

Obituary

(Shri S. P. Jain)

In Mr. S. P. Jain — who peacefully passed away on January 3, 1993 at Sahebabad (U.P.) — we have lost a doyen of demographers and an affectionate teacher. Like me, those who have ever been associated with him considered it their privilege in being so. He was highly regarded for his scholarship by his fellow statisticians and demographers in the country. He was one of the few demographers who resisted the easy temptations to be abroad based for his work and professional recognition. Those who knew him, they knew well for his notable quality of his frank and open criticism of views and policies if he was technically in disagreement. At times that approach earned some displeasure for him yet his calling technically a spade for a spade for any point had put him on high pedestal of esteem among fellow professionals.

Mr. Jain will be remembered for his valuable services in the field of demography and statistics in his various capacities as Deputy Registrar General in the Registrar General & Census Commissioner's office; as Director, Demographic Training and Research Centre (now International Institute for Population Sciences); and Officer on Special Duty in the Evaluation and Intelligence Division of the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Mr. Jain's entry into the field of demography was more by accident than by design. His first demographic study "Relationship between Fertility and Economic and Social Status in the Punjab Villages" (1937) was undertaken by him purely by chance when he was working in Bharat Insurance Company as an Actuary. Mr. Jain also analysed the material of one year extensive data of the field surveys collected regularly by the Punjab Board of Economic Enquiry, Lahore. Later, his interactions with Dr. K. C. K. E. Raja, Mr. R. A. Gopaldaswami and Dr. Asok Mitra brought him to the fold of demography and vital statistics and he contributed very substantially to the growth and status of demography and made an unforgettable place for him and for the subject when, after completing his stint and tenure as Deputy Registrar General, Census of India; Director, Demographic Training and Research Centre (IEPS Bombay) and Officer on Special Duty, Department of Family Welfare, he took up assignment with Path Finders and also got engaged in preparation of Status Study on Population Research for the Family Planning Foundation (1974). Recognising Mr. Jain's contribution, Dr. C. Chandrasekaran appreciatively noted that Mr. Jain was singularly qualified to speak on the status of census and vital statistics registration operations in India as he was the one entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the life tables for the decade 1951-1961.

Mr. Jain will be remembered for his contribution to the development of Sample Registration System (SRS) and the development of record and reporting system for monitoring and evaluation of family welfare programme through service statistics.

Mr. Jain was one of the founder members of the IASP, Vice- President from 1971 to 1975 and member of the Executive Committee during 1975-77; and one of the members of the Editorial Board of *Demography India* for a long time. His students, his colleagues in demography will always respect his memory and remember him.

We pay our homage to the departed soul and pray to the Almighty that his soul rests in everlasting peace.

B. B. L. Sharma