

My Impressions of the 58th Chinna Shodha Yatra

25.09.26 – 27.09.26 | Palle Srujana

This was my First Shodh Yatra. Shodha Yatra to Madanapalle on 25th, 26th and 27th was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. Before going on the Yatra, I was actually nervous. I thought I might not be able to adjust to the surroundings and would feel uncomfortable. But slowly, everything changed, and by the end of the Yatra, I did not want it to end.



The government school visit was another favourite memory. When I started playing with the children, I completely forgot that I was a college student. I became a child again and even tried my best to win the game! Their happiness and innocence made me very happy.



Another experience that stayed with me was our lunch on the first day. At first, we thought that the people living there must be very happy because they had their own farm and a peaceful life. But when one of them told us that they had no one to talk to, I felt really sad. It made me understand that a simple and peaceful life can also have feelings of loneliness that we may not see from the outside.



One of the things that touched me the most was the love and kindness of the villagers. On the morning of 26th, when we went to take a bath, an aunty helped us so much. Even though there was a shortage of water in the village, she gave us hot water and tea and kept asking if we needed anything else. Her kindness really touched me. It made me realise that having less does not stop people from sharing what they have with others. I was also impressed by the commitment of the villagers towards their work. Their simple lifestyle, hard work and dedication taught me that happiness does not always depend on having a luxurious life.



The Yatra also helped me become a little more confident. On the first night, during the impressions, I spoke quite confidently, which made me feel proud of myself. I realised that I could express myself better when I stepped out of my comfort zone.



The second day, 26th, was one of the most beautiful and memorable days of my Shodha Yatra. I woke up early around 5:30 in the morning to the sound of hens. The weather was very cold, and I really enjoyed the peaceful village atmosphere.



Throughout the day, I interacted with many villagers and children, and I also got the chance to climb a **hill**.



Anji Reddy Sir explained to us about different leaves and their uses, which was very interesting because I was learning things that I would never learn in a classroom.



Another special part of the day was staying away from my phone. I was almost completely without my phone for three days, and surprisingly, I really enjoyed it. I felt

more connected to the people and the surroundings.

By the end of the day, I was tired, but I did not even feel like eating because I wanted to save my energy for the next day. Durga Mam noticed this and lovingly fed me, which was another moment I will always remember.

After that, we went to sleep with so much excitement and energy for the next day. The entire day was filled with learning, laughter, nature, kindness and new experiences. It made me realise that I could enjoy myself without a phone or the comforts I usually depend on. The second day truly made me feel connected to rural life and became one of my favourite days of the entire Shodh Yatra.

One funny memory was that I had brought 10 litres of water from Hyderabad because I was worried about the water situation. Everyone laughed at me! Now, whenever I remember it, I laugh too. The late-night conversations and never-ending laughter with my co-yatris made the trip even more special.

Most importantly, I will always remember the support and togetherness of my co-yatris. This Yatra gave me memories, lessons, friendships and a different way of looking at life.

When the Shodh Yatra ended, instead of feeling satisfied that it was over, I started waiting for the next Shodh Yatra. That itself explains how much I enjoyed it. If someone asks me whether they should experience it, I would simply say, "At least once in your life, you must experience a trip like this."