

Obituary



Prof. Shashi Sharma
(22 Nov 1960-10 April 2017)

The family of Journal of Indian Botanical Society was shocked to learn the sudden demise of Prof. Shashi Sharma elected, Executive councilor, 2014-2016 and was select sectional Editor from 2016, due to massive cardiac arrest in the wee hours of 10th April 2017 in Shimla. It's often said that what is there in the name but few persons as exception, live the meaning of their names in its real sense. Prof. Shashi charmed everyone who came in her contact without exception.

She was born in a middle class family where education was considered to be emancipator and parents did not discriminate between a girl and a boy and fully supported rather encouraged her to pursue career in science. She had a throughout first class career (school to university) and got attracted towards research while doing M.Phil. (1982) in Botany under the supervision of Prof. D. Banerji at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut.

As the luck would have it, she got married in 1983 to a person Shanti Swaroop Sharma who turned out to be her lifelong research collaborator and together they formed a unique husband wife team admired by colleagues and adored by students. As a couple their doors were always open to friends and especially to students; literally and not figuratively. There were occasions when at the dead of the night the door bell was answered; the visitor welcomed, entertained (fed) and in the end left satisfied usually before or at sunrise. Such was the reputation of Sharmas' largely due to large heatedness of Prof. Shashi Sharma.

Prof. Shashi did her Ph.D. (1987) at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla under Prof Vinay K Rai as CSIR JRF/SRF. Later she also received CSIR research associateship (1988) and CSIR pool (1993-96) to pursue her research. Later she taught botany (1996-2001) in Raza Govt P.G. College, Rampur (UP) and finally joined Department of

Bioscience in Himachal University as faculty and worked in different capacities till she breathed her last.

As a dedicated researcher she published in reputed national journals like Current Science, Ind. J Expt. Biol., J. Ind. Bot. Soc. etc. and in international journals like J. Exp. Bot.; New Phytol.; Phytochem., Ann. Bot.; Seed Science & Technology; Plant Physiology & Biochemistry etc. She was on the reviewer's panel of several journals. Her research work was supported by grants from different funding agencies like DST, UGC etc. As Co-PI, DST-JSPS project she Visited Kobe University, Japan (three months) and also Visited Bielefeld University, Germany. In the recent years she was working on the medicinal plants of western Himalayas and focused on the plants of Lahaul & Spiti and published some interesting findings.

Her untimely demise has left her friends, colleagues and students in a state of shock and they will miss her forever. She has left behind grieving collaborator-husband and two lovely young men with human values besides so many friends as she had no enemy.

Nikhil Kumar
(Retired) Scientist
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