



In this first edition of Pathirikai, we have the pleasure to have with us, Dr Kesseven Padachi, Doctor of Financial Management, and Senior Lecturer at the University of Technology, Mauritius. Dr Padachi relates to us his path to success and his vision about the Mauritian society.

1. Dr Padachi can you tell us about your family background?

Well, I am the fifth of a family of 7 children, born in 1963 in the small village of Long Mountain. My dad was self-employed as a driver and my mum was contemplated to look after the family. To supplement the family income she had to do handicraft ( faire tente) and also helped in the sugarcane field.

My brothers and I also had to perform a number of tasks in my dad sugarcane field. I must say it was hard for us, and my parents had to feed all of us and at the same time finance our education. I did my schooling up to 'O' level in Long Mountain and then I moved to a Government college in Ébene for my HSC. This was a major change in my life as I had to travel long distance to attend school and I had to stay at a relative's place in Vacoas for one year to save on transport cost. After my HSC, I was inspired by my Accounting teacher to pursue my higher studies so that I become a Professional Accountants. I left Mauritius in 1986 to pursue my ACCA studies in UK and chance was on my side that I qualified as an accountant in June 1988. I got married in 1993 to Sheilany and I am a happy father of a daughter and a son.

2. What are your educational and professional achievements?

I became an associate member of the ACCA in 1991 and was made a Fellow member in 1995. I did my MBA at the University of Mauritius in 1996 and graduated in 1998. I have worked as Auditor at De Chazal Du Mee, State Trading Corporation and as a Financial Controller at the Sugar Planters Mechanical Pool Corporation. I moved to ex-MIPAM in March 2000 and following the setting of UTM, I became a lecturer in the field of Accounting and Finance. I was awarded my PhD in August 2010 at UTM.

3. Do you have any regrets?

Well I wish life would have been better and fairer to those who deserve. I don't know if you would call it regret, but I am very sadden by the premature death of my elder sister in 1982 when she was still in her twenties. In fact what I am today is very much because of her. So I wish she was still among us.

4. What do you like or dislike about our country, and why?

Well it is a good country to live with its multicultural dimension, though at times it brings along some disparities and discrimination in our life.

I treasure the values that still exist in all the ethnic groups, but I find it unacceptable that our politician use it to their selfishness and personal advantage.

5. Finally, what advice can you give to young generation of the Tamil community in Mauritius?

I firmly believe that we need to be united and preserve our traditions and cultural values. it is very important for the young generation to respect elders and also take time to tap their rich knowledge about our traditional life - no need just to get engrossed in the modern life which in no way comparable to my childhood. Most important is to be focused and treasure what your parents are doing for your education. The only way out is to have a good education

7. Any other things you would have liked to share with readers of Pathirikai?

I find this initiative very laudable and all of us shall give a helping hand to make it a success. It will be a good platform to share our knowledge and to help each other.