

MURUGESU ELIYATHAMBY

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Murugesu Eliyathamby was born in Maviddapuram on 23rd July 1909. He is the sixth child of seven children born to Periyathamby Murugesu and Viyaladchipillai from Mallakam.

Mr Eliyathamby received his early education at the American Mission English School, now Union College, Tellipallai. He pursued his education at Jaffna Hindu College from where he passed his London Matriculation Examination. He started his teaching career in 1934.

He is a graduate of the London University and also a First Class, English Trained Teacher. He retired as Deputy Principal of Karainagar Hindu College, holding a Grade 1 Special Post, a Public Service Commission appointment. He completed 35 years of Service at the time of his retirement.

Mr Eliyathamby's wife Manonmany was the daughter of Mr Arulampalam, a Malayan Pensioner and the manager of the "Medical Hall" in Jaffna. She was greatly responsible for bringing up their five children. Her unexpected death in October 1993 in Adelaide was a shock to the whole family.

Of his five children, the elder two are daughters who are graduates. Umadevi the eldest of all died prematurely at the age of 31. The second daughter Mrs Kanagambikai Jeganathan is a graduate and a Diploma holder, retired after 20 years service as a teacher at Hindu Ladies College, Jaffna in order to migrate to Australia. Of the three sons, Logeswaran is a chemical engineer and the second Dr. Ambikairajah is an Electronic Engineer and both are working in Ireland. The third son Dr. Kuganeswaran is working in USA.

Since 1956 there was an urgent need for books in the Tamil medium for the Tamil children in Sri Lanka. He wrote History books in Tamil suitable for classes from standard six to the GCE Advanced Level class. His work in the literary field was not confined to History. His book titled "Mupporul Unmai Vilakkum" is popular both in Sri Lanka and South India. It has become a useful book to the Advanced Level and University students who offer "Hindu Civilisation" as a subject. It is also an interesting book for those who like to know about Eastern philosophy.

He has also contributed articles in English and Tamil to magazines and papers.

He leaves behind four of his children and eleven grandchildren.