



“येथे बहतांचे हित”

Marathwada Mitra Mandal's College of Commerce

Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University, Re-Accredited by NAAC with “A” Grade
ISO 9001:2015 Certified, Awarded as Best College by Savitribai Phule Pune University
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NSS Special Camp Report: 2023-24

Summary

In continuation with the tradition of providing dedicated and selfless service to society, Marathwada Mitra Mandal's College of Commerce in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (Unit A026) has successfully organized the special winter residential camp for the academic year 2023-24. The NSS Special camp of this year took place in a remote village named Gunjavane which is situated in a remote location far from the city at the foothills of Rajgarh fort from 17 January to 23 January 2024. More than 60 volunteers and teaching staff members of the college enlisted their voluntary participation with enthusiasm and zeal. During the camping, we accomplished various initiatives underscoring the importance of the goal of sustainable village and rural development. The special theme for this year's camp was to spread awareness about population growth and control. This report provided a brief description of the schemes and programs implemented by volunteers during the camp period.

Introduction:

The special winter camp is the most important activity implemented through the NSS program during the academic year. It is a kind of annual festival for enthusiastic NSS volunteers and serves as a vent to resurface the youth energy to its full potential. However, this energy is being utilized for some constructive purpose in a well-defined manner without letting it lost in some useless acts. Every NSS volunteer waits for this moment throughout the year. NSS camp is a special celebration for young volunteers where many memories and stories are created; it becomes a permanent and cherished experience for every participant.

Every year, NSS Units of colleges undertake to organize many events and activities dedicated to social service and the well-being of society. The objective behind these events is wide and clear; it tries to sensitize the youths towards the most urgent problems of contemporary society. It educates them by providing them with information about social needs on an objective basis. It makes their responses more furnished and informative. It nurtures the infinite energy of the young generation to utilize it to make some positive changes in society around us. It provides some value addition to the academic curriculum by making it more prone towards understanding the real issues at ground level. It imbibes among the students the principles of moral and ethical behavior by providing them with some value education in the process. It constructs the positive attitude and practice of performing selfless service to society in case of need or intervention. It is said, 'once NSS, always NSS;' it means, the NSS volunteer is always ready to perform his duties in a responsible manner as a citizen and member of society wherever he goes after completion of his college education. So NSS is a social movement of college youths where a cadre of volunteers is made who play their role in national building responsibly. The motto of the National Service Scheme is 'Not Me, But You;' it means, we are putting our self-interest at a secondary level by providing the services to the community on a priority basis.



