

FROM LOST TO 'SEARCH' VIA NIRMAN

No Clinical Post Graduation, No Private Practice, No job in central healthcare system (district or sub-district hospital). Pondering over these decisions, confused I entered the Nirman Process. The process that was initiated over a year ago did one unique thing that had never happened before. It made me ask questions to myself. First Camp made me ask WHY? Second was all about WHAT? And the camps concluded with a HOW? Three fundamental questions. None alien. But I had been trying to escape them. Nirman acquainted me with these questions and with Social Reality and the connection between my answers and their social relevance. It pointed out the difference between Want and Need. Never did it try to give me any answer. Nirman gave me the questions to the answers I already possessed.

I was given 3 job opportunities on the last day of the first camp. The recent learnings made me ask – Where do you need me the most? The Mobile Medical Unit was the answer. Going to the people. Being with them. Over the last one year, I have been trying to become one of them. What distinguishes man from animals is empathy. Ability to understand and share feeling of others. A small addition to this defⁿ is what my learning is – and act to alleviate it. This feeling constantly tells me what I am doing is neither great nor something out of the mainstream, but is absolutely normal to the human nature – helping others to the best of efforts. This is how God has created us – to help others. And so, social sector becomes the Real Mainstream. Not the other way round.

The Tribals face a lot of obstacles in everyday life. From poor education to lack of communication. From unemployment to the rat race to compete with the world's pace. Sudden monsoon deficit catches them off guard. Still they survive. They are terribly hard working people. Equally accommodating. Initially I had difficulties in accommodating to the new life style. They never had issues in accommodating me. What NIRMAN and SEARCH have made me learn is the fact that Tribals may have a lot of problems, but the real question is, "What am I going to do for those problems?"

I think I am trying to do just that.

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