Introduction
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Youth is the most precious and integral component of a nation. The key of the success of the Human Resource Development of a nation is the orderly, wholesome and systematic development of the youth. A nation, especially a developing one, can ignore this reality to its own peril. Any plan of development of society, a local community or a nation as a whole cannot be complete if it does not pay adequate and special attention to the development of the youth.

For the development of the personality of the students the National Service Scheme, popularly known as NSS, was simultaneously introduced in Uttar Pradesh at the same time as all over India i.e. 2nd October 1969 on the occasion of Gandhiji's birth centenary year. It had started in 4 universities with 2,500 NSS student volunteers with primary focus on the development of personality of the students through community service. Today, NSS in U.P. has over one lakh students volunteers on the roll spread over 22 universities and its affiliated colleges. From its inception, more than 50,000 students from the universities, colleges and institute of higher learning have been benifitted by the NSS activities, as NSS volunteers by developing their personality through participation in community service. Due to its overwhelming popularity and demand, the scheme has been extended to the students of +2 level in selected institutions.

The NSS has tremendous educational value in exposing students to the experience of different problems of community and provides
immense opportunities to students to serve the society.

The main aim of NSS has been to provide opportunity to teachers and students to gain experiences from community services and thereby bridge the gape between campus and community and between knowledge and action. In this way, NSS, through voluntary organization in colleges, universities and +2 level, has emerged a powerful forum through which campus-community linkage can be established, maintained and further developed. The goals are to achieve improvement in personality, leadership potential, national outlook and a sense of civic responsibility.

The programmes of National Service Scheme covers four aspects, viz (i) institutional work of students in selected welfare agencies outside the campus to work as volunteers; (ii) institutional projects such as improvement of campuses, construction of play fields, plantation of trees etc; (iii) rural projects such as literacy campaign, minor irrigation projects, health, family welfare, nutrition programme, construction of roads etc.; (iv) urban projects such as non-formal education in urban slums, work in welfare institutions etc.

The National Service Scheme has two types of programmes viz. Regular activities and special camping programmes, undertaken by the volunteers of NSS. Under Regular activities, students are expected to work as a volunteer for a continuous period of two years, rendering in community service for a minimum of 120 hours per annum. The activities under regular programme include improvement of
campuses tree plantation, construction work in adopted villages, family welfare, Aids awareness campaign etc. Under special camping programme, a camp of 10 days, duration is conducted every year in the adopted area on specific theme like 'youth against famine', 'youth against dirt and disease; 'youth for afforestation and tree plantation; 'youth for rural reconstruction', 'youth for development', youth for mass, etc. from 1993-94, special camping programme being organised on the theme 'youth for national integration'.

The National Service Scheme has achieved remarkable success in mobilizing students volunteers for several kinds of social service and has earned reputation particularly in relief work during emergencies. Special camping programmes have served to direct youth resource in the beginning to fight evils and later on for constructive purposes.

The special camping programme are intended to supplement academic education with experience in the realities of the life situation. They provide opportunities to the students for participation in implementation of various developmental programmes so as to result in creation of assets as well as in the improvement of the condition of life of the weaker sections and emphasize the dignity of labour and self-help and the need for combating physical work with intellectual pursuits. One of the objects of these camps is to bring together student and non-student youth to work side by side with adults in rural areas thereby to promote social consciousness, and healthy and helpful attitudes among the youth towards the community. The camps also

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aim at building up potential youth leaders by discovering the talent potential in both students as well as non student youth.

In the initial stages of the process of development and planning in our state, adequate and proper attention was not paid to the systematic and wholesome development of the youth as such, with the result that the vast potential of the youth remained either idle or fell easy victim to the designs of unscrupulous and self seeking politicians, who abused and exploited them to achieve their own ends and in the process brought them on to the streets much to the detriment of the national interest and their own future. The invaluable and precious human resource, that is the youth of our country, if developed and harnessed effectively and wisely, can, without doubt, change the destiny of this nation and can make this part of earth a beautiful place to live in. This conviction of mine is based on my personal experience and close observation spread over a period of more than a decades as a student volunteer. On the basis of the valuable insight that I have been able to gain through my involvement in NSS, I am of the firm opinion that our youth is next to none in facing challenges in accepting responsibilities, in dedicating themselves to the good causes and devoting their energies and talent to noble cause of national reconstruction. Given the necessary opportunities, guidance and sympathetic understanding of their own perceptions, point of view, their psyche and their mind, their problems, their ambitions and their hopes, their frustration and their foibles, we can harness the vast potential of the energies of the youth not only for the social and
economic development of the country but for the development of their own personalities, prospects and potentials.

The National Service Scheme is an important part of the National policy for the youth of this country. The Scheme is a part of a comprehensive programme of involving the youth, in a more systematic and meaningful way, in the overall process of national reconstruction and social development. It is a two-way process. While making their contribution to the process of national reconstruction the youth find enough opportunities to develop and bring forth their dormant and latent manual and mental, moral and spiritual energies and potentialities. The Scheme provides the youth with a sense of purpose and responsibility. It aims at building their character and framing their personalities on healthy lines.

In this thesis the readers will find a bird's eye-view of the various activities carried out by the NSS units of the universities and colleges. Its purpose will be best served if it is found useful, in some measure, to both the NSS volunteers and programme officers.