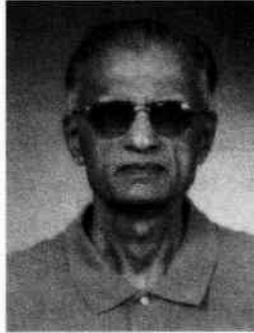


## Obituaries



**Prof. Suresh D. Shinde**

**Prof. Suresh D. Shinde**, former Professor and Head, Department of Geography, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, passed away on **18th June 2009**, after a protracted illness. My first acquaintance with him goes back to the years 1966-68 when I was studying for my Master's Degree from Bombay University. Prof. Shinde was then a lecturer in Ruparel College, Mumbai, and was a visiting faculty for Post-Graduate classes then conducted by Parle College (now Sathaye College), Vile Parle. I was also simultaneously working as a lecturer in Kirti College, Dadar, where Prof. Shinde taught previously. However, we had a limited association in Mumbai as the Modern Education Society, which governs Ruparel College, had decided to close Geography classes in that college and soon Prof. Shinde had to shift to Wadia College, Pune.

Prof. Shinde's transfer to Wadia College proved to be a turning point in his academic life. Within a few years of his joining that college, a Reader's position was advertised

in the Department of Geography, Shivaji University; Prof. Shinde applied for the post and bagged it too. He thus shifted to Kolhapur where he initially served as Reader. Later, he worked for his Doctoral thesis on 'Agricultural Geography of Konkan'. He was later appointed as the Professor, the post which he held till the retirement in July, 1995. He also served as Head of the Department for over 20 years. Prof. Shinde was thus responsible for strengthening the base of Geography in southern parts of Maharashtra and instrumental in promoting research activities there. He has guided several research scholars for their Ph.D. degree. His doctoral students speak highly about his scholarship and meticulousness in guiding research.

His research work is primarily in the field of Agricultural Geography and he has published over fifty research papers in reputed journals; most of them being in the national journals, they are easily accessible to young researchers who have been

immensely benefited. He had an abiding interest in Development of Geographical Thought, a theme which he pursued in a dedicated manner. He has written a few text-books in Marathi for the benefit of under-graduate and post-graduate students, and, they have been used and acclaimed even by teachers.

He attended a large number of national and international conferences and seminars, including 1972 IGU held in Moscow. During research meets, his comments used to be crisp but apt, encouraging young researchers and at the same time giving them tips for further improvement. His evaluation was critical and that was often evident when he evaluated Ph. D. theses and worked on selection committees of various universities.

He retired only by age but never looked tired and this is indicated by his continued reading habit even after that stage. Very often he used to discuss on the new books that he had read and also on the Ph.D. theses evaluated. Although he was over ten years older than me, he never allowed me developing that feeling. Such a kind hearted person he was!

Prof. Shinde was always conscious of his social responsibilities as a teacher and he inculcated the same spirit in his colleagues. This became evident while listening to his lectures delivered to participants of the SET workshops for would-be teachers. He was the guest editor for the Marathi encyclopaedia that is being compiled at Wai. It is noteworthy that he was the founder member of the River Valley Expedition and Research Society of India. He was closely associated with the Institute of Indian Geographers, Pune, and was its Vice-President for a long time.

Finally, he was a man who always used to respect the views of the others and never tried to impose his own. His friends and admirers wished that their association with him would sustain for some more time but alas! The God had different plans in mind. 'All those who are born have to die' says Bhagwadgeeta. His soul had to leave the old mortal body to enter the new one. But his death has created a void in southern Maharashtra in general and Department of Geography, Shivaji University in particular.

May his soul rest in peace!

**V.S. Phadke**