

## ***Soft Skills Management among NCC Cadets of M.D.S.D Girls College during Covid-19 Outbreak: A Case Study***

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### ***ABSTRACT***

*The world has never faced such pandemic attacks which have affected almost all aspects of life. India has dealt with COVID-19 pandemic valiantly and many frontiers like doctors, police personals, teachers, as well as National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets have played their role well. The present paper aims at development of soft skills management among National Cadet Corps (NCC) of M.D.S.D Girls College, Ambala City and various activities conducted during the COVID-19 Outbreak. To collect data Questionnaire method was used. The collected data were analyzed and the results indicate that there exists a positive relation between NCC training and development of soft skills among the cadets. The motto of NCC “Unity and Discipline” has played a significant role to mould young girls into disciplined and conscientious young citizens of India.*

***Keywords:*** Case Study, NCC, Psychosocial inputs, coping strategies COVID-19 Outbreak

### ***Introduction***

India is known as the youngest nation in the world with 65% population below the age of thirty five. The youth of our country offer an incredible prospect for dynamic progress in terms of environmental and economic progress not only in India but also globally. Thus it is the need of the hour that young people should be equipped with the appropriate skill sets to embark on this challenge and lead the change (Bernard, 2017). National Cadet Corps (NCC) is the leading uniformed youth association, which imparts paramilitary training and certain skill sets which helps to mould young girls and boys into responsible citizens. The National Cadets Corps came into existence under the National Cadet Corps Act XXXI of 1948 which was passed in April, 1948; and further it came into existence on 16th July, 1948. NCC symbol/insignia is the NCC Crest in gold in the middle, with the letters “NCC”; encircled by a wreath of seventeen lotus with a background in Red, Blue and Light blue whereas red depicts the Army, deep Blue depicts the Navy, Light Blue depicts the Air Force, and the seventeen lotuses represent the 17 State Directorates. The NCC Day is observed on the fourth Sunday of November.

The rigorous and continuous training which is provided to youngsters equip them with self-control, self-reliance self-determination and self-regulation.(Vyas, 2018). NCC cadets are trained to excel in every walk of life and profession. Therefore NCC plays a significant role in nurturing potential leaders of young India. It has massive capability for strengthening individual as well as nation building.

The NCC provides prospects to the youth of the motherland for their resourceful progress with a sense of responsibility, dedication, devotion, Discipline and ethical values so that they become able leaders and useful citizens. The NCC provides exposure to the cadets in a wide range of performances with a distinct emphasis on Social Services, Discipline and Adventure Training.

Motto of NCC

“UNITY AND DISCIPLINE”

Aims of NCC

- To develop character, commandership, discipline, leadership, secular outlook, spirit of adventure and the ideals of selfless service amongst the youth of the country.
- To create a human resource of organized, trained and motivate youth to provide leadership in all walks of life and always available for the service of the nation
- To provide a suitable environment to motivate the youth to take up a career in the Armed Forces.(aim-of-ncc,2021)

The present paper aims at development of soft skills management among National Cadet Corps (NCC) of M.D.S.D Girls College, Ambala City and various activities conducted during the COVID-19 Outbreak.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

To succeed in a study, one should have clear aims and objectives. We cannot even think about the line of action, process to be undertaken, and mode to be adopted to carry on and accomplish the task. The objectives of this study are as under:

1. To study psychological and individual factors in COVID-19 outbreak and how Various activities and training of NCC Cadets helped to overcome the fear of pandemic.
2. To find out the constraints experienced by NCC cadets due to the negative environment.
3. To find correlation between NCC training and soft skills management.

### **POPULATION**

As the present paper is a case study, thus the population of the present study constitutes NCC trainees of M.D.S.D Girls College Ambala City.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study has used survey approach to find out the correlation between soft skills management and NCC activities among young girls of M.D.S.D Girls College. It involves interpretation, comparison, measurement, classification, evaluation and generalization, all directed towards proper understanding and solution of significant didactic problems. In the present study, the descriptive method of research was adopted. An online survey was conducted on NCC activities and psychosocial inputs during COVID-19 pandemic and the coping strategies used by NCC cadets. The survey was promoted via email and various social media platforms. In total, 52 people completed the survey. A thematic analysis of the full data was done.

The present case study is twofold study. In the first fold the respondents were questioned, to examine whether paramilitary training and activities of NCC has helped them to be self-reliant, self- assured & empowered.

