

Performance of Social Service Activities by NCC Cadets is an Integral (Innate) Component (Constituent) of NCC Training (Indoctrination/Pedagogy)

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ABSTRACT

Performing of social service activities is not a new phenomenon; in fact it has been there in India since ages. Social work has been derived from the concept of charity and now it is a profession. Social Work is now being taught as a field in education. In large organisations there is a separate department for this and they undertake CSR (corporate social responsibility). In hindu religious texts like the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad; charity, compassion and self-restraint are the recommended virtues in a human being. In other religions and scriptures also these are considered essential. Social service activities, awareness campaigns, charity are all intertwined, interrelated with each other. NCC being a large organisation comprising of young, disciplined, budding students and having its presence throughout the country is effectively being put to use for organising community development programmes, awareness programmes. These activities inculcate in a cadet leadership skills, principles of selfless service and host of other virtues.

I. INTRODUCTION

Growth of National Cadet Corps

The National Cadet Corps is like a banyan tree with its branches well entrenched in all states of India and has covered most of the districts. To have effective mechanism Directorates have been established in the state capitals. Each directorate depending upon the strength of

cadets have Group headquarters followed by numerous Units of Army, Navy and Air force under them. The units have been suitably positioned in urban and rural settlements. The NCC Units impart training to the enrolled cadets of NCC. The Units are manned by regular Officers and men drawn from the armed forces and assisted by the Associate NCC Officers. The curriculum of NCC is vast and covers topics like parade training, weapon training, Adventure activities, Armed Forces related Subjects, sports, freedom fighters, Social service activities, Community development programmes, personality enhancement programme, leadership courses, career counselling, SSB coaching etc. The aim of the training is to instil in the cadets camaraderie, team spirit, self discipline, self control, ideals of secularism, feeling of adventure, belief in selfless service, character building, leadership qualities and other aspects that lead to overall development of the cadets.

India is a vast nation comprising of many religions, faiths, cultures, languages and different cuisines. The diverse culture is the most important entity that is keeping India united. It is truly said Unity in Diversity. The motto of NCC is Unity and Discipline. The NCC cadets are important tool in nation building and national integration. To this effect large number of national integration camps are organised across the country and with cadets participating in these camps from all over India. During the camps over and above the usual training various social service activities are also undertaken by the cadets. In a camp about 600 cadets participate and for a duration of 10 days; a mammoth figure to make positive changes in society. Like this hundreds of camps are undertaken all over the country.

Importance of Social Service Activities

In India social work has been continuing for ages. Vedic traditions encouraged benevolence, joint families, helping each other, love towards even the enemy. In Mahabharata, Yudhishtira's desire was not to rule but to assuage the sufferings of the ill fated. Our religious texts propagated the philosophy of "Sarve Bhavantu sukhinah, sarvesantuniramayaah, sarve bhadrani pashyantu, ma akaschit dukh ma apnuyatt" let all be happy, let all be free from illness, let all find security, may no one face sorrow". The Bhagwat Gita also preaches selflessness, duty, devotion and

meditation. The Upanishads like Brihadaranyaka, Chandogya and Taittiriya also encourage charity, nonviolence, goodness, friendliness, truthfulness, prosperity, austerity. The concept of charity has spread world over and has motivated philanthropists to undertake activities for the upliftment of underprivileged. Social service activities forms a part of social work and is like charity.

NCC being a large organisation and with its visibility all over the nation is involved by the government of India in spreading awareness about various social service activities. NCC has spread the message of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Save the environment, Plastic free India, tree plantation, Blood donation, traffic control, international Yoga Day, Cancer disease, Digital India, health & hygiene, AIDS awareness, anti-tobacco rally, disaster management, vaccination & inoculation, blood donation, organ donation, run for health, anti leprosy, anti dowry, national integration, discipline, cleanliness, selflessness, patriotism, national character, honesty, courage etc. These drives by the NCC cadets sends a positive message to the public at large. Now in few Colleges the authorities organise some of these programmes, which is again a positive feedback for the nation building.

II. CONTRIBUTION OF NCC CADETS TOWARDS SOCIAL WELFARE

NCC cadets and youth are pillar of strength of the family, neighbourhood, town and community. They are the future of the country. It's our moral duty to mobilize this spirited group of our society in social welfare and nation building. The NCC cadets are contributing towards social welfare by providing leadership, doing community service, national & cultural integration, promoting awareness by involving in social programmes like health care & family welfare, old age care, understanding the value of physical education & adventure training, watershed and waste land development.

The NCC cadets all the year around are engaged in various social service activities for spreading awareness amongst the masses. These activities are elucidated in the succeeding paragraphs.

Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking

The international day against Drug Abuse and Illicit trafficking is observed every year on 26 Jun. The NCC cadets on this day take out rallies,

organise Nukkad programmes to spread awareness amongst the society. The cadets are themselves made aware about the menace and how it can affect an individual and society at large. Documentaries are screened to convey the message of drug abuse and trafficking. This has now become a worldwide problem. Aim of observing this day is to make a society all around the world free from drugs and drug trafficking.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

It is a major initiative by the government of India. This mission was launched through out the country on 2nd October 2014 and has become a national movement. The aim of this mission is to clean India by 2nd October 2019. Under this mission various social groups, NGOs, schools, colleges are joining hands on regular basis to clean their localities, common areas etc. To keep the city clean, the municipal corporations have started door to door collection of garbage from houses and ensuring safe disposal. Dust bins have been placed on railway stations, bus stops and public places. It has become a huge mission with the government machinery also propagating and providing all out support.

NCC has been closely associated with the Swachh Bharat Mission and regularly organises Swachh Pakhwaras all over India. The NCC cadets have carried out cleaning activities at historical sites, beaches, statues of national leaders, poster making, organising marches, street plays, workshops across the nation. **The Prime Minister of India has lauded the efforts put in by the NCC cadets and awarded the NCC for the efforts put in.** Cleanliness drive is very close to the NCC and such drives are regularly undertaken as a social responsibility. The community has also shown keen interest in this activity. The cadets have taken pledge to offer at least two hours a week.

The Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation has launched ODF i.e. Open Defecation free programme under which open defecation has been discouraged. The government to this end has issued guidelines and laid down parameters on the basis of which a gram panchayat or a village can be declared ODF free. The NCC cadets interact on regular basis with villagers, people settled in slums to make them aware on ODF and how defecation in open can lead to various diseases. The cadets encourage them to use toilets at home. In case toilets not available

at home then they are encouraged to build toilets at home. By the Govt efforts and awareness spread by various organisations states like Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Kerala have been declared ODF. The government has provided financial help to EWS to build toilets at their homes. The government plans to make India ODF by the end of 2019.

Family Planning

The family planning was started in 1952. India is the second most populated country of the world. The population explosion in the country has led to unemployment, poverty, resources crunch, environmental pollution, reduction in per capita availability of capital, food scarcity, low farm productivity, lowers standard of living. The NCC curriculum covers factors affecting family planning, methods of family planning and how to attain objectives. The NCC cadets organise awareness programmes from time to time for the masses.

HIV/AIDS

This is a life threatening disease and one of the most feared disease. In this disease the immune system of the sufferer becomes weak and so acquires large number of diseases leading to untimely. The reason for spread of the disease is contact of blood, semen and vaginal fluids of a HIV patient with a healthy person. To avoid this disease one should have protected sex, avoid sharing needles, syringes, HIV infected blood transfusion. The NCC cadets are taught in detail about this disease, as role of youth in preventing this disease is greater. Awareness programmes by conducting rallies, seminars, poster making etc., is organised by the cadets. The cadets also spread the message that persons suffering from HIV/AIDS are to be integrated with the society and not shunned.

Anti Tobacco Drive

World no tobacco day is observed around the world on 31 May. The day is observed to shun away from 24 hours by the consumers and leave it completely. During the day various rallies, public debates, marches are held by the NCC cadets, NGOs, college students, local clubs etc. and message of its ill effects is spread. Tobacco related deaths each year is more than 7 million. Excessive consumption leads to mouth cancer, lung cancer etc. Also it financially burdens the

user. Even passive smoking is dangerous. WHO plays an active role in spreading message globally about the dangers of tobacco. India is one of the highest users of tobacco.

Blood Donation Camp

World Blood Donor Day is observed on 14 Jun every year. This day is celebrated to honour those who donate blood, the need for safe blood and to spread the message for donating blood so as to do away with the deficiency of blood. By donating blood regularly possibility of heart attack reduces, the blood becomes thin, helps in reducing weight, helps in rejuvenating the liver, increases energy in the body. On this day blood donation camps are held wherein volunteers donate blood. NCC cadets come out in large numbers to volunteer for blood donation.

Female Foeticide

It is abortion or elimination of girl child in the womb. In the past it was a regular practice to eliminate the girl child. However with awareness, gender equality and levy of stringent punishment on the guilty has greatly brought this feature under control. Due to female foeticide the male to female ratio became imbalanced and in 2011 only 914 females for 1000 males. The main cause for female foeticide is desire to have male child only, dowry system, lower status to women, gender inequality etc. To completely stop female foeticide, the NCC cadets regularly take out marches, lectures, debates, making drawings on female foeticide.

