

NSS: The Introduction

It was Gandhiji, the Father of the Nation who introduced the idea of *service to the nation* by the youths through practice at the student level keeping in view their social responsibility. After independence, UGC, headed by Dr. Radhakrishnan recommended to incorporate social service at academic institutions on a voluntary basis to develop healthy relationships between teachers and students as well as between the community and the institutions. Accordingly, in 1958, the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru directed the Ministry of Education to formalize & introduce National Service Scheme (NSS) as complementary to Education into the academic institutions. So National Service Scheme (NSS) is a social education, awareness and amelioration program involving young people in the betterment of socio-economic conditions and working towards environment protection. The program had its formal inception in Gandhiji's Birth Centenary year, 1969, under an initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India when it was introduced at 37 universities with 40,000 students enrolled as volunteers. From 1984, 24th September is celebrated as NSS day all over India.

The Aim

Basic aim is the personality development of the students through community service i.e. to inculcate the spirit of service in students and redirect their attention to the weaker or underprivileged sections of society.

The Motto

To establish the concept of ***Not Me, but You*** in the society through selfless service, democratic living, appreciation for others' ideas and consideration for fellow human-being showing ***Empathy*** in place of sympathy. Some of the characteristic NSS activities are Shramdaan, blood donation camps, tree plantation, disaster management, national integration camps etc. Special camping program may include Adult Education, Hospital and Orphanage Activity, Anti Superstition Activity, Nutrition and General Health Awareness activity in rural and urban areas.

Administrative Structure

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is the nodal ministry for NSS and has the administrative responsibilities for the Policy Making, Implementation and Evaluation of NSS programs. They have set up NSS regional centres in the country to maintain liaison with the state governments, universities, 2 councils (TOC/ TORC) and the institutions. Now to run successfully one NSS unit, the institute must form one advisory committee as per the guide line which might consist of the Principal as the chairperson, the Program Officer as the Member Secretary and few other senior faculty members as Members of the committee. The role of Program Officer is of immense importance as organizer, as educator, as coordinator, as supervisor as well as an administrator.

NSS Units & their activities

Few relevant points about the NSS units are as follows:

- ✓ Program Officer has to be trained within 1 yr. after formation of the unit. In West Bengal, training is provided by Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission periodically.

- ✓ 1 NSS unit may consist of 100 student volunteers within (18-25) years of ages, who after 2 years of active participation will be eligible to get NSS certificate from the central authority.
 - ✓ Each year's program must include 120 hours of work schedule and its successful implementation which consists of
 - i) Orientation Program: 20 Hours
 - ii) Campus Work: 30 Hours
 - iii) Community Service: 70 Hours
 - ✓ Campus work may include Blood Donation activity, Tree Plantation activity, Pulse Polio program, Awareness programs like Child Marriage, Gender Issues , Dowry issues, Anti Smoking campaign, Fitness Awareness program, Water Literacy program, Rain water harvesting , Environmental Awareness, Traffic awareness, Employment and Livelihood generation etc
 - ✓ Additionally, few special programs may be organized and few special days may be observed as given below:
 - i) Special Programs: Science Talent Search Competition, Career Orientation Program, Mental Counseling of the students before Examination, Alternative Energy Awareness Program, Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Cancer Awareness Program specially breast cancer awareness camp which is very common among women all over the world.
 - ii) Special Day celebrations, such as:
 - a) World environment Day
 - b) International Women's Day
 - c) University Foundation Day
 - d) Institute Foundation Day
 - e) National Unity Day
 - f) National Education Day
 - g) National Science Day
 - h) International Yoga Day etc
- Additionally, Aranya Saptaha (Forest Week), Youth Week may also be celebrated
- ✓ Community Services can be done in an adopted village or urban slum area where tuberculosis, AIDs awareness programs, Arsenic mitigation & social mobilization program, Adult Education & Computer Literacy program, Anti Superstition Program may be taken up. Additionally, wasteland development, Nutrition camp, Mother- Children health care program can be organized too.

Self Financing Units (SFUs)

MAKAUT has taken the initiative to start NSS SFUs, initially at some of its selected institutions. GURU NANAK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (GNIT) has got the opportunity to work as one of the SFUs under NSS. Here required financial assistance has to be arranged by the institute itself at present. But there may be the possibilities of getting Government Financial help in future.

Various Activities during the year 2018-19

Wildlife Conservation initiative

A notable step in the direction of protecting wildlife was the **donation made by the students to the World Wildlife Fund, New Delhi**. Funds mobilized by a collection drive undertaken by students were given to the WWF, in order to contribute to the **“Save Tiger” project**, aimed at reducing poaching, hunting, illegal killing and also a resettlement in their indigenous habitat. As the Program Officer explained, the funds contributed to the program would be utilized for the protection of endangered tigers and for the developing of a forest or wetland area suitable for their rehabilitation. Students also took part in a **Poster Competition on the theme “Save Our Animals”**, whereby they made and displayed posters on the theme of wildlife conservation, made a poster display and presentation session. An exhibition of these posters was also later made in the Central Library. **63 no of students** are participated in this event on **23rd August 2018**.



Students are participating on Wildlife Conservation

Plastic-free campus

A special focus this year was the making of a plastic-free campus, during a “Plastic-free” week in course of the NSS activities on campus in **6th November 2018**, when students eagerly participated in making the campus plastic free by collecting all plastic refuse and garbage and sending them for safe disposal. Students made posters on Ban on Plastics, which they displayed and took out small rallies within the campus to educate all on the need for using biodegradable materials. Total **78 No of B.Tech Students** have participated in this event.



