



NITCAA



HAPPY

GANDHI JAYANTI

Cochin In-house Bulletin

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Every drop counts



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flood affected**

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President's Message



Thankachan Thomas
President
NITCAA Cochin Chapter

The Cochin chapter of NITCAA has had hectic days in the past few weeks in various realms of activities, the most recent, being the second round of flood relief work, in the wake of the devastating floods and landslides. Our members were involved in collecting essentials for the victims in Northern Kerala who suffered the worst. The project that gave us immense satisfaction was the successful completion of the two houses we had committed to the flood victims at Chendamangalam, in record time. The apartment

complex, NITCAA Towers is also fast reaching completion with all the units having been sold out.

This in-house bulletin of NITCAA Cochin, is an endeavour that earnestly attempts to communicate the activities of NITCAA Cochin Chapter to all members of the chapter irrespective of their geographical location as well as to other chapters spread across the globe.

The family meet of NITCAA Cochin and the release of this edition of NiB which was scheduled for 15th August had to be postponed due to the natural calamities that hit our state unprecedentedly.

I would like to thank the previous committees for the good work they initiated and I hope that my team will be able to carry it forward successfully.

Secretary's Report



Sameer Abdul Azeez
Secretary
NITCAA Cochin Chapter

The true existence of an association lies primarily on two grounds: One, the internal 'connect' between its members and the other, in the way it responds to external sensitivities in its vicinity. At NITCAA Cochin Chapter, it has been our constant endeavour to ensure that we balance both these essentialities, thereby living up to its reputation as one of the largest alumni association chapters in the country!

The current executive committee formally took charge on 1st May 2019, in a glittering function that was feast for the eyes and ears. For those who attended the event, what might resonate in them would probably be the energetic display of fire and water drumming by 'Junior Sivamani' DJ Gino Jose. But for the executive committee members, the drumbeats were more like an awakening to the large work ahead in maintaining the reputation of our chapter!

The last few months since have seen several things happening. While our flagship project 'NITCAA Tower' is getting into shape, it has already completed allotment of all apartments, thanks to the efforts of the Construction Sub-committee headed by Shri.

M.M. Mohandas and Shri. Hashim P.A. Our outreach exercise to the flood victims in the form of 'NITCAA Homes' has also been fully completed now for both the beneficiaries, with the remarkable dedication and sustained efforts put in by Shri. Noufal G.K, who also ensured that two more families get benefited through repair works done to their houses which was in a precarious condition. The second leg of the Entrepreneurship Lecture Series got off to a flying start through the whole-hearted efforts Shri. Jijo John, with a 3-pronged event in May which included a 'Technology Talk' from IIT Palakkad, a 'Product Pitch' on 'Toffee Ride' by a budding entrepreneurial team of alumni, and a 'Fireside Chat' with the head of DMRC at Kochi, again an alumni! On the training front, the ever dynamic Shri. Srikumar Pai has successfully conducted the second session of training on Civil Engineering for a small but motivated set of budding engineers from across the state, and even beyond, with a good mix of lecture sessions and site visits.

'NIB' in itself is a positive reflection of the existential paradigms of the association that I mentioned earlier, and hence, kudos to our editor, Smt. Ranjini Menon who has very meticulously spearheaded this endeavour! In the coming days, we shall be straining every nerve to continue the efforts, and for that we sincerely look forward to the sustained patronage of our dear members.

Editor's Note

Living amidst chaos, we are in a constant search for peace and contentment. But we are living in a time when this pursuit of harmony is being challenged more than ever before. Exploited to its limits, the natural world is collapsing around us. Self-centered and apathetic as we are, there is little that the human society is doing to protect the land under our feet. We need to explore the ways in which as a community, we can break this cycle of destruction, together.

NITCAA Cochin has always endeavored to give back to the society and make a difference in whatever small way possible. This issue of NiB, as always, showcases the activities of our chapter aiming towards that goal. It was proud moments for NITCians when the keys of the two houses constructed for flood victims were handed over to them on 6th August 2019. I am extremely honoured to have got the opportunity to compile and present every milestone in this voyage with NITCAA Cochin.

Sincere thanks to the President, Mr. Thankachan Thomas for readily agreeing to sponsor this issue, Shri Sudhakaran K. K who is always the starting point for the NiB work and rest of the team for their wholehearted support.



Ranjini
Ranjini Menon
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NITCAA Cochin Chapter Executive Committee (2019-20)

Annual General Body Meeting of NITCAA Cochin chapter was held on May 1st 2019 and the new committee comprising of 13 members and nine special invitees took charge of the office for the term 2019-2021

President  Thankachan Thomas Batch:1980	Secretary  Sameer Abdul Azeez Batch:2002	Treasurer  Ashok Kumar B Batch:1978	Vice President  Jacob Kurian E Batch:1980	Joint Secretary  Ranjini Menon Batch:1990
 M.M. Mohandas Imm. past President Batch:1972	 Darryl Andrew Imm. past Secretary Batch:1980	 Prasanth Pillai Batch:2002	 Jijo John Batch:1991	 Dr. Supriya M.H. Batch:1988
 Hashim P.A Past President Batch:1978	 Joseph Philip Past President Batch:1975	 Damodaran Namboothiri Batch:1977		

Advisors & Special Invitees:

 Prof. Babu T. Jose Faculty	 Prof. Sankaran Nair Faculty	 Prof. Ravindran Nair Faculty	 Babu Varghese Past President Batch:1968	 Fazal Ali V.M Past President Batch:1979	 Jayaprakash G Past President Batch:1968
 Noufal G.K Batch:1996	 Sri Kumar Pai Batch:1977	 Francis K Paul Batch:1970			



NITCAA homes for the flood affected



Foundation stone laying on 8th February 2019



Key handing over on 6th August 2019



During the devastating floods that hit our state in August 2018, help poured in from our alumni all over the world. NITCAA Cochin along with RECCAA Club, could successfully build two houses, for two elderly women who lost their dwellings in floods. Both these beneficiaries, identified by the Dist. Collector's office, were from the village of Chendamangalam, which was one of the worst affected areas in Cochin.

The remote location of the projects was a challenge, but our member Noufal G.K (1996, EEE), took it up as his personal responsibility. But for his dedicated efforts, the timely completion of this would not have been possible. Thanks to the unflinching support of the past President, M.M. Mohandas and Secretary Darryl Andrews.

Noufal shares his experience at various stages in the construction of these houses...

Community participation

"The first work at the site was clearing the ground and pulling down the existing dilapidated structure. So, when a local ward member informed me that there will be people to help, I never expected so much enthusiasm. Almost half the village turned up! There were workers, youths, neighbours and well-wishers pitching in – demolishing, stacking bricks, re-routing power lines and preparing food. This was just a sample of sincere involvement of the community towards this project. Temporary road access to the site, debris disposal, gravel for fillings were some of the other examples, people helped without any return expectation.



So, we made a conscious decision to use local labour and businesses to the extent possible, thus helping their revival.