Most of them answered the queries and others chosen to write their opinions. Some of the essential questions asked were:

1. What is your viewpoint of NCC training?
2. Have you tried coping strategies like yoga and meditation to manage stress during COVID-19 outbreak?
3. Did NCC help in empowering you as a woman?
4. If yes, kindly elaborate.
5. How does NCC help in coping with every day dilemmas?
6. Do you feel that your soft skills have been enhanced after training and social activities?
7. Do you feel NCC activities have helped you to build healthy relationship among different kinds of people?
8. Have you felt that you are more self disciplined after NCC training?

In the second fold constraints experienced by NCC cadets due to the negative environment have been asked and remedial measures were suggested.

### ***Findings and Discussion***

Among the 52 cadets studied under this research there are 30 cadets who have participated in district level RD parade ground Ambala City whereas 5 NCC cadets appeared in 'C' certificate exam and 25 appeared in 'B' certificate held in Arya Girls College, Ambala Cantt.

5 cadets participated in Poster Making Competition and 2 cadets participated in Declamation Contest where as 27 NCC Cadets attended Annual Training Camp (ATC) organized by first Haryana Girls BN during the camp cadets celebrated Kargil Vijay Diwas by organizing a rally by Kanipla Village. A 100 meters race competition was organized by the BN and one cadet got second prize. Two cadets attended NIC EBSB camp at Ropar. During the camp, one cadet got second prized in Tuga of war. In Fit India Movement the NCC unit worked actively and took pledge for eye donation. A Rally on AIDS awareness was organized in the village *Devinagar* adapted by M.D.S.D Girls college and planted trees as well .An awareness rally was organized on Cleanliness, Traffic Awareness and environment protection and tree plantation drive was held in *Shiwalik* park in Ambala City. A rally was organized by NCC unit on Polythene free India. A pledge on National Integration was taken. NCC unit celebrated Environment Protection Day by organizing Anti Cracker Rally. NCC unit organized *Swachhata* Campaign Cadets cleaned the Herbal park of our college under the *Shramdan* program introduced by Govt of Haryana. Platoon Commander Sanjeev, district home guard trained the NCC cadets about self defense. SHO Sunita (chief guest) awarded cadet Anjali who participated in National Level weight lifted Competition in Ordisa in "Khelo India Compitions". 30 NCC cadets participated in online state level video competition on Stress and Time management during COVID-19. Cadets also performed yoga on International Yoga Day at their residences.

Thus cadets were exposed to many situations where they have faced conditions which were challenging for them. In such situations they have to take their decisions confidently and they have to be consistent as well. NCC cadets have become audacious and they have improved their endurance as well. They have to maintain discipline and self confidence as well. Every activity of NCC unit is a kind of training and becomes indispensable (Kherdekar, 2017). Therefore when these cadets were interviewed, most of them had a general feeling, that they could learn to face the circumstances, gained self-confidence and self esteem , liked to be disciplined because of the training they had undergone. All cadets consider NCC

training has inculcated these qualities among them. Some of their comments are;

- i) I have improved in terms of conflict management as now I understand human nature well.
- ii) I am more disciplined, and NCC training helped me problem solving as well as decision making
- iii) Due to NCC training and activities conducted by NCC unit of M.D.S.D Girls College I could become confident about my energy and learnt to face my flaws.
- iv) I confidently impart knowledge to peer groups.
- v) I am self disciplined at home & at college.

**Thus** From the analysis and interpretation done, the investigator reached the following findings and conclusions.

1. Fear of young minds can be cured by NCC training and through social activities love, affection, attention can be imparted and as a result NCC cadets become more humane.
2. NCC training and social activities has taught many cadets how to adapt the situation and innovate new ways to live and learn in the present scenario.
3. The paramilitary training of NCC plays a vital role in soft skills management
4. Those who are inducted to paramilitary training of NCC are self-confident.
5. The training helps the trainees to become more careful and sensitive towards their society.
6. All cadets are on leadership position.
7. The meticulous and incessant guidance which is provided to youngsters equipped them with self-control, self-reliance self-determination and self-regulation.
8. Negative environment has made the situation worse, which results in failure of clear comprehension of the ailment and it has lead to mental stress, however NCC Cadets faced it

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Since all kinds of research have some scope of improvement, the present study is no exception of this. The following suggestions may therefore be considered for further research.

1. The sample size can be increased.
2. A similar study can be conducted by taking samples from other colleges.
3. A similar study can be conducted by taking samples from other states.
4. A comparative study can be conducted between psychosocial issues and individual factors affecting NCC Cadets.

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