



VEMBADI GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION - COLOMBO



THE BEACON 2013

175TH ANNIVERSARY

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VEMBADI GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PPA - COLOMBO BRANCH

PRESENTS

THE BEACON 2013

SPECIAL PUBLICATION



**TO MARK THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR ALMA MATER**

'DARE TO DO RIGHT'

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PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

Jaffna Vembadi Girls' High School

Colombo Branch 2011/13

E-mail: vembuppacolombo@yahoo.com



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Mrs. Gayathri Paramsothy
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It gives me great pleasure as the President of Vembadi PPA Colombo Branch to write this message in this 175th Anniversary Souvenir of our Alma Mater.

Our last souvenir was released in 2009. As mentioned in that, the scholarship programme for the needy G.C.E A/L students continues. First batch of two, second batch of five and third batch of five. We are very thankful to the past pupils who have contributed towards this valuable cause. To continue this programme we need more funds.

We organized two fund raiser programmes such as the Khool Party and the Thosai Feista. The joint Carol Service with the Jaffna Central College OBA continues. We had another joint programme with them, and it was the Deepavali celebration. All these programmes were well attended by the Vembadi PPA and Central OBA members.

This year we decided to sponsor new costume for our school band. We are very grateful and thankful to the Vembadi OGAs in Sydney and Melbourne for their generous contribution towards this (part).

Every event of our PPA was a success due to the commitment of each and every committee member; because of them only my task was made easy.

We have our committee meetings and programmes in the Church hall of the Moor Road Methodist Church, free of charge. As such we decided and gave Rs.25,000/- towards their Church extension work. We are very thankful and grateful to the Reverend and members of the Church.

I am very proud to be a Vembadite and so grateful to my Alma Mater for what I am now.

May the Almighty God bless our Association in its future endeavours.

Mrs. Vasantha Ariasingam
President

"Dare to do Right"

From the Vice Presidents' Table

It's indeed a great pleasure for us to share a few words through Becon 2013. A glance back gives us such pleasure of witnessing the successful years 2011/13 and enables us to be proud and happy to welcome another fitting moment of celebration - 175th Anniversary - of our beloved Alma Mater.

It's always special, unique and courageous when we say the magical word "Vembadi". No matter who we are, where we are and what we are..... "Vembadi" unites us with a beautiful spell. Because of this special bond, "old girls" from all over the world generously help us to make our projects a success; a meaningful scholarship fund programme for half a decade is of one good example. Let our love and understanding be more strong to strengthen this bond and lead a path to enrich our Alma Mater.

We would like to highlight another point here; the spirit of Colombo Branch members is splendid, we should mention. We name the event..... They make it a success. "Kool" party, Thosai Fiesta, Joint ventures with the Old Boys' Association, Colombo Branch of Jaffna Central college - Annual Carol service & Dinner and Dheepavali celebration.... Oh! Every moment of these events are cherish able. A special "Thank you" to each and every member of our Association for the support given and the encouragement shown to the Executive Committee in all our projects. Especially the centralities and their spouses should be thanked whole heartedly for their cheerful participation and meaningful contribution. We take this opportunity to thank you all who are always with us with heart and soul which boost us enormously.

Before concluding we would like to congratulate the present Vembadites who are making our school prominent and proud; especially the sweet angel Miss. Mathusha Sivanesan who came 10th Island wide in the recent Advanced Level Examinations result (Art stream 2012 batch). Hats off to you dear! Best wishes to the other angels who are waiting to bring more glory in all the fields; and we wholeheartedly thank the Principal, Vice Principals sectional heads, teachers, nonacademic staff, parents and well wishers for their tireless support and service to keep up the glory of Vembadi.

Live long Vembadi!

Let us be special!

Let us be eco-friendly!

Let us be caring!

Let us be united!

Let us be true Vembadites!!

Mrs.Amzadevi Srikanda

Mrs. Ambikai Forman

Vice Presidents.

2013.06.01

"Dare to do right"

From the Secretary's Pen

I am proud to be a part of Vembadi Girls' High School - Past Pupils Association, Colombo Branch which is dedicated to help her *Alma mater* in whatever possible ways.

The general body of the Association used to have the formal Annual General Meeting annually. The member of the Executive Committee are selected for a period of two years as per the constitution. President's, Secretary's and the Treasurer's reports are tabled and adopted in the AGM. Cultural events and lectures on topics of common interests are used to be part of the AGM. It is the AGM lunch that all past pupils enjoy since it gives an opportunity to gather and share their memories.

Executive Committee used to have the monthly meetings at Methodist Memorial Church Hall, Colombo -06. Although it is a monthly get-together, many useful aspects transpire in the Ex-Co meetings. All the activities of the Association are duly decided in the Ex-Co only after a thorough discussion. Minutes are duly kept, read and adopted in the subsequent meetings. Ex-Co meetings are also for mutual greetings and for sharing refreshments. In September 2010 members visited the school. It was a warm welcome by the then Principal and the students with a guard of honour. The visit was mainly to hand over the donation of 10 beds and mattresses to the school hostel.

The Association contributes part-scholarship to 4 needy A/L students in order to help them with their tuition fees. Funds for this purpose are collected from well-wishers. The Ex-Co also used to organise fund raising activities. *Thosai* festival and *Kool* festival; T-shirt sale are some of those.

Joint Vembadi-Central X-Mas Carol Service and dinner is a much desired event at the Methodist Memorial Church hall. In 2012 Deepavali was a joint Vembadi - Central event. It was a grand cultural show at Tamil Sangam hall, Wellawatte.

The Association used to go on one day trip and around 40 members participate in the picnic.

It is never that the Ex-Co met without any work. It was projects one after the other and everybody actively participate with full Vembadian spirit. The Ex-Co has Doctors, Lawyers, Accountant, Principals, Teachers and Lecturers as members who look forward to work for projects. Only one concern for many members of the Ex-Co is that their attempt to get new membership has been unsuccessful

I pray the all mighty to bless the Ex-Co members a healthy and peaceful life. May God bless the Association and the *alma mater* a trouble free useful life.

Shanthi Segarajasingham
Secretary

1st June 2013

Treasurer's Account

Dear Friends,

I have great pleasure in presenting the Treasurer's report for the period 2011 – 2013.

With a view to raising funds, our committee organized a sale of lunch packets, a variety of thosai and the much popular tasty khood, prepared by us at the Moor Road Church premises. It was indeed a pleasure to see the delight with which the old students of Vembadi, Chundukuli, our brother school Central and the Church members enjoyed this spread.

I very much appreciate the commitment and the enthusiasm with which our committee members prepared and served the variety of thosai, piping hot. We were thus able to raise a substantial sum of money.

Though we could not organize 'fund raising' programmes this year, we received donations from our old girls here and abroad for our 'Scholarship' fund. We thank them for their kind and noble gesture. Five A/L pupils from low income homes were identified and their tuition expenses were met by us from this Fund. We paid Rs.1,000/- per student per month, last year. This year with a view to cushioning the rising cost of living, we have increased the tuition fees to Rs.1,500/- per student per month. Besides this we have donated Rs 25,000/- towards the church building project.

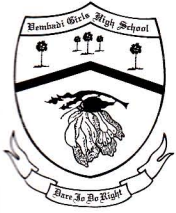
In 2003, our Colombo branch provided costumes for the 'school band'. This year, we have decided to provide the 28 students who make the 'school band', a 3 piece dress in yellow and black with a bow and a black cap with yellow feather. Since, this venture, cost us a large sum, our Sydney and Melbourne branches helped to meet this expense. Our grateful thanks to the members of these branches.

Christmas Carol services were organized by our OGA and the Central College OBA with financial assistance from the old girls of Canada. We thank them for their gesture.

Our OGA and the Central College OBA jointly celebrated the Deepavali in 2012 with a variety of entertainment. The expenses were borne by both committees.

Lastly, I am proud to say that we maintain a healthy credit balance despite all expenses towards the above projects.

Mrs. Padmajothy Suntharesan
Treasurer



Vembadi Girls' High School

Jaffna, Sri Lanka

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Message from the Principal

My Dear colleagues & Members of the Vembadi OGA-Colombo,

It gives me Great pleasure in giving this message of felicitation to the VOGA Colombo on this memorable occasion of its annual General meeting 2013. I thank the Colombo OGA for giving me an opportunity to write a few words in their souvenir.

Our School has always surpassed in studies for 175 Years. Our students perform well in every sphere of life in both educational and other extracurricular activities. In the GCE O/L Exams 2012 our school was ranked 1st in Northern Province & 10th rank at National Level. In the GCE AL Examinations – 2012 Miss Mithurika Mihunthan achieved the first rank in the district level in the Bio Science and Miss Mathusha Sivanesan achieved the first rank in the district level and 10th rank in the national level in the Arts Stream. In 2011 over 80 students entered the universities including 21 students for medicine and 2 for engineering.

I proudly say that Vembadi students always march forward with self confidence to accept the challenges of the present and future rapidly changing world. Our school successfully celebrates its 175th anniversary this year. The OGAS in Jaffna, Colombo, U.K, Canada, Sidney & Melbourne have always rendered assistance in order to encourage and facilitate the education of our youngsters.

It is indeed happy to mention that the executive committee of Colombo OGA has agreed to donate a new costume to our Band group. I am sure that the OGA, Colombo will be always with us to uplift the school & motivate the students not only in educational activities but also in all other projects.

I pray the almighty that the Vembadians might be blessed to be efficient group of ladies at every nook and corner of the world who should Dare To Do Right in all circumstance.

“Dare To Do Right”

Mrs. Venuka Shanmukaratnam.

B.Sc(Jaffna), Pg. Dip in Education M.Ed
SLPS I, SLEAS III

Message from the President, VOGA-Jaffna

It is with great joy that I pen these words to a Sister Association as the President of the Old Girls' Association, J/Vembadi Girls' High School, Jaffna Branch for the souvenir that is published by the Old Girls' Association, Colombo Branch.

It's indeed a pleasure to see our Principal smoothly running the college with the co-operation and good – will of the teachers whose contribution to the success of administration as well as to the academic progress of the students. It is very significant in order to set up a new record of achievement on two fronts being the administration and the other being the academic advancement of the students.

Our school produced a very good results in the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination 2012 securing 2 first places in the district in Bio Science and Arts streams. Sixteen(16) students obtained A's in all three subjects, while 14 Students got 2AB. The students who obtained best results at 2012 GCE (A/L) examination were felicitated at Governor's Secretariat, Jaffna on 02nd February 2013.

Our school also produced the best in the recent G.C.E. (O/L) Examination 2012; Sixteen (16) students obtained A's in all 9 subjects while Forty two (42) Students got 8A, Thirty six (36) Students obtained 7A and Nineteen (19) Students got 6A and our girls made us happy and proud by being rank one in national level among Tamil schools and ranked as 10 th in national level among all Sinhala and Tamil schools. It is an outstanding achievement of this leading national school which will celebrate its 175 the anniversary in this year.

Automate the school administration is one of the rungs in setting its foot into a new era with the support of an old girl's (Late Dr.Selvadevi Sunil Liyanage –nee Nallaimanikkam) family.

I am happy indeed in congratulating you for your great achievements and dedication to your alma mater. While expecting your immeasurable cooperation in future too I assure that we value your support immensely.

Mrs Rajasivasakethy Mahesan

(nee Thelliyoor Nadarajah)

President , VOGA-Jaffna

**Message from the President
Vembadi Old Girls' Association
Sydney, Australia**

I am privileged to send this message on behalf of the Vembadi Old Girls Association, Sydney, Australia for the souvenir being published to mark the 175th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Vembadi Girls' High School. It warms my heart to see that Vembadi Girls' High School is upholding the original goals and values and made great achievements in education and leadership training.

There are those educational institutions whose name alone invokes thoughts of greatness; Vembadi is one of them. Students at Vembadi go on in life to become leaders in their fields, bringing respect and prestige to the institution that nurtured them. It is indeed a testament to Vembadi that its past students maintain such high standards over the years, and even more so that they do it here in Australia, oceans away from their beloved school.

Anniversary celebrations bring nostalgic memories of years gone by. We not only relive our old school bonds here in Australia, we make them stronger. We will continue to offer the support in buying equipment and other facilities to our school. Over the past few years we have worked together on many occasions and I am delighted today, on behalf of VOGA, Sydney to extend our support and encouragement for this anniversary celebration. VOGA, together with the Principal, teachers and students of the school we can continue to develop it as a centre of learning excellence and leadership training.

I wish this function and its organizers every success.

Shantha Thiruvarduchelvan
President.



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Message from the President

As President of Vembadi Old Girls Association – Melbourne, Australia it gives me great pleasure to pen this message for the Souvenir to be published by Past Pupil's Association Jaffna Vembadi Girls' High School, Colombo in celebration of 175th Anniversary of our Alma Mater.

We share a common heritage and I am delighted to see that Vembadi Old Girls Associations around the world have united through a strong network and as the result we continue to support our prestigious school through various projects, thus facilitating future generations of Vembadi students. The excellent education we received at our school has greatly contributed to our successful careers and we all carry pleasant memories of our school days.

Colombo Vembadi Old Girls Association has a rich history being its first Old Girls Reunion was held in 1904 and in 1915 was inaugurated as the Old Girls Association. I am glad to see that despite the civil war in Sri Lanka, over the years, Colombo and Jaffna Vembadi OGAs continued with their activities and played a major role in the history of the school and contributed significantly for the development of our Alma Mater through various projects with the support of Global Vembadi Old Girls Associations.

I am pleased that VOGA Victoria was able to contribute Aus\$500.00 (Rs. 65,500) recently towards the Project initiated by Colombo Past Pupil's Association to provide new Band Costume in our School colour, in time, for the 175th Anniversary Celebrations. On behalf of VOGA, Vic I wish you all a wonderful evening on the 1st June 2013 as you celebrate our School's 175th Anniversary.

With Regards

Dushy Rajeswaran
President.

VEMBADI

Mrs. Sriranjini Anandakumarasamy, M.A

Secretary, OGA/ Jaffna

Lecturer

English Language Teaching Center,

University of Jaffna.

Vembadi, true to her motto- "Dare to do right " instilled in the girls who had gone through her portals and those who are kept in her dear bosom, a sense of uprightness, rectitude and resolve that distinguishes them apart in whatever position they adorn in whichever climes whether in Sri Lanka or anywhere in abroad. The thought of the School itself makes them bloom. It enables the Vembadians to continue to grow long after they leave her gates.

We lived in an age of chaos, confusion, anxiety and tension and news still slashed on news papers reflect the sad plight of Jaffna though most of us think that we have reached the end of ethnic conflict. However, the conflicts in the minds of individuals, the restlessness, mere envy of others which may be the results of sporadic violence, certainly have an impact on the School. Ethnic crisis in our country has wrought indelible impact on the educational systems. Vembadi did not escape from this onslaught. Her proximity to the Jaffna Fort had rendered her very vulnerable. As mentioned in the 150th Anniversary magazine of the School which was published in 1988, after the arrival of IPKF in 1987, "The school was in ruins to the extent of Seventy percent of her Buildings and equipments". After the mass exodus 1995, the school was in ruins to the extent of ninety nine point ninety nine percent of her buildings and equipments. As the land marks of Vembadi unto 1988 are imprinted in the 150th magazine of the school. This article aims at capturing only the land marks from Jan.1989 to Dec 2012. This long period can be divided into two since it contains the mass exodus 1995. During the exodus the school had been abandoned with the evacuation of Jaffna and the teachers, students and parents were either in welfare camps or in relatives' homes at Thenmaradchi and Vadamaradchi. The impact was severe on school and after the rehabilitation of sixteen years the school has achieved its vigour, grace and beauty in considerable speed. In 1996, the school was like the tree in its skeleton and now everyone can see bloom and blossom every where. It should also be mentioned that the war in Vanni had its subsidiary effects on the school even though it didn't directly affected Jaffna.

The Principals after 1989

Miss.R.Rajaratnam	- May 1989 -1993
Mrs. S.Skandarajah	- 1993 – Oct.1995
Mrs. K.Ponnampalam	- Nov 1995 – Sept. 2011
Mrs. R. Muthukumaran (actg.)	- Sept. 2011 – June, 2012
Mrs. V. Shanmugaratnam	- June 2012 - todate

The Crisis of 1990

Though there was unstable atmosphere after 1987 with frequent bombing and shelling, there was severe chaos in 1990 when Sri Lankan soldiers moving towards Jaffna Fort. Vembadi lost 90% of its buildings and furniture during this period. The Primary section which was a symbol of childhood for many a very old girls, the adjoining 'L' block, the most venerable arch shaped stage facing the open air theatre, Principal's quarters, the very old Vembadi Veethy Mandapam, the Old Library Block were totally shattered. Our library lost most of its old valuable books.

The state of infrastructure before and after 1995

Buildings – Before 1995

Since most of the buildings were damaged and roofless, a temporary shed was built in between the A.R Block and Vembadi Veethy Mandapam in parallel line to Mabel Thambiah Block .The shed was covered by cadjan thatch and alumium sheets. Four divisions of Gr.9 were conducted in these classrooms which were partitioned with Pohora(Fertilizer) bags. The Vembadi Veethy Mandapam was also covered with cadjan thatch which caught fire one night in 1994. This pathetic situation prevailed till1995.

The blocks used for teaching and learning during this period were:

1. Mable Thambiah Block – Ground floor and hall which was temporarily covered by tarpoline sheet.
2. A.R Block – all three floors.
3. Scowcroft Block – except Principal's room and office.
4. Hostel Block's remaining sections
5. Saraswathy Block
6. Commerce Block- Ground floor
7. Temporary sheds

Buildings – After 1995

Since the former Principal Mrs.S.Skandarajah left Jaffna during exodus 1995, the then Vice Principal Mrs. K.Ponnampalam was asked to take over the responsibilities by the Jaffna Education Department. She successfully conducted the school with the co-operation of the teachers. Afternoon classes were conducted at Chavakachcheri Ladies'College. It is still being remembered by the teachers of those days that the office of Vembadi functioned at "Palavadi", under a small jak tree. This situation continued till the latter part of April.

After returning home in the end of April, The Principal and Staff reassembled at the stone bench in front of Thambiah hall on 16th May 1996 as the school was occupied by the armed forces. It is difficult to describe the scene – There was no sign of the arch shaped name board, the gates or even the pillars. Thambiah hall was severely damaged. Except Scowcroft Home and ARR block, all the other buildings were shattered. After repeated requests, the armed forces withdrew and handover the school back after some months.

