

THE INFLUENCE OF REPUBLIC DAY CAMP PARTICIPATION ON THE HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF NCC CADETS: A STUDY OF NCC NAGPUR GROUP

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ABSTRACT

The Republic Day Parade showcases India's defence capability and its cultural and social heritage. The National Cadet Corps, Annual Republic Day Camp (NCC-RDC) is held at Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cant every year from 01 January to 29 January. NCC Cadets also get an opportunity to be a part of this parade and more than 2200 selected NCC cadets from all States and Union Territories attend the camp every year.

Republic Day Camp leads to the overall development of an individual and the experience of this camp is something to be cheered for the whole life. The selection process of RDC takes more than 60 to 75 days which severely affect academics of NCC cadets as a student. This paper through a case study, analysis and hypothesis testing clearly bring out the impact on academic performance of NCC cadets due to their engagement in various activities of Republic Day Camp.

KEYWORDS: NCC, RDC, YUP

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Birth of the National Cadet Corps (NCC)

The Kashmir War of 1948 imparted a crucial lesson to India: the necessity of safeguarding freedom with robust Armed Forces. This realization led to the presentation of the Kunzuru Committee's recommendations to the Constituent Assembly (Legislature) on March 13, 1948. Subsequently, a draft Bill was submitted to the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on March 19, 1948, generating significant interest and enthusiasm among the members. After thorough deliberations and amendments, the Bill was passed by the Assembly on April 8, 1948. The Central Government accepted the views of the Provincial Governments and the Standing Committee's recommendations to establish a Cadet Corps named the "National Cadet Corps," as advised by the Kunzuru Committee.

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) was formally established in India through the National Cadet Corps Act on July 15, 1948, marking the beginning of this youth organization, which has since grown into the world's largest uniformed youth organization. Today, the NCC boasts over 1.5 million volunteer student cadets, including both boys and girls. The organization is headquartered in New Delhi, led by the Director General of NCC (DG-NCC), a three-star rank officer. It operates 17 directorates at the state level and group headquarters at the district level. NCC cadets participate in various programs, including institutional and outdoor field training camps, adventure activities, cultural events, and social initiatives, all designed to develop them into highly motivated, patriotic, and disciplined citizens of India. The NCC's motto is "Unity and Discipline."

1.2 Aim of NCC

The 'Aims' of the NCC, established in 1988, have proven enduring and continue to address the needs of the current socio-economic landscape of the country. The NCC focuses on fostering character, comradeship, discipline, a secular outlook, the spirit of adventure, and ideals of selfless service among young citizens. Additionally, it aims to create a pool of organized, trained, and motivated youth with leadership qualities across various fields, who will serve the Nation irrespective of their career choices. Importantly, the NCC also creates an environment that encourages young Indians to join the armed forces. The aims of the NCC are as follows:

1. To develop qualities of character, courage, comradeship, discipline, leadership, secular outlook, sportsmanship, and ideals of selfless service among the youth to make them useful and patriotic citizens of India.
2. To create a human resource of organized, trained, and motivated youth, ready to provide leadership in all walks of life, including the armed forces, and always available for the service of the nation.
3. To provide a suitable environment to motivate the youth to pursue careers in the armed forces.

1.3 NCC Camps

Every year, the NCC organizes various outdoor training camps to facilitate the overall development of its cadets. These camps are among the most exciting and impactful aspects of NCC training, providing cadets with firsthand experience of the organization's benefits. Camps are held at multiple levels, including Unit, Group HQ, Directorate, and National levels. Additionally, the NCC conducts a Youth Exchange Program (YUP) at the international level. These camps play a crucial role in motivating young students.

1.4 Holistic Development of Cadets:

Holistic development refers to the idea that a cadet's growth and education should not only focus on their academic achievements, but also on their physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being. This approach aims to create a balanced and integrated learning experience that prepares cadets to become well-rounded individuals.

