

## BIOGRAPHY

SEWPERSAHD RAMESAR BEHAREE

medical doctor , sports and cultural  
leader

born 15 June 1930 Pietermaritzburg

died 18 July 1981 Pietermaritzburg



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S.R.B commenced his schooling at St. Paul's Government Aided School and matriculated from Woodlands High . His contemporaries at school recall both his scholastic ability and his prowess on the sports field . While at Woodlands he was house captain of Reddi House and played both soccer and cricket for his school ; he represented Pietermaritzburg Indian Schools in inter-town soccer and also became a scoutmaster while at school .

In 1949 he proceeded to India where he completed his pre-medical science course at Bombay's Wilson College . At Wilson, Sew ( as he was popularly known ) distinguished himself by winning the Machikan Shield for outstanding contributions to football and hockey and cultural activities, including debate and drama . He was the first South African to achieve this award . He was also active in the Government of Bombay sponsored adult literacy campaign .

In 1952 he joined Madras Medical College and while studying medicine he again devoted much time to some of the burning social issues of the time . He helped organize youth camps and took an active interest in promoting free rural <sup>medical</sup> services. He graduated M.B., B.S. in 1959 and in the same year returned to South Africa where he set up a general practice in Pietermaritzburg .

In addition to his medical practice, Dr Beharee had two main interests : as a sports organizer and as a cultural leader .

He was a founder member and president of the Lincoln City Professional Football Club and also devoted many years to amateur football . He was also patron of both Daffodils and Hillview Football Clubs .

For about a decade or more he was ~~very~~ deeply involved in the activities of a number of religious organisations . For about seven years he was a member of the Gita Mandir ( Gita Study Group ) ; He was ~~member~~ chairman for about 12 years of the Tamil Siva Nyana Sabha and was a member of the B Northdale Sanathan Veda Dharam Sabha . He was the founding secretary of the Hindu Cultural Society which gave rise to bodies such as the : Cultural Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Movements and the Cultural Sunday Services .

From 1970 he was a member of the Pietermaritzburg Local Affairs Committee until the time of his death .

He was the son of Beharjee Ramnar, a photographer of Pietermaritzburg . He was the 2nd eldest in a family of eleven children .

In 1967 he married Dhanderi ( "Dharam" ) Sooraj of Pietermaritzburg and the couple had 6 children, all girls . Anashnee , Janusha , Hoshana , Vihitha , Kashmiree and Manisha .

Dr Beharee was also very active in promoting free rural medical services for Africans in the PMB area .

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Obituary : The Leader 31 July 1981 .

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