

## **PRAVAH- NSS MEETING**

24<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Venue- Committee Room, Non-Collegiate Women's Board, Delhi University

### *Members present*

- a. From Pravah- Meenu Venkateswaran, Sonal Chaturvedi, Aditi Sahay
- b. From NSS- Dr Vinod Lyall, Dr. Nadira Arif (Zakir Hussain College), Dr. Vandana Chaudhary (Kirori Mal College), Dr. Amrit Kaur Basra (Delhi College of Arts and Commerce), Dr. Geeta Sahary & Dr. Sangita Sharma (Laxmi Bai College), Dr. Jonaki B. Ghosh (Lady Shri Ram College) Dr. Sandeep Kumar Goel (Acharya Narendra Dev College) & Dr. Nishtha Bhushan (Bharati College).

### Minutes of the Meeting

#### 1. Introduction To The Meeting

Dr Lyall started the meeting by welcoming the Pravah team as well the Program Officers from the various colleges. She spoke about the National Service Scheme and how over the years, the number of students actively engaged in the activities has lessened. The current challenge faced is to get students to enroll in the scheme and bring back the vigor in the program. The purpose of the partnership with Pravah was to bring the energy and focus of the volunteers back into this space. NSS has previously collaborated with Pravah for the Youth Festival held in December 2009. The basic idea of this meeting was to share about the pilot programme with the programme officers and also to build a common understanding around the kind of processes to be developed for the student leaders.



#### 2. Ice Breaker- Getting To Know Each Other Better

This was followed by an icebreaker where the group was divided into pairs to get to know each other better. Each person had to ask their partner two questions: How long have you been associated with NSS? What are you looking forward to in this partnership?

Some of the responses are given below:



for a cause.

Nadira Arif (introduced by Vandana Chaudhary) - A Chemistry professor, Nadira teaches at Zakir Husain College. She has been a PO for NSS for the last 6 years. She started a literacy campaign but did not get much support from the volunteers and govt agencies. She hopes that with this partnership students will be mobilized and take initiative to work

Sandeep Kumar (introduced by Geeta Sahary) - A Communications professor at Acharya Narendra Dev College, Sandeep has been associated with the NSS for 3 years now. He has assisted in organizing many events like blood donation camps, literacy drives etc. With this new partnership, he hopes to know more about Pravah's training programs.

Geeta Sahary (introduced by Sandeep Kumar) - Geeta has been teaching Political Science at Laxmibai College for over 10 years now. She is the NSS PO of her college and has organized various activities such as providing study material and support to differently abled students, health check up camps for the underprivileged, inter college debates etc. She expects to increase student participation in NSS activities with the help of Pravah's training programs and interventions.

### 3. Change Stories (Sonal)

The participants were then presented with an individual activity where they had to share one change story of a student who had a positive transformation after being associated with the NSS program.

Dr. Lyall- She shared a story about a how a teacher called Maheshwari helped a particular student become an active citizen by encouraging him to enroll in the NSS. The boy in question had just come to the city from his village and was immediately brought to the forefront of NSS's activities by Maheshwari. After about 6 months of being an active member, the boy shared that the NSS had really helped him. It channelized his energy in meaningful ways.

Dr. Amrit Kaur Basra- She shared a story about a student called Rajiv Kukreja. He was made NSS president and coordinated various activities. Since DU has a large number of students from the North East and many of them complained about feeling



alienated in the city, he made sure he involved them in all activities. Even after passing out of college, Rajiv has kept this attitude and is still involved with the social sector in a number of ways. He says that he would have never been an “active citizen” had it not been for his time in the NSS.

Dr. Vandana Chaudhary- She narrated an incident about how once a huge fight erupted in the boy’s hostel at Kirori Mal College. One of the boys there was of a abrasive nature and would usually get into the smallest of fights. She encouraged him to enroll in the NSS and spent time volunteering and organizing events. Over time, she saw that the boy’s way of interacting with others had improved, and he now admitted mistakes easily and did not get hassled when he received critical feedback about himself. He was now more aware of the consequences of his actions.

#### 4. Fifth Space Presentation (Meenu)

The group was given a statement and they had to agree/disagree with it. “This country needs that the focus of higher education be employability.”

4 people agreed, 4 disagreed and 1 was undecided.

This was followed by a small discussion where the people who disagreed said that students these days have no time for anything but studies and that there is much more to life than choosing the right subjects.

