

# Shock study reveals low pupil literacy

**SANTHAM PILLAY**

**A KWAZULU-NATAL** academic has uncovered shockingly low levels of literacy among young pupils in the Phoenix and Tongaat areas.

Tongaat resident Dr Indira Naidoo's doctorate thesis, "The implementation of the National Reading Strategy by educators at Grade 3 level at selected schools in the Tongaat and Phoenix areas", revealed that children in the area had a 30.3% average literacy level.

Naidoo's research has been picked up by an international publisher and a book is to be released next month.

"That is a shocking statistic," said Naidoo, who has a PhD in education.

"I have proposed a model that can be used in schools to help children better their reading skills.

"I plan to get this proposal to the department once my book is launched next month."

Naidoo's research focused on the

## Academic's thesis to receive a global audience

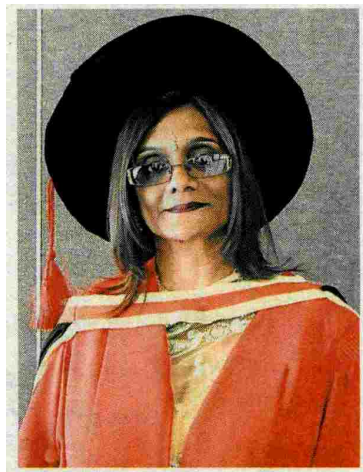
promote work free of charge.

Royalties from every book sold worldwide will be sent to the author.

Naidoo, a recent communication, media and language practice graduate from the Durban University of Technology, said having her work published was an added benefit to what she hoped would be valuable information for the education department.

"The main goal was to improve the reading competence of all pupils. However, many teachers had an underdeveloped understanding of teaching reading. They are faced with major challenges in implementing the reading strategy.

"I hope my findings will help the department with regards to teaching reading and improving literacy levels in the foundation phase," she added.



**DR INDIRA NAIDOO**  
Hopes her work will be of benefit

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## Many teachers had an underdeveloped understanding of teaching reading

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effectiveness of the National Reading Strategy, introduced in 2008 in primary schools. German company Lambert Academic Publishing is to publish the book.

The company offers to publish and

The mother of one, who runs three reading academies in Tongaat and Phoenix, said it was an "honour" to know her work would be made available worldwide.