

With Best Wishes.

from



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Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College

GOLDEN JUBILEE 1944-94

Organised by
Past Pupils' Association
Colombo Branch

Chief Guest
Mr. M. Sivasithamparam

Guests of Honour
Hon. Justice S. Anandacoomaraswamy

Mr. K. Ganeshalingam
Acting Mayor of Colombo Municipal Council

Sasakawa Hall, Colombo 3 23rd April 1994 at 5.00 p.m.

Two Chief Founder Members



The late Dr. C. Sabhapati



The late Mr. M. Karthigesu

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF GUEST

WE ARE PROUD OF VADA HINDU GIRLS' COLLEGE

Mahathma Gandhi once observed, "If you teach a man, you teach only an individual but if you teach a woman, you teach an entire family." Acting on such dictums, Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan founded the Ramanathan College to give education to girls with due emphasis on Tamil Language, Hidu Culture and values. Some philanthropists of Vadamaradchy founded such an institution in Vadamaradchy. Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College has carried the lofty traditions of Hindu education for over fifty years.

Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College was lucky to have had Principals and teachers who had dedicated themselves in the pursuit of excellence in education. Vada Hindu Girls' College has produced its share of Doctors and other Professional ladies but its signal service was to produce heads of families who were steeped in Hindu Culture and values. In a crowd of ladies, it is so easy to pick out old girls of Vadamaradchy Hindu with their characteristic deportment.

No history of Vada Hindu Girls' College will be complete without referring to an event which was unique on its own way. When the S.L.F.P. Government decided to take over all private schools, the Management of Vada Hindu Girls' College, refused to hand over the school and decided to run it as a non-fee levying private school. In the face of the opposition from the Government, this task was difficult but the veteran teacher, Mr. S. Veerasingham, Emeritus Principal of Sri Somaskanda College Puthur kept the school going for some time. Ultimately the School was handed over. Miss

Lighting of Traditional Oil Lamp



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Mrs. V. Sooriyakumaran



President Mrs. J. Chandrasekharan



Vice President
Mrs. S. Coomarasamy



Deputy President
Mrs. R. Veeravagu

Charavanamuttu came back as Principal and the College marched from success to success.

Vada Hindu Girls' College gave a new orientation and impetus to Tamil Music and Dance. On one occasion, Mr. Kapur, the then Indian High Commissioner wanted to visit a Hindu Girls' Institution. I took him to Vada Hindu Girls' College. This was during the Navarathiri Festivals. There was a most inspiring religious atmosphere and some girls gave a display of a Veena Orchestra. The High Commissioner was highly impressed and said "College and the Veena performance compared most favourably with any College in India." I feel indeed proud.

While we from Vadamaradchy are justifiably elated at what Vada Hindu Girls' College had achieved, let us resolve that all of us, individually and collectively will strive to the utmost to make Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College a shining jewel in the well be-decked garland that adorns Vadamaradchy.

14-03-1994

M. Sivasithamparam

Lighting of Traditional Oil Lamp



Long Standing Senior Teacher & Vice Principal Mrs. C. Ratnasamy



Editor Mrs. P. Jayaratnam



Vice President Mrs. Kathirgamanathan

MESSAGE FROM THE HON'BLE JUSTICE SIVARAMALINGAM ANANDACOOMARASWAMY

At the request of the committee of the Past Pupils' Association of the Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College I have great pleasure in sending this message on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College, which was born and grew up within my sight and hearing at Point Pedro.

The necessity of having a Hindu College for Hindu Girls was long felt and the finders took a bold step of building a College in Vadamaradchy for the Hindu Girls of Vadamaradchy. The founders' first step was to collect funds which was and is the most difficult task for any venture. Therefore they decided to request all men and women of some financial standing to contribute one month's earning in instalments. That was the wisest move and all readily complied with that request. The founders had no other backing except the moral support of all Hindus who were equally convinced for the need of a Hindu institution. The institution grew up steadily.

As the college approached sixteen years of age there was a politico-educational storm which shook very much the very foundation of the College. Schools were to be either private or state schools. For some reason or other the Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College authorities decided to go private. It ultimately ended up with the Hindu Educational Society challenging the Act of the Minister of Education in taking over the Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College.

The Supreme Court decided in favour of the Vadamaradchy Hindu Educational Society and College continued to be private for some more time until it was

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voluntarily handed over to the State. During this period of transition the College underwent several hardships and I am glad to say that it withstood the test of time. Students in large numbers left the College and found refuge in neighbouring schools. One wondered whether the College was approaching its end and the purpose for which it was fast vanishing.

An institution can survive and progress or it can merely exist or it may cease to exist.

I have read with admiration the history of the progress of Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College. It has withstood many vicissitudes in its short life. Last ten years too the College underwent lot of difficulties due to the situation in the war-torn area. However both the staff and students worked untiringly towards their goal. The College celebrates the Golden Jubilee this year, and our thanks go to all the benefactors who were responsible for this institution. The founders had not spent their time, money and energy in vain. They have achieved their purpose in establishing a Hindu College for the Hindu Girls of that area.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Committee of the Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College Past Pupils' Association in giving me the opportunity and privilege to send this message on this Golden Jubilee Celebration of the College.

I also wish the Principal, Staff and Students of the College to maintain the standards they have maintained so far and continue to maintain hindu traditions and cultural background, without which education will have no meaning.

S. Anandacoomaraswamy LLM. (Col)
(Judge of the Court of Appeal of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka)

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MESSAGE From ACTING MAYOR OF COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Being a Native Son of Vadamaradchy, I am indeed pleased to extend this message on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College, organised by the Past Pupils' Association - Colombo Branch.

50 years is a milestone in the History of this College, which has during this period, in the best traditions of a fine educational institution produced many outstanding Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers, Teachers and above all loving mothers and dutiful wives. They all have a common bond of fierce loyalty to their School. This is evident by this well organised Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

While extending my best wishes for the success of this Golden Jubilee Celebrations, my prayer is that Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College continue to serve the educational needs of the Girls in the Vadamaradchy area for very many generations to come.

K. Ganeshalingan Acting Mayor Colombo Municipal Council

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Past Teachers who are Members of the Association



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திருமதி மீனாக்ஷி பொன்னுத்துரை முதல் அதிபர் வடமராட்சி இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரி

''மங்கையராகப் பிறப்பதற்கே நல்ல மாதவம் செய்திட வேண்டுமம்மா, மங்கையர் கைநலத்தாலல்லோ இந்தப்பாரில் வளருதம்மா'' கவிமணி என் றவர் அறங்கள் வினாயகம்பிள்ளை. இதே கருத்தினை அண்மையில் நம்மை விட்டு விண்ணுலகம் சென்ற ஆன்மீக வள்ளல் திருமுருக கிருபானந்த வாரியார் - ''தாய்மார்கள் உள்ளவரை சமயம் இருந்தே தீரும்'' என்று ஒரே வாக்கியத்தில் பெண்ணின் பெருமையை உயர்த்திவிட்டார். பெண்ணினத்திற்கு மணிமகுடமாகத் திகழ்வது தாய்மை. இதனைப் பன்மடங்கு மின்னச் செய்வது பெண்களின் கல்வி. ஒரு பெண் கல்வி கற்பதனால் ஒரு குடும்பம் வளர்ச்சி பெறும். இது யாவரும் ஆண் மகன் தந்தையாகவும் அறிந்த உண்மை. ஓர் கணவனாகவும் மாத்திரம் ஆக முடியும். ஆனால் பெண்ணோ

> கார்யேஷா தாஸி - கரணேஷா மந்திரி ரூபேச லக்ஷ்மி - க்ஷ மயா தரித்திரீ போஜ்யேஷா மாதா - சயனேது ரம்பா ஷட்கர்மயுக்தா - குல தர்ம பத்னி //

கணவனுக்குப் பணி புரியும் போது தாளியாகவும், யோஜனைகள் கூறும் போது மந்திரியாகவும், அழகில் லக்ஷ்மியாகவும், பொறுமையில் பூமித்தாயாகவும், உணவளிக்கும் போது தாயாகவும், படுக்கை அறையில், ரம்பையாகவும் கடமை ஆற்றுவார். அதாவது மனைவி என்பவள் இத்தனை கைங்கரியங்களையும் ஒருங்கே செய்பவள் என்பது ஆன்றோர் வாக்கு.