This was a community ravaged by the flood and livelihood of many people were in distress. So, we made a conscious decision to use local

labour and businesses to the extent possible, thus helping their revival. The response was amazing. Local labours and contractors were not only economical, but their sincerity and dedication were reflected in the quality of their work. In effect, "we could help not just two beneficiaries but many more."

Houses built by engineers

"Glad to say that at all the stages – Architecture, Planning, Estimation and Construction-guidance was available from the experienced members of NITCAA. Just to name two, Er. Mohandas pretty much did the structural design, while Er. Darryl was the go-to person on interior fittings. Several others helped for execution at various stages. The quality of work was never compromised. We built these houses as if we would be willing to live in them! I think the result speaks for itself."

NIT Calicut not only produced great Engineers but also a group of generous and altruistic fraternity, who believe in giving back to society.



Money matters behind a small house

Noufal G. K. | 1996 EEE

Own home is a cherished dream for most of us. But how many of us have built one of our own? I have lived in a dozen or so houses in various places, but never got to build one of my own! So, when a chance came to build two small houses, I was a little apprehensive. So, I decided to record as many details as possible. There were 130 transactions, 30 suppliers and hundreds of items. Having completed this project, I believe several insights and inferences can be gleaned from this data. This article is an attempt to provide such details, which could be helpful for future projects. This is a non-technical article and the focus is on the analysis of cost structure of building a small house. The intended audience is anyone who doesn't have any prior construction experience.

What is a Small House?

There is no standard definition of a small house. But for this article, it's assumed as an independent single storied house with about 430 Sq. ft. plinth area, with Reinforced Concrete Roof. It's to be noted that Kerala Govt. stipulates a minimum area of 420 Sq. ft. for houses, under various government programs. The number of bedrooms can be one or two based on family needs. A hall, kitchen and a common bathroom/ toilet inside, complete the plan. 2.5 to 3 cents of land (rectangular) is just enough for building such a house, with adequate space for well, yard and septic tank around the house.

A large proportion of the poor and the lower middle-class population in Kerala, live in such houses. It provides a sense of independence but doesn't break you financially while building.

Full Contract or Labour Only?

The straight answer is, "it depends...". A common approach is to award a labour contract for structural work and then supply materials on the need basis. This approach may help maintain the quality of materials. However, unlike conventional wisdom, no significant cost savings are to be expected. If a trusted contractor is available, giving a full contract goes

a long way in minimizing your involvement in day-to-day execution. Collecting quotes from multiple contractors and negotiation on rates could help in controlling costs. This holds for Painting and Flooring work too.

The availability of skilled labour with the contractor is a major factor that could significantly impact project time line and quality. Verifying multiple contractors and their word of mouth credentials is a good practice. It is also learned that a local contractor normally provides the best cost proposition.

Care must be taken while drawing up the contract, scope, rates and total cost must be clearly stated and explained to the contractor before proceeding the work. If 'material' is part of the contract, ensure specifications are written and agreed upon. Any significant changes to scope must be mutually agreed through a written statement.

What we did

Structure: Labour Only Contract (Machines and Tools included). Competitive bidding. Scope includes Foundation, Basement, Walls, Concreteroof, Plain Cement Concrete floor, Plastering of Walls, Fixing Door/Win-

dow frames.

Painting: Material Plus Labour contract. Competitive bidding. The scope includes one coat Primer and two coat Emulsion Paint. Include Asian Paint Apex outside, Ace inside. Doors/Windows are polished.

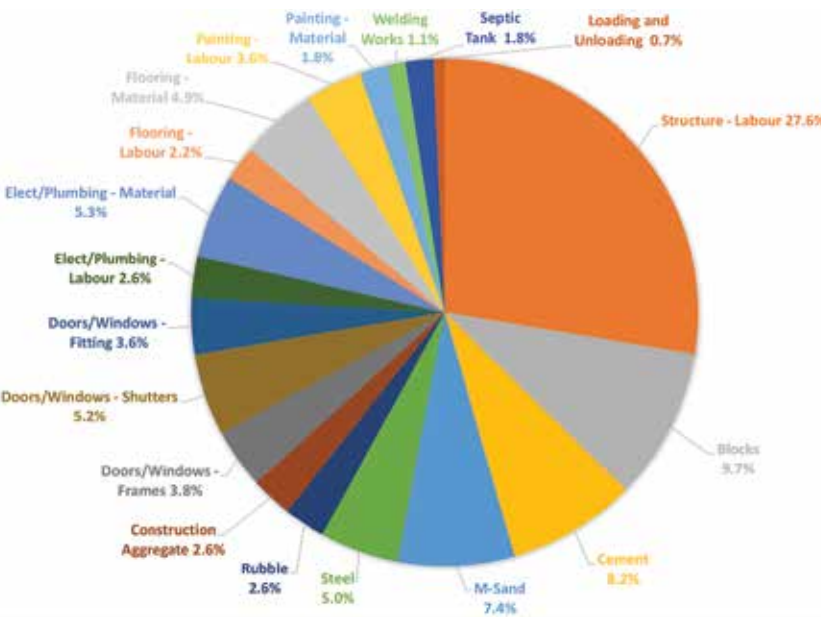
Flooring: Labour Only Contract. Competitive bidding. Different rates for Large tiles, Small tiles, Skirting and Granite.

Electrical & Plumbing: Material Supplied. Labour based on a daily wage.

Estimate Vs Actuals

It is quite normal that anyone who built a house laments about cost escalation. Original estimates may not have considered unique situations for the site. Location, site condition, road access/width are some of the factors which could cause cost increase. The chart below provides an overview of where each rupee is spent, building a typical small house. This could help in calibrating the estimate. Build type was load-bearing (no pillars) and the traditional method of construction was employed.

About one-third of cost (built using traditional methods - no prefabrication, very less



Cost distribution

Care was taken to ensure the quality of materials. Work was regularly monitored for proper procedures and craftsmanship



mechanization), is consumed by labour. This includes labour towards building structure, painting, Flooring, Electrical/Plumbing and Doors/Windows fitting charges. This cost is not much flexible, given labour rates are largely fixed. On the other hand, the cost of materials can be managed. However, it will have a direct impact on quality. Therefore, it's found that levers available to reduce cost are not many. Some of the factors often overlooked during estimation are listed below.

- Clearing of Ground, Access Road
- Variation in materials cost and specifications
- Provision for water supply, drainage
- Plinth Protection and Yard filling and beautification

How we did: We underestimate about 15%. Variations were found on Doors/Windows, Materials and Labour on account of transportation. Supervisory cost (Project coordinator,

Additional Work	
Work	Amount
Clearing of Land, Demolishing the old house	7,000
Well Cleaning	4,000
Access Road	3,000
Yard and Boundary	7,555
Interlock Paving	21,000



Cost Split (House)		
Items	Amount (Rs)	Percentage (%)
Structure - Labour	153,853	27.53
Concrete Blocks (Wall)	54,050	9.67
Cement	45,790	8.19
M-Sand	41,475	7.42
Steel	28,000	5.01
Rubble	14,700	2.63
Construction Aggregate	14,700	2.63
Doors/Windows - Frames	21,250	3.80
Doors/Windows - Shutters	29,024	5.19
Doors/Windows - Labour for Fitting	20,000	3.58
Electrical & Plumbing - Labour	14,725	2.63
Electrical & Plumbing - Material	29,492	5.28
Flooring - Labour	12,500	2.24
Flooring - Material	27,170	4.86
Painting - Labour	20,000	3.58
Painting - Material	9,970	1.78
Welding Works	6,330	1.13
Septic Tank	10,000	1.79
Loading and Unloading	3,900	0.70
Water Pump	2,000	0.36
Total	₹558,929	100

Engineer etc.) is not accounted as they were offered free for this project.