This was followed by the Fifth space presentation. At the moment, the youth occupy for legitimate spaces- that of family, friends, career and leisure. There is no doubt that they occupied a “fifth space”. A space that builds on the aspects of the self, skills and society - all of which are so critical to young people. While impacting society, they impact themselves and if facilitated properly these experiences will lead to heightened consciousness of self and the ego, enhanced leadership skills (like problem solving, decision making, team working, conflict positive etc.), and value and knowledge based stances on social issues.

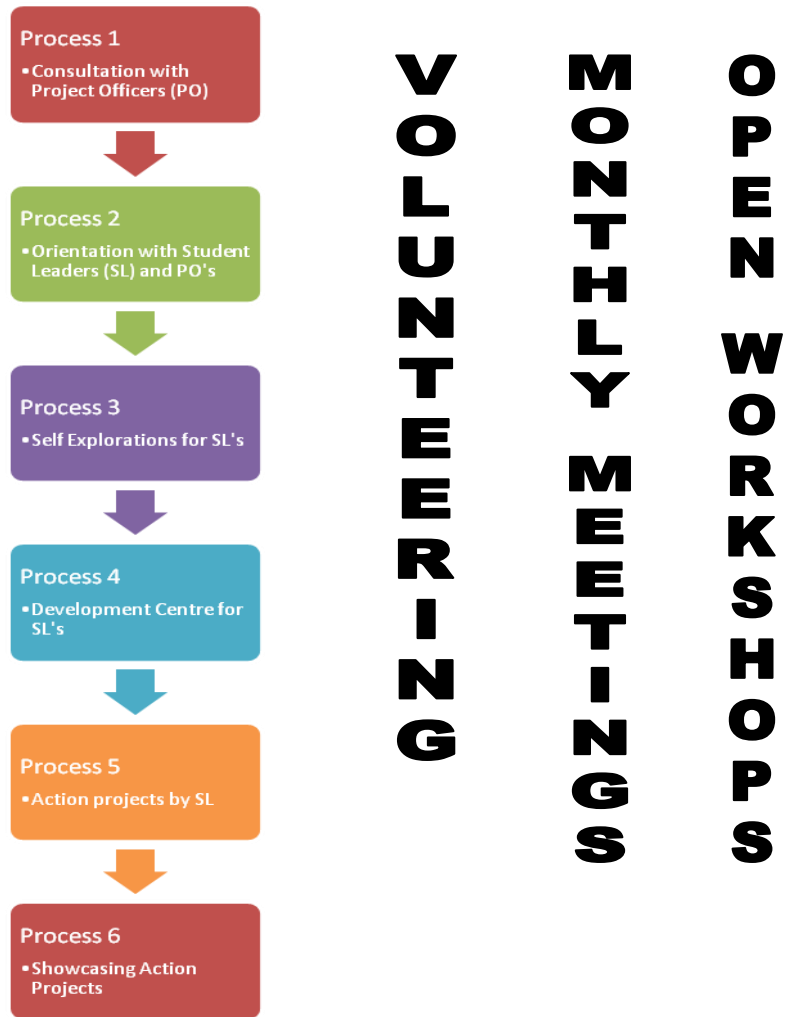


So the group was then asked what can be done through the NSS to create this fifth space. The following suggestions were given:

- Programs for personality development

- Sensitizing students to issues and people around them.
- Gender sensitization
- Workshops on Identity
- Values
- More inter college interaction
- Sensitization workshops' on differently abled people.

Pravah then shared with the group the different stages of the intervention with the student leaders.



Other Opportunities- Urban/Rural Exposures, Internships, Volunteering at International events- OIYP

## Next steps/plans

- 1) **Selection criteria for student leaders:** There was an agreement in the group to have a selection criteria for the student leaders(SLs) to be part of the pilot programme. The programme officers (Pos) present committed to send in two questions each to feed into the application form before 20<sup>th</sup> July. Pravah will finalize and send back the application form to the NSS/ Pos to be used by 31<sup>st</sup> July.
- 2) **Development centre:** Dates have been set for the Development Centre- 20-22<sup>nd</sup> August. Dr. Vandana Choudhary has generously agreed to host the workshop in the Kirori mal College seminar hall. Pravah will provide its design and facilitation skills to make it a meaningful learning space. **Pravah to get three more dates for DC workshop in October from the SLs based on their availability and convenience during the august workshop. Pravah would also request the NSS/Pos to volunteer for the venue etc for the same.**
- 3) **Co-creating a mentoring plan for the SLs-** There was a consensus that the student leaders through their journey with the programme will be mentored by the respective programme officers in their colleges. However, Pravah will be actively engaged in providing the necessary , skill, resources , opportunities, expertise to facilitate this process through interventions with NSS/Pos and SLs wherever needed.
- 4) **SLs to be part of the ongoing programme spaces in Pravah –** There is a lot of action happening with young people in different spaces in Delhi and also outside in the Pravah partner spaces across India. Pravah will support the SLs to be part of the youth intervention spaces in Delhi and also provide opportunities for cross exchanges through learning, exposure visits, partnership meetings, youth facilitators event etc. **(Pravah will coordinate and facilitate this piece along with the NSS/Pos .) *Youth intervention calendar attached as annexure 1***
- 5) **Volunteering for OIYP event in India in November –** Oxfam International Youth Partnership program is a global network of young people who share a vision of a just world and are committed to working for peaceful, equitable and sustainable social change within their communities. Every three years, the program introduces

