



FORT PRESERVATION CAMPAIGN UNDER THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS): A SOCIALLY BENEFICIAL PERSPECTIVE (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ACS COLLEGE, NARAYANGAON, PUNE)

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A) Introduction:

The NSS (NSS) was established on September 24, 1969, with the objective of fostering social awareness among college students and promoting their overall personality development. Since its inception, the activities of this scheme, with the help of college youth, have always contributed to the development of rural areas. The NSS program focuses on emphasizing the importance of labor while also nurturing the artistic talents of college students. It aims to raise social awareness in rural areas on various topics, engage in community development through voluntary labor, promote environmental conservation, value preservation, safeguard historical sites, protect forts and fortresses, and enhance public health. Through these activities, the NSS works toward building a strong and informed citizenry for national development.

The 'Samarth Bharat Abhiyan', conceptualized by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Pune University, Dr. Narendra Jadhav, was implemented by the NSS Department of Pune University. Professors and volunteers from the NSS played a significant role in documenting the history of adopted villages. The work of documenting village history was initiated by the NSS department of Pune University, which led to the discovery of ancient and old documents. During the camp period, efforts were made to collect historical documents related to temples, old mansions, forts, and fortifications in adopted villages. This process inspired the writing of the historical significance of local forts and fortresses in the region.

This article reviews the fort preservation campaign and the successful efforts undertaken by the NSS department and the Gramonnati Mandal of Arts, Commerce, and Science College, Narayangaon, Taluka Junner, District Pune.

B) Objectives of the Study:

1. To create awareness about the importance of fort preservation.
2. To understand the participation and role of NSS youth in the fort preservation campaign.
3. To study the impact of the fort preservation campaign on various levels of society.
4. To understand the contribution of social organizations, youth, educational institutions, local communities, and the administration in fort preservation.
5. To analyze the effectiveness of the fort preservation campaign by NSS and its future directions.

C) Assumptions:

1. The NSS department of Narayangaon College is actively participating in the fort preservation campaign.
2. The participation of NSS in the fort preservation campaign impacts various levels of society.
3. The fort preservation campaign is having a positive effect on society.
4. The role of the administration is crucial in fort preservation activities.

D) Data Collection Methods:

In this research paper, various methods of data collection have been used to conduct an in-depth study of the effectiveness of the fort conservation campaign, youth participation, and its impact on the community.

a) Primary Data Collection: Surveys were conducted with the help of NSS volunteers and the local community to gather information regarding their experiences, participation in the fort conservation campaign, and awareness related to it. Personal interviews were conducted to record their thoughts and experiences. This helped to gain more insights into the effectiveness of the campaign and the changes within the community. Discussions about fort conservation were organized among various groups to collect information. Field and site observations were made to review the work carried out for the conservation of relevant forts.

b) Secondary Data Collection: Published articles, research papers, books, and reports from the government or local administration related to fort conservation were studied. Academic articles, blogs, and reports from government and social organizations available on the internet were analyzed. Administrative reports, including those prepared by government officials or coordinators from colleges for fort conservation, as well as books and documents, were reviewed. These included the campaign's objectives, workshops, and related activities. Direct participation in the fort conservation camps at Narayangad fort in Junnar taluka, as well as the analysis of various workshops from other fort conservation campaigns, was also undertaken.

E) Inspiration behind Writing Local History:

The NSS department of Narayangaon College conducted NSS camps five consecutive times from 2007 to 2010 at Moksabagh and Kandali villages through the Gram Panchayat of Kandali, Taluka Junnar, Dist. - Pune. Under the guidance of Sarpanch Mr. Santosh Bhade, Upsarpanch Mr. Shantaram Ghadge, Gramsevika Mrs. Ashwini Pokharkar, and the villagers, Narayangaon College volunteers and the Kandali Gram Panchayat implemented the Adopted Village Development and Nirmal Gram Project. During each camp, which lasted for five years, various environmental conservation activities were carried out, including tree plantation, the construction of 91 toilets under the Nirmal Gram Scheme to make the village open-defecation free, and the successful sanitation and conservation of the village's ancient temples through youth involvement. These activities became the source of inspiration for writing the local history of Kandali village.

