

National Service Scheme (NSS), 2023-2024

NSS Motto- 'NOT ME BUT YOU'

Our NSS unit started the academic year 2023-24 with a spirit of sensitization towards the societal issues and being generous in terms of service. The NSS team for the year was led by 7 leaders (1 female, 6 male) and Programme Officer Prof. Jordin Carvalho.

The aim for the year was to serve the community through various social outreach programs as well as increase awareness, knowledge and citizenship among volunteers through a range of seminars and college and university level activities.

The academic year began with 100 volunteers (32 male and 68 female) including new enrolments, who were selected on the basis of their personalities, willingness to learn and develop, dedication and commitment by the leaders.

Out of these 100 volunteers, 18 volunteers successfully completed their 240 hours of service in the NSS unit by participating in activities throughout the two years of their commitment. These volunteers also attended the annual Camp and are therefore eligible to receive the certificate from the Central Government under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. Throughout their service, the volunteers participated in planning, organizing and conducting various activities. They exhibited a sense of responsibility, hard work and teamwork and enhanced their capabilities. This year 26 volunteers successfully completed 120 hours of service requirement in their first year in NSS and hence, will continue to be a part of the Unit for the next academic year. This year was especially important and challenging for us as we had finally started offline activities without restrictions, after two years of being confined to stay indoors. Our NSS unit successfully organized and participated in a total of 79 activities throughout the academic year.

Some of the major activities that took place in this academic year include:

Community Activities/Area based projects:

Beach Cleanups and Awareness Drives:

This year our unit participated in beach cleanups with the Beach Warriors of Khushiyaan NGO at Dadar and Juhu beach. Regular beach and mangroves cleanups in collaboration with Swaccha Vasundhara Abhiyaan were also conducted on weekends at Carter's Beach, Bandra. These cleanups were a symbol of the change our little efforts can bring. Our Unit participated in a total of 16 Beach cleanups throughout the year including the Aksa beach clean-up organized by the Shakti Plastic Industries and The Times of India on 24 February 2024. Tons of plastic and other waste was collected, segregated and disposed properly with the efforts of our volunteers this year.

Bandra fair Volunteering:

Our NSS unit volunteered at the Bandra Fair and assisted the Mumbai police in crowd control, traffic management, security and guiding the pilgrims at Mount Mary in our second area based

project. Every day from the 10th to 17th of September 2023, our NSS volunteers worked hard to help the police and the church community to have a safe and joyful Bandra Fair. Volunteers assisted elderly people, pregnant women and disabled people in completing their pilgrimage, they provided help with directions, bag checking for security purposes, maintaining queues and traffic control. This was also a great opportunity for volunteers to develop their personalities, contribute to the community and make many beautiful memories during the 8 days of volunteering. Our NSS unit was also felicitated for the same by the Mumbai police on 6 October 2023.

Voter awareness Street play:

Our NSS volunteers performed a street play on the topic 'Voter awareness' on 27 January 2024 at Carter's road for making people aware of the upcoming elections and making them realise the importance of every person's vote. The volunteers had prepared a script by themselves and invested quite a few hours for the practice as well.

College Activities:

Blood Donation Camp:

The blood donation camp was organized in our college in collaboration with the K.E.M. Hospital on 18 January 2024. Our NSS volunteers conducted poster making event on the topic 'Blood donation awareness' and same were used for class-to-class promotions. They put in their best efforts and brought to the camp, 70+ motivated and potential donors. We were successful in collecting 49 units of blood.

Book Donation Drive:

The book donation drive was organized in our college in collaboration with the NGO – The Movement. The Book collection week was organized from 27 January to 3 February 2024 and the collected books were donated on 6 March 2024. Our NSS volunteers marked a significant contribution by collecting 190 books. These books were donated with an initiative to build small libraries across vulnerable communities in Mumbai.

Various seminars on topics like Anti Human Trafficking, Organ donation, Blood Stem Cell Donation, Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT), etc. were also held in the college during the year. Poster making competitions, Voter Registration and Awareness Programme, Joy of Giving, Volunteering for Mosaic were also some activities held in college this year.

University Activities:

Our NSS Unit participated in various University level activities like the Environmental rally, Swatchta pledge, Panch Pran Pledge, Organ donation webinar, etc. Our volunteers attended the Inauguration ceremony of Krida Mahakumbh at Jamboree Maidan, Worli on 26 January 2024. Sapling plantation was also conducted on various days under the initiative - Meri Matti Mera Desh.

Annual NSS Camp: 30 January to 5 February 2024:

Our NSS unit had arranged the Annual Special Camp from 30 January to 5 February 2024. A total of 49 volunteers (13 male, 36 female), our programme officer and other 3 staff members were a part of this Camp. The camp was held at Sane Guruji National Memorial, Wadghar village, Goregaon in Mangaon, Raigad District for 7 days. We conducted several activities like geographical land art, morning exercises, shramdaan, village anganwadi visits, poster making, tree plantation, street play practices, trekking, Sane Guruji Smarak Visit, Bird watching, and presentation of the street plays at the Goregaon bus depot during this period. We also had a bonfire on the last day. The qualities of discipline, hard work, selflessness and dedication were given importance throughout the camp while also learning to find joy in the simple things that life has to offer. It was an overall wonderful experience.

Professor In-Charge: Mr. Jordin Carvalho (Programme Officer)

Committee Members: Mrs. Rachel George, Mr. Ritesh Sheth