இத்தகைய உயர்ந்த கருத்துகளை நனவாக்குவது போல ''வடமராட்சி இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரி 1944 ம் ஆண்டு மே மாதம் உருவாகியது. 1945 ம் ஆண்டு திருவாளர் M. கார்த்திகேசர் என்னை இக்கல்லூரியின் முதல் அதிபராக நியமித்தார். இப்பொழுது நான் இக்கல்லூரியின் வளர்ச்சியை குறித்து மிகவும் பெருமையடைகிறேன். முதல் அதிபராகவும் எனது முதல் ஆசிரியப் பதவியானதினாலும் ஒரு தாய்க்கு தன் மூத்த குழந்தையின் மேல் ஒரு தனிப்பாசம் இருப்பது போல, வடமராட்சி இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரி என்ற உடனே என் உள்ளம் பூரிக்கும் என் நெஞ்சம் நெகிமும்.

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பார் புகழும் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் அறிவுச் சுடர்கள் ஒளிவீசிய வடமராட்சியில், ஓர் பெண் கல்வியை வளர்க்க முன் வந்த பாடசாலை, வடமராட்சி இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரி ஆகும். ஓர் பெரிய ஆல மரமானது ஒரு மிகச்சிறிய விதையில் அடங்கியிருக்குமோ அதே போல் நல்ல மனத்தூய்மையுடன் விதைத்த இந்த சிறிய கல்வி கூடம் இன்று வானளவு உயர்ந்து வளர்கின்றது என்பதையிட்டு பெருமைப்படுகின்றேன்.

மனிதன் மண்ணையும் விண்ணையும் விண்ணுவகையும் தாண்டி விஞ்ஞானத்தின் உச்சியில் உலவும் இந்த கால கட்டத்தில் மேலை நாட்டு நாகரீகம் நம்மை சூழ்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கும் நேரத்திலும் கூட சைவ உணர்வையும் சைவ மரபுகளையும் இன்னும் மாணவர்களின் உள்ளத் தடத்தில் ஊடுருவி நிலைக்கச் செய்வது இந்தக் கல்லூரி ஆகும்.

சைவமும் தமிழும் ஒருங்கே இணைந்து பெண்கள் ஒழுக்கம் என்பவற்றிற்கு ஓர் எடுத்துக் காட்டாகத் திகழும் இக்கல்லூரி ஓங்கி வேண்டும் என்று வளர இறைவனை இக்கல் லூரியின் அதிபராக ேயண்டுகின்றேன். முதல் இருந்ததற்கு பெருமைப்படுகிறேன். மணியும் அதன் ஒலியும் மலரும் அதன் மணமும் நிலவும் அதன் குளிர்மையும் போல தமிழும் ஒன் று சேர்ந்து வாழ்க சைவமும் வாழ்த்துகிறேன்.

> திருமதி மீனாக்ஷி பொன்னுத்துரை B.A. (Hons.) தெலுங்கு அறிவிப்பாளர் SLBC

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MESSAGE FROM Dr. C. P. PILLAI

It is with a sense of pride and gratitude to the people of Vadamaradchy that I pen these few lines to congratulate them on the progress and achievement of their School over the past 50 years.

When this school was established, I was a young man of 24 years, fresh from revolutionary Bengal and having gone to Calcutta to do a "ground-breaking" professional course, quite unknown in my family circles, that of a Veterinary Surgeon.

Liberation of Hindu women of my "kurichi" who were labouring under conservative religious and social fundamentalism was foremost in my mind. I did not have the clout to change things. My own sisters were affected by these harsh social practices. They could not go to school after attaining age, although they were children of a prosperous lawyer.

Therefore, it was a great relief that my maternal uncle Dr.C.Sabhapati, among others provided the leadership and the financial resources to establish the Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College in July 1944. They were progressive, generous and selfless people. Hence, the progress of the School through all these hard days.

Now on, it can go forward notwithstanding the current harsh political and security environment.

To mark the Golden Jubilee of the School, I have arranged with the President of the Past Pupils' Association of the School to establish a PRIZE, to be offered annually, to the best student in Mathematics in G.C.E. 'O' or 'A' Level of the school. This is to be called "GNANAMBIKAI PERUMALPILLAI PRIZE", in memory of my late wife who was a University of London graduate in Mathematics and had been a Graduate Teacher of the subject for nearly 20 years at University entrance level.

I wish the school continued progress and fame in academic circles and in the community.

Dr. C. P. PILLAI

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EDITORIAL

This souvenir has been brought out by the Past Pupils' Association, Colombo Branch, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College, Point Pedro, established in 1944 by a handful of Hindu Educationists of Vadamaradchy.

Fifty Years After

Fifty years in the life span of an institution is a watershed or a memorable event. It is not only an event for jubilation and celebration but also an occasion for stock-taking and appraisal. It provides an opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to the ideals of the founding fathers and if need be to re-define our goals and aspirations in keeping with the needs of the present and future.

North Ceylon though not blessed with the bounties of Nature, has been blessed with a rich harvest of educated men and women, mainly due to the fact that in the early decades of the 19th century, Jaffna was provided with Educational Institutions of excellence - thanks to the pioneering work of Foreign Missionaries. But there's the rub - for, those who passed out from the portals of those Machinery Institutions, sad to say, became alienated from their religious culture and time tested Hindu traditions and values.

It was the great Hindu revivalist Arumuga Navalar, himself a product of Missionary Education who braved to thwart the missionary monopoly in education. He was followed by Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan who established two leading Hindu Colleges, one for girls and the other for boys in the early twentieth century. Later a network of Hindu schools were established by the Hindu Board of Education.

A Hindu school exclusively for girls was established in 1944 by a handful of educated and dedicated men against heavy odds. Notwithstanding the scarcities and gloom of the closing stages of World War II the founding fathers undauntedly embarked on their ideal of a Hindu Seat of learning for girls.

The school had small beginnings but grew from strength to strength until it became a Grade I institution in 1954. Now the College is rightly proud of its numerous Doctors, Engineers, Graduate Teachers of Art and Science - a male domain till recently,

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and the countless number of housewives who passed out of Vada Hindu, a boon to society for when a girl is educated, a lamp of learning is lit, this in turn illumines a whole family and the society at large.

While we salute the industry and vision of our heroic Founding Fathers, we also bow our heads to the Principals and dedicated teachers who have contributed their mite to the welfare and progress of the school. The present Principal and staff are doing their utmost to carry on the noble traditions of the school, despite the most trying situation in the North, bereft of some of the basic necessities. Thanks to the parents of the North whose main concern is the broadening of the mental and spiritual horizons of these children that they sacrifice their leisure and happiness, to attain this end. It is aptly said, "while the father makes hay in Jaffna, the son shines in Colombo."

We as past students of V.H.G.C. owe a debt of gratitude to our beloved Alma Mater. We need to answer her clarion call for help and assistance. The Colombo branch of the P.P.A. is endeavouring to help and invite all old girls and well-wishers to rally round and give all support at the present juncture an era of encircling gloom and darkness in the North.

In conclusion our grateful thanks to the contributors of articles and messages and felicitations. We thank those who placed advertisements in the publication and last but not least the old students and well-wishers who have contributed financially or otherwise in bringing out this Souvenir.

OLD STUDENTS AND WELL-WISHERS RALLY ROUND YOUR BELOVED SCHOOL

Mrs. P. Jayaratnam Editor

P.S.

Our grateful thanks to Arasan Printers for an excellent job done at short notice.

