

I joined the Government Indian High School (later Duke of Gloucester School; now called Jamhuri High School) in 1947 after coming to Nairobi, Kenya from Punjab, India. At this time of joining the school the uniform for the students included a new Green Color Blazer with gold stripes. India had just been divided by the colonial powers into India and Pakistan; the emotional attachment of the Indians in Kenya based on the religious affiliations, had penetrated the politics of the Indian community in Kenya which to this time considered itself Indians only, now felt the pride of becoming a part of India and Pakistan. The question of the Green color came up and those students who identified themselves with India complained about the Green color that was adopted by Pakistan in it's symbol of the flag, emotions ran high among the student population. Our Principal (Head Master) at that time Mr. O. Desai noticed the highly charged atmosphere, addressing the students during the morning assembly, at the Quad, stated that he would cane any student walking on the green grass asking if that was acceptable to the students at large. The resultant complete silence spoke for itself and the blazer was adopted.

I recall with great joy, our Physical Training, well meaning teacher, Mr. Balwant Singh Shant, who never got my name right chased me one day with a broom stick shouting " *Ajit Singh ke bache, ( Son of Ajit Singh) I will get you.*" He could never catch me. I visualize him now in his baggy Khaki shorts that went down below his knees more like a half trouser, still chasing me. We called him Shimba (Lion) but in truth he was a gentle and affectionate person who won over all the students who came under his charge.

Incidents abound; as I recall the time the first foreign soft drink was introduced at the school ;it was Coca Cola in coolers and then came Pepsi Cola it's rival. One day the Coca Cola person Mr. Manuisis came and found Pepsi bottles in the Coca Cola cooler. Boy did he loose his cool? he smashed hundred of those Pepsi Cola bottles creating a small river flowing out of the school canteen floor. We, the students, who were there, shouted to let us drink the soda before he smashed the bottles, to no avail, Mr. Manuisis's rage was beyond control. We learnt the lesson; loosing one's temper results in destruction and loss of one's rational mental facilities.

I truly enjoyed my time at the school with fond memories of all those teachers who were committed to ensure that their wards, the students, were instilled with values to last them a lifetime.

Sir Mohinder Dhillon  
Nairobi, Kenya.

Sir Mohinder Dhillion, a renowned film maker, was awarded the Knighthood under the Order of Saint Mary of Zion whose Grand Master is Prince Phillip The citation read:

"The honors were conferred upon those who had made significant contribution to the society. Honorees included Mohinder Dhillon, whose newsreel photography was viewed to have brought vital issues in the African continent to the attention of the world community. The Award of Knight Commander also recognizes Mr. Dhillon's professional skills and applauds his efforts, sometimes obtained with considerable risk to his personal safety."

Mohinder comes from a very humble background, born in a small village in Punjab, India where he obtained junior school education; later secondary education at Government Indian High School, Nairobi. Mohinder arrived in Kenya in 1947 as a young boy to follow his father the late Mr. Tek Singh who worked for E.A. Railways and Harbors for 29 years. Mohinder's younger brother Joginder represented Kenya in the first Kenyan Olympic hockey team in Melbourne in 1956 a student of the Duke of Gloucester School.