



FERGUSSON COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), PUNE



National Service Scheme

The National Service Scheme is the real third dimension of Higher Education System close to social realities and community concern i.e., developing a living link with community by the institution of higher learning helps in marching towards the prosperity of the mankind. The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a government-sponsored public service program conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India.

History

In year 1958, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took initiative and advised the academicians to suggest the programme to involve student youth in social service activities. Popularly known as NSS, the scheme was launched in Mahatma Gandhi's Centenary year on 24th September 1969 which aimed at developing student's personality through community service.

In May 1969, a conference of student representatives (of universities and institutions of higher education), convened by the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission, unanimously agreed that a national level service scheme could be an instrument for national integration.

Motto

The Motto of NSS **"Not Me But You"** is a sense of expression of the essence of democratic living and upholds the need for selfless service and appreciation of the other man's point of view and also to underline that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of society as a whole. 24th September is celebrated every year as NSS Day with great enthusiasm and pride.

NSS in Fergusson College

NSS unit of Fergusson College was established in 1975 with around 50 volunteers. Presently, the NSS unit of Fergusson College (Autonomous)Pune, affiliated with Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) consists of 1500 volunteers.

The main aim of NSS unit in Fergusson College is to contribute to the wellbeing of the society in various fields and sectors. It also aims at developing the personality of young minds through community service who will later serve as citizens aiming for a better tomorrow. National Service Scheme unit of Fergusson College functions in a distinctive manner with seven different groups operating in various sectors aiming at public welfare and personality development of the volunteers.

The activities of NSS always encourages volunteers to understand community, to imbibe good relationship with society, national integration and to increase awareness about social issues. With utter zeal and enthusiasm, the work continues to serve the society throughout the year. Various activities such as elocution, poster making competitions,

debates, blood donation camp, interactive sessions for students, tree plantation programme, cleanliness drive and street plays helps the NSS unit to reach the society through every way possible.

NSS Programme Officer



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Following are the 7 groups of NSS unit of Fergusson College which works distinctively in consonance with their aims:

- 1.) Paryavaran**
- 2.) Aadhar**
- 3.) Aarogya**
- 4.) Vidnyan Prasara**
- 5.) Yuvamitra**
- 6.) Warsa**
- 7.) Shikshan Vivek**
- 8.) Karyalay**

1. Paryavaran: -

Aim -

To protect natural resources, focusing on creating awareness regarding environmental issues and imbibing the importance of natural resources among students.

Work -

The work of Paryavaran mainly focuses on motivating the students to keep their surroundings green and clean by undertaking plantation of trees. Promoting ethos of conservation of water by optimizing the use of water. Organizing seminars, debates, lectures and popular talks on environmental issues in the college to motivate the students to have a deeper understanding of environmental issues. Organizing Tree

plantation programmes, awareness programmes such as quiz, essay, painting competitions, rallies, nukkad natak etc. which will make them realize the importance of environment. Fieldvisits to environmentally important sites including polluted and degraded sites, wildlife parks, etc. are also arranged to make students practically aware about the concerns.

2.Aadhar: -

Aim -

Empowering weaker sections of society and making a difference towards eradication of stereotypes and challenging social norms. To take all steps for protecting the members of the society in the discharge of their duties.

Work -

The group works towards providing comprehensive and quality care and ensuring that the residents, senior citizens live with respect and dignity in secure, compassionate, congenial environment and surroundings. It works for establishing a social institution where society not only interacts and looks after weaker sections but also learns from them “the much-needed values of a healthy and peaceful society”. The spirit of Solidarity, brotherhood and cooperation among the members of the weaker sections of the society is also fostered. Contribution towards the socially excluded sections of society including LBGTQ is also encouraged.

3.Aarogya:

Aim-

To build an inwardly and substantially strong society and provide medical facilities to the deprived section.