With Best Wishes

from



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



We are happy that our distinguished alumni in Colombo are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Alma Mater with a grateful love which she richly deserves.

Vada Hindu Girls' College ranks today as one of the foremost institutions of learning. Thanks to the vision of her founders and the dedication and devotion of her Principal, Teachers and Pupils.

Her record in moulding healthy, intelligent, disciplined and accomplished girls steeped in Hindu Culture and Hindu Traditions as ordained by her founders and well-wishers keeps her in eternal prestige both at home and abroad.

Her fortunate offsprings, occupying eminent positions in all walks of life and spheres of influence, therefore, have a delightful duty to felicitate their "Bounteous Mother" on her Fiftieth Birth Anniversary with a grand show of love and affection.

We are sure the function will be a brilliant success going by the galaxy of the past pupils engaged with it and the ranks of the guests and well-wishers honouring it. This historic event mirroring the beauty and bounty of the College will have the admiration of the world and inspire the present and the future generations to rally round her flag of fame.

Our Souvenir that is blossoming on this Red Letter Day will be a cherished possession in the homes and libraries of many thousands attached to Vada Hindu in eternal love.

We are sad and disappointed that the current situation denies us the privilege, pride and pleasure of personal participation in this momentous occasion. However, with hearts that will beat in pleasant harmony with yours, we send our warmest greetings and best wishes to the Past Pupils' Association, while at the same time acknowledging our debt to your magnanimous solicitude which is one of the most important factors behind the success of Our College.

May God Bless You All and keep all of us bound to our Alma Mater in perpetual glory.

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அதிபரின் செய்தி

வடமராட்சி வாழ் பொதுமக்களாலே பொன்னெழுத்துக் களால் பொறிக்கப்பட வேண்டிய தினம், 1944ம் ஆண்டு ஆனி மாத அனுஷ நன்னாள். இன்று ஐம்பதாண்டு காலம் பூர்த்தியாக்கி பொன் விழாக் காணும் பெருமையோடு இளமை குன்றா எழிலுடன் விளங்குகின்றது வடமராட்சி இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரி.

பொன் விழா நடவடிக்கையின் முதல் முயற்சியாக இச் சஞ்சிகை வெளியீடு அமைவது முற்றிலும் பொருத்தமே. அதிலும் 1992ல் முன்னாள் அதிபர் செல்வி சரவணமுத்துவின் அஞ்சலிச் செயற்பாட்டுடன் ஆரம்பித்த பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம் கொழும்புக் கிளை, தனது இரண்டாண்டு முதிர்வில் போன் விழாக் கொண்டாட்டத்தில் தன்னை ஈடுபடுத்திச் சஞ்சிகை வெளியிடுவதால் கல்லூரி அன்னை பெருமையும் நிறைவும் அடைகின்றாள் என்பதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. நாமும் மட்டிலா மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகின்றோம்.

சைவத் தமிழ் கலாச்சார மரபில் நின்று பெண்மையைப் போற்றிப் பெண்ணின் விடுதலைக்கு வித்திடும் வண்ணம் அவர்கள் சுய சிந்தனையைத் தட்டி எழுப்பி எழுச்சி காண வைத்தது எமது கல்லூரி. இன்றும் பெண்களுக்கான தனி உயர்கலைக் கல்லூரியாக அமைந்து ஆரம்பக் கல்வியிலிருந்து உயர்கல்வி வரை அறிவியலிலும் ஆற்றலிலும் ஆளுமையிலும் மேம்பட்ட அன்பு வழிச் சமுதாயத்தை உருவாக்குகிறது. ஐம்பதாண்டு வரலாற்றைப் பெற்றுள்ள கல்லூரித் தாயின் பராமரிப்பில் வளர்ந்த மைந்தர் குழாம் எங்கிருப்பினும் பொன் விழாச் செய்தி கண்டு குதூக்கிப்பர். அவர்களது அருள்மிகு பார்வை பெருகப் பெருக கல்லூரி வளர்ச்சியும் ஓங்கிப் பெருகும். இதற்குப் ′பழைய மாணவ சங்கக் சஞ்சிகை கிளையின் வெளியீடு கொழும்புக் தக்க சான்றாகும்.

வெண்கட்டிக்குக் கூட தட்டுப்பாடு நிலவும் போர்க்காலச் சூழலில் இயங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் அன்னை, கல் <u>ல</u>ூரி .சங்கத்**தின்** கொழும்புவாழ் பழைய மாணவர் நிறைகிறாள், அரவணைப்பால் உள்ளம் கொள்கிறாள். தலை நிமிர் ந்து நிற்கும் தைரியத்தை அடைகிறாள் என்பது சொல்லித் தெரிய வேண்டியதில்லை. கல் லூரியின் பெருமளவினைக் கல்விநிதியில் எமது

கொடுத்துதவிய கொழும்பு பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம் சமீப ஆண்டுப் புலமைப் பரிசில் 5ம் மாணவர்களுக்குத் தலா ஆயிரம் ரூபா கொடுத்துதவிய இச் செயல் இளைய தலை முறைக்குக் கை கொடுத்ததோடு அனைவரது நன்றியையும் பாராட்டையும் பெற்றது. இவ்வுதவி மாணவர் வரவுக்கு நிச்சயம் ஓர் உந்து சக்தியாக அமையும். இச் செயற்பாடுகளால் இங்குள்ள எமது பழைய அபிவிருத்திச் பாடசாலை சங்கம் ஆகியனவும் ஊக்கமும் ஆக்கமும் பெற்று உயர வழி கிடைக்கிறது.

இன்றைய எமது ஆசிரிய குழாமில் ஐம்பது வீதத்தினர் வரையில் பழைய மாணவர்களாக உளர். கொழும்பிலுள்ள பழைய மாணவர்களின் முன்மாதிரியான செயற்பாடுகள் அவர்களது முயற்சிக்குப் பெரிதும் உறுதுணையாக அமைந்து கல்லூரியின் எதிர்காலத்தை மலர வழிவகுக்கும் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை.

வலிமையும் உறுதியும் கொண்டிருக்கும் பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம் பரந்து விரிந்து, ஆழிசூழ் இலங்கைக்கு அப்பாலும் மணம் பரப்பிக் கல்லூரி வளர்ச்சிக்குக் கை கொடுக்க வேண்டும் என்று இறைவனை வேண்டுகிறேன். எமது கல்லூரியின் முன்னேற்றத்தில் மிக்க அக்கறையுடன் செயற்படும் கொழும்பு மாணவர் சங்கத்துக்கு இங்குள்ள அனைவரது சார்பிலும் எனது நன்றிகள்.

''நீ வளர்ந்து மரமாகி நிழல் தரும் காலம் வரை நானும் இங்கு நிமிர்ந்து நிற்பேன் செல்வமகளே''

இது கல்லூரி அன்னையின் ஆசீர்வாதம்.

காலங்கள் மாறலாம். காட்சிகள் மாறலாம். ஆனால் கல்லூரியின் உயர் இலட்சியம் என்றும் வளர வேண்டும்.

திருமதி லோ. குமாரசாமி

கொழும்பு மாணவர் சங்கத்திற்கு எமது வாழ்த்துக்கள் வடமராட்சி இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரி பருத்தித்துறை

VADAMARADCHY HINDU GIRLS' COLLEGE PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION FIRST ANNUAL REPORT 1992 - 93

1. Formation

The Association founded on the initiative of certain dedicated and enthusiastic past pupils was formally established on March 18th, 1992 at a Meeting at Ramanathan Ladies' College, Bambalapitiya.

At the request of the Members at that time I was accorded the honour of being the President of the Association. The chief office bearers elected were the Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and the Executive Committee.

2. Objectives

The chief objective of the Association was to serve as a focal point for the past pupils and former staff. While encouraging the formation of Branch Associations elsewhere, your Association was expected to give lead and guidance to them. A further aspect was also to establish contacts with and support from the large numbers of past students overseas.

