


**National Service Scheme (NSS)  
Institute of Management, Nirma University  
NSS 7-Day Special Camp at Khodiyar village**



## Contents

About Khodiyar .....	2
Day 1: 17 <sup>th</sup> December, 2018.....	3
Day 2: 18 <sup>th</sup> December, 2018.....	6
Day 3: 19 <sup>th</sup> December, 2018.....	8
Day 4: 20 <sup>th</sup> December, 2018.....	10
Day 5: 21 <sup>st</sup> December, 2018.....	12
Day 6: 22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2018 .....	14
Day 7: 23 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2018.....	15

## About Khodiyar

Khodiyar is a village situated in Daskroi Tehsil of Ahmedabad district in Gujarat, India. The village is located 17km away from Ahmedabad, which is both district & sub-district headquarter of Khodiyar village. The total geographical area of village is 413.39 hectares. Khodiyar has a total population of 3,327 peoples. There are about 620 houses in Khodiyar village. The total geographical area of village is 413.39 hectares. Khodiyar has a total population of 3,327 peoples. There are about 620 houses in Khodiyar village. As per the stats, Khodiyar village is also a gram panchayat. It has an arable land agriculture area of around 25 to 30 acres while the forest area is spread around 15 acres.

During a recent survey by the volunteers of NSS in Khodiyar village it was found that villagers were not much literate. Very few people have completed their graduation. Most of the children only get primary education especially girls because there are no secondary schools and no colleges, neither government nor private, in the village. They do not even have any basic computer knowledge.

Apart from this, quite a few people have their bank accounts due to lack of awareness about the procedure and for safety concerns. The villagers are also completely unaware of all the government schemes. They most of the times do not know whom to approach.

Women, mostly in this village do not work. Among the men too, very few people have salaried jobs in the private sector while some own the business, some get their daily bread through cattle and the rest all are the dependents, working for somebody else in the unorganized sector. People in the village also complain about not having any hospital in the village nearby, neither government nor private. It lacks medical facilities too as there is only one primary Health Care Centre nearer to them which is situated in another village. There is no pharmacy shop in the village as well.

## Day 1: 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

“At the end of the day it’s not about what you have or even what you have accomplished. It’s about who you have lifted up, who you have made better. It is about what you have given back.”

The National Service Scheme (NSS) of Institute of Management, Nirma University commenced with its ‘7 Day Special Camp’ today, on December 17, 2018 to work towards the rural development of Khodiyar village, Ahmedabad. The NSS camp gave volunteers a proper opportunity to explore a life other than their day-to-day activities and to understand a totally different setting than what they live in. A total of forty NSS volunteers joined the camp and will be a part of it for the duration of an entire week.

“The future of India lies in its villages”, was rightly said by M.K. Gandhi; this is what NSS IMNU is trying to do by helping to improve everybody’s future. The camp primarily focuses on various domains of social issues like women hygiene, self-employment, waste management, awareness about government schemes, higher education and digitalization prevailing in the village.



The first day started with an inaugural session with Dr M Mallikarjun, Director of Institute of Management, as the chief guest, accompanied by Mr. Suresh Rao, Assistant Registrar, IMNU and Mr. Biju Thomas, Office Superintendent. Prof. Bhajan Lal Kardam, Faculty Co-coordinator of NSS, IMNU and Prof. Monali Chatterjee were also present at the ceremony. The Director addressed



the volunteers and threw some light on the functioning of a village and difference in culture and mind set of rural and urban people. He enlightened the volunteers with a fact that the villagers had much more practical knowledge in handling situations and had greater experience with facing real life problems even though they dwelled in a rural setting. He also advised them to learn from the hardships of the villagers and advised them to adapt to the local culture and

lifestyles during their span in Khodiyar village. Dr. Mallikarjun directed them not to differentiate between the villagers on the basis of caste and religion as well as to be sensitive while dealing with different genders. He concluded his speech with an instruction to all the volunteers to conduct them in a cordial and orderly manner.

The volunteers were later divided into different groups with five to six members in each group. Since, the native language of the villagers in Khodiyar is Gujarati, each group had at least one volunteer who could communicate with them in their mother tongue. Each team was asked to cover different neighbourhoods in the village so that the volunteers could interact with every household.



The teams introduced themselves as students of Institute of Management, Nirma University representing the National Service Scheme (NSS). The villagers were informed about the purpose of the seven day camp which would benefit them in various social and economic aspects of their life; women hygiene, self-employment, waste-management, awareness about government schemes, higher education and digitalization were the topics to be stressed on. The villagers were briefed about the forthcoming events related to the various issues and were requested to coordinate with the volunteers and attend the events. The whole task took nearly two hours to complete as there were seven teams covering the whole village. One of the team also went to the local branch of Dena Bank and convinced the staff to help them in taking a session on digitalization, investment related schemes and internet banking.