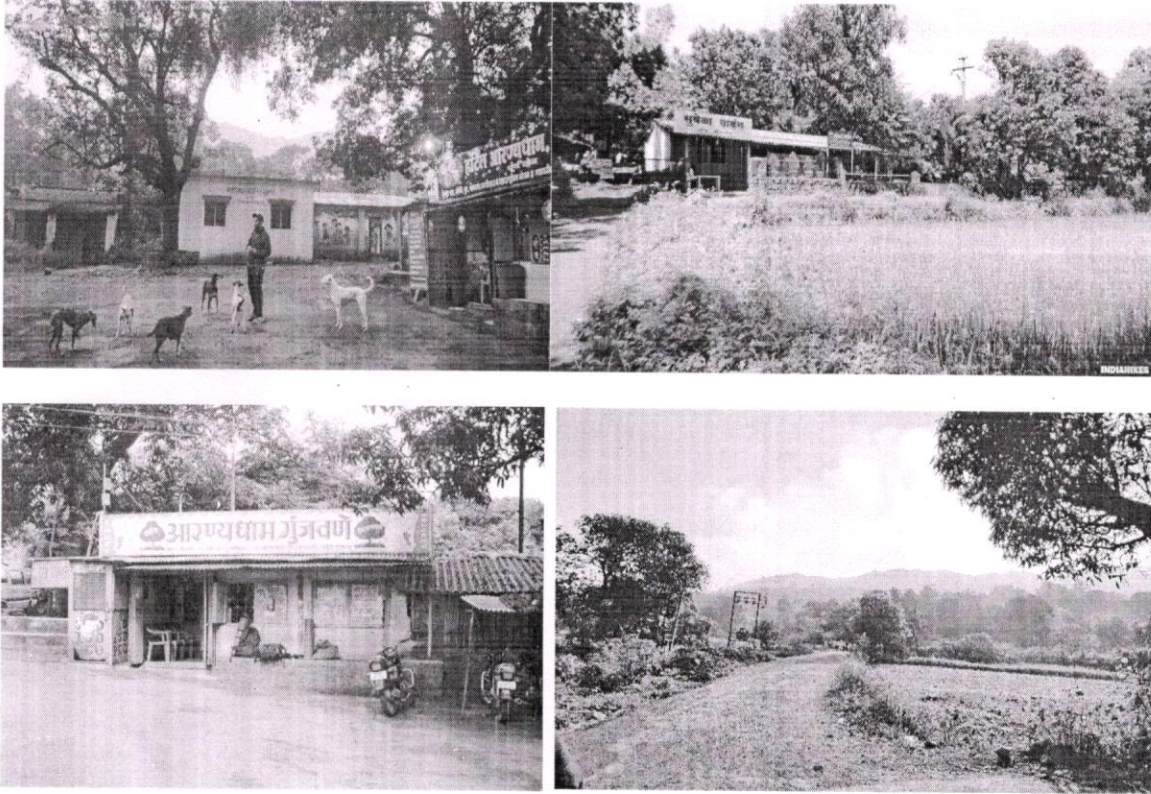
(Image: Volunteers celebrating the unity after returning from 7 days camping)

The National Service Scheme also works to strengthen the process of nation-building by nurturing national unity and integrity as its utmost priority. To secure the fulfillment of this objective, the NSS volunteers are taught to see beyond the boundaries of caste, creed, race, language, region, or religion and put one's identity as Indian above and higher than all. NSS provides help to socially backward and vulnerable populations by implementing awareness campaigns for their possible upliftment. Building the channel of communication between those in need and govt. or non-govt. organizations is another area where NSS plays a crucial role.

Bridging the development gaps between rural and urban areas has been a top priority initiative of NSS since its inception. Keeping this objective in mind, NSS Units organize special residential camps at village locations on an annual basis. The NSS decides and selects the special theme for each year's camp. This tradition is continued unabated and it creates an opportunity for urban youths to connect with rural areas by understanding the problems faced by the residents living there in the countryside. They try to find innovative solutions to these problems and spread awareness related to them.

About Camp Location:

Gunjavane village is in Velhe tehsil of Pune district in Maharashtra, India. It is situated 25 km away from the sub-district headquarters in Velhe (tehsildar office) and 58km away from the district headquarters in Pune. As per 2009 stats, Gunjavane village is also gram panchayat. The total geographical area of the village is 344.49 hectares. Gunjavane has a total population of 2000 people, out of which the male population is 522 while the female population is 478. The literacy rate of Gunjavane village is 61.45% out of which 71.03% of males and 51.45% of females are literate.



(Image: Depicting the glimpses of the village, Gunjavane, Velhe, Pune)

