

INTENSIVE VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

Introduction

Volunteerism is defined as *“the principle of donating time and energy for the benefit of other people in the community as a social responsibility rather than for any financial reward”*. Volunteerism is a fundamental trait that defined humanity and facilitated civilization. It predates the concepts of nations, governments and organisations. In the contemporary world, volunteerism and volunteers play vital role, be it in fighting disasters and pandemics or in rendering humanitarian aid during war, civil strife and fighting for basic human dignity.

In recognition of the significance of the spirit of volunteerism and contribution of volunteers, UN has adopted the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development in 1985.

Youth and Volunteerism:

Nations and society grow, flourish, exist and sustain in their youth population. Therefore, it is from ages that youth are considered as the major and vibrant human resource of the society and nation. They are also considered as change agents. Youth today is a major resource for not only development of financial prosperity of the nation but also for social change and transformation towards a better tomorrow. In India, the ancient concepts of Swayam Sewa, renunciation and service were revived in the modern times by Swami Vivekananda who established the Sree Ramakrishna Mission in the spirit of Service and Charity. Mahatma Gandhi's leadership brought out volunteerism in the struggle for independence against colonial rule.

The Constitution of India also upholds the spirit of volunteerism by listing service to the nation, protection of the environment etc. under the fundamental duties of the citizen. Post-Independence, since 1972, NYKS has been engaging young volunteers through the platform of village level youth clubs for the last 50 years. In the backdrop of 21st century changes and a busier lifestyle of the youth, it is essential to create a platform to engage talented youth willing to volunteer by enrolling them as volunteers to create two-fold benefits:

1. Interaction of youth of diverse backgrounds and talents coming together to serve on a common platform facilitating peer learning and increased exposure for the individual.
2. Individual Volunteer Youth as a resource to match the volunteering opportunities in the district on a flexible basis.

In pursuit of these benefits, besides Youth Clubs, NYKS shall institutionalise Individual Volunteers as part of the NYKS network through this core program.

Background

NYKS has historically engaged youth- mainly rural youth and youth out of educational system through the instrument of village-based Youth Clubs. This approach simultaneously provided NYKS with a wider reach and also enabled Youth Clubs to develop as autonomous and

independent platforms for youth to network, engage, learn and grow with their peers. The success of NYKS in the last 50 years is attributed largely to this mode of functioning where NYKS has acted as a guide and mentor organisation for Youth Clubs which have established themselves in the villages through their own voluntary spirit.

In the last few decades, the country has witnessed drastic socio-economic changes in the backdrop of the 21st century technological revolution. Rapid urbanisation, industrialisation, a busier lifestyle, increased mobility of the youth population for work and education, heightened aspirations and exposure through mass, electronic and social media has influenced the profile of youth in the country to a large extent.

The youth who possess the individual initiative for volunteering and willingness to contribute towards various social and national causes pro bono need to be given the opportunity to pursue this.

As the largest organisation promoting volunteerism in the country, NYKS intends to create an ecosystem for such individuals through this program of IYEP to come forward and be part of NYKS fraternity by enrolling as NYKS volunteers. Those youth who are exceptionally talented in various arts and sports like music, dance, sports, debate may be motivated and urged to join as individual volunteers and thereby provide an opportunity to showcase their talents during NYKS programs and elsewhere.

Objectives

- To enable interested and talented youth to register as volunteers of NYKS from their current locations in their individual capacity.
- To identify talented youth in the district and provide them a platform for showcasing their talent and ability at district, state and national level by engaging in NYKS programs.
- To maintain a dynamic and updated database of volunteers in each district responsive to the needs of the districts as identified by NYKS and district administration.
- To enhance the reach of NYKS to those youth who are not part of Youth Clubs by establishing an individualized relationship with volunteers

Eligibility & Terms of Enrolment

- The age of the volunteer shall be between 15-29, as per National Youth Policy.
- The volunteer can register from their current location in the respective districts as volunteers.
- The volunteer is NOT a member of NYKS affiliated Youth Clubs.
- The volunteer shall agree to abide by the terms specified in the Volunteer Declaration Form.
- The volunteers shall not be involved in any unlawful activities/accused in any criminal cases.
- The volunteer shall specify their skill set and the areas of interests as per the form provided.
- The validity of enrolment is for 3 years after which the same may be extended for 1 year at a time subject to the following conditions:

- The volunteer continues to reside in the district
- The volunteer expresses willingness to stay enrolled for another year.
- He/She has not crossed 29 years of age.

No. of Volunteers to be enrolled	:	Minimum 1000 per District
Budget	:	Rs. 30,000/- per Dist. NYK (min. 15 meetings)
Duration	:	Throughout the year

Implementation Strategy

The program of IVEP aims to bring talented youth- artists, painters, musicians, orators, writers, sportspersons etc. into the fold of NYKS by enrolling them in their individual capacity as volunteers. The district NYKS must ensure that the higher secondary schools, ITIs (15yrs+ youth), sports/cultural organisations and other agencies who conduct various talent competitions in the district as well as colleges and higher educational institutions are visited to ensure that the talented youth from those institutions are identified and meetings be held to enrol them into the fold of NYKS in due course.

