

My Impressions of Chinna Shodh Yatra

Three Days of Learning Beyond the Classroom

Introduction

The 58th Chinna Shodh Yatra was my first Shodh Yatra, and it was a very different learning experience for me. Instead of learning only inside the classroom, I got an opportunity to learn directly from villages, people, nature and real-life situations. The three days made me observe things that I normally ignore in my daily life. I understood that learning can happen anywhere when we are willing to listen and observe.



First Step of Our Shodh Yatra

During our Shodh Yatra, we first visited a school and interacted with the students. It was a wonderful experience to talk to them, understand their thoughts, and learn about their interests. Their enthusiasm, innocence, and cheerful nature made the interaction truly special. We also got the opportunity to share our experiences and encourage them to dream big. Spending time with the students helped us understand their perspective and taught us the importance of connecting with the community. This experience gave me a new perspective and made the beginning of our Shodh Yatra truly meaningful and memorable.



My Experience of Village Life

One of the first things that impressed me was the simplicity of village life. People were living with fewer resources, but their way of sharing and helping others was very meaningful. During our interactions, villagers showed great hospitality and offered us water, tea and other things even though they had limited resources. Their kindness made me realise that happiness and generosity do not always depend on how much we have.



Learning from the People

The people we met had different experiences and different ways of looking at life. Farmers, women, young people, children, volunteers and other villagers all taught me something. I was especially impressed by the confidence and ideas of the school children. When they were given the opportunity to speak, they shared practical ideas and questions. It made me realise that children have many creative thoughts, but they need someone who is ready to listen to them.



Innovation in Everyday Life

Another important impression I got was about innovation. I usually think of innovation as something that comes from laboratories, technology companies or highly educated people. But during the Yatra, I understood that innovation can also come from ordinary people trying to solve everyday problems. The examples of the Ashu machine, natural mosquito repellent and the use of a motor pump for vehicle washing showed me that observing a problem carefully can lead to a useful solution.

A Different View of Education

The discussion about education gave me a new perspective. I understood that education should not be limited to marks, degrees or getting a high-paying job. Education should also help us understand ourselves, our relationships, society and our responsibilities. The ideas shared during the discussion made me think about what real education should mean in our lives.



Simple Living and Self-Observation

I also tried to step away from some of my usual comforts during the Yatra. Walking barefoot, using a neem stick, bathing without my usual products and living with minimum resources were small experiences, but they made me think about how many things I normally take for granted. These experiences helped me understand the value of simplicity and made me observe my own habits more carefully.

Meeting Different People

Meeting people from different backgrounds was one of the most valuable parts of the Yatra. I interacted with students, farmers, innovators, social workers, educators and people from different professions. Each person had a different story and a different understanding of a good life. I was particularly surprised to hear that some young people who had studied or worked in cities had chosen to return to their villages and continue with farming or other livelihoods.



What Touched Me Most

The stories of ordinary people left a strong impression on me. The strength of women managing their families with limited resources, the hard work of farmers and the willingness of villagers to share what they had made me think differently about life. These experiences reminded me not to judge a person's life only from the outside. Everyone has struggles, choices and dreams that we may not see.

My Overall Learning

The biggest lesson I took from Chinna Shodh Yatra is that knowledge is not limited to classrooms, textbooks or technology. Real learning also comes from people, nature, conversations and experiences. I learned to observe before making assumptions, listen before judging and appreciate simple things. I also understood that meaningful change can begin with small observations and practical actions.

Conclusion

Overall, Chinna Shodh Yatra was not just a trip for me; it was an opportunity to look at life from a different perspective. The three days gave me many memories, conversations and lessons that I will carry with me. It encouraged me to become more curious, observant and open-minded. Most importantly, it taught me that every person and every place has something valuable to teach us if we are willing to listen.

Thank you.

From,

T. Greeshma Sri

Student of Malla Reddy Deemed to
be University, Hyderabad