

Global Challenges: In Pursuit of Local Solutions through NSS (National Service Scheme)

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ABSTRACT

The coming generations are at a loss which none of us can comprehend. Their lives at stake for no fault of theirs. Now, is the time to stand up and get set going about and assessing and addressing it. The Superhighway lifestyle or the various projects contaminating the air, water, soil, noise have disturbed the ecology irreparably. The global challenges have given rise to a vast area of rapidly growing subject with increasing relevance each day. Our present knowledge of the Stratosphere and Ionosphere is painstakingly gleaned, with newer information added every day. Hence, the required corrections to the damages also becomes tricky. Nevertheless, innumerable studies and observations reiterate the fact that all is not lost. The aim is to empower and enlighten young minds to take initiatives however small, giving them a platform to articulate and address these issues. The study in this paper is culmination of primary data collected over the years and its analysis in pursuit of any solution at grassroot level. Also at the same time sensitizing the NSS volunteers

INTRODUCTION

“We are the first generation that can end poverty. We are also the last generation that can slow global warming before it is too late.”

-UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, 2015

Young people are key in raising awareness, running educational programmes, promoting sustainable lifestyles, conserving nature, supporting renewable energy, adopting environmentally-friendly practices and implementing adaptation and mitigation projects. NSS the government funded social service scheme is one such tool to propel the noble cause. The principal phenomena or pathways of impact are soil contamination, air pollution, noise health effects, ecology impacts including endangered species, geological hazards assessment and water pollution impacts. The US Environmental Protection Agency pioneered the use of pathway analysis to determine the likely human health impact of environment factors. The technology for performing such analysis is environmental science. We require a cool head for this hot world. The menace, the nuisance already done by the present older generation can be handled by the social sciences under a changing sky. Assessing adaptation, multiple stressors, discourse and desalination are certain interventions which brings a better picture. The long history of environmental migration construction and obstacles to successful relocation is the need of the hour. The climate refugees contesting global narratives, the vulnerable conditions frame the territorializing risk. The empirical evidence of declining global vulnerability to climate hazards in human health and climate change mitigation is another dimension to the problem.

ABOUT NSS

In 1953 the late Prime minister Pandit Nehru brought the idea of National service by the students of the age group 18 to 20 years at degree level making it compulsory. The ministry of Education after a lot of study and research made a number of recommendations but it did not favour compulsion. Eventually the Ministry of Education and youth service, Government of India decided to launch the scheme in 1969 -70.

The Philosophy of NSS was basically to make the Educational system more relevant to the demands of society by encouraging students' participation and democratization, fostering emotional and national integration, developing human resources etc.

In today's world that is based on science and technology; it is the level of education that determines the progress, welfare and security of any nation. We seem to be conscious of many problems that our country faces, but the education system fails to equip them with sensitization and problem-solving skills. However,

here at NSS students get a chance to use their creative power and imagination while performing the various activities, which in turn increases the sense of belongingness and the needs of society.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- i) To get an insight of the local and global perspective about challenges in environment
- ii) with primary data already collected by the help of NSS volunteers and PO's and myself being an NSS Program officer for the duration of study.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- i) The research is done for a limited geographical area
- ii) The time period for collecting data is a mere 6 years

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is the outcome of Primary data collected and conclusion drawn from various literatures available.

GENERAL PERSPECTIVE WITH REGARDS TO ENVIRONMENT

This issue will be best addressed and handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level each individual should have appropriate access to information concerning the threats and hazardous materials and activities in their communities. The opportunities or the propellers to participate in the decision-making process in a developing country like India has to be properly assessed. If the norms of developed country are applied in India cost will be very high, Thus the standards selected should be compatible with the country's economic situation. The welfare of the local people has to be taken care into alongside considering the environment. The awareness and the understanding of the happenings in the environment Physical or Biological of the earth or atmosphere is the need of the hour.

