

Admission Of Pupils To Schools

WITH the 1974 school year just around the corner, parents whose children will be seeking admission to Indian schools in South Africa, should take a careful note of the contents of this article which has been written by an official of the Education Branch of the Department of Indian Affairs.

AGE OF ADMISSION

The Regulations governing the admission of persons to State or State-Aided Schools for Indians, demand that no child may be admitted to school before the year in which the child reaches the age of six years and the child must reach the age of six years before July 1 the age of six years before July 1 the age of six years before July 1 admission. Children born on July 1 of that year and later must wait for the commencement of the following school year.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

An official birth certificate or a copy certified by a District Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths must be produced to the Principal of the school as proof of the age of a child applying for admission to school.

If a parent or guardian declares that a child's birth is not registered, the parent or guardian must furnish proof of the date of birth which together with the application for admission form must be submitted through the Principal of the school where admission is being sought, to the Director of Indian Education for a decision as to whether the proof of age submitted by the parent is accepted as sufficient evidence of the child's age.

In the absence of a proper birth certificate the undermentioned will be considered as sufficient proof of the date of birth by the Director:—

(a) Baptismal Certificate; or



Parents enrolling their children at a school.

- (b) a certified extract from the register of a **registered** midwife or from that of the hospital where the birth took place provided that such certificates are clearly **certified to be true extracts from the registers/records**; or
- (c) a certificate from the doctor **who handled the confinement** reflecting the date of birth **according to his patient record cards**; or
- (d) sworn statements by two **un-prejudiced adults** whose full names, addresses, and relationship to the pupil concerned must be indicated; or
- (e) a determination of age by the District Surgeon.

Parents or guardians seeking admission of their children of school-going age whose births have not been registered, are advised to take immediate steps to secure the necessary documents before the end of the year.

Regional Offices of the Department of Indian Affairs as well as Principals of schools and Indian Child Welfare Societies have been very helpful in the past and their help and advice should be sought. Failure to secure the required documents can mean that the child will not be admitted to school.

If parents comply with these requirements no child will be

debarred from attending school. A earnest appeal is again made to parents to have the births of their children properly registered as early as possible and not to wait until the child attains school-going age. Receipts or evidence to the effect that an application for the late registration of the child's birth has been made are not acceptable as proof of the date of birth of a child and no child will be admitted to school on the production of such evidence only. A birth certificate is the only acceptable evidence of the date of birth of a child and the documents and evidence enumerated above are only accepted as interim evidence as to the age of a child to ensure that no child is debarred from attending school merely because no birth certificate is available. Where a child has been admitted to a school on production of evidence other than a proper birth certificate, it is incumbent upon that parent to produce the proper birth certificate to the Principal as soon as it becomes available.

It may be of interest to parents whose children are about to reach the age at which they can be admitted to school to learn that good reason exists why a child should have reached a particular age before he is admitted to a school where he will receive formal education. Scientific research over many years and in many countries of the world proves generally that until a child reaches the age of seven years he is not yet ready for formal schooling. In South Africa the school admissible age in most educational departments is six and a half years (6½) and a compulsory age of seven years (7).

The strict application of the regulations regarding the age for the admission of children to schools by the Education Division of the Department of Indian Affairs is therefore not designed in any way to exclude children from entering school but rather to ensure that when a child is admitted to a school, he has reached the age which would enable him to derive the greatest benefit from the formal education that he will be receiving at school. □

EATING HABITS

A PERSON must eat to live, and what and how much individuals eat determines largely what their build will be, and whether or not they will be healthy and energetic.

If we look back we will see that early man was pre-eminently a hunter; after many thousands of years an agricultural period followed, during which plant foods were the staple food. Then, in the 18th century, came the Industrial Revolution, which had far-reaching effects on the lives of many people in so far as they did not obtain their food exclusively by gathering or growing it, but also had to buy it.

Basically, what we eat is influenced by food supply, and climatic conditions, soil fertility, geographical situation, transport, food technology and production and marketing facilities will determine which foods will be available. Economic welfare, family eating patterns, social customs, emotional experiences, and education are further factors which play a determining role in establishing eating habits.