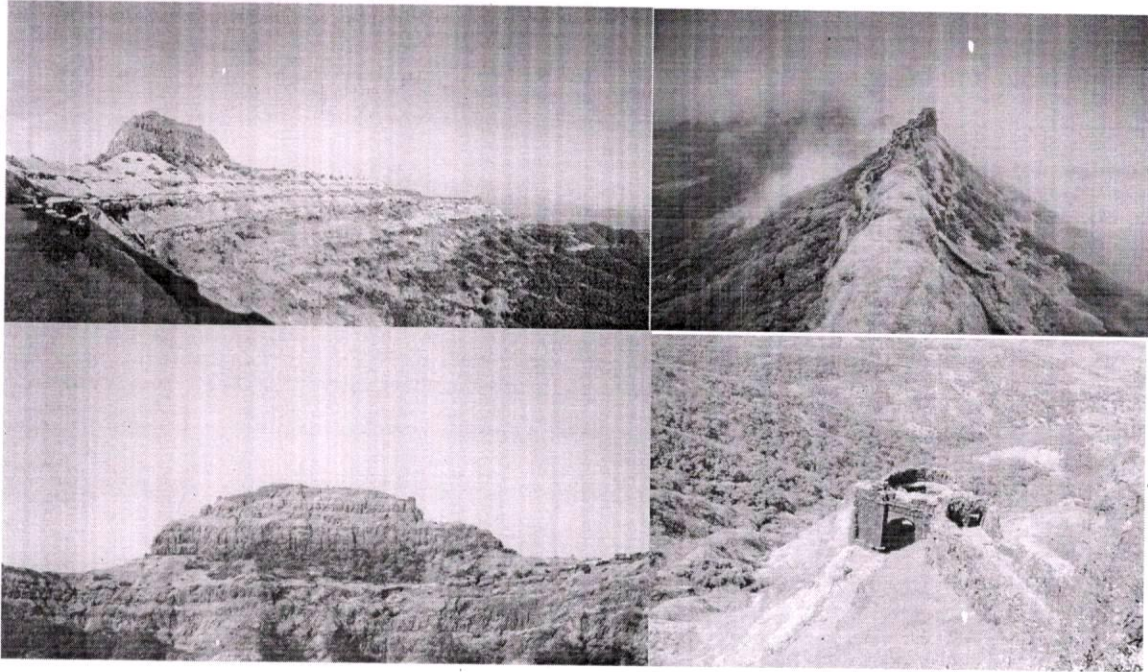
There are about 120 houses in Gunjavane village. Pune is the nearest town to Gunjavane for all major economic activities, which is approximately 58km away. The village is comparatively less developed than neighbouring areas. Its location is a kind of remote with less accessible terrain. Agriculture is the primary occupation. However, the most of cultivation is rainfed in nature. Due to the non-availability of irrigational facilities, the fields are cultivated predominantly only once a year. Hence, In the Rabi and Zaid seasons, fields are kept as fallow for next year's cultivation. The rice is the main crop and staple food. Indrayani rice variety is being cultivated on a large scale. People resort to taking on animal rearing as a secondary occupation to supplement their income. However, animal husbandry has not developed well and does only with traditional methods and local breeds are reared for the purpose. Due to its historical importance of place, tourists visit the place daily. Some people are engaged in providing hospitality facilities to tourists. But the tourist counts are not enough for developing a large business around it. It seems that most of the rural folks are earning below the poverty line income which is not sufficient even to meet their primary requirements of living.

Historical Importance:

The village is located at the foothills of Sahyadri (southern slopes) and Rajgarh Fort. Rajgarh is the first capital of Swaraj of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The fort witnessed the many important events in Shivaji Maharaj's life as he spent most of his life years around this area.

We find out the footprints of the history of Marathas all over this place. This fort became the center point around which the golden history of the Maratha kingdom took shape for its glory.

Rajgad (literal meaning ruling fort) is a Hill region fort situated in the Pune district of Maharashtra, India. Formerly known as Murumbdev, the fort was the first capital of the Maratha Empire under the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji for almost 26 years, after which the capital was moved to the Raigad Fort. Treasures discovered from an adjacent fort called Torna were used to completely build and fortify the Rajgad Fort.