Though there was heaps of debris the principal was determined to conduct the classes regularly. The classrooms were bare without furniture. The school compound was filled with sentry points, temporary sheds and temporary toilets. It should be recorded in the history of Vembadi that when the people of Jaffna were busy in resettling their own homes, the principal with the help of some of her devoted staff members worked hard not only on week days but also on weekends to reassemble the shattered files and records. Arrangements were made to clear and clean the classrooms and premises with the help of the School Development Society.

Repeated requests were made by the Principal and School Development Society wherever possible to reconstruct the school. The Mabel Thambiah Hall was temporarily covered with tarpaulin. It was pathetic to see the children, teachers, principal and the guests sat under this cover for many occasions.

However the Principal negotiated dialogues with the Ministers and necessary authorities and ministry funds were allocated and utilized to reconstruct the buildings. The following construction works were taken place:

1. Since Vembadi had no assembly hall, priority was given to reconstruct Mabel Thambiah Hall. Rs.200,000.00 was allocated and the hall now stands stately and majestically.
2. Since the Vembadi Veethy Mandapam was totally shattered, decision was taken to erect a 3 storied building. The efforts of the principal succeeded and 6 million was allocated to build the eastern portion and 2 million was allocated for the western portion which resulted in building the ground floor only. A resolution was passed unanimously in the executive committee meeting of the School Development Society to name the new building as K.Ponnampalam Block in recognition of the principal's untiring effort.
3. School Development Society utilized its own funds to reconstruct the staff room and canteen.
4. SDS collected money from parents and built a basketball court to universal standards.
5. Ministry funds were utilized to build a new Library building.
6. Funds were received from the Ministry of Rehabilitation to build another building which is named as Rev.Peter Percival Block.
7. A Three Wheeler was donated by the Ministry of Hindu Cultural Affairs.
8. Under JICA project 1.8 million was utilized to improve the Science and Mathematics education and under which a green house and a resource centre were created.
9. School Development Funds were used to construct a modernized staff room and canteen on the South Eastern corner behind Mabel Thambiah Hall joining the K.P. block. It also contains a green room behind the stage.
10. A presentation room was constructed with Electronic Podium facilities with School Development Committee Funds.
11. Three Computer Practical Classrooms were constructed with the funds of SDC and OGA which contributed a million rupees since SDC couldn't find the source for the funds.
12. A vehicle with eighteen seats was donated by Indian High Commission.

Public Exams – 1995 – 2012

The students of Vembadi show very high academic excellence. The guidance of the Principal and teachers flicker their talents and it is evident their results. The performance is progressing every year and the details can be found in the Principal's report and the examination performance of GCE (O/L) and GCE (A/L) in the magazine. The remarkable achievements are

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Sumangalee Sivakumaran | - Bio Science 2008 | - 1st in District & 6th in island |
| 2. Mathusha Sivanesan | - Arts 2012 | - 1st in District & 10th in island |

Co-curricular Activities

In Tamil Day, English Day and many other competitions held between schools and at national levels, the students of Vembadi show better performance. They receive many gold medals at national levels. The details can be found in the annual Principal's report.

The children maintain their higher pedestal in sports activities too. They received gold medals at national levels and brought in fame to their Alma Mater by participating in International competitions.

Miss.Vithyarane Sivagurunathan	: - Chess – Greece
Miss Sarangi Sivathas	: - Table Tennis – India
Vahinee Nithiyananthan	: - Olympiad Quiz – India
Mithuriga Mihunthan	: - Olympiad Quiz – India

In JICA Project the school achieved the 2nd place at National level and 1st place in between the Tamil medium schools. It is proud to mention that our Principal, Mrs.K.Ponnampalam, received the best Principal's award.

Pressure for admission

There is a high pressure every year from those who passed the Gr.5 scholarship. As the school has limited resources, they are unable to accommodate all those who passed. The Ministry of Education sends a cut – off according to the number of applications and a criterion for admission.

Function of the OGA

The Old Girls Association, Jaffna collaborated with the other branches in Colombo and abroad supports the development of the school immeasurably. They donate 12 gold medals annually for the best performances of the students during the Prize giving. They support the needy students with scholarships, donate school bags and shoes for the selected students and paid salary for two science teachers monthly for a long time until government appointment was made. The Colombo OGA donates the Band costume when the requests are made.

The Needs of the School

The following are the urgent needs of the school:

1. **Playground expansion**
2. **Principal's Quarters.**
3. **A tennis court.**

The School expects the support of the faithful old girls and eager parents in this regard. Since the school tops the other schools in the peninsula both in curricular and co-curricular activities it is the duty of the whole community to fulfill its needs.

நிமிர்ந்த நன்னடை
நேர் கொண்ட பார்வை
திமிர்ந்த ஞானச் செருக்குடைய
பாரதியின் புதுமைப் பெண்களாய்
வேம்படி மாணவிகள் - அன்றும் இன்றும்

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THESE

Indrani Chinniah (January 1950 – December 1955)

**“Like the music that echoes among the song unheard,
The face that smiles, among the pictures unseen,
The world that appear, in letters unwritten,
And the rainbows emerging in the sky unobserved....”**

So streak remembrances of those nostalgic years that I spent at “Vembadi”. My Father, a transferable government servant, was sent to serve in Jaffna. My two Younger sisters and I were admitted to Vembadi Girls' High School. My memories Fleet to my first day at school, where I was entered to Grade 7.

I was in those awkward teenage years, sensitive to every perceived and imaginary Sight. That morning, we were all lined up and sent to the Hall for my first Assembly in the new School. Nobody was known to me and my heart went pit-a Pat with trepidation. Would I be ignored and left feeling unwanted? but these Fears were premature. I turned to look around and I spotted a familiar face Selvarani Selvanayagam, whom I had known at Vincent Girls' High School, Batticaloa, and whose parents friends of my parents too. That brief glance Reassured me and made me feel more at ease. Thus began day one, the Engendering point of those beautiful memories which I hold on to, so dearly.

The most important personality, the one who wove the different strands of my Life together, was our genial Principal, Miss Mabel Thambiah, whom I will never Forget. She made me feel so comfortable, that I fell into place at Vembadi in a Short space of time. She was a Geography teacher par excellence, a wonderful Mentor, whose classes in the Geography room were mind broadening, that They were enjoyed by all her pupils. Her faithful companion was her dog which Always came ahead of her, presaging her arrival. When we saw the dog, we – the Boisterous class – always quietened down becoming prim and lady like, reminding Me of *The Belles of St. Trinians*. She used to be delighted that we were a Wonderful class, waiting eagerly to imbibe her lessons. She never ever realized That her dog was our messenger, forewarning us! She had a passion for map work And I had a passion not only for map work but also to please her with my neat Work.

Our teachers, whose quality and devotion to duty are rare to find today, were There at Vemadi to teach, guide and mould us. We were like putty in their hands, Ready to be shaped into the personalities that many of us have become today. It Would be impossible to name them all, as the list will be far too extensive, but Etched in my memory so vividly, are a few unforgettable personalities – Mrs. Kamala Thambahi, Miss. Rasamani Thomas, Miss. Rasamani Samuel, Miss. Ruby Navaratnasingam, Miss. Kiruba Moses, Miss. Pakkiam Ampalam, Miss. Tinny de Silva – just to mention a few. They worked devotedly, to give off their best to us. I have a special corner in my heart for my Music teacher Miss. Winifred

Sabaratnam, whose Music lessons I enjoyed exceedingly. I too was enraptured by Music and so I became one of her star pupils. She drew the music out of me. It Was sheer joy for me to play the Piano at Assemblies, duets with Chandra and Sheila and at School Concerts. All our teachers, led by Miss. Thambiah felt that Vembadi girls should be moulded in such a manner, so that they would be Exceptional prospects for young men on the search for life partners.

The crowning day of my life at Vembadi was when I was appointed "Head Girl – An honour that I accepted and worked hard along with our Prefects' body to Improve on the existing systems during that period. It was that time that the Prefects Guild inaugurated the Annual Dinner with invitees of Prefects from other School. Mrs. Kamala Thambiah, who was our Staff Advisor at that time, helped Us immensely in this project. We had the late Justice P. Srisikandarajah as our Chief Guest, as he was presiding at the Assize Sessions at that time. I was asked to Go personally to extend our invitation to him. He accepted it and in his address to The Prefects at the dinner, he said that I had presented the invitation to him in Such a way that he simply couldn't say 'no'. What pride it was for me to know that I, a teenager, could move a Supreme Court Judge into complying with our request!!!

The fortnightly "Honours List", House of joy Concerts, Combined School Carol Services, Athletic Meets, Drill Displays, International Food Fairs, Inter School Netball Matches, Inter School Debates and Prefects' Days, were all designed to Make the girls well rounded personalities. It is no small wonder that most of the Teachers would wait to watch our activities. Drama productions were another Highlight at Vembadi. I vividly remember playing the role of Arabella, the Sister of Elizabeth Barrent in the production of **"THE BARRETS OF WIMPOLE STREET"**. We Loved the drama practices with Uncle Wadsworth – a genial old man, who also Enjoyed working with a bunch of talented girls!

All these memories come crowding in

**"Like the flowers blooming in the plants ungrown,
The images flashing in the dreams unseen,
And colours blowing in canvas left blank"**

School life also means making friends who last a life time. Many were the Friendships I made in which endure. My childhood friends were all made by Choice and not by chance. Many of them I remember very vividly, but three of us Were special, knowing each other's families too. With joy I must mention Chitra Kandavanam and Jeyamani Winslow, who are still great pals of mine. We keep in Touch over the phone and time and again we meet together to recall the days Gone by. It's never a dull moment at that time, as each episode that we Remember is redolent with laughter.

I was considered a persevering student, did well at my examinations, entered the University of Ceylon Peradeniya, in 1956 at the very first shy and Graduated in 1959. As I was about to sit my final examination, Miss. Thambiah indicated that She would love to accommodate me as a member of her Academic staff at Vembadi. I was indeed proud about it, but used to feel diffident at the beginning, To sit in the Staff Room with my mentors. So, I took refuge in the Library as my Place of wait during my free periods.

So began my career as a teacher and indeed launching into adulthood. I am Deeply indebted to Miss. Thambiah for shaping my life, giving me the necessary Training and making me what I am today. This guidance has stood me through the Test of time.

**“In the beats of my heart,
In the memories of our past,
In the greatest of time.....”**

I will hold Vembadi as very dear to me. The School Song rings out in the chorus”

**“Dare to do right
Dare to be true”**

This invocation has been etched in my mind. I have striven to live by its credo.

LOVE YOU, OLD LADY !

Vino Selvadurai, nee Kanagasabai

This anniversary has given us the opportunity to walk down memory lane and reminisce our carefree, happy days at Vembadi Days, of laughter and youth. As I recall, I remember Miss Mabel Thambiah our principal who was heralded wherever she walked in the school by her faithful dog. Miss Thomas for her dedication and duty to the upbringing of young girls into womanhood. Miss Kiruba Moses for her humour and bringing fun into her teaching. Miss Devi Kanaganayagam for her kindness and patience as she trained us for admission into the University. Miss Param for her gift of music. All these and many more who guided us during our school days.

Highlights of my student days at Vembadi would be the visit of Lady Baden Powel, the founder of the Girl Guide movement. She visited us in Jaffna and Miss Leela Coomaraswamy who was the teacher in charge of guiding in Vembadi at that time. She made sure we were all spick and span and displayed our many badges on our sleeves and it truly was a memorable event. Staging of the play 'Little Women' which was a huge success and which brought a great deal of joy and satisfaction to those of us who took part in it and those who were involved in the backstage and in the making of the costumes.

Vembadi has nurtured us and mothered us in many ways and molded our characteristics. Circumstances in Sri Lanka and opportunities abroad have taken many Vembadi girls to different parts of the globe, but the Spirit of Vembadi lives in all of us as we still strive to 'Dare to do right' - our school motto.

MY ALMA MATER

Pushpa Mather nee Nesamanickam

I feel an inexorable sense of pride reminiscence humility, gratitude, loyalty and respect when I remember my alma mater, which is one of Sri Lanka's top 'Girls' school. It has held a distinguished place of Education for 175 years and its exceptional accomplishment is Note worthy.

When I was asked to write an article. I was overjoyed and I thought I must pen a few words to honour “ My Dear Vembadi”

Let's take a ride down memory lane. Let's rewind the incidents which took place when we were students which are memorable and fascinating.

I am recapturing the days.... Standing under the flamboyant Tree and chatting about the Tamil films hiding from Miss. Thomas for morning Prayers for Christians, running to our class rooms like Olympic runners when we get the smell of Miss. Thambiah's pet dog, making delicious butter cake and milk toffee with Mrs. Paramanathan, standing in front the canteen and enjoying the packet of 'Kachchana Alwa' costing only twenty five cents, our annual class trips to Kashuarina Beach with our olden days 'baila sessions', admiring Miss. Thanigasalam and following her, getting physical Training from the smartest lady in Jaffna, the fear of getting scolding from Miss. Lekakeemarasury (Mnemosyne) for not doing our work properly fore casting 'none of you will pass your exam', carrying small suitcases to school Oh! I can add more and more, but it's impossible as there is no end to our long winding memory lane.

What made our school outstanding and so distinct? Our teachers. My fascination towards my teachers was attracted by their devotion to the profession, sincerity, ability in adopting teaching methodology, esteemed Value system, compassion and unselfish love towards their students without any divisions. Their graciousness attracted me to select my profession.

I salute them as they role-modeled me to be who I am Today – their product, a teacher.

We are proud of you Vembadi and you deserve to be celebrated!

“Knowledge is Power”

பசுமை நிறைந்த நினைவுகளே

பாடித் திரிந்த பறவைகளே

ஸ்ரீ சிவநாதன்

இப் பாடலைக் கேட்கும் போதெல்லாம், எமது கடந்த கால பாடசாலை நினைவுகளை எல்லோரது மனதிலும் அசை போடும் என்பது நிச்சயம். எமது வாழ்க்கையில் மனதை விட்டகலாத துள்ளித் திரிந்த அந்த நாட்களை மறக்க முடியுமா என்ன? ஒவ்வொருத்தருக்கும் பள்ளிப் பருவத்தில் நடந்த சுவையான சம்பவங்கள் மனத்திரையில் ஓடும் போது, அந்த இனிய நாட்கள் மீண்டும் வராதா என்ற ஏக்கமும் இருக்கத்தான் செய்யும்.

புதிய மாடிக் கட்டிடங்களைக் கொண்ட பல வகுப்பறைகள், வசதியான பெரிய Hall, Computer Room, Hostel பக்கமாக புதிய Office Room என்று பல மாற்றங்களுடன் காட்சிதரும் வேம்படியின் உட்புற சூழல் பார்ப்பதற்கு வித்தியாசமாகத் தோன்றினாலும், இன்று உள்ளே நுழையும் எம் கண்களுக்கு, அன்று சிட்டுக்களாக ஓடித்திரிந்த அந்த பழைய தோற்றமே தெரிகிறது. எமது கல்லூரி நாட்களில் Office இருந்த இடத்திற்கு பக்கத்தில் Canteen அதன் முன்னால் இருக்கும் பெரிய மரத்தின் அடியில் அரட்டை அடித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் மாணவ கும்பல் திடீரென்று தத்தமது வகுப்பறைகளுக்கு சென்று மறைவதற்கு காரணம் தெரிந்ததே. மதிப்பிற்குரிய எமது தலைவி செல்வி. மேபிள் தம்பையா அவர்கள் தனது செல்லப்பிராணி பீட்டர் முன்னால் வர, மலர்ந்த முகத்துடன் ஆடி அசைந்து Ground பக்கமாக வந்து கொண்டிருப்பதைக் காணலாம். வழியில் ஒரு சின்ன கடதாசி துண்டிருந்தாலும் அதைக் குனிந்து எடுக்க வேண்டும் என்ற வழக்கத்தை இன்றும் எமது மாணவிகள் மறந்திருக்க மாட்டார்கள். இப்படியாக கல்வியுடன் கலந்து பல நற்பண்புகளையும், எமக்குக் கற்றுத் தந்த ஆசிரிகைகள், செல்வி. தொமஸ், செல்வி. வடிவேலு, செல்வி. வீரகத்திப்பிள்ளை அவர்களுடைய நல்லுரைகள் இன்றும் எமது மனதில் பதிந்து விட்டிருக்கிறது. அவை தான் எங்கள் வாழ்க்கையின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு வழிகாட்டியாக இன்றும் தொடர்கிறது என்பதை எல்லோரும் அறிவார்கள்.

பாடசாலையில் காலடி வைத்த முதல் நாளையும், முதல் ஆசிரியையும் எவராலும் மறக்கமுடியாது. வேம்படியில் எனது கல்வியை 3ம் வகுப்பில் தான் ஆரம்பித்தேன். அன்று அந்த வகுப்பின் ஆசிரியையாக இருந்த Miss. Beatrice Rayaratnam (Kulendren) இன்முகத்துடன், கனிவாக பேசி, என்னை வகுப்பில் சேர்த்துக் கொண்ட அந்த நாள் நினைவுகள் என் மனதில் பசுமையாக இருக்கிறது. இன்றும் அவர்களை சந்திக்கும் போதெல்லாம், அந்த நாளை நினைவு கூறுவேன்.

பாடசாலைக்குப் பக்கத்திலேயே எனது வீடும் இருந்ததால் காலையில் முதல் மணி அடித்தபின் தான் வீட்டிலிருந்து புறப்படுவேன். அதேபோல் மாலையில் மணி அடித்த ஐந்தாவது நிமிடம் வீட்டிலிருப்பேன். நீண்ட தூரம் பயணம் செய்து வரும் மாணவிகள், என்னைப் பார்த்து அதிஷ்டசாலி என்பார்கள். ஆனால் நானோ, நீண்டநேரம் மாணவிகளுடன் பயணம் செய்து வந்து போனால் எவ்வளவு நன்றாக இருக்கும் என்று யோசிப்பேன்.

வேம்படி மாணவிகள் பலர் எமது நாட்டில் மட்டுமல்ல உலகின் பல்வேறு நாடுகளிலும் பிரகாசிப்பது பெருமைக்குரிய விஷயமாகும். London, Australia, America, Canada போன்ற நாடுகளுக்கு நான் சென்றிருந்த போது வேம்படி தந்த பல நல்முத்துகளை சந்திக்க நேர்ந்தது. பெரிய பதவிகளிலும், நல்ல நிலையிலும் இருக்கும் அவர்களைக் காண மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருந்தது. என்னுடன் மட்டுமல்ல எனது தங்கை வசந்தநாயகியுடன் படித்தவர்கள் கூட என்னை கண்டவுடன் ஓடி வந்து கதைத்து அன்புடன் விசாரித்தார்கள். ஒரு முறை London இல் எனது வகுப்பு மாணவிகள் சிலர் சேர்ந்து விருந்துபசாரத்தில் கலந்து கொள்ள அழைத்திருந்தார்கள். அன்று எமது பாடசாலையின் மனதை விட்டகலாத பல சம்பவங்களை நினைவு கூர்ந்து கொண்டோம்.

