

## **Implementation of Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service**

### **1. Project**

Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service

#### **1.1 Background**

Among the youth development programmes implemented by the National Youth Services Council over a long period of time, volunteering service with the participation of youth holds a very significant place. In a backdrop where due recognition is not received for such volunteering service in the present day context, it seems to be difficult to obtain youth participation for this endeavour. Thus, it is a timely need to encourage youth towards social service and community development activities and to initiate sense of group work behavior through building up leadership and personality development as well, and to create a youth with soft skills required for socialization. As a country where multi-ethnic and multi-religious communities are living, it is required to establish social reconciliation to ensure social integration through mutual understanding. Therefore, it has been identified that it is opportune to establish a nationally recognized National Youth Volunteering Service in Sri Lanka too similar to which has already been implemented in many other countries in the world. Accordingly, it will enable the country to obtain more beneficial service from the youth generation by way of implementing youth volunteering service island wide while providing due recognition for the same.

#### **1.2 Objectives**

1. Provision of facilities and strategies to enhance leadership qualities of youth to build up balanced personality development through engagement in volunteering service.
2. Whilst getting the participation of youth community for taking decisions and formulating plans on the development programmes aimed at social, cultural and economic development of the country, to facilitate the mobilization of such relationships for their professional development also and development of capacities, knowledge, skills and attitudes of youth community in a manner enabling their effective contribution towards the development process of the country.
3. To formulate a process that enables youth community to contribute to build up Sri Lankan nation through reconciliation in order to provide equal opportunities to each and every youth to bear social responsibilities towards facilitating their skills development.

4. To facilitate an environment that enables youths to engage in employment with dignity, self-respect and to act rationally in an unrestricted manner.
5. To pave the way to create peaceful environment that will be conducive towards minimum incidents of interpersonal conflicts and personal and societal conflicts and empowerment of the society in a direction that enables to move into processes to get rid of influences affecting the youth community.
6. To introduce access to utilize current technological developments in optimum effective manner and to make the youth aware on the same to empower the youth community.

Definitions

- ❖ Volunteer – A person who offers to do general public service willingly without being forced to do it.
- ❖ Volunteerism – Carrying out general public service at one’s own will without being forced to do it.

**2. Outcomes of the National Youth Volunteering Service**

**2.1 Direct Outcomes obtainable by the youth who involve in the volunteering service**

1. Development of leadership skills in youth and enhancement of soft skills required to succeed in world of work.
2. Enhancement of knowledge, understanding and attitudes on community activities which directly effects on social and environmental development.
3. Enhancement of their knowledge on cultural values, core value systems among themselves by means of improved understanding on social activities/work and thereby promoting the social reconciliation among different ethnicities.
4. Enhancement of innovation skills and the ability to introduce new income generating opportunities through the understanding gained by use of information technology and cyber space.
5. Enhancement of communication skills influenced on improved human relations.
6. Enhancement of knowledge and competencies towards minimization/ control of diverse natural hazards and disasters.

## **2.2 Benefits that can be obtained towards ensuring future expectations of the volunteers**

1. On instances when volunteers are selected for employment or to receive promotions, they will be received extra marks based on their evaluations for engagement in volunteering services.
2. On instances of admissions to universities and other higher education institutions, they will be received extra marks based on their evaluations for engagement in volunteering services.
3. Opportunities to engage in volunteering programmes of United Nations Organization or other similar organizations at international level.
4. Opportunities to receive gold, silver, bronze medals and certificates when selected as the best volunteer.
5. To acquire a recognized certificate and a license as a volunteer.

## **2.3 Benefits in respect of the Development of the Country**

1. Emergence of active youth generation who have sense of nationality, being sensitive towards society and social reconciliation.
2. To contribute towards a positive growth in the spheres of community development, social welfare, environmental health and innovations.
3. To inherit the nation an efficient group of youth with outstanding personality.

## **3. Eligibility to engage in Volunteering Service**

Youths of 15-29 years of age of following categories can join into the volunteering service.

1. School students
2. Community of school leavers
3. University student community
4. Student Community of Technical Colleges, Vocational Training Institutes of Government or Such Institutes affiliated to the Government
5. Youths engaged in occupations who are willing to involved in volunteering service
6. Different volunteering employees and foreign youth who arrive into Sri Lanka for educational and other service activities

## **4. Registration of Volunteers**

The Secretariat that will be established to implement the Sri Lanka Volunteering Service will undertake the registration of youth volunteers and issuance of Identity cards, record books, guideline booklets and instruction leaflets to such registered youth volunteers.

