**Impressions of Intern – Rohit Gunda, VNIT, Nagpur**

**How did I know about PALLE SRUJANA?**

During winter vacation, my seniors Naveen and Sumaja told me regarding this ngo and suggested me that it is a good place to work for. So I along with my friends, Vanaja and Pravallika visited BRIGADIER Ganesham sir and expressed our willingness in volunteering for PALLE SRUJANA. Initially we did not even had a proper basic idea of what Palle Srujana does. The very first day, we met Ganesham sir, from there we were into a journey which cannot be expressed in words.

**Very First day of PALLE SRUJANA(16th Dec):**

My friend Vanaja and I met Ganesham sir and were warmly welcomed by him. Initially he explained of what Palle Srujana is and it carries out activities such as encouraging and promoting grassroots innovators , conducting IGNITE, etc. Then we had a discussion about the stories of few grassroots innovations and we were having endless talks and were awestruck by his thoughts and ideas. I learnt that we never try to think of a solution to a problem until we experience the pain of it.

**Assignment of activities(17th Dec):**

We were explained in detail of what all activities can a volunteer do in Palle Srujana . One of the activities was visiting grassroots innovators. Despite of being a grassroots innovator, I felt that they were humble and down to the earth as I spoke them on the call.

**Visit to Mahipal Chary(19th Dec):**

Mahipal Chary , a grassroots innovator from Parakala of Warangal district innovated mini cultivator.Initially he was a bike mechanic but after a while he started doing agriculture. He faced a lot of troubles in weeding his field. This problem made him think and innovate mini cultivator which is used for ploughing and weeding. The engine present in it can also be used as a motor to draw water from wells. He is glad that Palle Srujana is encouraging him, with the help of which he was able to establish his workshop. He is proving that one can achieve anything if one’s will power and determination are so high that none can distract him. Meeting innovators and sharing ideas with them are the best things because they introduce me to their world which I am completely unaware of.

**Visit to Bommagani Mallesh (22nd Dec):**

Bommagani Mallesh is a man of innovations. He has a workshop and business. His mother found difficulty to switch on the fan as she was suffering from leprosy. He was unable to bear this pain and his notion to free his mother from this difficulty made him innovate remote controller of fans and tube lights. I found his innovations new, different and they are for the welfare of the society. He asked us for any project and was so confident that he could make the project successful.

**Interaction with Ganesham sir(24th Dec):**

We had a discussion on the visits to the innovators and then we were explained about the translation of NIF articles and Palle Srujana technical articles. I translated one of the articles from Palle Srujana magazine i.e, a helmet which got a compass fixed to it. It is beneficial to the army forces.

**Visit to Mallesham(25th Dec):**

Mallesham , a grassroots innovator from Aler in Warangal, invented Laxmi Asu Machine. He was one of the best persons that I have ever met till date. Their occupation was weaving sarees whose financial productivity is very low. He discontinued his studies in 5th class and learned to weave a saree . As the years passed by, his mother grew older and found difficult to weave a saree as she suffered from back pain. He was unable to see his mother experiencing the pain and started observing the process behind weaving keenly. He started off his work in 1993. In spite of being discouraged by his family , he never let his spirit down but came back with the Asu machine in 2000. Then he improved the machine in the year 2011 that is he mechanized the process of weaving the saree. I have mentioned a part of his story as I was greatly inspired. There were few instances of his life that I could correlate with that of mine and the best thing that i have learnt from him is never and ever give up on your dreams. I was greatly moved by his words and thoughts i.e, "We, innovators, create or make the path but engineers follow the path laid by someone else."

**Translation of Palle Srujana magazine articles(26th Dec):**

We had a discussion regarding visit to Mallesham with Ganesham sir. Then I translated two technical articles of Palle Srujana into English. I translated the story of Madhusudhan, a corn roaster by profession but an innovator by passion, into English. I also read the story of Vittal Ravi Kumar who is greatly determined and innovated one way alternative current which allows the current to flow in single direction i.e, main supply to the house. In the evening I met Akhila maam and we had a discussion on the conduction of Ignite’17 program in schools.

**Visit to School (27th Dec):**

We along with Akhila maam went to the government school in Hayath Nagar to collect ideas which would be sent to ignite competition and were warmly received by the students. We were awestruck by the brilliance of the students present in the morning session and felt happy for meeting them. We had lunch along with a kid. Evening we conducted the program for another class. We were so blessed for the affection and the love they showed on us.

**Technical Documentation (28th to 31st Dec):**

On 28th December, we went to Mallesh sir for noting down the information regarding his two innovations, hand pump and manual seed tiller. Hand pump, a new innovation is used to draw water from sump where as manual seed tiller sows the seeds, covers those seeds with soil and gets the soil leveled. Initially we were afraid of making the documentation as we did not had a proper idea of it. But we managed to make the documentation with the help of Ganesham sir and Akhila maam. I also translated some of the articles of magazine into English.

**What did I learn from Palle Srujana:**

* It helped me in improving my communication skills to a good extent.
* It also corrected my vision towards farmers and made me learn a lot from them.
* I used to have a fear in visiting new places but Palle Srujana made me visit different places which I have not been to and as of now I got a bit habituated in visiting new places.
* It also made me realize that your knowledge is useless unless you share it to someone or apply it in your daily life.
* It also helped me in improving my personality.
* I am very happy for meeting those children in the school and for the love they showed upon us.
* I bagged a lot of experiences from the diaries of Ganesham sir and Akhila maam.
* On the whole Palle Srujana is a voluntary organization where likeminded people under one roof work selflessly for the welfare of the nation.
* Grassroots innovators inspired me and also taught me to move in a humble manner irrespective of the qualifications.
* After my visit to Mallesham sir, I was greatly motivated and learnt to receive all the incidents in life in a positive way.