

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR SOCIAL AWARENESS

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### ABSTRACT

*The participation of students in extracurricular activities expands their circle of acquaintances and awakens their social skills development. This can expose them to new ideas and functions that they would not have participated in before. In this way, they come to know about contemporary social issues, social traditions and the burning problems of society. Moreover, students get the opportunity to interact with students from different parts of society. These interactions allow students to gain diverse perspectives on different ways in which their peers learn. It introduces them to new ideologies and a better understanding of culture and heritage. In learning about other cultures through interacting with their peers, they can reflect on and share their own experiences, Thus, leading to more meaning full social interactions among students.*

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**Keywords:** *Social Issues, Skills Development, Academic Curriculum, Ethical Values.*

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### Introduction

"The participation in extra and co-curricular activities was more likely to produce wholesome and attractive personalities than the routine classwork" with these words J R Thompson (Instructional Communication) rightly highlights the importance of extra and co-curricular activities.

While discussing the role of schools in the development of our disciples, frequently focus on the academic aspects considering it as the primary function of schools and overlook the potential value of participation in extracurricular activities and the transformational benefits that it can have on student development. But in fact, the extracurricular activities perform and fulfils the objective of all-round development and building the future of nation more than curricular activities

### The concept of Extra and Co-curricular activities

Extra & Co-curricular activities are an integral part of the curriculum and help in enhancing the learning process of students at school. They are planned, designed and balanced with the academic curriculum so that every student can learn applications of subject content taught beyond classroom situation. Moreover, Co-curricular activities develop social and intellectual skills, moral and ethical values in students and finally individual and national character building. These activities are life strength and are very much conducive for disciples in the development of their personality. The all-round development of learners takes place in these activities. As the Secondary education Commission is of the view that these activities provide opportunities to learners for developing their personal qualities, capabilities and self-confidence. Along with these, they impart training to children in the discipline and associated qualities of leadership.

### Scope of Extra and Co-curricular activities in Social Sciences

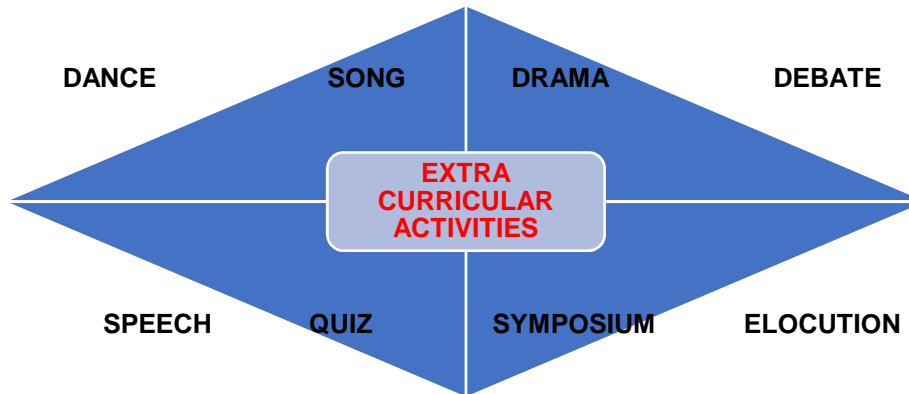
In social science, the place of co-curricular activities undoubtedly well grounded. Social Science is a comprehensive subject encompassing various aspects of our life. From the place we dwell in, to the polity we are citizens of and of course a peep into our ancient past, it has a varied and wide horizon. As a subject, social science has inseparable implications on our real-life hence it needs a more holistic teaching approach as compared to other subjects. Co-curricular activities equip us to adopt this approach in a far better way than mere classroom teaching.

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### Multiple Types of Extra and Co-curricular activities

Debates and Discussions, Seminars and Elocutions on different topics related to social and political life will help the children to analyse the good and the bad virtues of prevailing political and social traditions and will help project real-life issues during the classroom teaching thereby resulting in building a strong public character.



Organising dance- drama, theatre and singing activities will connect them with our dynamic ever-growing culture. Indian culture is an intriguing yet interesting amalgamation of cultures of a large number of tribes and other people native to India and the invaders and rulers from outside India. These activities are glimpses of our glorious past and by performing them, students will develop a sense of belongingness to their country on one hand and the other hand it will create interest in studying history as a subject.

### Role of Extra co-curricular activities in the development of social Awareness

Social, National and Environmental issues persist in every country. Students get to know about them through books. But they are ignorant of the fact that these are the contemporary underlying issues of our country. Ideally, a cognitive approach is needed here to ensure that students can realise this fact along with mere bookish knowledge.

### Multiple types of competitions provide one such opportunity

- **Paintings:** Students can be asked to prepare posters and paintings on these issues which will make them and the society aware of these persisting problems. When a disciple makes paintings, he shows all the aspects of social problems. So it directly enhances social awareness.
- **Speech:** By presenting their notions in the speech the student understands the reality of social issues. The participants before delivering a speech first have to study all aspects of social events, different facets of a social problem. They describe not only his personal views and perspectives but also describe and elucidate the social issues in contemporary situations. The audiences of the speakers come to know about every aspect of the topic.
- **Debates:** In participating debates, he comes to know the various perspectives about a single issue. The debate is such a contest in which two participants present their aspects and tries to prove that their view is justified when the view of the opponent is wrong and improper. In these efforts both the participants in their combined efforts put forward both pros and cons of an idea.
- **Symposium:** In the symposium, they learn to understand and to solve the problems of society. In the symposium, every participant expresses their views. They all by combined efforts make efforts to solve the problem. For the symposium, every participant has to look into issue or problem or the topic. It equally creates social awareness among the viewers.
- **Drama, Skit and Theatre:** By different drama, skit and theatre, we try to show the social issue, social structure, social relations and social responsibilities. We also enhance social awareness by conducting street play in the general village and nook and corner of a city. The stage show of theatre also increases social awareness in big public. Theatre show can display the present scenario of society, their culture & civilization, their traditions & customs, their ideas & beliefs and their burning problems & current issues. The skit is one of the best ways to depict the impact of different social problems and the concerned social tradition in a limited time.

