

EDUCATION



The Grass Hut

The British made no educational provision for the workers or their children as they saw the indentured Indians stay in Natal as 'temporary'. As British subjects, Indians chose to remain in the Colony after the expiration of their indentures. Education was the key to progress and advancement.



Higher Grade Indian School



Arya Yuvak Sabha Hindi Class Springfield 1930

British colonists viewed Indians as illiterate though some could speak and write in their mother tongue - Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, Tamil and Telegu which together with their social customs and religion was imparted to their children but this was not enough to survive in this foreign land.



Telegu Night School South Coast Junction 1913

The void was filled by missionaries. Father Sabou began a private school for 30 Indian children, teaching them English and Tamil. Rev Ralph Stott commenced a day school for workers children and an evening school for older scholars with Henry Nundoo (indentured labourer) as a teacher under his supervision. Dr Booth, started a girls school in those early days.



Natal Indian Teachers 1903



Clairwood Junior Boys



Mrs Simon Vedomuthi
First Qualified Woman Teacher

Notable for instance is the St Aids Provincial Training College (1904-1920) that served as a boys' school, school for Indian Catechists and a Teachers Training College.



Springfield School 1925

The Indian Education Enquiry Commission (1928) by Kallias P. Kichlu showed that facilities were considerably inadequate and made recommendations to extend existing facilities to the towns and countryside.



Henry Nundoo

Even though the community rallied together and raised pound (community) for pound (government) to build their own schools (government aided schools), there were 9 government schools and 43 govt-aided schools (c.1926). Yet facilities were still far from adequate well into the 1980s when platoon schools were still in existence - classrooms were shared while part educational instruction were received in the open.

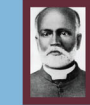
Meanwhile the South African Indian Teachers Association (SAITA), later TASA, worked tirelessly to promote equal educational opportunities and improved teacher and pupil welfare.



Rev Booth



First Government Indian School Umgeni 1884



Rev John Thomas (Head Master Methodist Mission)

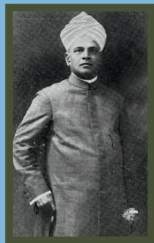


Hillview Primary School 1916



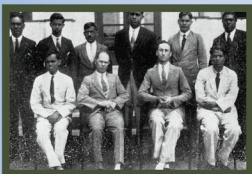
First Conference Natal Indian Teachers Society 1926

EDUCATION (CONTINUED)



Srinivasa Sastru

Srinivasa Sastru, the first Agent General in SA, stressed the urgent need for teacher training. Sastru College, opened in 1930, marked the greatest advance in secondary and tertiary education. It served as a high school and teacher training centre for Indians and was instrumental for a new generation of academics, professionals, politicians and businessmen.

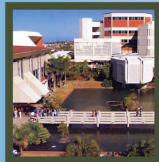


First staff Sastru College - 1930

University education was available at the University of Fort Hare and later at Sastru College in the evenings and over weekends. It was conducted by the University of Natal under Mabel Palmer. These developments were the precursor to the formation of the University of Durban Westville, situated at Salisbury Island which later moved to Chiltern Hills (Westville, 1971). Today the University is part of a multi-racial institution, the University of KwaZulu Natal.



Salisbury Island Students



University of KwaZulu Natal



Surat Hindu Association Gujarati Class Prince Edward Street 1930



Isipingo Hills Madressa Arabic Class 1981



Sastru College



Springfield College of Education



ML Sultan Catering Class

Technical education was afforded by part time classes at Sastru college, until through a generous donation by ML Sultan, a technical College (Present day multi-racial Durban University of Technology) was born.



Dr. Mabel Palmer



Three Female Students Salisbury Island

It was only through great sacrifice and tribulation, that today, the Indian community can boast many academics, engineers, educators, sociologists, physiologists, medical practitioners etc. in all walks of life while still retaining vernacular education.