**Impressions of Nikhil**

When I started to 34th Chinna shodha Yatra (CSY) organized by Palle Srujana,

along with my luggage I carried a book. I saw a quote in it saying **Life begins at the end of your comfort zone**, I have seen this quote on my book on my second day of CSY.Then I felt, It's not about knowing things. It's about knowing things at the right time. As I came to know and see about the quote at the right time, I felt happy. We all left our comfort zone and became zero to learn things by observing.

Let me start with my impression on CSY 34.

***Day\_1***

It started with interaction and introduction of co-yatries, then the journey towards learning unknown things by observing and interacting started.

In the Day\_1 walk we meet a widow who took up their business of making cement ventilators. With the other women worker's she has been continuing that business successfully. I just learnt one thing from her. Accepting and moving on is very important in life.

As it was afternoon walk we all took a break under a tamarind tree. The thing which Ganesham sir reminded was without Sun and without Tree, There wouldn't have been a Shadow to stand. In the discussion about tamarind tree I came to know that every part of tamarind tree is useful and it's the only tree we climb using its branches. Under the tree we have been introduced to an innovator Mahipal Chary, who told his story, before making innovation he changed his jobs several times. Finally the initial work as mechanic made him do a crop cutting/harvesting machine. Then I felt passion will never leave you, sometimes it takes time but you'll get what you deserve. We also met one mason who builds houses with red mud. We came to know that in villages availability of sources for building mud houses (nalla regadi) is easy compared to cities or any other places. We came to know about new things like moguram which will be a single pillar at the centre of mud houses.

Then, we proceeded with moving forward and we took a break near a tree, Brig Ganesham sir told that birds, mainly sparrows put more plants than humans. Sparrows mainly eat "Sajjalu". We have been suggested to grow more of them in cities even in pots.

Then, sir told about how we introduce fear in just now born babies by making them cry. Importance of doing delivery in room with an oil lamp and closing windows with curtains rather than under led lights as they harm newly born baby’s eyes. We came to know that in some tribal villages people used leaves of some plant which emanate anesthetic vapours to keep the women numb and feel less pain of labour.

We took a right turn into a path where it was filled with many trees. It's almost like a forest. Walking into it we heard about an interesting idea of growing half acre of farm with vegetables and another 2-3 acres with main crops such as paddy etc. Such arrangement least inputs will make farmers sufficient. We also came to know that no one has created a model for making 1-1½ acre land farming viable. 85% of farmers have less than a hectare.

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Then we got into trees where we had lunch together. It was really a nice experience having lunch under tree's shade.. We came to know about an idea which has been implemented in Jharkhand. It was hand pump connected with a pipe at the end which has taps such that at once 7 people can have water. A small idea which can save so much water.

At the beginning of the Yatra, we have been said to interact with co-yatries, with one self, with villagers, with nature. We have been told to become zero and accept everything and learn from others. I just had an interaction with my age group yatries on my first day.

After having lunch we had a discussion about a product named "Srithailam" which is made using a rare plant from forest. Palle Srujana faced many hurdles to make the product available masses at an affordable price. Always there existed a gap between Grass root innovation and sale of product. They were unable to get licence for that new medicine as that was not in the list of licensable medicines. We have been told to think about bridging the gap.

Capturing the moments was one of the things which I learn from people who came from Visakhapatnam. While walking towards school we met few villagers, we came to know that many of the villagers were belonging to goud's community. They usually sell "kallu" during February to July and in the remaining time they grow crops in their farmland mostly cotton.

After sometime I reached a school where Brig Ganesham sir gave presentation to students and told about ignite competition which is being held by NIF/Government of India which collects ideas from school students and try to create models for it. When we heard about Chintakindi Mallesham gari story which included about how he made "Asu machine"., one thing which I have learnt from it was we have problem and the solution for it too. But still the main thing in which we are lagging is making it available at low cost. We came to know that Palle Srujana then after Chintakindi Mallesham sir success came to know that awards and patents will only be recognized by system. Then Ganesham sir told about how students from Vijayawada volunteered in making eye surgeries for Kappala doddi weavers in Krishna District.

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We started from that school to a village. Enroute, I had a discussion with Ganesham sir. He told to look at the 95% failure of entrepreneurship as world is only concentrating on 5% of success. Within no time sunset occurred in darkness spread all around. While walking we have been said to talk low to make sure that we are not disturbing the living beings in and around forest. In that night walk I had interaction with many co-yatries. I met one sister named Rajitha, who is working as assistant professor in CMR institute. Few interesting things which I found were she wanted to let students know the joy of learning and she wanted to change the education system. She wanted to be that unique lecturer who concentrates on making students better. One of her life's sad experiences of losing her cousin due to study pressure made her decide not to see the same happening again to other students. When we were about to eat our lunch Ganesham sir asked us to think about the question "why we live?". My answer was to play a better role in this world which runs with support of each other. Everyone's perspective of answering this question made me know different perspectives of thinking about the question. I felt happy when I heard the answer from Ganesham sir which was very similar to mine.

