

Sixth Chinna Sodha Yatra: Reflections

Dhanur-B to Indravelli, Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh.
1st – 3rd March, 2013.

Author

Kranthi Kumar Nallamothe,
kranthikumar.nkk@gmail.com
+91 8008424645.

Preface

The following short notes is my personal reflection and observations during the three days sodha yatra in Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh organized by Honeybee AP. During this sodha yatra, under guidance of respected Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham, we have travelled through nine tribal villages on foot for three days covering about 50 km. Throughout the yatra, I have experienced a different learning environment, and had an opportunity to learn from nature around me, people around me, and from myself. Throughout the yatra, myself with other yatries with an open mind, explored the nature and learnt a lot from village people. The discussions with other yatries, and inspirational stories by Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham gave me a way to see the world in a whole different way. Leaving all the luxuries behind, and living close to the nature raised the whole yatra experience to a new level. I sincerely thank whom so ever helped in organizing the event and making it a memorable event.

The Beginning

On 1st of March, 2013, thirty-five people assembled in Adilabad railway station, where all yatries met for the first time. Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham assembled all of us in waiting hall of Adilabad railway station, and asked us to sit down on the floor for a short introduction about the yatra. That is where I felt, that the yatra has began. Irrespective of our past and profession, every yatri sat on the ground, which I could refer as 'ground level', gave me the first impression about the yatra. During the introduction, it had been informed to us (yatri's) that we should have our minds empty to let new knowledge flow-in, as '*we can't fill a cup thats already full*'. It was also mentioned to us about '*the four gurus*'; nature, fellow yatri, villager, and ourself, from whom we have to learn throughout the yatra. It was not so clear to me when it was said, but I realized the importance of each *guru* during the yatra. Our team has wide variety of people from school students to retired professionals, technical engineers to managers. With different expectations and aspirations about the yatra ahead, the team of CSY-6 (Chinna Sodha Yatra) has started the yatra. From railway station, we walked towards the bus stand on foot, gave me an impression on the motivation levels of each yatri. During the walk, I got myself engaged myself getting introduced with fellow yatri's, with whom I have to spend the next three days with.

The ride from Adilabad to Dhanur-B was about an hour and half. During the ride, I got a chance to interact with a farmer, who is going back to his village (Manchiryala) after a short visit to Adilabad. The farmer was about 50-55 years old, yet very energetic and was willing to share his knowledge with me. Being curious about the cycle of farming seasons, I asked the farmer, '*why only two – three seasons per annum?*'. His reply to that question was indirect, yet explained it all. He compared the farm land with a human and said, '*we need to rest after running hard for sometime to regain our energy to run effectively again*'. Later he explained further to make it more clear, '*Every farm land has minerals in it, each farming season the plants take out and use most of the minerals and other resources. With our present technologies, we are able to take out most of the resources during a season and to regain it's energy, we add chemicals/ fertilizers to the land. But as humans need rest, the best way is to give rest to the land, so that it will get its energy back by itself*'. A very deep thoughts from an unexpected source. Throughout the ride, he was telling me about the differences in land across the state and how farmers used to select the crops they cultivate based on the soil and water sources. He also mentioned, that most of the time they use '*hit-and-trail*' methods to test new crops. During the journey, we

got some corn as snack. I noticed that a piece of corn was not tasting good as the other; I shared a piece with the farmer and he told that the corn was not cooked properly, which caused the bad taste. He mentioned that, *'The corn will taste good and juicy if cooked/ fried with the leaves of corn are still intact'*.

We reached Dhanur-B and got down from the bus. The village is a bit away from the road, there was a small bus-stop and a small temple of god Hanuman. As soon as we got down, I found a small group of people were waiting for us below a tree with some media personnel. Our team got assembled again while Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham addressed the press. A few *PalleSrujana* magazines and CSY-6 pamphlets were distributed to all yatri's and were asked to distribute to those who wants them. We started our walk towards the village.

Our First Stop

We slowly walked through the village, telling people our purpose of visit. We stopped below a tree near a temple at the end of the village, where some elderly village residents gathered to welcome us. The language of that village is *Marati*, which was a big barrier for me to get a good interaction with most of the villagers. Our first went on for two hours during which Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham explained our purpose to the villagers and villagers shared their views. During the discussion, it was mentioned that present generation health care system has induced fear, which forced villagers towards operations for almost every maternal case. It was also mentioned that there were no diseases in old days, because people live close to nature and there were no tablets. Sometimes it feels funny when villagers explanation the causes, but at the same-time it induces a question in my mind. Some village elderly women pointed out the lack of nutritional food for kids, and 100% hospitalization for maternal healthcare brought new diseases. They also pointed out that the government has subsidised the medicines to control the old diseases, which are inducing new diseases into people. Some of the rural inventions by innovators around the country were introduced to the villagers, and the elderly people were praised for their active participation, helping us to gain some knowledge.

