

NSS Annual Camp Report

The overall objective of NSS is Personality Development through community service.

We are thrilled to recount our recent participation in the National Service Scheme (NSS) camp, which was conducted in collaboration with Anna university at Thandalam village near Thiruporur. This annual NSS camp was held for a week, commencing from the 12th of March 2023 and concluding on the 18th of March 2023.



Our daily itinerary was jam-packed with events that kept us engaged and motivated. Each day was filled with exciting opportunities to learn , develop new skills, and gain practical experience. We were fascinated by the diverse range of activities that were organized for us , such as tree plantation drives , health and hygiene awareness programs, clean-up campaigns ,and rural development initiatives. These activities helped us to foster a sense of social responsibility and allowed us to contribute to the betterment of the community . It was truly an eye- opening experience that helped us understand the importance of community service and the need to give back to the society.

Moreover, the NSS camp also provided us with an opportunity to socialize with people from different backgrounds ,cultures ,and walks of life . This experience helped us broaden our perspectives and build meaningful relationships. We learned that socialization is a critical aspect of personal development and that it can enhance our communication, team work, and leadership skills. As we reflect on our experience, we are filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the invaluable lessons we have learned.

We realize that NSS is a service- based learning and is a crucial aspect of personal and social development. We are grateful to SSN College of Engineering and Anna University for organizing this remarkable NSS camp . The experiences we have gained and the relationships we have built will stay with us for a lifetime, and we are committed to use these lessons to serve society and make a difference in the world.

DAY 1:

On the inaugural day of the NSS Village Camp, the volunteers formed 6 teams comprising of approximately 5-6 members each. Two teams were designated to survey the inhabitants of Thandalam while the remaining four teams went to survey the residents of Mettuthandalam, which was located in close proximity. The teams conducted surveys by inquiring about the family background and monthly income of the residents, among other things. The majority of the residents were cooperative and really humble with us. However, a few residents either refused to answer or provided false information due to discomfort.



After the survey, the teams regrouped and discussed the information gathered. The residents expressed their genuine concerns including the lack of accessible hospital facilities in Thirupour, water problems due to Metro water, water stagnation caused by poor road quality, drainage problems, theft scares, mosquito problems, and the unsatisfactory state of the EB office bus stop which only had a few buses stopping at times.

The NSS volunteers documented all of the issues on paper and stored it for future reference to address the issues faced by the villagers. Overall the 1st day of the camp was successful in terms of conducting surveys, meeting the locals, gathering information, and addressing concerns for the betterment of the village.

DAY 2

On the 2nd day of the NSS camp, the volunteers began by cleaning the school campus and dividing themselves into teams to work in their respective areas. One team was assigned to

teach soft skills and basic concepts interactively to students from 1st to 8 standards, depending on the level of knowledge. The sessions were informative and collaborative, strengthening the bond between volunteers and the students in a positive way.



Two teams were responsible for scrubbing the walls of the school in Poonthandalam, while the other 2 teams tackled the same task in Mettuthandalam. Despite the hot weather, the students were fully engaged in completing their work. These dedicated teams cleaned the rooms and scrubbed the walls to prepare them for whitewashing and painting the next day. The cooking team chopped vegetables, assisted with cooking, and cleaned the utensils after lunch. In the afternoon the volunteers discussed the plan for the next day's activities and were assigned their respective tasks. Overall the second day was a combination of fun and work. The volunteers demonstrated great sincerity and dedication in their efforts, leading to stronger connections between the residents and the volunteers. The volunteers also learned valuable lessons about teamwork and commitment

DAY 3

As the NSS village camp entered its third day, two teams were assigned to paint the classrooms of the middle school in Thandalam village, while 2 teams painted the classrooms of the elementary school in Mettuthandalam village. One team was responsible for preparing food for the day, while the remaining teams focused on cleaning up the campus ground, engaging with

students, and organizing events and gifts for them. The progress made by the four teams in painting the classrooms was impressive, and it was expected to be completed by the next day. Events and gifts were also planned for the children to engage them in daily activities and raise awareness about important issues.



After completing their tasks the volunteers gathered together to discuss the plan for the next day, which involved drawing and painting on the walls. Overall the third day was a significant step forward in terms of painting the classroom interiors and organizing events and gifts for the students. The bond between the students and the volunteers was heartwarming and demonstrated a great deal of affection.

