of their own pockets during the activities.

**9. Improvement in personality due to NSS program:**

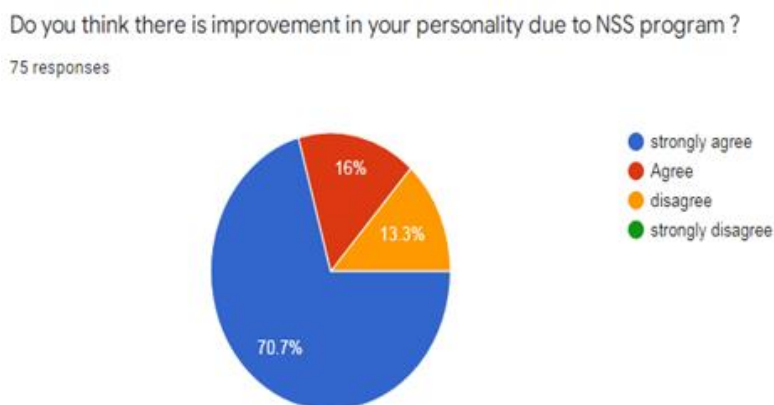
The researcher wanted to examine the effectiveness of NSS programs and its contribution towards the improvement of personality development. Hence the respondents were asked to give their views on the same and are as shown in Table 8.

**Table: 9**  
**Effectiveness of NSS programs for improvement of personality**

Variable	N	%
Effectiveness of NSS programs for improvement of personality		
Strongly agree	53	71 %
agree	12	16 %
disagree	10	13%

Source: Primary Data

**Figure 8**



Source: Primary Data

Table 9 and figure 8 clearly indicates that 71% of respondents strongly agree that Extension program like NSS are extremely necessary for improvement of personality of college students and only 13 % disagree about the impact of NSS program on personality development,

**10. Necessity of Extension program like NSS for improvement of personality of college students in future:**

The researcher wanted to know from the respondents about their preference for Extension program like NSS for improvement of personality of college students in future. Hence the respondents were asked to give their views on NSS program which is shown in Table 10

**Table: 10**  
**Necessity of Extension program like NSS for improvement of personality of college students in future.**

Variable	N	%
Extension program like NSS for improvement of personality of college students in future.		
No	67	89 %
Yes	08	11 %

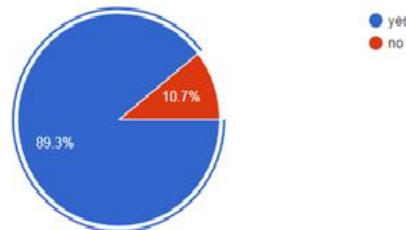
Source: Primary Data



**Figure 9**

Do you think extension program like NSS are necessary for improvement of personality of college students ?

75 responses



**Source:** Primary Data

Table 10 and figure 9 clearly indicates that 89% of respondents strongly agree that Extension program like NSS are extremely necessary for improvement of personality of college students in future and only 11 % think that there is no relation of extension program like NSS program on personality development,

### **Conclusion:**

From the study it was observed that in the NSS program the respondents had taken part in many social activities like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Sanitization Drive, and Aids Rally. Pulse Polio Program, Blood Donation, Women's Empowerment Activities. This activities have inculcated awareness of social responsibility and will mould the respondents into responsible and mature citizens.

The respondents participated in various competitions like elocution, debate, group discussions, poster making, street play, sports etc. This has further helped the respondents to enrich their skills and overall development of personality. From the study it was observed that majority of the students were in agreement that there are various challenges and limitations of NSS program like spending of lot of time, reduced time for hobbies, travelling outside, eating outside food, extra spending from pocket etc. was the major concern showed by the respondents.

From the study it was observed that in spite of so many difficulties and problems the respondents taking part in NSS programs have developed positive qualities such as self-confidence, team spirit, management skills, human skills, time management skills, leadership qualities, emotional maturity etc. after joining the NSS programs.

It was found that majority of the respondents; nearly 89 % of them has given preference to NSS program to be conducted in future for college students for personality development and enrichment along with the conventional and Traditional academic programs.

It was highly agreed by the 71 % students that NSS program is instrumental in bringing about improvement in the personality of the students. So it can be concluded that the NSS program plays an important role in the development and enrichment of the personality of the volunteers

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