The team left the village slowly following a dusty road to our next village. On the way, we have seen different plants which were lost in time in developed areas. I was not aware of many of such plants, and was interesting to hear about them. Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham informed us, that the cotton stalks were plucked and are burnt in the fields for next farming season. He also reminded us, that as engineers if we can find a way to utilize that material, it would help farmers as well as the society. During our further journey, I have found that villagers had already found a way to use them. They used the bark of the *cotton stalks* to make ropes, and cotton stalks to make walls. It was also found that the walls formed with very nice and rigid resins made it more stable and attractive. Yet, the cotton stalk problem is an unsolved issue to farmers and there is a need to find a solution that is more economical and feasible. This problem is one of many that were over-looked by past generations, making us *not to* see them as problems. During the discussions I realised that it was a difficult task for us to differentiate good and bad, as the differences were tampered by our formal education. I realized that the problems can only be revealed and understood by talking to people who suffer due to those problems, interviewing them with right attitude and also by analysing the problem in different prospectives such as climate changes, and economical sustainability.

One the way, we have seen an old well and were interested to have a look at it, at the same time re-filling our water bottles. To enter that premises, there was a gate made from wooden bars. It was a very interesting design, yet a well-known design used in locking mechanism of doors. The gate has three wooden rods that slide into holes that were punched into other wooden bar fixed on the ground vertically. There were more than three holes that will help to adjust the height of the gate as needed. We entered the premises and found there was a motor installed inside the well to fetch water for fields. I had never seen motors being installed directly inside the well. One of the yatri explained us the difference it make when the motor installed inside the water in a well, when the motor is outside the well and *motor floating on water* inside the well. While discussing about motors, it was reminded to us that the motor designs were unchanged for the past century; Either it might be due to more efficient design or we tend to compromise with our existing technology, we just have to wait and see until the next motor design comes into the market.

Second Stop - Kheslapur

While interacting with fellow yatri's and sharing our views, we have arrived our next village. Villagers were gathered near a small shop waiting for us. We all (yatri's) mixed with the villagers and gathered around to join the discussion. Our mentor, introduced Mr. Arjun Ramakanth, a lead farmer. A lead farmer is the one who always try new plantations, and introduce new cultivations into the village. He is the one who takes all the risk involved. Mr. Arjun Ramakanth irrespective of the traditional cultivation in that locality introduced Pomegranate. I hope he will be successful in his endeavours. Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham mentioned a process which was followed by farmers in other places in which tomatoes can be directly processed by farmers and make tomato sauce, and tomato ascents from tomato peel. For which, another farmer Mr. Vittal, who cultivates Tomatoes in large fields, responded by saying, it is not possible to utilize such a process, as there is no market for such products in their locality and that will be a big risk to market themselves. To overcome the water problem in their village, when Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham suggested *rain-harvesting process*, they have raised the possible problems due to *ownership issues* over the stored water.

Some elderly farmer reported that, in olden days, people cultivate what they need and use it for themselves and whatever is left will be sold. But present day, majority of farmers do cultivation to sell, so they use lots of fertilizers and chemicals to increase the production rate looking into profits and they buy their day-to-day commodities from shops. But they forgot that those commodities were produced by other farmers thinking about profits (quantity) rather quality. Moreover, due to over usage of fertilizers and chemicals, the soil got adapted to them and now without any use of fertilizers and chemicals, the production is very very less. He also enquired us, that if there is any remedy for *problems that may occur in animals due to intake of plastic*. We (engineers) the creators of plastic were set to silent-mode with no answer. Plastic is still a standing problem in animal diet today.