ஓய்வு பெற்ற தலைவி Mrs. Ponnampalam பதவியில் இருந்த நாட்களில், கல்வியில் திறமையுள்ள, தகப்பனற்ற, வசதி குறைந்த இரு மாணவிகளின் கல்விச் செலவை ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளும் பொறுப்பை எடுத்தேன். அந்த சமயம் America சென்றிருந்தபோது Lithe House Captain ஆக இருந்த Dr. Ranjitha Chandramohan (Miss. Sinnadurai) அவர்களை சந்தித்த போது, அவர் இந்த இரண்டு மாணவிகளில் ஒருவருக்கு தான் உதவிசெய்ய விரும்புவதாக சொல்லி ஏற்றுக் கொண்டார். அவர்கள் இருவரும் இம் முறை உயர்தர பரீட்சையில் திறமை சித்தி பெற்றிருப்பதுடன், ஒரு மாணவி மருத்துவ பீடத்திற்கு அனுமதி பெறும் தகைமை பெற்றிருப்பதுடன், மாகாணத்தின் இரண்டாவது இடத்தை பெற்றிருப்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. வெளிநாட்டில் வசிக்கும், பெருமைக்குரிய எமது பாடசாலை மாணவிகள், இப்படியாக திறமை இருந்தும் மேலே படிக்க வசதியில்லாத மாணவிகளுக்கு தங்களால் இயன்ற உதவிகளை அழித்து, அவர்கள் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு உதவி செய்ய முன் வரவேண்டும்.

விலைமதிப்பற்ற கல்விச் செல்வத்தை எமக்களித்த எமது கல்விக்கூடம் மேலும் மேலும் பல சிறந்த மாணவ மணிகளை உருவாக்க எமது பழைய மாணவிகள் சங்க கொழும்பு கிளை, பலவழிகளில் தன்னால் இயன்ற உதவிகளை செய்து வருவது பெருமைக்குரிய விஷயமாகும்.

நற்பண்பும், கல்வித் திறமையும் கொண்ட பல நல் முத்துக்களை தந்த வேம்படி மகளிர் கல்லூரி தனது 175 ஆவது ஆண்டை தொட்டுவிட்டது. இங்கு கல்வி கற்ற உலகெங்குமுள்ள சகல மாணவிகளும் அவர்களை உருவாக்க உதவிய பெருமைக்குரிய ஆசிரியைகளும் இத்தருணத்தை மகிழ்ச்சியுடன் கொண்டாடி, மேலும் மேலும் கல்லூரியின் பெருமை வானளாவ வளர வேண்டுமென வேண்டிக் கொள்வோம்.

இனியவை பத்து

1. நிறைய தண்ணீர் அருந்துங்கள்.
2. காலை சாப்பாட்டை கண்டிப்பாக தவிர்க்காதீர்கள்.
3. மாமிச உணவுகளை குறைவாகவும், தாவர உணவுகளை அதிகமாக சேர்த்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள்.
4. முப்பது நிமிஷமாவது தினமும் நடைப்பயிற்சி செய்யுங்கள்.
5. உடல் உழைப்புக்கு அவசியமான ஒரு விளையாட்டில், தினம் அரை மணி நேரம் உங்களை ஈடுபடுத்திக் கொள்ளுங்கள்.
6. நிறைய புத்தகங்கள் படியுங்கள்.
7. தினம் தூங்கப் போகும் முன் எதைப்பற்றிய சிந்தனையும் இல்லாமல் பத்து நிமிடம் தனிமையில் இருந்து உங்களுையே (மனதை) சற்று உற்று நோக்குங்கள்.
8. எப்பொழுதும் உண்மையையே பேசுங்கள், அது உங்களுக்கு (மனதுக்கு) அதிகமான ஆற்றலை தரும்.
9. தினம் குறைந்தது 7 மணி நேரமாவது தூங்குங்கள்.
10. எப்போ பார்த்தாலும் உம்மென்று இருக்காமல் பத்து நிமிடத்துக்கு ஒரு முறையாவது சிரியுங்கள், அது உங்கள் முகத்துக்கு மேலும் ஒளியைத் தரும்.

NOSTALGIC MOMENTS

Nalini Ganeshayogan nee Navaratnam
Attering at Law & Nortory Public

OH GOD..... HOW ARE THESE GIRLS GOING TO LEARN ENGLISH Grammar WITHOUT KNOWING THE PARTS OF THE SPEECH... SHOUTS Miss. Thambiah my English teacher. I being a daughter of an English Teacher was expected to know this according to her..... I joined Vembadi, in grade Nine, pre ordinary level where I found my Freedom after being under my father's strict regime at home which Consisted of nine children six of them being boys and three girls.

I vividly remember the days I was sent out to standing under the Tamarind tree near the canteen during our Hinduism class of Miss. Ponambalam One day while in her class she told me "Nalini, you will Not pass religion..." and I stood up and said "No miss I will Definitely pass..." I don't know guts I had.. However I was Immediately sent out of the class..... And I will never forget her appreciation of me becoming a lawyer. She Was so thrilled to discuss legal issues with me when she became a Member of Parliament after her husband's untimely demise. A group Friend in my class found out an easy way to cut the assembly on Fridays to avoid being in the sun till the chanting of Sivapuranam Concluded under the Mahogany tree near the grounds. Girl's fainting was a common occurrence in the middle and we were Ready to carry them to the sick room so that we can be there and avoid The trauma of being under the sun. Not only that we volunteer to do anything other than studying. Any Form of sports and drama being most welcome in lieu of lessons in the Classroom. To this day I follow the way Miss. Dhamalingan wanted us To walk chest forward and smart. Somehow by God's grace I was doing my advanced level. Though I Was good at Maths my parents wanted me to do bio, hoping that I will Be a DOCTOR... Fat hope and it is parent's freedom of choice

I was in the advanced level with a band of naughty women.. To name A few Mano Navaratnam, Shanthini Soundarajah, Vera Vijiaratnam, Jayanthi Vamadeva, Sivakumary Kanagasabapathy, Radha Sivakumar. By this time Miss. Thambiah had retired and Miss. Pathmasany Arumugam took over the reins of Vembadi. For most of us it was like.... Out of the frying pan into the fire. When It comes to punishment Mabel Thambiah couldn't say anything harsh in Tamil and would scold and advise us in English most of which will not be Understood by us. Before the prescribed time she will send us back to Our classes mostly feeling sorry. A lady who lived and died for Vembadi. A noble human who had the greatest vision for Vembadi. Miss. P. Arumugam her successor was so strict and wanted the girls to Be well disciplined. I still remember her always insisting "I don't want you all to come up life without being disciplined." I vividly remember the way she comes on her rounds through HSC Block and one day I was sent out by Mr. Gunaratnam for giggling, The one and only male soul teaching Physics which to this day is like Greek to me. I pleaded with him "Sir Miss. Arumugam is coming Can I Come in..?" He explicated a canny smile and refused... Imaging what I Did... I sneaked into the class and when she went past the class, Sneaked out. I sometime feel had I not been so playful I might have Been a doctor and fulfilled my parent's wish... But I have no regrets because more than my parents my teachers at Vembadi knew me. They each and every student and had the Best assessment of them. I was the president of the Hotel Union and the mid night feast we had At the HSC Dormitory sent waves of terror to Miss. ARULANANDAM WHO HATED THE MEOW OF THE

CAT. We had secured a cat voice in The form of a toy and played it to scare her. To narrate another frightening incident, I was put in charge of a Small girl called Kokila Vivekanandan of the baby dorm who refused to Be in the hostel. She will sit next to me during study time and the Day after being admitted to the hostel, she went missing. Miss.Arumagam called me to the Principal's room and asked Where she was I started crying and vouched that she was with me the Previous night. IMAGINE WHAT SHE HAD DONE... After school she has Left school and gone home. We at Vembadi had the privilege of attending the annual dinners Held by the other schools and also to reply the toast proposed by the Hosting school. Unlike now one cannot say no to anassigned task. We love to visit the boy's school for obvious reasons but the other task Will fall on one of the girls. They too are selected not elected... So I was asked to reply the toast at the annual dinner at Skanda Varodaya College... though given the choice I would have loved to go To St. Jon's College where my brothers were... But there were others Fighting for it. Now comes the preparation of the speech... Rrehearsala at the Principal's BUNGALOW after school... it was like a torture Chamber to practice before her... So here we go Miss. Arumagam was Driving the car next to her and the behind to drive on the journey Back. Generally the senior teachers accompany the girls. But my case Was different all the way. I was asked to repeat the speech on the way to the Skanda. My only focus was on delivering the speech. I sat down after Delivering the speech and to this day I recollect the way Miss. Arumagam said "well done. This is what I expected from you."

I am really proud to say looking the ways I was performing in Debating team and the talent I exhibited in drama Miss. Arumagam Requested my mother to see her in room soon after my Advanced Level examination. I was clueless and thought that I was Going to be sent out of school. Mind you then you can be in school and Sit the second shy. My mother came not my father luckily. She told my mother... there is no point keeping your daughter in Vembadi. She is playing the fool and not going to make to the Medical school. She will be a good lawyer. My mother would have Seen stars. I was only eighteen years. My father would not let me Do law. However my mother was asked to send me to law College. I had to pack my bags prematurely and I headed to Law College in January itself when my friends were all studying for the second shy.

It is really amazing to note how the school moulded me to Become a lawyer and I was only 22 years when I took my oaths as an Attorney at Law. Al this was possible because I did not waste my Time. More correctly I was not allowed to waste my time my Teachers knew what I was capable of more than my parents and me. They assessed the students correctly and guided them accordingly. Now I am a lawyer in practice for 36 years at the age 58 because of the vision Vembadi had for me. My Alma Mater gave the courage and confidence needed in the Profession and in my life. I recollect my colleagues asking me "Where Did you study?" They sometimes refuse to believe that we were educated In Jaffna. But when we say that we studied at Vembadi they know What we are Thank you Vembadi. I am because of you.

My life at Vembadi though short has culminated in being who I AM NOW AND I AM EVER SO GRATEFUL FOR THE EDUCATION I had And more than that the discipline it taught me. The dedication and devotion of the teachers most of them being ladies Was phenomenal. Their commitment to uplift the lives of the girls was Marvelous.

Days at Vembadi

(From the Beacon 2009)

Miss. S. Tharmalingam.

"Memory can glean, but never renew
It brings us joy faint as is the
Perfume of flowers, faded and dried of
The summer that is gone."

H.W. Beecher

My heart glows when I look back to the days I spent in dear old Vembadi.

I entered this wonderful, majestic institution in 1946 and rolled out in 1957. Then, I joined the staff in 1960 and left her with a broken heart in 1997. Vembadi was my second home. The years I spent there were nostalgic.

On the first day, during the interval, I was coaxed by my cousin Annaluxmy Selladurai's friends Indrani Ratnasabapathi and some others under the tamarind tree near the tennis court to recite the poem "I saw a ship a sailing". I was reluctant, but the hard stare from my cousin made me recite the poem. They were quite generous and complimented me. A few days later, during a function at Vembadi, Primrose Gunaratnam and I were pelting stones at the tamarind tree, unaware of the fact that Miss Scowcroft was behind us. She told us to follow her to the office. We went like little lambs behind her without a hum. A little later, I found Primrose missing. I was scared to take the bolt. Fortunately for me, a visitor of importance came to meet Miss Scowcroft. I did not miss the opportunity.

Miss Mabel Thambiah was the first national Principal. She had a charming, wonderful personality. Her charisma and dedication brought great progress to the school. She was a sportswoman and gave priority to sports. The Western Band was formed during her period and our band was trained by Mrs. Wimala Jebanesan (Nee Rajakulendran) and won first place in the All Island Competition. We also entered a Marching Squad which won the All Island Marching Competition. This was a memorable trip. Wimala and I got scolded for not going early to book the bus to transport us from Visakha to the place of competition and back to Visakha. She told us that we must take responsibility to arrange meals for about 60 children and 3 teacher Fortunately, Padma Duraisingham was with us and made all the arrangements. After dinner in the dark, we heard a loving voice, "Saro, did you people have dinner?" Miss. Thambiah was so loving and caring; she had forgotten the fire power directed on us in the morning. We faced an ordeal again. Both, the Band and the Marching Squad, were asked to give a repeat performance and we were travelling back to Jaffna that night. It was late. Night was creeping in; added to our trouble, the lights had gone out. We spent quite some time locating our belongings. We rushed to Visakha, groped in the dark and loaded the buses. At the station, our influential principal had delayed the train. She was puffing with anger. We managed to scramble into the rain. We were shelled and bombarded. All kept mum. After the heat was over, Miss. Thabiah was charming as ever. The change of mood took very little time

Miss. Thambiah loved to travel. She encouraged others also to travel. She had a wonderful memory of her students and was always ready to advice and help them to pursue higher studies or get jobs. She was the most charming, sportive and lovable person and I consider myself fortunate to have been both, a student and a staff member under her regime.

Reminiscences

(From the Beacon 2009)

Mrs. Thilaha Wijeyaratnam
(nee Aiyadurai)

Said that great, saintly soul, Mahatma Gandhi, "The essence of education lies in drawing out the very best that is in you."

No truer word has ever been said of education. My Alma Mater - dear old Vembadi, ever so young -- did just that to all her students who passed through her portals. The stalwarts of the institution being the teachers who did much to develop the personality of each and every student. They were a sportive lot but disciplinarians too. Let me relate an incident in my life at Vembadi, which proves what I have said about out teachers and of course, our legendary Principal, Miss Mabel Thambiah.

In the year nineteen hundred and fifty one, Vembadi staged an English play, "The Barrets of Wimpole Street". I also took part as one of the brothers of Elizabeth Barret. During practices, we were told that the one who sold the highest number of tickets, would win a prize. That was tempting! But I was in the hostel. Even though we lived within the town limits, my father had requested Miss Barker, and later Miss Thambiah to take me into the hostel as "I was always with a story book and never with a text book. At least in the hostel during study time, supervised by the teachers, I would be forced to study." My father asked this favour to discipline his recalcitrant daughter.

Be that as it may, I found hostel life quite pleasant. But my problem was to whom could I sell the tickets, except to my home folks. After much thought, a funny, freakish idea struck me. My friends gave me the "Go ahead" sign.

I knew the teachers would go to all the schools in the peninsula to sell the tickets. I wrote to almost all the Principals of the leading school in Jaffna, telling them about the ticket-selling competition and pleaded with them to buy the tickets from me, if they intended comming for the play.

With the last of my pocket money, I bought stamps and posted the letters. It was a rash act, I thought, and kept my fingers crossed.

My friends and I watched with awe as Miss Thambiah sent the staff, batch by batch, to various schools with the ticket books. In each school the Principal had shown my letter and told them that all tickets sold, would be in my name. Otherwise they would contact me for tickets.

With trepidation I watched as the teachers returned and went straight to the Principal's office. A few minutes later, I was sent for. My friends sympathized with me as I went trembling, like the proverbial "sacrificial lamb" to the office. I expected fireworks and thunderbolts but instead, I saw sparklers and rainbows. Miss Thambiah told me, "In every school the Principal had requested the tickets to be sold in your name. So you have sold the most number of tickets"

I came back floating on air to my friends. We celebrated the event with bulto, bought by my friends (I was bankrupt) at the C.L.S. Book shop adjoining the school.

I was given the "Complete works of Shakespeare" : as a prize. Now tell me - Aren't our teachers good sports?

Back home, nobody commented on my innovative action. Father's face was expressionless - the prize was not for academic achievement! Only my brothers told my Father to get me a job at the Regal or Windsor Theatre as I was good at selling tickets!!

THEN AND NOW

Ms. Poovathy Thambar

As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of our Alma mater- Vembadi- my memories go back to the centenary celebrations, way back in 1938, when I was a ten years old, in Standard Four with the late Miss Mangalam Samuel, my cousin, as class teacher. I remember the preparations and excitement, kolattam practices, rehearsals for the pagent "Vembadi's Children", which was the finale of the event.

Those were the days! Unlike Sri Lanka in 2013, everything was orderly, stable, well planned and secure. There were no disruptions in the school calendar, no ad hoc closure of school to enable students to visit an exhibition or other such State event. Politicians did not interfere in the school administration, appointment of teachers and in the activities of the school. They would grace a school event if they were invited.

Under the British system, SSC examinations were in December, results would be released by March and university entrance classes would begin in May. Two years later, University entrance exams would be held on the scheduled date and results released on time so that successful candidates their University career in June. There were no protests, strikes or lowering of the pass mark to accommodate some politician's relation or supporter. Students graduated at twenty- one or twenty- two, most graduates preferred white collar jobs and began their careers straightaway.

But now, students enter UNI: at 20 or 21, provided there are no delays because of clashes between Faculties or protests about cut-off marks. Also a three-year University career stretches out to four or more years for no fault of the undergrads. Finding jobs is another hassle, causing much heart bum and frustration.

However, I must say that the human spirit cannot be suppressed and many have achieved what they set out to get and have job satisfaction. Those who are fortunate enough to enter foreign UNIs, do very well in their respective fields, bringing honor to their old school, to their parents and to the country. But they prefer to stay on abroad, causing a brain drain here.

Even though the present situation in Sri Lanka seems bleak, one cannot underestimate the potential and the power of the human spirit. Let us be patient and hope for the rainbow in the sky.

Take time to work-it is the price of success.

Take time to think-it is the source of power.

Take time to play-it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read-it is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to be friendly-it is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream-it is hitching your wagon to a star.

Take time to be loved and be loved-it is the privilege of redeemed people.

Take time to around-it is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to laugh-it is the music of the sou.

Take time for God-it is life's only lasting investment.

Basic Consumer Protection Law of Sri Lanka with special emphasis on FOOD SAFETY

Shanthi Segarajasingham
[Past pupil of Vembadi]

1. Introduction

Health is Wealth! Therefore, issues affecting health of the people are given important consideration by the general public and the States as well. Food and drink are essential for human life and is another reason why prominence is given to food safety which is a scientific discipline describing handling, preparation, and storage of food in ways that prevent food borne illnesses. Having sound laws for food safety is essential as food is an essential to all.

'Consumer is the King' is an old proverb but not gold in practice. Consumer protection laws have a long history in Sri Lanka. At present, there are more than one law and regulation in force in Sri Lanka and there is more than one regulator for these laws. A good or sound law in place does not mean that consumers enjoy full protection. In this regard the enforcement of the law plays a vital role and the question is whether there is protection in practice.