Plastic free society campaigning by GNIT students

Donation of Money and Clothes to Bharat Sevashram Sangha and Ramkrishna Mission

Money for developing infrastructure, Old clothes and food packets were donated to **Bharat Sevasram Sangha** and **Ramkrishna Mission**, Barrackpore by GNIT faculties and students for development of poor villagers. Under the NSS unit of GNIT total **87 no of B.Tech 1st year students** were participated in this event held on **13th September 2018**.



Donating Money for developing infrastructure, Old clothes and food packets to **Bharat Sevasram Sangha and **Ramkrishna Mission**, Barrackpore**

Swaccha Bharat Abhiyan

In close agreement with the initiative of MHRD, Dept. of Higher Education, Govt of India and AICTE, Guru Nanak Institute of Technology(GNIT), Sodepur, Kol-114 has participated whole- heartedly and celebrated the Swacchata Bharat Abhiyan, through various activities in the month of **September,2018**. Cleaning and beautification of the GNIT front gate adjacent area (public road & area) was initiated by the GNIT NSS unit. **Total 83 No of students** were participated from B.Tech 1st year.



All the faculty and staff members, students of GNIT are participated in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, invoved to clean nearest Nilgunj Road

GNIT Walks for Environment on 16th Foundation Day

To commemorate the College Foundation Day, **16th August-2018** GNIT pledges to work towards Social Harmony, Environmental Sustainability and Swachhata and conducted a massive awareness rally with posters, banners depicting the theme, walked miles to spread the message in the locality. The long march reached the campus with the promise of a cleaner, greener and more habitable world ahead. Total **132 no of B.Tech students** were participated under the guidance of teachers of NSS unit, GNIT.



Rally on " Social Harmony, Environmental Sustainability and Swachhata " on the eve of The 16th Foundation Day of Guru Nanak Institute of Technology on 16th August 2018

Programs on Women and Community Outreach

There were several programs sensitizing girl students about various gender issues and problems. An information-sharing session was organized on “*Sexual Harassment at the Workplace*,” several case studies and remedial measures were discussed. A knowledge-sharing session was also held on “*Women’s Health and Hygiene*”, issues on women’s reproductive health were discussed. Students were encouraged to bring and to sort out various queries related to health. A community outreach program was held in which female faculty, staff and students met and interacted with women of the local community and distributed sanitary pads to the lesser privileged women. Total **92 no of girls students** are participated in this event held on **2nd May, 2019**.



A knowledge-sharing session on *Women’s Health and Hygiene*

Visit to old age home

Staff and student members of NSS unit, Gurunanak Institute of Technology visited **"Ramkrishna Bridha Ashram"** at Sodepur on **15-03-2019** for distributing foods and clothes. **Total 65 no of B.Tech 1st year students** participated for this charity drive. The GNIT team returned with blissful peace in mind seeing the glimpse of joy and happiness in the faces of the inmates.





NSS Unit, GNIT visited the old age home and distributed fruits and sweets among the inmates

Celebration of Yoga Day

To promote better mental, physical and spiritual development, Guru Nanak Institute of Technology along with the GNIT NSS Unit (SFU) celebrated International Yoga Day like every year on 21 June 2019 in the Central Library Arena. Under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Santanu Kumar Sen, Principal, GNIT and Prof. (Dr.) Sucharita Bhattacharyya, all the faculty members participated in a 30 minutes Session under the guided instructions of Prof. Rafiqul Islam.

The Session witnessed the natural benefits of yoga i.e.: Pranayama, Tadasana, Uttanasana, Halasana, Bhujangasana, Vrikshasana, to name a few - simple strategies and procedures which can be aligned with our lifestyle ensuring mental and physical reimbursement thereby consolidating and offering stress minimization and gaining physiological equilibrium for enhancing better quality of life, peace and happy identity among GNIT-ians.



Yoga Day celebration

Celebration of Jal Divas

Guru Nanak Institute of Technology with a mission got engaged with United Nations World Water Day, **22nd March 2019** and Atal Mission for rejuvenation and urban transformation, Central Water Commission, Jal Mantralay, 'Jal dharo Jal bharo' (Collect water, store water) to meet the target of **sustainable development Goal 6: Water for All by 2030**. "Access to water underpins public health and is therefore critical to sustainable development and a stable and prosperous world" – United Nations. For ground water reservation the faculty members and students stood by the leadership team to plant saplings at GNIT Campus as an initiative towards water conservation. The students of GNIT ran a *Door-to-Door Awareness Camp* across all the verticals of the Guru Nanak Campus i.e.: GNIHM, GNIT, GNIPST and GNIDSR wherein all pledged to work round the year to "Save Water, Save Life". **Total 295 no of B.Tech students** were participated from all streams.



Campaigning by students for "Save Water, Save Life"



Tree plantation on the day of celebration of Jal Divas

Observation of National Independence Day:

The institute celebrated the National Independence Day on 15th August 2018. The employees and students gathered in the institute. The National Flag was hoisted at 9 am in the morning followed by the singing of the National Anthem. A small cultural event was organised to pay tribute to our Nation. The program ended with a speech by the Principal of the Institute. This inculcates the attachment and sense of responsibility towards the Nation as a citizen and promotes cultural harmony.



Glimpses of the cultural program organised on Independence Day

Commemoration of World Environment Day:

There were a number of events were held commemorating the World Environment Day, commencing in June, in which tree plantation programs and seminars and workshops on biodiversity. the theme was “Beat Air Pollution” Faculty members took the initiative to plant saplings on campus. There was also a seminar and an information dissemination drive on Bioplastics. The varied use of Bioplastics as biodegradable materials coming from renewable resources, serving aims of conservation as well as reducing environmental pollution, were highlighted. Students learnt about the Reduction of Carbon footprint, non consumption of non-renewable raw materials, reduction of non-biodegradable wastes that contaminates the environment , absence of additives that are harmful to health.



Glimpse of Tree plantation on World Environment Day