A door closes - A window opens

One of toughest choice was on the selection of doors and windows (Joineries, as they are called). Several options and many vendors were tried. The difficulty was in the high cost of wooden joineries. But then the beauty and aesthetics provided by wood were unmatched. Finally, it was decided to use a combination - Concrete frames for doors and windows, wooden (Mahogany) main doors, wooden window shutters and synthetic skin doors for inside rooms. This provided a perfect combination of beauty, usability, and affordability. Care was taken to select well-made and well-designed concrete frames. Local carpenters turned out to be expensive. Therefore, doors were ordered from a bulk supplier. Good quality hinges, tower bolt, and lock were used,

given the propensity for rusting in the area. In the end, hard-work paid off – resulting in very functional and pleasing doors and windows.

Too much variety - Too many choices

Small house or big house, choices available on fittings, floor tiles, doors, windows, etc. is mind-boggling. There are hundreds of floor tiles to choose from. Even simple tower bolt comes in 3 materials, 4 types, 5 different companies - all at different price points. It's understandable to be swarmed and confused by these choices. One way to handle this is to filter products by reputation and brand of the company. Ensure ISI mark and warranty to whittle down choices further. Feedback from the contractor can be sought to eliminate items with known quality issues. Price can be the final factor for selection.

What we chose: Cera Sanitary, Deep fittings, Finolex wires, Supreme Pipes, Tesso



Locks, Somany Tiles, Granite, Asian Paints, Selzer water tank. These are chosen based on availability and selection. Given only as a reference, not an endorsement.

Conclusion

A small house (specification in Appendix) of 430 sq. ft. ensuring good quality can be built with an estimate of 1300/sq. ft. construction cost. Land price, road, ground, pavement and yard preparation, etc. will be outside this estimate. Care was taken to ensure the quality of materials. Work was regularly monitored for proper procedures and craftsmanship. This is estimate is based on a couple of small houses built in the year 2019, in the interior part of Ernakulam Dist. Of Kerala. Though they were

Items	Specifications
Area	430 Sq. ft.
Plan	2BHK
Type	Load-bearing
Foundation	Random Rubble
Roof	RCC (M20)
Wall	Concrete Block, Plastered
Cement	OPC (Ramco Cement)
Steel	Fe 500 (Vizag)
Door/Window frame	Concrete
Front, Back door	Wooden Door (Mahogany)
Inside Door Shutters	Flush Door (HDF wrapped in Mica)
Windows Shutter	Glazed Wooden (Mahogany)
Floor	Vitrified Tile, Anti-Skid for WC
Painting	Emulsion – Weather protect for external
Kitchen Counter	Granite
Washbasin, Toilet	Half Pedestal White, European
Septic Tank	25 Use RCC
Water Tank	HDP 500 Ltrs

built for as part of philanthropic activities, the golden rule (build as if, it's for you!) was guiding principle for all decisions.



The truss work carried out for repairing of a damaged roof- another NITCAA project

Acknowledgment

This article is based on NITCAA Cochin Chapter's charity work – building houses for flood relief victims at Chendamanghalam, Ernakulam. I express my deep gratitude to NITCAA, its office bearers, who entrusted me with execution and team who supported me. District/Local administration and spirited people at Chendamanghalam were always there to lend a hand. Most importantly donors and contributors, without them this would not have been possible. Thank you!

NITCAA Towers

The prime project of NITCAA Cochin, which is the 4 storeyed studio apartment complex at RECCA Valley is progressing in a fast pace. With the roof slab casting completed on 27th August, the apartments will be ready for handover in another 5

to 6 months, according to Er. Mohandas M.M, who is the coordinator of the project. Out of the 24 units, 23 numbers have been sold out, 7 of which as double units and 16 as single units. Plan for an office cum training building for NITCAA is under way, in the newly purchased plot adjacent to the Towers.



Work in progress

NITCAA Day celebration Jan 26, 2019

The much anticipated NITCAA Day was celebrated on Jan 26th at RECCAA club.



On the dais, Ms. Jyotsna, President M.M Mohandas, Secretary Darryl Andrews, programme co-ordinator Dr. Supriya Subhash.

Forenoon session:
Family meet with Ms. Jyotsna, the famous playback singer, also a NITCAA family member, as the Guest of Honor



Jyotsna enthralled the audience with her melodious singing



NITCAA family in-house talents- Swathi, Shruthi, Ardra



Time for some movement. Games conducted by Er. Srikumar Pai



Afternoon session:
Chief Guest, Smt. Soumini Jain, Worshipful Mayor of Kochi, Guest of honor, Dr. Madhavan Pillai, Dean NITC



Appreciations, Awards and Scholarships



Malavika R Nair, Best outgoing student NITC 2018



Young alumnus Akhil Sanalkumar being honoured for his selection to IA&AS



NITCAA scholarships to the most deserving engineering students



Release of Nib issue 5

AGM and family meet May1, 2019

RECCAA club hosted the annual general meeting of NITCAA Cochin chapter and the new committee took charge for the period 2019-21



Ice-breaking session by the MC



Installation ceremony of the new office bearers



Mr. Thankachan Thomas giving the presidential address

Past President's gratitude to his team... a few glimpses



The new team



Mr. Sameer Abdul Azeez delivering the Vote of Thanks



Fire and water drumming by DJ Gino Jose



Fun n' frolic

Entrepreneurship development drive

NITCAA Entrepreneur Series, in association with Kerala Start-up Mission, held its eight event on May 13th at RECCA Club. It had three sessions, of which, first was by Dr. Vinod A Prasad, Professor and Dean- Industry Collaboration and Sponsored Research, IIT Palakkad on Brain- Machine- Interfaces.

Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) is a communication system that bypasses the conventional motor output pathways of nerves and muscles and directly translates brain signals into commands for controlling an external device such as wheel chair, computer screen and even a neuroprosthetic device. This technology is receiving increased research attention as a potential alternative and augmentative communication and control tool for disabled people. Dr. Vinod has extensive research records in BCI and Biomedical Signal Processing. The great opportunities and possible applications of this highly sophisticated technology explained by Dr. Vinod, was well received by the audience.

This was followed by a Product Introduction session by our alumni Prasanth Pillai and his team. They explained the features of



Dr. Vinod A Prasad

their newly developed app named ToffeeRide, which is a gamified learning program for kids.

The third session was a tremendously informative and interesting fire-side chat with



Er. Prasanth Pillai

a highly accomplished alumnus, Mr. Dani Thomas, Project Director, DMRC. He shared his experiences with Kochi Metro construction, in an interview done by Mr. Noufal.