1.5 REPUBLIC DAY CAMP

NCC Republic Day Camp (RDC) is the largest and the most important National level camp and a part of event that mark the Republic Day Celebrations in India. **The first Republic Day Parade was held in 1950, and it has been held every year since.** RDC is the culmination of all NCC Training activities. It is held at Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt from 01 to 29 Jan. every year. More than 2250 selected NCC Cadets from 17 directorates attend the Camp. RDC is organized and run under the total supervision of Directorate General (DG) NCC. For this purpose, a Republic Day Camp Standing Committee (RDC-SC) under the overall supervision of the Addl. Director General (B) is formed by August every year. RDC-SC will be responsible to the Director General to organize and run the Republic Day Camp in accordance with the standing instructions.

Each NCC directorate sends a contingent to represent the directorate/state and Union Territories covered by it for the National Republic Day Celebrations and to participate in RD Banner Competitions and various functions/event of the NCC RD Camp

During the RDC, various competitions are conducted amongst the 17 NCC Directorates to decide the Champion Directorate for award of Prime Minister's Banner. Competitions are keenly contested in various events such as National Integration Awareness presentation, Drill, Line & Flag Area, Cultural Programs, Best Cadet of Senior Division (Boys) and Senior Wing (Girls) in each Service – Army, Navy & Air Discipline and Best Cadet Boys and Girls each from Junior Division and Junior Wing. Aero modelling for NCC Air Wing cadets and Ship modelling for NCC Naval Wing Cadets are also conducted during RDC.

The benefits of the NCC Republic Day Camp are both tangible and intangible. These benefits are explained below:

1. RDC is a culmination of so many events - Best Cadet (BC), Youth Exchange Programme (YEP), Rajpath, PM Rally, Cultural events, Flag area briefing, etc. Every event has its own set of activities and an individual participating in a particular event is given the best possible training for excelling in that particular event.
2. Events like BC and YEP enhances the drill, firing, Group discussion (GD), Personal Interview (PI), Communication skills of a Cadet since these activities are included in this event.
3. When a Cadet is trained for Rajpath, his/ her drill is definitely next level skilled and polished as they are really given very rigorous training.

4. Cadets trained for PM Rally get an opportunity to march in front of the honourable Prime Minister and other respected dignitaries.
5. Being a participant in cultural events refines the cultural skills of the Cadet.
6. Events like Flag area briefing gives the opportunity to brief about an individual's particular directorate in front of respected dignitaries and that really boosts the morale and increases the Cadet's respect for his/her directorate.
7. RDC Camp inculcates the sense of discipline in an individual since a Cadet's sense of discipline is also marked in the Camp.
8. One of the most important requirements of RDC Camp is being punctual. This camp teaches how to wake up early and attend things on time or else get ready for rigorous punishment.
9. Representing one's particular directorate in a particular event in a National level Competition boosts the zeal and enthusiasm of the Cadet.
10. Being in an environment surrounded by so many respected dignitaries, armed forces officers increases the sense of respect towards our Country's defence forces.
11. In RDC, Cadets from different states participate and their interaction ultimately increases the Social Quotient of a Cadet.

The Republic Day Camp change in cadets personality will be reflected in their actions and behaviour as the Camp inculcates a sense of discipline, self-confidence, punctuality, and dedication in an individual

As part of the Youth Exchange Programme, the RDC also witnesses the participation of cadets and officers from 25 friendly countries, namely Argentina, Botswana, Bhutan, Brazil, Czech Republic, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, UK, Venezuela, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Nigeria, Mauritius and Mozambique.

The Republic Day Camp participation give an opportunity to Cadets to interact with the Cadets of other countries and know about their history and culture so as to broaden their horizon and outlook in the scenario of new Global, Political Cultural Environment through Youth Exchange Programmes.

These programmes are being organized with the following countries :-

- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Singapore
- Srilanka
- Trinidad

- Tobago
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1.6 SELECTION PROCESS

Selection process for RDC usually starts in the months of August/September every year at unit level. Only cadets from Second/Third year of Senior Division (Boys)/ Senior Wing (Girls) and second year cadets of Junior Division (Boys) / Junior Wing (Girls) are eligible to participate in RDC.

After initial selection, cadets represents their respective units in various competition at Group level to form a group team. Before the RDC, all group headquarters participate in the IGC (Inter-Group Competition) and finally a contingent at directorate level is formed to represent at RDC at national level.