2. Laws prevailing in Sri Lanka

2.1 Consumer Affairs Authority Act No.9 of 2003

The preamble of the Consumer Affairs Authority Act No.9 of 2003 of Sri Lanka (CAAA/SL) provides that one of the objectives of the Act is to provide for the better protection of consumers through the regulation of trade and prices of goods and services. The Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) was established in order to carry out the objectives. Although the Act has not specifically provided for food safety, it will come under broad phrase of 'protection of the consumers'. The following provisions include protection against unsafe food items.

(i) One of the functions of the CAA shall be promoting and protecting the rights of consumers, purchasers and other users of goods in respect of the quality.

(ii) The CAA may for the protection of the consumer issue general directions on manufacturers or traders in respect of labeling or packeting. The list of articles for which label should specify maximum retail price, batch number and expiry date was gazetted by way of Directions by virtue of powers vested in the CAA by this provision. Whenever complaints are made for contravention of the Directions, a common or more frequently used defence is said to be that the sample submitted with the complaint was not the original product of the manufacturer and another person or trader has faked it. Inquiries beyond this type of defence are not carried out.

(iii) The CAA may by notification published in the Gazette, determine such standards and specifications relating to the production, manufacture, storage and sale of any goods. The CAA is not equipped with a laboratory to ascertain whether traders are maintaining required standards.

(iv) The CAA may inquire into complaints regarding the production, manufacture, storage or sale of any goods which do not conform to the standards and specifications determined under point (iii) above.

(v) Every trader shall on demand issue a receipt and the trader shall keep a notice board containing the prices. The trader shall not engage in misleading and deceptive practices or false representation. This implies only a customers' duty to ask for a receipt and not the traders' duty to give one unless it was demanded.

(vi) It is provided that in every contract for the supply of goods to a consumer there is an implied warranty that the standards and specifications are confirmed and the goods supplied will be reasonably fit for the purpose for which they are supplied.

(vii) The CAA may publish the names of all persons convicted under the Act. It is sad to note that this provision is not enforced.

(viii) The CAA may, where it has reason to believe that any goods that are being sold do not conform to the standards and specifications, obtain sample of such goods and issue directives to the manufacturer or trader to refrain from selling such goods. On submission of the sample so obtained for analysis, if it is found that the standards and specifications was not met which rendered the goods unfit for use, the CAA may seize and detain such goods or consignment.

Consumers make complaints to the CAA, raids and awareness programmes are conducted by the CAA, but all at very low level when compared to actual incidents of violation or needs. Very few complaints or raids result in cases filed in the Magistrate's Court. The known issue of 'laws delays' play with time and grant indirect benefit to the trader or manufacturer.

2.2 Food Act No.26 of 1980; Food (Amendment) Act 20 of 1991

The Food Act 1980 of Sri Lanka as amended (FA/SL) prohibits manufacture, importation, sale, exposure for sale, storage and distribution of food that has any deleterious substance which renders it injurious to health, consists of any foreign element or is adulterated. Treating, processing, packing, labeling, selling storing, exposing for sale, importing or advertising any food in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive to create an error in value quality, composition merit or safety are also prohibited. Although these provisions are said to be covering wide range of common malpractices that are taking place the Act has not created a strict liability. Instead it is with a criminal sanction and a fine between 5,000/- and 10,000/- may be imposed on the errant trader who contravenes. The amount of fine was increased to this present level in 1991 needs revision with a considerable increase if the objective of the Act is to give a message of deterrence to the business community. It is to be noted that the existing provisions are rarely enforced due to lack of resources and such problem may be overcome by having a mechanism to make use of the fine for strict enforcement of the law through inspection and monitoring.

The main loophole in the enforcement of the provisions of the FA/SL is that it is regulated by more than one Authority. The Food Advisory Committee appointed under the Act is functioning under the Ministry of Health while the raids to ensure compliance of the Act and food related complaints are coming under the local authorities under the purview of the Ministry of Local Authorities. According to Colombo Municipal Council, there is a separate Unit to handle food related issues under the PHI working under the Medical Officer of Health. They receive complaints from the public. The Unit carries out raids and the samples are forwarded to the government analyst whose report takes 2-3 months. Cases are rarely filed for unknown reasons. In addition, the District Secretariat too carries out raids and nobody has so far looked into the aspect as to why the work is duplicated.

Apart from these two authorities, the Food Control Administration Unit is manned by the Ministry of Health which is heavily loaded with other administrative functions. The Ministry conducts awareness programmes but not at all to the expected requirement of the public, in the opinion of the writer. According to the latest statistics, the amount of fine imposed by various Magistrates Court around the country in respect of violation of provisions of the Food Act exceeded Rs.1.9 million in 2003. However, the steps taken by the authorities to reduce such violations are unknown.

Though there are laws and regulations in place, the common doubts in the minds of an ordinary consumer relating to shelf life of a product, 'cholesterol free', 'saturated fat free' or 'nutrition facts' in a label are not made known of. An aggrieved consumer is puzzled without knowing whether he or she should go to CAA, PHI, Divisional Secretary or the Ministry.

2.3 Sri Lanka Standards Institutions Act No.6 of 1984

Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) established under the above Act manages a Product Certification Scheme which is popularly known as the "SLS Marks Scheme". This scheme gives a third party guarantee on quality of a product and it may be obtained by local as well as overseas manufacturers producing goods conforming to Sri Lanka Standards to mark the "SLS" mark on their products. Though the Product Certification Scheme is voluntary in nature, SLS Mark has been made compulsory for 31 items including 07 food items through the Directions issued under the Consumer Affairs Authority Act No. 9 of 2003. Other than this the SLSI is not involved in food safety related issues. It is not clear whether the basis on which the items were selected for SLS certification. Therefore, the CAA should adopt a transparent mechanism for this and list more food products for the certification, in the opinion of the writer.

The corresponding international institution needs mention at this juncture. Since it is voluntary obtaining standards certification, the international certification named ISO 9000 published by International Organization for Standardization (ISO) also may be obtained by manufacturers. ISO 22000 is the standard developed by ISO for food safety. These relate to quality management systems and are designed to help organizations ensure that they meet the needs of customers and other stakeholders. The standards are

published by ISO which compacts with the fundamentals of quality management systems and deals with the requirements the organizations wishing to meet the standard have to fulfill. Obtaining ISO certificate, though costly is well recognized and brings in prestige to companies.

2.4 Sale of Goods Ordinance No.11 of 1896

There are two implied conditions contained in the Sale of Goods Ordinance that are directly relevant to food safety. One is that where the buyer makes known to the seller the particular purpose for which the goods are required and relied on the skill and judgement, the goods shall be reasonably fit for the purpose. The other is that where the goods are bought by description from a seller who deals with goods of that description, the goods shall be of merchantable quality. In *Frost v. Aylesbury Dairy Co. Ltd*, A Dairy Company supplied F with milk for the consumption of the entire family. F's wife died as a result of being infected by A Dairy Company. F succeeded in his claim for damages under s.14 of the English Act stating that the milk was not reasonably fit for domestic consumption.

It should be noted that if a civil action is brought under the above provision in Sri Lanka the measure of damages will be the estimated loss directly and naturally resulting in the ordinary course of events and that would be the price of the food item plus litigation cost which is not worth since we know how long it will take for a civil case to conclude.

3. Product Liability under the common law

The landmark case of *Donoghue v. Stevenson* is the starting point for the later development of the concept of duty of care in tort. In this case the manufacturer of ginger beer sold, in an opaque bottle, was held liable to the person who consumed it, in negligence.

Consequent to *Donoghue v. Stevenson* decision, privity of contract rule was ignored also in *Lockett v. Charles*. In this case the wife was able to claim damages caused by a restaurant meal bought by her husband. *Donoghue v. Stevenson* also was extended to a range of defendants including suppliers of drinking water.

It is very unfortunate that the importance of this case is seen only in academic work for teaching and research and countries do not apply it in practice. This is evident from the large number of reported foodborne diseases from various food products. Though it is difficult to estimate global incidents of deaths resulting from negligence of manufacturers of food including drinks, it has been reported that 1.8 million people around the world died only in 2005 due to food/drink contamination. There is a 30% increase in the number of foodborne injuries in industrialized countries. Only in the US there has an average of 5,000 death per year and many injuries. In 2010 more than 2,000 took ill due to defective food in one particular incident and the figures are more in the previous years, due to contamination in many items such as peanut butter, eggs, salad bags, turkey/beef products, strawberry etc. There has been a large number of recalls by the manufacturers on learning the contamination or adulteration. Further, a 2003 World Health Organization (WHO) report concluded that about 40% of reported food poisoning

outbreaks in the WHO European Region occur in private homes. According to the WHO and CDC (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention), in the USA alone, annually, there are 76 million cases of foodborne illness leading to 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths.

4.. The United States:

The US has the latest law compared to other jurisdictions with regard to food. The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011 authorizes the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to increase inspections of many domestic food facilities enhance detection of foodborne illness outbreaks, and order recalls of tainted food products.

There has been a number of litigation in the US and some legal exponents argue that food safety is more regulated by courts than by the FDA. Recent cases indicate that the consumers in the US are vigilant about their health and *Barber v. McDonald's Corp* is a good example for this which is a class action alleging the defendant failed to warn adequately health hazards and as a result the class members became obese. Although the plaintiff was unsuccessful he was given the option of filing an amended complaint addressing the problems that the judge found in the plaintiffs' original arguments.

Just a year later 2 teenagers in New York claimed damages under fraud, negligence and failure to warn health conditions including obesity in the case of *Pelman v. McDonald's Corp*. Plaintiffs said that they consumed McDonald's products as often as twice a day, five days a week for few years and became obese, but the case was dismissed. This decision was however reversed by the Court of Appeal that McDonald's violated Consumer Protection Act of New York by deceptive marketing regarding the health benefits of its food.

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1. At the 2nd reading of CAA bill in Parliament the then Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs said that 'we will do our best in our pursuit in making the consumer the King' may be referred. [Hansard-09 01-2003, vol 147, No.3]

2. S.2(l) CAAA/SL

3. S.8(d) CAAA/SL

4. S.10(1)(a) CAAA/SL

5. S.12(1) CAAA/SL

6. S.13(1)(a) CAAA/SL

7. Ss.28,29,30 and 31 respectively

8. Ss. 32(1)(c) and (d) CAAA/SL

9. S. 60(6) CAA/SL

10. S.61 CAAA/SL

11. S.2(1) Food Act 1980 as amended. The phrase 'exposure for sale' was included by the 1991 amendment, so that any doubts as to food items displayed in the shelves are only invitation to treat and not offer for sale is eliminated.

12. S. 3 Food Act 1980 as amended.
13. CMC receives about 75 complaints only per year. About 900 contraventions including contamination, insanitary conditions and labeling are detected and about 500 samples are sent to the government analyst. About 200 cases are filed in the MC per year, but only 1 or 2 go for trial. In a trial, expert evidence is needed and the Unit in the CMC lacks such experts. CMC used to collect Rs.400,000/- per year by way of fine.
14. Information from the CMC was obtained by the writer on making an official visit to the Unit, but written statistics were not given
15. About 25-50 per year due to lack of staff and funds.
16. <http://www.health.gov.lk>
17. Whether the phrase should be 'best before', 'use by' or 'date of expiry'
18. See: http://www.gic.gov.lk/gic/index.php?option=com_info&id=1141&task=info&language=en
19. Food items for which SLS certification is necessary are: Brown Sugar, Canned Fish, Condensed Milk, Fresh fruit cordials, Fruit Cordial concentrates, Fruit squash concentrates and fruit syrup concentrates, Ready-to-Serve fruit drinks, Synthetic cordials
20. Ordinance No.11 of 1896 which is similar to the Sale of Goods Act 1893 of the UK, the predecessor to the present Sale of Goods Act 1979.
21. S.15(i) & (ii) Sale of Goods Ordinance (corresponding provisions under the UK Act of 1979 is s.14(ii) & (iii))
22. [1905] 1 KB 608
23. There are many reported cases decided under s.14 of Sale of Goods Act 1893 and most of those are related to articles other than food.
24. S.50(2) Sale of Goods Ordinance of SL which is identical to s.51(2) of Sale of Goods Act 1979 of the UK.
25. [1932] AC 562; [1932] AER 1
26. [1938] 4 AER 170. Out of many cases on product liability, the writer has selected only cases related to food.
27. See: *Read v. Croydon Corp* [1938] 5 AER 631; *Barnes v. Irwell Valley Water Board* [1939] 1 KB 21
28. See: <http://www.who.int/media/centre/factsheets/fs237/en/>
29. See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_foodborne_illness_outbreaks_in_the_United_States#Deadliest
30. Source: wikipedia
31. See: www.internationallawoffice.com/newsletters
32. No.23145/2002, (NY Sup Ct filed July 13 2002)
33. CV 7821 (RWS) (2d Cir filed February 12 2003)
34. 237F Supp2d at 533

"This is called Self Appraisal"

A Little boy went to a telephone booth which was at the cash counter of a store and dialed a number. The store-owner observed and listened to the conversation:

Boy: "Lady, can you give me the job of cutting your lawn?"

Woman: (at the other end of the phone line) "I already have someone to cut my lawn."

Boy: "Lady, I will cut your lawn for half the price than the person who cuts your lawn now."

Woman: "I'm very satisfied with the person who is presently cutting the lawn."

Boy: (with more perseverance) "Lady, I'll even sweep the floor and the stairs of your house for free."

Woman: "No, thank you."

With a smile on his face, the little boy replaced the receiver. The store-owner, who was listening to all this, walked over to the boy.

Store-owner: "Son....I like your attitude; I like that positive spirit and would like to offer you a job."

Boy: "No thanks."

Store-owner: "But you were really pleading for one."

Boy: "No Sir, I was just checking my performance at the job I already have. I am the one who is working for that lady I was talking to!"

Importance of being **PRECISE**: Explained with the help of the beauty and complexity of the English language

Professor Ernest Brennecke of Columbia University is credited with inventing a sentence that can be made to have eight different meanings by placing **ONE WORD** in all possible positions in the sentence: "**I hit him in the eye yesterday.**"

1. **ONLY** I hit him in the eye yesterday. (No one else did.)
2. I **ONLY** hit him in the eye yesterday. (Did not slap him.)
3. I hit **ONLY** him in the eye yesterday. (I did not hit others.)
4. I hit him **ONLY** in the eye yesterday. (I did not hit outside the eye.)
5. I hit him in **ONLY** the eye yesterday. (Not other organs.)
6. I hit him in the **ONLY** eye yesterday. (He doesn't have another eye..)
7. I hit him in the eye **ONLY** yesterday. (Not today.)
8. I hit him in the eye yesterday **ONLY**. (Did not wait for today.)

This is why it is important to be precise!

SPORTS AND FITNESS... WHAT IT HAS GIVEN ME

Jayanthi Somasekaram de silva

I, Jayanthi Somasekaram, was a new comer to Jaffna Vembadi Girls High School in Grade 6 as a 10 year old, and had never taken part in a sports meet before. Incidentally, there wasn't anybody to take part in 'High jump' from my house 'Creedy' (Green House). As I was tall, I was asked to take up the event, which I did happily. What do you know? To everyone's surprise I became first and was the 'Best Performer' in my age group and won my first certificate and a cup!

Since then I have never looked back! Athletics, Netball, Throw Ball, Volley Ball, Basket Ball, Tennis, Badminton, Ladies Cricket and Rugby too!! All these were played by me at different levels. I.e. School, Club, University, District, Province and National! From a tiny athlete, I have grown to be a Captain at all levels and represented my country, Sri Lanka, in two sports namely Netball and Basket Ball. Also a rare occurrence, I became the Chair-person of the National Netball Selection Committee and Team Manager for the National Netball team.

Apart from all these, sports have given me everything in life... It has developed and molded me physically, psychologically and health wise... In the sense of physical benefits, it has given:

- * Better body shape – by burning calories, shedding extra weight**
- * Agility, flexibility**
- * Increase stamina and Strength**
- * Good exercise etc...**

On psychological point of view, it increases our ability to:

- * Concentrate**
- * Plan and analyze**
- * Focus and be composed**
- * Self-confidence**
- * Leadership**
- * Team work**
- * Encouragement to give our best**
- * Take Risks**
- * Social integration**
- * Development**
- * Create employment opportunities etc...**

On a bigger picture it boosts our economy, Tourism. Especially, International tournaments will draw many visitors from other countries and thus increase our foreign earnings. Also, it is vital to say the 'Health Benefits' by sports and fitness.

They are:

- * Maintaining Blood Sugar / controlling Diabetes**
- * Maintaining and controlling Cholesterol**
- * Lowering Blood Pressure**
- * Heart problems**
- * Stress relief etc...**

Therefore, Sports and Fitness helps us in mind and balance, control negative thoughts, and improve our health. Improved health means better life. So go for 'Sports, Recreation and Exercise' it will be something you enjoy and something you will look forward to. So, it's worth investing time in it!!

If not for my school 'Vembadi' I wouldn't have achieved any of these feats. I wish Vembadi many more glorious years!!

பெண் கல்வி

Ms. காயத்திரி பரம்சோதி B.Sc (Hons)
கொழும்பு இந்துமகளிர் கல்லூரி ஆசிரியர்

பெண்களுக்கு சமுதாயத்தில் இழைக்கப்படும் அநீதிகள் பெண் கல்வியின் அவசியத்தை வலியுறுத்துகின்றன. பெண்கள் சிறந்த கல்வியை பெற்றால் தான் அவள் வாழ்வு வளம் பெறும், முன்னேறும். இந்த உலகம் ஆண், பெண் என்ற இருபாலராலும் தான் ஆக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. பெண் உரிமையை மறுத்து இவ்வையகத்தை தழைக்கச் செய்ய முடியாது. இறைவனையே அம்மை அப்பனாக, அர்த்தநாரீஸ்வரனாக காண்பது நமது இந்து மதம். இதைத்தான் மகாகவி பாரதியும் ஆணும் பெண்ணும் நிகரெனக் கொண்டதால் அறிவிலோங்கி இவ்வையகம் தழைக்கும் என்றார். ஆண், பெண் என்ற இரண்டும் ஒன்றித்து இயங்கினாலன்றி இந்த உலகம் நல்வழியில் நடைபெறாது. எனவே தான் பெண்ணை முன்னேற்ற சமுதாயத்தை சீரடையச் செய்ய பெண்கல்வி என்பது மிக மிக அவசியமானதாகக் காணப்படுகிறது. பெண் நலன் ஒம்பப்படாத இடத்தில் வேறு எந்த நலனும் நிலவாது. ஒரு நாட்டின் அபிவிருத்தி கூட அந்நாட்டின் பெண் மக்களின் நிலையைப் பொறுத்ததாகும். பெண் பெருமை பெற்றால் தான் அந்த நாடும் பெருமை பெறும்.

