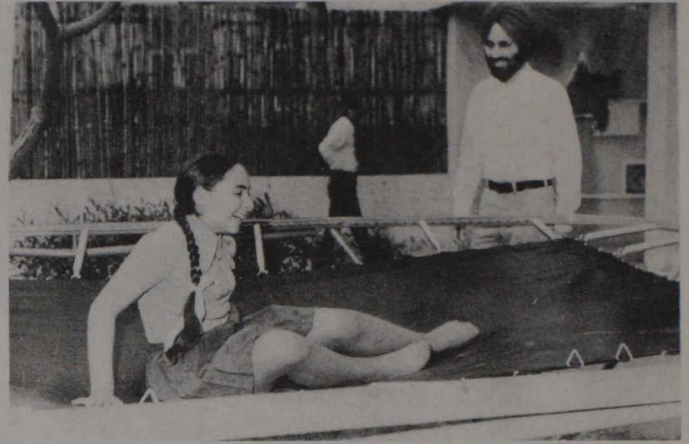




Mr. James George, former Canadian High Commissioner in India, at the inauguration of "The Study" in March 1972.



Shauna Pasrich, the young writer of this article.

THE STUDY

The Canadian-Indian School.

It is the first Canadian-Indian School ever set up in India. Its Director is an English teacher from the Montreal Namesake school - The Study.

The Study opened three and a half years ago in Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed's house; 139, Golf Links. At the time, it had only five children, on the first day, and two staff members. Today it is one hundred and fifty strong with nine staff members. The main attractions have been the Olympic-size trampoline and the fifteen-foot diameter swimming-pool given to the school by its Canadian Benefactor, Mr. Drummond G. Birks.

Mrs. Pasrich is an Indian, but went to Canada thirteen years ago, and spent approximately eight years in Montreal, Switzerland and London, all total. Of medium height, she is graceful and charming. She was the first non-Christian to teach in a Catholic School in Quebec.

The Study, as originally intended, supports a vocational school consisting of seven boys who are paid a stipend to come and learn carpentry from a master specially hired for this purpose, on the premises, after normal school hours. In this, the Convents of Jesus and Mary, both in Delhi and in Mrs. Pasrich's ancestral school in Simla, have given her a lot of help. The money obtained from the sale of the articles made by the boys goes into buying more wood and tools for them. Mrs. Pasrich hopes to start upholstery and other work with the boys soon. Many parents of children at The Study have given her help by ordering simple furniture from the vocational school.

Most of the equipment for The Study has been shipped out from Canada. Dolls, books, tricycles, records, educational toys and Lego sets among other things.

Of course, as in all other schools, there are problems. However being a small school catering to people who can afford more than most, The Study has, perhaps, more problems than is normal in the field of the standard of Education required for a Nursery/Primary School.

For instance, a good number of the parents do not treat The Study as an institution, but rather as a machine that will prepare their children for the entrance tests to bigger schools. This is because the school has no land, and so, cannot expand into buildings, compounds and fields, go all the way up to the higher classes and let the children learn at their own speed.

Teachers are not difficult to get, but the invariable problem is to find the most suitable for a certain group. There are those who cannot come down to the level of a two-and-a-half-year old after having taught a higher age-group. There are those who walk blatantly into Mrs. Pasrich's office to fill out an application, and who, though wanting the job, snigger affectedly over a salary naturally low for an unqualified teacher.



Mr. and Mrs. Pasrich.

Children at The Study spend much of their time out in the open.

