

## **In Memorium**

### **Dr. C. Chandrasekaran (1911-2000)**

Dr C. Chandrasekaran considered to be the Doyen of Demography in India, died on 4th January 2000 at Bangalore at the ripe age of 88 years. His long and chequered professional life covered many positions, organisations and continents. He was Professor of Biostatistics at the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta (1941-48,54-58); Director, Demographic Training and Research Centre (now called International Institute for Population Sciences) Mumbai (1959-64); Regional Advisor at the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and Pacific, (1964-71); Inter-regional Advisor, UNFPA, New York (1971-74); World Bank Advisor to the Government of Indonesia (1974-79). He was the President of the International Union for Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) during 1969-73. He has authored and edited a large number of research publications in the areas of fertility analysis, family planning programme evaluation and demographic studies of special groups such as Parsis and Bengalis. He is well known for his seminal work on estimation of birth and death rates for an area from data collected through two independent methods developing the formula popularly known as Chandrasekaran -Deming formula published in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* in 1949. He is also recognised as the scholar who conducted the first large scale demographic survey in the Mysore State in India under the auspices of United Nations, known as the *Mysore Population Study* conducted in 1953-54 in the state of Mysore and published by the UN in 1961.

Even after retirement in 1979 he started a research body called the Applied Population Research Trust (APRET) at Bangalore in the year 1987 and was associated with it till his death in 2000.

His latest publication in 1999 released before his death is the *Life and Works of a Demographer* in which he has narrated in a very readable and humorous manner all his varied phases of journey through his personal and professional life.

I came into contact with Dr C. Chandrasekaran when I commenced my professional career at Gandhigram in 1959 as Statistician in Pilot Health Project, a project started by the Ford Foundation and ICMR in Athoor block. Dr Chandrasekaran was consultant to the project and he was at that time with the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. He used to visit the project regularly and even after he joined the Demographic Training and Research Centre in Mumbai in 1959, every year until he left

for Bangkok in 1964. I benefitted a lot by my discussions with him during his visits to Gandhigram. He was also chairman of the Board of Examiners for my dissertation for [redacted] Ph.D in Demography submitted to Kerala University in 1967. We were also together [redacted] i for two years at Bangkok (1969-71) where I was Programme officer at Population Division (ESCAP) and Dr C. Chandrasekaran was Regional Advisor.

I had the privilege of co-authoring three papers with him and I found him to be a critical scholar, good analyst, a meticulous writer and above all a humane person with a great sense of humour. He believed in writing precisely without use of any unnecessary materials and verbiage. His papers were short and to the point. He was also a socially popular man enjoying his social contacts. He was also a man with strong likes and dislikes which sometimes spilled over in his professional relationships and assessments. The community of international and Indian Demographers have suffered a irreparable loss in the demise of Dr C. Chandrasekaran. May his soul rest in peace. Both on behalf of IASP and on my own behalf I convey the deepest condolences to the bereaved family, to Mrs Lakshmi Chandrasekaran in particular, who was the major motivating force and support behind the life and works of Dr C. Chandrasekaran and his daughter, Mrs Radha Ramaswamy of whom he was very fond of. The demographic community share their grief and sorrow.

K. Srinivasan