



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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We are extremely sad to inform you that Prof. Arvind M. Shah passed away on 7 September, 2020. Prof. Shah has played a significant part in developing the discipline of sociology, the Department of Sociology at Delhi University, and the community of sociologists in India. He was a dedicated scholar, teacher, and member of the faculty. His work on family and kinship, on caste, sect and Hinduism, and on historical sociology (which in a sense he pioneered in India), have been extremely influential. His students and readers speak of his meticulous fieldwork and his insistence on conceptual clarity and careful writing. Among his many well known studies, his books entitled, *The Household Dimension of the Family in India*, *Division and Hierarchy: An Overview of Caste in Gujarat* (co-authored with I P Desai), *The Family in India*, *Exploring India's Rural Past: A Gujarat Village in early Nineteenth Century* based on local records, continue to be taught in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes around the world.

It was as an undergraduate student at the M. S. University in Baroda that A. M. Shah was initiated into sociology by M. N. Srinivas, with whom he completed his doctoral work. After a brief stint of teaching at M S University, Arvind M. Shah joined the Department of Sociology at Delhi University in 1961 and worked there until his retirement in 1996 when he moved back to Baroda. Professor Shah was the President of the Indian Sociological Society in 1992-93 and secretary, sometimes jointly, between 1967 to 1972. Among the many awards he received was the Lifetime Achievement award from the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) in 2009.

After his retirement, Professor Shah published a number of books, including *Structure of Indian Society: Then and Now* and an edited volume on Indian elections based on field studies conducted by sociologists at the Delhi School of Economics. He was putting together jointly edited volumes of articles published between 1886-1936 in the Journal of the Anthropological Society of Bombay, of which the first was *Suicide and Self-immolation*. His last publication was a compilation entitled, *The Legacy of M. N. Srinivas: His Contribution to Sociology and Social Anthropology in India*.

We celebrate the rich legacy of research and teaching that Prof. A.M. Shah leaves behind, even as we mourn his death. We express our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Jyotsna Ben, his sons, Sudhir and Jagan, and their families.

RIP Prof Shah. You will be missed.

We will be organizing a memorial meeting in his honour, details of which will be shared soon.