



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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*Too Little Time,  
Too Much  
Academic  
Pressure Push  
Patriotism Aside*

## GEN Y IS TOO busy for NCC

Sruthy Susan Ullas | TNN

**Bangalore:** Digging their heels into the ground, toes pointing upwards and arms swinging rhythmically by the side, their every stride is full of pride. The sense of dignity a cadet carries in uniform, with his chin and chest held high — you just can't help admiring it.

National Cadet Corps has been an integral part of college campuses for decades now. Having been started by the British during the First World War as a second line of defence, NCC grew into an organisation to groom youth into patriotic citizens. But is it the same as it was, say, 10 years ago? How popular is it with Gen Y? TOI explores.

College coordinators testify that the enthusiasm of joining NCC has dipped over the years. It's not just the numbers, but enthusiasm as well.

Recalls Capt Ajay Pavithran of Christ University, "When I was a Christite myself, there were over 500 students enrolling for 100 posts. Now it has come down to 130-140 among boys and just the required number for girls."

Interestingly, many students from the Science stream join NCC, with an eye on the Common Entrance Test special category. "The majority in my



**GEN  
AHEAD**



### SLIPPING INTEREST

- Colleges in Karnataka with NCC units: **600**
- Colleges in Bangalore with NCC units: **90**
- Schools in Bangalore with NCC units: **103**
- Students who are part of NCC in Bangalore: **7,000**

group are PU students, that too from the Science stream. CET is the bait," said Lt Rekha Sinha, ANO, Jain University.

Speak about the dedication of cadets, the assistant NCC officers (ANO) are a disappointed lot. "They don't like to be disciplined. Children are no more easy to control. Times have changed, so have attitudes. There is a visible dip in dedication," said Lisa Mattam, who coordinated the unit for over 28 years in Jyothi Nivas College. After the initial enthusiasm, there is a noticeable slide. "There's almost a 50% dip in the number of students coming for parades. After the initial days, all they come for is to write exams," said Rekha.

The reasons are many. The most cited one is the introduction of the semester system. With the number of exams and internal tests doubling, the academic pressure on students has increased, leaving them with little time for extra-curricular activities like NCC. "It's hard to find 20 Saturdays where students can be free from exams and other activities. If they have more time for themselves, they wouldn't feel NCC is a burden," said Lisa.

Parental and peer pressure are high too. "I've got calls from parents saying 'Please take care of my child,'" said Rekha. And yes, with too many distractions, who would want to work hard under the blazing sun? However, the directorate officials informed that all vacancies are being filled and at times, there is a demand for more seats.