The second major objective was to serve the School by giving encouragement and assistance in its educational facilities, career prospects of students and their employment opportunities.

3. Activities

Many of our important activities are reflected in this report under financial matters.

In our general work, the major social event was the well attended lunch and cultural program that followed, which served also to make known and to advertise the functioning of our Association. The occasion also had some Press coverage.

4. Financial Matters

Our focus was the collection of funds from past pupils - mostly abroad - sending letters to relatives and friends residing abroad, and requesting them to send whatever they could With the Best Compliments

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whenever it was possible for them. Funds have been coming in from past pupils in Australia and Canada and though there has been no big rush, yet, we live in hope for the future. There have been letters of promise from U.K. and Canada indicating willingness to contact as many as possible and send us a bulk sum.

In the meantime, with whatever funds were made available to us, we are pleased to inform you that a Fixed Deposit and Current Accounts have been opened in the name of the Association at Hatton National Bank Headquarters, Colombo.

A separate Scholarship Fund was also launched at the second meeting, on the initiative of your President, and the response was extremely good. In addition to this, individual donations of Rs. 10,000/- each by members have given us great encouragement. From these amounts, we hope to grant scholarship to the successful candidates at the recent year 5 exams. conducted by the Department of Education. Since the full results have not been released to the School, the money earmarked for this has not been actually sent, though our Principal has already made an announcement to this effect at the School Assembly.

5. Other Statements

The Statements by the Secretary and Treasurer will be placed before this Meeting.

6. Closing Observations

It has been a pleasure working with the Executive Committee, and I thank them and also all the Members of the Association and look forward to greater progress in the years to come.

I myself, and some others of our Members, are not old Students, but past Principal, Vice Principal and Teachers. On my behalf, and theirs, I must convey my admiration and thanks for the enthusiasm, and work of the real Old Students; and look in particular to our younger members, present and yet to join us, for the future growth and strength of our Association.

I thank you all.

We Meet and Greet the Principal





MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

An old girl, old teacher and current President of Vada Hindu Girls' College Past Pupils' Association, Colombo Branch, Mrs. J. Chandrasekharan welcomes....

Welcome everybody and share with us our joy and jubilation in celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Alma Mater.

"Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College is fifty years young" this year. Educational institutions never grow old and they are for all times. Our College is a unique achievement by the leading culture conscious and dedicated intellectuals of Point Pedro who felt the crying need of a Hindu School for the girls of the area.

Though the foundation was laid for a Hall and Office on 05 July 1944, with about thirty students and three teachers, Thilagacca, Savithriacca and Kamalacca, officially, classes began in January 1945 with more than hundred students. Two weeks before the official opening a public meeting was organised by the 'Vadamaradchy Hindu Educational Society' headed by the late Dr. C. Sabapathi and other Founder Members where they outlined the objects in starting the school. (Unfortunately the leader passed away in April the same year and did not live to see the fruits of his labour. However, his son-in-law and daughter Mr. & Mrs. Navaratnarajah continued his good work and even put up a Physics Lab in his memory.) There were classes from Kindergarten to the Junior School Certificate. Some of us have had the good fortune to be the first batch and were lucky to learn under competent and devoted teachers. Just to mention there was the late Mr. M. Karthigesu, retired Principal of Kokuvil Hindu College. The late Mr. V. T. S. Sivagurunathan, retired Headmaster of Ananda College and our Principal on that day was none other than the silver tongued orator and the pretty and stern looking young Mrs. Meenakshy Ponnudurai! They were followed by Miss Pasupathy Iver, Mrs. Sooriyakumran, Miss Kanagasabai, Mrs. Nallathamby, the late Mrs. Thiyagarajah and others and thanks to their hard work our results at the S.S.C. in 1947 was hundred percent, with three of us getting exemption from London Matriculation. Unbelievable now, but then our results appeared in the Ceylon Daily News!

A significant event which is green in my memory is the grand opening of our 'Big Hall', the biggest then in Jaffna and built by a very 'big' businessman, the late Mr. S. S. Saravanamuttu, in the present premises donated by another founder member the late Mr. M. A. Thangarajah.

It was in the year 1946, the Hall was packed to capacity and on the stage was the then Minister of Education Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara. Flanked on either side were the then Director of Education the late Mr. K. Arulnandy and late Mrs. Pathmasani Rajendram, a tamil Pundit, both from Vadamaradchy, along with other distinguished Founder Members. The pitch dark, but charismatic minister rose to speak. There was pin drop silence. The minister declared "I am one of you. I am indeed a Tamil. What better proof do you need other than my name 'Kannang Kariyar'." The audience burst into thunderous applause!

While I was a teacher and during the time of the late Miss Charavanamuttu, the 'Mothers Union' was formed and Mrs. Sivaramalingam was our first President, Mrs. Sathasivam the Treasurer and I was the Secretary. This association did a lot to foster good relations between the parents and teachers and we got together and worked for the uplift of the school!

And as an old girl I had the privilege of being on the same stage with our then M.P. of our area Mr. Sivasithamparam in one of the Founders' Day Celebrations. Mr. Sivasithamparam has always associated himself with the functions of the school and has done a lot for its advancement.

Five decades have passed since inception and today our College stands aloft as one among the many leading schools providing all facilities to the student population and producing first class citizens in all walks of life - Doctors, Engineers, Accountants, Attorneys-at-Law, Administrators (sorry, so far, no members of Parliament) but above all, women, true to our religion and culture-devoted wives. I take this opportunity to wish and pray for our

College many more years of glorious achievements and successful endeavours.

Our Association on the other hand, is only two years old now. Like Rip Van Winckle we had slept for a long time and woke up only when the Broadcasting Corporation of Sri Lanka time and again, announced the death of Miss K. Charavanamuttu, one time Principal of Vadamaradchy. Rudely shaken up, more than fifty of us lined up and paid our respects on her last journey. Acting fast, within a short period, we had our inaugural meeting on 23 March 1992. Thanks to the grit and determination of past pupils and teachers we have done fairly well to help our present students who are undergoing severe hardship. We are determined to make up for lost time.

In this we are indeed very lucky to have had Mrs. V. Sooriyakumaran as our first President. [Her first year report appears elsewhere]. She had been a true guide and guardian watching and helping us to steer the association through a path of action and achievement. At our first Annual General Meeting when she declined to continue to be president and the mantle fell on me, we were completely shattered. However, we plucked up courage and here we are, at another year's end.

At this juncture, I would place on record our grateful thanks to her yeoman service. In her own words Mrs. Sooriyakumaran went "with a begging bowl" to America, Canada and London and canvassed and solicited support and encouraged old girls over there to form branch associations. Her efforts, we are glad, have paid dividends and we have news that branch associations are being formed in Canada, London and Melbourne. We also express our gratitude to her distinguished husband, Prof. C. Sooriyakumaran who actively supported her and also volunteered to finance the scholarships award when we were short of funds.

I would also place on record the propaganda and contributions collected by Mrs. I. Thavendran and Mrs. S. Cumarasamy, down under, in Australia and New Zealand. Our grateful thanks to Mrs. Y. Ganeshalingam who has helped significantly by overseas and local propaganda and collection. The association is also greatly

indebted to Mrs. R. Veeravagu and Mrs. R. Manicavasagar who helped greatly to swell our funds to meet our current expense. Special mention must be made of Mr. S. Sivarajah, who with his friend Mr. Karunainathan, gave us enormous support and valuable advice.

We are very happy that through the generosity of our members, we have helped the present students to have pipe-borne water.

Some of us also met our present Principal, Mrs. L. Cumarasamy, while she was in Colombo, and got first hand information of conditions over there. At her request, we are exploring ways and means of setting up a Golden Jubilee Fund to render financial assistance to maintain a few basic facilities, from contributions from members and well-wishers, local and abroad. Some of us, in response to the Principal's appeal have promised our books and furniture over there, to a Junior Library which the college proposes to embark as a commemoration for the fiftieth anniversary.

