

## *Obituary*



**Dr. (MRS.) Anjana Desai**  
(1940 - 2019)

Dr. Mrs. Anjana P. Desai (Roychowdhury) was born in Calcutta on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1940. She after completing Post-graduate degree from Calcutta University, She taught Geography in Lady Brabourne College for two years. She was awarded Fulbright Scholarship to pursue Doctoral studies at University of Maryland, College Park, United States. Mrs. Desai worked on 'The relative earnings position of the Labor force out migrating from the Ozarks region of the United States, 1960-70' and earned Ph.D. degree from Maryland University in 1976. Along with her Ph.D. work she also undertook teaching during summer semesters at John Hopkins. Dr. Anjana Desai worked as Research Associate in Gujarat Institute of Area Planning before joining as a Lecturer and Head of a newly started Department of Geography in Gujarat University in

July 1977. I joined the Department in September as Dr. Anjana Desai's colleague. We both worked for the development of the Department in its initial stages. She was like my elder sister (Anjana di/Anjanaben). Sometimes we both had differences on academic matters and on affairs of the department but we both resolved them amicably. Her passing away is a great loss to Indian and Gujarat Geography as a whole and to me in particular as I lost a senior colleague. As a Head she took many initiatives concerning the improvement of geography syllabus, teaching and research. She undertook research projects funded by ICSSR, DST, SAC/ISRO and Narmada Planning Board. In her work she focused mainly on the importance and relevance of perception studies in Urban and Regional Planning. She was liked and loved by her students, research scholars and more so

by girl students! She was strict to Post-graduate students and quite soft to her research scholars!

Among her three published books based on research projects, two are on urban behavioral geography. Besides, she has about 50 research papers to her credit. Her papers are published both in Indian and foreign journals covering various aspects of Human Geography. She has guided 13 research students who are well placed in school, college and university teaching. She was a President of Gujarat Geographical Association and organized several local and state level workshops, seminars and conferences. Dr. Mrs. Desai and the then Pro-vice-chancellor Prof. Ambubhai Desai were instrumental in inviting and hosting IIG's Meet in Ahmedabad.

She served the department for 25 years and retired in 2002 as Professor and Head. She was a Visiting faculty at CEPT University, Ahmedabad, after her retirement

in 2002. Besides Geography Dr. Anjanaben had interest in Art and Music (Rabindra sangeet and Glass painting). She was also fond of travelling and liked different cuisines! She pursued her personal hobbies and interests in recent years. However, from 2018 April onwards there was a severe setback in her health and could not recover thereafter. She breathed her last on the morning of 16th March 2019. She was one of the pioneer and founder geographers of Gujarat. Her passing away is a great loss to the community of geographers.

May her soul rest in peace!

Dr. K. M. Kulkarni  
Prof. & Head (Retd.)  
Department of Geography  
Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.