

Site history

The Aapravasi Ghat played a central role in the day-to-day functioning of the indenture labour system from 1849 into the early twentieth century.

This office's role was to:

- Receive newly arrived labourers.
- Enforce sanitary regulations.
- Register new labour contracts and their renewal.
- Deliver tickets and passes to immigrants.
- Allocate labourers to sugar estates or public works projects.
- Supervise workers returning to their homeland.
- Record personal information about individuals charged with vagrancy.
- Receive taxes and fees paid by indentured workers.
- Issue immigrants' civil status documents.
- Record indentured workers' complaints.
- Remit the money workers wanted to send to their homeland.
- Inspect and report on conditions on sugar estates.

The Aapravasi Ghat housed many of the records created by the indentured labour system. As such, the depot continued to play an important role in the life of many of the descendants of the men and women who reached Mauritius as indentured immigrants. The depot housed government offices such as the Poor Law Office and the Welfare Department after indentured immigration came formally to an end in 1910.