Hence cadets get engaged in selection process of more than 60 days including IGC, Pre-RDC 1 & Pre-RDC 2 before attending the final RDC at Delhi which is again a month-long camp, hence nearly 3 months engagement of cadets in RDC activities severely affect their academic performance as a student.

1.7 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The objective of this study is to examine the impact of participation in the Republic Day Camp on the holistic development of National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets, with a specific focus on those from the NCC Nagpur Group. This includes evaluating the effects on their physical, mental, and emotional growth, as well as their leadership skills, discipline, and overall character development. The study aims to provide insights into how such participation contributes to the cadets' personal and professional development, and to identify any specific benefits or challenges experienced by the cadets from the Nagpur Group.

1.8 HYPOTHESIS

H0: Participation in the Republic Day Camp does not have any significant impact on the holistic development of NCC cadets from the NCC Nagpur Group, positively influencing their physical fitness, mental resilience, emotional intelligence, leadership abilities, discipline, and overall character.

H1: Participation in the Republic Day Camp significantly enhances the holistic development of NCC cadets from the NCC Nagpur Group, positively influencing their physical fitness, mental resilience, emotional intelligence, leadership abilities, discipline, and overall character.

1.9 LIMITATIONS

Research is limited to the cadets belongs to NCC Nagpur Group HQ of Army, Naval & Air Wings participated in Republic Day Camp 2023 at New Delhi and their academic performance for the academic year 2022-23.

2 RESERCH METHODOLOGY

For this study research design was conducted using primary method of research. The geographic profile of research is territory under NCC Nagpur Group HQ.

As per the records, total 15 senior cadets were represented NCC Nagpur Group in Republic Day Camp -2023, including 14 cadets of Army Wing, 01 cadet of Naval Wing and nil cadet of NCC Air Wing

Out of 15 Senior cadets, 11 cadets were belonging to Senior Division (Boys) and 04 cadets were belonging to Senior Wing (Girls).

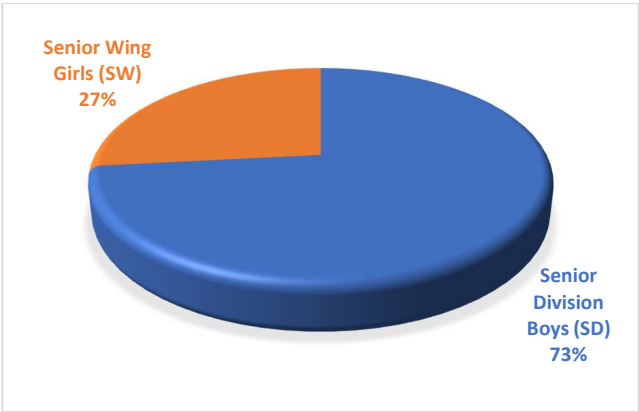
	Population	Sample size as per Krejice Morgan table of Sampleadequacy
Number of Cadets represented NCC Nagpur Group in RDC-2023	15	15

2.1 DATA ANALYSIS

Participation of NCC Cadets Gender wise

Senior Division Boys (SD)	Senior Wing Girls (SW)	Total
11	04	15

Table 1: Participation Pattern of NCC Cadets



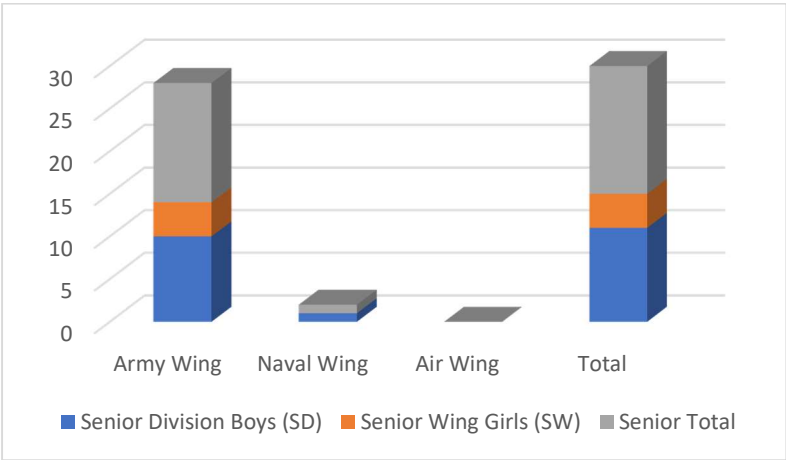
Graph 1: Participation Pattern of NCC Cadets

From the above graph it can be inferred that 73% of participation were boys and 27% of participation were girls.

