
NSS Unit

In this academic year, the strength of NSS volunteers increased from 100 to 150. During the year, NSS carried out a number of projects at the community level and also conducted several programs at the college, district and university levels.

Following community eight projects were carried out by the NSS unit.

1. Gender Equality and women's empowerment
2. Andhashradhdha Nirmulan
3. Global warming
4. Pulse Polio
5. HIV AIDS awareness
6. *Gram Vikas and Vyasan Mukti* at Mhasrundi
7. BPOs
8. Counseling

1. Gender Equality and women's empowerment: This project was undertaken in collaboration with 'Aksharaa' – An NGO working for women's issues. Initially, Prof. (Mrs.) Tokekar, Programme Officer along with Anuja and Archana – two volunteers from Aksharaa, explained the concept of gender equality and women's empowerment. On October 8 & 9, 2009 a poster exhibition on gender issues was organized by the NSS unit in collaboration with Aksharaa. Different posters on gender equality, domestic violence were displayed in the college gymkhana. The poster exhibition was inaugurated by Thane District Coordinator, Prof. Anish Choudhary. Through out the year, Aksharaa organized a number of programs like Friendship Day, Street Plays, and Yuwati Mela etc. and in these programs 25 volunteers from our college participated actively.

2. Andhashradhdha Nirmulan: An Orientation on the subject was organized by Ms. Kavita Dalvi, member of the *Andhashradhdha Nirmulan Samiti (ANIS)*. She explained to the students about the programs which could be undertaken throughout the year. On January 9, 2010; Ms. Vandana Shinde president of ANIS-Thane was invited to present her miracle show on the college premises. She first showed the miracles as staged by *Buwas* and *Sadhus* to deceive the people and then explained the science behind those 'miracles'.

From January 20 to 30, 2010; ANIS celebrated *Samvidhaan Mahotsav*. As a part of this program, our NSS volunteers visited different colleges in the vicinity to speak on the topics related to the constitution of India. The topics were (i) Background of the constitution and constituent assembly (ii) Fundamental rights (iii) Fundamental Duties and (iv) Elections. The program was well received in all colleges.

On February 6, 2010, our NSS Unit and ANIS jointly organized a district level program titled '*Culmination of Samvidhaan Bandhilaki Mahotsav*'. Noted social activist Mr. Ram Puniyani was the chief guest and main speaker for the program.

3. Global warming: On August 2, 2009; 54 NSS Volunteers along with 4 teachers went to Padgha near Kalyan for tree plantation program which was organized by '*Hariyaali*'. Our students planted 400 saplings on the slopes of Lonad hills near Padgha.

On September 20 and 27, 2009; 25 NSS Volunteers along with Prof. Shivaji Naik and Prof. Praful Bhosale, participated in the water and soil conservation activity organized by Hariyaali.

Under this project, on January 10, 2010,

Prof. Naik organized a nature trek and cave cleaning at Kondivade near Karjat. 30 NSS Volunteers cleaned the cave and displayed posters appealing to the tourists to keep such spots clean.

Along with these programs, our NSS Volunteers participated in *Nisarga Mela* and Film Festival organized by *Paryavaran Dakshata Manch* on December 7 to 9, 2009. They also participated in the rally organized by the *Manch* to avoid use of plastic flags on January 25, 2010.

As a part of this project, Prof. Shivaji Naik, addressed NSS Volunteers on 'Global Warming' on the occasion of 'Green Day' as apart of our annual college festival. He also guided them in making posters on the same theme that were displayed in the district level program on February 6, 2010.

4. Pulse Polio: In the current academic year, 6 to 7 Pulse Polio drives were conducted by the government. We are very happy to mention that our NSS Volunteers participated in each Polio drive. In all, more than 100 volunteers participated in the above drives which benefited over 50,000 children. Along with the satisfaction of joining the government in the eradication of polio, they also got an opportunity to earn while learning.

5. HIV AIDS awareness: As a part of AIDS awareness campaign, NSS Volunteers prepared a street play on this issue. On November 20, 2009; this play bagged first prize in inter-collegiate street play competition for Thane zone which was organized by *Yaar foundation*. The same play was also performed later at several places. The play was also performed in RJ Thakur College, Thane and our volunteers. Harshada Pagare and Aniket Hindalekar won the Best Actress and Best Actor prize respectively. The message given through the play was 'Live and Let Live'.

As a part of this program, two blood donation camps were organized in June 20, 2009 and January 8, 2010 and 184 bottles of blood was collected. Along with the blood

donation drive on January 8, 2010; we also conducted Thalassemia tests for our students around 350 students took advantage of the test.

On December 1, 2009 20 volunteers joined the rally as part of AIDS awareness program organized by Thane Zilla Parishad and Civil Hospital. They also participated in the program held at Gadkari Rangayatan on the same occasion.

6. Gram Vikas and Vyasan Mukti at Mhasrundi: In our residential camp at Mamnoli, NSS volunteers realized the addiction to *Gutka* at Mhasrundi Pada which was near the campsite. Therefore, we decided to undertake this project.

Initially, the survey was conducted at the pada to understand the socio-economic profile of the people on the pada. During the camp, the program on Andhashradhdha was held along with ANIS. On the occasion of the Children's day on November 14, 2009; our NSS unit organized program in the primary school at Mhasrundi. Various events such as puppet shows, games, songs, distribution of charts and story books were undertaken. The program concluded with distribution of snacks and sweets to the students.

On July 10, 2009, district level planning session for NSS Activities was held at Mumbai. In this session, it was conveyed that the liberty to decide community level projects will be given to each college. We decided to take advantage of this liberty and decided to implement following community level projects in the academic year 2009-10.