Fire-side chat: Er. Dani Thomas being interviewed by Er. Noufal G K

Skill enhancing training programme



On-site training being imparted to students by experts in the respective fields

NITCAA Cochin conducted its second batch of Internship/Skill training was conducted for Civil Engineering students from 8th July 2019 for 10 days.. The Internship was inaugurated by President Thankachan Thomas on 9th July 2019 at NITCAA Cochin hall, Mather Square. The training team members M.M. Mohandas, Srikumar Pai, Jose Pannikottu, K.V.Ramamchandran, Poulose Mathew, Darryl Andrew, Hashim P.A and Valsan shared their expertise with the students and took them around various construction sites. The successful completion certificates were distributed to the students by President, Thankachan Thomas, Secretary, Sameer Azeez and training co-ordinator, Srikumar Pai.



ENGINEER'S
Diary

Troublesome Truss and the Engineer's Tension



K V Ramachandran
1972 Civil

Er. K V Ramachandran a civil engineer from 72 batch, with extensive experience in design and construction of Industrial buildings like Refineries, Pharmaceutical plants, Thermal power stations, Water treatment and Effluent treatment plants, Fertilizer plants, Cement plants, Airports and Seaport across various countries, narrates an interesting incident from his professional diary.

“The incident happened way back in 1993. I was responsible for the design of an Ice cream plant (I wish to keep the identity of the building confidential). Design of a process plant was the main challenge in this construction. The major requirement of this plant was a hall measuring 108mX 48m without any obstructions. The temperature inside the building was to be maintained at -40C.

Being an Ice cream plant, the codal provisions were quite different from that for regular buildings. Unwanted corners, edges or soffits

were to be avoided, to prevent accumulation of dust and fungus. As such, all internal partitions were to be constructed using special materials.

Considering the span of the building, structural steel was to be used for construction. We had to construct and erect 18 trusses of 48m span. The space between the top chord and the bottom chord of the truss was to be used for utility purpose like housing various pumps, electrical panels and air handling units. As the process area had to be maintained at a constant temperature of -40C, all materials to be used for construction had to be compatible for these conditions.

Solutions arrived at, for meeting these specific requirements were as follows: Design Trusses of 48m span with a minimum head room of 2.4 m on the eaves and 4.8m near the ridge. Since the height of the trusses were beyond that of normal trusses we had to stiffen the trusses in perpendicular directions too.

A Utility floor was created by providing a false ceiling using Puff panels. These puff panels had the property of maintaining desired temperature inside the process plant. They were supported on the bottom chords of adjacent trusses. These puff panels were designed

for a live load of 100 Kg /Sq m. By introducing this, we could create an additional area of 5,100 Sq. m for utility requirements. Since equipments were to be erected and maintained, special platforms had to be designed and erected so that the maintenance load is not directly transferred to the Puff panels.

All calculations were done manually using method of joints, as computer aided analysis and design was yet to come into practice that time. In fact, it was a big task to design a truss for various loading conditions. The loading on each truss was different and had to be analysed separately. After making a double check to ensure that all required provisions were taken care off, in the design of the truss, they were released for construction. Each truss was weighing to the tune of about 12 to 15 metric tons.

The activities at site started as per my instructions. I was getting feedback on a regular basis about the progress of the work. Erection of the trusses started. I was a bit tensed, as this was the first time, that a truss spanning 48 m as designed by me, was getting erected and I kept praying for the successful erection and commissioning of the truss.

One day, I got an emergency call from the site supervisor in the wee hours informing me

what I did not ever want to hear. As of that day, 6 trusses had been erected at site, all of which had collapsed, one over the other like a pack of cards. The only good thing was that no one had been hurt in the process, as this had happened in the night. I was stunned and could not speak for a moment. The reputation, that I had earned in the Industrial circle, over a period was at stake. I tried to analyse as to what could have gone wrong. I knew the design of those trusses as the back of my hand. I could not arrive at any reason for the failure. I was summoned to the site the very next day.

I took the first flight and reached the site by about 11 AM. No one could tell me the real reason for the collapse. Most of them looked at each other when I questioned them. It was quite clear that no one wanted to take the onus, and were bent on finding fault with one another's discipline for this failure. It was natural for the meeting to be forum for blame games. Finally, the contractor, who was also erecting such a truss for the first time, opined that he felt that the design of the truss was flimsy, and that could be the reason for the collapse.

I could not believe that a truss which was yet to be commissioned and where the sheeting was still not laid, could collapse like this. This was designed not only to take the load of roofing but also Wind load, self-weight of truss and other members, weight of the utility floor, weight of six Air Handling Units, each weighing 10ton, besides other equipments to be housed there. Though I lost my temper, I restrained myself and kept cool. I decided to go around and study the members of the truss. All were exactly as per my design. I then enquired as to how they had erected the truss. The erection procedure was also as per my design.

I took the first flight and reached the site by about 11 AM. No one could tell me the real reason for the collapse.

I insisted that the truss be re-erected in my presence. If there was any mistake in the design, we as the consultants were obliged to take responsibility for the same. They salvaged as much material as possible from the debris and assembled the trusses once again in about three weeks' time. Still they were reluctant to install the truss for fear that it may fall down again. Finally, I decided to sit in the building below the trusses being erected. This gave the workers the necessary confidence to complete the erection of 6 trusses in a span of three days. To everyone's surprise and joy there was no problem at all.

Later an enquiry was set up. I got an opportunity to inspect the site once again. To my surprise I noticed that the anchor on to which the stay was tied had remained intact. This led us to believe that someone had removed the Stay wire used as temporary support for the Truss, intentionally. We called everyone who was there at site on that day and questioned them. Nothing of suspicious nature emerged from them. Finally, we called the security in charge and called for the register showing

the entry of gate passes issued. On scrutiny we found an entry of a truck carrying sand, an hour prior to the incident. We traced the driver and on questioning him, he revealed that on the night of the incident, he with the help of the cleaner had removed the stay wire tied across the road, as it was obstructing the passage of the truck. LOL ..

On a final note let me conclude, that the factory is still running and ice creams produced there are being enjoyed by two generations below us. It is also worthwhile to mention that this Ice cream plant was replicated in 2 other countries, and I had the opportunity to visit those countries in connection with these projects."

He proposes the following general guidelines and precautions to be taken while erecting trusses:

- 1) Ensure that bolts provided at supports are as per the desired locations to receive the truss.
- 2) While lifting the truss, ensure that you lifting points are as designed by the Designer.
- 3) While lifting, take care to see that ends of the trusses do not hit any surface. If it hits any surface, it is likely that the trusses may bend
- 4) After erecting the truss, ensure that the truss is tied in either direction by stay wires to some permanent structures.
- 5) Erect purlins immediately after erecting the second truss.
- 6) Lock the bolt holes at the support only after aligning all the trusses properly.
- 7) Complete the erection of tie bracings before removing the stay wires.

A reunion, 48 years hence...