We are also happy that we have raised the number of donors for Memorial Prize for Year V and other class Scholarships from four last year to more than ten this year. We also appeal to members and relatives of Founder Members to come forward and volunteer contributions for Memorial Prizes in their names. This is the only way we can show our appreciation and gratitude to our Founder Members for gifting Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College to the past, present and future students.

Once again my humble greetings and welcome to the three illustrious sons of Vadamaradchy Mr. K. Sivasithamparam, our Chief Speaker, Justice Anandacoomarasamy, our Guest of Honour and Mr. K. Ganeshalingam, our Chief Organiser, and last, but not least to all my brothers and sisters of Vadamaradchy.

கல்லூரிக் கீதம்

பல்லவி

் வட இந்து மங்கையர் கல்லூரி வாழிய வாழி நீடூழி (வட) அநுபல்லவி ஆழி யிறைவன் அருள்நிதம் பாடி பாழ்வினே யகலப் பரிவுடன் பயிலும் (வட) சாணம் ஈழநன் டுடாம் எங்கள் பொன்டுட்டில் திருவளர்ந் தோங்கிடும் பருத்தித் துறையாம் தாழ்விலாத் தலத்தில் தவநெறிச் சங்கம் தமிழ்மகள் மாண்புறத் தரணியி லருளிய (வட) செந்தமிழ் முதலாஞ் சிறந்தநற் க‰யும் சிந்தையை யேற்றும் நந்திரு மறையும் ஏந்தத் துறையிலும் தேர்ந்திடப் பயிற்சி தந்திடும் தர்மம் தனதெனச் சாற்றும் (வட) மங்கையர் பண்பும் இங்குநாம் பயின்று நங்குலம் தழைக்க நாடும் செழிக்கப் பொங்கிடு மன்பும் மங்கிடா வீரமும் எங்கணும் சேவைகள் செய்திட வளரும் (வட) பன்னரும் பெருமைசேர் பரந்தநல் விண்ணே பரிதியும் மதியு மின்றேல் இருட்புண்ணே அன்பெனும் நிலவைப் பொழிபவள் பெண்ணே இன்பக் கதிரொளி காட்டிடுங் கண்ணே நன்மணி விளக்கே மாற்றுயர் பொன்னே

(ഖட)

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PROGRAMME

1. THEVARAM

Dr. (Mrs.) S. Kadirgamar Mrs. Pathmini Kohulapalan

2. LIGHTING OF TRADITIONAL OIL LAMP

3. WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

4. CULTURAL PROGRAMME:

(i) SONG

Mrs. Rajeswary Somasundaram

(ii) DANCE

Miss Thabodhini Ponnampalam &

Miss Vasini Ramachandran

(iii) VEENA

Mrs. Varalakshmi Sritharan and

her Students

* Ramya Ganeshan

* Shyamala Maheswaran

Kalpana Kankeyan

* Sugi Shanmuganathan

* Disha Kandappasegaram

Miruthangam:

* R. Sathishkumar

(iv) BREAK DANCE: Mast. Gajan Illankovan

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PROGRAMME

- (v) VILLU PATTU : Old Girls of Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College
 - * Mrs. Logaranee Sritharan
 - Miss Jeyarani Nadaraja
 - * Miss Anusha Thambiah
 - * Miss Parasakthy Muthukumarasamy
 - * Miss Kiruthika Thurairajah

Miruthangam:

- * Mast. Gajendran Thirukeswaran Harmonium :
- Mrs. Varalakshmi Sritharan
- 5. ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF GUEST: Mr. M. SIVASITHAMPARAM
- 6. ADDRESS BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR:

 Hon. Justice S. ANANDACOOMARASWAMY
- 7. DINNER
- RAFFLE DRAW
- 9. VOTE OF THANKS
- 10. SCHOOL SONG

Cultural Programme









AS I REMEMBER.....

Vada Hindu Girls' College is now a well known institution in the Jaffna district. Among the schools in the area, some of them having been around for nearly two centuries, our school is relatively young. Yet its contribution in the context of the time and place, has been enormous. To be able to appreciate it, we have to go back to the time it was founded to acquaint ourselves with the local society and the valiant efforts of the great men and women who have made this school a reality. What I write here are pure and simple impressions of a student, and later a teacher, and I do not wish to wash away the magic from my memory by seeking confirmation.

Young Hindu Girls in our area those days, did not move around much after a certain age. True, there were many who attended the Methodist Girls' School (it was G.B.S. then), and Ramanathan College and Vembadi Girls' School in other districts, but many more just dropped out of school even before they reached their teens, to stay at home until freedom came with marriage. Even bright girls did not venture to go past the Senior examination. It was at this time that some leaders of the community decided to do something to correct the situation. They went round rallying support to start a new Hindu Girls' School in Vadamaradehy. Parents were persuaded to send their daughters to this school, and they did. Some had left school a few years earlier. So, in late 1944, the new school was born. It was early in 1945, the pioneer, Karthikesu Appa, as he was affectionately known, and a few others visited us and I heard from my parents that my younger sisters and I were to join the new school. I don't recollect having strong feelings either way, and dutifully accepted the change.

It is the first impression which lasts the longest, and I can remember my first year there vividly. This school struck me as completely different from the others. Each morning at the assembly, a few girls stood in front and led the singing of the 'Thevaram' and all the others joined in creating and uplifting atmosphere. My earlier idea of assembly included the singing of 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'God Save the King' (I have absolutely no prejudice against it, in fact that was also a great experience), but this new order was very refreshing. We were drawing 'Kolam' at the entrance and making 'Thoranam' with tender coconut leaves to decorate the place for functions. All this

was fascinating and we were beginning to base our lives on a culture and tradition that was our own, and we were proud of it.

But our school premises was as simple as simple could be. There were cadjan sheds with temporary partitions. Our classroom was at a slightly higher level in the longest shed serving as a stage for a concert or any other function. It was appropriate too, for we the J.S.C. students, about 12 of us, were the highest class in the whole school. As I write, I remember with sadness that besides others, the high-spirited Jayamani and the gentle Amirtham are no longer with us. The class was more like a neighbourhood group than a class. Students those days were a reverent lot and looked with awe upon their teachers especially in bigger schools. Here we felt at ease with them all. Perhaps it was the size of the class or the newness of the school, I felt a greater rapport between the teachers and students.

All the teachers were dedicated to their jobs, and in my mind, some of them, made a very lasting impression. One was Meena Ponnudurai who taught us English language and literature, she introduced us to idioms and accents, and held us spellbound in our poetry and Shakespeare classes. I can still remember how shattered we were, when she announced after a few months, that she would be leaving us. Then there was Lakshmi Pasupati who joined us later, and it still amazes me how much botany we learnt from her within the short period. It was enough to last two years to take us through the Senior examination. Ant it was fun learning under this pleasant lady who was probably in her early twenties at that time.

Purnakka taught us Tamil language and literature. With her tinkling voice she would take us into realms of ancient and modern poetry. And we were made to memorize stanzas from 'Nannool', giving the rules of Tamil grammar in verse, a few of which are still fresh in my memory. Chandrathilakam and Maheswari who had dropped out of school after their Senior examination re-entered the mainstream of education as our teachers. The latter, to the pride of our school, continued her studies after marriage to obtain a doctorate from the University of London and become a leading Tamil scholar.

Then there was my 'grand-teacher' Mr. V.T.S. Sivagurunathan who had taught my father at Ananda College. He was holding a responsible post on the Board of Directors of our schools, but stood in as our Maths teacher. This bubbly old gentleman made Maths not just a subject, but an adventure from the known to the unknown.

We were free to ask questions, and he found sense in our nonsensical questions, and instilled sense with his answers. I cannot remember a time when there was no smile on his face.