DAY 4:

The day 4 started with assigning works to the teams and cleaning the campus and making it ready for the sports competition that is to be held for kindergarten to 8th students. Teams responsible for conducting the games prepared the ground and made the necessary arrangements. Meanwhile the other teams started their painting work from inside of the rooms. They completed painting the whole block. And also, the ceiling of the outside area. Totally at last the painting work in the school of Poonthandalam was finished. Some volunteers engaged

themselves in drawing on the compound wall of Poonthandalam school. They drew things like butterfly, and other information and innovative ideas on the wall.

The sports competition started at 10 in the morning, for the kindergarten and primary school students. They played games like in and out, three leg race and four quadrants. In the afternoon an awareness session on adolescence and good touch bad touch was taught to the students by some of our volunteers. After the session, the games for middle school students were conducted and the winners were noted for further prize distribution. The painting work in the Mettuthandalam school is at the edge of completion. Some volunteers helped the plumber to fix the pipelines of the school.



Overall, the fourth day showed a peak in progress and work. All the volunteers were so dedicated to work even when it was tiring. It was very pleasing to see the work progression happening and the growing bond of the volunteers with the locals.

DAY 5:

On the 5th day of the NSS camp (March 16, 2023), four out of seven teams attended an awareness session on Solid Waste Management at the Mamallapuram Solid Waste Management Park, while the remaining teams continued painting work at two different schools. During the awareness session, the Sanitation Inspector explained how the Mamallapuram Panchayat manages solid waste and the NGO Hand in Hand's role in the process. The NGO member Mr Prabhakaran then spoke about how solid waste is converted into energy through various stages of composting.



After the session, the teams returned to the Middle School, where volunteers not involved in painting cleaned the classrooms and tables. Later, they went to the Thandalam Lake to collect rubbish. Overall, the day was productive with progress made in both the solid waste management awareness and school painting and cleaning.

DAY 6:

The day started with the distribution of gifts to students who won the sports competition. Two students shared their experiences of participating in the competition, and the headmaster expressed gratitude towards the volunteers for creating a positive environment at the school.

Some volunteers helped cook lunch, while others organized a dental camp at the primary and middle school of the Thandalam village. In the afternoon, volunteers learned about water body conservation from Environmentalist Foundation of India (E.F.I) volunteers and then planted palm trees at the nearby pond. The day ended with a bonfire providing an opportunity for volunteers to interact and bond. Overall, the volunteers felt a sense of pride and joy from contributing to the betterment of the environment.



DAY 7:

On the final day of the NSS camp (18/3/ 2023), the Valedictorian Ceremony was held in the presence of various dignitaries, including our Principle Dr.V.E Annamalai and village Panchayat Union head with other local officials of Thandalam village. The ceremony included speeches from the Principal, ward councillors, Child Rights Board Director, headmasters of the local school and NSS program officers. The audience also enjoyed a skit and singing performances by NSS volunteers. The ceremony began and ended with the singing of Tamizh Thai Vaazhthu and the Indian National Anthem, respectively . After lunch, the Village camp officially ended with the feedback session . Overall, the final day was successful and marked the great ending for the NSS village camp. The hope is that the same Legacy will be continued in the upcoming years.



The NSS camp was undoubtedly a once -in- a -lifetime experience for all the volunteers who participated in it. The memories we gained during the camp will remain with us forever, and we will cherish them for the rest of our lives. Throughout the camp, we learned the importance of minimalism and we stopped complaining about our lives. We were overwhelmed with gratitude for what we had, and this helped us appreciate the simple things in life.

One of the most significant achievements of the camp was breaking the inferiority Complex of the government school children over private school students. We provided them with well- built colourful buildings that were neatly painted and adorned with the meaningful wall paintings .We taught them about soft skills and what we learned in our journey, and we also learned a great deal from them. Our interactions with these children helped us understand the value of empathy and compassion towards others. In summary, the NSS camp was an unforgettable experience that taught us invaluable life lessons. We are grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of it and we hope to continue serving a community in the future



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**Camp co-ordinated
by Dr.Kaythry and
Dr. Jino Hans**

