

## Draft Concept Note on Rural Immersion Programme

**Theme: Bridging Rural and Urban Gaps through Youth Engagement**

### **Introduction:**

The proposed Rural Immersion Programme aims to connect young volunteers with rural lifestyles, allowing them to discover about life in rural areas, experience, challenges and work and live with rural families for at least 7 days.

### **Program Structure:**

The Rural Immersion Programme will be for 10 days, including 2 days for orientation training, 7 days home-stay where youth will live with rural families and help them in their daily/routine work and 1 day for preparing the Report. It will provide volunteers hands-on work experience, a deeper understanding of challenges being faced by the villagers in their daily life and develop problem-solving skills and teamwork.

### **Process Flow:**

#### **Identification of villages/farm families/ schools**

- NSS Programme Officer (PO) will identify willing villages/ farm families in coordination with village council/ Sarpanch.
- State NSS Officer (SNO) will motivate parents for ensuring the volunteers participations by informing them about the benefits of this programme.
- Benefits of the programme: 1. Youth will develop skills like- problem-solving , teamwork, 2. Understand rural lifestyles and their challenges, 3. Youth will provide valuable inputs/ suggestions/ feedback.

#### **Organising Orientation/Training sessions**

- NSS PO will organise orientation / training sessions for youth participating in this programme.

#### **Application Process**

- NSS PO/ SNO will post events through MY Bharat Portal
- Feedback/suggestios to be submitted by the volunteers
- Succes stories, images or videos may be uploaded on MY Bharat portal.

### Task for Youth:

- Rural Immersion Programme provides “Home-stay opportunity” for youth where they will stay within the villages with selected rural families for 7 days and explore their hardships and challenges and come up with new ideas and suggestions to improve their living standards.
- The volunteers would be deployed in the rural families in a group of 2 to 3. Female volunteers may also be motivated to participate in this home-stay programme and they may be deployed only those families where an older woman is residing in the family.
- The Government may give an honorarium of Rs.5000/- per volunteer per family for residing the volunteers at their home during this stay.
- Interested Youth will have to be registered on the MY Bharat portal where they can select this opportunity based on their nearby location and apply for it.
- Selected youth will be staying in villages and involve themselves in various activities of community engagement and assist the farm families in their daily work.
- They will be required to prepare a detailed (preferably 1000 words) report with suggestive measures for empowering rural communities with essential resources, skills and knowledge.
- The concerned Regional Director of NSS and State NSS Officer (SNO) will verify the detailed report submitted by the youth and certificates will be issued after completion of the program directly through the portal.
- Interested youth will have to submit feedback about their experience, views and suggestions for this programme.
- Success stories, photos and videos to be uploaded on MY Bharat Portal.

### Expected Key Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare
- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- Regional Directorates of National Service Scheme
- Gram Panchayat
- Education Departments of concerned States/UTs

### Expected outcomes:

- i. **Enhanced Understanding:** Participants of this programme will gain a deep understanding of rural life and their challenges.
- ii. **Skill Acquisition:** This programme will provide practical exposure to youth in understanding rural issues. Hence, developing problem-solving, leadership and communication skills.

- iii. **Career Growth:** The certificate provided after completion of this programme will enhance his/her resume by providing potential career opportunities in the development sector.
- iv. **Policy Inputs:** This programme will enable youth to provide valuable input by highlighting the root cause of the issues faced by the locals.
- v. **Sustained Engagement:** Continued involvement of youth in rural development initiatives through My Bharat Portal.

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