In the evening, the volunteers played 'Sitoliya' with the kids living near the compound area of the camp residence. Two teams were made, each with few volunteers and some children. The game lasted for nearly 1.5 hrs. Even when the volunteers were about to end the game, the children persisted them to play and were not ready to leave. The activity led to the formation of a

good bond between the volunteers and the children of village.

At the end of the day Mr. Bhavesh Parekh, CCO, Student Welfare Committee, visited the NSS camp at Khodiyar. He encouraged the students to work constructively towards the collective advancement of the villagers by quoting examples of NSS camps which were conducted by IMNU in the past. He also told the students how to save the funds whilst their stay at the camp. Mr. Parekh suggested the volunteers various ways to interact with the villagers and to build a good bond with them by talking to them in their native language, planning events related to their culture and engaging more with children. He also mentioned the fact that this camp at Khodiyar will be having the largest number of volunteers in the history of NSS camp organized by Nirma University. Mr. Parekh concluded his session by wishing the volunteers good luck and success at the camp.



## Day 2: 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

The working of the second day at the NSS Camp at Khodiyar village started with briefing to all the volunteers about the schedule of the day and what tasks are to be completed in the day.

The first activity undertaken was interaction with the villagers. Volunteers formed groups among themselves each with 5-6 members and at least one Gujarati speaker. This time the motive of interaction was to get information



from the villagers about their problems and grievances. They wanted to have a conversation with them to know about their daily lifestyle. All the teams were asked to cover different neighbourhoods.

Volunteers got to know about the occupation of the locals, mostly constituting either agriculture or blue collar jobs. On interaction with villagers, different teams realized the various problems faced by the villagers that included improper waste management facilities and lack of knowledge regarding higher secondary education. The problem of waste management was discerned to be due to lack of any waste collection systems because of which the villagers had to either burn the waste or throw it out in the open. Few teams also interrogated about women hygiene and found that none of the women used sanitary napkins because of certain reasons.

The teams also carried with them printed copies of the schedule of the 7 day camp in Gujarati, the local language, which were distributed in the households along with inviting them to all the events like garba night, blood donation camp, session on women hygiene, etc. The teams spend nearly 10-20 minutes in each house. The teams found the villagers very corporative and were amazed by their hospitality and greeting. Few teams encountered moments where villagers said to them things like: "tame jamine jao", "nashto paani krine jao" and "tu to maari dikri javi che".



After the interaction with villagers was done, the volunteers got back to the camp residence and started to plan for the upcoming events like nukkad natak and skits. The volunteers were divided into two groups one for acting in the skits and the other for planning, story and dialogue writing.



The latter team did a brainstorming activity to analyse the problems faced by the villagers and come up with ideas relating to the social causes. They wanted to make sure that the solutions could be explained to the villagers in a relatable, yet amusing way. They wanted to go about the scripting without hurting the sentiments of the villagers as they did not wish to seem like attacking the local culture and

norms.

In the evening, the volunteers along with faculty supervisors Prof. Poonam Chenniwal and Prof. Hardik Shah conducted a rally to promote blood donation and cleanliness. Four slogans were prepared for the rally: “apnou gaam, apnu bhavishya”, “karo tame raktdaan, jarooratmand ne jeevandaan”, “gaamda ma ekta noj vichsr, aapsi saheyog vadhariye apaar”, “ek, be, tron,chaar, swach Khodiyar che apnu adhikar”. The rally was followed by banging of utensils by few of the volunteers to create enough noise to garner the attention of the villagers. The volunteers walked through the whole village and shouted out slogans. It took nearly two hours to cover the whole village and spread awareness.

The night flowed into preparations for the ‘Garba’ event. Music systems were arranged and the choice of music was deliberated over. After all the villagers were done with their daily chores, they mustered around the central ‘chowk’, near the village temple. People of all ages and communities gathered together to take part in this event wholeheartedly. The importance of togetherness, brotherhood and spirituality is what the villagers taught the volunteers. This showcased an excellent example of the coming together of people from various communities, wherein all differences and disparities were erased. The people rejoiced and danced around in circles with the volunteers and danced to the rhythm of the ‘Garba’ songs. Sadly, the ‘Garba’ night came to an end and the villagers were reluctant to leave. They had thoroughly enjoyed the festivities due to the charged atmosphere.





### Day 3: 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

The third day of the NSS Camp at the Khodiyar village started off with the briefing and delegation of the different tasks to be held throughout the day. The issues addressed were women hygiene and blood donation.