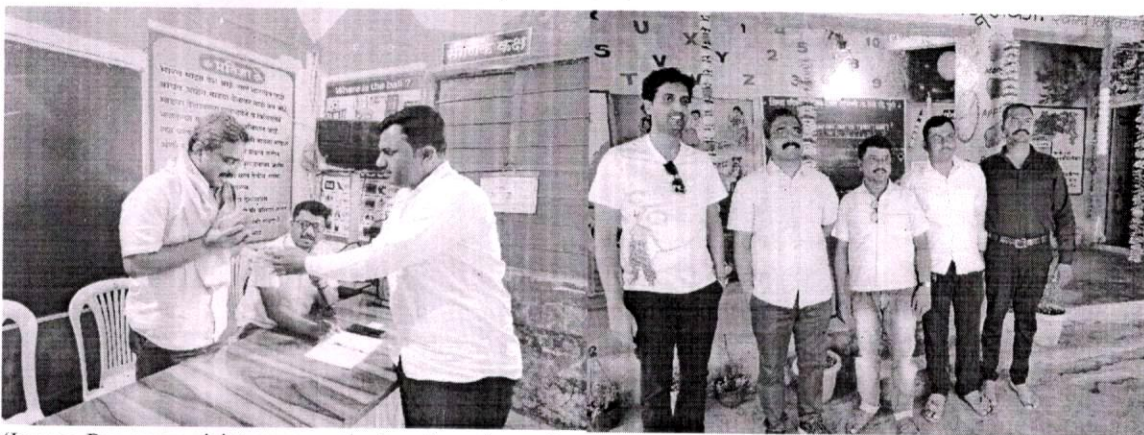


The Rajgad Fort is located around 60 km (37 mi) to the southwest of Pune and about 15 km (9.3 mi) west of Nasrapur in the Sahyadris range. The fort lies 1,376 m (4,514 ft) above the sea level. The diameter of the base of the fort was about 40 km (25 mi) which made it difficult to lay siege on it, which added to its strategic value. The fort's ruins consist of palaces, water cisterns, and caves. This fort was built on a hill called Murumbadevi Dongar (mountain of the goddess Murumba). The fort has stood witness to many significant historic events including the birth of Chhatrapati Shivaji's son Rajaram I, the death of Shivaji's wife Saibai, the return of Shivaji from Agra, the burial of Afzal Khan's head in the Mahadarwaja walls of Balle Killa, the strict words of Sonopant Dabir to Shivaji. The Rajgad Fort was also one of the 12 forts that Shivaji kept when he signed the Treaty of Purandar in 1665, with the Mughal general Jai Singh I, leader of the Mughal forces. Under this treaty, 23 forts were handed over to the Mughals.

Reason for selection of the location for Special Camp:

- Remote places far from the urban influences and less connectivity serve as the ideal platform to provide the experience of detachment for the volunteers.
- The villages situated in the vicinity of the Pune metropolis are structurally integrated and become part of extended city zones.

- Historical importance of the place and even of celebrating the 350th year of the coronation ceremony of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj; it seems more pragmatic to choose the place which was the first capital of Maratha Swarajya.
- It is also an attempt to provide the volunteers mostly coming from urban areas the real experience of village living.
- predominantly dependent on agriculture and animal husbandry, the village is ideally suited for the implementation of sustainable development programs.
- Low average per capita income and non-availability of basic facilities, the village provided the real ground to do some fundamental transformation works.

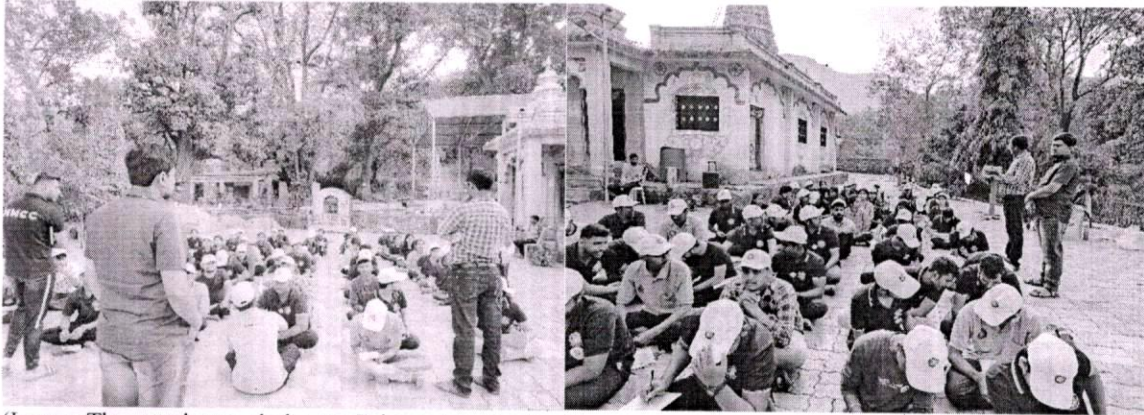


(Image: Pre-camp visit to survey the location of camp)

