



Research Paper

The Role of Government First Grade College NSS in Rural Reconstruction

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Abstract

From a developmental perspective, rural society is a major and crucial part of India. Economic development in India is vitally based on rural economic development. Rural development can be achieved through various programmes, activities, and services. NSS is one such service scheme in India that helps the youth of rural communities contribute their skills, knowledge, efforts, talents, etc. for reshaping rural society. This paper attempts to assess the role of NSS in rural development through various health awareness, social awareness, and community awareness programs and camps organized by Government First-Grade College Kapu.

I. Introduction

Education has always been measured as a modernizing instrument for the socioeconomic transformation of society. The aspirations of taking education as a tool and instrument for change and learning for life reconstruction with social and cultural goals are considered a way of progressing and enriching oneself and one's own people. Education has, therefore, formed an instrument of progress and modernity by using classical and new ideas, concepts, methods, and approaches in working and using new tools and technologies to work, develop, create, and change. A society develops and prospers on the basis of the culture (attitudes, approaches, and practices) and wealth created, and on working and using technologies for producing socially useful and productive work. Education is a lifelong and life-centric learning process of knowing oneself, finding one's own intelligence and talents, and nurturing and developing them in one's personal and social lives. This is also the basis of work one does, individually and in a group, and creates wealth, money, physical as well as non-monetary, and cultural enrichment for oneself and our society. NSS is one such service scheme in which an aspirant contributes their talents and skills to the growth of society.

The main objective of this study is to review the contribution made by the NSS unit of GFGC Kapu since its inception. Explain the role of NSS in the social development of rural communities. The study also highlighted the significant growth of NSS contributions for the five-year period from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

The methodology followed in this paper is to assess the role of NSS in rural development through various awareness programs and special camp activities organized by the GFGC Kapu, with special reference to health awareness, social awareness, and community awareness programs and camps. The five-year data for the period of 2011-12 to 2015-16 were collected from the college about the number of volunteers, financial grants received, and the value of the work done during these years.

Birth of National Service Scheme

During the late 1960s, the country had to suffer and witness economic stagnation, political instability, natural calamities such as droughts and floods, liberation of Bangladesh and settlement of refugees, and the ruling party's defeat in several state assemblies. Students' movements gained momentum from 1967-1969 and the left-led Naxalite movement all over the country emerged significantly and reached its peak (Kapoor, 1997). Amidst this critical juncture, the Education Commission headed by Dr. D. S. Kothari (1964-66) recommended that students at all stages of education should be associated with some form of social service. This was taken into account by the State Education Minister during their conference in April 1967, and they recommended that at the university stage, students could be permitted to join the National Cadet Corps (NCC), which was already in existence on a voluntary basis, and an alternative could be offered to them in the form of a new program called the National Service Scheme (NSS).

In 1969, on the occasion of Gandhiji's Birth Centenary, the Government of India officially launched the National Service Scheme under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 37 universities involving 40,000 students, with a primary focus on the development of students' personality through community service. At present, the NSS has more than 3.2 million student volunteers on its roll spread over 298 universities and 42 (+2) Senior Secondary Councils and Directorate of Vocational Education all over the country. From its inception, more than 3.75 crore students from Universities, Colleges and Institutions of higher learning have benefited from NSS activities as student volunteers. NSS is the largest youth movement in the world. The State and Central Governments provide financial support at a ratio of 7:5 for the implementation of this programme.

About GFGC Kapu

Degree Education in the surrounding private colleges was not affordable for the poor and lower middle-class people. Thus, these students were deprived of higher education. In view of this, the Government of Karnataka started this college in 1992 in order to meet the higher educational needs of the lower and middle income groups of Kapu village with the objective of imparting the necessary quality education to enable every student to earn executive positions and also to motivate and equip them to lead a quality life in society. The college exclusively provided Arts and Commerce education from 2009-10. From 2010 onward, the BBM course began in college. Most of the students studied in this college were from rural areas.

The college made tremendous and praiseworthy progress in all spheres of activities since the first NAAC accreditation was conducted in March 2005 and accredited with C+ grade. The college was conferred 2 (f) during September 2004 and 12 (B) on 2.2.2007. From an intermediate college onward, college strength has grown considerably and has taken a long leap into the future by adding highly qualified faculty and infrastructure facilities. In this regard, colleges have shown good academic performance in university exams. The college is one of the prestigious colleges in Udupi, and it has also appeared on national maps by conducting national conferences, seminars, and research work carried out by faculty members.

The college was shifted to its own two-floor building in December 2012. A new building is a rich infrastructure base for maintaining the quality of academic and other programs. There were 15 adequately ventilated and well-equipped grand-size rooms in this building. The UGC-funded separate building for libraries, computer labs, and reading rooms adds value to academic excellence in the college. All departments had well-equipped teaching aids. Most departments use modern teaching aids, such as LCD & Audio Visualizers.

There is also a "Computer lab and Language lab" are adequately equipped with the latest software and well furnished. The college has a spacious playground for sports activities. The main funding sources for infrastructure development are the State Government and UGC. The Separate Girls Common Room exists in the college to take a case on the specific needs of women. The ramps into the college building were constructed to meet the requirements of differently able students. The college library is enriched with reference books, journals, and UGC INFONET Electronic resources. The college published an annual college magazine named 'KADAL SIRI'. The library is accessible to readers during all working hours of the college. Spacious reading rooms and journals/magazines were available. A small well laid out garden with tree plantations and greenery in front of the college is in progress, which contributes to the ambiance of the surroundings.