1971 batch with spouses at RECCAA Club Kochi on 24-25 March 2019



പാട്ടിന്റെ കുട്ടുകാരൻ

George Mampilly, fondly called 'paattupetti' by his fellow NITCians is an engineer with an unusual hobby. He is a collector of Malayalam songs. Not so simple as it sounds- he keeps aside atleast 6 hours a day for seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, storing, and maintaining songs. He has in his possession 24,600 Malayalam songs, which covers almost all the songs of Malayalam movies as old as 'Jnanambika' of 1940, the second movie after Balan, upto the latest ones, from yet to be released movies Ambili and Mafi Dona. Song col-

lection is much more than just a hobby to him now, it is a passion and a way of life. This interesting hobby started off as a pastime sometime during his forced bachelorhood days at Oman in 1994, when he was working as an equipment maintenance engineer with Saud Bahwan group. As his collection grew over 10,000, including film songs and light music, he decided to take it up seriously. From then he concentrated on just Malayalam film songs and tried to get hold of the missing links starting from the very first movie in Malayalam. Songs from the first movie Balan released in 1934, he found, was never archived, and lost forever. Mr. George collects original version of songs and converts to MP3, without losing much of its audio quality. All the songs were copied from records, cassettes,

CD, or downloaded, while some had to be ripped from movies. Getting hold of cassettes and records of many old songs were a task in itself, painstakingly collected travelling across Kerala, with lead from friends and acquaintances. Newer songs are easier to access, but now the challenge he is facing, is the large number of movies being released on weekly basis, many of which doesn't even hit the theatres or reach the public. But as a serious collector aspiring for completion, he can't afford to miss out a single one. His only woe is that, this valuable collection, which he put his sweat and blood to acquire, over the past 25 years, would be forgotten with his life, if not archived by a third party, Govt or any organisation, in a way it is accessible to the public- where people can just listen to rare old gems by writers like Abhayadev or composers like Sharachandra Marathe.



George Mampilly, 1974 Mechanical



NITCians' Jozef Jagan (2014 EE), Nikhil Varghese (2014 CS) and Arvind Verma (NITK) along with some driven employees are at the helm of Digital out of Home (DOOH) marketing network with their company "Xwards". Incorporated in September 2017, the startup chose one of the most developing, yet severely under tapped market of in-transit advertising to make their mark. With the rise of urban cab companies Xwards is now growing at an exponential ratio. Since its conception in Cochin, the company has come a long way by starting branches across the sea in Qatar. Their primary product "XPLORE" is an interactive entertainment display unit mounted inside transit vehicles including taxis. These units besides providing excellent content for

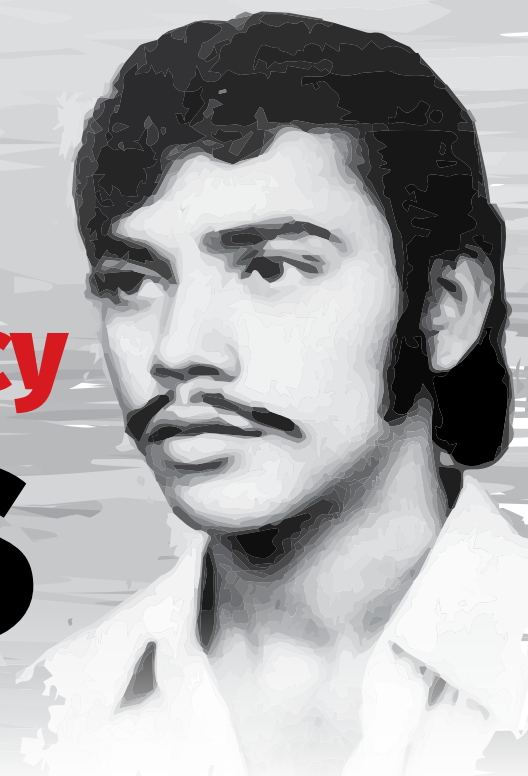


entertainment, also assists the viewer in exploring the city and places of interest. Xplore also allows the customers to do networking while travelling, through skype or other channels. Xplore has multiple possibilities, besides from just being a screen for entertainment, Xplore also updates the rider with real-time news, weather, traffic and flight updates, trending social media posts and more. What



Jozef Jagan makes Xplore a perfect platform for advertising is that it programmatically engineers Ad delivery, which increases ad relevance for the customer by a huge margin. Xwards today has a premium clientele of B2C companies including big players such as Honda, Yamaha and Subway. There is a never-ending flow of enthusiasm to provide quality above everything else, which is making the company stand out from its competitors. A young team with innovative ideas are breaking the conventions of marketing to elevate brands and engage people like never before.

REC Calicut – The Emergency Days



Joy Abraham
Kallivayalil
1976 Civil

The 1972-76 batch was fated to be etched in the annals of history of the college for a strange reason. P Rajan, a civil engineering student was taken into custody during the emergency days of 1975, brutally tortured and killed in police custody. The “Rajan Case” became a milestone in the history of Kerala and the Chief Minister was forced to resign.

These are my personal memories of the tumultuous days. What happened in the Kakkayam camp may perhaps be never known since most of the personalities involved have chosen to remain silent.

Rajan and I were part of the college team which participated in the University Youth festival held at Farook College, Calicut. The competitions went late into the night and since there was no transport available some friends from the city colleges also entered the college bus. The driver took an adamant stand the only our students would be allowed to travel. There was an ugly standoff and it was in the

wee hours of the morning next day that we finally reached the campus.

Some of us got down at the main gate to meet Prof. Abdul Gaffar, who was in charge of the college bus, to make a formal complaint. By the time we reached the D and E hostels, there was an eerie silence and the whole place was teeming with police. I learnt that Rajan and a few others have been taken into custody and the police were looking for C., a third year student. (I am deliberately avoiding naming the students respecting their privacy. None of them have chosen to talk about the unhappy incidents since. All of them have treated it as a closed chapter and moved on with their lives.)

I went to the room of C, which was a corner room in the second floor of the E hostel. An inspector who identified himself as Sreedharan was waiting there. He was rather friendly and we got talking about why the police had come to the campus. He told us that some of the students were involved in the police station attack at Kayanna in Waynad district. Meanwhile C had come to the room but left seeing the presence of strangers in his room. We casually continued our conversation and the inspector had no clue it was C who had come and left. However he was picked up later by the police.

The police team left in the morning and

only then we learnt the identities of those who were picked up. Rajan had been picked up from the lodge near E hostel. (40 years later, one of our classmates J. revealed that it was he who accompanied the police and identified Rajan for them). The morning saw a strange sight. Stuffed under the carpets in the corridors of the C and E hostel were a large cache of communist and naxalite literature. It dawned on me for the first time that some of us were involved.

R Karmachandran was the closest friend of Rajan from their school days in Ernakulam. Though I can't remember the exact date, I remember accompanying Karman to meet Prof. Eachara Varier at the Kerala Bhavan Lodge, Palayam, Calicut. Principal Bahaudeen and Prof. Gafar went to the Kakkayam police camp to make enquiries with the DIG, Jayaram Padikkal. On return, he called a meeting of the student representatives. I was present, and Bahaudeen sir informed us of the grave situation. He had been threatened that the college and hostels will be shut down forcibly and requested the students not to make any public protests and to cooperate with the authorities fully. We agreed, since no one could even imagine our whole future going up in flames.