Details of the activities undertaken during the special NSS camp 2023-24:

Day 1: Wednesday, 17 January 2024

The journey began with the early morning preparation of all equipment and logistical support for the 7-day residential stay and voluntary contribution of labor. The volunteers reached the college in the morning with their luggage and provided help with loading the equipment and luggage in a truck. The volunteers were enthusiastic and showed the example of discipline and order during the preparation. The total number of volunteers chosen for the camping was about 58 in which we had 29 female volunteers and 29 male volunteers. The selection was done based on participation in regular activities and disciplinary behavior. The female volunteers took their journey to the location by boarding the bus arranged for the purpose while male volunteers accompanied the luggage truck. Vehicles left the college premises before 9 am and reached the camp location at Gunjavane village at 11 am. On this day, two women staff members and three male staff members were present to ensure a smooth and safe journey and first-hand arrangements for staying at the location. The names of staff members presented are Dr. Omprakash Ajabe, NSS PO, Prof. Pravin Kad, NSS Co-ordinator, Prof. Tukaram Patil, Prof. Dr. Punam Shinde, ELC Co-ordinator, Prof. Snehal Borkar, SDC Co-ordinator.



(Image: The meeting to choke out 7 days plan of action)

The first task accomplished by the volunteers after reaching the location was they unload the equipment and luggage from the trucks. The volunteers male and female cleaned the place of stay and also they undertook the cleanliness drive by doing Swachhta of the whole area around the school and temple. The arrangement of residence was made separate for female and male volunteers; the female volunteers stayed at the rooms provided by Zilla Parishad Prathmik School, Gunjavane and male volunteers managed their residence in the small temple of the village goddess. We are thankful to the school teacher Mr. Hemant Kamble sir who provided us with all the necessary support during the stay.

After lunch, we planned the meeting with Village Sarpanch and Gram Sevak to discuss the possible areas of work where we could provide help to our volunteers. They promised to provide the all necessary support for implementing our schemes. In the evening, we arranged a meeting with volunteers to decide the possible plan of the action for next seven days. The volunteers were divided into seven teams and special duties were assigned between them for smooth conduction of the camping activities. At night, the volunteers cooked the food for themselves with the help of the village cook and served dinner to all. After the dinner, we had an intellectual discussion about the village and rural development where each volunteer put forward his views on the topic. The volunteers went to sleep around 11 pm and the first day ended with some plans for the next days.

Second Day: Thursday, 18 January 2024

The day started with chilly winter weather as the village was situated in a valley; the chilly winds descended to slop providing the experience of a shivering winter climate. The volunteers were instructed to wake up at 4 am and be ready at 5 am for morning exercise. A few volunteers took the lead to get a practice yoga and pranayam from other volunteers. Then the morning session ended with prayers followed by instructions for the scheduled actions for the day. After breakfast, the volunteers cleaned the village road and collected the plastic garbage from every nook and corner. They disposed of this plastic by handing it over to the fire. The volunteers also cleaned the community toilets and went for the baths after that. On this day, the camp inauguration took place in the hands and presence of the village Sarpanch and other members of the panchayat. On this occasion, Prof. Sarang Edke sir, HOD, Department of Commerce, MMCC, and Prof. Gaikwad Sir, MMCC were presented for the volunteer's encouragement. The inauguration took place by providing the obeisance to statues of Shivaji Maharaj and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The guest speakers guided the students on the occasion. Next to lunch, the intellectual session was organized for the volunteers and school students on the 'Leadership Development Workshop'. The session was arranged in collaboration with Dnyanprabodhini,

Pune, Mr. Pranay Pale sir and Mr. Sandip Bhandari sir guided the volunteers about how to develop leadership qualities intentionally and how to nurture them it utmost clarity. After the session, the volunteers undertook the village tour to understand the geography and spread of the village properly. At night, we managed to arrange various amusement games and funny acts for the volunteers. The day ended at 11 am on a positive note.