FACTORS WHICH MAY INFLUENCE ESTABLISHED EATING HABITS

- **Changing social customs** — Tea parties, dinners, and other special festive occasions are common occurrences. Between-meal-snacks and dishes prepared by **other people**, therefore, form a much larger part of our food intake today than formerly. It has also become customary to invite guests to arrive an hour or more before a meal to have a drink and snacks. This, too, has a strong influence on the kind of food with which the appetite is satisfied.

It is no longer a novelty for the family to have a meal out, and children start at an early age to have meals at public eating places, with the result that the influence of the eating pattern at home is greatly reduced. They also learn to choose what they like and to push aside what they do not like without the fear of being reprimanded.

- **We no longer produce** all the food we eat, but **buy** most of it. This need not be a disadvantage; on the contrary it may even be a great advantage, as shops keep a large variety in stock — larger than any home garden can offer at any time of the year because seasons influence the supply of fresh food. However, because our preferences and dislikes play an important role in buying, our choice of food is often not conducive to good health. In the U.S.A. this has already led to a drop in the intake of vitamins A and C.

As we have to buy nearly everything we need, such essential foods as milk and fruit have to compete with those that are not so essential or those that can be dispensed with — for example, cold drinks, sweets, and cake — and often come off second best. Food, further, has to compete with nonedible items in the spending of rands and cents — many people would rather show off with a luxury car or a hi-fi than with a well fed family!

- **Cunningly worded advertisements and labelling**, both of which have, today, developed into fine arts, are mighty weapons in the hands

of manufacturers in stimulating sales. Methods of promoting turnover influence not only **what** we choose but also **how much**. Pictures of extra large portions of cake, ice-cream, and other delicacies are so deeply imprinted on our minds that, later, "normal" portions look skimpy.

- **The number of mothers who work away from home** is steadily increasing. Inadequate supervision and poor advance planning, especially as far as the midday meal is concerned, result in children getting into the habit of having inferior snacks with a cold drink. Parents, too, sometimes try to make up for their gadding about by giving the children sweets, cake, or cold drinks, which may have a detrimental effect on eating habits and on general health.
- **The availability of convenience foods** already plays a part, and will, in the future, influence the eating patterns of nations more and more.
- **Reduced physical activity** — Our forefathers earned their bread

"by the sweat of their brows". As a result of urbanization, industrialization and mechanization, however, few people are today really physically active, and food intake is being adjusted to energy output — more vegetables and fruit and less of the fuel-laden foods. If this precaution is not taken many more people will, in the course of time, become burdened with undesirable layers of fat and the accompanying problems.

RESULTS OF SURVEYS

Studies undertaken in various countries to determine present eating patterns all indicate similar trends, viz:

There is a greater intake of meat, fish, and some dairy products, in addition to the raised protein intake, also results in an increased intake of animal fat.

There is a decrease in the use of potatoes and cereals. A study of the eating habits of the Canadians indicates, for instance, that cereals provided 29 per cent of the total fuel during the war years, and now only 22 per cent — the reason for this may be that high consumption of

cereals is associated with poverty. At the same time, and possibly as a direct result of this, the fat intake has risen by nearly 25 per cent, and a bigger percentage of the total fuel is therefore provided by fats — especially monounsaturated and saturated fats. The sugar intake, too, has risen, more so amongst the working classes than amongst the more affluent groups.

In the Netherlands the contribution of fat and sugar to the total fuel in the year 1900 was 30-35 per cent; the present percentage is 55-60 per cent. This pattern of increase is also observed locally.

WHAT POSSIBLE DANGERS LURK IN THIS ELEVATED INTAKE OF FAT AND SUGAR?

Overmass, the enemy of modern times, which is closely associated with such complaints as diabetes, gout, high blood pressure, and other such complaints.

The increasing incidence of coronary artery diseases — wrong eating habits are high on the list of possible causes. □

(Department of Health)

The custom of "dining out" is changing the eating habits of many people.



