

National Service Scheme

Camp Report

24th December – 29th December

National Service Scheme (NSS) camp was organized by the St Joseph's College, Darjeeling during the period of 24th December to 29th December at Jinglam Village, Rangli Rangliot, Darjeeling.

NSS was established at 1969 with a vision of personality development of students through community service as well as development of rural areas in India. It has been introduced in colleges with optimism of establishing a sense of social responsibility amongst students and indicating values of self-discipline and selfless dedication towards community development.

As a part of NSS activities, a six day camp was held by the St Joseph's College at Jinglam Village. A number of social activities were held with a sole view of rural development and value education. We, being a part of the cultural committee, undertook various cultural activities in the village to promote interaction with the villagers and used the NSS platform to spread awareness about different social issues.

About the place:

"Jinglam" refers to Lepcha word meaning **"Jungle ko bato"** or **"way to the forest."**

Belief: According to the residents of Jinglam, they believe that the place is so termed as Jinglam since the Lepchas cursed the place when famine crisis took place.



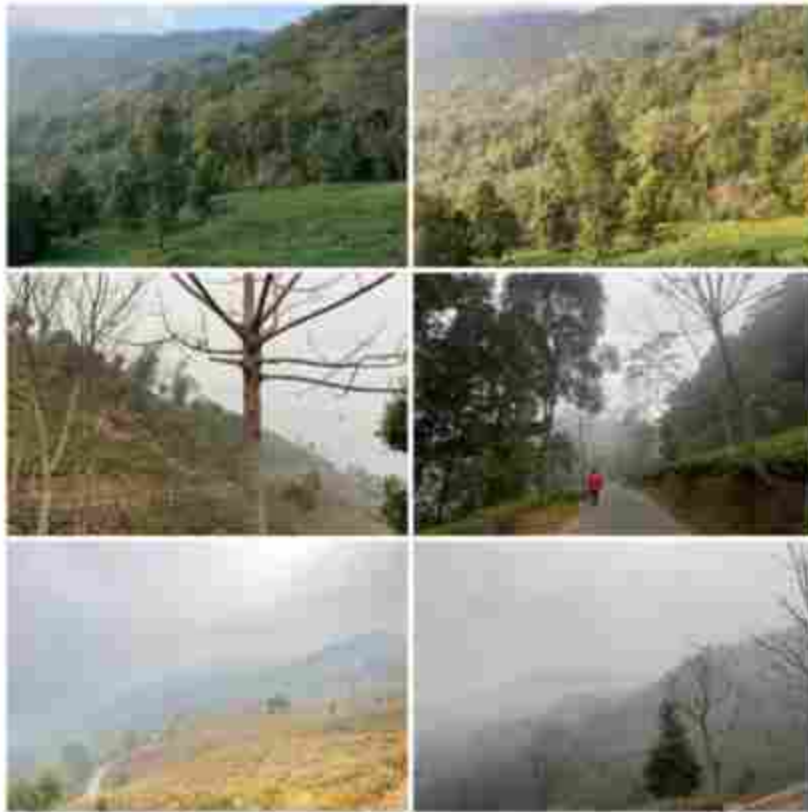
Namring Tea Estate is the second largest tea estate of Darjeeling and has three divisions namely Namring, Poopong and Jinglam. The place we preferred to camp was the Jinglam Village at Jinglam Uday Higher Secondary School.

This school was established in 1968 and it is managed by the Department of Education. It is located in Rangli Ranglot block of Darjeeling district of West Bengal. The school consists of grade from 5 to 12. The school is co-educational and it doesn't have an attached pre-primary school. Hence, the school has a government building and has four classrooms for instructional purposes.



Date: 24/12/22

This very day our members were asked to be present at the College Campus by 6:00 a.m. After briefing the students with the rules and regulations attendance was taken by our Unit-leaders. We loaded the cab with our luggages while a breeze full of enthusiasm prevailed among the campus. We started our journey around 8:20 a.m. and reached around 2 p.m. No further activity was done that day and our members were just given some time to explore the beauty of the village. That very day members were divided into several groups with their respective duties.



25/12/22

Campus Cleaning:

During NSS camp, our first activity to be performed was the 'Campus Cleaning'. Our team were divided into several groups, each group was led by one board member. The groups were sent to different parts of the village and some focused on the school area. Some of the members were asked to paint dustbins so we could set each in every part of the village. The main aim of Campus Cleaning was to contribute to environment and people by helping to improve our quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil and thereby supporting the life of Jinglam.



