***NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME***

National Service Scheme Unit of college enables volunteers to understand and act on the concepts like Community Mobilization, Social Justice, Service to the Nation, etc. A total of 100 volunteers were enrolled in the current academic year. Various activities were conducted with enthusiastic participation by the volunteers. Activities were conducted at University level, College level and also area level.

**Swacchha Bharat Mission:**

Swacchha Bharat Abhiyaan is one of the prominent activities of the NSS Unit. Various activities were conducted under this project. Cleaning of National Park was conducted on 23rd July, 2019. More than 70 students participated in the activity. Cleaning of public places like Malad Railway station, Garden in Thakur Village was also undertaken by our volunteers on 21st July, 2019 and 20th December, 2019 respectively. College cleaning activities were conducted once in each term i.e. on 10th August, 2019 and 20th February, 2020 respectively.

 A new activity introduced this year was the performance of street play at Ganeshotsav Mandals on the topic of ‘Swacchhata’. This was highly appreciated by the Ganesh Mandals and at a few places volunteers performing the street play were felicitated by the Mandals.

**Health Related Activities:**

Activities related to health included an Awareness Session on AIDS which was conducted on 7th December 2019. Mr. Nelwade from Rashtra Swastha Prabodhan, an NGO working for AIDS Patients conducted the session for our volunteers.

The college celebrated ‘World Cancer Day’ on 4th February, 2020 with two activities, a session on the disease and a rally and street play for awareness about the disease. More than 60 volunteers participated in the rally. The street play was conducted at Dahisar Railway station.

A Blood Donation Camp was organised by NSS Unit of the college on 15th February, 2020. J J. Mahanagar Blood Bank was involved in the process of blood collection. In all 107 units of blood were collected during the camp. Many NSS volunteers along with students from various sections of college and staff members enthusiastically participated in the event by donating blood themselves and by motivating others to donate the blood.

**Social Assistance:**

Activities under this project included activities which benefit the community at large. An activity under this was the Collection Drive for the relief work for Floods in Kolhapur and Sangli districts of Maharashtra. More than 200 Kgs of cereals were donated by people while 8-10 bags of clothes were also collected by the NSS Unit. Our volunteers, Mr.Shivam Dubey and Mr.Pratik Patil participated in the visit to Kolhapur for distribution of relief materials to the affected.

An innovative activity this year was the participation of volunteers for helping old age, *divyaangjaan* and pregnant women in exercising their right to vote for the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Elections. The volunteers assisted the Election machinery in Borivali area. They helped in guiding the voters to their respective booth, assisting them in the use of wheel chair etc.

Volunteers also took part in a project where volunteers visited various ‘Abhyasikas’ in the socially marginalized areas around Borivali and Dahisar. Abhyasikas at Ketkipada, Penkarpada, Rawalpada, Kajupada and I C Colony were selected under the project. Volunteers assisted in teaching children belonging to local BMC Schools in the area.

**Civic Duty:**

The projects under this included the assistance provided by our volunteers to Dahisar Police Station for Crowd Management during the Ganesh Visarjan on 3rd, 7th, 9th and 12th September, 2019. More than 40 volunteers participated in the activities. After the festival the volunteers were felicitated and appreciated by the Police Department. Volunteers also participated in volunteering for a sports event organized by the Mumbai Police.

**College level Activities:**

The volunteers actively participated in the sessions organized by NGO ‘Anubhav Mumbai’. The volunteers from our NSS unit participated in group - bonding workshop by ‘Anubhav Mumbai’ where they got excellent exposure to the activities being conducted by various civil society groups in the city of Mumbai. The volunteers also got opportunity to develop their communication and leadership skills in this workshop. Sessions on the following topics were conducted under it – 1. Social Justice 2. Democracy and Secularism 3. Gender Justice 4. Dignity of Labour 5. Scientific Temper 6. Environmental Justice. These activities were carried out all around the year.

In the academic year many guest lectures by experts in the various fields were organized to provide the NSS volunteers much needed insight in to the pressing issues in front of our society.  A lecture on the topic, ‘Elections and Political Scenario’ was conducted on 30th July, 2019. Political expert, Shri. Pratap Asbe delivered the lecture. A session on the topic, ‘Drug Abuse and Prevention’ was conducted on 4th October, 2019. Screening of Documentaries on the topic of ‘Reservation’, ‘Communal Harmony’, ‘Kashmir Issues’ was conducted in the month of December 2019.

‘Constitution Day’ was celebrated on 26th November, 2019 where a play on the topic, ‘Rhas Sanvidhanik Mulyancha’ (Deterioration of Constitutional Values) was performed by the students of Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work. Collective reading of the Preamble was also conducted to remind ourselves of the constitutional values.

The NSS volunteers participated in Independence Day Celebrations and Republic Day Celebrations. NSS volunteers helped in organisation of various events at college level like Annual prize distribution, Alumni Meet and Annual Day.

**University level programmes:**

The volunteers participated in many University level programmes. Volunteers took part in the Degree Distribution Ceremony on 21st August 2019. On 2nd October, 2019, around 12 volunteers attended Bhajan Sandhya at Gateway of India. They participated in the screening on the social movie – ‘Son Rise’ conducted at R. D. National College, Bandra on 21st September, 2019. They also participated in the Cleaning Drive conducted at Kalina Campus of University of Mumbai. Volunteers also participated in the ‘Run for Unity’ on 31st October, 2019 on occasion of National Unity Day. Volunteers participated in various camps, workshops and seminars conducted at District and University level. Mr. Gurunand Jadhav, NSS Volunteer from the S.Y.B. Com class was selected for the ‘State Republic Day Parade’.

