CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

The idea of voluntary service in human society is not new. From time immemorial selfless service to the people or society was found in the religious institutions. Charitable institutions are the best examples of it. Voluntary organizations came into existence spontaneously, voluntarily and without any compulsion or control to fulfill certain needs of some groups of people.¹ In the nineteenth century Youth voluntary service formally began in England as leisure time activities to young adolescents. The aims of these voluntary service or organizations were comprehensive enough and included health, efficiency, interest and aptitude of boys and girls. The main idea behind it was to provide extra curricular training to the young people in the adolescent period besides their regular academic activities such as Games and Sports, Clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Cadet Corps, Youth Clubs etc.² After the bloodiest and costliest second World War, in almost all countries of the world, youth service specially student youth service, youth organizations, youth hostels, international youth organizations, Common wealth youth organizations, National Service Volunteers, National Service Scheme like hundreds of organizations have come up. Today these voluntary services are playing most important role and these organizations are getting technical and financial assistance from world organizations to uplift the human values and for protection and preservation of environment and wild lives from the impending danger or extinction.

In India, during the late 1960's the country had to suffer and witness economic stagnation, political instability, natural calamities like droughts and floods, liberation of Bangladesh and settlement of the refugees, ruling congress party's defeat

¹ A. K. Kapoor, Rural Development through NGOs, Rawat Publication, Jaipur and New Delhi, 1997, p.13
² Dr. Lakshahira Das, A Text Book of Education, Premier Publication, Gauhati, 1963, P. 42
in several state assemblies in 1967, students' movements gained momentum from 1967-1969 and the left led Naxalite movement all over the country emerged very significantly and reached its peak in 1969-70. Amidst this critical juncture the prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi declared the formation of National Service Scheme for the college students as students' leisure time voluntary service in 37 Universities with an enrolment of 40000 student volunteers on purely experimental basis. Now National Service Scheme in India is a huge students' voluntary organization and it has already crossed thirty three years offering exemplary service towards the society and the nation.

The National Service Scheme or NSS along with the other parts of the country was also simultaneously introduced in North Eastern part of India. In this study the North Eastern Region covers Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. In this region NSS has a total number of 409 Units. The NSS Units of this region have a good name in India and almost every year the region receives Indira Gandhi National NSS award since its very inception. Besides the Centrally declared and Normal Campus programmes the NSS Units in its Special Camping Programmes are doing some remarkable works like construction of canals, bridges during floods, linked-roads, rest house for the bus passangers, public urinals, water tanks, low cost house for the poor downtrodden people, various cleanliness programmes, plantation, health and hygiene programmes, AIDS awareness, anti drugs, Pulse polio awareness etc.

In the North Eastern part of the country the scheme was also simultaneously implemented along with rest of the country. Though the National Service Scheme has already crossed long thirty three years, very few research work has been done in this country.

3. A. K. Kapoor, op. cit, P. 21
In the North Eastern Region of the country this is the first work covering of all aspects of the scheme with special emphasis on its impact on student community and society.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The major objectives of my study are———

1. To make an in-depth investigation of NSS activities in North-East India and its impact on the student community in particular and the public in general,

2. To know and understand the nature and structure of NSS in terms of its objectives, policies, programmes, membership, financial position and staffing pattern

3. To examine NSS as a means of career building for the NSS volunteers and its future scopes.

4. To evaluate the contribution of NSS in different fields of social service and social welfare.

5. To investigate the problems and difficulties of NSS and to suggest some ways and means to overcome the problems.

THE AREA OF THE STUDY:

The study covers Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura—popularly known as the ‘Seven Sisters’ of North East of the Indian Union.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION:

For the present study the historical and analytical methods have been followed.

For information and data collection the following methods were adopted:
Field Survey: For collection of documents the researcher extensively visited NSS Regional Centre for North East, Guwahati, Assam, all State Liaison office NSS Cells and the Universities and colleges of this region. In addition to this region, the researcher collected materials from the Research and Orientation Centres of Ramakrishna Mission Narendrapur, Kolkata and IIT, Kharagpur, W.B. and also paid special visits to Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab, Barkatullah University, Madhya Pradesh and the NSS Regional Centers of Kolkata and New Delhi. In field survey interviews and questionnaire are also used.

ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY: The study is organised as follows:

Chapter - I - Introduction
Chapter - II - NSS in India (Brief History)
Chapter - III - Administrative Structure
Chapter - IV - NSS Activities
Chapter - V - Incentive for NSS and NSS Luminaries
Chapter - VI - Universities Talk AIDS (UTA) and AIDS Education
Chapter - VII - Terrorism, Insurgency and NSS.
Chapter - VIII - Status of NSS and its impact on Student Community and Society
Chapter - IX - Conclusion