



A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR ARVIND M. SHAH (1931-2020)

With the passing away of Professor Arvind M. Shah on 7th September 2020, an era in the Indian sociology has come to an end. After a brief teaching job at M. S. University, Baroda, Prof. Shah joined the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, in 1961 from where he retired as Professor in 1996. Prof. Shah was a National Fellow of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi. He also held several other significant fellowships during his illustrious career including those at the University of Chicago (1960-61) and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford (1961-62). He was a great teacher, scholar, and researcher.

Professor Shah contributed immensely in the development of sociology of India. He encouraged translating sociological texts into the vernacular and many a times he himself did the translation. His most remarkable contribution is in the field of family studies. Undoubtedly, A. M. Shah is India's best known sociologist of the Indian family. Other important areas in which he contributed are: the caste system, Hinduism, and village communities. Besides his landmark work, *The Household Dimension of the Family in India* (1973), authored *The Family in India: Critical Essays* (1998); *Exploring India's Rural Past* (2002); and *The Structure of Indian Society* (2012) are mandatory readings in various universities. Some of his other notable works include *Division and Hierarchy: An Overview of Caste in Gujarat* (co-authored with I.P. Desai), *Sociology and History: Dialogues Towards Integration*, *Structure of Indian Society: Then and Now*, *The Grassroots of Democracy: Field Studies of Indian Elections*, and *The Legacy of M. N. Srinivas : His Contributions to Sociology and Social Anthropology in India*.

Prof. Shah played an active role in building the sociology department at Delhi School of Economics. Shah was also actively involved for many years with the Indian Sociological Society and its official publication, the *Sociological Bulletin*. He held the office of ISS President in 1992-93., The Indian Sociological Society felicitated Prof Shah with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009 for his contribution to Indian sociology. Besides this he was founder member of Delhi Sociological Society. He has been the recipient of the Swami Pranavananda Award from the University Grants Commission which is given for outstanding scholarly/scientific work which has made important contributions to human knowledge.

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-News letter, and all Members of Indian Sociological Society (ISS).
