

# OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SELF FINANCING UNITS OF NSS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background: The National Service Scheme (NSS), a voluntary and value based student youth programme is one of the major youth schemes being operated in the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. It was launched during the birth centenary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1969 in 37 universities involving 40,000 students in pursuance of one of the recommendations of the Educational Commission, 1964-65. NSS, presently (2009-2010) has 32.5 lakh volunteers, in 1000 Universities, 14698 Colleges, 1196 Technical Institution, 8174 (+2) Schools and 1000 (+2) Senior Secondary Boards/Councils and Directorates of Vocational Education. During its 41 years of fruitful existence more than 3.63 crore students have so far benefited from this largest student-volunteership programme in the world.

1.2. Aims & Objectives: The aims and objectives of the NSS are: (i) to render service to the community while studying in an educational institution; (ii) to arouse social conscience among students; (iii) to provide them with an opportunity to work creatively and constructively with the community around the educational campus; (iv) to put the education they receive to concrete social use; and specifically, (i) to work with and among the people; (ii) to engage in creative and constructive social action; (iii) to enhance knowledge of oneself and the community through a face to face with reality; (iv) to use the knowledge gained in the class room in a practical way for mitigating at least some of the social problems; and (v) to gain skills through programme development to be able to be self-employed. The goals are to achieve improvement in personality, leadership potential, national outlook and a sense of social responsibility.

1.3. Motto: The motto of the NSS is 'NOT ME BUT YOU'. This expresses the essence of democratic living and upholds the need to appreciate the other man's point of view first and to show consideration for fellow human beings. It also underlines that the welfare of the individual is ultimately dependent on the welfare of society as a whole. NSS attempts to establish meaningful linkages between "Campus and Community", "College and Village" and "Knowledge and Action".

1.4. Programmes: The basic unit of NSS consists of 50 or 100 volunteers at school/college level headed by a Programme Officer (usually a lecturer). At the University level, the NSS is looked after by Programme Coordinators (Full-time and Part-time Readers). The State Liaison Cell at the State Secretariat is primarily responsible for the implementation of the scheme including timely release of grants to the NSS institutions. The NSS has two types of programmes, viz., (a) Regular activities and (b) Special Camping programmes. Under the "Regular Activities" students are expected to work as volunteers for a continuous period of two years rendering community service for a minimum of 120 hours per annum. The activities under Regular Programme include improvement of campuses, tree plantation, constructive work in adopted villages and slums; work in welfare institutions, etc.

donation, adult and non-formal education, health, nutrition, family welfare, awareness campaign etc.

Under Special Camping Programme, a camp of 07 days' duration is conducted each year in the adopted area on a specific theme like "Youth Against Famine", "Youth Against Dirt and Disease", "Youth for Development", "Youth for Mass Literacy". New dimensions have been added in recent years by integrating AIDS Awareness Campaign for student youth under "Universities Talk AIDS/Student Talk AIDS Programme" and "Watershed Management and Wasteland Development Programmes" into the NSS Programme. The theme for the Special Camping Programme for the years 2006-2007 to 2008-2009 was "Healthy Youth for Healthy India". The Special Camping theme for the year 2009-10 is spread over five areas given below:

1. Environment including preservation of natural resources and conservation of cultural/historical heritage;
2. Health, public sanitation and personal hygiene;
3. Rural development including project identification, programme formulation, implementation and evaluation;
4. Education and literacy including legal awareness; and
5. Emergency interventions including trauma care, initial counseling and relief collection

## **2. THE RATIONALE**

2.1. Education is a price commodity, especially in India. For every child in school or college there are much more of them, who either could not make it or who could not get a chance to make it. The higher the level; the more the competition. This makes it incumbent upon a student of higher learning to return something to the society for the opportunity he/she got at the cost of others. NSS provides one such opportunity to a student through community service to return the social debts in his/her own way.