The volunteers were segregated into teams of 4-5 members and were instructed to remind the villagers about the session on **women hygiene** to be held in the afternoon. The volunteers were to ensure maximum participation from women of all ages, throughout the village. Thereafter, the teams went around talking to the women,

convincing them to reach the camp residence after the completion of all their household chores. They informed women about the various topics to be covered such as women hygiene, menstruation, breast cancer and use of contraceptive devices.

The female volunteers at the camp started the lecture on women hygiene, in the afternoon. The women came in large numbers and the event got a good response. The objective of the discussion was to come through to as many women as possible and try to enlighten them with the importance of women hygiene and health. The volunteers spoke over the topic of menstruation and the importance of the maintenance of proper sanitation during its duration. They were able to understand the problems of the local women and were also able to answer their queries regarding hygiene. The volunteers encouraged them to use sanitary pads instead of makeshift cloth pads. The women were also told about the use and importance of contraceptive devices to avoid unwanted pregnancies. They were also informed about the symptoms of breast cancer and its preventive measures. At the end of the session, volunteers also distributed sanitary pads to the girls and ladies below the age of 45 years.

The evening saw the setting up of the blood donation camp at the village chowk with the help of **Prathma Blood Centre**. Volunteers were again divided in the groups of 3-4 people to invite the villagers for donating blood at the camp. Each team of volunteers was given a specimen of a form and a certificate which would help them to convince the villagers. Volunteers



briefed the villages about the benefits of donating blood. An incentive was announced to the villagers who were willing to donate blood that they will get a free blood checkup worth ₹3000 which included hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV AIDS and Malaria. Their selfless support was also acknowledged by a **Certificate of Appreciation**, a coffee mug and a Jute bag. After the donation, donors were given a tetrapack of frooti, a packet of biscuit and nankeen. At the end of the blood donation camp, 31 units of blood were collected.

Meanwhile, another activity was going on in the school for children of grade 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, wherein a handful of volunteers, who are good at singing and dancing, tutored the children in their respective areas of expertise. A group song was prepared on “Nani teri morni ko mor le gaye”. Nearly 25 children took part in these activities which include 10 for singing and others for dancing. Another set of volunteers were taking a class on spoken English.

In the late evening, the volunteers organized a bon fire for to spend some leisure time. The bonfire was joined by some children. The volunteers sang songs by themselves and later songs were played on the speakers. A few rounds of antakshari were also played. All the people, sitting near the bonfire, danced and cherished the evening together.



## Day 4: 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

Day 4 of the NSS 7 Day camp at Khodiyar Village started with the planning of events for the day according to the convenience and availability of villagers. The villagers gave a feedback to the volunteers to conduct the events in the evening as most of them are not available before 5pm. So most of the events which were planned for youngsters of elders were planned in the evening and events which were for children were planned in the afternoon. The main focus on the 4<sup>th</sup> Day was to create awareness about digitalization and various government initiatives.

Other than the routine activities of Skit rehearsal and dancing & singing classes, the day witnessed a session by Arpita Ben, Branch Manager of Dena Bank, Khodiyar village accompanied by one of her colleague. Arpita Ben covered various government initiated schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Shukrasha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, etc. She also talked about importance of having a bank account and how to open it. She explained various services provided by the bank like debit card, credit card and mobile banking. Arpita Ben briefed the attendees of the session about few insurance policies mainly focusing on policies relating to girls. She explained about policies with different premiums and different benefits attached to them. She also answered few queries related to insurance and debit card which were raised by the crowd.



The NSS volunteers continued the session after Arpita Ben's part and talked about BHIM application for transferring fund. The volunteers explained about the benefits and functioning of BHIM app and how funds get transferred from one account to another within a minute. The volunteers also took an initiative and opened up accounts on BHIM app for few villagers.



While the NSS volunteers were conducting sessions relating to banking facilities and BHIM app, a small team of volunteers in collaboration with Mavericks- the Social Committee of Institute of Management, Nirma University celebrated Christmas with children. The event included dancing, singing and cake cutting with the kids. An

approximation of 150 children was attracted to the celebration. NSS volunteers contributed to the celebration by distributing chocolates to the children present there.

After all these activities, a good amount of public was attracted to the *Chowk*. As planned, a skit was performed by the volunteers in Gujarati language. The main motive of the skit was to promote awareness about Digitalization. The plot of the skit promoted the objective by showcasing a rural setting in which a father stops his daughter from going to school because of loss in agricultural



output. Here, the volunteers promoted a government developed application for farmers i.e. 'Kisan Suvida'. The volunteers explained the features of the application and how can farmers benefit from it. The skit performance and learning was very well received by the villagers.