During the academic year 2007-08, inspired by Dr. Sanjay Chakhane, the NSS Programme Coordinator from Pune University, and Dr. Sambhaji Pathare, the Director of the Student Welfare Board, the first GPS survey and tree plantation initiative in Moksabagh village was carried out. This work was recognized by Pune University at the time, and the college's efforts were honored for their contribution.





During a ten-day camp in Kandali village, college NSS volunteers contributed through Shramdan and built 91 toilets with the participation of the village community. This initiative was a source of inspiration for rural development through the college. In the year 2011-12, under the vision of Dr. Pandit Shelke, the NSS Coordinator of Pune University, Pune University organized various workshops. These workshops provided a boost to the writing of local history.

Pune University encouraged NSS program officers in all affiliated colleges to write the local history of their adopted villages and provided them with training. Narayangaon College took the lead and organized a one-day university and district-level workshop on local history writing. Under the guidance of NSS Coordinator Dr. Shakera Inamdar, Narayangaon College was tasked with leading the writing of the local history of the adopted village.

With the guidance of Prof. Dr. Lahu Gikwad and Dr. Shrikant Fulsundar, a guiding book on local history writing was published by Pune University in 2013.

Conclusion: The writing of local history became a source of inspiration for the development of this writing initiative. The Vice-Chancellor of Pune University, Dr. Vasudev Gade, immediately approved the writing of the history of adopted villages and its implementation. The representation of this writing process was handled by the NSS Department of Art, Commerce, and Science College Narayangaon (Pune), under the Gramonnati Mandal. This writing process has since been used for the local history of other adopted villages written by various colleges.

F) Opportunities for Fort Conservation Received by the College:

Between the academic years 2007 and 2010, the NSS department of Narayangaon College organized five consecutive shramsanskar camps in Kandali village. During these camps, the college, the Gram Panchayat, local villagers, and college volunteers contributed significantly to making Kandali a Nirmal Gram (Open Defecation Free Village). This initiative eventually led to the writing of the local history of Kandali village. Recognizing the success of the NSS participation, the village of Khodad in Junnar Taluka invited the NSS department of Narayangaon College to organize a special camp in Khodad.

The Gramonnati Mandal of Narayangaon provided support and inspiration to carry out historical and excellent work in the village. A collaboration was formed between the college and the Gram Panchayat of Khodad. At the time, the Sarpanch of Khodad, Mrs. Dipalitali Thorat, Upsarpanch Mr. Shivaji Kharmale, and the local residents of the historical fort Narayangad, such as Bhalchandra (Anna) Waman, Ravi Waman, Kailas Kale, Bhagwan Waman, Shankar Shingote (Mama), and Shankar Shinde (Police Patil), finalized the decision to hold the NSS camp.

From 2011 to 2014, the NSS department of Narayangaon College organized three consecutive shramsanskar camps in Khodad, Narayangad (Gadachiwadi), and Hiware, under the guidance of Pune University's NSS Department. During these camps, activities focused on fort conservation and the preservation of historical sites, with the slogan "Conserve Forts and Preserve Historical Sites." The initiative gained attention from Mr. Ajit Bhosale, Deputy Forest Officer of the Junnar Forest Department. After inspecting the fort, he encouraged the college's NSS department to engage in writing the history of the Narayangad Fort. The Forest Department assured financial support for spreading the historical significance of the fort.

Through these efforts, Narayangaon College, under the guidance of NSS, worked on the preservation of Narayangad Fort, highlighting its historical importance, spreading awareness, and ensuring the fort's conservation with the help of volunteers. The historical forts in Junnar

Taluka, including Shivneri, Narayangad, Prasannagad, Hadsar, Shindola, and Jeevadhan, are already being preserved and maintained by government departments such as the Tourism Department, Forest Department, and various Durgpremy organizations like Shivaji Trail and Swarajya Tourism. These organizations have been actively involved in the conservation of historical forts.

Inspired by the collective work of these government bodies and organizations, the NSS volunteers carried out awareness and conservation activities through various initiatives. These included cleanliness drives through labor contributions at the forts, organizing educational tours to raise awareness about the forts, providing information about historical heritage to youth, organizing workshops on fort conservation by Pune University's NSS Department, holding essay and speech competitions, presenting posters about historical sites, and conducting discussions among youth about fort conservation.

