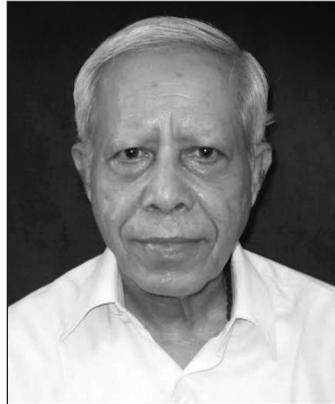


Obituary - 4



Prof. S. C. Mukhopadhyay
(1941 - 2017)

India lost one of its best known geomorphologists on 23 June 2017, when Professor Subhash Chandra Mukhopadhyay passed away in Kolkata following a very brief illness, at 75 years of age.

Professor Mukhopadhyay was born in Kolkata on 12 September 1941, and resided in the city all through his life. After completing his school education at the Saraswati Institution and Sailendra Sircar Vidyalaya, he graduated from the Vidyasagar College in 1963. He took his master's degree in Geography from the University of Calcutta in 1965. In later years, his famed works on the Geomorphology of Subarnarekha and Tista River Basins brought him Ph.D. and D.Sc. degrees in 1972 and 1993, respectively, from the same

institution. Connoting his multidimensional interests, Professor Mukhopadhyay also obtained special bachelor's degrees in English and Bengali literature.

Professor Mukhopadhyay started his teaching career in 1966 as a Lecturer in the Vidyasagar College for Women, Kolkata. A couple of years later, he shifted to the Government College at Chandernagore. He taught at the University of Burdwan as a Reader from 1971 to 1979; after which he joined the University of Calcutta and became a Professor in 1987. After his retirement in 2006, he completed a 2-year stint as a UGC Emeritus Fellow of the University of Calcutta and became attached to many postgraduate departments of West Bengal, as Guest Faculty. The principal

among these were the Presidency College, Kalyani University, West Bengal State University, Rabindra Bharati University and Aliah University.

Prof. Mukhopadhyay's foremost fields of interest were in fluvial and tectonic geomorphology apart from environmental hazard management. Besides these, he also worked on many topics of social and cultural geography. Spatially, most of his scientific papers were on the Himalaya, Northeastern India and Chhotanagpur Plateau. Among the eight books he authored, 'Geomorphology of the Subarnarekha Basin' (University of Burdwan, 1980) and 'The Tista Basin: A Study in Fluvial Geomorphology' (K.P. Bagchi, 1984) were the best known. These were followed by an edited anthology, 'Geographical Mosaic' (Modern Book Agency, 1985), which was also very well received. Among his later contributions, included were the co-authored two-volume set of 'River Dynamics of West Bengal' (2010). Prof. Mukhopadhyay also wrote a number of popular textbooks on Physical Geography and Hydrology – some of them in Bengali – that practically covered the entire curricula from the secondary to the postgraduate level. Among these, probably the most notable is the 'Formation and Nature of Landforms' (in Bengali) that he co-authored in 1983. It was brought out by the West Bengal State Book Board, and ran into several reprints.

Professor Mukhopadhyay wrote about seventy articles, of which he was the sole author. His collaborative publications would run into three digits. His great propensity of doing research is also attested by some

72 doctoral theses that he supervised from the Universities of Burdwan and Calcutta on diverse sub-disciplines of Geography. Apart from his University-related academic assignments, the Institute of Landscape, Ecology and Ekistics, which he conceptualised and formed in 1983, kept him constantly busy. As the Editor of its well-known biannual Journal, he meticulously oversaw uninterrupted publication of 39 volumes, up to December 2016. In addition to all these, Professor Mukhopadhyay completed two major UGC-sponsored research projects.

Professor Mukhopadhyay loved to travel. Most of his trips were for doing fieldworks and for attending symposia and conferences throughout India and abroad, mostly in Europe. Professor Mukhopadhyay became the President of the Indian Institute of Geomorphologists (IGI) in 2004 and President of the National Association of Geographers of India (NAGI) in 2012. Apart from these, he was in the executive bodies of many learned societies of India.

Professor Mukhopadhyay — or SCM, as he was known to his students — was an extremely approachable person, despite his fame and various academic and administrative positions that he adorned throughout his life. He had an exceptionally sharp memory that showed no attenuation with his advancing age. Always inspirational, he never failed to recollect and enquire about the well-being of an acquaintance's family members even after quite a long interval. Professor Mukhopadhyay was also a deeply religious person, which used to reflect in his honesty and humbleness. Few teachers

would ever be able to congregate the love, respect and popularity that his pupils and admirers nurtured for him.

Professor Mukhopadhyay suffered from a cerebral stroke three years ago but that could reduce none of his indomitable spirit and academic pursuits. He remained ever active and constantly engaged in all conceivable aspects of teaching and research almost to his last day. Married to Ms. Santa Mukhopadhyay since 1975, Professor SCM

is survived by his numerous students and disciples who would carry forward the legacy of his relentless efforts for the cause of Geography and Geomorphology into the future.

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