

Planning Meeting for Understanding East Indian Cultures

Tuesday February 23, 1971

<u>Present were:</u>	Mohinder Gill (Chairman)	Gyan Nath
	Satish Dhar	G.S. Neel
	Homi Engineer	G.S. Rampuri
	Bosso Gill	
	Mukhtiar S. Gill	Raminder K. Sandhu
	Sucha S. Gill	S.S. Sandhu
		Kehar Sekhon
	T. Raj Kapahi	Dedar S. Sihota
	I.S. Kohaly	Joyce E. Sihota
	Art Messenger	Marjorie V. Smith
		Joe Wrinch

Mr. Mohinder Gill opened the meeting with a brief review of developments over the last three months:

1. Concern with the education of East Indian children who are having difficulties with the language (this has now evolved into two main committees).
2. A program primarily for professional persons working in the south east Vancouver area who are interested in learning more about East Indian cultures, with a view to being more effective in their work. The purpose of this meeting was to complete plans for a series of 4 sessions to be held in March.

Following introductions, discussion focussed around the following points and decisions:

1. Registration for the series to date was approximately 75, of whom about half were teachers and a quarter public health personnel, and a quarter "others".

It was decided that since there are now sufficient resource people, it would be best to accept these applicants plus any who register by February 24 (the deadline).

2. General format of the series:

- (a) Brief introductory talks will be given on each topic area by the designated panel members.
- (b) Division into small groups providing a mix of professionals with two East Indian resource persons. Their role is to respond to questions from group members so as to give more people a chance to

talk with East Indian persons about matters of interest. These may include questions about life in India as well as about adjustment to life in Canada. It was suggested that note be made of questions which the resource persons feel they cannot deal with adequately so that these may be put to the panel when the total group reconvenes around 9:00 p.m. It was also suggested that each group appoint a recorder to note highlights of the discussion so that these may be collected and duplicated for all participants. This would take the place of having reports from groups in the general session itself.

- (c) Total group will reconvene around 9:00 p.m. for further discussion of questions.

3. Participation of students.

The possibility of inviting participation by parents and students was carefully considered. It was decided that Art Messenger and Joe Wrinch would sound out two or three of their students to see if they would care to participate in the small group discussions.

It was pointed out that plans are under way to involve parents in a meeting to discuss their interests, problems, and use of community services at a later date. Hopefully, this may include involvement of students as well in some way.

4. Other arrangements:

- (a) Coffee will be available when the group breaks into small discussion groups.
- (b) Arrangements will be made for a portable P.A. system.
- (c) Copies of brief outlines of talks will be prepared for each participant plus two or three longer articles. Folders will be provided for this material.
- (d) Toward the end of the first session groups will be taken on a tour of the Temple.
- (e) Participants will receive name-tags with group numbers on them.
- (f) Resource persons will be assigned to groups in pairs, also by means of their name-tags.

5. The meeting adjourned and was followed by meetings of the groups of speakers for each evening.