Finally, there was Karthikesu Appa who was the substitute for all absentee teachers and taught us almost every subject. He taught us even 'Keerthanam' and several Thevarams. Looking back, I realize how much we have been influenced by learning so many religious hymns and the lives of the saints from 'Periapuranam':

In the few years which followed, the school was changing its appearance. Concrete structures came up and there were several changes in the staff. Among the new faces was Valli, the first President of the OGA. We believed that she was closer to perfection than the others we knew.

Some years later I had the privilege of teaching in our school after my graduation. The Principal then was Miss Charavanamuttu, an ebullient retitred inspectress of schools, who would stop at nothing in her mission to upgrade the school. By then, it was a far cry from the dear sorry looking structure which first met our eyes. There was a very large hall, donated by a leader businessman, Mr. Saravanamuttu and a science laboratory was put up by the family of the late Doctor Sabapathy, who was one of the visionaries of the school. There was a spurt of activity in every sphere. We had inter-house sports meets, Foundation Days, concerts, all grand events. Our girls came back with prizes from inter-school competitions in different categories. The school could be called a great school. In fact, it soon became an 'A' grade cotlege.

Today the school has achieved much, thanks to all those who worked towards it, and I am sure it is the hope of every student, past and present, that it will turn out many more generations of gentle and educated Hindu women.

Get-together 1993











LOOKING BACK ...

It was with a sense of great excitement that I looked forward to going to Vada Hindu Girls' College. The Thambachetty School where I had attended the Lower and Upper Kindergarten (equivalent to Year I and II), was a fairly small vernacular school, Vada Hindu in comparison being where the "big" girls went. Our current P.P.A. President was then "Jayalakshmi Acca" who was in the higher level classes, to be looked upon with awe and respect! When I started at Vada Hindu in 1947 the school had been in session for just 3 years.

At the time I enfolled at Vada Hindu, Classes were being held in sheds with each class consisting of about twenty-five students. I remember the excited anticipation when the first building was built and this was the beginning of the process of replacing all the sheds with classrooms.

Miss Kanagasabai, was our Principal. She enforced a strict code of discipline as well as an enthusiasm for building up the school. She also recruited many teachers from Jaffna, specifically women teachers, who contributed a great deal to the growing reputation of the school. As more students joined the school, the classes grew larger and the need for more extensive facilities grew.

The first building at Vada Hindu to replace the sheds was the Assembly Hall. This was followed, over the years, with an extension of the library and lab., which in their original size had not been able to keep up with the growing needs of the student body.

The original purpose of building the school had been to provide Hindu Girls the opportunity for a good education in English. At that time, the available equivalent option was the Methodist High School (M.H.S.), a Christian missionary school. As a consequence of this, for instance, I can still recite my Sivapuranam flawlessly, having done it every week for so many years at the assemblies on Fridays! While I strongly resisted learning Hinduism at school (those at M.H.S. had the option of not learning Hinduism and I felt grossly ill-used, being forced to learn so many devotional songs), I must admit that I have been grateful ever since I left school for this training in Hinduism. It has given me a quiet, yet powerful, sense of confidence and security in my relationship with the religion, the customs and the faith.

Miss Saravanamuttu, as a teacher, a mentor and Principal, has perhaps been one of the most significant influences in my life. She also, like Miss Kanagasabai before her, did a tremendous amount in contributing to the School's growth in size, stature and repute. At the time that she came in, Vada Hindu had not really had an advanced Level class, so that most students left and went either to Hartley or to M.H.S. Even after A/Level classes had begun, students continued to leave after the G.C.E. O/Level exam.

Miss Saravanamuttu, with single-minded dedication, brought to the School the A/Level classes, introducing at the same time, the Science Stream for the A/L. When I, like many others was about to leave to join Hartley for my A/Ls, Miss Saravanamuttu absolutely refused to let me leave and insisted that I do my A/Ls at Vada Hindu. She ensured that all necessary facilities were provided by the School and her confidence and dedication were justified when I qualified to enter the University from there and again joined the staff when I left the university.

While working with absolute commitment for the advancement of the school, she also managed to find time for individual students and their needs. We must all be very grateful to her for the way in which she built up the School for the benefit of successive generations of students.

In conclusion I must not fail to mention the excellent work of later Principal, Teachers and the present Principal Mrs. L. Kumaraswamy who under extremely difficult conditions have carried on and maintained the standards of the School.

On this occasion of our 50th Jubilee Celebrations we have all rallied round to work for the cause of the school.

Mrs. Indrani Thavendran

நான் கண்ட வட இந்து

இந்து சமுத்திரத்தின் முத்து என விளங்கும் ஈழத்திருநாட்டின் சிகரத்தில், இரத்தினம் பதித்தாற் போல் துலங்கும் பருத்தித்துறைப் பட்டினத்தில் திகழ்கிறது வடமராட்சி இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரி.

்மங்கையராகப் பிறப்பதற்கே நல்ல மாதவம் செய்திட வேண்டுமம்மா'. பெண்ணின் பெருமையே பெருமை. தமிழும் சக்தியின்றேல் சிவமில்லை. சைவமும் தழைத்தோங்கும் வட இந்துவில் நான் கல்வி பயின்ற நாட்கள் பொன்னானவை. ஆயிரத்துத் தொள்ளாயிரத்து ஐம்பத்து மூன்றாம் ஆண்டு 'சின்னச் சின்ன சிறுமிகள் நாமே, சேர்ந்து படிக்க வந்தோமே' என்று நானும் ஆயிரக் கணக்கான மாணவிகளுடன் சேர்ந்து கொண்டேன். சுறுசுறுப்பாக இயங்கும் தேனீக்கள் போல் கல்லூரியில் நாம் படிப்பதில் துடிப்பாக இயங்கினோம். அதிபராயிருந்தார்கள் அம்மணி செல்வி சரவணமுத்து அவர்கள். அதிபரின் தலைமையில் ஆசிரியர் குழாம் கற்றலை நிகழ்த்தி மாணவிகளை வழி நடத்தினர். படிப்பு, பாட்டு, நடன்ம், நாடகம், உடற்பயிற்சி போன்ற அத்தனையும் பயின்று அவற்றில் விழாக்கள் கொண்டாடுவோம். கலை விழா, விளையாட்டு விழா, பரிசளிப்பு விழா போன்றவற்றுக்குத் தலைமை தாங்க வரும் கல்வி அதிகாரிகள் மாணவர் காட்டிய திறமைகளை தம் சிறப்புரைகளில் கூறி மாணவிகள், ஆசிரியர்களைப் பாராட்டி ஊக்குவித்தார்கள். '...... நாலும் கலந்துனக்கு நான் தருவேன்...... நீ எனக்குச் சங்கத் தமிழ் மூன்றும் தா' . என்று ஔவையார் பிள்ளையாரை வேண்டிப் பாடினார். நாம் எதையும் படைக்காமலே காலை வணக்கத்துடன் இயல், இசை, நாடகம் அத்தனையும் ஆசிரியர்களிடம் கற்று அறிவை வளர்த்துக் கொண்டோம்.

நாளொரு மேனியும் பொழுதொரு வண்ணமுமாக நாங்களும் வளர்ந்தோம். எங்கள் அறிவும், திறமையும், ஆற்றலும் கூட விருத்தியடைந்தது. வட்டாரம் நடத்தும் போட்டிகள் அத்தனையிலும் வட இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரி மாணவிகள் தங்கள் திறமைகளைக் காட்டினார்கள். போட்டிகளில் வெற்றி பெற்று வெகுமதிகளுடன் நாங்கள் கல்லூரிக்கு வந்து பாராட்டுக்கள் பெற்ற நாட்களை நான் இன்றும் நினைத்து மகிழ்கிறேன்.

