

Saraswathyammah CHELLIAH

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Birth: 15 December 1927



Demise: 20 October 2010

Mrs Saraswathyammah Chellaiah was born on 15 December 1927 in Neervely, Jaffna the daughter of Mr Sivakolunthu and Mrs Sinnapillai. She had three brothers Nadarajah, Thiagarajah and Loganathan and one sister Letchumipillai. She was educated at Athiyar Hindu College, Neervely, where she received her primary education and at Elavaalai Convent where she had her secondary education. She passed her SSC examination obtaining Distinctions in all 8 subjects. She sat the Teachers' Training College Entrance Examination where she emerged as the only candidate achieving a perfect score of 100% in Mathematics in that year. She entered the Kopay Teachers' Training College and studied in its Thirunelvly Campus and qualified as a Trained Teacher with distinction.

Mrs. Saraswathyammah began her teaching career in Trincomalee and then taught in Badulla. She spent the major part of her teaching career at Sri Somaskanda College, Puttur, Jaffna.

Mrs. Saraswathyammah set several trends in the field of teaching where she developed and implemented a new teaching model and technique for the Lower Primary School which was approved by the Department of Education. Acknowledging her professional contribution, the Department recommended that her model be adopted by other schools in the Northern Province.

Her parents arranged her marriage to Ilayathamby Chelliah a Teacher at Kokuvil Hindu College. They were blessed with four children, two boys and two girls - Kalarani (Pennant Hills), Jeyagowry (Cherrybrook), Mohan (Canada) and Ketheesan (West Pennant Hills).

Mrs. Saraswathyammah was instrumental in educating her children and bringing them to their present status in life and she arranged marriage to each one of them and settled them in life.

Mrs. Saraswathyammah enjoyed a continuous teaching career of 42 years and upon retirement she migrated to Australia to live with her children.

She helped in bringing up her grandchildren, Visakan, Vaheesan, Sruthy, Athithya, Abinaya, Bairavi, Vaishnavi, Vithushan and Kesavan and always enjoyed looking after them. She developed some interesting and fruitful hobbies including palmyrah leaf hand crafting, knitting and sewing. She trained her children and then her grand children in these activities. Mrs. Saraswathyammah also developed interest in brain teasers including scrabble, crossword, Sudoku, and puzzles and as such she could keep her grand children interested and occupied for greater length of time.

Mrs. Saraswathyammah passed away peacefully on 20 October 2010 with her children, in laws and grand children by her side.

The Tamil Senior Citizens' Association and the Benevolent Society deeply grieve the death of Mrs Saraswathammah Chelliah and pray that her soul Rests in Peace