The inspiration for historical writing about the fort and its conservation came directly from the practical work of volunteers and the villagers' thoughts in the fort conservation activities at Narayangad and Khodad.

G) NSS Department of the College and Fort Conservation:

In the academic year 2011-12, through the collaboration of the NSS and the Gram Panchayat of Khodad, a shramsanskar camp was organized from December 1 to 8, 2011, in Khodad, Taluka Junnar, District Pune, under the concept of "Youth for Sustainable Development." A total of 125 volunteers participated in the camp. The camp was inaugurated in the presence of Dr. Shakera Inamdar, Program Coordinator of NSS, Pune University, Mr. Digambar Raondal, Tehsildar of Junnar, Krushiratna Aniltatya Meher, Sarpanch Mrs. Dipalитай Thorat, and Upsarpanch Mr. Shivaji Kharmale.

During the inauguration, guidance and counseling were provided by the villagers regarding the G.M.R.T project in Khodad, which is involved in space research, and the historical fort Narayangad. The goal was to raise awareness and promote conservation efforts in the community. Since the theme of the shramsanskar camp was "Youth for Sustainable Village Development," the opportunity for Narayangaon College to engage in fort conservation was significant.

At the start of the shramsanskar camp, the college students and the Gram Panchayat of Khodad worked together on several initiatives, including village cleanliness, constructing small earthen and stone bunds with sand and cement-filled bags to conserve water on hillsides and streams, repairing the road leading to the fort, and improving local roads through villagers.

The Village Sarpanch and His Members realized that the collective power of college youth could carry out large-scale tasks for the community. During the camp, through the guidance of Forest





Guard Ramesh Kharmale, volunteers and villagers were educated about the historical fort Narayangad and its forest resources. The Sarpanch, Mrs. Dipalitali Thorat, along with the villagers of Gadachiwadi (Narayangad), including Bhalchandra Waman, Ravi Waman (Gram Panchayat members), and other colleagues, initiated the shramdan project.

Initially, there was a footpath leading to the Hastamata Temple on Narayangad, and the strategy was devised to widen it. To begin, the volunteers took up the task of widening the steps made of soil and stones along the path from Mukai Temple at the foothill of the fort to the fort itself. This work was carried out with significant cooperation from the villagers. However, since Narayangad and its surroundings are under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department, administrative obstacles arose at the beginning for creating these steps. This issue came to the attention of Mr. Ajit Bhosale, the Deputy Forest Officer of Junnar. Based on his suggestion, the shramdam work for fort conservation was temporarily halted. During this pause, awareness campaigns about the historical significance of Narayangad and cleanliness drives were conducted in the temple area and around the fort with the help of 125 volunteers.

After a few days, Mr. Ajit Bhosale personally contacted the Sarpanch and the principal of the college, suggesting a fort tour and gathering information. Accordingly, Dr. Lahu Gaykwad from the college's history department was advised to study historical documents and manuscripts in Modi script related to Narayangad fort to gather historical information. A one-day fort tour was organized with the support of the Forest Department, Khodad Gram Panchayat officials, and the college's NSS department, where comprehensive information about the fort was collected. Mr. Ajit Bhosale encouraged the NSS department to compile the gathered historical information into a book.

Following this, with inspiration from the Forest Department, a small book on the historical fort Narayangad was created by Dr. Lahu Gaikwad and Dr. Shrikant Fulsundar. This book was distributed for free to schools and villagers in the Narayangad region to make them aware of the historical significance of the fort. After learning about the history of the fort, the villagers decided to make collective efforts for its conservation. In the academic year 2012-13, Narayangaon College's NSS department decided to organize a special labor donation camp for the conservation of Narayangad Fort at the base of the fort in Gadachiwadi.

