My diary…………..

Folks want to share my local bus ride after the first wave of pandemic.

My journey in BRTS started when our college shifted from its transit campus at Hubli to permanent campus at Dharwad. I travelled in BTS (Bangalore Transport Service) during my college days (engineering!!!) 35 years back. So I was worried how to adjust to the new environment, because reaching office was easy earlier but also excited.

My younger colleagues shared their experience and assured me not worry. On my first day journey while returning home in BRTS they accompanied me helped to scan the ticket, boarding and told to press the stop button before reaching my destination bus stop. Luckily got a seat and took a photo from mobile to remember the first ride. During my college days to reach college it took one hour from Mahalakshmi Layout to Kumaraswamy layout in late 80’s. But things have changed a lot now in Bangalore, most of your time will be spent in travelling to reach your destination and back home.

Now, from past one year I am enjoying my ride on BRTS because every day, you meet all kinds of people. Few of the faces you will start recognizing also although the ride is 20 to 25mins if you are a good observer not busy with mobile. Most of them will be busy with their mobile listening to music, talking and swiping the screen or chatting. I always wonder how they balance in moving bus with mobile in one hand with their bags. As you all know swiping the touch screen is the busiest activity for the one who occupied the seats (lucky ones). If an aged person boards the bus none of the younger people will offer their seat (busy with mobile). This is the behavioral change I have seen most of the time.

I used to struggle to balance myself earlier, now somehow I mange to do so. Few days back a lady sitting next to me started weeping while speaking to someone through her mobile. Everyone stared at her but she was very sad and not bothered about the place. It was embarrassing for me whether to console or not as she was unknown to me. From her conversation I was able to understand that she was ill treated by husband and in-laws. By the time my stop neared and I got down.

The bus ride taught most of the women whether working or housewives are still struggling to balance work and family life. If you do not work you cannot support your child’s education. Many of them are working in factories accompany me in my ride with a smile on their face. If it is not possible to appreciate the efforts and sacrifices made by women at least treats them fellow human beings we can look forward for a better society.

One more favorite pass time is watching sunset everyday going back home hoping for better and brighter sunrise and future. Signing off ………………..