At the end of the program the district NYKS shall have a databank of talented youth of the district and also the list of youth willing to serve in their individual capacity as Individual Volunteers.

The engagement of IVEP volunteers in various volunteering opportunities shall parallelly be done by sourcing volunteering demand and facilitating mapping of volunteers to those demands. Also, the talented youth volunteers may also be given an opportunity to showcase their talent in NYKS programs and act as resource persons. Keeping in view this twin objectives of the program, the DDs/DYOs may prepare a Work Plan covering the following:

1-Enrolment Plan

1. IEC on Individual Volunteer Enrolment program- key talking points shall be prepared and NYVs be briefed on what to convey during visits.
2. Schedule visits to various institutions- Colleges, Private institutes, coaching centres, cultural organisations, sports centres, ITIs, leading NGOs, Social & development Organisations, other CSOs etc to sensitise youth on IVEP and NYKS.
3. The visits shall be pre-planned with prior information to the heads of the respective institutions about the purpose of the visits.
4. Focus may be on onboarding talented youth-artists, painters, musicians, photographers, dancers, debaters, orators, actors, folk and traditional artists, sports persons etc as volunteers.
5. Wide publicity to be given through social media also, so that other individuals who wish to be part of NYKS may also be enrolled as volunteers online or by visiting the dist. NYK.
6. Holding small meetings of interested youth (of min 10 youth) at local level and facilitate spot enrolment as NYKS volunteers.
7. Compile and Digitize volunteer data to create a database at district level in excel format.

2-Engagement Plan

1. The DDs/DYOs shall apprise the DACYP about the IYEP and highlight the utility of the platform as a mechanism to fill in the gaps with respect to social welfare, volunteering and mobilisation of youth around social causes. As the chairman of DACYP, DM/DC may be requested to own the platform as a tool to mobilize youth in the district.
2. The DDs/DYOs shall ensure that the Core Program Volunteer Activation Plan is utilised to seed voluntary activities with the involvement of maximum number of enrolled NYKS volunteers.
3. DDs/DYOs may utilize the database of Civil Society Organisations prepared and stay in touch with the reputed CSOs in the district to identify areas/issues for volunteering where NYKS volunteers may be engaged.
4. The talented Youth Volunteers to be engaged as part of various NYKS programs, programs of District Administration/line departments/PRIs, initiatives of CSOs and other IEC campaigns relevant to the district's needs.
5. As an incentive to the volunteers, NYKS may provide certificates of service to those volunteers who respond to the call for service and complete the stipulated assignment.

3-Management Structure

1. The DDs/DYOs may assign a **UNIQUE ENROLMENT NUMBER to each of the enrolled volunteers- (from 0001-1000 and so on)** and maintain a dynamic database of their details, preferably in excel/spreadsheet in the format enclosed.
2. The DDs/DYOs may also maintain the list of volunteer's interest's category-wise so that they may be contacted based on their preferences and areas of interests. A database of enrolled youth in the district sorted by talent may also be prepared so that at a dynamic talent directory of the district is maintained at the district NYK.
3. Program reports for activities undertaken with the participation of Enrolled volunteers shall be prepared in the format enclosed.
4. In addition to the quantitative reporting, a qualitative report of activities undertaken with individual volunteers shall be prepared in the framework as per Annexure enclosed.
5. A mechanism to compile, verify and engage volunteers against demands for voluntary services from district administration, civil society organisations and general public needs to be set up by the concerned DDs/DYOs.
6. The DDs/DYOs may brief the DM/DC on clear terms that **listing a task under IYEP does not automatically make NYKS responsible for the completion of the task. NYKS is only acting as a facilitator to connect WILLING youth to OPPORTUNITIES for volunteering.**
7. As a novel initiative the DDs/DYOs shall be patient and act in such a way as to ensure long term success of the volunteering platform built under IYEP. **The strength, reliability and time for the platform to mature will vary from district to district depending on local conditions.**
8. **Efforts shall also be made by the DDs/DYOs to identify and ensure interaction with talented youth on the platforms based on their interests (singers, dancers, actors, orators etc) so that sub-groups of young achievers are formed under the platform.**

9. The Enrolled Individual volunteers may not be deployed as a substitute for any existing mechanism, nor shall they be institutionalised with fixed responsibilities long term. **The idea is to provide opportunities for willing youth to serve, for three years at a time, in preferred voluntary tasks as and when available in the district.**
10. The Individual volunteers enrolled may be given a chance to be part of NYKS Programs like Adventure Camp, Interstate and International Youth Exchange Programs, National Integration Camps and other programs of NYKS that are held time to time.
11. The Exceptionally talented volunteers may also be utilized as Resource Persons in NYKS programs and will act as Trainers during NYV training and other training programs as and when required.

Annexure List

- **Annexure 2-** Individual Volunteer Enrolment Form
- **Annexure 2A-** Volunteer Declaration
- **Annexure 2B-** Volunteer Database compilation format
- **Annexure 2C-** Volunteering Requisition Compilation format
- **Annexure 2D-** Activities Reporting Format- Quantitative
- **Annexure 2E-** Activities Reporting Format- Qualitative Summary Report
- **Annexure 2F-** Suggestive List of Activities