1) Fort Conservation Campaign Camp Year 2012-13:

From December 24 to 31, 2012, a residential camp for 125 college volunteers from the NSS of Narayangaon College was held at Narayangad, Gadachiwadi, Khodad. Before the camp, the planning of the labor contributions to be carried out on the fort was done through the local villagers and the village committee. The inauguration of this camp took place on December 24, 2012, by the then Member of Legislative Assembly of Junnar, Honorable Shri Vallabhseth Benke (Vice President, Krishna Khore Development Corporation, Maharashtra State). The inauguration event was attended by Prakashseth Pate (President of the Gramonnati Mandal Narayangaon), Anil Meher (Karyadhyaksh), Ravindra Pargavkar (General Secretary), Dr. Shakera Inamdar (Program Coordinator of the NSS of Pune University), Dr. Rajendra Bhamre (President of the History Study Mandal of Pune University), Assistant Conservator of Forests of Junnar Forest Department Ajit Bhosale, and Sarpanch of Khodad village Dipalitali Thorat.

2) Fort Conservation Initiative under Pune University's Special First Event:

During the Fort Conservation Campaign, while conducting the camp, a fund of three lakh fifty thousand rupees was made available through the Junnar Forest Department for the village committee of Narayangad. This fund, provided at the time of the inauguration of the NSS camp by Narayangaon College, marked the first instance of such an event during the Pune University NSS camp period for fort conservation and development. Using this fund, development works such as forest conservation, tree plantation, road repairs, and water supply were undertaken at Narayangad. Observing the volunteers' work, the village committee raised additional funds through public donations to create stone and mud steps for the fort. This initiative was started by the volunteers. The volunteers constructed mud steps and widened the road over an approximate distance of one kilometer to facilitate access to the fort. As a result, in the subsequent period, these mud steps were transformed into permanent stone steps using a mixture of stone, sand, and cement, with the involvement of the village committee and locals. These steps, created through voluntary labor, are now proving useful for citizens to ascend the fort easily, and they remain in good condition today.

3) Mukai Temple Area Beautification:

At the foothills of the historic Narayangad Fort, in the serene vicinity of nature, the Mukai Temple has been renovated by the villagers of Gadachiwadi and the surrounding areas. The construction and renovation of the temple were carried out by the villagers. On the occasion of Vijayadashami, the festival of Mukai Devi, the villagers continue to uphold the tradition of an uninterrupted Harinama Saptah. During the camp, the volunteers worked on clearing stones, debris, and garbage, and leveling the ground by filling in the pits around the temple area. The temple premises were cleaned, and the leveling off the ground to make it even was carried out through the voluntary labor of the villagers and volunteers.

4) Widening the Path to the Fort:

As mentioned above, through the efforts of the volunteers, a road approximately one kilometer long, from the base to the central area of the fort, was



created in the form of six-foot-wide stone and mud steps. This was accomplished using voluntary labor. During the camp, the road was repaired with the help of the villagers and volunteers.

As a result, the path from the Mukai Temple at the base of the hill to the Hastamata Temple on the fort, or to various historical structures and places on the fort, has now become useful for everyone. The path created by the volunteers of Narayangaon College, with the help of the villagers, is an exemplary model of the work done on the fort during the camp.

5) Water Tank Excavation:

The water tank, known as "Narayana Taka," located on the eastern summit of Narayangad, is considered an important water source for the fort. It is famous for providing drinking water, which is used by tourists visiting the fort. Further along, towards the eastern edge, there is a group of five tanks on the right side. During the camp, the task of removing the accumulated sludge and mud, which had built up over the years, was carried out. Through the efforts of the villagers and volunteers, five feet of mud was removed from the bottom of the tanks, cleaning the "Panphodi" tanks.

As a result, these tanks are now capable of collecting rainwater, which has become easily usable. During the monsoon, rainwater naturally accumulates in these tanks through the flow of water.



Since the Panphodi is entirely made of stone, the water stored in these tanks remains for a long time. As a result, the wildlife and birds on the fort make use of this water. Through voluntary labor, these tanks were cleaned. Removing the accumulated sludge that had been there for many years has helped in the collection of water in these tanks.

6) Hastamata Temple:

Upon climbing to the top of Narayangad, there is the Hastamata Temple. The management, worship, and maintenance of this temple are carried out by the villagers. The temple, located at the summit of the fort, is built in an attractive form in a limited space. During the camp, the volunteers worked on beautifying the area around the temple by relocating stones and debris, thus enhancing the temple's surroundings.