Anti Dowry Drive

Dowry age old tradition in India. In this cash or gifts are given by the bride's parents to the bridegroom's family at the time of marriage. Despite stringent rules against the system, dowry system is continuing. This system is given rise to domestic violence and many a times have led to the death of the bride. This has also led to loans/mortgage, female foeticide, female trafficking etc. Various anti dowry organisations have called for taking dowry as illegal and have pledged against it. The NCC cadets regularly participate in rallies discouraging and complete eradication of this from the society.

Traffic Control

With the growing traffic on the roads, traffic control and following traffic rules have become very important. The NCC cadets are taught about the traffic organisation, traffic signals, road safety, speed monitoring, road accidents, manning of road intersections, wearing of helmets, wearing of seat belts, road signs, drunken driving menace etc. The NCC cadets are routinely deployed to carry out traffic marshalling. This gives them self confidence, discipline and making them more aware about the traffic rules and regulations.

Anti Leprosy

In India anti leprosy day is observed on 30 Jan to coincide with Mahatama Gandhi's death as he had worked tirelessly for there welfare. Leprosy is the least infectious disease. This disease can be treated and it can stop the onset of disabilities by proper medication. Its an old disease and dates back to 600 BC. People affected by this disease are discriminated and stigma is attached to it. Through awareness and medication efforts are being made to completely eradicate this disease.

Digital India

The cadets of NCC have been actively involved in the awareness campaigns of digital India. Message is that preference be given to digital currency than paper money. The Prime Minister of India have urged people to use digital money and maximise use of BHIM app for electronic payments.

World Environment Day

This day is celebrated on 05 Jun every year. On this day children and elders all alike take to tree plantation on large scale. This day is celebrated like a festival. Many Schools, Colleges, Government departments, voluntary groups, private bodies come out in full support for saving the environment. Pledges are taken to save the environment for the future generations. The NCC cadets all over India undertake saplings plantation to increase the green cover on the earth. Many competitions are held and save the earth theme is favoured. NCC cadets take out rallies with placards in their hands on conserving the nature and avoid pollution.

Cancer Awareness Rally

With the growing tentacles of cancer in human beings, need is felt to make everyone aware of cancer and how to prevent it. The NCC cadets from time to time take out rallies to spread awareness about cancer and its prevention. Cancer can be reduced by avoiding alcohol, tobacco, drugs, consumption of organic food products and follow healthy lifestyle. Cancer if detected in early stages and medication taken is curable.

International Yoga Day

It is celebrated on 21 Jun every year. It was started in 2015 and given sanction by the United Nations General Assembly. Yoga originated in India and has cure for most of the diseases. Yoga Day is celebrated with great fanfare and gusto. On this occasion special NCC camps are organised wherein the cadets are trained in various yogasanas and on 21 Jun all the NCC cadets gather in a central place to display the yogasanas as prescribed by the Ministry of Ayush. Government departments employees, school & college students turn up in large numbers to showcase yogasanas. It is like a festival and a show to watch. Yoga has now entered our households and is very effective for one's well being ness. Yoga costs nothing and helps in all round development of human beings.

NCC Camps

NCC camps are the most suited to organise social service activities as there are about 600 NCC cadets available for a duration of 10 days. During these 10 days the cadets stay at the camp itself and therefore are available all the time. During these camps the cadets undergo host of activities like parade training, firing, sailing, morning exercise, yoga, group sports, lectures on NCC related subjects, fire fighting demonstrations, disaster management, group discussions, cultural programmes. In addition to these, rallies are undertaken by cadets thereby spreading the message of various social service activities etc.

Outcome of Social Service Activities

The above social service activities are few of the activities the NCC cadets conduct to spread awareness amongst the masses. These activities greatly help in educating the cadets

themselves. These activities are social work and helps in introducing in the cadets qualities like self awareness, discipline, communication skills, empathy, adaptability, organisational skills, dedication and many more qualities.

These activities are planned meticulously and supervised by the Officers, Soldiers and ANOs. The cadets after participating in these events learn organisational skills as there are various components to be accommodated in conducting a social service activity. Within limited resources one has to organise these activities and that too with perfection. Each activity has many sub events and further details of each sub head have to be worked out in advance.

The senior cadets with experience are given opportunity to organise these activities there by honing their skills. This process makes them learn many a management principles and leadership skills. To organise an activity the cadets are briefed in detail about the event. Say for eg. Under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission a rally has to be organised, then complete detail of the mission has to be understood and imbibed by the cadets, then only the message will be spread in true sense. With the large presence of NCC cadets, they are a catalytic force in implementation of large number of social service activities.

