



Mogale City Museum and Freedom Park Time Travel Collaboration

Time Travel on the court case of Dadoo's family eviction from their business premises in 1919

Goal

Curriculum links: Life Orientation – Constitutional rights and responsibilities

Learn about the unfavorable laws which disadvantaged the Indian community from owning businesses in the former Krugersdorp (Mogale City). Compare to today and identify similarities and changes.

Facts

Mogale City, formerly known as Krugersdorp, was a mining town which was established in 1887. The town's establishment attracted a lot of businesses from different races which included the Indian community. The _____? street was well known to accommodate the Indian community businesses which amongst them was the shop of Mohammed and Fatima Dadoo. The family were Gujarati Muslims and they had immigrated from Surat in Western India to start businesses in South Africa. One of their sons was the wellknown Dr Yusuf Dadoo, born in 1909.

When several Indian businesses started flourishing, it became an intimidation to the white businesses around Krugersdorp, which led to the passing of unfavourable laws and regulations to the Indian businesses. These laws and regulations inspired the Indian community to challenge such impediments, which even led to protests to the British High Commission.

The South African government claimed that Indian people were not supposed to have business properties around white areas or towns. They had the power to restrict Indians and blacks on racial grounds guided by the "Transvaal onerous Act 3 of 1885. The colonial secretary Jan Smuts sent out a ruling to the Krugersdorp constituency that all Indian businesses must be evicted. The court case to evict Mohammed Dadoo took place in 1919 and he was defended by Mohandas Gandhi. Gandhi was at the time working as a lawyer in South Africa for the civil rights of the Indian communities. To many people's surprise Gandhi and Dadoo won the case and the family could continue with their businesses.

Scenario, Court case on the eviction of Mohammed Dadoo from his business premises in 1919

Today is the final day of the trial against Mohammed Dadoo. The judgement will be announced. There have been many protests outside the court by the Indian community. Today these protests are expected to come to a climax. People make placards and shout slogans. At times everybody become more silent, come together and pray.

Nobody knows what the verdict from the court will be. Will the court stop people from other countries to make businesses in certain areas in Krugersdorp and South Africa? In that case, what will happen to the other Indian shops? Several Indians are afraid that their shops will be looted and they themselves assaulted. And, even if they win, will that be accepted in the local community without any intimidation?

The situation outside the court is tense while people are gathering. The judgement will decide the lives for several families in town.

Key Questions

- Do we accept people from other countries in our town and also as businessmen?
- How to integrate people of different ethnic groups and migrant labors in the town?
- Has everybody access to good lawyers and legal representatives in the court?

Roles

Everybody keep their age and gender and everybody has a name tag.

The learners and most adults play the role of members from the local Indian Community.

Some adult roles: Mohammed and Fatima Dadoo; Other business owners; One Transvaal politician; Reporter; SANNC members; Mahandas Gandhi

Activities

- Creating protesting placards (using paint)
- Make illustrations
- Making a small meal
- Creating prayer beads
- Singing

Time Plan

08:00 Setup and preparations

09:00 Learners arrive, welcoming, changing into costumes, background

09:30 Initiation ceremony (prayer)

09:45 Activities and discussions

10:45 The verdict is announced (singing)

11:00 Ending ceremony and reflections

11:45 Departure (learners leave & clean up)

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