Rameez Makhdoomi,

Coordinator Swaraj Peeth Kashmir ,

Respected Sir,

Despite a series of cloud bursts at different parts of Kashmir valley , heavy rainfall and protests and shelling in Lalchowk after mysterious death of teenager belonging to Maisuma Srinagar, Musthaq and me took a call to go ahead with our first mini workshop on peace and humanity with reference to our readings on Hind Sawaraj.

Members Who attended : Mushtaq Ul Haq Sikander, Rameez Makhdoomi, Kaiser Mir, Saima Shah , Kousar Jan , Syed Tajamul ,Manzoor Ahmad New member. Adil Ahmad and Mariya Mushtaq joined later.

Minutes of the meetings :

Saima Shah shared her views on Hind Swaraj and termed the reading of book an enlightening experience as according to her it lays down importance on passive resistance, importance of maintaining human values while fighting for justice and how partition of Bengal became a watershed for India in achieving independence.

KousarJan also termed the reading as an overall nice experience and she termed the reading about role by Congress and moderates in laying the firm foundation of independent India and how Hind Swaraj lays thrust on defining the term Swaraj more according to local needs , culture and history.

Mushtaq Ul Haq Sikander in a broader terms laid his experience on overall readings of Hind Sawaraj. Mushtaq Stated that while criticizing Machinery Gandhi Ji misses the point that Charkha itself is a machinery. Mushtaq praised the book for laying the emphasis on sacredness of human life and how relevant the book is even today about its references on newspapers and media especially their role in creating vibes. Mushtaq called the views of Gandhi Ji that faster mode travelling more wrong people are visiting holy places and thus ruining holiness and found it very much relevant even today.

Mushtaq however said book seems to be more critique of civilization using religious paradigm without naming the same.

Rameez Makhdoomi praised the book on several paradigms- First for recognizing the role of ancestors in any righteous movement, for every noble cause like cow protection seeking cooperation of otherside, for Hind Swaraj’s commitment not to meet brutality with brutality.

However, Rameez on critical side stated that Gandhi Ji while attacking doctors in the book seems to overhyping the realities and linking the diseases to just overeating and greed of soul and calling their intervention somewhat fatal. Gandhi seems to be unacquainted of diseases and ailments that are caused not because of overeating but by pathogens and parasites. He also deliberately doesn’t talk about two great medical inventions, vaccination and pasteurization that saved millions of lives in the times that Gandhi lived in.

Gandhi ji also did not seem to talk much on violence perpetuated in the name of religion and more about faults of western civilization.

Kaiser and Tajamul took the book for reading.

In the workshop it was decided;

1. First Digital News letter of Sawaraj Peeth Kashmir will soon come up with articles from members on their review and analysis of Hind Swaraj.
2. In September the upcoming world peace day would be marked by Swaraj Peeth Kashmir in grand manner with major topic to be Challenges to humanity and several sub topics like gender discrimination, agricultural decay, media role in peace etc. Venue and financial outlay of function will be soon discussed with your esteemed self.
3. In August Swaraj Peeth Kashmir will meet again to decide the paradigms of our world peace day programme.