Impressions of 38th Chinna Shodha Yatra

Rohit

My impressions of the CSY after spending a few days to reflect on it.

Before we started the Yatra, I told everyone that I’m interested in the rural development space and came to the Yatra for a rural immersion experience. This wasn’t my first time to a village but it definitely was my first time walking and living through them. I could really feel the effort people have to go through if transportation (which we such consider such a basic need) is not met.

I still think about one of the discussions during the yarta's, when Ganesham sir spoke about how a great innovation designed for the weaver communities wasn't able to realize its true potential due to an absolute lack of support from the system. It's ridiculous that the system built to serve the people cannot support an innovator who is willing to help them do their job. Shows the capitalistic mentality that has enriched our system especially in the urban world.

Then how do we solve this problem? I really don't know how we can change the entire system but I know I especially can start at my college to nurture the mindset and value system of the students. I want my students in the future to make decisions not only from a capitalist approach but also from a socialist approach. Why is reducing the pain of 100000 people not as great as increasing the wealth of a few individuals? I certainly think it is. One of my highlights of the yatra was to hear the ideas proposed by the students at the school. It was so exciting to see them innovate and we have a great responsibility to nurture them into good individuals.

I strongly believe through well-intended immersive experiences; we could enable students to empathize with the community and come up with innovations that truly benefit them. Such experiences at an early age will truly impact how their personality shapes up in the future. We need a lot more change agents in the future generations whose collective efforts and decision-making will be focused to make the world a better place.

However, immersion is the key and I'm now thinking to make it a prerequisite to any of our community-based learning courses as an approach to engaging with the community and build relationships. I honestly had a lot of fun during the yatra so I think my students would also enjoy it a lot. Will definitely keep recommending my students to join you on yatra's moving forward :)

Thanks to each one of you for sharing the journey!