We continued our journey, lunch was served in a temple, where we all sat on floor and had our food. Irrespective of our requests for not using plastic, due to affordability or availability, villagers tend to go towards the use of plastic. After we had our food, we walked towards our next stop at a primary school. On the way, we have found a machine left on the road. From the markings on the machine, it was clear that the machine was subsidised by the government to the villagers to ease their work. Instead, finding such a machine useless on the road-side, lots of questions raised in my mind. Is the machine useless to farmers?, Giving something for free to farmers made them to under-look the value of that machine?, Was Govt. unaware of the requirement in that village before issuing that technology?, or farmers doesn't want to take the pain of learning to use that machine?. Whatever may be the reason, the technology is not reaching it's customer was made clear at that site. We reached the school while thinking about the machine on the road. It was a primary school, with five buildings. While our team were assembling at new building in the school, I took the liberty of walking around to see what was there in and around the school. I found that the school was small, with lots of markings on the walls. There was waste everywhere, no urinals, and no water facilities; yet the students were so happy, running around and playing. I just got in my mind, why not seeding the habit of putting waste inside dust-bins start from the schooling. Later, I joined the team, where several school kids were assembled and a small event was organized. During the event, students were asked to write any ideas or things they want to invent or do. In addition to cute, innocent and aspiring thoughts from kids, surprisingly many novel ideas were put up on paper. That experience at school gave a feeling that, with proper guidance and mentoring, anybody can become an innovator and can reach any place without boundaries.

We continued our journey further to another village. During our walk, we had several questions popping up in our brains and sharing them with rest of the team. One such interesting thought was, '*How do we take a decision when we are in ambiguous situation (dilemma)*'. Along the way we have seen bullock-cart in a non-traditional way; it's a thin design, with iron wheels and smaller than what I have seen all my childhood. We had a discussion on, why they have adopted such a style of building bullock-carts in that style rather following the traditional way. Through the discussion, we came to a conclusion that may be due to hard rocky surfaces and narrow turns and paths inside the forests, which support the livelihood of the farmers, they slowly evolved to the stage in which they are comfortable. Yet, with our technical knowledge, some of us felt that they were compromised with what is available and are not using effective ways. We never know, whether the new techniques might fail in-time over the existing style bullock-carts which we feel are not efficient. We continued walking further to our next village.

Meeting an elderly pair

On our way, we had a halt in a small village. There we were served with some nice tea. It was a small house with cows, hen with its chicks, and nature is close to them. There was an generator connected machine to grind the pulses, which gained some attention of some of our yatri. Giving shalwa to an elderly women in that house, we continued our journey to meet an elderly pair, Mr. Govardhanam and Mss. Jenya Bhayi. Both of them were more than a century old and carrying a lot of valuable information from our past. Mr. Govardhanam had worked on the fields until he was 110 years old and yet very active until today. He told, '*Usi dinome jungle karab nahi huan tha, ham kushi se jiyethe*', which means that, in olden days people used to depend on jungles for their livelihood and were very happy but due to deforestation the forests has been disappearing and people are moving towards artificial life. When one of our yatri asked the elderly to bless us with long-life, they refused to bless, and told that doing so their blessings will be wasted as we can't live long by eating food poisoned by pesticides and other chemicals and by using the drugs and medicines. We also came to know from them, that their village follow a tradition of not-to-hurt animals (cows). Those who hurt an animal will be kept on social – boycott for an year. If the animal was killed in the incident, the family will be sent out of village for an year and that tradition was still being followed in the village. Taking our leave from the elderly, we continued our journey further towards next village.

Next Stop: Mallapur

It was already evening, when we reached Pitta Bongaram. Sun rays were almost gone behind the mountains. Seeing our team, the villagers put up some chairs, coats and put up some covers on the ground for themselves. Once everyone settled down, Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham introduced our purpose of visit and explained about Honeybee networks. In the talks, we came to know that most of the villages around are self-sustained, they don't depend on cities or other places for animal feeds, or food grains. They only need health-care and electricity from outside, everything else will be grown by themselves. A farmer, Mr. Haridas was very active in responding to our team. He mentioned that '*Jarimanta (Jilledu)*', '*Cherota*', '*Besharama*', '*Modaka chettu*' (with which we make leaf plates (*vistharakulu*)) and '*Ghulvelu*' are some of the plants that were not touched by any insects or pests. In old days, farmers use neem leaves on top of the soil to protect plants from many pests and insects. Similarly, those plants that were not effected by insects and pests might be carrying some organic compounds that can protect the plants against insects and pests was our intuition. When we told that idea to villagers, they were afraid that the poison might effect the food grains thereby effect our health. In response, Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham explained them that nature will take care of the poison by itself, and the artificial pesticides and fertilizers are more poisonous than the organic alternatives. It was surprising for me to hear that villagers still believe in crossing '*Ghulvelu*' plant, a crawler, will induce memory loss.