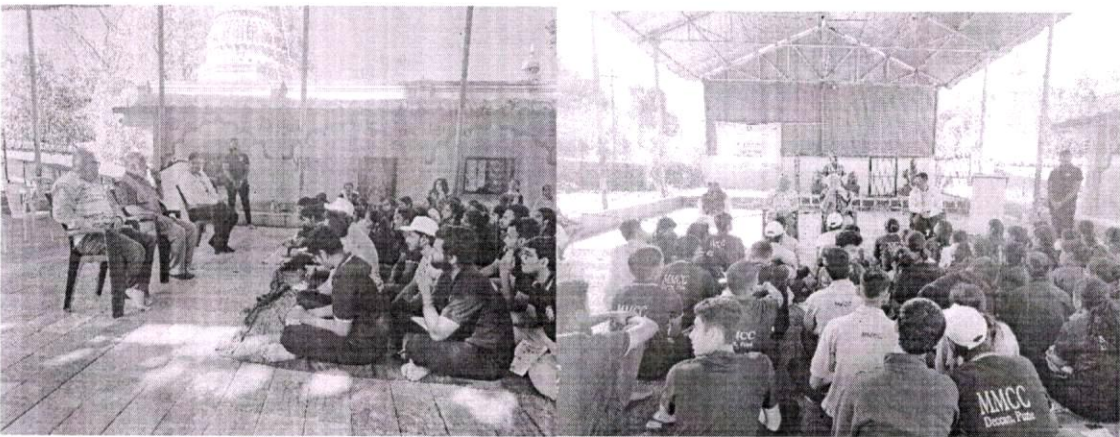
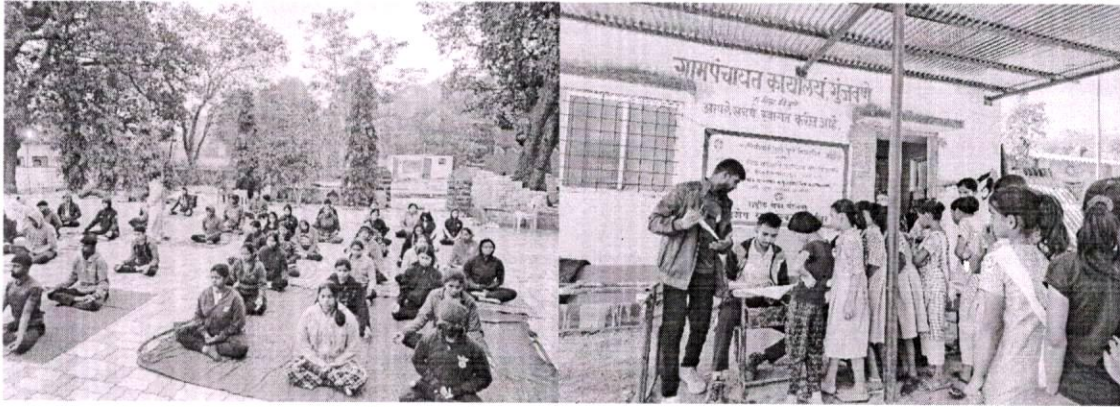


(Image: Depicting the events from the second of camp)