Work-

Aarogya exclusively works towards the health sector. Number of activities are carried out. These activities are aimed at eradication of misconceptions regarding various diseases. It also focuses on encouraging the youth to come forward in number of social activities such as blood donation, stem cell donation through street plays and educating people regarding new techniques such as stem cell donation. Visiting hospitals for a better understanding of the working of health organizations and experiencing the grievances of the affected people is also carried out.

4.VidnyanPrasar: -

Aim -

The dissemination of science and inculcation of scientific approach among youngsters. Eradication of false beliefs and superstitions.

Work -

The group works towards providing proper incentive and inspiration for the pursuit of scientific knowledge in rigorous way by broadening their scientific outlook.

Development of the spirit and attitude of healthy competition for the individual and social cause is encouraged. These activities help the students in imbibing the habit of self-reliance, self-dependence and love for manual work. They provide opportunity for the development of the constructive, explorative and inventive faculties of the students.

5.Yuvamitra: -

Aim -

To encourage young blood to construct a better society and serve the community during catastrophe.

Work -

As the name suggests 'friend in youth'. The objectives and aims range from labour donation to strengthening the youth forces to personality development. To teach the values of standing together in times of need and of servitude. Inspired by Swami Vivekananda's preachings, the youth stands together, tougher and even more humble to lend service to the society.

6.Warsa: -

Aim -

To learn about and preserve the monumental wonders and spread admirable values of ethnic culture of India among the students.

Work -

Legacy, of places and art forms that represent the rich and ethnic culture of our glorious country is maintained. Several Treks, cleanliness drives in places of importance, pertaining to the history of that place and thus preserving the 'Warsa'. The main objectives include preserving our culture and letting the new generations know and wonder about the glorious past.

7.ShikshanVivek: -

Aim -

To educate the underprivileged and widen the scope of knowledge and learning.

Work -

The group works for cultivation of love for education among students. It strives towards building of a bright nation by applying acquired knowledge with conscience. It tries to enhance the creativity of students through variety of activities. Excellence is a combination of education and moral values and spreading suchsynchronized moral education is promoted.

Karyalay: -

Work -

Writing official letters, keeping a record of all the volunteers as well as the various activities conducted by different groups, as well as of the official property. Preparing various forms and permission applications and supervising all the necessary documentary work needed to run the department smoothly.

Main Activities: -

❖ **Nirmal Wari:**

An unbounded experience of spirituality and culture. The volunteers helped the devotees by serving them breakfast as the devotees shared their experiences. A grand aarti was performed at the entrance of the college turning the atmosphere pious.



❖ **Amrut Varsha:**

In this activity the volunteers helped the farmers to sow rice. They learnt about the various techniques used by the farmers. This helped the volunteers gain a first-hand experience of various farming methods including sowing.



❖ **Shiv Jayanti:**

Shiv Jayanti was organized to celebrate the valour of the greatest king “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj”. The program was a huge victory and indeed a memorable one. The volunteers were dressed traditionally and the celebration took place with great enthusiasm among the students





❖ **Plantation program:**

Every year plantation program is conducted on a large scale and also it focuses on not just planting trees but also taking care of them. Every volunteer takes care of the planted saplings as long they are in campus and thus the sapling eventually is given the necessary requirements.



❖ **Cleanliness drive-**

This Program exclusively focuses on cleaning the environment not only in the campus but also outside the campus. A cleanliness drive is organized on every possible occasion through which it is observed that the campus remains clean.



Disaster Management-

This activity promotes a sense of awareness among students about the actions to face the disasters. Through the activity the volunteers get practical knowledge regarding survival in various natural as well as artificial disasters. Affected areas of Sangli and Kolhapur floods were visited by volunteers and necessary requirements such as clothes, grains and many more were distributed by the volunteers themselves. During the Kerala flood relief also, the volunteers took a forefront and through all possible means raised funds and basic requirements.





FERGUSON COLLEGE

Students devote Sunday to collect relief material for flood-affected people in Kerala

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, AUGUST 19

IT IS 4 pm on a rainy Sunday but the office of the National Service Scheme (NSS) in Fergusson College is buzzing with activity. Since Saturday, the office has become a collection centre for Kerala flood victims.

