



Technology, Finance, Capacity
for Building Resilience to Disasters
With Special Focus on Pandemics



9th October, 2021

LETTER OF INVITATION

To,
Dr Shrikrishna Digambar Tupare
Konkan Education Society Anandibai Pradhan Science College, Nagothane

Fifth World Congress on Disaster Management **24-27 November 2021, IIT Campus, New Delhi**

Reference: Your paper titled --- Avhan: Maharashtra Chancellors Brigade: NSS: State level Training Camp on Disaster Preparedness.

Dear Dr Shrikrishna Digambar Tupare

We are pleased to inform you that your paper mentioned above has been accepted for oral presentation at the WCDM - 2021 at IIT Delhi Campus, New Delhi.

The Fifth World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) is being organised from 24-27 November 2021 by Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS) in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D).

WCDM-21 would offer an excellent opportunity to you & your esteemed university/ institution/ organisations to attend the event & provide best insights to its deliberations. We firmly believe that your association would contribute to its prosperity to a great extent.

The exact date and time of presentation of your paper shall be detailed in the Programme of the Conference which would be uploaded on the website of WCDM by the end of October.

The Conference shall be held in hybrid mode and only registered participants shall be provided access to the Conference, physical or virtual. Meanwhile, please make necessary arrangements for your travel and accommodation and also obtain the necessary permissions. For our foreign participants, the Indian Embassy/ High Commission/ Consulates in your country have been advised to issue visas to all participants. Please write to us for any facilitation that you may require.

Looking forward to your active participation at the WCDM,

Best wishes
Dr. S Ananda Babu
Convener, WCDM





CHAPTER 12

Avhan: Maharashtra Chancellors Brigade: NSS: State Level Training Camp on Disaster Preparedness

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Abstract

Maharashtra is one of the State of India with third highest population. First time in 1993, Maharashtra was known to world for Killari, Dist. Latur earthquake. The earthquake struck at about 3.56 am on September,30, 1993. About 52 villages were destroyed & 10,000 were killed. In this regard, in year 2007, Mr. S. M. Krishna, His Excellency Governor of Maharashtra and the Chancellor of the Universities of Maharashtra taken initiatives to start Avhan: Disaster Management Training preparedness in higher education. This Avhan aims to create a pool of trained young volunteers of National Cadet Corps (NCC) & National Service Scheme (NSS) to collaborate and join hands with civil administration to provide quick rescue and relief services in the event of sudden natural calamities and disasters. Avhan is providing focused and wholesome training of youths belonging to National Service Scheme (NSS) units of Universities of Maharashtra through professional trainers NDRF (National Disaster Response Force). This Disaster management training programme is role model & hope in future which will be consider as a national level training programme for National Service Scheme (NSS) wings like NCC.

This research paper to review some success stories, feedback of some volunteers those were working as a DM trainer under the guidance of NDRF. Interviews of State Liaison Officer & deputy Western Regional officer, Pune.

Keywords: Avhan, Chancellor, Disaster, NDRF, Rescue, University. Volunteer.

1. Introduction

National Service Scheme, popularly known as NSS is an extension of activities to the higher education system to orient the student youth to community Service while they are studying in education institutions, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India. National Service scheme volunteers undertake various activities in adopted villages and slums for community service, Duration of these services is 240 hours in two years along with one special camp of seven or ten days. The NSS Units organize the regular as well as camping activities. Started initially in 37 Universities involving 40,000 volunteers, the scheme has grown over and it is implemented today with an involvement of more than 3.8 million volunteers spread over in 396 Universities, Polytechnics and 47 Councils of +2 level. [1]

The efforts of NSS volunteers have been widely respected by the community, Universities, Colleges and general Public as the NSS volunteers have been rendering selfless service to the community.