**Special Residential Camp:**

The NSS Unit of our college organized a Special Residential Camp from 4th January to 10th January, 2020. This seven-day residential camp was conducted at Village- Belkhadi, Post- Kaman, Taluka- Vasai, Dist. - Thane. A total of 52 NSS Volunteers participated in this camp.

The following activities were conducted during the camp:

1. Village Mapping
2. Vermicompost Pit
3. Swacchata Abhiyaan
4. Road Cleaning and Beautification
5. Sessions
6. Painting of Zilla Parishad School and distribution of Books and Stationery
7. Yoga and Exercise

The NSS Residential Camp is a unique opportunity for all volunteers to develop their leadership qualities and team spirit. They also get an opportunity to get evolved with the local community and to contribute for the development of the society. The students realized the economic and technical hardships that the people of rural background face. They also realized that there is a lot of work to be done at the rural level and decided to develop a more involving approach with the villagers in future and participate in the people centric projects like building check dams, building toilets etc. in the coming years.

Thus, the volunteers had a sense of satisfaction due to completion of all the various activities throughout the year. This first-hand experience of working at grass root levels will go a long way in shaping their minds to become better citizens of tomorrow.

**2020-21**

A total of 80 volunteers were enrolled in the current academic year. Various activities were conducted with enthusiastic participation by the volunteers. Activities were conducted at University level, College level and also area level. The year 2020-21 has especially been a difficult year for everyone owing to the havoc caused by COVID-19 Pandemic. The NSS Unit has been especially cautious in following government guidelines in fulfilling its current dual aims of performing social service and keeping its volunteers safe.

The academic year began amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic and immediately it was realized that this year would be an exceptional one. Activities were initiated on online platform. A survey was conducted to understand the local conditions in and around the residence of the volunteers to understand if sanitization activities can be conducted. A team was organized to prepare videos, posters, poems regarding corona virus, lockdown and quarantine awareness. These videos were circulated on social media forums like Whatsapp, Instagram and Facebook. Posters were circulated regarding community kitchen activities and blood donation activities.

           Students participated in the online training programme on road safety which was conducted with collaboration of United Way NGO. It was a two-day programme conducted on 14th and 15th May, 2020.

Students participated in Online National Level Quiz on Awareness on Covid- 19 on 3rd June, 2020 conducted by KES Shroff College of Arts and Commerce, Kandivali.

          Students participated in online celebration of International Yoga Day on 21st June, 2020 in collaboration with Shri Ambika Yog Kutir. More than 70 students attended the Yoga Event.

An important activity conducted this year was ‘Student Assistance Project’ conducted in collaboration with Seva Sahayog Foundation. Volunteers were allocated students of school standards 8th, 9th and 10th. Volunteers interacted for 30 minutes every day with the student regarding academic hurdles and doubts. Volunteers even taught them subjects like Mathematics, History and Science in simplified language for better understanding of the subjects. More than 20 volunteers completed the project and received 20 hrs in total for NSS work.

Volunteers this year took part in various competitions organized by NSS Cell, University of Mumbai and NSS Units of different colleges. Mr. Gurudev Koyale won the 1st prize in photography competition held by NGO ‘Anubhav Mumbai’.

Mr. Mayur Khade, a second year NSS volunteer created a Vlog on his NSS activities of last year. Around 10 students also enrolled for the ‘Fit India’ activities organized by various NSS Units. Around 20 volunteers participated in the ‘Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat’ activity organized by Somaiya College. They also took part in the online ‘Bhajan Sandhya’ Programme organized by NSS Cell, University of Mumbai. Also, around 50 volunteers took pledge as Covid Warriors. Events like Mental Health Day and Reading Day were celebrated on online platform. Around 20 volunteers took pledge during the Central Vigilance Week. Students enthusiastically participated in the ‘Spit Free India Movement’ and received digital certificates for their participation. Around 25 students participated in the event. In collaboration with the NGO ‘United Way’, the NSS Unit organized a webinar of the topic of Marine Pollution on 11th November 2020. More than 30 students took part in the awareness session. ‘Sanvidhan Din’ was celebrated by taking pledge of allegiance to the Constitution of India. Around 12 students participated in the Civic duty activities by working with the Police Department. Students also collected Paper and E-Waste Collection activity was conducted between 23rd to 26th January, 2021. Guest lectures were organized on the topic of ‘Awareness on Vegan Diet’ and ‘Eradication of Blind Faith’ in the month of February. Around 40 students participated in them.

Blood Donation Camp could not be organized by NSS Unit of the college this year owing to the Corona pandemic. Yet 12 of our students and teachers enthusiastically participated in a blood donation event held near the college premises.

This year has been a tough one for everyone. We had to take ample precautions so as to not expose our volunteers to the threat of Corona Virus. We are committed to the values of selflessness and service to humanity. Though the journey was full of hardships it became a bit smoother due to the undying support and timely guidance of Shailendra Education Society’s Management, Prin. Dr. Swati Pitale, teaching and non-teaching staff. We expect similar support from them in all our future endeavors as well.

***Asst. Prof. Nidhi Mehta Asst. Prof. Aditya Dhayfule***

***Assistant Programme Officer Programme Officer***