LAUDIUM

and its

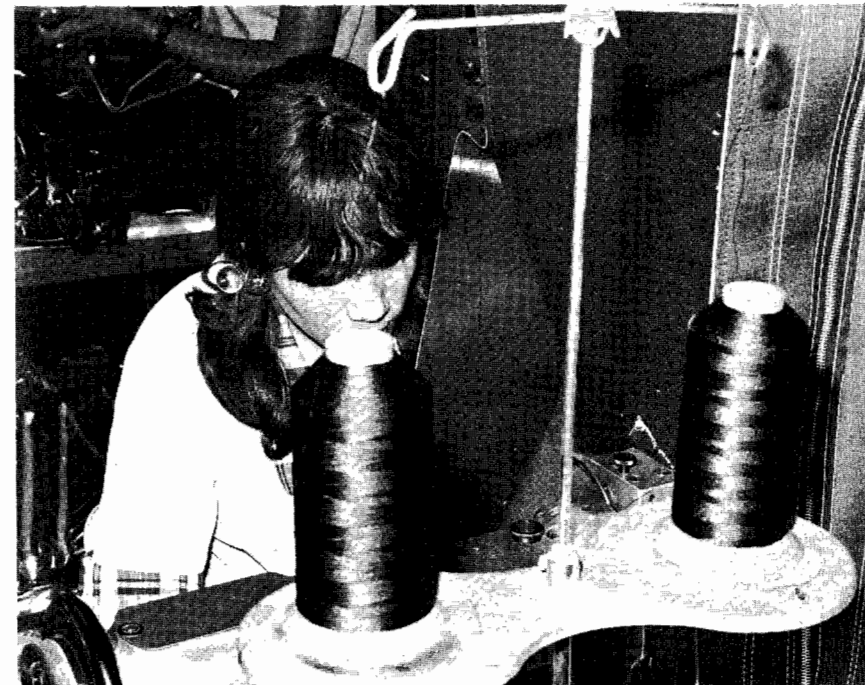
INDUSTRIES



Workers busy on the printing press at Fine Art Printers.

CONSIDERABLE progress in the development of Pretoria's Indian township, Laudium, has been made since Fiat Lux published the article "Laudium — Image of Progress" in the October 1971 issue of the journal.

Machinist at work stitching travel bags at Park Lane Leather Industries.



Representatives of Fiat Lux recently had the opportunity of again visiting Laudium and were impressed with the growth of this attractive township.

Scores of new houses, and several blocks of flats have been erected both by private enterprise and the Pretoria City Council since our last visit and the signs of continued progress are evident on all sides by the many new constructions in the course of erection. The latter includes a new garage with a large showroom and workshop.

A new building to house the existing polony and "small goods" factory — the only Indian-owned undertaking of its kind in the Transvaal — is also under construction. This factory is being built according to modern standards and includes several "cold rooms". When completed it will meet the very stringent health requirements laid down by the Pretoria City Council for this type of industry.

Additions to the factory premises of Fine Art Printers are also in pro-



A new garage in the course of construction at Laudium.

gress. Starting as a "backyard" industry in 1963, this printing concern moved to its modern spacious premises in Laudium in 1970. Employing a staff of 15 and equipped with machinery valued at R75 000, this undertaking, besides doing general printing work, manufactures writing pads and exercise books and specialises in brochures and colour printing.

Fiat Lux also had the opportunity of visiting the factories of Park Lane Industries (Pty) Ltd., and Pretoria Underwear Manufacturers (Pty) Ltd.

Both of these undertakings are family concerns and the owners are to be congratulated on their enterprise and initiative in establishing their factories in Laudium thereby assisting in the development of this growth point for Indian industry in

Pretoria.

The Kalla family's Park Lane Leather Industries undertaking manufactures no less than 60 types of travel and shopping bags, and brief cases and was a veritable hive of activity at the time of our visit.

To the strains of recorded music the 70 Indian, Coloured and Bantu employees were busily engaged on the cutting out of the travelling bags, shopping bags, brief cases, etc., on automatic cutting machines which shape the material into the required patterns, stitching the bags, fitting locks and zipp fasteners and wrapping and packing them for despatch to wholesale and retail outlets throughout South Africa. No less than 80 machines are used in the manufacture of the firm's daily out-

Machinists at work at Park Lane Leather Industries.



put.