NSS Logo: The logo for the National Service Scheme has been based on the extremely large Rath Wheel of the world famous Konark Sun Temple (The Black Pagoda) situated in Orissa, India² The Red & Blue Colours contained in the logo motivate the NSS Volunteers to be active and energetic for the nation-building social activities. The wheel portrays the cycle of creation, preservation and release and signifies the movement in the life across time and space. The wheel thus stands for community as well as change and implies the continuous striving of NSS for social change.



Fig. 12.1 NSS logo

NSS Badge: The NSS logo is embossed on the badge of NSS. The eight bars in the wheel of NSS logo represent the 24 hours of a day. The red colour indicates that the volunteer is full of young blood that is lively, active, energetic and full of high spirit. The navy blue colour indicates that the volunteer is full of young blood that is lively, active, energetic and full of Spirit. The navy blue colour indicates the cosmos of which the NSS is tiny part, ready to contribute its share for the welfare of the mankind.



Fig. 12.2 Rath Wheel of the Konark Sun Temple

2. The Main Objectives

The main objectives of national Service Scheme (NSS) are;

- (i) Understand the community in which they work.
- (ii) Understand themselves in relation to their community.
- (iii) Identify the needs and problems of the community and involve them in problem-solving.
- (iv) Develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility.
- (v) Utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems.
- (vi) Develop competence required for group-living and sharing of responsibilities.
- (vii) Gain skills in mobilizing community participation.

- (viii) Acquire leadership qualities and democratic attitudes.
- (ix) Develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters and
- (x) Practice national integration and social harmony.

In these above objective's ninth objective is to develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters. There are natural and man-made hazards include, for instance, droughts, desertification, floods, fires, earthquakes and dispersion of radioactive gases in the atmosphere. They have significant social, environmental and economic impacts.

Historical Background of Natural Disaster in Maharashtra: Maharashtra is one of the states of India with third highest population. It covers an area of 307,713 km [2] and is bordered by the states of Madhya Pradesh to the north, Chhattisgarh to the east, Telangana to the southeast, Karnataka to the south and Goa to the Southwest [3]. Maharashtra is a land of culture and traditions, where religious festivals are great occasions of social entertainment.

Maharashtra is prone to various disasters such as drought, floods, cyclones, earthquake and accidents. While low rainfall areas of the state are under the constant risk of droughts, high rainfall zones of eastern and western Maharashtra are prone to flash floods and landslides.

The 1967 Koynanagar earthquake occurred near Koynanagar town in Maharashtra, India on 11th December. The magnitude 6.6 shock hit with a maximum Mercalli intensity of VIII (severe). It occurred near the site of Koyana dam. Raising questions about induced seismicity, and claimed at least 177 lives and injured over 2,200. More than 80% of the houses were damaged in Koyana Nagar Township [4] but it did not cause any major damage to the dam except some cracks were quickly repaired. There have been several earthquakes of smaller magnitude there since 1967.

The 1993 Latur earthquake struck India at 3.56 am local time on 30 September. The main area affected was Maharashtra State in Western India. The earthquake primarily affected the districts of Latur and Osmanabad, including the Ausa block of Latur and Omerga of the Osmanabad [5] Fifty-two villages were demolished in the intraplate earthquake. It measured 6.2 on the moment magnitude scale, and approximately 10,000 people died, whilst another 30,000 were injured. The earthquakes hypocenter was found 10 km deep.

3. Incentives for Avhan

Maharashtra is the only state which has started such a training camp on Disaster Preparedness for National Service Scheme. University of Mumbai also started National service Scheme as an optional subject for study in academic Colleges. State



Fig. 12.3 Camp training to volunteers



Fig. 12.5 Felicitation of best volunteers



Fig. 12.4 Certificates for volunteers



Fig. 12.6 Ladies Programme officer Participation

Governor & Chancellors of all Universities in states taken keen interest to trained young ones to render their help to society.