Some of plants and their uses from olden days were told by Mr. Haridas were mentioned below: (a) '*Garadi*' (similar to Goose Berry (Amla)) leaves were used to spread over the roots of '*Mirchi*' plants to get rid of insects and pests. (b) '*Jegadey Pungar*' (a small plant with red leaves) plant roots oil, mixed with '*Maredu*' (Velage Kaaya) powder will be used to treat ulcers in animals. They feed animal with that mixture and leave them free, the ulcer will cure very fast. (c) '*Nalleru*', plant leaves were used to treat leg breaks in animals. The leaves need to crushed and tied around the wound and they leave it for few days to get it cured. (d) When cows don't drink water, villagers use some sticks to close the nostrils inside the mouth of the cow.

After good long interaction with the villagers, our team started to take our route towards Pittabongaram. It was already dark and our team put on their torches. Later, we were asked to switch off our torches to sense the beauty of a real night sky. I was amazed by the countless stars filled up the sky. I can literally feel that I saw our galaxy strip right over my head. The purest form of darkness with cold breeze gave an experience that I can't express in words. I took my time in the back of our team admiring the lighted-up night sky. We have reached a small tribal-clans temple, which was famous for one particular clan in tribes. One of the mentor shared his historical knowledge with us about the clan from the time of pre-independence. While he was explaining us the history, we walked towards our night halt at a school in Pittabongaram.

A night stay at Pitta Bongaram

As soon as we arrived, arrangements were made for our dinner. After the dinner, we were assembled in a large hall where every yatri expressed their views on that days experience. Then we all hit the bed. Next day

early morning, I woke up. There were no bathrooms or a closed place to take bath. Later we decided to take bath near a well. After taking a bucket full of water, the water was surprisingly warm enough to take bath. While other yatri's are getting fresh up, I got a chance to go along with Brig. (Retd.) Ganesham around the village to meet Mr. Bheem Rao, an elderly village man. Mr. Bheem Rao is a well-educated man, retired from his duties as a teacher. Rather taking more political stance, Mr. Bheem Rao did pointed out some of the facts that needed some attention. He mentioned how some of the govt. services failed to meet the requirements of the people in villages. As an example, he quoted the useless additional building that were built in schools that will get filled up during rains and were useless, as they were lacking post-development maintenance. He also mentioned about two doctors who had taken special care about health-care in Pitta Bongaram. Another noticeable point he mentioned was about teachers, and how important it is to respect a teacher, which is lacking in today's developed world. To emphasize the impact of giving respect to others, Mr. Bheem Rao quoted an inspirational example.

A reputed teacher from a town for posted to a tribal school to develop the quality of education in the tribal areas. The teacher realised after few days about the language barrier he had with the tribes. Suffering from the troubles, he was trying to leave the tribe as he feel he might not be able to help them. A teacher get his/her respect by teaching students well, but our teacher here failed to do so due to many reasons. As the teacher failed to do his duties, the villagers stopped showing respect to the teacher. Having found the troubles of the teacher, the tribal leader decided to take steps to change the situation. The tribal leader intentionally started sitting near the house of the teacher and started standing up whenever he sees the teacher as a symbol of respect. Even though villagers didn't show much respect to the teacher, having respect for their leader, they started following the leader and starting standing up whenever they see the teacher. Initially the teacher felt that people were teasing him. One day he asked the tribe leader, why they were intentionally teasing him. To which the leader replied, a teacher is one whom everyone should give respect, as he who aid the knowledge to pass from one generation to the next. After that, the teacher started learning to adapt and decided to get settled in that place for rest of his life.

After talking with Mr. Bheem Rao, we stopped over at a tea-stall in the village. The tea stall owner was an artist enquired our purpose of visiting. After listening to what I explained, he asked, how we can see arts and culture, when we don't understand them. At first I didn't understand the question, but later whether or not the tea stall man meant, I felt that an art can only be understand or seen by another artist and we may over-look most of the art forms with our ignorance. Moving back to re-group our team, we found a tree with lots of man made nests for pigeons. A simple yet thoughtful idea to use the useless boxes to build nests for birds as a try to sustain a balance between human and nature is brilliant. Many of us with our knowledge of science and technology might get to see the ease of placing a box on a tree, but I realised it was not about the easiness, but its the question, 'Why do they (villagers) took pain to build nests for birds?'. Willingness to live along with fellow beings close to nature might be an answer, yet the question is an open land waiting for new answers to get sowed. Later, most of our team joined us to observe some of the ways in which villagers adapt nature and live along with it. Later a similar event for students like the one back in Kheslapur was conducted. As expected from our previous experience, we received lots of new and novel ideas from students. After the event we started our journey towards our next village.

