A Report on

"Celebrating NSS Foundation Day: Youth Leadership, Community Service and Sustainable Nation Building"

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Resource Persons: NSS Programme Officer Mr. Poojari Rajesh and Principal Dr. P. Ramanathan
Institution: MITS Deemed to be University
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Introduction

The National Service Scheme (NSS) plays an important role in encouraging students to participate in community service, develop leadership qualities, and understand their responsibilities towards society. NSS Foundation Day provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of student volunteers and reinforce the values of service, discipline, cooperation, and nation building.

MITS Deemed to be University celebrated NSS Foundation Day on 24th September 2026 through a programme highlighting the importance of youth participation in social service and community development. The programme featured an address by NSS Programme Officer Mr. Poojari Rajesh and a message from Principal Dr. P. Ramanathan.

The event emphasized that NSS is not merely a student activity but an opportunity to develop responsible citizens who contribute to the welfare of society. The speakers highlighted blood donation, health camps, village adoption, community outreach, leadership development, and environmental and social responsibilities. The programme also recognized the importance of institutional encouragement, collaboration with non-governmental organizations, and the collective efforts of volunteers, faculty members, and university leadership.

Objectives of the Programme

The programme aimed to:

1. Create awareness of the purpose and values of NSS.
2. Encourage students to participate actively in community service.
3. Promote leadership, discipline, teamwork, and personality development.
4. Highlight the contribution of NSS to blood donation, health camps, and community welfare.
5. Motivate students to identify and address social problems.

Development of the NSS Unit

During his address, NSS Programme Officer Mr. Poojari Rajesh explained the importance of NSS in developing leadership qualities, social responsibility, and a spirit of service among young people. He stated that the NSS unit at MITS was established in 2003 with an initial intake of 50 members. According to his address, the unit had conducted more than 300 programmes and regular activities since its establishment. The activities described in the speech included community outreach, health camps, medical camps, eye check-up camps, dental camps, blood donation programmes, and special service camps. The NSS unit also adopts a nearby village or community for service activities and conducts an annual seven-day special camp. These activities provide opportunities for students to interact with communities and understand local needs.

Student Volunteers and Participation

The Programme Officer described the role of student volunteers in organizing and participating in NSS activities.He referred to the growth of participation following the COVID-19 period, explaining that the number of regularly participating students had initially declined and that continued encouragement helped rebuild student engagement.



In his address, he reported 257 NSS enrolments for the 2025–26 academic year and expressed the expectation of further participation in 2026–27, subject to the applicable university regulations. He also explained that NSS participation provides opportunities for students to develop leadership, discipline, responsibility, and teamwork.

These qualities can support students in their academic development, future careers, and contributions to society.

Community Outreach and Special Camps

The address highlighted the NSS unit's work in and around the university's surrounding communities.

The activities discussed included:

- Village adoption and community service.
- Annual seven-day special camps.
- Blood donation programmes.
- Medical and health check-up camps.
- Eye and dental check-up camps.
- Awareness and outreach activities.
- Participation in institutional and external service programmes.

The Programme Officer emphasized that such activities depend on the collective contributions of volunteers, programme officers, faculty members, university leadership, and community partners.

Importance of Collective Responsibility

The programme stressed that community service cannot be sustained by one individual alone. It requires cooperation, consistent participation, and institutional support. The NSS unit's development was presented as the result of the combined efforts of current and former volunteers, university leadership, faculty members, and partner organizations. This collective approach provides a foundation for maintaining service activities and encouraging future generations of students to participate.

Blood Donation and Health Services

One of the major achievements highlighted by the NSS Programme Officer was the unit's contribution to blood donation. He stated that the NSS unit was donating more than 1,000 units of blood annually to support emergency needs. This figure is reported as stated in the speech and should be supported by institutional or blood-bank records if used as a verified annual statistic.

The address also referred to medical camps, eye check-up camps, dental check-up camps, and other health-related programmes organized for students, staff members, and surrounding communities. These activities demonstrate how student participation can support health awareness and community welfare.

Collaboration with Service Organizations

The Programme Officer discussed associations and collaborations with organizations including Lions Club, Rotary Club, Protract Club, Indian Red Cross Society, SVS Trust, and Satsang Foundation. Through such associations, the NSS unit has organized or supported service activities within the campus and in nearby communities. Collaboration with external organizations can help mobilize volunteers, coordinate services, and extend the reach of community programmes. The address also highlighted institutional support for health-related activities and other community outreach initiatives.

Lessons in Social Responsibility

The health and blood donation activities highlighted several important lessons for students:

Compassion: Understanding the needs of individuals and communities.

Responsibility: Participating in organized activities that support public welfare.

Teamwork: Working with volunteers, institutions, and service organizations.

Community awareness: Recognizing the value of health services and outreach activities.

Sustained participation: Contributing regularly rather than limiting service to a single event.

These lessons encourage students to understand community service as an ongoing responsibility.