7) Historical Architectural Ruins on Narayangad:

Some parts of the ruins of the structures on Narayangad are still visible today. To make these ruins more visible, the volunteers cleared the area by removing unwanted trees and



shrubs and cutting the grass for a while. As a result, the fallen remnants of the structures on the fort and their architectural layout are now visible to

tourists. Visitors can experience the evidence of the existence of these structures.



On the summit of the fort, the entrance gate, Ganeshpatti, and sculptures of tigers prepared for hunting are clearly visible. Today, only the stone remnants of Ganeshpatti are primarily visible on the fort.

8) Tree Plantation on the Fort:

During the camp, the volunteers carried out tree planting on the fort's summit and other areas of the fort. They especially focused on planting seeds of wild plants, lemon trees, shisam, and boris. The youth collected these seeds and planted them in the soil. During the monsoon, these seeds transformed into saplings and gradually grew into full trees.

9) Initiative by the Locals:

From 2011 to 2013, the hard work of the volunteers from Narayangaon College's NSS department contributed to building enthusiasm among the villagers for fort conservation. This led to the Narayangad (Gadachiwadi) village committee and Khodad Gram Panchayat taking the initiative for the conservation of the fort. Previously, the road from Malimala (Khodaroad) to Narayangad was made of raw soil, gravel, and simple stones. With the efforts of the villagers, government funding, and the initiative of local representatives, the road was paved with bitumen, making it a suitable route to the fort. The construction of modern water tanks has been completed in Gadachiwadi, Narayangad, providing a reliable water supply for both the villagers and tourists. Additionally, facilities such as electricity supply, tree plantation, and forestation have been established in the Narayangad foothills and surrounding areas. This development was made using government development funds. Narayangad, being a scenic area with an environment conducive to agriculture, has thriving farms with various crops growing in the Narayangad and Gadachiwadi region.

Conclusion: The joint efforts of the villagers and volunteers have inspired the local community to take action for village development and fort conservation. This inspiration led to the creation of the historical fort Narayangad as a book on its history. The NSS department of Narayangaon College has worked to spread awareness of the fort's historical significance in the region. Every year, during Nagpanchami and Dussehra, there is a large crowd of devotees at the Mukai Mata and Hastamata temple areas for the annual fair. Many pilgrims and tourists visit the fort to learn about its historical importance.

Today, fort and fortification work is being carried out at the government level through various departments. In addition, several social organizations focused on fort conservation are also engaged in preserving forts. Considering the many forts in Junnar taluka, a large social organization like Shivaji Trail is also active in fort conservation in the region. Additionally, through young fort enthusiasts from organizations dedicated to fort conservation, efforts to preserve forts continue to be seen.

H) Junnar Tourism Awareness Campaign by the NSS:

Since 2011-12, various initiatives have been organized every year by the NSS of Savitribai Phule Pune University, Gramonnati Mandal, and Narayangaon College, to raise awareness about fort conservation and tourism in Junnar taluka. Some of the major activities include:

1) Organizing Tourism Tours:

To raise awareness among today's youth about the fort's grandeur and historical background, an annual youth tour is organized to a fort in the region. During these tours, the participants engage



in cleanliness campaigns on the fort, gather information about the fort, and explore the site for tourism purposes.

2) Awareness Campaign for College Students in Junnar Ambegaon Taluka:

On August 16, 2017, the NSS department of Narayangaon College organized a fort tour and cleanliness campaign for 300 students at the historic Narayangad Fort. This event involved students and volunteers from various colleges including Gramonnati Mandal's Arts, Commerce, and Science College, Narayangaon; Dilip Walse Patil College, Nimgaon Sava; Mrs. S.R. Shinde College, Bori; Annasaheb Awate College, Manchar; B.D. Kale College, Ghodegaon; Shiv Chhatrapati College, Junnar; and Balasaheb Jadhav College, Aale. During the event, the students were educated about fort conservation and the importance of preserving historical heritage.

3) Dussehra Festival:

Every year, on the day of Dussehra, a pilgrimage festival is held at Narayangad Fort. As part of the celebration, 70 to 80 students from the college participate in this festival, and the event helps promote Narayangad as a tourist destination.

