

My father Vasant introduced me to Mr. Cees Tompot during his visit to India about 30 years back . Then I was around 20 years old! I was about to join YPS.. so my father wanted me to understand the supporters of YPS. Though there were many other foreigners to whom my father introduced me , but Cees was the one with whom the association continued for long! This was because his understanding of work the organization was doing , belief in the people and the need.

Cees was the person who was mediating between YPS and Lockhorn foundation. Though he was working with the tax office in Netherlands, he used to be very busy but still he was sparing lot of time to talk with various people, foundations on behalf of YPS. About 15 years back when we started Jalihal project, he convinced Lockhorn foundation to support this new adventure of YPS! This was the birth of a new project for the poor people living in drought prone and remote villages. Cees was the first person who visited the project site and understood the real situation. Cees briefed the situation to Mr. Carel Lockhorn who supported Jalihal project in the initial period. Jalihal project could start only because of the initial support of Mr. Carel Lockhorn ! Cees played a vital role in making positive decisions about Jalihal project.

After the demise of Mr. Carel Lockhorn, Mr. Cees Tompot became the backbone of Jalihal project. He took the initiative, we together decided that “Improving Educational Scenario” is an important task. This was an important decision and wise one! Because of our intervention of improving education we together could work with the young generation of Jalihal area. This generation after getting good education will be instrumental in improving their families, villages. With these educational efforts, now every child attends the school! The dropout rate after 7<sup>th</sup> standard education which was about 76% about 10 years back has come down to 8% at present! Hardly few students were continuing education after 10<sup>th</sup>! But now more than 75% students (male and female) continues their education after 10<sup>th</sup>! We could see this changes only due to the “Edu-key” project!! Yojana Project Hulp , supported innovative endeavors of YPS! “Digital School” , “Community Radio” , “Food Processing” “Grain Bank” “Cui-o-city Center” are few examples of innovative projects which Yojana supported! Because of timely support to such projects YPS could accelerate the development process. Also for doing innovative projects brings fresh energy into the implanting organization! The concepts of “Bicycle to continue girls education ” and “Hostels for the children of Migrants” introduced Yojana-YPS by have been taken by the state government!

During last 4-5 years more emphasis was given on bringing “Equality”, encouraging “Philosophical thinking” , “Expressions” “Improving the child and parent’s educational relationship”. For bringing such changes through sports Korf ball , judo were introduced . Training in conducting “Puppet shows” were conducted to decode the expressions of children especially girls Mr. Kersten Baan and his team took lots of efforts in developing these concepts ! Yojana arranged trainings by international experts like Jaap Scouten , Enry , Doris and Paul to train our staff , teachers, students and volunteers. With such inputs we now see big positive change in the thinking of present young generation of Jalihal area!

Few days back I was invited to preside an educational program in Sangli. A person introduced me to the audience as “ Person with progressive thinking”. If this is true, entire credit of making my thinking progressive goes to Mr. Cees Tompot and Yojana! I learned a lot from them!!

Life is like the “Car Assembly Line” , where bare chassis starts it’s journey from point zero, different robots fit assigned parts to the chassis and finally a nice car comes out from the line. Similarly, in Jalihal’s development journey Mr. Cees Tompot and Yojana have played very important role. Though the car is not ready yet, we can surely see that important parts are fitted to the chassis and the car is taking shape!!

Finally I can say our association with Yojana and Mr. Cees Tompot so far has been strong , effective, responsible because of which we can claim that we could permanently change the lives many families living in Jalihal area!!

Raja Deshpande