சோவியத் ரஷ்யாவில் சமுதாய மறுமலர்ச்சிக்காக குரல் கொடுத்த லெனின் “சமுதாய மாற்றம் என்பது பெண் விடுதலை இல்லாமல் சாத்தியமில்லை” என்று சமூக விஞ்ஞான பார்வையுடன் பெண்களுக்காக அறைகூவல் விடுத்தார்.

“பட்டங்கள் ஆள்வதும் சட்டங்கள் செய்தும்
பாரினிற் பெண்கள் நடத்த வந்தோம்.
எட்டு அறிவினில் ஆணுக்கிங்கே பெண்
இளைப்பில்லை காண்”

என்று பெண் விடுதலைக்கான வழியை பாரதி கூறினார். பெண் மக்கள் உலகியற் கல்வியுடன் சமயக் கல்வியையும் முறையே பெறுவார்களாயின் அவர்கள் உடல்நிலை, ஒழுக்கநிலை, அன்புநிலை, முதலியன பெருகி பெண்மையில் தாய்மையை இறைமையைக் கண்டு கொள்ள வழியேற்படும்.

அத்துடன் இன்றைய காலகட்டத்தில் ஒரு பெண்ணுக்கு பன்முகப் பணிகள் காத்திருக்கின்றன.

ஈன்று புறந்தருதல் எந்தலைக்கடனே
சான்றோனாக்குதல் தந்தைக்கு கடனே

என்று புறநானூறு கூறினாலும் ஒன்றை தாயானவளுக்கு ஈன்று புறந்தருதலுடன் அவள் பணி முடிந்து விடுவதில்லை. தன் பிள்ளைகளை சான்றோராக்குவதிலும் அவள் பணி அளப்பரியதாகும்.

“நல்லதொரு குடும்பம் பல்கலைக்கழகம்
நல்ல மனைவி, நல்ல குழந்தை, தெய்வீகம்” என்பார்கள்.

ஒரு குடும்பத்தின் அடிநாதம், அத்திவாரம் ஒரு பெண்ணிலேயே தங்கியுள்ளது. அவள் சிறப்பாக இருந்தால் தான் குடும்பம் செழிக்கும். உலகம் செழிக்கும். பெண் இடத்து அழகு இல்லாவிட்டாலும் மாட்சிமை பொருந்திய இயல்புகள் காணப்பட்டாலேயே இவள் அழகு பொருந்தியவளாக காட்சியளிக்கத் தொடங்குவாள். இதையே நாலடியாரும்

குஞ்சியழகும் கொடுந்தானைக் கோட்டழகும்
மஞ்சள் அழகும் அழகல்ல - நெஞ்சத்து
நல்லம் யாம் என்னும் நடுவு நிலைமையால்
கல்வியழகே அழகு என்று கூறுகிறது.

ஒரு குடும்பத்தைத் தாங்கும் பெண் அறிவுடையவளாக இருக்க வேண்டும் என்பதை கந்தபுராணத்திலும் காணலாம். இதிலிருந்து ஒரு குடும்பத்தைத் தாங்கும் பெண் எவ்வளவு அறிவு உடையவளாக இருக்க வேண்டும் என்பது புலனாகிறது. ஒரு பெண்ணுக்கு வழங்கும் கல்வி அவளுடைய குடும்பம் முழுவதற்குமே வழங்கப்படும் கல்விக்கு ஒப்பானதாகும். இதனையே மகாத்மா காந்தி, இந்திரா காந்தி அவர்களும் வலியுறுத்தியுள்ளனர். எனவே பெண் உரிமை, பெண் கல்வி என்பது ஆணுடன் போர் புரிவதற்காக அல்ல. பெண்களின் தடைகளை உடைக்கவே. தன்னை முன்னேற்ற தன் குடும்பத்தை உயர்த்தவே ஆகும். வையத்தள் வாழ்வாங்கு வாழத்தான் அவளுக்கு கல்வி அவசியமே தவிர நாகரீகம் என்ற போர்வையில் அன்பு, பொறுமை, இன்பம் என்னும் பண்புகளை தொலைப்பதற்காக அல்ல என்பதைக் கருத்திற் கொண்டு ஒவ்வொரு பெண்ணும் வளமான கல்வியைப் பெற்று வாழ்வாங்கு வாழ வேண்டும்.

DIABETES, THE SILENT KILLER DISEASE

Dr. VASANTHA VELUMMYLUM

Diabetes is one of the most common illnesses seen at present. It is a chronic disease that occurs when the pancreas does not produce insulin or alternatively when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone that regulates the blood sugar. Raised blood sugar is a common effect of uncontrolled diabetes and over time leads to serious damages to heart, brain, kidney, eye and nerve.

There are two types of diabetes, namely Type 1 diabetes also known as insulin dependent or childhood onset diabetes and Type 2 diabetes also known as non-insulin dependent or adult onset diabetes.

The patients present with abnormal thirst and dry mouth, frequent urination, extreme tiredness or lack of energy, constant hunger, sudden weight loss, slow healing wounds, recurrent infections and blurred vision.

Factors leading to diabetes are family history of diabetes, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, stress, overweight or obesity.

Once diagnosed, diabetes should be controlled with medication, diet and exercise. It's better to restrict carbohydrates and fats, consume more green and leafy vegetables and proteins such as fish and white meat like skinless chicken rather than red meat like beef and pork. It's better to cut down the intake of refined sugar and sweets as well as fatty food and do exercises like daily brisk walk for 30 minutes.

An important feature in this illness is that nearly 50% of those affected by it have no symptoms and by the time the diagnosis is made some of the patients would be exhibiting complications. Therefore routine testing for diabetes is a must for people over 40 years of age.

ANTI BULLYING

Bullying, Bully, Bullied, Bullied Bully

What is bullying?

- * A serious anti social behavior that occurs in all schools
- * It is not restricted by age, race or gender
- * Using power and aggression to control and distress another purposely
- * To do things purposely to hurt others feelings
- * A willful, deliberate and conscious act of aggression intended to harm

What are the kinds of Bullying?

1. Verbal Bullying
2. Physical Bullying
3. Social/Relational Bullying
4. Hazing and Racist Bullying
5. Cyber Bullying

Verbal Bullying:

E.g.: Name calling, put downs Insults, rumours and gossips, cruel criticism, Racial slurs, sexual comments, notes containing threats, accusations, Making faces, intimidating gestures etc.

Physical Bullying:

E.g.: punching, pushing, tripping, shoving, hitting, biting, beating, destroying Property, kicking, spitting, use of threat with a weapon etc.

Social/Relational Bullying:

E.g.: Ignoring, Isolating, Excluding, Dirty looks, Reject someone to play with, Setting others to look foolish, Hostile body language, Stealing, Bribery, Robbery, rolling of eye i.e.: "She is stupid" "Don't go with Her" etc.

Hazing and Racist Bullying

E.g.: view it as exciting and fun, No matter how abusive, compelled to eat disgusting things, Made to beat others, Made to exercise until passing out, To engage in illegal or dangerous activities, using the language of slurs, Attaching blame, Willing to discriminate (You can't play with us, We don't want you, Get out of here etc.)

Cyber bullying:

e.g.: Use Information technology with the intent of hurting others- You don't know who is doing, people get suspicious, Use e-mails, cell phones, text messages, and internet sites to physically Threat, verbally harass, embarrass, damage reputations Making a face book

Sometimes this becomes a criminal activity During cyber bullying people think that they will never be identified but They can be identified by Cyber Crime Investigators.

How can we avoid cyber bullying?

1. Never give your personal information to other including passwords
2. Students need to be cyber savvy
3. Do not open a message from someone you don't know
4. Do not believe everything you see or read
5. No computers in the student's bedroom
6. When you are angry don't send a message to someone
7. Call the internet service provider
8. save all the message that you feel is threatening
9. Contact the police

Where do you get bullied?

When you are alone

1. In the bath rooms
2. Hallways
3. School yards, Play grounds
4. Class rooms
5. On the way to school/home
6. Lonely places

Why kids don't tell?

1. They are ashamed of themselves
2. Fear of relationship
3. Belief that no one can/will help
4. Belief that they need to deal with it
5. RAT in (Right Action Taken) on a peer is not cool
6. Afraid that the parent will take the computer away
7. Felt that a bully has more "power"

How to get help

1. Tell an adult or Teacher
2. Get away from the bully
3. Tell a friend so that somebody knows about it

How to stop bullying

1. Not to do things that you feel is bullying
2. Stop someone who is bullying
3. Tell the teacher/adults and they will help you
4. Try to get along with your friends
5. Standing up for one person- Assertiveness
6. Can have an anti bullying committee
7. Supervision on "hot spots"
8. Identify the bully, He / She needs Guidance and counseling

Signs of Bullied

1. Doesn't want to go to school
2. Anxious, fearful, over reactive
3. Headaches, Stomach aches
4. Lower interest and performance in school
5. Loses things and money, hungry after school
6. Injuries, bruises, damaged clothing, broken things
7. Unhappy, irritable, little interest in activities
8. Trouble sleeping, night mares, bed wetting
9. Express threats to hurt himself or others

Students need to learn about "Empathy" and "Compassion" for one another.

(Mrs.) Jeyajothy Gurupatham Nee Paramsothy

- * Math Special Trained and B.Sc, Sri Lanka
- * Special Education – Specialist (Toronto)
- * Guidance and Career Education – Specialist (Toronto)
- * Certification in Principal Qualification - (Toronto)

Currently: Teacher – Toronto, Canada
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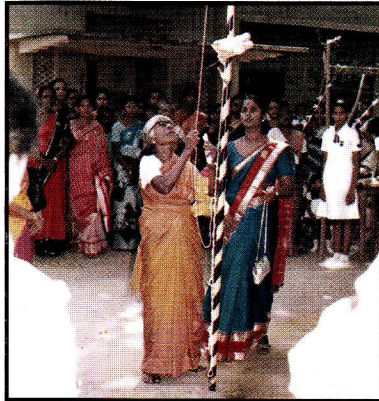
Former Teacher and Old Girl of Vembadi Girl's High School, Jaffna
gurujeje@ymail.com



Vembadi Girl Guides with Miss Thomas, Miss.Navaratnasingham ,
Miss.Arulanandam and other teachers in Yarl Float in 1967.



Staff 1970



Miss.G.Vadivellu , Composer of Vembadi School Anthem .. “மன்னு புகழ் பரவி”
hoisting the school flag150th anniversary.



AGM 2009 - Chief Guest Mr. Ken Nirmalan and Ms. Suwenthrini



AGM 2010



AGM 2011



150th Anniversary



Visit to our Alma Mater 2010



Bevy of "Girls"



Choristers 2012



**Shake, Shake, Shake,
Shake, & Dance**



வில்லிலே வேம்படி வரலாறு

AT THE FOOT OF THE VEMBU TREE

*K. Manickavasagar
Retired Librarian
Jaffna Central College*

What a magnificent and unique title the founders – Wesleyan Methodist Missionaries and the Vembadi Centenarian Principal Elsie Scowcroft had christened the centenary history of Vembadi Girls' High School in Jaffna as early as 1938; not even Maragos Tree, but Vembu Tree!

The sub-title of the book reads: A History of the Vembady Schools for the past hundred years which includes the English School founded by the Rev. James Lynch who succeeded the Wesleyan pioneer Rev. Dr. Thomas Coke as the Head of the Mission when the Methodist pioneers landed on the shores of the island of Ceylon on 29th June 1814 and Rev. Lynch and Rev. Sequence were selected to proceed to Jaffna to teach English and, inter alia, religious matters at the founded school.

The Missionaries were received by Mr. James Mooyart, the sub-collector and he was their host. Although the Missionaries arrived in Jaffna on the 10th of August 1814 and proceeded on their mission, there had been inevitable delay due to the want of a suitable building. However, without waiting any further Rev. Lynch entered into a transaction, purchased the Old orphan House and Lutheran Church building in 1815 and informed the Methodist Missionary headquarters in London by his letters of August 17, 1815 and November 15, 1815, both written from Jaffna, that he had made a purchase of a place in one of the most airy and healthy situations, and in a central place. The house is 90 feet long 20 broad, and the ground behind the house is more than 100 ft long. I have more than 60 boys, most of whom are heathens, learning English. Yet, the transaction Deed was signed only on the first of August 1816 in Colombo. Thus the English School was founded and in due course transformed into Jaffna Central College.

In 1817 the Vembady mission House, which under Dutch rule had been the commandant's country residence, was bought at a public auction by Mooyart and transferred to the Wesleyan Mission on the 27th of March 1824. Soon after, the Jaffna English School was removed to Vembady and renamed Jaffna Wesleyan English School. Although it was a boy's school the Returns for 1825 showed 40 girls in attendance. They were mostly of Burgher families and taught by a highly respected Burgher lady Mrs. Schrader. Therefore the first school that occupied the Vembady premises was the English school, later named Jaffna Central College.

The Synod Minutes record to the fact that during 1834 five girls were being taught at the Mission House. In the following year there is a reference to a superior kind of school run by Mrs. Percival and Miss. Aston. Fortunately in 1837 Rev. Percival has referred to at length to the provision made for girls education. At that time, there must have been four schools in the Vembady premises, namely: The Boys' Central School, The Boys' Training School, The Upper English Girls' School, and the Lower English Girls' School. In 1838 Rev.

Peter Percival founded a Female Boarding School on the premises with 6 girls, and the Vembady Girls' High School grew from it.

Vembady was a household word for decades. Its importance was due to the fact that a few Institutions existed in and around the Vembady premises and how Vembady came into importance was also due to the very well grown Vembu (margosa) trees that flourished in the Mission campus. Rev. John Walton who was popularly called Periya Walton Iyer succeeded as chairman (and retired in 1859) was a great massive man, broad shouldered and with a fine head of black hair, described the eminent Joseph Grenier. Rev's personality and that of the magnificent Vembu trees must have contested each other and so the Rev. got the big margosa trees that stood in front of the Mission House cut down. Vembady was no longer such.

At the time of the centenary celebrations, Vembady Girls' High School had also a Tamil Preparatory led by Miss G Vadivelu, 2nd Class Trained. Her loyalty to Vembady is immeasurable. She was present at most of the VOGA functions and actively participated in the events and proceedings. The writer of this script was fortunate to have had been blessed with admission in the Lower Kindergarten, which even now is only five houses away from that of ours. On completion of Std 3 I was admitted at Jaffna Central College and had the good fortune of having been there as a student and thereafter as Librarian for 51 and a half years. This acquaintance gave me the opportunity to study the details of the 14 year. Student-Teacher ship of Srilasri Arumuga Navalar and Rev. Dr. Peter Percival, the origin and history of Jaffna Central and to advance the year of Founding to 1816 as per the criterion enunciated by Jaffna College, assistance to revive the VOGA Jaffna and been its Vice President for a couple of years.

ONE MOMENT.... LISTEN PLEASE

The Moment you are in Tension
You will lose your Attention
Then you are in total Confusion
And you will feel Irritation
Then you will spoil personal Relation
Ultimately, you won't get Co – Operation
Then you will make things Complication
Then your blood pressure may raise Caution
And you may have to take Medication
Instead, understand the Situation
And try to think about the Solution
Many problems will be solved by Discussion
This will work out better in your Profession
Don't think it's my free Suggestion
It's only for your Prevention
If you understand my Intention
You will never come again to Tension

Bill Gates

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

DR N. KUMARAGURUBARAN ACMA, FAEA (UK) MIM, CBA

Member of Western Provincial Council

Colombo District

The Vembadi girl's high school has achieved its best towards to the Tamil Community for its emergence and always in the forefront. Well known as "Vembadi" or V.G.H.S has its unique role by its great contribution towards educational achievement even during war time hardships. Vembadi Community its teaching panel, old girls and students obviously can be proud of their output of Doctors, Accountants, Engineers, Teachers, Principals & Lawyers. The difference between V.G.H.S and the rest of the schools are their Courage towards achievement of objective and smart leadership quality.

Oldest British Methodist Missionaries Rev. James Lynch and Rev Thomas Squance arrived in Ceylon in June 1814, travelled to Jaffna and arrived on 11th August 1814. As per theirs motive to establish a mission, in 1817 with Rev. Lynch as Principal Jaffna Wesleyan English school was founded. But they accommodated few girls too on the Roll with Boys. This school was renamed as Jaffna Central School in 1834. In the same year a separate girl's school was established and later renamed as Vembadi Girls' High School in 1897. Under the free education policy of the Government V.G.H.S also taken over by the Government in 1960 and since 1984 it's functioning as a national school.

I can remember, one of the most popular Principals for her strict discipline was Miss. P. Arumugam. She used to drive her black moris minor car around the city. Whenever she finds any of her students during school hours in public place she used to pick the student up and verify the reason unless otherwise the student was chaperoned by parents; Her contemporary for high school discipline was a great Educationist and the first selection grade principal of north Mr. E. Sabalingam of Jaffna Hindu College.

"Vembadi" has clearly established itself as the top most girls school to bring about more students eligible to enter Universities. Even during war times they have continued the glory throughout.

This is the paramount feature for its esteemed position in the society. The Library and the Buildings which spoke of Vembadi's rich, heritage were sustained heavy damages and losses in spite of many constrains and struggle. We must congratulate the Principal, Academic panel, non Academic staff, students, especially the old girls for Vembady's attainment and achievement every year keeping up the proud record of University entrance from Jaffna district.

I congratulate Vembadi's contribution of producing leaders in all walks of life, for making proud the Tamil Community and attaining 175 years; being a son of the northern soil but an elected peoples representative in Colombo I am really proud of Vembadi Girls High School.

Re - allocation of *Cheedanam* or Dowry on Divorce or Breakdown of Marriage - A study of the Thesawalami Married Woman's Rights

*Dr (Mrs) Kamala Nagendra Attorney-at-Law, B.A, LL.B, Ph.D**

The background

The present situation in Jaffna is greatly different from that which existed at the time of the codification of the customs of the people of Jaffna in 1806. Modernization of the 19th and 20th centuries resulted in rapid socio-economic and cultural development of Jaffna. However, consequent to the long drawn civil war the society had to undergo unforeseen difficulties and was compelled to adapt to critical situations purely for survival. The sufferings of a chill feeling of despair, consequent to the atrocious and execrable war, destroyed the pattern of family living in the North of Sri Lanka and shattered beyond repair the lives of thousands of youth and children. The youth were compelled to enter into polyandrous and polygamous unions (which was hitherto legally extinct) for fear of abduction, arrest or forced recruitment. The consequence was illegal and invalid union of man and woman resulting in multitude of extra – marital children.

