

Tribute to Sushie (Janakiamma) by Vishnu Naidoo (Jacy)



Sushie was more than just a sister to me. She was a friend and colleague.

Sushie was a great soul who made a big impact on her community; province and country.

Sushie was a born leader and a gifted teacher.

This is the 30th year of teaching but unfortunately she lost 12 years as a result of being a female. This was one of the evils of apartheid.

Sushie was one the best mathematics teachers in the country. She dedicated herself to the teaching and learning of Mathematics. If there was anyone who made teaching her calling it was Sushie. She had a passion for teaching Mathematics. and was a respected academic. When I say she was a respected academic it means that she could hold her own in the field of Mathematics. The concept of professionalism was embraced by Sushie. This is a very rare quality in a teacher.

Sushie and Grove End Secondary

Sushie taught at Gove End Secondary in 1986/1987. I was the Head of Department of Mathematics and Science. She promoted and popularized Mathematics. At this early stage in her career she displayed many fine qualities. She coordinated the Problem Corner in Mathematics. This is a problem solving activity. Every week a lucky draw would be held and the winners given appropriate prizes. I remember there were at least 400 entries for each draw.

Another innovative idea was that of the **Question Bank**. In specially made boxes there were question and answer /solution cards. During the breaks learners will select questions and work through the questions during the break. They would then check their solutions against the solutions provided on the cards.

She also introduced **games** to support the teaching and learning of mathematics.

One of her students **Devendrie Munsamy** was very close to her because she respected and admired Sushie as a teacher.

Sushie as a teacher of Mathematics

Sushie had a passion for teaching Mathematics. She taught Mathematics from Grade Five to Grade 12. Mathematics was taught with understanding. She tried to ensure that every learner understood what she was teaching. Her learners were her pride. She produced outstanding mathematics results. She made arrangements with me to teach her learners additional mathematics. Sushie was a perfect role model to her students.

Many of her students are engineers; medical practitioners; etc.

Well organized and methodical in everything she did.

She created a mathematics classroom that would have been the envy of every teacher of mathematics. One of her pet projects was the kite. All the kites made by her learners were hung like decorations from the ceiling. All charts and other teaching -aids were relevant. Her classroom was attractive and colourful. All our teacher development workshops were held in Sushie's classroom.

Sushie's classroom stood out like the Lotus in this school.

Sushie as a member of SADTU

Sushie played a key role in Union activities. She was a fighter for social justice. Her leadership role in school gave the teachers direction. She was a highly principled person who was loyal to the union. She was the chip of the 'old block'. My late dad, Dixon Naidoo, was a trade union leader.

Sushie as a member of AMESA

- National Projects

(a) Educator Support Programme

Sushie was appointed as the Provincial facilitator for the Educator Support Programme. This project was initiated by the Department of Science and Technology and was run from 2006 to 2009. The whole idea of this project was to train educators in respect of the new mathematical content. Instead of training 15 teachers each Kwazulu Natal trained 60 educators and subject advisors.

Sushie, in addition to taking care of the academic programme with me, took care of the catering. With R8500 she was able to provide breakfast ; morning tea and snacks;

lunch; afternoon tea and snacks and dinner. Late night visit to the Wild Coast was part of the agenda.

Sadly for all of us the certificates signed by the Minister of Science and Technology has yet to reach us.

Sushie, the visionary, awarded each participant a certificate.

(b) Mathematics Olympiads and Camps.

- Sushie participated in the Harmony Teacher Development Courses in Mathematics Problem Solving. She completed the Junior and Senior Courses with Vishnu Naidoo as the facilitator. She completed both the courses with distinction.

- She participated in a 5 day Mathematics Olympiad Course at La Mercy Beach Hotel in 2007. This course was organized by the Department of Science and Technology and convened by Vishnu Naidoo.

- In 2008 she facilitated this same course with Logan Pillay in Northern Cape. They hired a car from OR Tambo International and drove to Kimberley. This was the commitment and dedication of Sushie. The feedback from the educators spoke volumes about the two facilitators. We are still waiting for these certificates.

- She was one of the key organizers of the World Parallel Mathematics Contest in Durban in 2009.

(c) Supplementary Tuition in Mathematics and Science

The Department of Science and Technology organized supplementary tuition for 18 Dinaledi schools and 3 historic schools. This proposal from Vishnu Naidoo was adopted by DST. Sushie was appointed the Provincial Coordinator of this project from 2008 to 2010. Three out of the 4 schools were in the rural areas and the townships. Sushie travelled to these schools. One school was over 200km from La Mercy. She made a big impact on this programme

- AMESA News

Sushie was appointed editor of AMESA National News. She introduced the idea of letters to the editor. The whole idea was to keep in touch with membership.

- AMESA Congress

Sushie attended 18 out of 21 congresses. She travelled throughout the country(8 other provinces)

- AMESA 2010 Congress

In addition to playing a key role as one of the organizers Sushie was nominated as one of the Plenary Speakers. Her topic, Investigations in Mathematics, was well received by 1060 National and International delegates. This is a great honour for any mathematics teacher.

- Sushie and AMESA-KZN

Sushie held the position of Vice President of AMESA -KZN. In this position she organized the Provincial Conferences virtually singlehandedly.

She played a critical role in the Mathematics Expos. She was the organizer of the games. It will be very difficult to match Sushie's skills in organization.

- Sushie and Northern Regions Mathematics Society

Sushie was a secretary for a large number of years.

She initiated the idea of the quiz.

She was responsible for 90% of the activities: Learner Support; Conferences; Workshops; Examination Papers; Evaluation of Grade 12 Mathematics Papers; Mathematics expos

She used to stand in for the subject advisors. Sushie deserved the position of a subject advisor.

Sushie the Author and Editor

Sushie was responsible for the DST Supplementary Mathematics Booklet. This booklet was not only used for the DST programme but for Mondi-eThekweni Supplementary Tuition programme from 2008 to 2011. She wrote this book alone. The typesetting of this book was done by Sushie.

Sushie was the editor and one of the authors of the Grade 9 Maths Book – The Maths Whiz. This was the first dual purpose book in the country. She conceptualized this book.

Sushie stood out as a great among the greats.

Sushie achieved what any Mathematics teacher would dream of achieving. Her famous AMESA song was Hamba Nawe. Hamba Kahle to one of the most loved and revered persons. You served South Africa with distinction. You touched the lives of many people.

Some famous sayings:

- Are you listening? Yes. What did I say?
- Is this the time you are coming?
- I don't like reminding people.