Shutters were erected on all entrances to the

hostels, watchmen appointed and movement of the students were severely restricted. A register was kept where we had to sign every time we went in or out. How we overcame this hurdle is another rather funny story.

One day my friend Dr K C Joseph (later MLA), who was a house surgeon in the Calicut Medical College, informed me that some students were admitted by the police in the hospital. I immediately went to the hospital and found the whole medical college was sealed by the police. However we managed to enter through a door in the back exclusively meant for the doctors. Since the whole hospital building is interconnected I could reach the ward. I discovered that the victims were from the Angadipuram incident where an activist Balakrishnan, took a DySP along with him to the grave by lighting up a petrol tin kept in the jeep.

However I was fortunate to meet a friend S., who was a Circle Inspector of Police. He informed that one of our students has died in the police camp at Kakkayam, but he was not sure about the identity of the victim.

The emergency was still on when and on completion of the course we left the campus. There was no fun and frolic and the mood in the campus was solemn. I remember walking alongside the railway line at Ernakulam South, together with Karmachandran to visit the family of P Rajan. The hapless mother had lost her mind, and was insistent that I was her son Rajan. The two sisters were silent and sad. We sat there silently for some time and left.

I had joined the architect firm Cyriac Vellapally, Kottayam immediately after leaving college. The emergency was lifted in 1977 and new governments were in place at the Centre and the State. K Karunakaran, who was home minister, had become the chief minister of Kerala. Soon I got a letter from Advocate Manjeri Sunderraj, my friend from the college days. A movement was being started to force the government to reveal the truth about P Rajan and I was asked to help organise the protests.

I soon reached Calicut. Since my uncle was living on Bank Road, I was assured free food and lodging. In college, I stayed with Hashim, my junior and friend from Kanjirapally. We went around meeting the political leaders in the opposition. I remember meeting M Kamalam (later minister) and P k Sankarankutty (later MLA) of the Manata Party. I also met M K

Our juniors had kept alive the memory of Rajan by naming the College Arts festival, RAGAM

Kelu, District Secretary of the CPM, along with my classmate N R Asok Kumar(PME), who all assured all support. What I remember is the simple upstairs room in the lodge where Kelu ettan lived. We also met Adv. Jayakumar who was assisting the legendary lawyer S Eswara Iyer in the Rajan case. It was decided that since our batch had dispersed and unlikely to come back to be witnesses, the help of the junior batches should be obtained to help prosecute the case.

It was decided to organise a protest rally of the all the students of professional colleges in Calicut. The rally was massive and the whole city took note. Majority of the students from REC, Medical College and Law College participated. Unfortunately the meeting turned out to be the end of my involvement in the Rajan case. My uncle, who happened to pass by, saw me addressing the huge gathering at Muthalakkulam ground, and informed home. My father had assumed that I was in Calicut in search of a better job. I was asked to return home immediately.

I was promptly despatched to Ernakulam, to meet Alexander Vellapally, the Managing Director of Asian Techs, a recently formed construction company. I was given an appointment on the spot since most of the directors were relatives or family friends. On purpose or not, I was soon sent away, to the newly started Kudremukh Iron Ore Project, in the remote Agumbe forests of Karnataka.

The entire Rajan saga has been well documented to be reiterated. Several books have been written on the episode. The award winning film “Piravi” by Shaji N Karun is loosely based on the Rajan story. The memoirs of Eachara Varier offer a vivid account of the turbulent days.

Was Rajan a naxalite?. K Venu, the CPI-ML leader who organised the police station attack insists in his memoirs, that Rajan was a member, but he didn't participate in the attack. In all probability, Rajan, a good singer, who in my knowledge was apolitical and interested only in music, must have been influenced by his senior in school and college, Murali Kannampilli. Murali had gone underground immediately after the declaration of the Emergency and today is the tallest leader and intellectual of the CPI-ML - now CPI (Maoist) Party, in the country.

Our juniors had kept alive the memory of Rajan by naming the College Arts festival, RAGAM. In later years, a Director of NIT Calicut had made an unsuccessful attempt to change the name. His argument was that the whole unhappy incident had brought a bad name for the institution and hence need to be forgotten forever. Fortunately, the students, who were born many years after the death of Rajan, foiled the attempt.

Prof. Eachara Varier wanted to build a memorial for his son with the compensation ordered by the court. It was decided to construct a P Rajan memorial ward in the Ernakulam General Hospital. Funds were insufficient and it was the untiring efforts of Karmachandran, Rajan's closes friend from childhood, which saw the fruition of the dream of Eachara Varier, in his lifetime. In those days when there was no internet, e-mail or Whatsapp, it was a superhuman efforts and it was the wholehearted support of our NRI alumni that helped in raising the required funds. Chief Minister Karunakaran later made an attempt to demolish the memorial with the help of the District Collector, but it was foiled by the public who raised a hue and cry.

The 72-76 batch, has made a small attempt to cherish the memory of our friend and classmate, by making a financial contribution to the College. Cash awards are being given every year, to the winners of the P Rajan memorial music competitions of RAGAM, in various categories.



കൃഷിയെക്കുറിച്ചു ചില ഒളിമങ്ങാത്ത ഓർമ്മകൾ



മാത്യു ഇ. എ.
1971 Electrical

അനന്തമായ കാലത്തിന്റെ അപ്രതിരോധമായ ഒഴുക്കിൽപ്പെട്ട് ഞെരിഞ്ഞമരാൻ വിധിക്കപ്പെട്ട ജന്മാന്തരങ്ങൾക്കിടയിലെ ഒളിമങ്ങാത്ത ചില പച്ചത്തുരുത്തുകളാണല്ലോ നമ്മെ മുന്നോട്ടു നയിക്കുന്ന ചാലകശക്തി.

“ചിലത് മുളളിനിടയിൽ വീണ്, മുളളും കുടി വളർന്ന് അവയെ ഞെരുക്കിക്കളഞ്ഞു” എന്ന ബൈബിൾ വചനം അമ്പർത്ഥമാക്കുന്നതാണ് കൃഷിയെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള എന്റെ മധുരനൊമ്പര സ്മരണകൾ.

1971 ൽ എഞ്ചിനീയറിങ് പഠനം പൂർത്തിയാക്കി നാട്ടിൽ തിരിച്ചെത്തിയ കാലം. 20 വയസ് പ്രായമുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഇന്നത്തെ പത്തുവയസുകാരനുള്ള പകുതയോ, വകതിരിവോ, കാര്യപ്രാപ്തിയോ ഇല്ലാത്ത അവസ്ഥ. മലയാളം പ്രൊഫസർ ആകാൻ ആഗ്രഹിച്ച എന്നെ എന്തിനു എന്റെ അപ്പച്ചൻ എഞ്ചിനീയർ ആക്കി എന്നു സ്വയം ചോദിച്ചുകൊണ്ടേയിരുന്ന ഒരു വല്ലാത്ത കാലം.