Objectives of the research

NCC cadets are actively involved in organising various social service activities like cleanliness drives, yoga day, tree plantation, anti tobacco drive, road safety, disaster management etc. These activities leads to introduction of leadership skills, dignity of labour, event management skills etc. The objectives of this research are:

- (a) To study the various social services activities in which the NCC cadets are involved.
- (b) To study the techniques adopted for instilling the above qualities amongst the NCC Cadets.
- (c) To identify the concepts that shall enable further improvement in the overall development of the NCC Cadets.

V. HYPOTHESIS

H01 :Participation by NCC Cadets in social service activities develops in them qualities like communication skills, empathy, adaptability, organisational skills, dedication etc.

Data Analysis and Interpretation of Facts

A questionnaire comprising various qualities that quantify communication skills, dedication, empathy, adaptability, organisational skills was prepared .The questionnaire was distributed to 100 SD and SW NCC cadets.For wider participation the questionnaire was also disseminated to cadets who have already completed tenure of NCC. The questionnaire's result was compiled and results evaluated. The statements on the above qualities is enumerated below and participants were required to describe their choice as accurately as they could by putting a tick mark on five point rating scale as Always, Often, Occasionally, rarely and Never.

Q1. The team is aware about your thought process.

Team spirit is utmost in the Cadets mind as was visible by the Cadets choice of answer. The ideas are shared amongst each other so as to home on the best viable solution.

Q2. Team members are aware of any amendments to an activity.

Sharing of ideas, decisions, future plans are part and parcel of team management. The respondents have responded correctly.

Q3. All team members are aware of their job specifications.

Every member in the team is aware as to what they have to do. The participants have extensively voted for the most favoured choice.

Q4. Hearing to what people are saying.

Hearing to others is one of the most important principles of communication. The respondents has favoured the concept of hearing.

Q5. Presents complex ideas in a clear manner.

It is very important that complex ideas or statements have to be presented in easy to understand manner to avoid any doubts in the minds of recipient. In the NCC focus is on communication skills as any communication gap can be fatal.The cadets have responded favourably.

Q6. You easily relate with your teammate feelings.

Empathy is another important quality one should possess. It helps one in relating to the group and helps in group dynamics. The participants have responded in favour of empathy.

Q7. You feel sad when your friend is facing problems.

One needs to be strong mentally. However it is humane to be caring and looking after your teammates. Every man is important in a team. A team has to be close knit to succeed.

Q8. You feel uncomfortable on getting transferred from one place to another

The result shows that the participants are able to adjust easily to the new place of transfer. In the training, it has been ingrained that nothing is permanent but change.

Q9. You easily adjust to changes.

The cadets results show that they are easily able to adapt/adjust to changes.

Q10. Your team members listen to you and able to meet deadlines.

In the survey its found that the team mates listen to the team leader and make progress in there work.

Q11. You delegate some components of work to your subordinates.

In the NCC you are required to complete various types of projects/activities in a time bound manner and so you have to delegate work to your subordinates. The cadets have favoured delegation of work.

Q12. You are quick in decision making.

The cadets have favoured quick decision making with due thought process as in the NCC there are situations, activities wherein split second decision making is to be made.

Q13. You take your work seriously.

The result clearly shows that the cadets take the work allotted to them earnestly.

Q14. You are ready to work long hours to complete tasks in time.

The result project that the Cadets have the stamina to work for long hours to accomplish a task.As such the NCC training builds stamina in the cadets by constantly monitoring there output and at times they are told to redo an activity. The cadets are made to stand long hours on the parade ground for drill practice and other training activities. This helps in building endurance, patience and stamina. The NCC believes in the motto physically fit and mentally tough.

VI. SUGGESTIONS

1. Consideration for providing additional weightage to NCC cadets in all the states of India for joining government/civil jobs.

2.As the cadets have wide experience, preference to NCC cadetsby providing jobsin the corporates and government.

3. Vacancies to be increased in NCC for the cadets. There are innumerable institutions desiring for NCC but due to shortage of seats NCC is being denied. NCC be made more visible in rural areas.

4. NCC to be introduced as compulsory subject in colleges and schools.

5. Government to continue providing NCC free of cost i.e. issue of clothing items, refreshments and attending of camps; as now it is restricted only to government run institutions.

6. Availability of Uniforms to all Cadets at all times.
7. Activities and events organised by NCC should be given adequate coverage both by print and electronic media.
8. The NCC organisation to be provided with suitable accommodation for Office use, conduct of NCC camps and classes.
9. To effectively conduct social services activities all related therewith for conducting an activity to be provided to the Cadets.
10. The NCC Cadets are trained and disciplined manpower and could be put to greater use towards nation building.

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