I also had interaction with another sister named Renuka who suggested me to read a book named "Magic of thinking Big". While interacting with 9 yatries from Visakhapatnam I came to know how one can live a happy life by being in present.

After a while we had a short break where we sat on road. Ganesham sir mentioned one thing that was to never empty your resources. Sir shared his experiences in Indian army where people used to walk for a long time and stop for water break and are not allowed to drink water. After three such stops they are allowed to drink water. One thing which we have to learn from this is when you have any problem one must know how much needed so that the remaining will be useful whenever it is needed later.

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In very short period, I came to know about many people Sameed anna who is working for *Teach For India* after his graduation and the way he wants to be that unique person and that difference maker made me see myself in feeling uniqueness. The interaction with Mohit Anna made me know that it takes time to get clarity on things we do.

After having a long walk in the night we reached a village where we had our dinner, shared our impressions among ourselves and had slept in Panchayat office. That is how I experienced my first day.

***Day\_2***

After walking for about 20 kms last night, I woke up in the early morning, the pain which I felt last night just disappeared. My day started with my early morning walk at 5:30 am to get ready for meeting at 7 p.m. with farmers near Panchayat office. The facilities provided were minimum, that really made me experience the problem which the people around are facing. Then arrangements are being done to show the farmers how other village farmers innovated things to make their life easy. Saying so, Ganesham sir told them to find problems which they face and solve them by themselves. Firstly, when we were telling about innovations many people thought that we are promoting agriculture equipment. That made me think that it is a bit difficult to make people understand new things. If someone comes with a new idea it takes time for people to adapt. We started our journey by entering into village.

Firstly, we met a Potter who told and has shown how to make a pot. We met an old woman whose age was above 100 years. She was unable to get pension as she doesn't have iris and fingerprints. So, she doesn't have an Aadhar card. This is a problem to be solved. On the way, Anji Reddy garu told about "Nalleru" plant which is used for setting bones. Sir also mentioned about "Shanku puvvu" which is boiled in water and used for drinking it is also known as Blue tea.

Then we started walking towards a village, I spent some time with myself, we took few pictures, we had interactions with people. One thing I found to be remembered was it is you who have to take care about yourself, even though there are many people around you.

Then we gathered under a tamarind tree which is also a grave yard of a couple. It was story time we came to know about an innovator who made growth promoter named "Tulasi". Palle Srujana was able to collect 35 lakhs with 0% interest and provided it to 11 innovators. 9 people were women from IITM. Farmers used to pay back once in a month. We started our journey towards Golla Buddaram school. I had an interaction with Vandana madam who works for Anurag Group of institution (AGI) in entrepreneurship area. Ma'am's main concentration is on E-cell. Ma'am wants to know/experience how villages will be so that with that knowledge she can be confident enough to tell something to students. On the way I noticed a board saying "J.Chokka rao Godavari Devadula lift irrigation scheme". I couldn't find anyone to know about it so I just had a note of it. Then we reached Golla Buddaram school. We had interaction with 200 students. We took ideas from them. By seeing all the students, I just remembered myself when I was in school age. Interesting ideas which students gave were:

★writing machine

★operating things from home

★coconut tree climbing

One thing which made me think was, all ideas which they told are already in the market but they don't know. Because availability is less and the cost of those things is too high.

As it was becoming too late few of them started walking earlier. We started lately in the evening around 5:00 p.m. I was in the back of all. I just found two people coming on bike they ask me about Yatra. I told about it, those two people are teachers teaching physical science and English at nearby Government school. One of the interesting things I came to know was about the Devadula project one of those teachers told that the water Godavari enters into Telangana through Devadula where water is lifted and sent, the water which we see at kazipet vadapalli lake is the same water. I felt very happy because those two people were going in different direction but came to me and asked about what we were doing. After everything they took a U-turn and left. It was like someone sent them to answer my doubt.

