I

PREFACE

The first step towards providing some sort of military training to University students was taken in the year 1917, when the British Government decided to form University Corps in different universities of India under the Defence Force Act of 1917. So 1977 marks the Diamond Jubilee of the scheme to impart military training to the students of this country in schools and colleges and it is in the fitness of things that the scheme has found a historian, who has traced its evaluation of National Cadet Corps a youth movement in India.

This is the first official, authentic and documented history of the NCC. The sources are official papers, Government orders and minutes of various meetings. Some Defence secretaries and erstwhile Directors and Directors-General of the corps were interviewed. But the effort was always to rely more on official documents than on memory, for memories can fail and get coloured with subjective hues.

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) of India came into existence in July 1948 by Act of the Parliament. It was raised to impart essential military and other training to students so as to stimulate their interest in the defence of
the country, and to develop in them character, comradship, ideal of service and capacity for leadership.

By the time the students finish the education in the schools, they have imbibed certain basic traits and characteristics which influence the formation of their characters. However, it is at the college and University stages that their personalities take concrete shapes. Thus an integrated educational system both at the schools as well as the colleges can help young boys and girls to combat inhibitions, fears and diffidence, and develop the qualities of good citizenship and leadership. For successful implementation and achievement of the aims of NCC programme, therefore, the scheme has been interwoven with the educational system of the Nation. Thus, whereas at the Central Government level, the activities of the NCC are controlled and coordinated by the Ministry of Defence, at the state level, the respective Ministers of Education look after its affairs.

NCC began in a small way with an initial strength of 38,305 cadets. Today the corps is nearly 13 Lakhs. From the outlying Andamans in the Bay of Bengal and Laccadives in the Arabian Sea to the remote regions of
Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh in Himalayas, there is hardly a town or village with a school or a college, which does not have an NCC unit.

The girls were brought into the NCC in 1949, the Corps got an inter-services look in 1950 when the Air Wing was added, followed by the Naval Wing in 1952.

The boys and girls at school stage are enrolled in the Junior Division (JD) of the NCC. Here, they learn the basic requirements of up-right bearing and are introduced to a disciplined behaviour and corporate living. The integrated programme is continued at the colleges where enrolled in the Senior Division (SD), the boys and girls follow the training further in their respective wings.

The nucleus staff for the command and training of the NCC units is provided by the three services, that is, Army, Navy, and the Air Force. They are assisted in this by the NCC commissioned officers some of whom are employed whole time and others only Part time in NCC units; the later being members of the teaching staff in the respective educational institutions, and they are also required to attend the laid down parades, camps and courses.
NCC is now a premier youth movement in the country. At the Central Government level, its activities are controlled and coordinated by the Ministry of Defence. In the provinces, it is the realm of the respective Education Ministries with all their disparities from state to state. A large number of service personnel and members of the educational staff are directly involved in its activities. There is, however, not a single work about the NCC that can provide necessary information to the youth desiring to join, parents wanting to know, the lecturers and teachers aspiring to get commissions in the National Cadet Corps and the officers of the Armed Forces to acquire necessary perspective and background knowledge about the National Cadet Corps units.

Most people know very little about the aims of this youth movement and the extent of service it has rendered to the society and country in peace as well as war. I have had long associations with the NCC and other youth movements in the schools and colleges. I have been in the Boy Scouts and later in the NVC, National Volunteer Corps and NCC as a cadet. From October 1976, to November 1979, I was with the NCC College for women,
Gwalior. Not only did it offered me opportunities to refresh earlier memories but also enabled me to carry out in-depth study of the history and evolution of the "National Cadet Corps a youth movement in India".

The researcher devoted a period of over three years for collection of materials from various agencies and institutions, such as the National Library at Calcutta, the Directorate-General of National Cadet Corps at New Delhi, United Nation information centre New Delhi, the Central Library of University of Calcutta and Command Library of Fort William. Various reports and informations were obtained from Foreign countries including United Kingdom, USA, USSR, China, Canada and Australia. Reports and recommendations of various commissions and conferences were examined by the researcher. The researcher had interviews with important personalities like the famous historian Dr. R.C. Majumdar, Lt. Gen. M.K. Lahiri Director General, and others NCC officers, National Cadet Corps, Head Quarter, New Delhi, Secretary, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi, most of whom were directly connected with the corps training at different times.

The researcher circulated two types of
questionnaires among cadets and officers both serving and retired, in different part of India and obtained their views. Himself having been connected with teaching for a considerably long period and with the NCC for more than two decades, the researcher also drew from his own experience and education for supplementing the materials collected from other sources.

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(Dr. Viyom Shanker)