First state level camp was in year 2007 held at Shivaji University Kolhapur, Maharashtra. It was inaugurated by Governor Shri S. M. Krishna. It is now continuously organised by state NSS authority at different Universities except this year (2020) due to Corona Pandemic situation. More than thousand volunteers from all districts of Maharashtra are participating every year in this training camp. Team of National Disaster Rescue force (NDRF) gives ten days training to participants. To motivate volunteers Trophy, Certificates best district, University awards also given in the last farewell programme. Competitions are not only for volunteers but also for Programme officers.

When I was met to Dr. Atul Salunke- State Liaison Officer, Maharashtra, he gave me lot of information about organization of Disaster Management camp. He told that, from this camp we will preparing Chancellors Brigeders through this regular

organization of Avhan Camp. Many volunteers learnt much more as they except. They learnt in camp,

1. Time Management
2. Event organization
3. Stage Dearing
4. Leadership
5. National integrity
6. Polarity
7. To readiness for society help etc.

4. Success Stories

Many Avhan trained volunteers helped in disasters. Mr. Ashish Patil from Raigad district is no one of the popular trainer of Disaster Management. He is now professional trainer. Volunteers directly participating in rescue operation. It is possible only training. On Thursday, 07 August 2014, NDRF halted the rescue operation of landslide that took place in Malin village in Pune district. 1050 NSS Volunteers and 70 Programme officers from all parts of state helped NDRF along with local NGOs. So far, 8 people rescued and 151 bodies have been recovered. In July 16, 2019, Volunteers, put

their skills to timely use during the recent building collapse in Dongri in Mumbai. After an illegal extension of a 100-year-old four-storey building collapsed in Dongri, more than 30 people were feared trapped under the rubble.

Students from several city colleges, who were part of their institutions' National Service Scheme (NSS) groups, showed up at the site a day after the collapse and lent a helping hand to the rescue teams.

When Sangli, Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra were affected by floods in August 22 to 28, 2019. Many houses, School, animal husbandries were flowed in flood. More than 30 people died in flood.

In that situation 950 National Service Scheme (NSS) trained volunteers visited Kolhapur and Sangli from August 22 to 28 2019. They visited many villages in Shirol taluka of Kolhapur district. While in Sangli district, students went to villages to help the flood-hit victims.



Fig. 12.7 Volunteers helped in Rescue.

In COVID -19 Pandemic situation National Service scheme worked with government administration and police. Only from University of Mumbai 49444 volunteers, 580 programme officers actively engaged in the Pandemic Corona. To help community volunteers would help in many Activities like breaking the chain, Stitching & Distribution of masks, Organization of blood donation camps, Plasma donation to needy patients, Collection and Distribution of grocery, awareness campaign through Arogya app, Webinars on Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, posters, slogans and street play etc. Volunteers worked as social worriers in COVID 19.



Fig. 12.8 Blood donation camp



Fig. 12.9 Masks distributions



Fig. 12.10 Donation of Blood & Plasma Paper Clipping



Fig. 12.11 Participation in Republic Parade

5. Conclusion

Many volunteers were working as a professional DM Trainers in Maharashtra. Ashish Patil from Raigad district was one of the most popular Disaster Management Trainer. From last five years he has given training in many colleges. Some were working With Panee foundation & NGOs. In these pandemic COVID 19 situations many volunteers from Avhan trained volunteers worked as COVID Warriors. This training also beneficial in emergencies. If any accidents took place while travelling, trained volunteers will be providing primary help.

For women this training is useful in self-protection. Response of volunteers is really appreciable. At the starting years

volunteers were not ready to participate in this camp, but now there is long list of participants from each college and from district. Therefore, from last few years there is selection process under the experts from NCC officers for participations. Only selected candidates were getting chance. After training volunteers look smarter because they have full of self-confidence. They were ready to help Programme Officers in event organization. So, I think it is one of the role model for other states as well as central NSS Cell.

Declaration of Conflicting interests: The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and publication of this article.

Acknowledgments

The Authors would like to acknowledge the Management & Principal, K. E. S. Anandibai Pradhan Science College, Nagothane Dist. Raigad, Maharashtra – India.

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