Day 3: Friday, 19 January 2019

The volunteers wake up to the noise of cocks and birds in the vicinity. Prof. Vaishali Nimblakar ma'am, yoga trainer, provided valuable lessons on yoga and pranayam to volunteers. After the prayer, the volunteers had their morning tea and breakfast. Here, the first rays of the sun descended to the surface only after 8 am; so everybody felt the cold climate with shivering cool breezes of winds coming down from the mountain heights. The volunteers finished yesterday's task of cleaning of remaining village roads. Then after, we prepared for the medical camp organized in collaboration with the Apala Ghar Foundation, Donje, Pune. The medical van with a team of doctors and nurses reached the village at 10 am. Here we provided dental, eye, blood pressure, breast cancer, and other checkups with more than 200+ beneficiaries. After the

dinner, Mr. Vijay Phalnikar Sir and Mr. Kiran Mande sir of Aaple Foundation shared their experiences of working with the community and running an NGO for various purposes with volunteers. It was an enlightening session for the volunteers.



In the evening, the volunteers went out on a mission to clean the school grounds and prepare of Kabaddi field for the school children. Before the dinner, a Volunteer named Siddhi Raut and team presented the one-and-a-half-year Bharud for the volunteer's entertainment. The day ended with a debate and discussions between the volunteers.



(Image: Cleaning the school grounds and making kabaddi field for school students)

Day 4: Saturday, 20 January 2024

The fourth day commenced with the same enthusiasm and zeal among the volunteers. After the morning sessions of exercise and prayer, the volunteers became ready to visit the Gavthan area which was situated on somewhat higher terrain. They went there with all equipment and support and undertook the cleanliness drive along the Vitthal temple and roads. Some volunteers accomplished the task of repairing the road going towards Dhangar Wadi. Here, the road became wet and muddy due to the leakage of water from the tank. The volunteers repaired the sipped water and put the stones in a muddy area. They covered it with dry soil and prepared the road for smooth commutation.

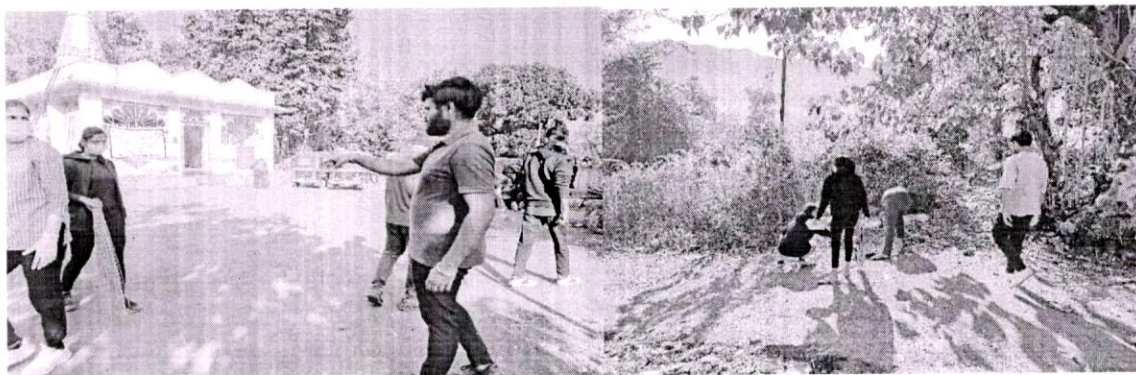


(Image: The entertaining performance of Bharud in the evening)



In the Afternoon, Mr. Ratnakar Sonawane sir from Bhor came to guide the students about moral and ethical behaviour. His speech was an eye-opener for the volunteers. Almost all volunteers experienced tears in their eyes while hearing the speaker's heart-touching communication. The speaker focussed on distinguishing between Sanskruti and Vikruti while elaborating that we are rapidly falling prey to Western cultural practices by forgetting our reach culture and practices.

In the evening, the volunteers went for a demographic survey of the village. We made the detailed survey form for the purpose in which we prepared the arrangement to collect the data about the many socio-economic parameters of the village population. We divided the volunteers into several teams to visit the different small clusters separately. The village is scattered between the 12 small clusters situated far from each other. The volunteers reached every doorstep and collected the data by filling out the survey forms provided for the purpose. When they came back; they shared their experiences during the survey. The day ended with songs and dance performances by volunteers.