4) University-level Fort Conservation Camp - 2016:

A fort conservation camp was organized through the NSS for 140 students from Pune, Ahmednagar, and Nashik districts, held from March 3 to 5, 2016. The camp included awareness lectures, fort tours, and sightseeing trips to historical forts in Junnar taluka. Social organizations like Shivaji Trail and Sahyadri Pratishthan, which work on fort conservation, participated in the event by providing expert guidance.

Experts such as Anilatyia Meher (Chairman of Gramonnati Mandal), Vinayak Khot (Fort Enthusiast), Ramesh Kharmale (Nature Enthusiast), Manoj Hadwale (Agricultural Tourism), Raichand Shinde, Ashok Kharat, and Dr. Lahu Gaikwad guided the volunteers. Volunteers visited historic forts such as Naneghat, Kukdeshwar, Chavand, Shivneri, Lenadri, and Ozar, learning about their history during field visits. Additionally, the importance of fort conservation in Junnar taluka was emphasized during the camp.

5) University-level Fort Conservation Camp - 2018:

The NSS department of Savitribai Phule Pune University, Gramonnati Mandal's Arts, Commerce, and Science College, Narayangaon, organized a university-level fort conservation camp in Ozar, Tal. Junnar, Pune district, from February 25 to March 3, 2018. 200 NSS volunteers from colleges in Pune, Ahmednagar, and Nashik participated in this seven-day camp. The inauguration was held in the presence of Dr. Raja Dixit (History Expert) along with other dignitaries.

The camp included lectures on topics such as: Dr. Prashant Kachale (Medical Care during Fort Visits), Manoj Hadwale (Sustainable Tourism Model for Junnar), Dr. Raja Dixit (History and Fort Conservation), Datta Mhaskar (Tourist Attractions in Junnar Taluka and Current Status), Dharmendra Kore (Current Status of the Tourism Sector), Ramesh Kharmale (Scenic Junnar Taluka), Rahul Gore (Weapons of the Shivaji Era), Prof. Akash Kamble (Shiv Chhatrapati), Dr. Suresh Bhosale (Forest Resources in Junnar Taluka), Dr. V. Lokhande (Geography of Junnar Taluka), Dr. Padmakar Prabhune (Studies of Caves on Forts), Vinayak Khot (Fort Conservation and Shivaji Trail Organization), Srikant Shewale (Global Telescope at G.M.R.T.), Radhakrishna Gaikwad (Historical Fort Narayangad), Amar Chikhale (Ideal King Shiv Chhatrapati), Dr. Lahu Gaikwad (Administration of King Shiv Chhatrapati), Ganesh Maharaj Waghmare (Ideal Rajmata



Jijau), Madan Haral (Fort Shivneri), Prof. Shakurav Korde (Shiv Era and Today's Economy), Vinayak Khot (History of Chavand Fort), and Dr. K.N. Bawale (Tourism and Sustainable Development).

These experts guided the young fort and history enthusiasts. During the camp, Dr. Lahu Gaikwad and Dr. Srikant Phulsunder's book "Junnar Tourism Guide" was published, and the volunteers were provided with free copies.

As part of the camp, field visits were organized to historical forts like Shivneri, Narayangad, Chavand, and Hadser, as well as places like Naneghat, Kukdeshwar Temple, G.M.R.T., and Reda Samadhi (Aale). Cleanliness campaigns and awareness programs were carried out at these sites. The camp also featured presentations, discussions, Q&A sessions, and cultural events to raise awareness about tourism and fort conservation.

The event was supported by the Vighnagar Devasthan Trust, Ozar, Gramonnati Mandal, and the NSS department of the college.

6) District-level Workshop:

A district-level workshop on the preservation and significance of historical sites was conducted by the college's NSS department. This workshop included historical dramas, speech competitions, and poster presentations on historical sites. The main goal of the workshop was to spread awareness about the importance of tourism sites in Junnar taluka among college students.

7) District Level Local History Writing Workshop:

On December 12, 2013, a district-level workshop on local history writing based on value-based education was organized. 200 professors and students from Pune district participated in this workshop. The workshop focused on writing the local history of historical sites, forts, temples, or villages in each area, offering guidance and enlightenment for historical documentation. The aim was for the scholars to write about historical sites, structures, and temples in their respective areas.

