

Palle Srujana: 16th CSY Impressions

Villages are the Backbone of the Country. I always believed that Villagers are very self-sufficient and they have lot of knowledge with them to share. We will be enthralled to know about it. I knew about Pallesrujana from my colleagues Bhanu & Manoj who went to the Yatra before me. I was very excited to meet the Pallesrujana team and to learn from watching the villages what Google also can't tell and in the process rediscover myself.

We started from Nellore to Rajhumundry on Sept.24th and while coming, I informed to my cousin who immediately started without giving any second thought about the trip. So we 3 finally reached Rajhumundry station from there took 3 buses to Sunnampadu via Gokavaram-Rampachodavaram. We also met a bus conductor(Prasad) on our way whom we explained about the Yatra and he gave some valuable insights in the Life style of the villagers and lot of things like tribals, their beliefs, discrimination in earlier times etc.

Day-1:

We all were gathered at Sunnampadu Primary school where we met all the Yatris and we observed that the Kids in the school were all self-reliant and disciplined and even though their teacher was not available, they made prayers and pledges themselves. All the Yatris sat near the school and introduced each other and we met for the first time Brigadier Ganeshan Sir who gave the Introduction about the Yatra and asked all the participants regarding the Expectations they have from the Yatra. We briefed them about our ideas and our Yatra started from there. We had fun time with the Kids there who were very intelligent and gave Innovative ideas for the Questions posed by us (Torch Light idea, Round TV, Match Stick etc.) There was meeting with the village heads and Old men of the area who shared the feelings and the differences now and then. They majorly told that there was lot of problem with the Monkeys there in the village which is being released from towns & cities to their villages by Officials. Those monkeys are destroying the plants. We

also had some interesting chat where we found that the villagers do not milk the cow and sell whereas they leave it to their calf. Each house had around 10-20 saplings from vegetables, fruits and other medicinal herbs. So they were not going to any market and we felicitated the oldest person in the village who showed us the ladder he prepared and various medicinal plants in his farm. We also had the challenge of utilizing of the excessively growing weed (Gali Donka) which is a headache to the village. We heard an interesting thing from the villagers that **108 services** are playing a major role there and villagers are given free hospital support and pregnant ladies are given money after delivery too. But they are becoming unaware of the medicinal values which are continuing from centuries and flocking to hospitals.

Later in the day we went further deep in to the forest where we observed that the water requirement was met by Shirdi Sai trust and the villagers had no scope of studying. There was a Girl named Mangamma who was trained in AATA-PATA and she had the desire to train everyone in her community to write their signature. We showed the villagers how to make some innovations to lessen their work. The final stop for the day was the Doramamidi where we stayed in the primary school and we met the villagers in the late night. The day ended with the Impressions sharing after dinner was done collectively.

Highlights of the Day:

- The Villagers practiced CONTOUR CULTIVATION in the Hilly areas.
- We learned about the PALM TREE and how scientists are doing around 40 useful products from them organic way.
- NRV Concept and getting subscriptions for native villages of Yatris.
- Starting of Innovation college to encourage new Grass root Innovators.
- Learnt from Ganeshan Sir why now-a-days kids are having Spectacles than before.

Problems seen and solutions to be found:

- ✓ Monkeys problem in the village and destroying their crop
- ✓ Gali Donka plant which is an excess weed to be used for them
- ✓ Mangamma and her villagers need a source for education.

Day-2:

We had bath in the flowing water in the forest and we had the beautiful nature talking to us in every sound of Bird, water and we required nothing as everything was provided to us by Mother Nature. We started from there and met the villagers and we met a villager who was continuing his family tradition of making ploughs and he made with such accuracy and fine details and he told us that it takes just 6hrs to make it. In the same village, we met an old couple who were being felicitated for sharing their experiences with us.

We continued our journey till Busigudem where there was Girls school with over 400 school girls studying there. We met the management who gave permission for meeting the school children. Brigadier sir explained about the various Innovators with slides and videos and they were disciplined bunch of kids who were Innovative in the way they clap and had very good ideas which they shared with us.