- **Quiz:** quiz is a specific extracurricular activity which focuses on knowledge about a topic. Many questions are asked in many ways to every participant. The participants respond to each and every question and are rewarded with marks. On the numbers of right responses, the name of winner or winners is announced. This also clarifies each and every aspects of an event or different facets of social issues.
- **Dance and Song:** The dance and song may be in various forms as a solo song and solo dance, instrumental song, classical dance and classical song, folk dance and folk song, group dance and group song. This dance and song in all of their forms display the culture, tradition and civilisation. Dance and song with its props and other items show the clothing, language etc.
- **Student Council:** Student Council is an organization conducted by students and supervised by adults. The student council provides an opportunity to develop leadership skills in students by organizing and carrying out school activities & service projects. The students plan activities and events of school spirit and community welfare. The student council is the voice of the student body which help and share student ideas, interests and concerns with the school-wide community. In the general procedure of the student council, the views and perspectives are presented, voted upon and confirmed by the student body president.
- **Shramdan Activities:** From the social point of view, this activity of shramdan is also very much important. Through it, children develop the power of understanding the importance of physical labour. Such activities should be organised in school and colleges. This develops also feeling of cooperative efforts. This effort also creates social awareness among students about such social problems as the problem of scattering of garbage, choking of lanes etc. Swachchhta Abhiyan and Gandgi Mukht Bharat etc. are also Shramdan Activity which results in the great achievement of the cleanliness of the whole nation and to create social awareness for cleanliness. The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi recently launched Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, one of India's biggest cleanliness drives so far; to spruce up the nation by October 2, 20, which would be the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi



The picture is borrowed from the website <https://theteachersdigest.com/5-ways-to-participate-in-the-swachh-bharat-cleanliness-drive/>

- **Scouts and Guides:** Scouts, A voluntarily educational movement for people, mostly teenagers and is open to all without discrimination of gender, caste, race or any religion. The three major Scouts groups for boys that is, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Rover scouts in 1910 ad there were Three scouts for girls, Brownie Guides, Girl The whole idea behind the Scouts is to contribute to the development of youngsters in gaining their full physical, mental, emotional, social and intellectual as individual human beings, as responsible Indians and as members of their local, national and international communities. Guides and Ranger Guides. Scouts is is known as one of the major youth organizations of the world. Scouting's Principles describe a simple code of living to which all Scouts and Guides make a personal commitment throughout the Scouts Promise and Law. The scout and guide movement is directly related to social upliftment. Each and every moment, the scouts and guides help the society as in flood inundation, in epidemics and need of medical aids; they remain ready to help society. By because this movement creates social awareness in children and youth about social issues and arouse innate desire to help the society.

- The Junior Red Cross:** The Junior Red Cross is the Students' wing of the Red Cross. It is a group movement organized within schools. Students who take part in Junior Red Cross activities are known as 'juniors'. The teachers who guides the students in JRC activities is called "Counsellor". The objectives of this movement are the promotion of Health, Service to the Sick and suffering and National and International friendliness. JRC activities are formulated based on its Principles of Health, Services and Friendship. The programs are chalked out in such a way to suit occasions, locations and social requirements. These activities and movements promote social awareness and create a sense of social responsibility.



- Social Service Club:** The purpose of the Social Service Club is to act as a mutual supportive community for social work students and others interested in social service. These clubs create and enhance a professional identity as prospective social workers. These clubs enhance a more practical knowledge of social work and social services. Clubs enhance the visibility and appreciation of social services among the student body. These also encourage involvement and personal interaction between students and faculty. Clubs gain and develop the students' skills in group dynamics, leadership, cooperation, and coordinating activities, meetings and events. The clubs facilitate interaction among students and faculty members in the professional community of the field of social service. The clubs introduce knowledge, values, skills used in the social services.
- Self-governance** -Self-governance in the school, organized in a manner appropriate to the objectives of education, is one of the means of shaping a socially active personality with a highly-developed sense of duty and responsibility as a citizen of a socialist country and builder of communism. As they participate in the administration of school affairs, students acquire organizational skills, and the ability to live and function in a collective. The student becomes independent, businesslike, disciplined, and gradually develops into a master of life.

### Conclusions

Though a variety of co-curricular activities are being organised in our schools yet the need is to increase their frequency and intensity. The importance of these activities is creating social awareness and to arouse an innate desire and to develop an attitude to help the society. The co-curricular activities provide an interesting and virtual platform for learning to understand social problems, social structure and various social issues. We generally discuss that education makes the future of the nation. In fact the co-curricular activities build the nation. These activities build a good conscience which promotes better ideas and beliefs. These activities promote social, emotional and resultantly all round development of learners thus creates social and national characters.

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