A pit-stop at jower fields

While following the road to our next village, we saw few men working in the jower fields. They welcomed us with a smile on their faces and gave us some of the best jower to taste. Some of our yatri's who had never experienced the jower fields and the small out-post (kanchey) inside the fields, started climbing and enjoyed their time with the nature. In-spite of getting angry while we were jumping on their crops and out-post, the farmers were happy to see us. Later, we had a halt near a small shop near the field where we drank water. While drinking, most of us never had a thought of the pain the shop owner put-in to fetch water, until Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham asked some of the team member should re-fill the pot with fresh water from a close-by well. These thoughts and actions invoked some good manners and different prospective of social life. Moving further, under the shadow of a big tree, we had a stop during which Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham told us some inspirational stories of grass-root innovators, how they worked hard to achieve what they are now. We continued our journey thinking why aren't the educated trying to solve those problems or needs.

We arrived at another village, where villagers gathered below a tree to welcome us. While the arrangements were being made, myself with few other yatri's took the liberty of moving around. We met a few kids from that village who showed us around. They took us to their school and started explaining their problems very clearly. It was very interesting to see the arrangements in their school, which was a single room with no modern luxuries yet felt like more advanced in the values of education. The walls inside the school building were filled with posters explaining some of the necessary concepts, another wall there were lots of books hanging which gave me a feeling of library. The kids then told some stories which were thought in the school. Later the kids took us into the fields where they started showing us some fruits and berries. They even took liberty to climb up a tree to fetch us some of the finest fruits. Later we re-joined our team and shared those fruits and berries with rest of the team and continued the journey. Along the way, our team was joined by an organic farmer Mr. Dayanand Patel. He shared one of the ways he used in his farming. He used a flower '*Banti*' and *cotton* instead of pesticides and insecticides. On the way a village mentor showed us a plant called '*Pedda Bhabrey*', whose leaves are anti-cough medicinal values. He also added that some of the animals chew a few leaves of this plant when they feel sick.

Tasting the traditional knowledge

We entered our next village, where the mentors gather the villagers near a school. While the team was interacting with the assembled villagers in the school, I took the liberty of exploring the near-by places. The area not-so-far from the school is a rocky surface and I found a man and his wife building a net around their field. Asking their permission to enter their field, I started to interact with them. I have found that the land was uneven like a book, half land was flat and other half was inclined towards the flat land. And the farm also looks rocky and looks like fresh (not been cultivated before). Being curious I enquired the farmer about the field and how he will be using the farm, as there might be some issues regarding water distribution and uneven plant growth. He then patiently explained how they cleaned up the land and how is going to solve the problem. As I was expecting the farm land was once rocky-forest land. He with his wife, slowly removed each rock in the form and at the same time loosen the soil upto a feet. Later they cut down the trees and burned them in the field itself. That process took about 2–3 months for them. Later they soaked the soil with water and grown grass for feeding their cattle and they were building the net around was to protect the grass from other cattle. Being curious how they are going to distribute the water evenly across the field, as the field was inclined. To which they replied, '*we just put water and the soil will take care of it*'. Looking around the freshly carved farm land, I was walking around gazing at other fields which look so fertile which were once the same rocky soil.

Meanwhile, I was joined by few other men who were searching for some plant roots. Being amused by their curiosity I enquired about the plant they were looking for. They were looking for a plant named '*Chai Veru*', whose root has a fragrance of tea, and they were planning to give us a taste of what they found in their locality. I enquired about any other plants they might be aware of, introduced me a new plant '*Puusuka*', whose root has also a fragrance that can used to make tea and also has some medicinal value in it. I helped them to find some more plants and joined them back to school. Amusingly surprised by taste of the tea, most of the team failed to differentiate the herbal tea from tea we buy from shops. During the discussion, a farmer in the village mentioned about another plant called, '*Namilaaku*', whose roots were used as anaesthetic for fish. They use this root to make the fish unconscious while the farmers fetch those fish that were grown fully and leave the rest to live. With some roots of '*chai veru*' we left the village towards our next village.