In another section of the building this enterprising concern also manufactures a large range of cosmetics and perfumes, mainly for the Bantu market. Before being packed in containers, each batch of product manufactured is subject to a stringent quality control test in the firm's well equipped laboratory.

In their recently constructed six-floor building the Tayob brothers' Krimp Factory is drawing customers from all parts of South Africa.

The fabric mill is situated on the spacious ground floor of the building and it was interesting to see the many varieties of intricately designed knitted fabrics that the sophisticated machines were producing. Fiat Lux was told that each of the 30 machines, which were installed at a cost of R900 000, produces a 40 metre roll of material every three hours.

Mr Mahomed Tayob told us that all the polyester thread used in the manufacture of the material is produced in South Africa. To keep abreast of the latest trends in material designs, texture, etc., he pays frequent visits to countries overseas, attends seminars and is a member of the International Textile Club of Switzerland. All the technicians in the employ of the concern have undergone special training in the maintenance of the intricate machines which operate on a computer principle. The factory provides employment for 150 workers.

A very attractive retail showroom situated on the first floor of the building is kept busy selling the many lines of material and clothing manufactured by the concern. A separate showroom for wholesalers is situated on the third floor.

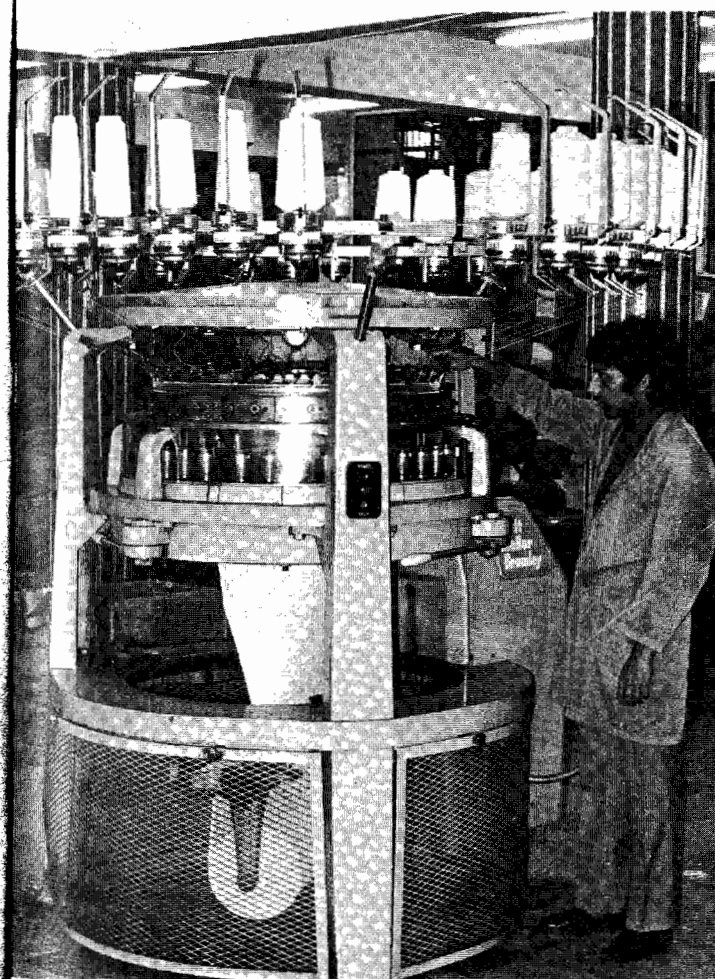
On the bright and airy top floor of the building a score or so of women are busily engaged turning out top-quality garments from the material manufactured by this go-ahead concern.

The twelve sites set aside for industry in the township have all been taken up. A spokesman for the Pretoria City Council said that his Council had been inundated with requests for more land to be made available for industry in Laudium. This is indicative of the fact that Indian entrepreneurs are realising the potential of siting their industries in this progressive suburb of Pretoria. □

A portion of "Krimp Fabrik's" six storey premises.



This machine produces a 40 metre roll of knitted material every three hours.



Leather is cut and shaped on this sophisticated machine.

