

NSS

(National Service Scheme)

NSS stands for the **National Service Scheme**.

It is a major public service program in India, primarily for students at the school (+2 level) and college/university level.

Here is a breakdown of the key information about NSS:

Key Facts

- **Administered By:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
- **Launched:** 1969, during the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Motto: "NOT ME BUT YOU"**
 - This reflects the essence of democratic living and upholds the need for selfless service, emphasizing that the welfare of an individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of the society as a whole.
- **Purpose:** To develop the personality and character of student youth through voluntary community service, linking the "Campus and Community."

Main Objectives

The scheme aims to develop the following qualities in its volunteers:

1. To **understand the community** in which they work.
2. To **identify the needs and problems** of the community and involve themselves in problem-solving.
3. To develop a sense of **social and civic responsibility**.
4. To acquire **leadership qualities** and democratic attitudes.
5. To develop the capacity to meet **emergencies and natural disasters**.
6. To practice **national integration** and social harmony.

Activities of NSS

NSS activities are broadly divided into two categories:

1. Regular Activities (120 Hours per Year)

Volunteers are typically required to complete a minimum of **120 hours of service per year** for two years (total 240 hours). These include activities focused on:

- **Education:** Literacy campaigns, teaching children in adopted villages/slums.
- **Health:** Blood donation camps, immunisation drives, health awareness programs (HIV/AIDS, sanitation).
- **Environment:** Plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns (**Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**), waste management.
- **Social Service:** Work with the elderly, orphanages, and disaster relief.

2. Special Camping Programmes (7 Days)

Each NSS unit organizes a **7-day special camp** (with day-night boarding and lodging) in an adopted village or urban slum. These camps focus on a specific project, involving the local community to create tangible outcomes and foster a deep connection between the students and the community.

The NSS Badge

The NSS badge is worn with pride by the volunteers:

- **Symbol:** It is based on the **Konark Sun Temple's Rath Wheel** (The Black Pagoda).
- **Eight Bars:** These signify the **24 hours of the day**, reminding the wearer to be ready for service round the clock.
- **Colors:**
 - **Red:** Signifies the energy and spirit of the volunteers.
 - **Navy Blue:** Signifies the cosmos, indicating that NSS is a tiny part ready to contribute to the welfare of mankind.