## **5. Implementation of the Volunteering Service**

The volunteering Service will be implemented in 03 levels as primary, secondary and tertiary. 36 hours relevant to the primary level should be completed in minimum of 06 months and 48 hours relevant to the secondary level should also be completed in minimum of 06 months. The tertiary level consists of 120 hours and it should be completed in one year. Subsequent to having completed the requirements specific to each level by the respective volunteer, he/she can enter into the next level.

Youth Focal Point Officers who will be appointed by the Youth Volunteering Secretariat to represent national level Ministries and the Provincial Councils will determine the sectors and the institutions to be engaged at each of the level. The sectors and the institutions so determined will be informed by the Office for Registration of Youth Volunteer Officers. It should be certified by the Youth Focal Point Officer or his authorized Officer soon after completion of the assigned task and completion of the specified time to the effect that the respective volunteer has engaged in the referred sector or institution.

## **6. Duration to engage in the Volunteering Service**

### **1. Primary Level/ Bronze Medal**

1.1 Any youth (either female or male) who is enrolled under this category should complete volunteering work for a minimum of six hours per week for a total of 36 hours within a period of 6 months.

### **2. Secondary Level/ Silver Medal**

2.1 Any youth can be entered into secondary level subsequent to completion of 6 months in the aforementioned primary level and any youth (either female or male) who is enrolled under this category should complete volunteering work for a minimum of eight hours per week for a total 48 hours within a period of 6 months.

### **3. Tertiary Level/ Gold Medal**

3.1 Any youth can be entered into tertiary level subsequent to completion of 6 months in the aforementioned secondary level and any youth (either female or male) who is enrolled under this category should complete volunteering work for

a minimum of ten hours per week for a total of 120 hours within a period of 12 months.

## **7. Sectors to engage in Volunteering Service**

Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service will be implemented covering following 08 main sectors. Upon inquiring from the National Youth Volunteering Secretariat and the Youth Focal Point Officers on these 08 main sectors as well as the activities and institutions under the said sectors, it can be decided and engaged in the volunteering service. The sectors are as follows.

### **1. Building up National Integration and Social Reconciliation:**

Building up reconciliation among Sri Lankan youth community comprising of various ethnic groups with diverse cultural identities.

### **2. Social Hospitality and Negotiation:**

Enquiring about elderly and differently abled persons and addressing the issues of children and youth as well as female headed families.

### **3. Health, Nutrition and Sanitary Care:**

Take actions in respect of health and sanitation and to prevent communicable and non-communicable diseases and to engage in nursing care.

### **4. Agriculture:**

Take actions for the development of water/ irrigation resources management and food crop production and agricultural sector.

### **5. Environment:**

To engage in the activities on providing disaster relief measures, ensuring environment protection and management of biological resources.

### **6. Technology:**

To contribute towards encouragement of innovations and technological development.

### **7. Educational and Cultural:**

Teaching, religious school teaching and teaching for children with special capabilities and for backward children. Make contributions towards promotion of traditional and contemporary cultural values.

### **8. Community based Infrastructure Facilities and Community Integration Activities:**

Establishment of Community based Organizations, continuing the same and evaluation of rural development activities.

Based on the each of the sectors concerned, the Volunteering Secretariat will formulate the tasks to be engaged and accomplished by the youth volunteers and the institutions and persons be joined in respect of primary, secondary and tertiary levels and it will be implemented with the concurrence of the Steering Committee.

## **8. Implementing Structure of the Volunteering Service**

### **8.1 Conducting the Youth Volunteering Service**

Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Secretariat will be established as the implementing institution of the Youth Volunteering Service. It will be functioned as a division of the National Youth Services Council which comes under the purview of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Youth Affairs. The functions of the Secretariat are detailed in the Section 8.4 herein.

### **8.2 Youth Focal Point Officer**

In order to ensure the effectual expansion and coordination of youth development activities in Sri Lanka, an officer holding a post of a Senior Assistant Secretary/Director of a Ministry or any other higher post will be appointed as the Youth Focal Point Officer in every Ministry by its Secretary. Identifying sectors and access for Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service, facilitation for the same, presenting progress and recommendations will be carried out by the said officer. The respective Youth Focal Point Officer should appoint a Focal Point Officer for the institutions which comes under the purview of the Ministry as required.