Rather than spending a holiday with family and friends, a bunch of the youngsters were busy co-ordinating the collection of relief materials — clothes, blankets, biscuits, sanitary napkins and stationery items — carefully sorting out and packing them into cardboard cartons. The containers had been purchased by the NSS team.

Around 20 Student Representatives (SRs) are managing the collection of relief material and spreading the word using social media platforms, like WhatsApp and Facebook, in an attempt to get more supplies. The NSS volunteers are pleasantly surprised by the prompt response from the donors.

"We pasted posters on the college campus and also went to classrooms urging students to contribute whatever possible to help the lakhs of flood-affected people in Kerala. While we were anticipating that these contributions would



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start trickling in only on Monday, we were surprised to get a truckload of supplies on Saturday, which was immediately transferred to the Social Outreach Group of the college. On Sunday, too, people came forward to donate," said Arpan Galbe, one of the SRs overseeing the collection of relief material. While all departments of the college have promised to make some contributions, the Physics department came for-

ward on Saturday itself.

"They have handed over buckets, mugs, mosquito repellents, blankets and biscuits. Other departments will be donating during the week. We will be handing over the collected items to the Jan Kalyan Sanstha, who will transport the items to different parts of Kerala, as per need," said a student volunteer who is in the first year.

Asked about the quality of

the donated items, a student said: "A few set of clothes were in bad condition and we have carefully sorted the items before packing. Bulk of the items is new, like blankets and bed sheets, which have been donated."

Within the first 24 hours of the announcement for donation, 54 people contributed to the NSS camp, which the college students plan to keep open during the week.

❖ Runanubandhan:

Tying Raakhi to Soldiers, health care workers and every individual who contributes to the society. The activity promotes a sense of gratitude and honour which we have as citizens towards the pillars of our nation.



❖ **Samajbandhu:**

The activity aims at helping out the specially challenged students and providing opportunities to them to make them realize their true potential and visiting various organizations which work to empower the weaker sections of the society Through this, we evoke a feeling of compassion towards the excluded classes such as the LGBTQ community.



❖ Blood Donation Camp:

A BloodDonation camp is organized every year. This activity aims at spreading the awareness about blood donation among the students as well as the importance of stem cell donation, also clearing the misconceptions among many people regarding blood donation.



❖ Andhashraddha nirmulan:

The activity is carried out in order to remove superstitions and bring scientific temperament in the society. Throughout the year lectures and activities are organized and awareness regarding superstitions and false believes is spread. Through these activities scientific approach in the society is encouraged.



Street play on Akhand Bharat



Street Play on Voter's Awareness



❖ **Srushtidnyaan:**

A magazine prepared by volunteers is published every year in order to encourage the development of scientific temper in the society. It exclusively targets the young minds and acknowledges their creativity. The articles are written by the volunteers themselves. Various competitions are organized through this activity. Many known scientists and professors are interviewed as they share experiences regarding their knowledge of science.



NSS Orientation SAPTARANG



❖ Police Mitra –

An activity where the youth, our volunteers get on the streets and help our police officers on the field itself in terms of crowd management. This gives us an insight into the day to day life of traffic police and the challenges they face which the volunteers experience by themselves.



❖ Trekking –

Treks to various historical forts and monuments are carried out. The main objective of these treks is to know more about the places that we feel proud of as well as cleanliness campaigns are carried out at these places. The Motto is their preservation and avoid causing damage to these monumental wonders.



▪ Camps

The best part of NSS are its camp which enhances the overall personality of students helping them to understand the society at grassroot level.

- **Voter's awareness Programme**



➤ **Winter Camp: -**

“Real India lies in it's villages” as said by Mahatma Gandhi. For national reconstruction it is very important for the student youth, to be properly sensitized and utilized for strengthening the Indian society as a whole with particular emphasis on rural community and winter camp exactly focuses on the same.