We have reached the village name "Diksha kunta" where we had interaction with a family who live by making things using bamboo. Few of us bought small things made of bamboo. I had an interaction with co-yatri named Vinitha. I got to know very interesting things like animals release hormones due to fear of death while the other animals are being slaughtered. I felt happy to know that students started choosing their career according to passion. At one place we took a break and Ganesham sir has shown as a tree which has grown straight after an inclination. Sir told that it is self-correction which is there in trees. After that we have been told to walk in group of two. Vinitha told about confluence education, Butterfly association. She also told about how new processes are made such that animals get excited to do new things by putting small games kind of. She mentioned that we are trying to change the habits of animals for our need. For example, we are stopping dog's from biting the bone, people grow pigs in nice places. Actually pig have to protect their skin from sunlight. So they try to be in my most of the time. For our needs like pork, we are changing its nature.

After sometime we took a break and Ganesham sir told about "Art of Giving",

There are three ways of giving:

1. **Donation** - Give with no expectation and not worried about the beneficiary and the benefit derived by them.
2. **Charity** - Donor without expectation, but they'll choose an area such as orphans, HIV patients, divyangs etc.
3. **Volunteering** – Two perspectives. Givers perspective is to do without expectation. Beneficiary perspective is to ensure that he got what he wanted not what we wanted for him. Volunteerism is complete when both perspectives are met with in full. Volunteering is an action.

Then we had silent walk between 8 to 8:30 p.m.

We walk in groups, should not talk, switch off the mobile, see that people walking behind are on the way. In Silent walk, we'll know how the other side of the world i.e., nature exists. Few of them told about the light pollution when they saw lights in a village. As it was too dark we felt like we are living in light pollution instead of experiencing the moonlight.

Then we reached Azam Nagar School, where we had our dinner at around 11:30 pm. after having impressions with the a question – “ why we behave in Chinna Shodha Yatra the way we did for the last two days?”

We slept fully tired.

***Day\_3***

I woke up in the early morning and I had a completely different experience. We had very minimal fresh up facilities. Then, I really came to know, how students at govt schools are facing problem with their own washrooms. We went to bus stop where farmers from that village gathered. I had an interaction with one person who has done his M. Com and he told he was one among the state's chess players. He also told he came to village as his father passed away, to take care of his family. He mentioned that he started drinking in the early morning now. Told me how he changed in the meantime. I just had interaction with students who are there, they are happy with what they have, and are feeling a bit with what they don't have. After that we had our breakfast at school.

We all gathered at one place and it was story time for all of us, Ganesham sir told about an innovator Narasimha who made machine which removes Hyacinth which grows double in 8-10 days and weighs at an average 500 tons/acre. It is able to absorb heavy metals like Arsenic and Antimony. Unless rate of removal beats the rate of growth, one cannot see water in the lake. . Usually, fishermen in a village spend 70% of their income for removal of Hyacinth. This is usually removed by hand. This innovation made Hyacinth removal easier. Other machines unable to compete with this machine. GHMC firstly give task of removing hyacinth from Hayath Nagar lake. After that many lakes in Hyderabad has been cleaned. A special contract has been made by the GHMC which is in favour of Narasimha garu. It's mentioned as an innovation from village with at least one project being done for GHMC. People of Kenya got help from people of India by this innovation. Govt took steps to send one machine made by Narasimha to Kenya to remove hyacinth from Kenya lakes.

After that, We met a student named shashidhar studying 9th Class who made an app to switch on the bore motor from far. shashidhar is now trying to work on hydrogen powered vehicle.

Then, we had a group picture. We distributed chocolates to students around and told about ignite competition. Sameed Anna has an interaction with students. I had a nice interaction with Praneeth anna, also came to know about geographic science works from Chadrakala ma'am, I also had an interaction with Uday anna,Krishna anna,Boopathi sir gave nice suggestions for planning a nice future.

We started walking towards a village,We took a break near a tree,I had a nice interaction with Raju Anna innovator, I came to know that his solar lights have been installed in all Street lights in Warangal urban. I got to know how they started palle srujana. Firstly they used to have lunch/dinner at hotels. then in the meantime time they learnt and have chosen a nice path. I learnt that with time and experience life becomes more interesting.I joined back after a tea bringing break.

while walking we all talked about what we do in free time, we have shared our passion among ourselves, we discussed about families. At the end we reached a school where we had our lunch followed by Impressions.

Within no time we all became a family. We all left our comfort zone that might be the reason for behaving similarly.

We did the cost calculations, 9000/- were extra amount which Ganesham sir kept from registration amount.I just felt that taking a decision within less time needs a courage.

Finally I just gave a big wave bye to all and few of us who are from Hyderabad started our journey.

As I said we became a family. Everyone of us took care about others till we reach our destination.

It's a once in life experience.

Thanks to palle srujana for organizing CSY, thank you co-yatries for making me experience things very well.

Finally thanks to nature for creating all things and making us experience.

Once again Thank you,

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