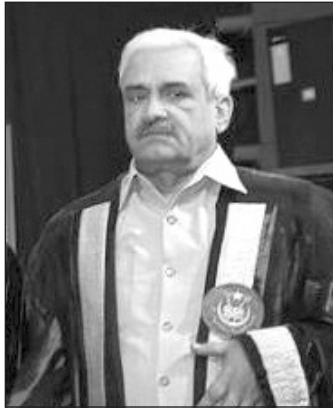


## *Obituary*



### **Prof. Syed Mohammad Rashid**

(1948 - 2018)

How painful it is to write an obituary of a friend and a colleague who has been as close as my own younger brother. I have known Prof. Rashid for about four decades. He lived an eventful life but departed too early. Death is inevitable and all the species which inhale and exhale will, one day, have to taste the death but death of any human being is very painful to the family and relatives. Prof. Rashid was born in Sohagpur town of Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh. He shifted to Delhi to join the Higher Secondary School section of Jamia Millia Islamia at a tender age of about 13 years. He completed his schooling and graduation from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and proceeded to Aligarh for his post graduation in Geography at Aligarh Muslim University. He joined Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi as Lecturer in Geography in December, 1973 after he completed his M.A. degree in 1972 and got the promotion to Readership in

1983. He continued to upgrade himself and completed his M.Phil thesis in 1985 from Aligarh Muslim University.

Jamia Millia Islamia was accorded the status of Central University under the Act of Parliament in 1988. The Department of Geography was mandated to develop specialization in in GIS and Remote Sensing at the Post graduate level. Meanwhile Prof. Rashid equipped himself with expertise in GIS and Remote Sensing first by obtaining Certificate in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in 1982 and P. G. Diploma in Human Settlement with Honours from Indian Institute of Remote Sensing Dehradun in 1993. He was the moving spirit in organising the specialization in GIS and Remote Sensing in the Department of Geography, and later a number of other colleagues specialized in this area. He became a professor in 1991 and headed the department from 1996 to 1999. He was invited as Professor of GIS and Remote

Sensing in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Alemaya University Alemaya in Ethiopia and worked there from 2000 to 2002. He took over as the Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences and served between 2008 and 2010. He was picked up by the then Vice Chancellor to be appointed as the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University in 2010. He handled many academic and administrative responsibilities particularly he managed the prospectus for admission to various courses in Jamia Millia with great care and competence as Pro-Vice Chancellor. He retired in 2013 and was given extension for three more years and finally retired in 2016.

His publications provide testimony to his love for techniques and methodology in geographical research as four of his books published between 1991 and 1999 are related to GIS and Remote Sensing. He motivated almost all his research scholars to use the techniques extensively in seeking explanations to geographical patterns. He devoted himself to the study of Land use Dynamics, Impact Assessment, Suitability Analysis and Integrated Development. After the finalizations of National Curricular Framework in 2005, he was invited to be member of the team for developing the text books for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> classes by NCERT, New Delhi. He acted as the advisor to the team of text book development committee for *Practical Work in Geography Part I and Part II* published by NCERT.

He always tried to be abreast with the changing technological trends as applied in Geography. He showed great concern of review and up gradation of courses. As Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, he got the courses of PG classes reviewed and updated with the advice of the outside experts. He was member of all the statutory

academic and administrative bodies of Jamia as well as many other universities and institutes. He was member of a number of geographical associations such as Indian Cartographic Association, Indian Society of Remote Sensing, and Deccan Geographical Society. He was elected as Vice President of National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI) during 2008-2009. In 2010-11, he was awarded the honour of *Bhugol Bhushan* by Deccan Geographical Society, Pune. His research scholars are very well placed in different Geography departments of the country and other services.

He was a conscientious and committed teacher. His health started showing problem after his retirement but he was very regular in taking his classes and supervising his research scholars till his final retirement in 2016.

He was a trusted friend, a kind human being, an understanding supervisor and loving family man. He lived an eventful life and to quote Kabir one can say, " *When I was born, the people laughed and I wept. After accomplishing the tasks when I left, I laughed and people wept.* "

Prof. Rashid is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter and grand children.

Now, we can only pray that ' May his soul rest in peace and May his family and relatives granted perseverance and courage to bear the irreparable loss.'

**Mohd. Hashim Qureshi**

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