

OBITUARY



Prof. H. Maheswari Devi (1925-18 August 2022)

With heavy heart I would like to bring to the notice of the learned Botany colleagues that Prof. Haridevara Maheswari Devi is no more. She passed away on 18th August 2022. She was 97 years.

Born in an illustrious family Prof. Maheswari Devi obtained her D.Sc. degree (1958) from Andhra University working on the Embryology of Compositae under the guidance of Late Prof. J. Venkateswarlu. She started her professional career as a Demonstrator (1951), Department of Botany, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. She was promoted as a Lecturer (1953), became a Reader (1970) and Professor (1977). She was Head of the Department of Botany, Andhra University during 1984-85 and was instrumental in bringing the department to the International standards. After successful career of 35 years, she retired from her active service in 1985.

She was highly resourceful as a researcher who contributed much to our knowledge of the embryology of Angiosperms. Her research areas were later extended to palynology, seed anatomy, chemotaxonomy and Histochemistry. Under her able guidance more than 30 students obtained their Ph.D. and

M.Phil. degrees. She and her students worked on the embryology of diverse families like Asteraceae, Apocynaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Oleaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Apiaceae and many more. Many of these investigations were used to solve complex taxonomical problems. She has to her credit more than 60 research papers published in Indian and foreign journals. Her works have been cited and quoted in several text books including that of B.M.Johri's Embryology of Angiosperms published by Springer. She was an active participant and chaired the sessions in many national and International seminars, symposia and conferences. Indian Botanical Society honoured her with the Panchanan Maheshwari Medal in 1986.

Maheswari Devi was an ideal teacher who was much admired and loved by all her students. She was generous and cordial to all in the botanical community in general and to her colleagues in particular. She is soft spoken and kind hearted person. Many students shared their personal memories and help rendered by Madam. If I share these memories, including mine, they will run into pages. She was an active social worker and worked in association with International associations like Lions Club, Lioness Club and Lion Ladies Club. She

was a recipient of the Gold medal for 100 per cent attendance from International President of Lioness club, the best Lioness Award and the Gold Medal from the president of the Lion Ladies club, Best Child Welfare Award from the Lioness club and the Best Rural Welfare Award from the Lions Club. She was also President of Lioness Club and served the poor and downtrodden.

I was fortunate to be her first research scholar.

May Her soul attain Shivaikyam.

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