Relevance to Student Development



Participation in health camps, blood donation programmes, and community outreach can provide students with opportunities to develop communication, coordination, teamwork, and leadership skills. The programme emphasized that NSS volunteers are expected to demonstrate discipline and responsibility while contributing to society. The experiences gained through service activities can complement classroom learning by helping students understand real-world social needs and the importance of collective action.

Leadership and Personality Development

In his address, Mr. Poojari Rajesh emphasized that NSS is not simply a club for attendance or participation certificates. He explained that its central purpose is to develop leadership qualities, discipline, personality, and a sense of responsibility. He encouraged volunteers to participate meaningfully in service activities and use these experiences to strengthen their personal and professional development. The message was that students should become active contributors to society rather than passive participants in institutional activities.

Institutional Encouragement

The Programme Officer acknowledged the encouragement provided by the university's leadership, including Vice-Chancellor Dr. Yuvraj, Registrar Dr. Pradeep, Principal Dr. P. Ramanathan, Vice-Principal Mr. Kamal Basha, and heads of various departments, as mentioned in his address. He explained that continued institutional support had helped encourage students to participate in NSS activities and expand the unit's service initiatives.

He also described financial assistance and programme support that had enabled the NSS unit to conduct activities and participate in wider initiatives. The speech referred to funding received through the MY Bharat initiative for a state-level NSS Programme Officers' training programme in 2025 and a district-level Youth Parliament programme. It also mentioned a proposed funding opportunity for a Nasha Mukt Bharat programme. These details are presented as statements made during the address and may be supported with institutional records for formal verification.

Participation in Wider Programmes

The Programme Officer informed the gathering that two students had been selected to participate in a National Integration Camp in Haryana scheduled for 21–27 October 2026.This opportunity was presented as an example of student participation beyond campus activities and exposure to wider programmes that promote integration and learning. The address also referred to the unit's involvement in activities associated with government bodies and educational institutions.
Such opportunities can enable volunteers to interact with students from other institutions, share

experiences, and strengthen their understanding of social responsibility.

Service and Nation Building

The programme connected individual development with the welfare of families, communities, districts, states, and the nation. The Programme Officer encouraged students to develop career goals, build professional networks, and strengthen leadership qualities through service.The central message was that responsible individuals can contribute to stronger communities and broader national development.

Principal's Message on Sustainable Service

Principal Dr. P. Ramanathan highlighted the responsibility of students, particularly engineering students, to develop solutions that are not only technically effective but also sustainable and ethical. He explained that service to society should go beyond addressing immediate problems. Solutions should be developed with attention to sustainability, moral values, and professional ethics. He referred to health-related activities, including eye check-up camps and vaccination drives during the COVID-19 period, and acknowledged the contributions of NSS volunteers and other students. The principal also encouraged the NSS unit to explore further opportunities for community engagement around Angalu and consider expanding village-level outreach. His address emphasized that the university's development as a deemed-to-be university provides opportunities to explore additional initiatives and strengthen the contribution of NSS to society.

17. Alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Key Messages from the Programme

The programme communicated the following messages:

- NSS encourages students to serve society with compassion and responsibility.
- Community service helps develop leadership, discipline, teamwork, and personality.
- Blood donation and health camps are important components of the NSS unit's service activities.
- Village adoption and special camps provide opportunities to engage with local communities.
- Institutional encouragement and partnerships support the continuation of service

programmes.

Recommendations for Future NSS Activities

The following recommendations may strengthen the unit's future documentation and community engagement:

1. Maintain annual records of NSS enrolment, active participation, and completed service activities.
2. Document blood donation units through verified records from relevant blood banks or partner institutions.
3. Maintain attendance and beneficiary records for health camps and community outreach programmes.
4. Record the villages and communities covered by adoption and special camps.
5. Collect participant and community feedback to understand the usefulness of activities.

Conclusion

The NSS Foundation Day programme at MITS Deemed to be University highlighted the role of student volunteering in leadership development, healthcare support, community engagement, and nation building. The address by NSS Programme Officer Mr. Poojari Rajesh described the development of the NSS unit, its range of service activities, blood donation initiatives, village adoption, institutional encouragement, and partnerships with service organizations. Principal Dr. P. Ramanathan reinforced the importance of developing sustainable, ethical, and socially responsible solutions. He encouraged students to use their knowledge to address societal needs and urged the NSS unit to explore additional opportunities for community development.

Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being

The NSS activities described in the programme included blood donation, medical camps, eye check-up camps, dental check-up camps, and vaccination-related activities during the COVID-19 period. These activities align with the goal of promoting health and well-being. Annual blood donation figures and the reach of health programmes should be supported by records when reported as verified outcomes.

SDG 4 – Quality Education

The programme highlighted leadership development, discipline, teamwork, personality development, and practical learning through community service. These activities complement formal education by encouraging students to develop social responsibility and life skills.

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

Community outreach and health-related services can help address needs among people who face barriers to accessing support. The NSS unit's village adoption and outreach activities provide a potential connection to this goal. The report does not claim a measured reduction in inequality.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

Village adoption, community service, and outreach activities contribute to awareness of local community needs and the importance of inclusive community development. The principal's suggestion to explore further opportunities in surrounding villages supports the theme of extending community engagement.