The Pune University NSS department inspired the writing of a booklet on local history writing for Narayangaon College. The booklet, titled "Local History Writing," was published by Pune University's NSS department, with contributions from Dr. Raja Dixit (History Expert). The booklet became a valuable guide for over 650 colleges under Pune University, assisting their NSS departments in documenting local history.

I) Inspiration for Writing Related to Junnar Tourism:

Through the NSS activities at the college, work has been done on fort tourism and conservation in the taluka through the involvement of youth. The inspiration for historical writing came from the support and motivation provided by Pune University's NSS, Gramonnati Mandal Education Institute Narayangaon, the college, and the villagers during the camp. From this, historical writing initiatives were encouraged. Through the writing skills of Dr. Lahu Gaikwad and Dr. Srikant Phulsunder, the books Local History Writing, Historical Forts - Narayangad, and Junnar Taluka Tourism Guide were created. This also led to the creation of a new book titled Junnar Durgvaibhav. All of these writings will certainly be useful for the government, forest department, tourists, businesses, history enthusiasts, researchers, fort conservationists, village development, and various NGOs. It will inspire people to preserve the history of their ancestors and safeguard the heritage of historical sites.



The inspiration for these initiatives came from all NSS officers, volunteers, and staff, along with the support of all office-bearers from the Gramonnati Mandal Narayangaon. The NSS department of Savitribai Phule Pune University provided an excellent opportunity for this. As a result, Narayangaon College was able to carry out fort conservation and tourism-related initiatives. Many social organizations involved in fort conservation and Villagers, Sarpanch, and Members from adopted villages during the camps offered valuable cooperation. Through the NSS department's work, information about tourist spots in Junnar Taluka was collected and understood. The aim to publish the book Junnar Durgvaibhav in written form as a book was inspired by this, with the goal of preserving historical sites and passing on the legacy of the work done by our ancestors through these sites.

J) Conclusion:

Fort conservation should be done properly, with active participation from fort enthusiasts, individuals, and fort experts, along with the government's continuous efforts to familiarize the new generation with the inspirational life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and to conserve forts and fortifications. Junnar Taluka (Shivneri), the birthplace of Shivaji Maharaj, is home to the largest number of caves in the world, two of the Ashtavinayak temples, five dams, the world's largest telescope, the ancient inscription of the classical Marathi language at Naneghat, five dams in the taluka, all kinds of commercial crop production, and historical and religious significance. This taluka is also rich in biodiversity and natural beauty, and in 2018, it was declared a tourism taluka. The youth and highly educated children of farmers in this region should see this as an opportunity for commercial development. The local food culture, fishery industry, and agro-tourism development should be seen as a part of the employment opportunities. The creation of documentaries about the unique characteristics of Junnar and showcasing these through shows and guides can enhance the commercialization of natural resources within the Junnar Fort Conservation campaign.

Several important conclusions can be drawn from the work done by the NSS of Narayangaon College under the fort conservation campaign:

1. **Raising Awareness:** The campaign helped in raising awareness about the historical and cultural significance of forts among students and the local community.
2. **Active Participation:** NSS students actively participated in the cleanliness, maintenance, and conservation of forts, which instilled in them a sense of responsibility for preserving historical heritage.
3. **Community Involvement:** The collaboration between local people, college students, and the administration played a crucial role in the success of the campaign.
4. **Social Impact:** The fort conservation campaign fostered pride and recognition of cultural and historical events within the local community.
5. **Environmental Benefits:** Proper management of the surroundings of forts helped avoid environmental degradation and promoted sustainable tourism.
6. **Skill Development:** NSS students gained hands-on experience in fort conservation, project management, and teamwork.
7. **Long-term Benefits:** This campaign will have a positive long-term impact on the preservation of historical structures and local tourism and education sectors.



In general, the campaign has had positive social and environmental outcomes. It has made a significant contribution to preserving the historical heritage from the perspective of local villagers, youth, tourists, fort conservationists, and the administration.

J) Summary:

This research paper analyzes the work carried out by the NSS of Narayangaon College under the fort conservation campaign. The emphasis of the campaign was on raising awareness about the historical, cultural, and environmental significance of forts. The NSS students carried out various activities related to fort cleanliness, maintenance, and conservation. This resulted in fostering a sense of history and cultural heritage among students and increased awareness within the local community, leading to societal development.

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