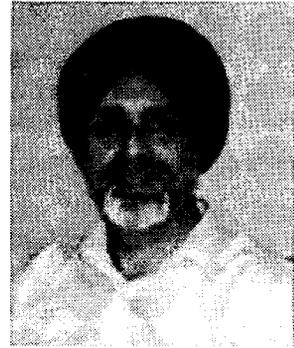


## In Memoriam

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### Professor R.P.S. Gosal

(26th July, 1957- 20th August, 2006)



Professor R.P.S. Gosal, the youngest child of Professor G.S. Gosal, 'Ravi' to his close associates and elders and 'RPS' to his contemporaries, was born at Ludhiana on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1957. The Gosals shifted to the Panjab University campus at Chandigarh in 1960 when the Department of Geography, temporarily located at Government College, Ludhiana, like many others dispersed in different towns of Punjab, started functioning from the newly constructed university campus at Chandigarh. This process also brought my family to the city and within a few months we became next door neighbours and remained so for the next almost twelve years. During this period Ravi had finished schooling and grown into a handsome, smart young man. He developed a wide network of friends during his graduation years and came to be known for his commitment to studies and trustworthiness in personal equations. In 1977 he joined the Department of Geography, Panjab University, Chandigarh to pursue his Master's degree. It was a unique feeling to have someone, whom I had known since he was a child, sitting in the

class, and call out his formal name while taking the roll call. His being the son of an illustrious geographer, Professor G.S. Gosal, who was also the Head of the Department at that time, never came in the way of the usual teacher-taught relations for anyone of us at the Department. Ravi, on his part, carried his special status with great grace and restraint. Professor G.S. Gosal, I think, was quite oblivious that his son was a student in the Department. Ravinder Paul Singh Gosal was one of the students, and remained so till he obtained his M.Phil degree in 1981. For the next three years Ravi taught undergraduate classes in a prestigious local college, his graduation *alma mater*, and joined the Department as a Lecturer in 1984. His teaching tenure in college had helped him develop his own particular way of establishing a close rapport with his students – something that he used with great skill in later years. On the academic front, he obtained his Ph.D. in 1991 specialising in Population Geography. He became a Professor in 2003.

During the last few years he had grown into a very balanced, knowledgeable and

mature person, almost ready to carve out a distinct place for himself among the geography fraternity. With his untimely and sudden demise, at the age of just over forty nine years, this process came to an end. He is survived by his parents, wife and, two school going daughters.

Professor R.P.S. Gosal will be remembered by those who had the occasion to interact with him, even for a short while, for the personal warmth and courtesy that nothing seemed to impinge upon. At a personal level for me, it was always a pleasure talking to him – with a twinkle in

his eyes he would find some reason to laugh about and, without hesitation, at himself. Professor R.P.S. Gosal's demise leaves an unbridgeable void in the Department, among his family, colleagues, friends and for me personally. Though short, his was a life well and meaningfully lived. May his soul rest in peace.

**K.D. Sharma**

Professor.

Department of Geography.

Panjab University,

Chandigarh