

PROF. YOGENDRA SINGH (1932-2020)-A TRIBUTE FROM ISS.



With a deep sense of grief, the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) informs the sad news of the demise of Prof. Yogendra Singh (87) at 10 am on 10th May, 2020 due to cardiac arrest at his residence in Delhi.

Prof. Yogendra Singh was born in a landowning family on 2nd November, 1932 in village Chowkhara in the Basti district of Uttar Pradesh. After his early education in the native district, he went to Lucknow for higher studies in sociology and obtained Postgraduate and, later on, Doctoral degree from the Lucknow School of Sociology. He was the student of eminent teachers like Radhakamal Mukherjee, D.P. Mukherji, D.N. Mazumdar, A.K. Saran, and Baljit Singh.

He started his career as a teacher after completing PhD in the Institute of Social Sciences, Agra. Later he joined well known universities, namely Rajasthan University and Jodhpur University. After a decade of teaching in Rajasthan, Prof. Yogendra Singh was invited to establish the Centre for the Study of Social Systems (CSSS) in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi in 1971 where he contributed immensely to develop not only the Centre but also Indian Sociology. He guided a large number of doctoral students some of whom became eminent sociologists. The CSSS remains as one of the finest centres of teaching and research centre at both national and international levels.

During his active years in the Centre, Prof. Singh was a popular teacher and even the students of economics, history and other social science discipline used to attend his lectures. He was specialised in social stratification, social theory, social change, culture and modernisation. It is claimed that Prof. Singh has been instrumental in extricating Indian Sociology from the bias of British Anthropology and sustained it. He did pioneering work in Theory, Methodology, analytical tools for Sociological investigation and modernisation. His major works include *Modernization of Indian Tradition* (1973), *Social Stratification and Social Change* (1978), *Indian Sociology* (1987), *Culture Change in India* (2000), *Ideology and Theory in India* (2004).

He held responsible positions in various academic and government committees concerned with formulation of social policies. He was also the recipient of several awards including Life Time Achievement (2007) award of ISS. He travelled in fifty countries in the world on academic assignments and also served as Visiting Processor in many universities in India and abroad.

His service as the Secretary of the Indian Sociological Society two times (1976-77 and 1978-79) and as President (1994-95) in every respect contributed in the making of the ISS as a professional and world renowned organisation of Indian Sociologists.

Prof. Singh will be long remembered for his seminal role in reinventing, reorienting and modernising Indian Sociology as a popular subject of study and profession.

As a person Prof. Yogendra Singh was simple, humble, amiable, and humane in nature and always carried mesmerising effect in interactions. His students used to inform that the doors of his residence were open for contacts and intellectual discourses.

His death is the culmination of an era in Indian Sociology and ISS has lost a pioneering sociologist which has created a vacuum. Indian sociologists will remain indebted to the epoch making contributions of Prof. Yogendra Singh.

Accordingly, the ISS, the professional organisation of Indian sociologists, salutes the great sociologist Prof. Yogendra Singh, who will remain with us always in our thoughts and deeds.

The President, Secretary, Treasurer, Members of MC and Conveners and Co-conveners of RCs, Editors, Editorial Board and Advisory Committee members of Sociological Bulletin, Samajshastra Sameeksha, E- Journal, E-Newsletter, and all Members of Indian Sociological Society (ISS).