

### 3. Role of NSS in Covid - 19

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**Key Words :** Covid – 19, Pandemic, National Service Scheme.

#### **Introduction**

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is an Indian government-sponsored public service program conducted by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India. Popularly known as NSS, the scheme was launched in Gandhiji's Centenary year, 1969. Aimed at developing student's personality through community service, NSS is a voluntary association of young people in colleges, Universities and at +2 level working for a campus-community linkage. The cardinal principle of the NSS programme is that it is organized by the students themselves, and both students and teachers through their combined participation in community service, get a sense of involvement in the tasks of nation building.

A new coronavirus that previously has not been identified in humans emerged in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Signs and symptoms include respiratory symptoms and include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and some time death. The national service scheme especially of its higher secondary wing, has taken up a challenge to produce five lakh reusable maska. The NSS expressed hope that sufficient number of maska would help in 'breaking the chain' – the foremost strategy of fight Covid – 19. Hence the mask challenge was thrown at the volunteers, staying at home as part of the lockdown, were provided the known to make masks through online modules. Covid – 19 prevention your roles and responsibilities. Present total volunteers join of NSS 25,81,794.

#### **Role of NSS Volunteers in prevention**

In the given of CIVID – 19 crisis, the NSS volunteers can play a vital role in the following

- Share correct and factual information on COVID – 19

- Promote key behaviors to be practiced by their peers and extended community members to prevent the spread of the virus (hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, social distancing, stay-at-home, etc )
- Minimize panic and promote responsible behaviors
- Support the local authorities in preparedness for containment in case of any positive case and/or contact case and report suspect cases
- Promote services available for women and children

#### **What to communicate?**

- **Safe the facts:** connect people to timely, accurate information from the government, Unicef, WHO and NCDC. Provide clear instructions about what to do if someone suspects they have been exposed to COVID – 19 is spread and how to avoid infection.
- **Demystify the fear:** Outline the steps the government is taking on behalf of its people. Clearly articulate and communicate preventive actions the government is taking to avert or contain transmission of COVID – 19.
- **Promote safety steps that people can take:** Use posters, social media postings, leaflets, FAQs, etc to promote preventive actions people can take (hygiene and avoidance). Let people know when to wear masks, when to get tested, where to get tested, and who to call if they need help or information.
- **Describe the impact on the society:** Describe the potential impact of an outbreak on services, travel, supply chain, business, revenues, etc. People can plan accordingly.
- **Articulate the importance of social distancing:** One of the most effective strategies for limiting the spread of contagion among people is to reduce human-to-human contact. Please promote hygiene at all times.

#### **How to communicate?**

##### **Use social media**

- a) Whenever you see fake news or misinformation, please counter it than and their.
- b) Share information from authorized, reliable sources only (such as the government websites, WHO, UNICEF, etc).
- c) Do not share all the materials at once. Share information based on the need and only the information relevant to your audience.

#### **Display IEC materials**

- a) Stick posters at place that are frequented by people (such as Panchayat Office, bus stop, milk collecting area, schools, etc )
- b) Stick the posters at the eye level (top edge at 5 feet) so it is easy for people to read

#### **Distribute leaflets/handouts**

- a) Any handouts, such as frequency asked questions, or a brochure on Covid – 19, needs to be distributed to concerned people at the earliest
- b) Ensure that leaflet/handouts are handled after cleaning your hands
- c) Leaf enough leaflets, if you have, at places such as panchayat office, schools, hospitals so people can take them home and read

#### **Role of NSS Volunteers**

1. Support health supervisor in house to house surveillance
2. Identification of HRG and probable cases
3. Psychosocial care and stigma and discrimination.
4. Community awareness through inter-personal communication
5. Uptake to preventive and control measures including social distancing, home care and home quarantine
6. Addressing myths and misconceptions.
7. Personal safety and precautions

#### **Definitions – Suspect/Probable Infected Person**

- A person with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease)
- A history of travel to or residence in a country/area or territory reporting local transmission of Covid -19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset
- A person with severe acute respiratory infection, and with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation
- A case for whom testing for Covid – 19 inconclusive

**The main objectives of National Service Scheme are**

- To enable the students to understand the community in which they work
- To understand themselves in relation to their community.
- To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve them in problem solving process.
- To develop among themselves a sense of social and responsibility.
- To utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems.
- To develop competence required for group-living and sharing of responsibilities.
- To gain skills in mobilizing community participation
- To acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitude
- To develop capacity to meet emergencies and national disasters.
- To practice national integration social harmony.

**Conclusion**

While a lot of good work is being under NSS. There is potential to do much more the students and NSS volunteers are young Indians and they represent the most dynamic and vibrant section of the society. These are exciting times in India. The Government of India, under the dynamic leadership of India, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has embarked on the mission of building a united strong and modern India – “Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat”, following the principle of “Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas”. A number of puth-building initiatives have been taken “Make in India” campaign has been launched to develop India as a global manufacturing. This session talks about the role that Covid warriors plays and what’s he need to understand about COVID – 19. And the main theme of the Covid Warriors of the NSS volunteers hand hygiene respiratory hygiene social distancing and high risk group

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