Day 5: Sunday, 21 January 2023

With morning exercise, prayer, and breakfast, the volunteers went to complete the remaining task of ground-making for the school children. Then, they implemented the cleanliness drive in the village by collecting garbage and plastic bags. The tree plantation drive was undertaken in collaboration with Aaple Foundation, Pune in the vicinity of the school area and temple. Around 40 trees of different species were planted during the task. In the afternoon, the intellectual session happened on “deaddiction and abstaining from any kind of addiction”; it was addressed by Mr. Jagannath Shinde, Member of Maharashtra Vyasana Mukti Abhiyan. Later on, the second session was organized on “Andhashraddha Nirmulan”; on which Mr. Navanath Londhe, Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti performed the various manipulating tasks of chamatkars by Baba and Buvas and explained how they could manage to do it. After the dinner, Chaitanya Patil, a volunteer, performed the experiment of Bharud for students' entertainment. The hectic day ended late at 12:30 am with deep sleep.



Day 6: Monday, 22 January 2024

The day began with exercise and prayer. After breakfast, the volunteers helped the school by making the school countryyard garden under the guidance of school teacher Hemant Kamble sir. The cleanliness drive was organized in the Gunjavane River region. In the afternoon, the intellectual session was addressed by Mr. Sunil Adsule sir in which he elaborated on the hazardous effects of Junk food on human health. In the evening, the volunteers celebrated the day with cultural programs for which the villagers were invited. The event took place with more than 30 appreciable performances replicating the themes of rich Maharashtrian culture and valor. On this occasion, the college Principal Dr. Devidas Golhar sir, and Prof. Shushil Gangane sir bestowed their presence and encouraged the volunteers.

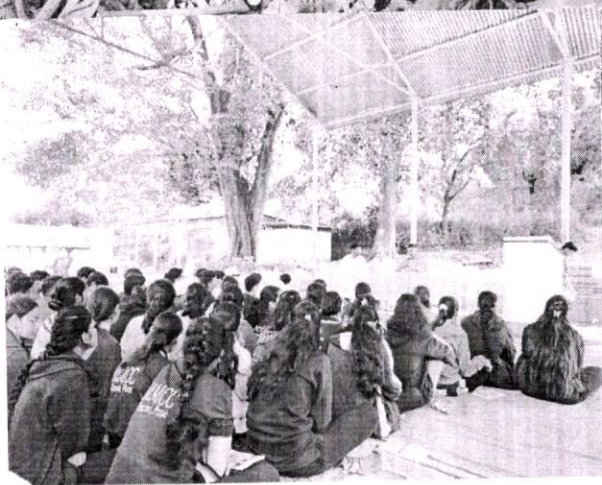




(Image: Plantation drive)



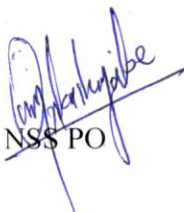
Galaxy A12 5G




Day 7: Tuesday, 23 January 2024

It was the last day of camp and everybody was kind of emotional and sensitized. The day started with morning exercise and prayer. Then volunteers took out the rally in the village and met the people faring their goodbyes. They expressed their gratitude and thanks for the village people's cooperation and support for their activities. After that, the volunteers undertook the cleanliness drive along the temple and school areas where they had been staying for the last six days. In the afternoon, a farewell session was organized in which many villagers came to say goodbyes to the volunteers. The village sarpanch guided the students on this occasion. Then after Dr. Omprakash Ajabe, NSS PO presented the report of the tasks undertaken during the camp period. Principal Dr. Devidas Golhar sir expressed a vote of thanks for the cooperation and support of the village during the stay. He expressed the commitment of the institution to be in continuous touch with the village for future endeavors. The volunteers gave their teary farewell to the village and returned to college with sunset in the background.




NSS PO




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