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Ajay Marshal shot the movie with a Nikon Coolpix camera on video mode

He made a film with ₹2K

Engineering student makes a 90-minute documentary on water with borrowed equipment, goodwill and oodles of enterprise

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Ajay Marshal was being bunking classes so often that his college authorities confiscated his ID. But they gladly returned it back to him when they got to know that the snatched hours went into making a 90-minute film that cost only Rs 2,000, a figure that would make low-budget filmmakers gnash their teeth in frustration.

The idea for the film came when Ajay, a third-year mechanical engineering student, and his friends started a campaign called Save Nature. Boondh, the film on water, was part of this campaign.

But making it was not easy. For one, where was the money? Coming from a middle class family, Ajay is studying on an education loan. His savings were meagre, shaved off from his Rs 20-a-day pocket money. "I also borrowed from my friends and grandmother. My friends helped me a lot — they would pay for my tickets while travelling to places like Mekedatu, KGF, Kacharakana halli dry lake etc," said Ajay whose interest in filmmaking

started two years back when he joined Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College of Engineering.

The money part was taken care of, but then came the next problem: Equipment, since Ajay owns neither a camera nor a studio. He doesn't even have a dolly (crane on which the camera is mounted). But, being a mechanical engineering student helped him to get rid of these problems quickly.

"We had stands over which a mosquito net was put. I used it to build the crane. I have a PC and I used my friend's editing software. I also borrowed a still Nikon Coolpix camera with a video mode and used it to shoot the entire movie. I covered a drawer at home with leather, fixing it with nails. I tested the acoustics and made it the bass instrument," said Ajay.

Apart from penning the script, Ajay has also composed music for it and yes, acted. "One particular scene required a half-naked tribal beside a river. 'No one was interested. So, I removed my shirt and asked my friend to shoot,'" said Ajay.

The movie has been well

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"I created a hypothetical situation in the movie where the earth is without water. There is only a man and a child in search of water. The film is very emotional and ends up proclaiming the survival of the fittest where the child is overpowered by the adult," says Ajay Marshal, the budding filmmaker. The child was Ajay's cousin and the adult a friend.

received. "I screened the movie at St Joseph's Indian High School and received a very good response from the principal, staff and the students. There were about 1,600 in the audience and the screening was free of cost. It's not a commercial movie and one that will help in taking awareness to students."

Ajay also plans to screen Boondh in various institutions in South India and in slums as well.

Just for the record, he has never flunked in any subject and, in fact, secured a first division in his exams.