ഇടുക്കി ജില്ലയുടെ (പണ്ടത്തെ എറണാകുളം ജില്ല) കിഴക്കൻ താഴ്വരകളിലൊന്നായ മുളപ്പുറമെന്ന വശ്യസുന്ദരമായ ഗ്രാമമാണെന്റേത്. ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റിയോ, ടെലിഫോണോ, ടാറിട്ടറോഡുകളോ, റേഡിയോയോ ഒന്നുമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു കന്യാവനമായിരുന്നു എന്റെ മുളപ്പുറം. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കഴിഞ്ഞു തിരിച്ചെത്തിയ ആദ്യകാലങ്ങൾ വളരെ വിരസവും, ആശങ്കകൾ നിറഞ്ഞതും, ശ്വാസം

മുട്ടിക്കുന്നതും ആയിരുന്നു എന്ന് പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

ജോലിയില്ലെങ്കിലെന്ന്, എഞ്ചിനീയർ ആയല്ലോ; ജീവിക്കാനുള്ള സൗകര്യവുമുണ്ട്. ജോലി കിട്ടുമ്പോൾ കിട്ടട്ടെ, പിന്നെന്താ എന്ന നിലപാടായിരുന്നു മാതാപിതാക്കളുടേത്.

പക്ഷേ, കഷ്ടിച്ചു സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച എന്റെ ഡിഗ്രി കൊണ്ട് നല്ല കമ്പനികളിലൊന്നും ജോലി കിട്ടില്ലെന്ന് എനിക്കല്ലേ അറിയൂ.

വീട്ടിൽ തിരിച്ചെത്തിയതിനുശേഷമുള്ള ആദ്യദിനങ്ങൾ വളരെ അരോചകങ്ങളായിരുന്നു. കോളേജിലെ ആത്മസുഹൃത്തുക്കളുടെ വേർപാടിനെക്കാളധികം വേദനിപ്പിച്ചത് ആശയവിനിമയത്തിനുകുന്ന ആരും ചുറ്റുവട്ടത്തൊന്നും ഇല്ലെന്നുള്ള തിരിച്ചറിവായിരുന്നു. നഷ്ടസ്വർഗ്ഗങ്ങളുടെ ഒരു നീണ്ട നിര തന്നെ മനസിനെ വല്ലാതെ മമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടേയിരുന്നു.

കുട്ടാങ്ങലിലെ ഹൈദരാലിയുടെ ചായപ്പീടിക, പനാമ സിഗരറ്റും ഹീറോ പേനയും പുറുതരുന്ന ഭൂപതി സ്റ്റോർ, ഫാന്റിയും, കോക്കോകോളയും കടംതരുന്ന കാന്റീൻ വിജയൻ, മിൽമയുടെ പാലിനുപകരം മുടങ്ങാതെയെത്തുന്ന ചേറുണ്ണി പി എസ് (Cherunni Part time Sweeper) എന്ന വിളിപ്പേരുള്ള ഒന്നരരുപക്കു കിട്ടിയിരുന്ന വാറ്റുചാരായം, ചുരൽകൊട്ട നിറയെ കെട്ടിട നിർമ്മാണ വസ്തുക്കളും ആയിപ്പോകുന്ന സരോജിനി, ശാന്ത (സഹോദരികൾ) എന്ന കാമ്പസ് സുന്ദരിമാരുടെ സാമീപ്യവും, സ്പർശനസുഖവും, കുട്ടാപ്പുവിന്റെ കള്ളുഷാപ്പിലെ ശുദ്ധമായ കള്ളും, കറിയും, സേതുലക്ഷ്മി റീഗൽ എന്ന സി ക്ലാസ്സ് കൊട്ടകകളിൽ കളിച്ചിരുന്ന ക്ലാസ്സിക് ഹിന്ദി സിനിമകൾ, സായാഹ്ന സവാരിക്കിറങ്ങുമ്പോൾ മാവൂർ റോഡരികിലെ ചെത്തുകാരന്റെ ഭാര്യ വിളമ്പിയിരുന്ന മധുരമുള്ള

പനങ്കളും കല്ലിൻമേൽക്കായ പൊരിച്ചതും, വിറ്റ് ഹൗസിലെ ചിക്കൻഫ്രെയും, മൈസൂരിൽനിന്നു വരുത്തുന്ന ഖാട്ടിയെന്ന ചാരായവും, പാത്തുമ്മയെന്ന ക്യാമ്പസ് (എല്ലാവരുടെയും) വധുവും, ഡേവിസൺ തീയേറ്ററിന് മുന്നിലെ പെട്ടിക്കടയിൽനിന്നു ഇന്റർവെല്ലിന് മിക്സ് ചെയ്തു തന്നിരുന്ന ജിഞ്ചർ സിഞ്ചിബറിസ് എന്ന ഘടാഘടികൻ ഡ്രിങ്കും, കുട്ടാപ്പുവിന്റെ കള്ളുഷാപ്പിലെ സദാനന്ദൻ നിറച്ചു തന്നിരുന്ന സ്വാമിയെന്ന സ്മോക്കും, നഷ്ട സ്വപ്നങ്ങളുടെ പട്ടികയിൽ

അങ്ങനെ എന്തെല്ലാം... എന്തെല്ലാം....

നാട്ടിലെ ജീവിതവുമായി പൊരുത്തപ്പെടാൻ നാളുകൾ കുറേയെടുത്തു എന്നുള്ളതാണ് വാസ്തവം.....

സാഹചര്യങ്ങളോട് സമരസപ്പെടാനുള്ള മനുഷ്യമനസ്സിന്റെ സവിശേഷമായ കഴിവാണല്ലോ നമ്മുടെയൊക്കെ ജീവിതത്തെ മുന്നോട്ടു നയിക്കുന്നത്!

പൊരുത്തപ്പെടലിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി സായാഹ്ന സവാരി ഒരു ശീലമാക്കി.

വീടിന്റെ കിഴക്കുവശത്തെ വിശാലമായ പാടശേഖരത്തിന്റെ നടുവിലൂടെ സ്വച്ഛരമായി ഒഴുകുന്ന അരുവിയുടെ അരികുചേർന്നുകിടക്കുന്ന നടവരമ്പിലൂടെ നടന്ന് കൊറ്റികളും പണിവിട്ടുവരുന്ന തരുണീമണികളും നീരാടുന്നതാസ്വദിച്ചു, അടുത്ത തുരുത്തിലെ ചെത്തുകാരൻ വേലുവിന്റെ ഓലപ്പരയിൽ തനിക്കായി കരുതിവെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കള്ളും അകത്താക്കി, അക്കരെയുള്ള നടക്കനാൽ സോമന്റെ പലചരക്കുകടയിൽനിന്ന് അപ്പച്ചൻ പറഞ്ഞെൽപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സിസ്റ്റർസ് സിഗരറ്റിന്റെ പാക്കറ്റും വാങ്ങി, നാട്ടിലാദ്യമായി ഗ്രാമഫോൺ പാട്ടുപെട്ടി വാങ്ങി പാടിച്ച വേലായുധന്റെ ചായക്കടയിലെ ചുടുള്ള പരിപ്പുവടയും കഴിച്ചു, അടുത്ത കെട്ടിടത്തിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്ന ബാർബർ ബാലൻ തെരുത്തു വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സ്വാമി ബീഡിയും വാങ്ങി വീട്ടിൽ തിരിച്ചെത്തുമ്പോൾ അവസാനിക്കുന്ന ഒരുപകൽ.