Representation of NCC Cadets Wing Wise

Wing	Senior Division Boys (SD)	Senior Wing Girls (SW)	Total
Army Wing	10	04	14
Naval Wing	01	00	01
Air Wing	00	00	00
Total	11	04	15

Table 2: Wing wise participation of SD & SW Cadet



Graph 2: Wing wise participation of SD & SW Cadets

From the above graph it can be inferred that the highest participation was from Army Wing of NCC.

2.2 DATA QUOTIENT

1. A total of 15 cadets from the Senior Division (SD) and Senior Wing (SW) represented the NCC Nagpur Group Headquarters as part of the Maharashtra Contingent at the NCC Republic Day Camp 2023, held in New Delhi.
2. Specifically, 11 male cadets from the Senior Division and 4 female cadets from the Senior Wing were selected from the NCC Nagpur Group Headquarters to participate in various competitions and events during the Republic Day Celebrations 2023.

3 DISCUSSION:

This research highlights the significance of the NCC Republic Day Camp (RDC) training in the lives of cadets. The Republic Day parade held in Delhi is the largest and most important parade in India's Republic Day celebrations. The RDC aims to instill a sense of patriotism, discipline, and leadership qualities among cadets, contributing significantly to their personal development.

Participation in the RDC provides NCC cadets with the unique opportunity to interact with VVIPs from India and abroad at an early age. This annual event serves as a platform for cadets to gain valuable training, engage in cultural activities, and participate in social service initiatives, fostering unity and pride.

However, the research also identified that the selection process for the RDC is time-consuming, often leading cadets to neglect their academic responsibilities. Many students experience a decline in their academic performance or lose at least one semester. Therefore, it is suggested that the selection process for the RDC be reviewed and the training program at selection camps be made more flexible. This would allow cadets to balance their academic commitments while attending the camps.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The study concludes that participation in the NCC Republic Day Camp (RDC) plays a crucial role in the holistic development of cadets. The RDC not only instills patriotism, discipline, and leadership qualities but also provides cadets with unparalleled opportunities to interact with VVIPs and participate in various cultural and social service activities. These experiences contribute significantly to their personal growth and development.

However, the current selection process for the RDC demands substantial time, which can negatively impact cadets' academic performance. To address this, it is recommended that the selection and training processes be revised to offer more flexibility, allowing cadets to balance their academic and NCC commitments effectively. By implementing these changes, the NCC can continue to nurture well-rounded individuals who excel both academically and in their extracurricular endeavors.

There is a need to Develop and implement specialized training programs focusing on physical fitness, leadership, and team-building activities to further prepare cadets for participation in national-level camps like the Republic Day Camp. Regular assessments and feedback sessions needs to be conducted to monitor the progress and development of cadets, ensuring they meet the standards required for participation in prestigious events.

It is also observed that by providing more opportunities for cadets to participate in diverse competitions and events throughout the year can enhance their skills and confidence. A need to establish mentorship programs where experienced cadets and alumni can guide and support new cadets, sharing their experiences and strategies for success can also be incorporated. An active collaboration with educational institutions to promote NCC activities and encourage more students to join can ensure a steady influx of motivated cadets.

Engaging parents of the cadets in the NCC journey by organizing informational sessions and events, helping them understand the benefits and support their children's participation. Also ensuring adequate allocation of resources, including financial support and quality training materials, to provide the best possible preparation for cadets. A robust feedback mechanism where cadets can share their experiences and suggestions for improvement, fostering a culture of continuous development and enhancement.

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