THE STUDY AND ANALYSIS

Starting with the year 2013-14 till the year 2018-19 for seven academic years the NSS volunteers were collecting all sorts of plastic bottles and used tetra pack as part of their Area projects (which they are supposed to do for validating of their College hours). As the data was already available in the files and in my custody, and I have been appointed as one of the program officers of the college since 2012-13. Now I wanted to check for myself that the projects which we have been carrying out for quite a significant time whether it has some behavioural pattern and whether I could forecast or project the future values. The Table 1 contains the tetra packs which have been collected. Among them some of them used to be discarded for obvious reasons, but the ones which had been handed over to Sahkari Bhandar and other organisations got a lot of appreciation. These tetra packs which were collected were used for making tables and chairs for schools and domestic use. Henceforth lessening the burden on number of trees to be used for the purpose. The table 2 contains plastic (in the form of bottles, pens, polythene bags, discarded lunch boxes and other domestic purpose things) in kilograms.

TABLE-1

Academic year (X)	Number of tetra packs collected (a)	Number of tetra packs discarded (b)	Tetra packs used for multiple purposes (a-b) (Y)
2013-14	2200	300	1900
2014-15	2790	250	2540
2015-16	3200	280	2920
2016-17	3600	230	3370
2017-18	4100	245	3855
2018-19	4500	250	4250

TABLE-2

Academic year (X)	Plastic collected (in kgs)(Y)
2013-14	56
2014-15	59
2015-16	67
2016-17	77
2017-18	80
2018-19	89

Let us analyse the two tables through forecasting of Time series method. Taking X as academic year and Y as the variable (Value) and using the equations

$$\sum Y = na + b\sum X \text{ ----(i)}$$

$$\sum XY = a\sum X + b\sum X^2 \text{ ----(ii)}$$

Where a and b are the unknowns.

The Time Series given by

$$Y = a + bX$$

can be determined for any value of X (i. e the year) once the equations (i) and (ii) are solved for a and b.

Therefore, for Table 1

$$a=3139.17, b=230.5$$

now even after three years (year 2021-22)

Y=5674.67 therefore Y approx. will be 5648 tetra packs, which indeed is a sizeable number.

Similarly, for the study in table 2

$$a=76.3 \text{ and } b=3.4$$

now even after three years (i.e. 2021-22)

Y=113.7 kg of plastic collected for recycling would be a great impact on geological and environmental health.

The whole exercise of collecting the plastic waste and the tetra pack is to bring to their minds is that taking responsibility is the need of the hour. The sooner the young minds realize the fact that it is them and it's a collective responsibility the better.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The journey which an NSS volunteer takes, definitely shapes his thought process towards his contribution in any form to the society. Here I would like to share some data from various sources which shows the involvement of the young generation

- Close to half a million youth around the world have taken action on climate change [1]
- 84% of surveyed young people agree that they need more information on climate change [2]
- Only 9% of youth are very confident the world will act very quickly enough to address the issues regarding environment change.[3]

The young constituting the majority of the population in many countries and have an increasingly strong social and environmental awareness which has the power to transform our societies towards a low carbon and climate resilient future. The NSS through its various projects gives students opportunity to work and get them thinking on these causes. The changes in the environment potentially represent a major threat to the

health and socio-economic stability of the youth- particularly in developing countries. To bring the changes or get the youth involved, NSS has played a key role so as to bring to their notice- the issues of food security and physical and mental well being of the masses.

CONCLUSION

The study here done on a grassroot level with NSS volunteers is a simple tool for realising the gravity of the situation and hence their responsibility. The droughts, the floods and the extreme weather conditions are due to the ignorant and careless life-style pattern of the senior human race. With a little awareness and understanding of the present environment scenario this study however miniscule in nature definitely, will raise hopes for the generations who look up to us. Yet, all hopes are not lost!

REFERENCES

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- [4] Ravee Chauhan, New Challenges Of Global Environmental Policies, 2012
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