



**Dr. S.B. Sawant**  
(1940–2002)

**Dr. Sawant** passed away on 2nd March 2002 after prolonged illness in Pune.

My association with Dr. Sawant goes back to 1970 when I joined the University Department of Geography as a postgraduate student. He was a demonstrator then working for his Ph.D on 'Urban Geography

of Pune'. My remembrance of him is of a meticulously dressed person- he always wore a suit when he conducted practicals. He interacted freely with students. One would find him surrounded by students in the canteen – his favourite hang out at Bhave's. He was a fitness freak-took long walks on the campus and tried his hand at table tennis. At the annual socials during the cricket match between the staff and the students he would turn out in spotless white attire. Without fail he would be spotted at Deccan Gymkhana in the evening.

Born on 3rd April 1940, he completed his graduation from Ratnagiri and joined the University Department in 1964 as a postgraduate student. After completing MSc. in 1966, he

had a brief stint at Sholapur, before he joined N. Wadia College, Pune as a demonstrator. Finally he joined the University of Pune in 1967, serving the Department with dedication for 33 long years. He has a number of research papers to his credit, besides the book he authored on population geography.

He guided many M.Phil and two Ph.D. students in the field of Population and Settlement geography. He was Head of the department almost for a decade and took interest in the affairs of the Institute of Indian Geographers, first as its Secretary and then as the Vice President. He shared a good rapport with his research students. He was a strict disciplinarian and would demand complete dedication to work from his students. He was very particular about the organisation of the thesis where he insisted on a proper balance between the cartographic work and use of statistical techniques.

Though in last ten years of his life he kept indifferent health, he was very punctual and carried out his daily routine with all sincerity.

In his death the department lost a serious researcher. May his soul rest in peace.

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