## Day 5: 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2018

The volunteers of NSS camp initiated a cleanliness drive in the *Khodiyar* village on day 5. The volunteers arranged various necessities from the village itself like broomsticks, garbage bags, etc. The main objective of the cleanliness drive was to remove plastic waste from roads and roadside and spread awareness about proper disposal of plastic waste. The volunteers were divided in many teams which were sent in different directions. Along with picking up the garbage and



cleaning the streets, the volunteers also talked to many shopkeepers about the issue and asked them to further tell the villagers about the same and how plastic waste degrades environment and harms the cattle. The garbage collected by different teams was brought together and later disposed properly. The activity had to be stopped when the children who had just left the school started to create a chaos in the *chowk*. The activity

consumed nearly 1.5 hours before it had to be stopped. This resulted in covering only a small part village in the drive.

A drama and a movie screening were planned for the evening on the issue of **Women Empowerment**. A white screen and speakers were borrowed from the temple to screen the movie. Seating arrangements were made for the villagers and a group of volunteers went to remind the villagers about this event.

Before performing the drama, two volunteers briefed the villagers about the topic for the day and how today's topic was going to benefit them. After a short introduction, drama was performed. The drama depicted a scene in which a father had to get his daughter married against the settlement of his debt and his daughter was then tortured by her in laws which led her to get help of a Self Help Group. The self-help group helped her to handle her in-laws and start a small business of her own, hence empowering herself. The audience liked the drama and appreciated it. This also attracted more villagers to the *chowk* for next event.

The next event which was lined up for the evening was the screening of the movie '*Baa ae boundary maari*'. It is a Gujarati play which shows women sacrifices in life. The protagonist of the play struggled to get respect and value from the other family members for the tireless





work she did for the benefit of her family. The play was very well received by the audience and the villagers thoroughly enjoyed the evening.



## Day 6: 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2018

The 6<sup>th</sup> day of NSS 7 day camp saw the preparation for the cultural night which was to be organized in the evening. As it was Saturday, the students of the primary school were able to rehearse from 1:30 pm onwards. As soon as the school got over, a group of volunteers joined the students for rehearsals. 4 volunteers took up singing, 6 volunteers took up dancing and another 5 volunteers took up Spoken English classes. Practices for the same went on till sunset. Remaining students were engaged in a poster making competition on the topic 'Clean village' by some volunteers.



Simultaneously, a group of volunteers were practicing for anchoring and few others made a video showcasing all the work done in the village by the volunteers till day 6. Remaining volunteers broke out in teams of 3 for inviting villagers for the event by giving them a brief about various activities which were to be included in the cultural night.



As the time passed, preparations for the cultural nights were made. The event started at 8pm. The Sarpanch of Khodiyar village, Babu Bhai, along with two members of gram panchayat joined the event. Dr. Bhajanlal Kardam, Faculty coordinator of NSS, IMNU was also present there. The event started by playing the video of the work done during the tenure of 6 days in the village followed by greeting the audience by the anchors for the event. Dr. Kardam welcomed the villagers to the event and explained them about the efforts which were shown by the volunteers. The event was progressed by a group dance performance by 12 students on two songs. Later on 9 children, comprising of 6 girls and 3 boys performed a group song. In between various performances the villagers were entertained by some fun facts. After the performance by the children, a group of volunteers performed a group



group of volunteers performed a group song with guitar. Prizes were also given to three children for poster making competition. As the event was proceeding towards the end, Babu Bhai, the Sarpanch was called upon to say a few words about the camp and what were his views about our stay. This was followed by a vote of thanks from Dr. Bhajan Lal to all the villagers, college administration and the volunteers who joined the camp. He also thanked the villagers for showing their corporation and support towards the volunteers during the tenure.



The event was winded up after playing garba for an hour with the villagers.

## Day 7: 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2018

As the last day of the camp started, volunteers started preparations for leaving. After having breakfast and arranging all the mattresses together, all the volunteers left to bid a farewell from the villagers. The volunteers went from house to house to meet the villagers and to greet them, thus covering the whole village once again. The villagers, out of generosity, asked the volunteers to come back again to the village and to take care of themselves. After covering the village, all the volunteers went back to the camp residence and cleaned it up well and packed their bags.



The volunteers thanked the landlord for their hospitality and left for the college.

Great endings with great starts make great stories and experiences. The volunteers came to spread awareness among the villagers but returned with so many learnings, experiences, the sense of belonging, ability to connect with each other and unity.

They learned about how to deal with any situation patiently, how to communicate, team performance, interpersonal skills, co-operation, coordination, etc. even the villagers had a great time with the volunteers during the whole week. They even asked some of them to pay a visit again and stay with them.

As a future course of action, NSS is trying to curb the waste disposal problem by contacting the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) time and again to take measures for disposing waste and charging the plea for the same. NSS will also visit the village every month to see its progress and keep a check on all the problems. Certain actions on every visit will be taken to curb the villagers' problems.

“Villages are the essence of nation body, and the essence must be healthy and developed for the nation body to be healthy and developed.”