സായാഹ്നസവാരിക്കിടയിലുള്ള സംഭവബഹുലമായ ചെയ്തികളൊഴിച്ചാൽ ദിവസത്തിന്റെ മറ്റുകാര്യങ്ങളൊക്കെ അപ്രസക്തമായിരുന്നു.

സായാഹ്നസവാരി പതിവാക്കിയപ്പോൾ, കൃഷികാര്യങ്ങളിൽ എനിക്ക് താല്പര്യവും ശ്രദ്ധയുമുണ്ടാവട്ടെ എന്നു കരുതി ആവണം എന്റെ പിതാവ് എന്നിക്കൊരു നിർദ്ദേശം തരുകയായിരുന്നു. പടവരമ്പത്തുകൂടി നടക്കുമ്പോൾ നെല്ലിനു ചുവട്ടിൽ ആവശ്യത്തിന് വെള്ളമുണ്ടോ എന്നു

നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഒരു പണിക്കാരന്റെ കുലി ലാഭിക്കാം. വെള്ളം കുറവാണെങ്കിൽ മാത്രം ചാത്തനെ വിട്ടു വെള്ളം തിരുപ്പിച്ചാൽ മതിയല്ലോ? ഈ നിർദ്ദേശം ഞാൻ സ്വമേധയാ സ്വീകരിച്ചു. അങ്ങനെയെങ്കിലും വീട്ടുകാർക്കെന്നെക്കൊണ്ടു ഒരു ഗുണമുണ്ടാവുമല്ലോ എന്നു കരുതി.

പക്ഷേ സംഭവിച്ചത് മറിച്ചായിരുന്നു.

കേൾക്കൂ.....

പ്രസ്തുത വർഷം നെല്ലിന്റെ കളകൾ പരിച്ചപ്പോൾ തൊണ്ണൂറുണ്ടു ശതമാനവും കളയും അഞ്ചു ശതമാനം മാത്രം നെല്ലുമാണെന്നു മനസിലായി. കളകൾ വളർന്ന് നെല്ലിനെ തെരുക്കിക്കളഞ്ഞു, കാരണം നെൽകൃഷി ചെയ്തുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊയ്യുന്നതിന് (വിളവെടുപ്പിന്) ഒരു മാസം മുൻപുവരെ വയലിൽ മണ്ണിനുമുകളിൽ ഒന്നരയിഞ്ച്ചെങ്കിലും ഉയരത്തിൽ നിർബന്ധമായും വെള്ളം നിർത്തിയിരിക്കണം. അല്ലാത്തതാൽ മണ്ണിനു താഴെയുള്ള പുല്ലുകൾ വളർന്ന് നെല്ലിനെ തെരുക്കിക്കളയും. ചുരുക്കത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ ഞാനുദ്ദേശിച്ചിരുന്നതുപോലെ ഭൂമിക്കു തണുപ്പുണ്ടായാൽ മാത്രം പോരെന്നു സാരം.

ഇത് എനിക്ക് വളരെ അവമതിയുണ്ടാക്കിയ ഒരു സംഭവം ആയി കലാശിച്ചു. പണിക്കാരി പെണ്ണുങ്ങളുടെ പിറുപിറുക്കലും അർത്ഥം വച്ചുള്ള നോട്ടവുമെല്ലാം (പ്രായമിത്രയുമായെങ്കിലും ഈ കൊച്ചിന് ഇതൊന്നും അറിയില്ലേ എന്ന ഭാവത്തിൽ) എനിക്ക് താങ്ങാവുമ്മത്തിലേറെ ആയിരുന്നു.

ഞാനും എന്റെ എഞ്ചിനീയറിങ് ഡിഗ്രിയും എന്റെ വീട്ടുകാർക്ക് ഒരു ബാധ്യതയാവുന്നത് ഞാൻ വേദനയോടെ തിരിച്ചറിയുകയായിരുന്നു. എന്റെ മാതാ പിതാക്കൾ ഇതൊന്നും കാര്യമായി എടുത്തിട്ടില്ല എന്ന ഒരു സമീപനമാണ് പ്രത്യക്ഷത്തിൽ സ്വീകരിച്ചിരുന്നത്. പഠിക്കാൻ അയച്ചിട്ട് നന്നായി മാർക്കുവാങ്ങി പാസായില്ലെന്നോ ജോലി കരസ്ഥമാക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലെന്നോ എന്ന കുറ്റപ്പെടുതലൊന്നും അവരുടെ ഭാഗത്തു നിന്ന് ഒരിക്കൽപോലും ഉണ്ടായില്ലെന്നുള്ളത് പ്രസ്താവ്യമാണ്.

എങ്കിലും “കൊച്ചിന് ഇതുവരെ ജോലിയില്ല അല്ലേ” എന്ന അയൽക്കാരുടെയും പണിക്കാരുടെയും സഹതാപപ്രകടനങ്ങൾ എനിക്കു താങ്ങാനാവുന്ന തിലധികമായിരുന്നു.

വീട്ടുകാരുടെ എതിർപ്പുകൾ തന്മയത്തമായി പരിഹരിച്ചു കേരളം വിടുകയും എഞ്ചിനീയറിങ്ങിന്റെ ബാലപാഠങ്ങൾ ആദ്യം മുതൽ വീണ്ടും ഹൃദിസ്ഥമാക്കി അഭിമാനപൂർവ്വമായ ഒരു പ്രൊഫഷണൽ വളർച്ച കൈവരിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചു എന്ന വസ്തുത വിനയപൂർവ്വം സ്മരിക്കുന്നു.



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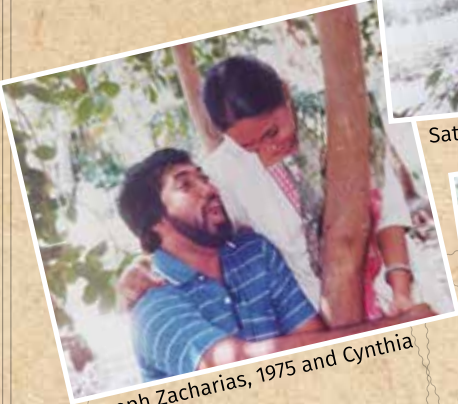
Treasured moments from the memory chest

NITCAA Cochin family tour to Kumarakom, 1991

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Satheesh Babu, 1968 and Lekha



Joseph Zacharias, 1975 and Cynthia



K C Paulose, 1968 and Lovely



Francis K Paul, 1970 and Susan



Chandramohan, 1967 and Dr. Moniben



M R Devadas, 1969 and Usha



Prof. Jussay and wife



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