In the process, the community had to compromise or even sacrifice many of its century's old traditions and values. The changes in behavioral pattern have had great impact on the social, economic, and cultural pattern of living of the people of the North. What is of concern to sociologists and legal analysts are the serious socio-legal problems that have ensued. They adversely affect the plight of married women and their children. The issue of the legality of the numerous alliances of man and woman as husband and wives, and of the children born out of such unions is indeed a matter of great concern, but regrettably not the subject matter of this article. The writer proposes to confine the subject matter of this article to a brief analysis of property matters, which arise on dissolution and breakdown of marriages.

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Displacement and disappearances, and destruction of family structure

The security situation of the post-war period as well as during the active war period and its aftermath has had tremendous impact on the mobility of the inhabitants of this area. It resulted in exodus of youths to foreign countries and displacement of their families from their homelands. The situation was such that it gave rise to dissolution of marriages by

divorce as much as by death. Disappearances by arrest and abduction, and the resulting incommunicado amounted to desertion and subsequent end of marriages. In brief, the atrocities of the war altered the established pattern of family formation. Bereft of any alternative, the parents had to send their sons abroad. They thus were desperately in need of money. Similarly, the daughters too had to be sent away from homes for personal safety and their security. The only way was to give them in marriage. Cheedanam was thus put on auction, so to say literally, and the desperate parents had neither time nor choice in ascertaining or determining the suitability of the partners for their children prior to giving away their daughters and with them their life - time savings. The security situation was so tensed up that impromptu marriages became the order of the day. (These types of marriages continue even to the present day.) Unprecedented number of such hurried marriages was bound to fail and did fail due to multifarious reasons. The married daughters and their parents were faced with not only the mental torture of a broken or failed marriage but also had to deal with the predicament of retrieving the *cheedanam* (dowry) and or donation given on the occasion of the marriage.

The outlook of the youth, both males and females, to fundamental obligations of marriage, has also changed drastically with the transient post war cultural values. Marriages and dissolution sadly became common occurrences, which were rarely heard of in bygone days. In this atmosphere it is both relevant and necessary for the present society, especially its married women and their parents, to understand the property implications on re-allocation of property consequent to divorce.

The Thesawalamai Code makes no provisions for a situation of divorce. A few cases that reported during early British rule however provide some evidence that situations of divorce existed. The Jaffna Matrimonial Rights and Inheritance Ordinance (JMARIO) No: 1 of 1911 makes some reference regarding situations of spousal separation, which does not presently concern us. However the Ordinance of 1911, prior to its amendment in 1947, had some provisions regarding proprietary rights of spouses on divorce. It was however limited to property acquired during marriage, the *thediathettam*.

Rights on re-allocation of property – consequent to divorce or breakdown of marriages.

In the absence of provisions relating to divorce in the Code and The Jaffna Matrimonial Rights and Inheritance Ordinance, the General Law on divorce becomes legally applicable to those governed by Thesawalamai. It therefore follows that the subject of re-allocation of property on divorce or breakdown of marriage should also be determined by the same principles. "In the context of quite a different matrimonial property structure in Thesawalamai, a study of how re-allocation of property on divorce can be best achieved,

which will accord both with justice as well as with the ideals and values of marriage and property relationships of the spouses governed by Thesawalamai, becomes very necessary". Matrimonial property, in so far as it relates to those governed by Thesawalamai consists of not only property acquired during marriage (*Thediathettam*) but also *cheedanam* or dowry and *muthusam* or inherited property. When applying the General law rules and concepts to those governed by Thesawalamai the court has to be mindful of the different matrimonial structure in Thesawalamai. Cheedanam and Muthusam are generally understood by the layman as the separate separate property of the spouses.

It has been accepted both judicially and academically that both the Roman Dutch Law rule of forfeiture of benefits and the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code are applicable laws in the General Law on the matter of adjustment of proprietary rights on divorce. The provisions of the Civil Procedure Code confer on the court wide discretionary powers. The two remedies are

1. M. pp 116 and 119.
2. Section 8 JMRIO
3. S.20 (2) of the said repealed enactment provided that "..... and on the dissolution of a marriage or a separation *a mensa et thoro*, each spouse shall take for his or her separate use one half of the joint property as aforesaid".
4. Kamala Nagendra, *Matrimonial property and Gender Inequality – A study of Thesawalamai*, (Colombo,2007)
5. Recovery of dowry and other property on a dissolution of marriage, Article published in the Colombo Law Review, (1972) Vol: 3. p. 13.
6. 615 (1) and 618

mutually exclusive. Thus the court could elect to exercise its powers either under the Code or be guided by the principles of the Roman Dutch Law.

Thus a brief study of the relevant principles of Roman Dutch Law together with the statutory provisions is undertaken. In doing so special focus on the scope of their applicability to those governed by Thesawalamai is undertaken. The reader has to keep in mind that forfeiture has reference only to the benefits derived under the marriage. It does not extend to the separate property of the offending spouse. Similar to the Roman Dutch Law dowry or *dos cheedanam* or dowry in Thesawalamai has been, from its very inception, recognized as the separate property of the wife. As such, re-allocation of *cheedanam* property on judicial separation or divorce need not normally arise as an issue of contention. But, as in the general law, in Thesawalamai too, it has been the practice to give gifts in favour of the husband and wife or even to the husband alone on the occasion of marriage. The courts, when confronted with such cases under the common law,

analysed the facts to see what the intention of the donor was. Where the intention was found to be to give a dowry it was regarded as the separate property of the wife. The common law principle of forfeiture was applied by courts to outright gifts made to the husband on the occasion of marriage. The Roman Dutch Law adheres to the principle that the law should avert the enrichment of one spouse at the expense of the marriage he or she had put asunder. Thus, it applied the principle of forfeiture to whatever benefits that had accrued to the guilty spouse. Besides, the court, which applied the Roman Dutch Law, had no discretion to withhold forfeiture where it was claimed by the innocent spouse. The Thesawalami wife could therefore claim as of right that her guilty husband should forfeit all claims to all benefits that had accrued to him by the marriage either by way of wedding presents, simple gifts etc. She must also keep in mind that, if by chance she is the guilty spouse, she would not under the Roman Dutch Law lose her dowry, as it is her separate property and not a benefit that had accrued to her by the marriage.

7. *Balasingam, op.cit.p.635.*

8. *Ibid.*

9. *Fernando v Fernando* (1961) 63N.L.R.. 416 ; *Karunanayake v Karunanayake* (1937) 39 N.L.R. p.275

10. *Van Leeuwen* .4.24.10; *Voet*, 24.2.9; *H.R.Halo*, *The South African Law of husband and wife*, [5th edi. Cape Town 1985) p. 372; *Philips v.Philips* (1882) 5 S.C.C 36; *Samarasinghe v Samarasinghe* [1989] 2 Sri.L.R180 at 186

11. *Fernando v Fernando*, 63 N.L.R 416; *Fernando v Fernando* 63 N.L.R 416; *Karunanayake v Karunanayake*, 39 N.L.R.275; *Fernando v Fernando* 63 N.L.R.416; *Somawathy v Simon Perera*, [1984] 1 Sri.L.R.78; For further reading see *Matrimonial Property and Gender Inequality— A study of Thesawalamai*. Op. Cit. pp.302–305.

Applicability of the statutory provisions.

Sections 615 (1) and 618 of the Civil Procedure Code empower the courts to make orders of settlements of property at its discretion and to vary ante nuptial or post nuptial settlements on divorce, judicial separation or nullity of marriage.

Remedy by way of statutory provisions is only discretionary. Unlike as in RDL under the statutory provisions the wife cannot claim forfeiture as of right. In addition the statutory provisions do not limit re- allocation to benefits. It includes all properties to which either spouse is entitled. The court by the exercise of its discretionary powers is empowered to make an order irrespective of finding of guilt. Thus, if the wife happens to be the guilty spouse she stands the risk of losing even her dowry property, which is her separate property, and not a benefit she has obtained by the marriage. The court thus can make an order for the settlement of even her dowry property for

the benefit of her husband or children. Such a move by court could result in ancestral property, which is generally the case of dowry property, to be forfeited by the wife. It would thereby enable "outsiders" to the family of the wife [meaning the husband and his family members] to get hold of the her ancestral property. *Cheedanam*, is generally the mother's ancestral property and is regarded sacrosanct by those governed by Thesawalamai. On intestacy, without immediate heirs, it should revert to the source from whence it came. As such, an order to that effect would be very unpalatable to those governed by Thesawalamai. Savitri Goonesekere says it is necessary that such application should be, "subject to the discretion of the court to take into account the scheme of rights on matrimonial property under Thesawalamai" .

The choice between Roman Dutch Law and statutory provisions to those governed by Thesawalamai. It is important to analyse which of the two remedies would serve the best interests of the woman governed by Thesawalamai. "Application of the Roman Dutch Law principle of forfeiture will enable the wife to retain dowry property on the basis that it is her separate property, regardless of whether she is the guilty or the innocent spouse". Further if the wife, either on her own volition

12. Section 618.

13. J.M.R.I.O. sections 23 and 24.

14. *The Legal Status of the Female in the Sri Lankan Law on Family Relations, op. cit.* 67.

or on compulsion by the husband or his parents transfers her dowry property to the husband; or where gifts, wedding presents, donations and the like are given to the husband it would be difficult for the wife to prove them as her separate property. But she could, still claim recovery of such property on the basis that they are in fact benefits that have accrued to the husband as a result of the marriage he has wrecked. To do so however she should be the innocent spouse. The principle is clear. It is but just and equitable that the guilty husband should not be allowed to enrich himself from the dowry of the wife. This claim is available to the wife as of right and the court will have no discretion to withhold such forfeiture.

Remedy by way of Roman Dutch Law could have adverse impact on the wife too, particularly where she is the offending spouse. The court could order that she forfeit whatever benefits had accrued to the husband by the marriage. In *Somawathy v Simon Perera* the parents of the wife had, prior to the marriage, gifted to the husband by way of dowry some land and premises. This subsequently formed the matrimonial home of the couple. The marriage was later dissolved on the ground of malicious desertion by the wife. Subsequently the wife instituted action for recovery of dowry property. The District Judge dismissed the action on the basis that she could not claim a re - transfer of the property since she was the guilty spouse. Contention by her counsel on the basis of Roman Dutch Law, that a wife has right to claim restitution of dowry property, was defeated in the Court of Appeal on the basis that the right of the wife was qualified, as the husband had obtained divorce by reason of the misconduct of the wife. We have for discussion on this subject the unreported case of *Abeyaratne v Wickramaratne* which

has gained importance and popularity as a very enlightened judgment . The facts of this case in brief are as follows. Cash and a car were given as dowry to the daughter by her parents on her engagement to the defendant husband. The wife subsequently transferred them to the defendant husband on his request. After the marriage was dissolved, the wife claimed her dowry property. The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the District Judge; that the gift was made by the parents of the wife to their daughter and that when it was subsequently transferred to the

15. Thambiah J in *Fernando v Fernando*, (1961) 63 N.L.R. p. 416

16. (1984) 1 Sri.L.R. p.78

17. Voet 24.3.19 ; *Somawathy v Simon Perara*, *op. cit* at p.82

18. CA (SC) 131/73 F

husband, he became, despite the transfer, only a trustee of the properties. "It is submitted that a similar inference of a trust in *Somawathy's* case would have been fair and just by the wife. It would have enabled court to conclude that the property was in fact the wife's dowry, though given to the husband. In such a situation, the wife's dowry being her separate property, the common law rule of forfeiture could not have been made applicable, notwithstanding that the wife was the guilty spouse". The court in *Somawathy's* case failed to take into consideration several facts favorable to the wife, though she was the guilty spouse. The property was clearly the wife's dowry and as such was her separate property. It also failed to ascertain the true intention of the donor parents at the time the gift was made. The result was to eject the wife from the matrimonial home, a property which was in fact a gift by her parents on her marriage, though unfortunately they had gifted it to the husband. Shirani Ponnambalam notes that compared to *Abeyaratne's* case, *Somawathy's* case appears very unfortunate. A decision similar to *Somawathy's* case would indeed be very unpalatable to those governed by Thesawalamai, who attribute a predominant position to dowry, which very often and largely constitutes ancestral property. Therefore, to preserve the sanctity of ancestral lands and to safeguard dowry property as separate property, it becomes advantageous to the Jaffna woman to seek remedy under the Roman Dutch Law, provided she is the innocent spouse.

Forfeiture on divorce caused by the breakdown of marriage.

To apply the rules of forfeiture under the Roman Dutch Law it becomes necessary for the wife to allocate guilt on the part of the husband. Taking into consideration the fact that a Jaffna woman is governed by the general law on divorce it is also possible for her to obtain divorce without proof of matrimonial fault to the extent required by the Marriage Registration Ordinance. The general law, by section 608 (2) (a) of the Civil Procedure Code, permits a decree of separation to be converted to one of divorce after the lapse of two years. In addition, it declares that, notwithstanding that a decree of separation was not obtained, a *de facto* separation for seven years is sufficient to obtain dissolution of marriage. This makes it possible under the general law to obtain divorce on a significantly lesser degree of blameworthy conduct. Thus it becomes very

19. Matrimonial Property and gender inequality – A study of Thesawalamai. *Op. cit.* pp.308 – 309.

20. *Op. cit* at p. 423

pertinent to analyse the implications of forfeiture on divorce due to breakdown of marriage, as against divorce caused by matrimonial fault.

Wife's remedy by way of the Trust Ordinance.

It is possible for the wife to have recourse to the Trust Ordinance to obtain restitution of her dowry property on dissolution of marriage. The fact that such a donation or transfer was not made in writing would not preclude the wife from proving that the husband holds such property in trust; for section 6 of the Trust Ordinance provides that an intention to create may be manifested by words or action.

Donations and forfeiture.

“Donations” as a form of wedding present is very often demanded by the bride-grooms or by their parents as gifts to be made exclusively to the bride-groom. The intention is to obtain as a gift simpliciter; separate from dowry. A strict construction based on this point of view can lead to the conclusion that as free will gifts to the husband they cannot form the separate property of the wife that could be recovered by her. It is however possible to apply to donations the view taken in relation to the Indian *varadakshina* ; that such ceremonial presents are in fact bride-groom prices. Considered as such it could fall into the definition of dowry within the meaning of the Indian Dowry Prohibition Act. It is thus suggested that donations becoming bride-groom prices in Thesawalamai, could be assimilated into the category of dowry and when held by the husband can be deemed as property of the wife held by the husband in trust for her. Besides, as presents given on the occasion of marriage they would definitely become benefits derived from the marriage. An innocent wife should therefore be able to have the property restored to her on dissolution of the marriage.

The availability of the remedies to the Jaffna Tamil expatriates.

The Thesawalamai is the personal law of the Tamil inhabitants of the Northern Province. It applies to them wherever they are and to their movable and immovable property wherever situated in Sri Lanka.

21. Section 83

The Thesawalamai Code of 1806, in section 3, provides that, “All questions between “Malabar inhabitants” of the said province or wherein a Malabar inhabitant is defendant, shall be decided according to the said customs”. As to who is a “Malabar” in the context of applicability of Thesawalamai was subject to extensive judicial interpretation. It has been accepted judicially that the term “Malabar” in section 3 of the Code is synonymous with

the term, "Tamil". As to becoming an "inhabitant" of Jaffna, Wood-Renton J. in *Velupillai v Sivakamipillai*, explained that he should be a person, " who had acquired a permanent residence in the nature of a domicile in the Northern Province". The question as to whether an expatriate Tamil satisfies the requirement of 'permanent residency' would depend on the facts of his case. It is interesting to note that a person who could succeed in establishing his residency in Jaffna could however fail to establish to the satisfaction of the court that he is an 'inhabitant' of the province of Jaffna. Conversely, just because he is a Jaffna Tamil by birth or descent will not enable him to claim as falling within the statutory definition. It needs to be also noted that a person, who is resident abroad for protracted periods would not disentitle him to being governed by Thesawalamai.

There are several judgments on the issue of the applicability of Thesawalamai. The latest landmark case is *Sivagnanalingam v Suntheralingam*. The issue in the case concerned rights to inheritance to the deceased's estate. The court had therefore to decide whether the deceased was an inhabitant of the province of Jaffna to be governed by Thesawalamai. Sharvananda CJ here declared that the meaning of the expression "*inhabitant of the Province of Jaffna*" is a question of law. An inhabitant in this context refers to a person who has his permanent home in Jaffna in the nature of a domicile in the Northern Province. His Lordship also declared that there is a strong presumption in favour of the continuance of a domicile of origin and that the rules for identifying a person's domicile can be applied to discover whether a family has a permanent home in the Northern Province and hence its members are inhabitants in that Province.

It is very disheartening to note that large sums are paid as donations, some times in foreign exchange running into millions, to Tamil boys who have migrated or taken refuge in foreign countries. Unfortunately all marriages do not work happily and many a woman and her family have fallen victims and lost their property and money. They are not aware of their rights or the legal remedies available to them. Besides, legal action becomes an additional financial strain. As

noted above, apart from the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code the Roman Dutch law provides the wife with an alternate remedy.

It is submitted that once a Sri Lankan Jaffna Tamil woman expatriate establishes that she is governed by the Thesawalamai she has the choice of the above discussed options of having recourse to Roman Dutch law or the statutory provisions.. If she succeeds in identifying a property in Sri Lanka as a gift made to her in consideration or in connection with her marriage as cheedanam, then irrespective of the fact that she may be the guilty spouse in a divorce action filed by her husband, she, as the guilty spouse would not forfeit it to him, on the basis that it is a benefit derived from the marriage. Donations made to the bridegroom/ husband on the occasion of marriage by the parents of the woman could also be retrieved by her, provided she is the innocent spouse.

The commonest symptom in any illness !!

Management of Fever.

Dr. Ajanthan Rajaratnam (MBBS,MD)
(Consultant Pediatrician)

Fever is the commonest symptom of any infection or inflammatory illness. Due to various reasons and anecdotal stories parents have morbid fear in managing this symptom. Fever is defined as body temperature rising above 37.5 c or 99.5 f. It's usually measured in the axilla and on some occasions in the ear canal. You need to add 0.5 c to the reading in the axilla. (If the axillary reading is 37 c then adding 0.5 c will read as 37.5 c)

As parents, this is the last issue they would like to deal with, and need to be reassured. Documentation of fever is most important. The need to use a thermometer and not just feel the forehead and give paracetamol. Mercury thermometers take at least 2 minutes give a proper reading but accurate.

