

## UN Volunteers train NSS Youth in Chennai

From June 22<sup>nd</sup> to June 28<sup>th</sup> 2009, two members of the UNV team in India, Mr Anoj Chhetri (Programme Officer) and Saoirse de Bont (UNV intern from Ireland), assisted as resource persons at the NSS Mega Summer Camp 2009 in the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD) in Chennai. The summer camp was attended by over 400 NSS volunteers, representing states from across India.



*An NSS volunteer, Saoirse de Bont (UNV), and RGNIYD Faculty Head, Ms. Annette Mathews.*



*An NSS Volunteer presents the results of her team's group activity.*

Anoj and Saoirse conducted training on volunteerism for 6 consecutive days, thus addressing all 400 youths in the course of the camp. The training, which was carried out in conjunction with RGNIYD staff, covered topics such as 'what is volunteering'; UNV in India and overseas; the UNV business model; results indicators; the Millennium Development Goals; how to volunteer; the sharing of personal experiences and stories; and the importance of teamwork. In addition, the latest UNV initiative 'STRIVE', which is based on the model of the Teach India campaign and is currently in its drafting stage, was presented.

The sessions were highly participatory and interactive, employing methods such as games, stories, film shows, role play, group discussion and presentations.



*The NSS Volunteers conducting a role play on how to volunteer towards the attainment of the MDGs.*

This training on volunteerism was part of a wider programme for the NSS volunteers, which incorporated sessions on the environment, citizenship, adolescent and career development, employability, rural development and a cultural programme.



*NSS Volunteers performing as part of the Cultural Programme.*

The week of training was highly successful, not only because of the information imparted to and knowledge developed by the volunteers, but also because it created a firm foundation for further collaboration between UNV India and RGNIYD. As well as further support in training and capacity building for

RGNIYD, one of the next joint ventures will be UNV support for the development of an RGNIYD manual on volunteering.



*UNV Project Officer, Mr. Anoj Chhetri addresses the volunteers.*

*Note: The RGNIYD is a Government of India funded institute and resource centre which aims to facilitate a conducive environment for India's youths as well as provide tools that will enable them to reach their natural potential. It coordinates training, orientation, research, and extension and outreach initiatives for State, Central Governments and national level youth organizations.*