

Thoothoor on the eve of Netaji's 22nd football tournament

(The following is exclusively my personal view)

Tournament phobia is over. It's time to analyse the pros and cons of it. Too many facts came to the lime light while working to put the wheel of the tournament in motion. It is true that our village is confronted with numerous problems. Any attempt to find a solution is a difficult task. Of course, all societies do have problems, but ours seems to be unique in all respect. We should all strive towards a total transformation.

It is evident that Netaji Library is the basement upon which the entire community has been built. We shall work together to make it very strong lest it should fall. My experience as a short term president seems to have coloured my perspective about the future Netaji Library. I have been a keen observer to what was being posted in the delegates' columns of Thoothoor.com by our friends for the last couple of weeks. It is understood that everyone is seriously concerned about the welfare of the village. Neither the former nor the present administration is to be blamed up for its systematic failures and administrative lapses. The former administration was stuck due to lack of sensitive, physical and psychological support from the public. Dedicated and service minded people are rarely found in modern societies.

Understandably, everyone should contribute his part in the making of the village which is now in a moribund condition. Concerted effort is the need of the hour. Despite constant calls for meetings, people do not turn up. Scant regard is given even though it is convened for resolving pivotal issues. Major decisions are taken in the absence of required quorum. As result, those who are at the forefront would fall prey to the attack of the critics.

Further, we are ought to go in accordance with specified principles stipulated in the constitution. It becomes impossible because no supportive constitutional document is available in the library at the moment. Undoubtedly, the library had been functioning smoothly with the help of a well organized constitution for so many years before it disappeared.

In the wake of the resignation of so many officials including me, a mammoth drive to recruit young people, both men and women, is very essential to prevent it from further decay. Having learned that it is a tough job to continue with the present atmosphere, it is suggested that the inclusion of a good number of people by way of door to door canvas can serve better. We have to prefer women to men. In the past women remained in the unvalued private world of domesticity. In modern times, women begin to engage in productive activities. Their participation in the public realms of society is widely accepted.

Really speaking, each and every one of the village is sensitive. It's good that they are aware about what is happening in and around. It should also be their first and foremost duty to appreciate the good work. No doubt, criticism from different quarters is welcome so that mistakes can be corrected. Constructive rather than destructive criticism would always send a good signal. Hard work should be rewarded. One may find it difficult to measure the good work. A certain acts may be viewed as good by some. To the wounded, it may send wrong signal. Such persons would turn out to be bad elements in the society. They would try to indulge in destructions. It would be a herculean task to effect reforms at this particular juncture.

One of the much debated issues was the award of punishment to the dissident players. Many opined that stringent action should be taken against a few Thoothoor players who played on the side of the opponent team in the same match in which our team played. We were making sincere efforts to resolve this vexed issue as early as possible. Discussions pertaining to this contentious issue were held in our meetings. Had actions been taken, it would have had serious implications. We didn't do so for a variety of reasons. First of all, the tournament committee wasn't empowered to do so. This act of commission or omission occurred during the previous regime. Secondly, the present committee is not supposed to do it in the absence of evidences. It also seemed irrelevant at this point of time. Moreover, it had to be looked into in its totality. There was no breathing time for the committee to enquire into the matter, for it was pre occupied with more significant duties and responsibilities. Most importantly, it presumed that it would sow the seeds for further conflicts.

Before the tournament, a variety of committees was set up with a view to launching the programme effectively. Utmost care was taken while distributing representation to different sections. No one was spared. A certain friends participated with heart and soul while a few others kept themselves aloof. Till the last moment, strenuous efforts were made to unite the dissidents. Since it yielded no desired result, we had to work with those who co-operated with us. To the ones who inquired whether we yielded to the pressure exerted by a certain stereotyped section, I would say, definitely it is not. It is unwise to think that everything was surrendered to a particular group. Those who co-operated deserve our appreciation for, very often, despite their differences, they expressed their desire wholeheartedly to have the union of all different sections.

Owing to unlimited consumption of liquors on the Easter day, people resort themselves to sporadic violence. Keeping this view in mind, many come forward by asking whether we really need the tournament in the midst of such heightened tension. They should understand that sport events are meant to establish peace and tranquility. International events are also conducted with the sole aim of developing friendly relations and understandings among world nations. Of course, there would be no violence if the public was free from consuming alcohol. It

is this Netaji football club that has paved the way for many footballers from our region to get employed in various reputed establishments.

I conclude this write up by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all well wishers.

Suggestions

Sensitising the people to the issue is the way to go about.

We must take upon ourselves to enlighten the people on the rightful place of young men and women as members in the library and in the process highlight the troublesome issues.

Extra efforts must be made to inculcate the members respect for one another.

A well prepared constitution (bylaws) is very essential

With thanks and regards,

Dr.A.Sajeen