

Impression (CSY-46)

This is Charith. A 20-yr old B.tech student from Hyderabad. I wanted to share my learnings from the first “Chinna Shodha Yatra” I’ve been to. But before that, let me share a question that’s been in mind for quiet some time.

“In the never-ending non-sensical pursuit of who’s gonna be ahead of whom, are we leaving somebody behind? All the technological advancements, developments in AI, building multi-billion dollar firms etc etc all of these are okay. But, with my fellow brothers and sisters of the country lacking basic needs and a dignified quality of life, does it make sense to feel a false sense of accomplishment?”

I was introduced to grassroots innovations ecosystem by my college, which I think is the best thing formal education system has done to me so far. I was suggested to meet Brigadier Ganesham garu. I met him in Palle Srujana office a day before his ted-talk. Though his schedule was busy, he managed to give me around 30 mins. We had a wonderful conversation, out of which I did not understand few things. Obviously, when a 75-yr old wise man talks with a 20-yr old lad, I can’t expect to grasp every bit of it.

But the beauty of that conversation was, most things he said started to make sense when I studies more about GRI, started to speak with innovators. He said it, but he did not say it. Maybe that’s how truth is. Only to be realised by the individual. Neither can it be taught nor can it be made realised.

Then came another question in my mind.

“The problems my people facing are evident, the negligence we show towards it is evident. But despite all of this if somebody cared enough to solve that problem and did actually solve the problem, are we in such an awful state where we cannot lend our hand in helping that solution reach all those who deserve it but cannot desire it?”

Let me share a small incident which happened few days before CSY. Post dinner my father and I were walking on the terrace. I saw a dog on the street. It was very thin. I thought he might be hungry, took some food and went down. I gave him food, he rejected. I gave him water, he rejected. Now I was worried, because something was bit odd about his behaviour. He was having hiccups which never ended. I tried to call everybody I could, tried to show him to everybody I could. But after an hour and half I had to accept the harsh fact that its too late, he has some disease which can't be cured, he will die anyway. And he passed away the next day. It was a painful death.

But what hit me hard in this entire episode is, when me and my brother tried to feed it, few people gathered around which is very common because we are more interested in what's happening around us than inside us. Among them few were saying yes I saw this dog 2 days ago, it was like this only. I mean 2 days the poor dog was in such a condition, and nobody cared?

That realisation of how insensitive we became was like a slap to me. We became insensitive to the pain of ppl & animals around us. We became insensitive to the feelings of ppl & animals around us. This is not something which happened suddenly. It happens day in and day out in all of our homes. Aren't we insensitive to the feelings of our mothers/sisters when we shout at them? Aren't we insensitive to the feelings of our fathers when we hurt them? To be honest, I am. I am not sensitive all the time.

But thanks to my college I found people who are sensitive. Who feel the pain and suffering of others as their own and actually do something about it. Because knowing and feeling aren't enough until we do something about it. They are called "Grassroots innovators".

Then what differentiates them from the common people?
"SAMVEDANA"

Not that we don't have it. We all do have it in varied quantities. Just that the have it in abundance. How beautiful, isn't it? I wonder how better place the world would be to live, if everybody is like that. Knows the pain, feels the pain and most importantly do something about it.

Let me now share what I have learnt during the 3 days.

Day - 1

Something funny happened early in the morning, I put my bag in the bus, got down for a walk to nearby by shop to buy a plate. Came back to find neither the bus nor my bag. I ran after the bus but couldn't catch it, took lift from a school bus but couldn't catch it. Then I called Brigadier garu and said what happened. In the entire episode though I was a lil bit tensed there was a type of calmness inside me. Paradoxical isn't it? That feeling I later realised was "trust". The same feeling we experience through our family. I had a trust that my people are there to take care. So I enjoyed the journey sitting backside of a sharing auto, chit-chatting with an old man beside me.

Now what I wonder is how can one interaction with a person build so much trust in him? Not just this example, many time during the yatra also the trust that nothing will go wrong if Brigadier garu is there, I am sure most other yatries might have also experienced this.

Is this bcz of his age?

Is it bcz of his wisdom?

Or is it bcz of his integrity?

I don't know the answer for this. Brigadier garu I would love to hear it from yourself.

Day - 2

We went through forest which was very nice. I got to have nice discussions with Rajesh garu and Brigadier garu. Lots of learnings. Sorry abt not mentioning all. Because learnt so much in a single day which is usually rare for me.

But one noteworthy experience is the silent walk in the evening. Though silence was not new to me, this kind of silence was. Because there was a clear goal in my mind. To protect the honour of my leader beside me. Now since I had a clear goal/focus in my mind, staying silent did not take much effort at all. It just happened. There was no conflict. This is also something Brigadier garu often says. Infact this was the first sentence he said to me during our first interaction. "Charith whatever you do in your life, having focus is very important."

But I still don't completely agree with it for whatever logic I have in my mind. Maybe I need to discuss abt this again in detail with you sir.

Day - 3

The last day. The day went nice. Towards the end of the yatra I got a doubt, which I asked Brigadier garu. If one experience of CSY has taught me this much and is emotionally this satisfying for all the yatries, he has done more than 60 yatras so far. My god how much more fulfilling and satisfying it might be for him! I wonder how much more can we, the next generation can learn from him, build-upon and take his wisdom forward. Though all your wisdom/way of life is clearly evident through Palle Srujana, I hope you consider someday writing a book about your journey of your learnings from both the lives sir. Consider it as a request from your next generation.

Discussions with co-yatries:

Out of all the discussions I had with my co-yatries, few stayed with me.

Krishna garu and I discussed few physics laws on the first day. His passion just blowed me away. The way he just jumps into discussion if he has something to say, so involved, its just so fascinating. And then Rayudu garu, so calm, so innocent, I just loved him. Their friendship is very nice and funny I must say. The way they critique and support each other at the same time is very cute. The discussions with Rajesh garu and Vamsi Priya garu, I felt very nice. Their decision of not sending their

children to the formal system is indeed very brave I must say. While discussing with Vamsi Priya garu, felt like I was just having a convo with a sister which Bharath had already mentioned. Pavan, liked your idea of genetics infused hologram projection very much. If not today, hope you would continue to contribute to it in future. Naga Mohan garu, I liked what you are doing at extra mile (not last mile). He was very active and funny all through and after the yatra. Akhila, we did not get to interact much during the yatra. Most of our discussion was on return bus to Hyderabad. Such a tough and brave girl! I think I haven't met a woman who has a unique mixture of madness, bravery, energy & kindness like her before. All the other yatries Medha mam, Sai Krishna, Bharath, Sanjay sir, Manasa, Mohan, Harish, Raju Anna, DP bayya, Harini garu, Pankaja Rani garu and all other (sorry if I forgot any names, I have a bad memory) it was nice meeting you all. Hope to meet you all and interact more in the next yatras.

Sorry about not including any pictures, I am not much into pictures so did not click many and was confused what to select among so many in the group. Also don't mind I couldn't mention about all the experiences and discussions because I don't remember much. Overall it was a fulfilling experience. Thankyou Brigadier garu for everything!

Regards,
Charith.