We reached a school in a village where our stay was planned for that night. After dinner, we gathered in a hall sharing our experiences. I felt most of the villagers doesn't realize that they invented something novel, they feel that they just found a way to solve their problem in the best and simplest way possible. Inorder to explore the hidden innovations inside the villages, I felt that we have to know where to look and a right question to ask. We all hit the bed, enjoying the digital sound effects of some of our friends snoring.

Back to early childhood days

The morning was chilling. I saw few kids woke-up early. I moved around the village for observed the surroundings. We fetched water from a hand-pump and surprisingly the water was very warm, which gave us a great feeling of refreshment while taking bath. After a nice bath for a long time, we got ready for the yatra. While rest of the team was getting ready, myself with few other yatri's joined Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham

walking around the village. It was surprising that village has no tea shops. We walked to see the river and met few villagers. One of our mentor sponsored us tea through his friend a resident of that village. We have also found entrepreneurial spirit in that small areas, a man with his bike get those commodities that were not available in that locality and started selling them. It can be taken as an example of need based entrepreneurship. During our discussion, we had thought about the regular farming utilities, which were unchanged for centuries. Nor the material or the design had changed to make it easy for the farmers. That was an important question to be asked, 'why are those utilities not upgraded?', are they an ideal design or being neglected?'

Slowly the team gathered near the school along with the kids. As it was a sunday, school kids were playing some games in their ground. Some of our yatri's slowly joined the kids. In-time every yatri irrespective of age went back to their childhood and started playing with kids. Some to note, we played cricket, koko, and kabadi. While Mr. Chandra Shekar was busy in finding his best shot, Mr. Phani was explaining an optimized plan to use their school space using bricks in the ground. Mr. Bhanu organized koko competition for the kids and also joined them as a player. Meanwhile rest of the team were playing kabadi. I had an opportunity to see the growing anxiety in the eyes of everyone to join the game. Some of our yatri's got attached with those kids especially Mr. Bhanu who is still in contact with them. I have heard from him, that those kids were inviting him over to their school and were emotionally attached. We had our break-fast with the kids and organized a similar competition for them like in other schools. Taking our leave from that school had an emotional touch, while kids were holding hands of some of our yatri's. We slowly moved out of the village walking towards our next village.

The last village, Mamidi Guda

Like every other village, we were welcomed by the villagers and we sat on the floor while Brig. (Retd.) P. Ganesham was explaining our purpose of visit. The discussion on use of fertilizers showed a new angle during our discussion. The village leader told that it was not the quality or quantity of the production which is forcing them to use fertilizers, it was the fellow farmer. He emphasized with examples how each farmer uses more and more fertilizers through a competitive attitude in their fields. He also pointed out that this type of behaviour not only degrading the quality of production but also the quality of relationships in the villages and a road block for quality community growth. It was also mentioned that the beauty of cattle or goats and their knowledge on different plants and their medical values. Taking our leave from the villagers we moved towards Indravelli, our final destination. We gathered at a school in Indravelli where we had our lunch and shared our experiences with rest of the team. As we conclude the yatra, we took bus to Adilabad.

Sodha Yatra was concluded in Indravelli itself, but the knowledge exploration was still on schedule. Our mentor Mr. Manohor managed to arrange a short meet with Mr. Ravendra Sharma. Mr. Ravendra Sharma had spent his life understanding the villages and tribes living around Adilabad. His knowledge on sustainable development and planning were enormous. There were two statements he mentioned that got stuck in mind are, '*Kaarananiki kaaranam telusukovadam Vignanam*' and '*Pragnan bhramaha*'. The first sentence mean that knowledge is known the reason for a reason and second sentence mean, a well-educated scholar is the only the one who also studies the impact. The explanation Mr. Ravendra Sharma quoted about our traditions, balanced societies and communal growth in olden days answered numerous questions that were in my mind for long time. Due to minimal time with Mr. Ravendra Sharma, we had seen the tip of ice-berg, but I was sure there will be a mountain of knowledge which we have not yet seen.

Carrying the knowledge and new relationships, we took leave from each-other at Adilabad railway station where we had began our journey.

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PS: Please kindly ignore any mistakes or misunderstandings that might have occurred during the write-up. All the above stated text was my own reflections, that I remembered from the points I noted on my notepad during the trip. Thanks for understanding.