### **8.3 National Steering Committee (the Governing Council)**

A National Steering Committee will be established to undertake policy related issues, to look into sectors and institutions to implement the volunteering service and its progress in respect of the Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering. The composition of the Committee which is headed by the Secretary to the Ministry in charge of the subject of Youth Affairs will be as follows.

1. A representative of the Secretary to the President
2. A representative of the Secretary to the Prime Minister
3. A representative of the Division of Youth Affairs in the Ministry in charge of the subject of Youth Affairs
4. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Skills Development and Vocational Training

5. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Public Administration
6. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Education
7. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Internal Affairs
8. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Health
9. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Higher Education
10. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Social Welfare/Social Services
11. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Disaster Management
12. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Sports
13. A representative of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Women Affairs
14. A representative of the University Grants Commission
15. A representative of the National Youth Services Council
16. A representative of a Non-Governmental Organization functioning at the national level
17. A representative of an International Non-Governmental Organization
18. A representative of the Inspector General of the Police of Sri Lanka Police
19. A representative of the Army Coordinating Office of the Ministry in charge of the subject of Defence

The said Governing Council is convened at every three months and the decisions relevant to implementation of the Volunteering Service will be taken upon the consensus of the members attended.

#### 8.4 **Functions of the Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Secretariat**

1. To assist in taking policy decisions relevant to implementation of the Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service.
2. To implement and conduct the Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service.
3. To coordinate the institutions which engage in Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service.
4. To conduct and monitoring the evaluation process of Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service.
5. Preparation and issuance of all circulars, general instructions relevant to the Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service.
6. Providing all the guidelines and issuance of handbooks, leaflets.

## **9. Evaluation Process of the Volunteering Service**

### **9.1. Evaluation Methods**

Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Secretariat will make arrangements to evaluate the volunteers who have fulfilled the requisite requirements at each level and to award bronze, silver and gold medals with respect to relevant level. For the evaluation purpose, the evaluation committees will be established on divisional, district and provincial basis and it will undertake the tasks with regard to deploying volunteers in different sectors according to their preference, monitoring the activities engaged by them in different sectors, supervising the handbook of volunteering, monitoring practical activities, monitoring the outputs of the volunteer, monitoring thesis, handbooks, photographs and discussing about the experiences.

### **9.2 Evaluation Committee**

The composition of the evaluation committees established at each level will be as follows.

#### **1. Primary Level/ Bronze Medal**

The Composition of the Committee – 05 members

1. A representative of the Divisional Secretariat
2. A representative of the Regional Educational Office
3. A principal of a School
4. An OIC of a Police Station
5. Youth Service Officer of the Division (Secretary of the Committee)

#### **2. Secondary Level/ Silver Medal**

The Composition of the Committee – 05 members

1. Divisional Secretary or a representative
2. A representative of the Regional Educational Office
3. A representative of the officers of Social Services/Environment/Skills Development/ Human Resources Development divisions in the Divisional Secretariat (selecting the representative according to the sector)
4. An Activist of a non-governmental organization
5. Youth Service Officer or District Youth Service Officer (Secretary of the Committee)



### **3. Tertiary Level/ Gold Medal**

For the purpose of evaluation at the tertiary level, committees should be established to represent several sectors.

The Composition of the Committee – 06 members

1. Senior Assistant Secretary/ Director or other officer of a higher rank from the Ministry in charge of the subject of Youth Affairs
2. An executive level senior officer from the National Youth Services Council
3. A representative of executive level representing the Ministries in charge of the subjects relevant to the sectors
4. A representative from a local non-governmental organization
5. A representative from an international non-governmental organization
6. An executive level representative from the Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Secretariat (Secretary of the Committee)

- 9.3 The Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Secretariat will institute a project operation arrangement as required for assessing and making recommendations at the national level on the recommendations provided by the aforementioned evaluation committees. The said recommendation will be put forward to the National Steering Committee to decide on the awarding of medals.

### **10. Awarding of Certificates and Awards**

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|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Primary Level/ Bronze Medal    | - | a Medal and a Certificate |
| 2. Secondary Level / Silver Medal | - | a Medal and a Certificate |
| 3. Tertiary Level/ Gold Medal     | - | a Medal and a Certificate |

The Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Secretariat in partnership with the Programme Implementing Office will evaluate the youth who will be engaged in the Sri Lanka National Youth Volunteering Service at the end of each year.