The following tips are helpful:

1. Always document the temperature and give paracetamol according to weight and not age. (15mg per kg pr dose and maximum 4 times a day)
2. Commence to sponge with lukewarm water until the paracetamol works – 20 minutes. You can bathe the child with luke warm water if fever is high (eg: 39 c).
3. Using eau de cologne on the fore head etc is for soothing only and they do not decrease the fever.
4. Use of ice packs is not recommended unless it's used in the neck, axillae and groin area – presence of large blood vessels.

Please see a doctor if the fever does not respond to paracetamol. This is important, as your child may need other investigations on the first or second day of fever. Use of Ibuprofen syrup is recommended for fevers other than Dengue Fever. On some occasions the control of fever is easier with ibuprofen.

Medications that are not registered with the Drug Regulatory Authority (DRA) should not be used for control of fever, as these may be harmful.

Parents, with children having a history of febrile seizures should be more vigilant in controlling fever in the first 48 hours. The seizure does not occur at the height of fever but probably with the speed of rise and children may get a seizure even with minimal fever.

In children less than 2 years the commonest illness are viral fevers, urinary tract infections, sore throat and ear infections. Appropriate diagnosis and treatment is essential. On some situations a repeat review is needed to confirm or augment treatment.

Please see your doctor within 3 days of fever even if the child is well.

Paracetamol in excess of the recommended is harmful too. Please use the appropriate doses.

This makes parents of a newborn panicky!!!

INFANTILE COLIC

**Dr. Ajanthan Rajaratnam (MBBS,MD)
(Consultant Pediatrician)**

The most joyful day for any parent is the birth of their newborn. All parents expect things to be normal during the first few years of life. Yet there are a few issues that develop in the first year of life and be really troublesome to some. Of these the most commonly encountered one is Infantile Colic. It is a condition in which an otherwise healthy baby cries or displays symptoms of distress (cramping, moaning, etc.) frequently and for extended periods, without any discernible reason. The condition typically appears within the first month of life and often disappears rather suddenly, before the baby is three to four months old, but can last up to one year.

The strict medical definition of colic is a condition of a healthy baby in which it shows periods of intense, unexplained fussing/crying lasting more than 3 hours a day, more than 3 days a week for more than 3 weeks.

Baby's develop this suddenly and it disappears suddenly too by the age of 3-4 months. Epidemiology suggests that cows milk chocolate, brassica, and onions are among the foods that a lactating mother may need to avoid. Some studies have shown that formula fed babies developed colic twice as much as breastfed babies.

The crying often increases during a specific period of the day, particularly the early evening. Symptoms may worsen soon after feeding, especially in babies that do not belch easily. Even though the term colic is derived from the Greek word 'colon', its origin is not 100% intestinal. There are many postulated theories that this may be due to excess gas, increased motility, gastro esophageal reflux disease, muscle cramps or direct neurological issue.

Persistent crying has been a major problem for young parents causing sleepless nights, marriage issues, shaken baby syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome and car accidents to name a few.

Management centers around repeated reassurances and other advice on mums diet, handling position, sleeping position and if needed treatment of reflux disease. Giving domperidone – to prevent vomiting or use of 'burp drops' (simethicone) has had no positive impact on the treatment. Car rides have helped some instances and dietary adjustments too have helped. Our motto is 'treat the treatable' and on this note all aspects of management is tried to see an impact. If the intervention shows an improvement then we advice the parents to persist with the intervention.

There is a broad body of evidence showing that colic symptoms can be eased through soothing measures, such as pacifiers,[95][96] strong white noise and jiggly rocking are effective in calming babies during crying bouts.

These techniques form the core of the "5 S's" approach: Swaddling

1. (safe swaddling carefully avoiding overheating, covering the head, using bulky or loose blankets, and allowing the hips to be flexed)
2. Side or stomach (holding a baby on the back is the only safe position for sleep, but it is the worst position for calming a fussy baby)
3. Shhh' sound (making a strong shush sound near the baby's ear or using a CD of womb sound/white noise).
4. Swinging the baby with tiny jiggly movements (no more than 1" back and forth) always supporting the head and neck.
5. Sucking (Letting the baby suckle on the breast, a clean finger or a pacifier)

In summary infantile colic's are the commonest cause of fussy or crying babies in the first few months of life. The mainstay of management is repeated reassurances. Other interventions like handling, sleeping and feeding position helps. Dietary intervention in the breast feeding mother may help. Soya formula has no place. The 5S technique has a definitive place in the management.

ALL THE WIVES! LAUGH for a while!

How many of you love your husband's??

There was a group of women gathered at a seminar on how to live in a loving relationship with your husband.

The women were asked, 'How many of you love your husband's?'

All the women raised their hands.

Then they were asked, 'When was the last time you told your husband you loved him?'

Some women answered today, some yesterday, some didn't remember.

The women were then told to take their cell phones and send the following text: "I love you, sweetheart."

Then the women were told to exchange phones and read the responding text messages.

1. Who is this???

2. Ah, mother of my children, are you sick?

3. I love you too!!

4. What now? Did you crash the car again?

5. I don't understand what you mean!!

6. What did you do now? I won't forgive you this time!

7.?!?

8. Don't beat about the bush, just tell me how much you need?

9. Am I dreaming?

10. If you don't tell me who this message is actually for, someone will die.

11. I asked you not to drink anymore. I'll leave if you are tired of me!

Here are some of the replies:

Reading and rebuilding the society

Mrs. Kirupaimalar Hoole B.Sc, MBIS, MLS
Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Jaffna
(Past Pupil of Vembadi)

"Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.

Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.

Francis Bacon, 1561 – 1626 AD

"People have now-a-days got a strange opinion that everything should be taught by lectures. Now, I cannot see that lectures can do so much as reading the books from which the lectures are taken. I know nothing that can be best taught by lectures, except where experiments are to be shewn. You may teach chemistry by lectures:– You might teach the making of shoes by lectures!"

- Dr. Samuel Johnson, 1709 – 1784 The love of

learning, the sequestered nooks,
And all the sweet serenity of books;
The market-place, the eager love of gain,
Whose aim is vanity, and whose end is pain!

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807 - 1882

Introduction

A library is a treasure-house of knowledge that plays a vital role throughout our life. It is a place where not only books but also magazines, atlases and newspapers are made available for the benefit of the readers. Libraries are places from where many great leaders and thinkers gained knowledge and wisdom, formed new ideas and helped to reform societies.

Today the world is moving fast with new technologies appearing continually. We too move with the times and provide readers with new ways of accessing information. There is a global demand for new and faster ways of retrieving and gathering information. In this new era, computers and other hand-held gadgets help us to access information and communicate over long distances as we move about. If these devices are used efficiently as a reference tool, to supplement books, they are a blessing. Over reliance on these deskill people. They lose the ability to think and reflect. The series of facilities and products, these technologies offer, rob the children of valuable time and lowers their power of imagination, when not utilized appropriately.

When parents are asked what characteristics they would best like in their children, most of them are likely to say 'intelligence'. They make sure the children get a good schooling. In addition, they strive hard and spend their energy and means to enable them to do well in their studies. But what they forget to ask is what gives stability to a child, until the critical state is reached where the child is independent and could develop on its own.

One of the recent short films produced by mass media students from the University of Jaffna is to show depression in a child who starts the day at 7 am comes back home at 7 pm. The child is so exhausted and hates to study anything after coming back home, and just scribbles on the book to show its bitterness.

As parents & well wishers we have to nurture children who are stable, and give them good values.

Reading & its importance:

All great people and great thinkers are the first to admit that it is reading that took them to the heights they attained.

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents", says Emilie Buchwald, a writer, children's fiction

Reading aloud at an early age builds many important foundational skills, enhances vocabulary and pronunciation.

Reading helps in understanding what is taught.

Reading books is the best medicine to kill boredom.

Studies reveal that the children who took to reading at an early age are less prone to become addicted to computer games, unproductive face book usage and watching movies Reading books gives you that much needed break from the chaos in your life. It instills peace inside you, makes you relaxed and also exercises your brain in the process.

What began with reading story books, when you were a child, can turn into reading books for improving yourself as you grow older. From story books, the growing child moves to geography & travel to history, and then to deeper books in the sciences, the humanities and other advanced areas of learning, including to books that govern our ethical, religious, political and social lives. Each passing day is an adventure where you learn something new.

Reading helps to improve their creativity, ability to write and write creatively

I will now give an example of how good novels of another era and another place show us the ironies and struggles of life, which we could look at detached from our own circumstances. But it holds a mirror to our own life and arouses our sympathy and tells us what is wrong with our own society.

Jane Austen's classic novel, 'Pride & Prejudice' is fiction that expresses the social conditions and the struggle those living had to go through in a society very conscious of class and wealth, in order to negotiate marriages for their daughters. The author Jane Austen acquired much of her education from home, at the end of the 18th Century mainly from the library maintained by her father. Such persons were scholars, but by no means rich.

It brings out the social values and norms that prevailed in that society, the culture, the livelihoods of the inhabitants, transportation, postal systems and the leisure activities of men and women. Jane Austen tackles with irony and humour the pretensions of

her society, while conveying the moral values she stood by. Her novels provide a valuable mirror for us to look at ourselves.

Reading promotion:

It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading. Something that will stretch their imaginations--something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own.

- Katherine Patterson (American novelist, specializing in children's books, 1932-

Study after study done over the years confirms the link between student achievement and school libraries. It is observed that children and teenagers who love reading have comparatively higher IQs. How can we make the child get interested in reading?

1. They could be introduced to fiction as a starting point with short stories, moral stories and folk tales. After the child has read some short stories you will have some idea of what the child's taste is: for example adventure stories, romance, detective, thriller, science fiction etc. Search for short novels that have the themes that would interest the child. Children can be taught to look up dictionaries for unknown words. After they have read some novels, try introducing more serious matters like current affairs. This way we can create a desire for reading in the child.

2. Promote debates, creative writing, educational games, and puzzles in schools, and exhibitions too.

3. Revive the literary, science & religious associations. Bring well read people and introduce children to good fiction and literature to give the child inspiration. Make the child understand that a book on historical fiction can unlock a child's mind to historical events and social and cultural values of that time. Guide them to look at the book reviews and learn how to select books. Give inspiring talks to the children, by introducing prominent intellects, reformers and those who changed our lives for the better, to find themselves role models. Science and its development, and biographies of scientists, could enjoin a child to seek greater depth in knowledge by showing what problems motivated them and what inspired discovery.

4. When giving presents to children, it is best a good book chosen, appropriate to the child's level. A well-stocked library is an asset to a school, a college or a university. There are also public libraries and community centres in the neighborhood which benefit the readers of the area.

5. In Jaffna there is an association to promote reading and library awareness, called FOLA (Foundation for library awareness), in which the Public Library too plays a leading role.

In the foregoing I have tried to give an idea of how libraries enhance our quality of life and guidelines to improve school libraries. Well wishers should pay greater attention to improving resources and encouraging librarians to cater for different kinds of children with differing abilities; to give them habits of knowledge acquisition as an aid thinking which they would carry away as they go out into the world.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LAW RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SRI LANKA; NEGATIVE REFLECTIONS DUE TO SOCIO - ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ASPECTS

Dianarthy Ariyanayakam

In this age of bombs and terrorist threats, it will not be surprising to hear a woman say she fears to travel in a plane, or holds her heart till her child returns home safely from school or work. But the fact is that for many, 'home' is where they face a regime of terror and violence at the hands of somebody close to them – somebody they should be able to trust. Domestic and family violence is a pervasive and frequently lethal problem that challenges society at every level. Violence in families is often hidden from view and devastates victims physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially. It threatens the stability of the family and negatively impacts on all family members.

Domestic violence is defined as “violence perpetrated in the domestic sphere, which targets woman because of their role within that sphere, or violence which is intended to impact, directly and negatively on woman within the domestic sphere”. Domestic violence, simply described, is an act of physical, mental, emotional, sexual or economic violence committed within the confines of the domestic sphere by persons living in that domestic sphere. Due to the nature of where the act of violence occurs, domestic violence is often considered a 'private' matter between two or more parties who have a relationship with each other be they husband and wife, partners, parent and child. However with legal recognition of domestic violence as a punishable crime, these acts of violence are taken out of the private sphere, yet acceptance of the issue's public nature is slow. It is widespread and occurs in a variety of social and cultural contexts and in all classes. Consequences of domestic violence are huge and long lasted. Most crucial consequence of violence against women and children is the denial of fundamental human rights. Children, who have witnessed domestic violence or have themselves to be abused, exhibit health and behavior problems.

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Domestic violence is a widespread problem in Sri Lanka. According to the UN Reporter's report, more than 60% of Sri Lankan women are subject to some form of domestic violence. Most of the countries enacted legal instruments to prevent such violence. Sri Lanka enacted a separate legislation in 2005, but still there are some issues arise with regard to the suitability of such kind of legislation. The new legislation “Prevention of Domestic Violence Act No.34 of 2005, enacted to prevent the violence within the families. However it can't be considered as a meaningful instrument for the benefit of parties who are subject to violence. Family structure is root of society. Countries like Sri Lanka deviations from traditional norms can be subject to negative reflection by society. Thus the result may be not only breaking down of marriage, but also total rejection by the society. On the other hand, there are strong arguments that every human being must be protected then the preservation of family unity.

Social reflection in implementing the provisions of the Act is considerable question to achieve the purpose of the legislature. Several complex and interconnected institutionalized social and cultural factors have kept women particularly vulnerable to the violence directed to them and keep them silent without make use of the laws preventing the. Economic, Social and Cultural factors of Sri Lanka reflect that such kind of law is not suitable to this country. These types of factors are debarred the implementation of the act.

There are many factors which induces women to stay in a situation of violations. The reasons may be physical, physiological or sociological. It is reinforced by notions of patriarchy that operate in our society men have a right to engage in acts of violence against the wives, other female relatives and they should tolerate and accept it. Customary practices (customs and religion) generally hold violence is an inescapable reality in women's lives. Belief in the inherent superiority of male, legislation and culture sanctions have traditionally denied women and children an independent legal and social status. Breaking the silence on this violence is not easy, or is it even real option for most women, to do so would threaten their lives. She faces many ostracized when they leave their husbands.

Women may also stay for emotional reasons, they love their husband or they have sympathy for him, some victims are reluctance to leave a relationship because they do not want a permanent breakup of the relationship. Most believe that the abusive relationship will terminate and fulfilling relationship could be re-established. There is a strong belief that marriage as a social institution should be preserved at all costs. Family honor is important factor, which forces women to remain silent on the issue and live with abuse. To indicate a family structure is the needs of contemporary society thus most victims unwilling to leave an abusive relationship because of children. As victims, they might be reluctant to report crimes for fear of publishing or being shamed by their communities.

Research shows that battered women are reluctant to police intervention because they believe it to be a private matter, to be resolved within the family, they do not want their husbands or fathers to be prosecuted, they fear that reporting the matter to the police will result in more violence being inflicted on them. Thousands of cases complied in police for the motive for getting police help is self protection even though they believe that reporting their problems to the police will do little good and not harm their marital status.

Further, low levels of legal literacy among women and limited access to education leads to lack of knowledge of laws regarding the prevention violence. Even they are known about the laws, nature of court proceeding in divorce litigations, legal definition of rape and domestic violence create fear regarding the privacy. In addition, the incentive treatment of women and girls by police and law legal authorities is the big threat in minds of women and reluctance to recourse new remedy under this act.

Due to economic dependence on men, many victims suffer in silence for fear of losing the economic support of the male perpetrator. The combined factors of economic vulnerability and financial dependence of the woman on the man, discourage victims

from speaking out and seeking redress. There is no provision under this act with regard to the livelihood source of the non-earning spouse and children during the period of case proceedings until verdict of maintenance. Lack of economic resource underpins women's vulnerability to violence and their difficulty in extricating themselves.

Many women who want to leave the abusive relationship simply there have nowhere to go the only alternative they may have to live in streets. Sri Lanka there are no shelter provide by the states to such kind of victims. Even some of NGOs provides such facilities; there is reluctance in the part of judiciary to admit such victims in such private shelters.

Most judicial officers and the police adhere to traditional values that support the family as an institution and the dominance of the male party within it. They considered such disputes must be settled within families rather than then give PO. The role played by the councilors in most cases as to force the aggrieved person to settle the matter and go back to the abusive environment. The purpose of seeking court intervention will be brought to naught and the judicial process rendered a mockery, if counselors compel the aggrieved party to go back to the aggressor without an attempt to reforms the aggressor. Dhara wijayathilake argued that the argument that family until must be preserved rises the important issue of whether the family until must preserve at any coast? Does that mean the victims of violence must endure physical and emotional abuse of all kinds so that the family until can remain intact? Heaping abuse on vulnerable members of the family who are then required to bear with it because otherwise the until will break down? Is the preservation of family until is more important than the quality of life within the until? What then is the end result of the mental and emotional condition of individuals within the family? What degrees of emotional stability will a child who has witnessed his mother being abused, grow up be assume? Can a human became a better human being within a divided family that has peaceful environment or within a family that seeks abuse frequently? Is it wrong to break the until that has the façade of a until viewed from the outside but with a rotting core within because of abusive conduct? Is such a until, one that must be preserved? Or should we provide for remedies that will help improve the quality of the life of the total until?

There was an argument that the act introduces a western concept which is unsuitable for this country. When we consider the currently available criminal regime, the offender investigates and convicted even that offence occurred within family relations. Norm of criminal jurisdiction is that all penal offences are against the society at all it amount to violation of general norms of society.

Does it then become a western concept only when a victim of abuse is afforded the right to access to courts, not to punish the aggressor but to merely obtain protection against future violation? But it can't be deny that the provisions of a special remedy to deal with Domestic Violence have its genesis in the west concepts. It can be argued that the remedy should not be criticized merely because it prevails in the west and other culture differs greatly. It was introduced in the west because it was needed. It appears that we needed it too.

There is the criticism that the act gives a room for family break up. This argument is challenged because a woman who really wants to break up a family because of violent behavior of the husband, would not waste her time with protection order but would go further than just getting a protection order, and make a complain to the police, Whereas, women who want to keep her family together would ask for protection order in the hope the man will ultimately be rehabilitated, at the same time ensure that the family members will be safe from abuse.

Continuity of the marriage will be affected if one party has made a complaint in court of law. The courts can order under the act the husband to stop his misconducts against his wife. After all she has to go back to the same house and live with the same man. What assures her protection? This is a real threat. These are concerns that a victim should consider when deciding whether to seek recourse from the court or not. Not all victims will face such consequences. There are also possibilities; a legal intervention such as this will inspire the sense of submission in the aggressor for the fear of court action.