அன்று சைவமும் தமிழும் தழைத் தோங்கச் செய்தார் ஆறுமுக நாவலர். இன்று அந்தப் பணியை வட இந்து மகளிர் கல்லூரி செய்கிறது. பட்டு வண்ணப் பட்டாம் பூச்சிகளாய்ப் பறந்து கொண்டிருந்த நாம் பருவ மங்கையர் ஆனோம். பட்டுப் பாவாடை, தாவணி அணிந்தோம். சித்திரப் பாவைகள் போல் சிரித்து மகிழ்ந்தோம். தை பிறந்தால், கல்லூரி தொடங்கும் நாள், பொங்கல் விழா, சிவராத்திரியில் சிவனைப் பற்றிய பேச்சும், பாட்டும், பிரார்த்தனையும். நவராத்திரி வந்தால் கல்வித் தெய்வம் அவள் காத்திருப்பாள். பத்து நாட்களும் விரதமிருந்து விழா எடுப்போம்.

'கல்வி கரையில, கற்பவை நாட் சில' அங்கு பல கலையும் கற்றுப் பெருமையடைந்தேன். ஆசிரியப் பணிபுரியப் பல் வேறிடங்களுக்கும் சென்றேன். ஆசிரிய ஆலோசக்ரானேன். பிந்துனு வெவ, பண்டாரவ்ளை ஆசிரியர் பயிற்சிக் கல்லூரியில் விரிவுரையாளரானேன். ஆண்டுகள் பல உருண்டோடி ஆயிரத்துத் தொள்ளாயிரத்து எண்பத்து இரண்டாம் ஆண்டு மீண்டும் வட இந்துவில் ஆசிரியப் பணிபுரிய வந்தேன். அன்று நான் கண்ட வட இந்துவை மீண்டும் கண்டேன். களி பேருவகை கொண்டேன். மாதா பிதா குரு தெய்வம். குருசொற் கேட்போம், குணமாய் நடப்போம் என்பது எங்கள் கடமைகளில் ஒன்று. அதை என் வாழ்வில் கடைப்பிடித்தேன். எனக்கு அந்நாளில் அங்கு கல்வி புகட்டிய என் மதிப்புக்குரிய ஆசிரியப் பெருந்தகைகளைக் கண்டேன், தொண்டேன். அவர்கள் என்னை அன்போடு ஆசி கூறி வரவேற்றனர். நான் அடைந்த மகிழ்ச்சிக்கும் பெருமைக்கும் அளவேயில்லை. அவர்கள் திருமதி கனக்சுந்தரம், திருமதி சுப்பிரமணியம், திருமதி குமாரசாமி, திருமதி பாலசிங்கம், திருமதி நடேசபிள்ளை, திருமதி ஏரம்பமூர்த்தி, திருமதி செல்வராஜா ஆகியோர்கள். ஆசிரியர்களோடு ஆசிரியர் களாய் இணைந்தேன்.

மங்கையரை மலரென்பார்கள். தொடுத்த பூமாலையில் நானும் ஒரு மலரானேன். மலர்களின் நறுமணம் வட இந்துவில் மணம் வீசியது. இன்று கொழும்பு மாநகரில் வட இந்து மகளிர் பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம் மலர்ந்து மணம் வீசுகிறது. அதில் நாம் சங்கமமானோம். நாடு நலிவுற்று, பொலிவிழந்த வேளையிலும் எம் கல்லூரி மெருகு குறையாமல் விளங்க இச் சங்கம் பெரும் பணிபுரிகிறது. எம் கல்லூரி பொன் விழா கொண்டாடும் இச் சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் அதன் பொன்னான எதிர்காலத்திற்கு இறைவனை வேண்டுகிறேன்.

> வட இந்து மங்கையர் கல்லூரி வாழிய வாழி நீடூழி

> > கோ. சிவறஞ்சிதபதி

SWEET AND SOUR

This article is in two parts. The first comprises my reminiscences as a student at my Alma Mater from 1956-65 and the second part includes my thoughts as a tutor witnessing what the present day student populace gets from institutions.

The Institution - Bird's Eye View of a Student

After the communal riots of 1956 our family shifted from Amparai to Point Pedro. Three of us in our family were admitted to the school closeby the "Vada Hindu". I joined the 3rd standard.

I remember the music class, we had on my first day. We were under a Banyan tree near the playground, in the Primary Section and were seated on the roots jutting out. After the formal greeting, my classmates announced in a chorus, "Teacher, there's a new girl in our class." I was promptly introduced and before starting the class the teacher asked me to sing a song. I sang "Chittu Kuruvi....." There was a big applause initiated by the teacher. I no longer felt a stranger and quickly got accepted as one of them.

The P.T. classes too were held under the same Banyan tree and I inquired of the teacher, what if the fruits of the huge tree fall on our heads. Without hesitation she said, "That's why Mother Nature has always seen to it that shady trees have tiny fruits. Her words made a deep impression on my young mind and made me a lover of Nature.

Mrs. Ratnam was our class teacher from Std. 3 to 5. We were a mischievous lot and gave her enough problems. She was very tolerant but at the same time did not hesitate to punish us when we neglected our class work. If not for her I would not have passed the Grade 5, N.P.T.A. exam. in the 1st Division and mind you I did not take any private tuition, and for that matter none of us had any notion of it.

I wish to recall my Social Studies classes conducted by Mrs. Vamadeva. She came to us from the Secondary School

across the road and therefore was looked upon with special respect. Her teaching technique was mostly dramatisation - always fascinating to us kids. We had a "Parliament Day" when all of us were transformed into V.I.P.s for a day. To this day I haven't forgotten the names of the ministers.

Then we crossed the road to the Secondary School. The big entrance with the arch bearing the name of the school, attending Assembly with the "Bigger Sisters" in the School Hall, the imposing figure of the Principal, all these gave me a sense of importance and I realised that I was no more a child but a fast growing young girl. The various Clubs and Associations held after school paved the way to develop our talents and taught us to take up responsibility. While the lower secondary gave us many facilities for personal development, the upper secondary catered for Social Development and Social awareness. Our Tamil and Arts Section had the best of teachers, Mrs. S. Balasingam, Miss B. Thanabalasingam and a host of others.

At the upper level we were fortunate to have had good science teachers. Mr. Tiburtius was my Physics teacher. We plunged deep into the subject matter with great ease and used plain teaching methods to explain different 'planes', one normally finds difficult to understand. Along with Physics, he did character building as well. Mrs. C. Ratnasamy our Biology teacher, a perfectionist, always saw to it that we had the necessary specimens so that we would be thorough with the subject, after the practicals. And while I was there at the A/L for a short time Mrs. Krishnapillai inculcated in us good reading habits and introduced us to famous English authors. Miss Y. Kanagaratnam, laid the foundation for a sound English education.

Finally special mention must be made of Miss K. Charavanamuttu, our Principal at that time. I came to know of her intimately when I entered the Hostel for a brief period. - Incidentally we have heard that the donor of the hostel "Thirumanram" Mr. A. Ponniah has passed off. May his Soul Rest in Peace. It may be truly said that Miss Charavanamuttu was a legend during her tenure of office...

Part II "An Institution - Bird's Eye View as a Tutor"

During the recent past there was an influx of both students and teachers from the North and East to Colombo. They were alienated for quite a period and termed "displaced". When I questioned some of them, they replied "We are not wanted. How can we study?", "The extra curricular activities outdo the academic studies." My thoughts went back to the day I went to Vada Hindu as a displaced person. If a teacher cannot identify the potentialities of a newcomer and make her feel wanted in her new environment, problems crop up! The newcomer has no sense of belonging and does not feel secure in her new environment.

Though the infra-structure of a school has not changed much, the available resources are not utilised to the mximum benefit. Modern techniques are not resorted in many cases even in the primary level. How different from the concept of parliament taught and explained to us through mock parliament and dramatisation. The practical approach is sadly neglected, whether it is creative activity at the primary level or for science and agriculture at the secondary level. Unlike those days where the students turned out creatives, sad to say the creativity of the parents are developed and even tested for evaluation of child's performance.