another 300 young men and women, aged 18-25, from around the world to the OIYP network. Since the program began in 2000, OIYP has worked with over 1150 young people, known as Action Partners, from 98 countries. The SLs/ other students could also look forward to be part of this international volunteering experience to be held in India. **(Pravah to provide the details of the OIYP programme to the NSS/Pos.)**

- 6) **Action projects for the SLs** – The SLs will be initiated into the action projects from the development centre workshop itself. The ideas will be further fine tuned and worked upon post the DC in the respective colleges with support from the Pos .The project could be specific to the project based on the specific college context. The action project is expected to be a collaborative effort between the SL and the Pos. Action projects could also be developed and conceptualized around MDG goals. Creative mediums can also be explored to give shape to the action project-one idea is the community radio programme which can be aired through the DU CRS and reach out to other young people . One world South Asia will be happy to provide training and skills to the SLs to develop community radio programmes. **(Pravah will coordinate and facilitate this piece along with the NSS/Pos.)**
- 7) **Showcasing of the action projects** – The action projects will be showcased in the annual Music for Harmony event organized by Pravah and also other spaces in university /colleges. **(Pravah will coordinate and facilitate this piece along with the Pos /NSS.)**
- 8) **Visibility for the partnership** – Pravah to develop a web page for the partnership. The programme officers /Student leaders profiles to be uploaded. Cross- Links between pravah and NSS website to be done. The website will be developed a resource bank of ideas, resources and learning materials which can be used by NSS, Pos and the SLs. **(Pravah along with the NSS/Pos can anchor this piece)**

## Annexure 1 : Pravah Youth Intervention Calendar

### Activities in Campus/with Campus students July'10-Dec'10

Month	Dates
July 2010	<p>17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> August: Feedback Camp with Rural Internship volunteers -1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Batch (Action Projects are integral of this process and there's a possibility of Action Projects in campuses; this depends upon the theme/topic chosen by the vols)</p> <p>Theme-based clubs initiated in campus</p>
August	<p>8<sup>th</sup> Aug – Youth Adda*</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Aug (tentative): SMILE Recognition event- recognition and felicitation ceremony for SMILErs, various stakeholders to be invited.</p> <p><b>SMILE Inward Bound: An experiential space on understanding SELF better (including personality/self, leadership and interpersonal relationships):</b></p>

	<p><b>The installation to be parked in campus atleast 2 times/month</b></p> <p>(This is an open space for engaging with NSS as we are looking for space/volunteers for placing this piece across various colleges in campuses)</p>
September	<p>12<sup>th</sup> Sept – Youth Adda</p> <p>18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Sept: Club based event, with the assumption that Pravah will facilitate forming of theme-based clubs in campus. The exact event will be decided closer to the date</p>
October	<p>Group Exposure: Possibility of organising a group exposure with college students in October/December. The forms will be out soon so that students can start applying.</p> <p>(This could be an opportunity for NSS-Student coordinators to understand issues/social realities through an exposure visit)</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> Oct: Open workshop on Self or Leadership (PRAVAH will facilitate 2 such open workshops during the programme year)</p>

November	<p>12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Oct: Urban Exposure and Youth Adda</p> <p>Music for Harmony (in collaboration with NSS?) in campus</p> <p>Application for RI/other internship commences: NSS can inspire students to go for RI in 2011 summer!</p>
December	<p>12<sup>th</sup> Dec: Youth Adda</p> <p>Group Exposure: Possibility of organising a group exposure with college students in October/December. The forms will be out soon so that students can start applying</p>
Comments	<p>*Youth Adda – Explore if we can get a space in college for Youth Adda, that we are organising on every second Sunday of the month</p>