Before the Campus Cleaning:-



After the Campus Cleaning:



26/12/22

Art Competition:

The NSS Unit conducted an Art Competition for the students at Jinglam Village. Students from different age groups participated in the Competition. They could draw whatever they wanted. The students were provided with paper and other stationary items. They were instructed about the rules of the competition. Each and every participant were so keen and indulged in their drawings that most of the drawings turned out to be exceptionally beautiful.

It was later evaluated by our board members anonymously and the winners were declared. The prize distribution was conducted on the very same day of the competition. Each kid went home with a priceless smile on their faces. The scenario and the ending of the competition was pretty mind pleasing and satisfactory.



27/12/22

Survey of the Village:

Survey of the Jinglam Village was conducted by the students of NSS during the camp. In this survey, each board member was allotted a group with minimum 5-6 members. All the members were asked to collect the information from each houses. Questions regarding information of the village and locality, population of the house, occupation of the family members, questions considering the education and qualification of the family, benefits received from the welfare of the village, etc.



Healthcare facilities:

The medical facilities in the village was not prominent. There was a small dispensary run by a local residing in that village. We had a slight conversation with the lady and she along with some other people stated that medical facilities were not optimum to diagnose and cure major illness in that area. The closest medical institute to get was to Darjeeling, Kalimpong or Siliguri for better treatment. No severe disease in any household was noticed during the survey.



Educational infrastructure:

After the survey we found out that the village has just one school namely "Uday High School" for children till Class 12.

The qualification of the adults were in average 10-12th pass and people having graduation degree was comparatively less. The dropout level was high and it also came to our notice that mostly the dropout were indulged into intoxicants.



Water Crisis faced by people living in Jinglam:

As we stayed in the village for a few days Water Crisis was one of the most prominent problems faced by the people of that village.

The village was divided into “Dhuras”. It was noticed that the left dhura namely Karbidhura and Gairi Dhura faced a lot of water crisis and the right side of the dhura had no water scarcity. Severe water crisis was faced during the spring and winter season.



Electricity was not a problem in the village and was found in abundance.

Occupation:

As Jinglam is a Tea Estate, most of the household worked in the Tea gardens, some were retailers, some were into government services and most of the male youths were Army veterans. The Head of the Family were mostly males and went for work while the female stayed at home and were homemakers.

100 days has also been conducted in the area.



Migration:

During the survey, we could just see the household heads and in common everyone answered their son/daughter lives in a different city. There was no employment opportunity in the village and the youths had to migrate for further studies or to earn a livelihood.

Additional Information:

During the 1986 agitation, it was the time when Shri Subash Ghising looked after the village and was in power. We asked them few questions but people of that village were hesitant or reluctant to give too much information on this matter. For some this was an elephant in the room which made the environment uncomfortable and some were just emotional and told about problems and their memories. However, we could find many families who were a resident of that village since that era. This agitation or "Andolan of 1986" did not affect the livelihood.

Transportation and electricity was not an issue in the village.

During the strike of 105 days there was scarcity of food in different parts of the village and transportation was a problem people faced back then.

Most of the people were affected with Covid-19 during the lockdown. The recovery was very slow and there was very limited access to vaccines and medicines.

28/12/2022

It was our last day in JInglam. We prior planned a hike on this day but due to some uncertainty, we had to cancel our plan.

But we allowed all our members to go inside the village and plunder new places. All our members were exploring the place while all the boards were preparing for "**Boards Dinner**".

Boards Dinner generally happens on the very last day of the camp where all the board members cook tasty meals.

We enjoyed a lot on the very last day in this beautiful place. Campfire was set and all the members enjoyed to the fullest. This day was a memorable one.



Preparation for Boards Dinner



Campfire

29/12/2022

In the morning, some of our members went to different parts of the village to set up handmade dustbins which could be of use to the villagers. After that the members had breakfast and assembled by 10:30 a.m. for an orientation session.

In the session, we called renowned person from the village as well as some of the teachers from the very school we all were staying. It was followed by Introduction of the guests and their felcitation. The vision mission and the main purpose of our camp was put forth by our program officers for NSS. The program proceeded with different speeches given by the guests present for the ceremony. Now, it was time for us to depart that beautiful place with our loads and the beautiful memories that we packed entirely in our heavy hearts.

The closing ceremony ended by the "NSS Clap".

-NSS Secretary

(Pratigya Lama and Manshi Rai)



