

## An Interview

### **A few precious moments with HM, GHSS Erumapetty, our own Majeed Sir.**

*On September 5, an interview was conducted with our HM. It is indeed a coincidence that it occurred on **Teachers' Day**; a short time spent with a dedicated teacher, a committed professional and an able administrator.*

*When our class teacher told us about interviewing our HM, we were shocked and frightened. She impressed upon us that it would be a learning experience and why look for it elsewhere when we had a great personality within our campus itself. We took this golden opportunity and soon realised that this interview was indeed an enriching experience.*

### ***Let us go through it in detail.....***

*(After greeting Sir, we introduce ourselves.)*

Meenakshi: Sir, please give us a brief history of the school – its origin, its set-up etc.

Majeed Sir: The school started in 1909 on a very small premises which we today call T-hall. Facilities were very less in those days. The first SSLC batch passed out in 1946.

In 1998, the +2 section was started. Those days a lot of effort was put in from my part for the firm establishment and growth of +2.

Meenakshi: When did you come to this school?

Majeed Sir: I joined this school as a student in 1974 in Std 5. I completed my 10<sup>th</sup> here in 1981.

Hassan: Sir: How were you as a student? Were you good at studies? What about your sports activities?

Majeed Sir: Yes, I was. In our times students studied by themselves, their main aim being that they should not fail in the exam. Very few passed. The unlucky ones went into farming to help their parents in earning their livelihood.

Shahasoor: How many others in your family have studied here?

Majeed Sir: My father studied here. And my daughter.

Suhara: How were the teachers in your time?

Nafil: How were the students then?

Hassan: What is the difference between students/teachers of those days and today?

Majeed Sir: Well, well.....teachers in those days taught with the strong desire that the child **MUST** learn what he taught. The student had the aim that he should not fail. There was no system of all-promotion.

But today, the child is well aware that he will be promoted to the next higher class inspite of all the drawbacks. This attitude has seeped into the

teachers too, with drastic consequences. Apart from this, there is no major difference in the student-teacher relationship.

Meenakshi: What about your higher education Sir? Where was that from?

Majeed Sir: I completed pre-degree from Sree Vyasa NSS College. I took Science with Physics, Chemistry and Biology combination. I did BSc Physics from St. Thomas College, Thrissur. Those were difficult times. I studied in front of the kerosene lamp because we had no current at home. Today's children cannot even imagine that. Do you know what a kerosene lamp is?

*(All of us smile and answer affirmatively, though with surprise in our eyes.)*

Hassan: When did you join Erumapetty school as a teacher?

Majeed Sir: I started teaching here in 1995. After 22 years as HSA, I got promoted as HM. My first posting as HM was at GHSS Meladoor, then at GHSS Pazhayannur. After that I got a transfer to GHSS Cheruthurthy. This academic year I came to GHSS Erumapetty.

Nafil: Sir, what do you feel about being the HM of your own alma mater?

Majeed Sir: This is a question that many people ask me. To work here as a teacher was my aim from my boyhood days. But, to come here as HM, was rather unexpected. I consider it the blessings of my parents and my teachers.

Suhara: Sir, you not only taught Chemistry but also had an active presence in the IT field. How would you describe that?

Majeed Sir: This was after my degree course. I went to Thrissur to enrol for PGDCA. But the fees was Rs.9500 which I could not afford at that time. Later, after entering service, I got the chance to join an IT course. I did further higher levels in IT. And then I became master trainer taking classes for adults too.

Hassan: Who has influenced you the most in your life, Sir?

Majeed Sir: The people who have influenced me the most in my life are undoubtedly my teachers at Erumapetty school. It is from them that I got this desire of becoming a teacher. All their actions have left a lasting impression on me.

At this point I'd like to mention that my first ambition was to become a policeman, after being attracted by some police officer! I was in the UP at that time. Later, when I got into high school, I dreamt of becoming a teacher. Finally, I became a Chemistry teacher.

Nafil : Any unforgettable incident in your teaching career Sir?

Majeed Sir: Yes. I have been able to motivate and bring forward many students who completely lacked interest in studies. I remember the case of one boy who did odd jobs as a painter and found no reason to study. One day, I

casually remarked to him that painting was the most suitable job for him. He took it seriously, found purpose in life and completed SSLC successfully. After that he went to the Gulf and set up a painting career with a good company. He went on to become the Supervisor there.

Shahasoor: Sir, you always do a lot for the school. What are your further plans here?

Majeed Sir: I have got only 19 months more in service. I'll use this period in the best possible manner for the betterment of the school. Besides, this is my native place. This is my school. So, even after retirement, I will be a part of the growth of this institution.

Suhara: Finally Sir, what is your message to the students of today?

Majeed Sir: I have two things to tell the students of today. First, you must study well; atleast complete a degree course successfully.

Second, you must give due respect to your elders – your parents and teachers. Your parents go through a lot of travails to bring you to good position. That should not be forgotten.

Meenakshi: On behalf of all of us, let me thank you Sir, for having spent invaluable time with us and sharing your thoughts. We are indeed grateful to you Sir. Thank you once again!

*(The team from 10 J also included Anshitha P A and Meera Madhusudhanan. We thank Kannan Sir and Arjun of 10 G for the technical support they gave us in conducting this interview.)*