It is virtual the judicial, specially counseling processes address the root cause of the violence. It should never amount to temporary "patch up" without an attempt to reform the aggressor. Such authorities should not approach their responsibility on the premise that the responsibility of maintaining the family until is that of the wife alone and that a husband may be permitted excess, neither should counselor should believe that their only function is to be persuade or coerce the women go back to the husband at all cost.

In family disputes, while the amicable settlements are to be valued and should be encouraged, it is extremely important for the court to be satisfied that the settlement has been entered into sincerity and that there is a genuine desire on the part of the respondent to change previous violent behavior. It would be important for the court to be stratified that respondent has the potential to reform himself and that the settlement provides for an assurance on the part of the respondent that he/ she will not engage in conduct that would be constitute ant acts of Domestic Violence. There would therefore be a need for court to closely examine the settlement and monitor such. It would be more meaningful to issue a Protection Order for a given period and vary if it is a possible measure. When the history of abuse is serious, it should be born in mind that the respondent may not be able to reform himself without professional help. A settlement should ideally be approached with this reality in mind and it would be appropriate to take into account the potential of the respondent to reform before a settlement is accepted.

All who witness abuse and do nothing are passive perpetrators. They are guilty of contributing to the decline to the decline in society and family values are those who are direct perpetrators. It certainly would do well for all those concerned about preserving our cultural and traditional norms to take all necessary steps to ensure that the home environment is made peaceful so that legal remedies are not needed. The existence of a domestic relationship has given perpetrators the right to abuse others with in the family. Women are not chattel. They need to be respected and must be accepted as important partners in the development process of the country. An important aspect of Domestic relationship is regarding the reciprocal obligation. If these duties are duly complied with,

the family until will thrive. It was argued that it is not possible to suppress the evil and violence in society through legislation alone. What is required is to inspire a resurgence of these noble values and build the nation through value education of our future generations. Many women have suffered serious abuse not only because there was no legal remedy, but also they have no choice. It is important to create awareness among people about values within the family, how women, parents and children should be treated.

END NOTES

01. Strength Based Strategies – 2006 :Prasanna Poornachandra; A Domestic Violence Coordinated Project – Going Beyond Victim Support, 112
02. South African Law Commission Research paper on Domestic violence (April 1999). P.1. citing the Model Code on Domestic and Family Violence Nevada (1994) drafted by the National council of Juvenile and family court Judges.
03. Radhika Coomaraswamy, former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women in the Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences defines domestic violence as (E/CN.4/1999/98,1999 p.16)
04. Asian and pacific women's research and sires: law ;p.14-22
05. Ingrid Westendrop ; if home is no heaven; women's right to adequate housing in cases of domestic violence
06. Dhara Wijayathilake; Dealing with Domestic violence within the new legal regime introduced by PDVA of 2005; Law college review,2006;p.22
07. Ethic in Action – women speak out (Asian women seep out on torture, ill-treated, domestic violence and policing system) vol-4. No.5: October 2010; Asian Human right commission
08. Violence against women: views of victims and activist; study series no.12-1997; center for women's research, Sri Lanka
09. Dhara Wijayathilake; domestic violence: CHRC; Human Right Journal: vol.1,issue.2,2006
10. Syamala Gomez; new law on domestic violence: Ensuring Implementation; vo.11&111 J.B.L.J(2006/07)

1. ஆசிரியை : பூஜா, நீங்க பதில்களை மைதிலியிட்ட இருந்து பாத்து எழுதினீங்களா?
 பூஜா : ஏன் அப்படிக்கேக்கிறீங்க மிஸ்?
 ஆசிரியை : ஏனெண்டா 5வது கேள்விக்கு அவ “எனக்குத் தெரியாது” எண்டு எழுதி இருக்கிறா. அதுக்கு நீங்கள் “எனக்கும் தெரியாது” எண்டு எழுதி இருக்கிறீங்கள்.
2. முடிவெட்டுபவர் : ஐயோ, நீங்கள் சிவப்பு நிறக் கழுத்துத்துப்பட்டா போட்டுக் கொண்டு வந்தனீங்களே?
 வந்தவர் : இல்லை, ஏன்?
 முடிவெட்டுபவர் : ஐயோ, அப்ப நான் உங்கட தொண்டையில் வெட்டிப் போட்டன் போல கிடக்கு.
3. அம்மா : ஐயோ, நான் தந்த காசை ஏன் விழுங்கினீங்கள்?
 மகன் : நீங்க தானே அம்மா, மத்தியானச் சாப்பாட்டுக்கு எண்டனீங்கள்.
4. ஆசிரியை : ஏன் பிள்ளை மூக்கை கிண்டிக் கொண்டிருக்கிறீங்கள்?
 மாணவன் : வீட்டில எண்டா அம்மா விட மாட்டா.
5. ஆசிரியை : நளின், ஓட்டோபயோகர்பி (Autobiography) என்டா என்ன?
 நளின் : ஒரு காரின்ட கதை, மிஸ்.
6. விமானப்பணிப்பெண் : மெனு கார்ட்டைக் கொண்டருட்டுமா, சேர்?
 மனித உண்ணி(Cannibal) : சாச்சா, பயணிகளின்ட பெயர்ப்பட்டியலைக் கொண்டுவா.
7. அம்மா : மகன், எங்கே நிப்போட்டைக் காட்டுங்கோ பாப்பம்.
 மகன் : இந்தாங்கோ அம்மா, ஆனா அப்பாக்குக் காட்ட வேண்டாம். ஏனெண்டால் அவர் தான் உதவி செய்தவர், படிக்க.
8. மகன் : அம்மா, கிறிஸ்மஸுக்கு நாய் தருவீங்களா?
 அம்மா : இது என்னது, எல்லாரையும் போல வான் கோழி (Turkey) தான் தருவேன்.
9. நோயாளி : டொக்டர், மூளையில்லாம ஒரு ஆள் எவ்வளவு நேரம் வாழலாம்?
 வைத்தியர் : சரியாத் தெரியல்ல, உங்களுக்கு எத்தனை வயது?
10. ஒருவர் : ஒரு மாதிரி ஒரு பண்டிக் குட்டியை (Piglet) செல்லப் பிராணியா வாங்கிப் போட்டன்
 மற்றவர் : எங்க கட்டி வைப்பீங்கள்?
 முதலாமவர் : ஏன், எண்ட படுக்கையறையில் தான்.
 மற்றவர் : மணக்காதே?
 முதலாமவர் : போகப் போக அதுக்குப் பழகிடும்
 மற்றவர் : ?? !! ??
11. ஒரு வருஷத்தில் கிறிஸ்மஸுக்கு மட்டும் வெளியில வாற பெண்ணை எப்படிக்கூப்பிடுவீங்கள்? கரோல்
12. கோழி : ஆந்தை தான் கோழிய விடப் புத்திசாலி எண்டு என்னண்டு சொல்லுவீர்?
 ஆந்தை : எங்கேயாவது “Kentucky Fried Owl” எண்டு கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறீரோ?
13. வீட்டு வாசலில் ஒருவர் : மன்னிக்கணும் அம்மணி, உங்கட பூனையைக் காரால அடிச்சுப் போட்டன். அதுக்கு பதில் செய்ய முடியும் எண்டால் சந்தோசப்படுவேன்.
 அம்மணி : என்ன மாதிரி நீர் எலி பிடிப்பீர்?

Arguing with a fool
only proves that
there are TWO

Whenever You get
Pain in your life
just think about
the full form of PAIN !
(Positive Attitude In
Negative Situation)



கழுதை 1: என் முதலாளி என்னை ரெம்ப அடிக்கிறாப்பா!
கழுதை 2: நீ ஏன் அங்கே இருந்து ஓடக்கூடாது.
கழுதை 1: அட போப்பா இங்க எதிர்காலம் ரெம்ப Bright ஆ இருக்கு...
கழுதை 2: எப்படி எப்படி?
கழுதை 1: என் முதலாளி அவரோட அழகான மகள் தப்பி பண்ணும் போது எல்லாம் "ஒரு கழுதைக்கு தான் உன்னை கட்டி கொடுக்க போறேனா" சொல்றார் அந்த நம்பிக்கையில் தான் இந்த கஸ்டத்தை எல்லாம் அனுபவிக்கிறேன்.
Keeping Hopes may not improve your future, but it will certainly reduce the pain of Today !!!

This one
runs on fat
and saves you money



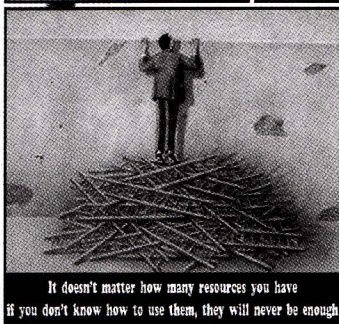
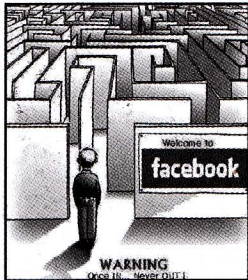
This one
runs on money
and makes you fat



Never blame anyone in your Life.
Good people give you Happiness.
Bad people give you Experience.
Worst people give you a Lesson
& Best people give you memories.

In bed, it's 6 am.
You close your eyes
for 5 minutes, it's 7:45

At work, it's 1.30.
Close your eyes
for 5 minutes, it's 1.31.



When I was young I
was scared of the
dark. Now when I
see my electricity
bill I am scared of
the lights.

நன்றி!

‘நன்றி’ எனும் இச் சிறு வார்த்தை தாங்கி நிற்கும் பாரம்பரியம் தமிழர் நம் இனிய பண்புகளில் ஒன்று. அவ் வார்த்தை சில சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் போதாது போலவும் அமைந்து விடுகிறது; நாம் இங்கு அவ் வண்ணம் உணர்கிறோம். எனினும் எமது நன்றிகள் பின்வருவோருக்கு உரித்தாகின்றன.

- * ஆக்கங்களை எழுதிய அறிஞர் பெருமக்கள்
- * தாராள மனமுடைய விளம்பர அநுசரணையாளர் மற்றும் நலன் விரும்பிகள்
- * அட்டை வடிவமைத்த செல்வன் சுபானன் செகராஜசிங்கம்
- * திருமதி. பூவதி தாம்பர் - திருத்த உதவி
- * எமது சங்கத்தின் தலைவி மற்றும் அங்கத்தவர்கள்
- * பதிப்பகத்தார் திரு. ரா. திருச்செல்வம் மற்றும் ஊழியர்

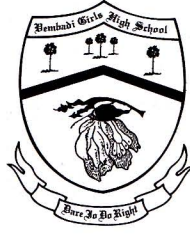
இந்த மலரை அழகுற பதிப்பிக்க உதவிய உங்கள் அனைவருக்கும் எமது மனமார்ந்த நன்றிகள். அது மட்டுமல்லாமல், எமது அத்தனை செயற்திட்டங்களையும் வெற்றியாக மட்டுமே நிறைவுறச் செய்யும் எமது சங்கத்தின் அனைத்து அங்கத்தவர்களுக்கும் எமது மனமார்ந்த நன்றிகளை செயற்குழு சார்பில் இத் தருணத்தில் சமர்ப்பித்துக் கொள்வதில் பெரு மகிழ்ச்சி கொள்கிறோம். ஆசிரியர் குழு

“முடியவில்லை என்றால் முயற்சித்துப் பார்க்கவில்லை என்று அர்த்தம்”

My Alma Mater

Thilaga Wijayaratnam nee Aiyadurai

Behold her! Old Lady Vembadi!
but ever so young she
keeps her head up with pride
watching her daughters pass through
Her Postals-
Many a women of medicine,
she produced-
along with Quite many a lawyer, and teacher
Accountants and Engineers-
they are all her pride.
But she beaming at them
Brings forth still more academics.
A super School is she
My Alma Mater
Great glory be to thee!



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மன்னவனே நினைப் பணிந்தடுவோம்
மன - மொழி - மெய்யதை வளர்த்திடவே
தினமும் சித்தியை அருளிட்வாய்

உண்மையிலே உளத் திண்மையிலே
வண்மையிலே மதி நுண்மையிலே
தன்-னலம் தவறத் தனிப் பெரும்
வேம்படி நன்னல-மகளிர்-கழகம்-வளர்க

தொண்டொன்றே நமது இலட்சியமாம்
கொண்டனமே-நட்பு கல்வி-ஜெபம்
கண்டனமே செய்வோம் பிழையதனை
கொண்டலோமே அச்சம் எதுவரினும்
(உண்மையிலே.....)

College Hymn

Dare to do right! Dare to be true!
You have work, That no other can do
Do it so bravely, so kindly so well.
Angels will hasten the story to tell.

Chorus

Dare, Dare dare to do right!
Dare, dare to be true!
Dare to do right, Dare to be true
Dare to do right, to be true!

Dare to do right! Dare to be true!
Other men's failures can never save you;
Stand by your conscience, your honour, your faith
Stand like a hero and battle till death.

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Wellwisher

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Best Wishes

for the

Alma Mater

&

The PPA Colombo





*With
Best
Wishes*



*With
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of*



Best Wishes

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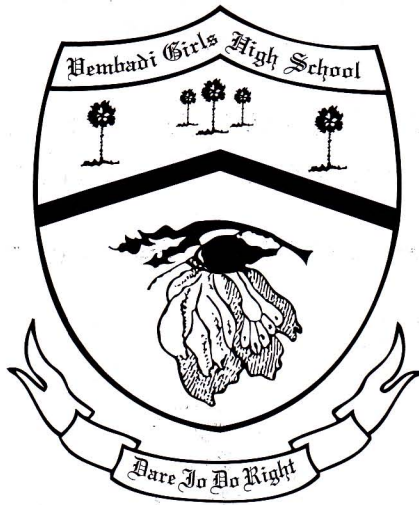
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Long*



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MBBS, MS, FRCS

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Well Wisher

DO YOU KNOW

Telling a lie is a

Sin for a child.

Fault for an adult.

An art for a lover.

A profession for a lawyer.

A requirement for a politician.


A Management tool for a Boss.

An accomplishment for a bachelor.

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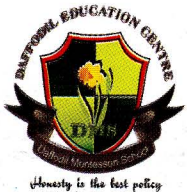
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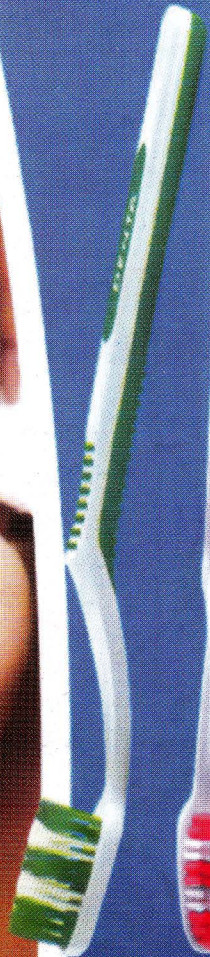
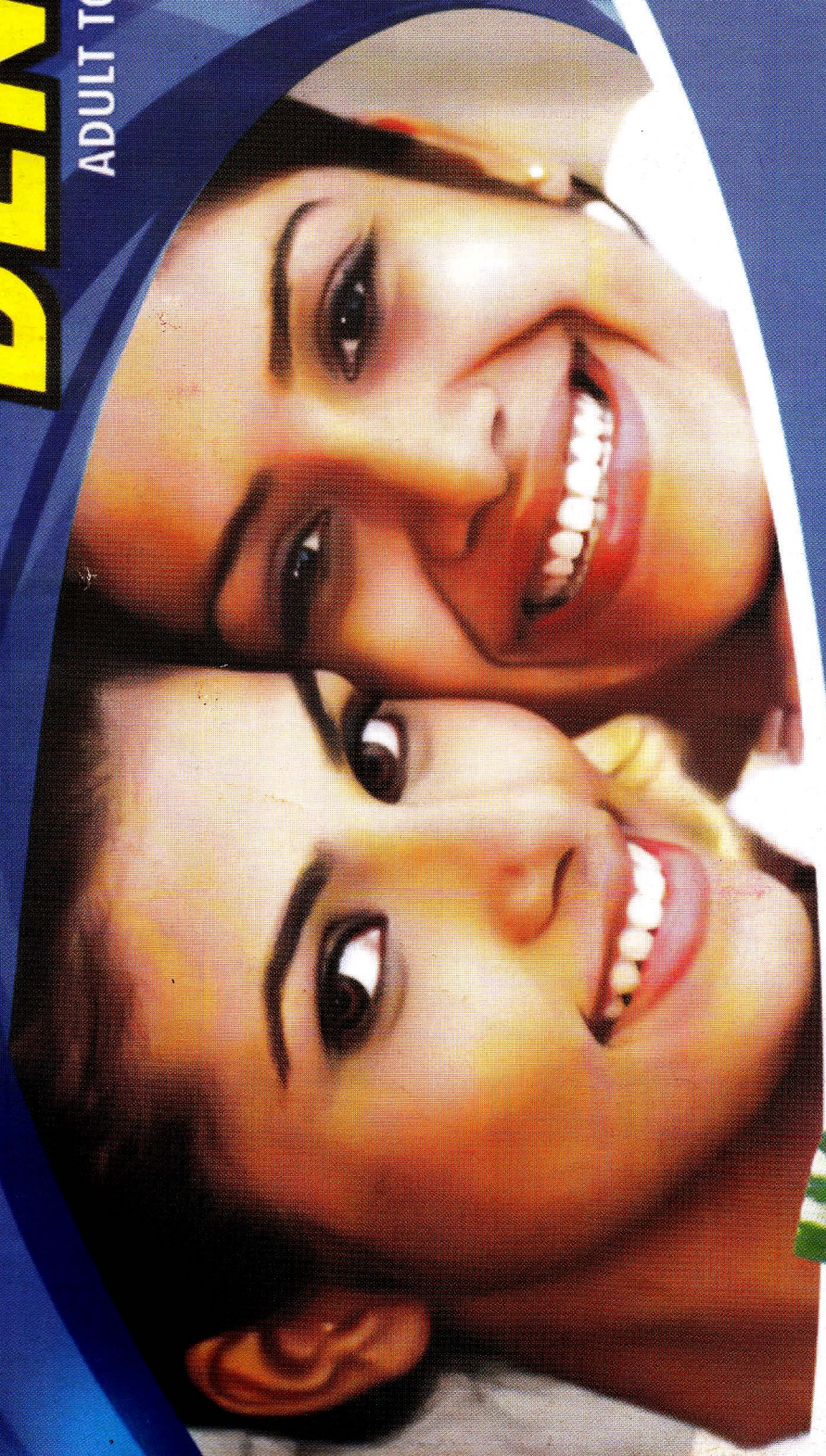
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