We again started our Journey towards Rampachodavaram where we stopped through our way to discuss briefly about the Grass root Innovators and other problems that the villagers are facing and how can that be eliminated. While walking through the forest, we also discussed about how water continuously flows throughout the year in the Jungle there where I learned about the Sponge like thing in Hills. At 5:00PM, there was heavy pour of rainfall and no one was deterred to walk in the rainfall even though we were drenched in water. We witnessed all the variations in weather and found solace in the nature. Ganeshan sir asked us to walk for 15 mins in silence which most of us failed to do. And later

we were asked to tell us our feelings and we found that there was lot of Inner voice present inside us even though we were silent externally. We finally stopped for the day at 7:30PM at Rampa primary school.

We had a long discussion and almost a debate on the Leader and why there was lack of Leaders in India. Sir also briefed us about the same. After the impressions from all the rest of the team, we slept in the school. The villagers came and met us and told that they are eager to meet us.

Highlights of the Day:

- Organic farming and Natural farming methods.
- Tulasi and its medicinal values.
- Lakshmi Aasu machine and its advantages
- One of the Yatri, Hema stood throughout the day without sitting by taking Brigadier sir as the Inspiration.
- Manohar Prasad's Aata Pata School which spread to over 4000 schools.

Day- 3:

We woke up in the early morning and directly went to the Rampa water falls to get ready. There we saw the real beauty of the waterfalls and the nature and completely lost our self for about an hour there. Then we went to meet Sita Ramaraju Daughter-in-law (Sunkari Venkata Ratnam) who was supposed to be aged above 100 years. She remembered all the minute details and her hearing was also very good. She gave in sights in the life of Freedom fighter, Sita Rama Raju.

We were little disappointed as many villagers did not turn up in the morning. But Brigadier sir told us that we should not expect and expectations lead

to frustration. They might have intent to come but due to unforced conditions only, they would not have come. Then we went to the final village crossing over 14km in hot humid conditions where we were fully exhausted while walking in the sun. We cared for each other in those conditions like a family and that brought us together. We met a inter college student working in a shop who offered us free water and she was a symbol of mother hood to us. We were warmly welcomed by the villagers in Rampachodavaram by village head and we explained to them about the Innovators and they sang their folk songs (Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu) and all houses there were very organized and self-reliant. I asked most of the Yatris what they would do if they would die within 2 hours. The answers from them broadened my ideology and there were many interesting answers from the Yatris. We then walked from there to the final destination in the Forest where we gave final impressions about the Yatra and about the upcoming meet by Yatris and Innovators.

Highlights of the Day:

- The old lady we met remembered many things from her past and we keep forgetting many things due to the availability of many gadgets and that showed the difference.
- The Question of WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU KNOW THAT YOU WOULD DIE WITHIN AN HOUR gave many interesting answers.

16th CSY in Pictures:



Gathering of all the Yatris at Sunnampadu School and introducing themselves



The School kids who were doing their pledges and prayers without any Teacher's presence



The Villagers demonstrated ladder and Doki (Used for drinking) and the oldest member of the Village being felicitated. There were more than 20 varieties of plants and trees in his backyard.



A medicinal plant in the Backyard. Locally called GALI DUMPA which is used to cure fever and convulsions



An excessively grown weed (Gali Donka). Needs to give solution on making it a useful thing for the villagers



Brigadier Ganeshan Sir regularly keeping us updated about the various Grass root Innovators and while walking explained about the things to be learned from Nature and many other Questions and Answers that we learned from other Yatris



A Plant that naturally keeps rain water to direct to the Root by having connections



Interaction with School kids at BUSI GUDEM ladies school



Walk through the Forest and Villages and our Regular group Impressions and discussing about the Day findings and giving ideas to develop them





The Rampa Waterfalls that we came across on our way



Meeting with Alluri Seetharamaraju Daughter-in-law aged above 100 years, she explained every detail so clearly





Palle Srujana- 16th Chinna Shodha Yatra – Start and Finish of the Yatra



Thank You-
Poorna Chandra, a Shodha Yatri