A seven-day camp where volunteers stay in a village which is designated by the government as an initiative to adopt the village so that volunteers can focus on the transformation of that village discretely. Under this camp the volunteers spend 7 days in the respective village and various kind of surveys are conducted through which they are able to learn the problems faced by the villagers and also suggest majors to tackle them.

Various activities including cleanliness campaigns, encouraging villagers to take part in fun learning activities, teaching children in schools, eradication of false beliefs among the villagers, organizing seminars and interactive sessions regarding scientific techniques of farming are taken in this camp. The work does not stop here, NSS volunteers through surveys make sure that the problems should reach government and reforms take place.

The Shramdaan in which volunteers themselves contribute to the physical labour. The work used to take place on a daily basis for minimum three hours which makes them understand the hardwork taken by the farmers and helps them to gain a new perspective to develop an emotional intimacy and love towards the nation. Various other tasks like economic and social surveys, soil and water tests, free health check-ups, free guidance on law, surveys on the biodiversity of the village, cleanliness of the local water bodies, building farm dams are also carried out through Shramdaan. Schools in

the village are cleaned and plantation programme is conducted in which trees are mostly planted along roadside.

Cultural activities including dramas, debates and various competitions help the volunteers to come out of their comfort zone and become a better version of themselves. Through this camp the volunteers learn about the village lifestyle, their grievances and most importantly India in its true sense.





➤ **University Camp:**

Fergusson College NSS, along with the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) NSS, unitedly conducts the University Camps. There have been two such camps till date in the years 2017 and 2019 respectively.

The camp conducted in 2017 was named as 'Nisarga Maitri Aani Mulyashikshan Shibir'. This camp was conducted at Sneh Seva Parivar, Khanapur, Pune. The main aim of this camp was to indulge the volunteers in such a work that promotes bonding with the environment. Along with that, the need for basic values and views in relation to our environment was also stressed. This camp was conducted for 6 days. Around 150 students from various colleges under the SPPU attended this camp.





The camp conducted in 2019 was named as 'Anubhuti Swa-chi Ani Utkarsh Jeevnacha. It was conducted at Dnyandarshan Dharmashala, Alandi, Pune for 3 days. The activities conducted here, were manoeuvred by the aim of inculcating the values and attitudes of realising the self, having a goal in the life and our duty towards being self- sufficient.





➤ National Integrity Tour

The volunteers of National Service Scheme of Ferguson College (Autonomous) Pune, Maharashtra, have been conducting the 'National Integrity Tour' to the states of Ishanya Bharat for last 3 years. Through this student driven, self financed tour, we aim for reaching out to the tribals, living in the heart of these states, understanding their culture, traditions and lifestyle by living with them for 10-12 days and sharing this experience and information with the rest of the world. These efforts were also appreciated by the Governors of Meghalaya and Nagaland Tathagata Roy and Padmanabh Ji Acharya respectively.

In coming years, 'National Integrity Tour' has a vision of contributing to the process of Integration of India. Through this medium, people will be able to know about the diversity in our cultures and will be able to inculcate and work for the idea of 'एकभारत – श्रेष्ठभारत'. By visiting the

heaven on Earth- Northeast India, by living with the natives, by experiencing their life first-hand, NIT

works for the creation of a bridge, a bridge for the exchange of values, traditions and culture between us and to bring back the Northeasterners into the mainstream of scientific, social and political knowledge thus letting the winds of integrity flow freely amongst us. NIT mainly targets 4 sectors of the society covering each and every age-group.

- **Cultural** - Experiencing the lifestyle of the natives, their culture and traditions and reciprocating regarding our culture.
- **Educational**- Teaching basic Hindi, simple maths, GK and also geographical locations through maps and basic scientific experiments as well.

- **Medical-** Making them aware of the basic sanitation facilities and providing scientific ways of dealing with ailments.
- **Social-** Bonding with the locals and village heads.



Important is the thought not the scale. It's a platform which allows us to break our limitations and explore as an individual. We are extremely proud to be a part of this legacy and will definitely strive to continue it forever and ever!

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