Our Alma Mater provided us with all the facilities, sincere, dedicated, responsible, motivating Principals and teachers to widen our horizon to become full fledged citizens. For this I salute Thee Vada Hindu. "Voila la Vada Hindu!"

Mrs. T. Sripathy
nee Thilagam Duraisingam
(Tutor, Colombo Regional Centre, Dept. of Education NIE)

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SOME SPECIFIC EXPERIENCES at VADA HINDU

"Those days we used to travel by bullock carts to school."

Whenever my grandmother sees the students cycling gaily to school, she would say this. She would hum a song and say it was taught at school. I would make fun of her. But now - after leaving school only, I realise how wonderful the school life is.

Religious functions, prize giving days etc. are common experiences of all students. I would like to share some 'specific' experiences we had at Vada Hindu.

Mirage over Vadamaradchy

It was our history lesson and our teacher was describing the second world war - about Hitler, the atomic bombings, the disaster. Suddenly, a very loud roaring, booming noise made us all jump up. Having had many such 'experiences' we were sure it was a bomber. So we were steeped in an imaginary scene of a terrible war, and as the sound was unusual, probably more thundering, not conscious about the teacher, we all started screaming. The doors, windows, tables and chairs were all shaking - due to the high frequency. We wanted to run, wherever our legs would carry us. However, the teacher with great effort managed to make us lie on the floor, she too squeezed herself under a desk. All of a sudden, we heard our teacher screaming and we all started to scream in chorus. Our teacher, creeped out from underneath the table. She was in tears, laughing so much. "I thought it was a bomb" she said. One of us had crawled near the teacher, and had fallen upon her in fear. Even now, we call her, "the bomb".

Mango Fracas

There stood a mango tree inside the school compound. It's fruits are sour as sour could be. But, for us it was the most delicious thing on earth - when we brought a few down. There were several of us wanting to have a go at it. But, there were only a few. This

resulted in fracas. We were fighting like cats and dogs. We didn't realise the interval bell had rung and our teacher was watching us. As a punishment, we all had to stand out with the mangoes heaped in front of us. It was indeed a funny sight, the whole school laughed at us. After this, whenever we thought of the mangoes, we would say, "those are sour".

Neelambari Raga

Students like to nickname their teachers. We were not exceptions either. We had to carry lunch parcels to school. In the interval we managed to snatch a share from others too. After a heavy meal, daily we had the same subject. The teacher was a very soft spoken lady. So, when she dictated notes, everyone in class would be nodding, or would be struggling to keep the eyes open. Thus, she got her name 'Neelambari' - it's the raga meant for putting people to sleep.

The Cruel Hands of Fate

Now and then an artillery shell would fall here and there and explode, and we would pray "Oh God! Let nobody be injured." We never expected the deadly thing to come down on our school itself. But it happened! On that fateful day the shell fell, and there was a flash. A pre-school student - a little girl was on the ground. Blood, was spurting out from her neck. The poor child though she escaped instant death, sad to say, is still paralysed for life.

The End of School Education

What's your reply, if you were asked "What's the end of school education?" Well, I would reply 'character building' - schools have a great part in mending the character of every individual. Our principal and teachers have always been an example to us. They were kind and they were strict with us.

I am thankful to our dear principal who has at times like our own mother, and to all our teachers who have guided us in the correct path and helped us to achieve our goal in life.

Miss Thulasi Nadarajah

A FEW WORDS ... Miss K. CHARAVANAMUTTU



Miss Kanagamma Charavanamuttu who passed away recently, hailed from an illustrious family in Arialai, Jaffna and had her early education in one of the leading schools in Jaffna, Chundikuli Girls' College, which had produced many outstanding women even at that early period as the twenties. She graduated in

Madras, and later did her post-graduate training at the then University College, Colombo. After a short spell as assistant teacher, at the Jaffna Hindu College, and Ramanathan College. She took charge of the Teacher Training College in Batticaloa, and later joined the inspectorate as an inspectress of schools for science.

In 1952 Miss Charavanamuttu took up the reins of Principal, Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College, with not only the knowledge and experience she had gained at the different institutions, but also with a 'will' to serve. She being a dynamic personality, immediately made her presence felt, and making the best use of the discretionary powers given to principals at that time, set out to select her teaching staff from all parts of the island. She went from Training Colleges to Universities choosing the best. Her administrative ability was such that she was able to enlist the co-operation of every teacher in the school. We who served under her, consider those years as the most fruitful period in our career. Under her guidance the school progressed by leaps and bounds in all its aspects, and soon became a Grade I institution.

Miss Charavanamuttu, being a visionary was able to bring about number of innovations in the school curriculam, both intra and extra mural, what the experts in education are trying to introduce today, was envisaged by her four decades ago. She introduced vocational subjects like pottery, handicraft, weaving and agriculture, and brought in specialised teachers to teach them. She formed a "Mothers' Union", which enabled parents and well-wishers to actively participate in all the activities of the school, thus making the school part and parcel of the community. The school co-operative society introduced by her, in addition to serving a utilitarian purpose, gave a basic training to the pupils in managing their own affairs. The annual "Navarathri Celebrations" conducted on a grand scale was a great impetus to the students, in enriching their religious lives, and widening their scope for aesthetic developments.

She took personal interest in the welfare of the teachers and pupils, especially those living in the school hostel. By residing within close proximity to the school she was able to supervise all the aspects of hostel life.

Miss Charavanamuttu's period may well be called the "Golden Era" in the annals of Vadamaradchy Hindu Girls' College. Her task was indeed immense. She underwent and surmounted many a trauma during her period. Vadamaradchy is greatly indebted to her for building up an institution capable of imparting an all round education to its girls. It was heartening to see numerous past teachers and pupils pay their last respects to their departed Principal.

May her soul rest in peace.

Mrs. C. Ratnasamy

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY & TREASURER

The association has been very active since its inception on 2nd March 1992, when an ad-hoc committee was elected. The first Annual General Meeting was held on 18th March 1992 at Ramanathan Ladies' College, Bambalapitiya with Mrs. V. Sooriyakumaran in the chair. She exhorted the members to take an active part in the association and to work together for the upliftment of our Alma Mater. A draft constitution was presented by Mrs. P. Jeyaratnam and was adopted with a few changes. It was decided that the ad-hoc committee hold office for the current year.

At a General Meeting held on 20th September, the treasurer submitted a report on the financial position & called for an increase of membership. A committee was formed to organise a lunch, which was held on 7th November with Mrs. Ponnudurai - Our first Principal as chief guest. The attendance at the lunch was encouraging.

The Annual General Meeting for 1993 was held on 6th April. Mrs. J. Chandrasekharan who was the Deputy President was unanimously elected president as Mr. Sooriyakumaran declined to continue as president. There were not many changes in the executive committee.

The outgoing President Mrs. Sooriyakumarn was felicitated at a subsequent general meeting held on 7th August and was appointed Vice Patron of the Association. A committee was formed to organise the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and Mrs. P. Jeyaratnam was to be in charge of the magazine. In the same meeting it was decided that the present committee would continue till the Golden Jubilee

Celebrations are over and the Annual General Meeting to be held soon after that. The Treasurer managed to raise a fund to install a kerosine water-pump in the school - after reading the principal's letter at the meeting.

We were fortunate to have Mrs. L. Cumarasamy the present principal at the special general meeting held on 22nd January. She appraised us of the current situation and the urgent needs of the school and thanked the association for its timely help.

We are glad to say that the membership has risen considerably and the response from the past pupils abroad is very encouraging.

In the last two years we are happy to say that the membership had been so supportive and co-operative that we were able to help in our own little way to uplift our College.

We do hope that in the same spirit we will be able to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our College on the 23rd of April.

Mrs. I. Thavendran & Mr. C. Rajasingam (Treasurer) & (Secretary)

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