2.2. Although NSS has grown 70 times during its 41 years of existence it has not been able to cover 20 percent of the student community. Nor is it possible for the government to provide fund for universalisation of NSS. At the same time there is a spurt in demand to set up new NSS units in schools and colleges without tagging the conditionality of funding by government. There is scope to de-link NSS operation from funding for the Institutions, which are willing and capable to generate their own resource for programme activities. It is expected that this de-linking will expand the outreach of NSS and at the same time provide space to finance public funding for more deserving and needy institutions in an equitable manner.

## **3. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION**

3.1. A prescribed proforma for submission of the proposal is annexed. However, it is expected that the proposal will be self contained and will include:-

- The organizational/management committee details of the Institute including courses offered, no. of students in each class (boys/girls), recognition/affiliation status etc.
- An operational plan for functioning of NSS including number of Units proposed
- Identification of key personnel (Programme Officers/Programme Coordinator etc.)
- Infrastructure available for NSS operations.
- Source and scale of funding for NSS activities/programmes.
- Past experience of the institution in Social work.
- Statutory details and certificates of recognition/registration if any, with photo copy
- Contact details of the Principal/Head of the institution.

3.2. The proposal for opening new NSS SFUs should be signed by the Principal/Head of the institution.

3.3. Institution having existing NSS unit(s) on fully funded basis may also set up new NSS units on self-financing basis.

3.4. The proposal for opening new NSS SFUs should be signed by the Principal/Head of the institution. The institution seeking to open NSS SFU should submit their proposal to the concerned NSS Regional Centre. A copy of the proposal may be sent to State Liaison Officer and NSS Programme Coordinator of the State University/+2 Council concerned; for their information.

3.5. The NSS Regional Centres will obtain the necessary approval from the Programme Adviser and convey such approval/disapproval to the concerned institutions.

#### 4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AFFILIATION

4.1. The SFUs will for all practical purposes operate as the regular NSS Units except that the funding for the 'Regular Activity' and 'Special Camping' institutional establishment expenses like honorarium to Programme Coordinator/Programme Officer and support staff has to be borne by the Institution.

4.2. The initial period of affiliation of the NSS SFU will be 5 (five) years, which may be extended depending on the performance of the units.

4.3. All the provisions of the NSS manual shall be binding on the NSS Units operating on self-financing basis.

4.4. The newly set up SFU will form a part constituent of the State Contingent and shall be under the overall administrative control of the NSS Liaison Cell in the State Government/UT Administration.

4.5. The NSS SFU will also submit reports, information etc. as per requirement to their respective NSS University Cell with a copy to the concerned Regional Centre and State Liaison Cell.

4.6. The concerned Regional Centre, NSS will be responsible for imparting training, orientation of the key NSS officials of the NSS SFU through its Training Orientation Centres (TORCs)/Training Orientation and Research Centres (TORCs) as in the case of fully funded NSS units.

4.7. The decision of the Government of India regarding operation of this scheme shall be final.

## 5. INCENTIVES TO NSS SFU

5.1. The SFU shall be eligible at par with other NSS units for participation in the national level programmes conducted by NSS HQrs.

5.2. The SFU shall be eligible to participate in the Republic Day Parade Camps, NSS including the pre RD Camps, Adventure Programme, Mega Camps, Youth Festival, Award etc.

5.3. The SFU will also be eligible to conduct national level programmes of NSS sponsored by other national as well as international/multilateral organizations.

5.4. Volunteers from NSS SFUs will be eligible to participate in national/international youth exchange programmes conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, HQrs.,

5.5. The SFUs through their respective NSS Regional Centre and NSS HQrs. shall avail financial assistance aid under the schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

## 6. FINANCING THE NSS SELF FINANCING UNIT

6.1. The finance limit for the out of pocket allowance, honorarium, shall be as per the prescribed norm under NSS manual.

6.2. The cost norms for the regular activity and special camping programme shall not exceed Rs.600/- and Rs.1000/- respectively.

6.3. The SFU Institution may, if necessary, charge a nominal fee for programme activities. The fee structure and its utilization shall be subject to approval of systems and procedures prevalent in the Institutions where the SFUs exist.

6.4. The accounts of NSS SFU shall be maintained separately by the Programme Coordinator/Programme Officer concerned and the audited account should be placed before the respective NSS Advisory Committee of the University/Institution Council/Institution annually.