One of the milestone achievements of the college is that the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) re-accredited the college during the month of September, 2014 and the college accreditation status is promoted from C+ grade to 'B' grade accreditation. The college ensures the involvement of the students and faculty with the community through National Service Scheme/Rangers and Rower/Red Cross Cell. College contributes to society by conducting various programs in the form of social awareness, gender equity, national unity, and integration. The college submitted a proposal to start new PG courses from the next academic year.

NSS and rural development

The NSS is one of the great schemes of the nation. The NSS has been an integral part of the college since its inception in 1994. The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of GFGC Kapu aims to involve youth in the service of the rural community and its development. The unit aims to promote the participation of young men in rural community services, national integration, community living, eradication of illiteracy, improvement of hygienic conditions, first aid, appreciation of the dignity of labor, and combining physical work with intellectual pursuit, working on nation-building activities, organization of debates, group discussions, improvement of games and sports, propagation of family planning, plantation, small savings, preservation of monuments, organization of entertainment programs, carrying out socioeconomic surveys about different aspects of rural life, combating calamities like famine, flood, drought, and earthquake, and last but not the least mobilizing available resources for the development of the rural community as a whole.

The NSS unit educates oneself through the service. The NSS unit has a fine record of service for several years, which is remembered in all places in Kapu village adopted during the NSS annual camps. NSS training fulfills the social responsibility of students and makes them responsible for citizens.

The NSS unit of the college undertakes various awareness camps and programs. The unit adopts a different place in Kapu village, where the NSS volunteers carried out various health awareness programs, such as comprehensive health check-ups for rural children and women. Awareness programs for basic hygiene, women's healthcare, childcare, blood donation camps, AIDS awareness, tobacco awareness programs, drug awareness programs, TB awareness programs, dengue awareness programs, and organ donation.

The NSS of the college also arranges different types of social awareness programs, such as tree plantations, campaigned on the hazards of using plastic, traffic awareness programs, rainwater harvesting awareness, etc.

Community services such as organizing campus cleaning programs, cleaning the Kapu village Panchayat, cleaning the Kapu primary health center, and surveying the socioeconomic status of the surrounding places in Kapu village.

The college organizes every year of the NSS Special Camp Program since the inception of NSS. During the camp, the NSS volunteers participated in different activities such as cleaning, campus premises, sweeping of campus premises and nearby markets, visiting a village for surveys on health and socioeconomic status, and coconut tree plantation.

Brief highlights of the current year's NSS Special Camp of the College held from 30.12.2015 to 05.01.2016 at Govt. Primary School at Hejamadi. The camp gave a very good exposure to the volunteers, wherein it helped them build leadership quality, adjusting themselves to the environment, unity, talents, courage, discipline, knowing the people, their culture and tradition, hospitality, the needs of society, etc. During the camps, apart from cleaning school campuses, water tanks, toilets, the anganwadi center, and surrounding temples, volunteers created awareness among the rural people on the importance of health and hygiene, cleanliness, and education for women. Students conducted campaigns through cultural events on Anti-Alcoholism, Anti-Tobacco, and Dengue. Based on the data collected in the village and the analysis of it the needs of the village people were identified and a memorandum was submitted to the concerned authority to do the needful to help.

Table 1. Five years details of NSS budget and contribution.

Sl. No.	Year	Volunteers	Volunteers in the Special Camp	Grant Received	Value of the work done
1	2011-12	90	45	18,000.00	22,000.00
2	2012-13	92	46	23,000.00	30,000.00
3	2013-14	96	48	30,500.00	40,000.00
4	2014-15	98	50	30,500.00	45,000.00
5	2015-16	100	50	30,500.00	55,000.00

The above table shows that there is a significant increase in the number of volunteers who joined the NSS. It shows a 10% increase in the number of volunteers from 2011-12 to 2015-16. Half of the volunteers participated in the annual special camp during 2014-15 and 2015-16. Even though the financial assistance received is equal during 2013-14 to 2015-16 but the maximum amount of work was done in 2015-16. The table clearly shows that there is an extensive contribution by the NSS of the college to the development of Kapu village.

With all these kinds of unconditional efforts and support from the college NSS unit, NGO's, the efforts of the administrators and political leaders, and other social organizations, Kapu village was declared by the Government of Karnataka as "KAPU TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL" in September 2015.

II. Conclusion

The existing motto of NSS 'NOT ME BUT YOU' expresses 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 show consideration for fellow human beings. NSS is not only a service scheme; it is the platform for the youth to contribute their efforts, skills, and talents for the betterment of rural society. The everlasting significant efforts by the NSS unit of GFGC Kapu clearly demonstrated the role of NSS in rural reconstruction. These efforts of NSS enforced the Government of Karnataka to initiate the reconstruction of "Kapu village" by upgrading the

status as “Kapu Town Municipal Council”. Thus, it can be proposed that the motto of the NSS be restated as ‘NOT WE BUT ALL’.

Bibliography

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