

# लोकसत्ता

## Truly “Awesome” (Truly “Lai Bhari”)

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It's the ground floor of Madhav Baug, in Brahmin Society, Thane. Three of the walls of the hall have about 8 computers leaning against them, and passionately boring through the screens in front of them, are highly creative young minds. The fourth wall has a few mattresses neatly tucked under a bed sheet. The next room is a kitchen that keeps them going ...

that is, if and when they remember to spare time from their work. No! This is not a camp (as in a place where people come and go... hustling bustling with activity) ... but it is in fact the office of Crisys Foundation. And that's where I found Apoorva!

Apoorva Purushottam Agwan. She is the Vice President of Sustainable Development at Crisys Foundation and oversees the social division. Her body language displays bubbling excitement, her pleasing face and distinctly shining eyes clearly display the “happiness” of the different path of life she has chosen. Apoorva used to be a singer. When she started college, she was drawn to Western Music. To get more acquainted with it, she began to learn from Mr. Fernandes at Bandra. At that time Mr. Fernandes, who was working in Siemens, had developed an education method called “Fourth Brain Method” that taught the use of the frontal part of the Brain, which is rarely used by humans. This education method can in fact be applied to any field, and – applying it to diverse education fields at various levels; using it to develop the highest of technologies (the absolute creamy layer); and then using these solutions to develop the poorest of poor – had always been the intention of Fernandes Sir. The youth coming to learn music would often get into open-minded discussions on this subject. They were already experiencing the success of the education method. The seeds of thought sown began to grow, and a group of willing candidates was formed.

While they continued their education, five to six of them gathered and went on a tour of the tribal belt from Thane to Orissa, to search for the “poor”. While in Sambalpur District, a heart wrenching scene terrified them. A lady lay there squirming in deathly pain. The cost of nearby private hospital was not affordable, and there was neither a vehicle nor a road to reach the government hospital. "Her two

children have died... now let her die," reacted her husband decidedly. This shocking event gave this group their future direction.

They decided to start with the development of Yeoor-based Adivasis. To support her cause Apoorva started her post-graduation in Public Administration from Annamalai University. She further studied and completed another post-graduation in Sustainable development. Software Engineers, Doctors, Law experts... experts from different knowledge streams began to gather together in this group.

The issue of Adivasis, their problems, likes-dislikes, lifestyle... they gathered not just the literature on the subject, but also began getting to know them on a personal level, and garnering their trust, by staying with them. They would go to the padas and understand their problems. Being cheated was one of the common problems... So they started solving the legal questions of the locals, and the locals now have faith in Apoorva and her colleagues that "these are good people."

In all this, living simple lives, just like the Adivasis, was obvious. In all this her dad Purushottam Agwan stood behind her. They also found a bamboo house "Anantashram" in Yeoor.

In doing this work they did not wish to beg for the funds needed. So, using the "Fourth Brain Method" the engineers from the group developed cutting-edge software programs at Madhav Baug. Apoorva chose to solve the social problems of the people, and decided to stay at Anantashram, Yeoor.

A Medical Doctor began to help out in health problems of the locals. Some started the computer-based education. They sell their software and generate the funds for their Adivasi development activities. Of course, including the Tribals in this work was the basic idea. They began working together for their own basics and for raising funds for the work. After many years of tireless work, they gave this selfless work an identity – "Creative Responsible Integrated Systems".

In Yeoor jungle, life threatening scorpions and snakes are a common sight. But how do you take a person in terrible pain to the hospital? This is a bigger problem in Jawhar and Mokhada. Crisys has designed and patented a lightweight, unique mono-wheel ambulance, which is being distributed free of cost to the Adivasis.

To solve health issues, a toilet is must. They began brainstorming on the design. Easy to move, sustainable water source, disposing the waste without causing pollution, easy to maintain and clean. Permission for keeping 5 such toilets is now underway. The human waste is going to be disposed using certain insects, and to eat these insects chicken are going to be kept. The maintenance of this closed-loop toilet is going to be done by the Tribals themselves, who will sell the chicken for a livelihood.