

Report on National Service Scheme (NSS) Special Camp

Date: 18th – 25th May, 2024

Objectives:

- To promote active community engagement and social responsibility among student volunteers.
- To provide hands-on learning experiences through participatory tools, school engagement, and social interventions.
- To develop leadership, teamwork, and a spirit of selfless service in alignment with the NSS motto: “*Not Me, But You.*”

Target Audience:

- NSS student volunteers from various departments of Assam Don Bosco University
- Residents and children of the adopted village

Number of Participants:

- 20 NSS Volunteers, 35 students from neighbouring LP School and 40 community members

Programme Highlights:

The NSS Special Camp began with a structured orientation on objectives, purpose and learning objectives of the camp. Ice-breaking sessions followed, promoting camaraderie among students. Volunteers were trained in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools such as social mapping, seasonal calendars, resource mapping, and historical timelines. These tools provided students with a structured understanding of the village's socio-economic profile.

Field exposure began with village familiarization and community interaction. Volunteers explored living conditions, infrastructure, and community challenges while building rapport. Activities included home visits to assess socio-economic issues and school engagement where volunteers taught English, Mathematics, and General Knowledge, organized morning assemblies, and held English skill classes.



Children's engagement was enriched with a painting competition on the environment and sports events like races, musical chairs, and marble runs. The volunteers conducted impactful awareness programmes on issues such as:

- Good Touch, Bad Touch
- Substance Abuse
- Importance of Education
- Safe Drinking Water
- Say No to Alcohol

Additionally, a yoga session promoted physical and mental well-being for both volunteers and community members. The camp culminated in a Cultural Day, featuring skits, traditional dances, and prize distributions that celebrated both student and community participation.

Outcome

The NSS Special Camp (18th–25th May 2024) produced meaningful and lasting outcomes for both the student volunteers and the community:

- **Enhanced Community Well-being:** Through initiatives such as sanitation improvement, school engagement, awareness drives, and mural painting, the camp directly improved the living and learning environment in the village.
- **Empowered Children and Youth:** Educational support, sports activities, and awareness sessions inspired children to actively participate in learning and helped build their confidence, creativity, and discipline.
- **Increased Community Awareness:** Awareness programmes on topics like personal safety, substance abuse, the importance of education, and hygiene helped foster responsible behaviour and informed decision-making among community members.
- **Skill Development for Students:** Volunteers gained hands-on experience in using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools, public speaking, teaching, teamwork, problem-solving, and community organizing.
- **Stronger Community–Campus Connection:** The camp strengthened the bond between Assam Don Bosco University and the adopted village, laying the groundwork for sustainable partnerships and follow-up interventions.
- **Personal Growth of Volunteers:** The immersive rural experience instilled leadership, empathy, humility, and a deep sense of civic duty among the student participants.