

Hello everyone,

I would like to take this opportunity to pen down my thoughts on the three day's CSY 47.

This was the first time I have worked for a social cause. Until I have been to this yatra, I never knew that working for someone makes us so happy from within. It has taught us to appreciate the beauty of simplicity. It reminds of the importance of community and the value of hardwork. It also exposes us to the realities of rural life, encouraging us to think about ways in which we can contribute to rural development of india.

Day 1 Experience - we had this exercise every day in the evening during our CSY. However, putting it in words here. We met a small girl named Lakshmi on the first day. We got to learn so much from the little girl, who earns money for her family by disguising herself, sometimes as Sita or Hanuman. We think that money is the only source to be happy, but this girl has taught us that helping family to earn bread is the one. While passing by each village we observed that everyone is greeted by a sense of peace and tranquillity that is hard to find in cities. We got to meet a lady named "Chinnamma" in the village and she explained her experiences of life and was happy to see us. It could be a small 10 minute meeting for us but then to her it was happiness for life long. She will always remember that someone from the City has come to meet her and felicitate her for being the old lady in the village. On the way we met several farmers who shared their innovations with us. One such person was "Narsareddy " from Cherlapally who explained the preparation of Jeevan Amrut (Cow dung, Leaf extract and Soil) fertiliser. We usually see Banana fruits grow upward in one cluster near the top of the plant, however by adding Jeevan Amrut fertiliser they have grown fruits in two to three clusters near the top of the plant which was amazing.

Day 2 Experience - Best experience on the second day was the "Akepadu ZP high school" visit where we halted and met kids and their teachers. This was a memorable day to me since I experienced childhood again; and have lived that moment. Kids were so interested in listening to Brigadier sir that they have put their heart out in the exercise given. When Sir asked them to write down new ideas; they came up with many thoughts and the motto of every child was to reduce the pain of their parents and grandparents with new innovations. Girl named 'Lasya' had come up to me and asked if I spoke English when I said yes; she requested my phone number. I asked what she would do with it; she said she wants to learn English from me. Till today all the girls and boys call me everyday to check my whereabouts and remember the day. We have also witnessed nature at its best on the second day. My co-yatri Akansha and I were just mad at taking pictures on the road. We also had our lunch in the Mango farm and enjoyed driving the tractor. Night silent walk was also memorable since I understood it is very difficult for me to stay silent for sometime. When I asked the importance of silent walking, sir said, you will get to know; and i was thinking maybe we are entering a new village and if we enter making noise, they will not like it and since Sir is into the Army, he wants discipline to be followed. However, that isn't the case there. Seems it combines the health benefits of nature, exercise and meditation to centre and calm its many participants. We 've all heard the advice that going on a run will clear your head or that spending time outdoors can give a fresh perspective on a problem. So instead of walking or running with headphones and listening to podcasts or music we need to observe the surroundings, moon light and nature.

Day 3 Experience - We were a little sad since it was the last day of our CSY 47. However, we all tried to get to know each other and gel with every co-yatri. We got to learn from everyone in person. Anji Reddy sir was sharing his knowledge on medicinal plants and fruit trees. We tried to get some guavas and berries from the tree as well. At first two of the kids started and soon we could see everyone perched on the tree relishing ripe fruits. We also gave some fruits to the pleading people standing underneath. Every village we passed by; people made us stop and offered their cultivated bananas. As we crossed Papaya plantation and turmeric plants, we imagined how much hardship does every farmer go through for one fruit and that we need to respect our farmers and never waste the food on our plate. All of us eating together on one big Banana leaf was epic since I have never experienced this before. Sharing a meal together is a universal human experience that often signifies bonding, connections and community that we will not be able to find in today's busy lifestyle. There are nutrition, health, social and mental benefits to eating with others as well. With a heavy heart we parted to meet again and experience Indian values and traditions which are roots for a lifetime.

It was an incredible journey; actually a celebration of life that has taught us to enjoy the small things in life and be grateful to nature and the people around us.