

Guideline for selecting youth for Disaster Response Teams (DRTs)

Introduction

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in collaboration with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is going to conduct a 6-day Training Programme to create a force of Youth Volunteers that can act as first point of response at the time of any disaster. It is proposed to cover such districts in India in a phased manner in collaboration with UNDP/UNV India, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA). Initially, it is going to be a pilot based project that will train around 8,880 volunteers in the first phase. Later on, the coverage is expected to cross 70,000 trained volunteers.

Like any other programmes of NYKS, this programme is also based on the strength of NYKS strong Youth Club network. Since the very nature of this joint initiative at the insistence of PMO is to increase the capacity of youth to act as the first responder in the eventuality of any disaster, the Youth Club in the village/panchayat community thus plays an important role in selecting and managing the DRTs so as to minimise the Disaster Risk. Hence the selected district NYKs will identify and select interested and eligible youth volunteers from the respective Youth Clubs from the blocks. While selecting the names it is to be noted that 35 to 50 names of potential youth volunteers are to be enlisted out of which 28 youth from the block will be selected for the training. Two NYVs of the respective blocks where selection has been completed are to be trained. Thus, a total of 30 youth volunteers from each block will be trained to make a Block Level Disaster Response Team. Efforts should be made to select youth from all across the block representing maximum number of panchayat/village and should represent all sections of community.

Further the following criteria are to be used for selecting final 30 youth from a particular block to be sent for NDRF training.

Selection Criteria of Youth Volunteers for DRTs

- The youth should be between 18 to 29 years of age as on 31st August, 2019. Preference to the youth from 22 to 29 years may be given as because a little elder and mature youth delivers better in such situations and draws attention from community.
- Should be an active member of Youth Club of a given Block and residing in the same village/ community.
- Should have a fair knowledge of the locality including ecology and topography of the village/community.
- Should be healthy, physically and mentally fit to undertake the training and engagement in Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Should have minimum educational qualification of 10th pass.
- Should be willing to undergo this training & devote his /her time for the cause voluntarily as act as first responder in case of disaster.

- Should have a track record of volunteering in such community development activities in past.
- Should be willing to serve all without discrimination.
- Should be adventurous & daring in nature. Any fear mongers will not thrive in such situation and may endanger others life also.
- Should have a good rapport/image among youth of village or community.
- Should be a non-student or if a student then must be willing for this training & give his/her time as per requirement.
- Should be ready to undertake activities during normal time and participate in activities conducted by NYKS/ NDRF.
- Should be a good leader and communicator.
- Should have past sustained volunteering experience
- Should be enthusiastic to work as a member in Disaster Response Team (DRT).
- Should be committed for this job and willing for a longer association with DRT.

It is expected that the concerned District Youth Coordinators will personally involve in selecting the final 30 DRTs based on the above criteria after a personal dialogue with them. Any compromise/mistake/overconfidence at this stage will eventually affect the whole programme in future and may earn a bad reputation for both the agencies.