7. BPOs: This project was undertaken under the guidance of Ms. K Shefali, our alumnus and presently associated with one of the BPOs. Under this project, Shefali conducted a lecture on working of BPOs and helped the NSS volunteers to prepare a questionnaire for data collection from BPO employees. In this questionnaire, emphasis was given on their food habits and stress levels. After interviewing a number of BPO

executives, an analysis was made.

This project was undertaken to make NSS volunteers conversant with BPO activities, which today generates employment opportunities for fresh graduates.

8. Counseling: A unique project on counseling was carried out in this year under the guidance of the member of NSS Committee and Counselor of the college, Prof. (Mrs.) Suchitra Naik.

On September 29, 2009; Prof. Naik gave introductory lecture on this subject. She asked the volunteers to informally discuss and understand from other students the areas of guidance that may interest most or many students. Accordingly, it was decided to highlight on career guidance.

NSS Volunteers went to different institutions such as Welingkar Institute of Management, SNDT University, Somaiya College and other institutes to collect information on the Post-Graduate Courses. Collected information was tabulated and displayed into charts by students.

On February 26, 2010, a career counseling program for the students of the college will be held. In this program, Mr. Kiran Jog, eminent career counselor is invited to discuss with the students the career choices to be pursued after graduation. The charts prepared by NSS Volunteers will be displayed in the program.

At the college level, a number of programs were held. On August 1, 2009; foundation day of Vidya Prasarak Mandal, NSS Volunteers participated in tree plantation program organized by Vidya Prasarak Mandal on the college campus.

NSS volunteers also participated in the flag hoisting programs on the Independence Day and the Republic Day.

On September 24, 2009; NSS day was celebrated by the NSS Unit of our college. Prin. Y.B Bhide was the chief guest for the program. He was an active program officer

of our college in 90's. He guided the volunteers about the role of youth in NSS activities and in the society.

On November 26, 2009; a tribute was paid to the martyrs who had laid down their lives in the terrorist attack on Mumbai on 26/11. The student council and NSS Unit of our college had organized this program. Prin. Dr. (Mrs.) Shankuntala.A. Singh administered an oath to students to be prepared for safeguarding the country.

Along with these programs, NSS volunteers actively participated as volunteers in *Navrang* – Our college festival, *Gandharva* – Our inter collegiate festival and during the International Seminar held in our college.

During the academic year, a number of programs were held by the Mumbai University. Viz.:

- Vasundhara Bachao and Career Guidance program at Gadkari Rangayatan , Thane on July 10, 2009.
- Hiroshima Peace March (August 6, 2009)
- Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2009)
- World Peace March from Ghatkopar to Somaiya College (October 15, 2009)
- First remembrance day of the Mumbai Terror Attack at Kirti College (November 25, 2009)
- Program Organized by *Yuwa Utkarsha* on January 23, 2010
- Peace rally organized by *Mumbai Sarvoday Mandal* (January 30, 2010)

Our NSS volunteers participated in all these programs in large numbers.

Along with these programs, certain camps or workshops were also organized by the NSS Unit and certain district level programs. Our students attended in these programs in the following manner:

- 5 days leadership training program

organized on October 21 to 25, 2009 by NSS Unit of Mumbai University. 3 NSS Volunteers Deepak Bhangrat, Girish Sinalkar and Darshan Talekar participated in the camp.

On October 29, 2009; Vivekananda Night College at Dombivali organized a one-day workshop on "Pathway towards Excellence". 3 NSS Volunteers, Harshada Pagare, Isha Joshi and Amit Pawar participated in the workshop.

Aksharaa organized 2-days residential camp on December 12 and 13, 2009 at Dahanu to sensitize NSS Volunteers on tribal issues. 2 NSS Volunteers Amol Gaikwad and Sachin Shelke attended the camp.

Aksharaa organized 5-days residential camp from December 20 to 24, 2009 to train NSS Volunteers for Yuwati Mela. 3 NSS Volunteers, Sadanand Rajure, Mahesh Gawli and Nitin Mitne attended the camp.

Mumbai University NSS Unit organized 6-days state level residential camp at Mangaon from December 24 to 29, 2009 which was attended by 2 NSS Volunteers, Mr. Sunny Gavaskar and Ms. Siddhi Vaingankar.

2-days workshop on disaster management was organized by Thane Municipal Corporation on January 18 and 19, 2010. 5 NSS Volunteers, Aniket

Gaikwad, Ms. Bhavika Mhatre, Darshana Doke and Mahesh Gavli & Nilesh Patil attended the camp.

NSS Camp: 7 days residential camp of our unit was held at Hindu Seva Sangh, Marnoli. The theme for the camp was basics of counseling, data collection and disaster management. Based on the theme, a number of programs were organized. The schedule of the camp included Morning Prayer, exercises, *Shrama Daan*, afternoon sessions, evening games related to personality development. 58 NSS volunteers and 5 teachers attended the camp.

In a nutshell, the NSS Unit of college actively participated in several projects and programs at different level round the year.. With the additional strength of NSS Unit, the spread of activities has also increased manifold. This would not have been possible without active, enthusiastic support and methodical work of my co-program officer, Prof. (Mrs.) Neeta Pathak and member of NSS committee, Prof. Shivaji Naik and Prof. Prafull Bhosale. I sincerely thank, Prof. (Mrs.) Suchitra Naik for guidance in chalking out different activities and her active participation. Last but not the least; I would like to thank Snehal Pawar, student NSS Secretary for her pivotal role in the activities of this year.

Prof. Priyamvada Toketkar
N.S.S. Programme Officer