

A tribute and honour to (Late) Prof. Manas Dasgupta

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A successful teacher, after completing nearly his full course of life with dedication in teaching, research, consultancy and popular writings, left one world for the other. He was suffering from physical ailments associated with ageing and else for quite some time. Earthly arrangements could not relieve his pain. He responded to the tune coming from the other world and moved consciously, where he will neither suffer from any pain nor will he pass away any more – “হেথা নাইকো মৃত্যু, নাইকো জর”. Also, it is said that time and distance are void there. So, we are not going to miss him any more - he will remain in our memory and feeling forever. May his soul be at peace. Oum shanti ... oum shanti ... oum shanti.

I beg to be excused in advance that I do not have enough capacity to evaluate (Late) Prof. Masas Dasgupta (aka MDG) as a teacher or as a person. The only thing that I can share about him is my feelings. He was a very popular and friendly teacher among us at the University of North Bengal. He taught me during 1994-1995 in MA Part I & Part II. His lectures were too attractive to us. Simplicity in his presentation was unparalleled. He never exaggerated mathematical models in front of us. He used to teach us the facts not ‘text’. He treated all students equally and encouraged everybody without any discrimination. Definitely, he was a great teacher.

Still I remember some interactions and glimpses with him. I have interest in alternative systems of medicine for long. One day, in Part II class, he asked me to give some examples of it. I described the uses of turmeric in everyday use. He added some more points to my answer and praised me! On the day of my first convocation, on 14th

December 1994, when I was roaming in costume in the Sal Kunja with my medal (which I received for my performance in the undergraduate level), he inspected everything carefully and advised me to preserve all these (including the costume) for days to come.

Personally, I have been motivated enough in empirical research on lives and economy of North Bengal from his path of work on the same. It is needless to say that he was the pioneer person to work with for the development of land and people of North Bengal and Sikkim. According to Sodhganga, a reservoir of Indian theses, MDG supervised 22 doctoral works of the Department of Economics, University of North Bengal. Of the 22, 15 are directly related to the economy of North Bengal; one considered the same of whole West Bengal; two are related to Sikkim, and one each is related to Tripura and Nepal. Two works are related to Indo-Soviet and Indo-Nepal trade issues. He authored several books and research articles. He has also been a regular columnist of Uttarbanga Sambad - a popular Bengali news daily in North Bengal. I used to read his popular writings with great interest. I hope that his tradition of teaching research will continuously be followed by many of us at North Bengal and beyond.

Last but not least, presently I am staying at the same residential unit on campus, where MDG spent most of his working life. I feel his existence every day in our surroundings. When I pass by the flowering trees at the front terrace or look at the grownup trees at the backyard, I realise that MDG might have planted those in his time with a long vision for future generations. In other words or in terminology of economics, his works are 'sustainable'. I feel honored to be a student of such a great teacher. Although, I am surrounded by a melancholy feeling today for his departure from this physical world, it is a matter of great pride for me for being able to bid 'a successful teacher' farewell from my present position.

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Raja Rammohunpur

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[Prof. Manas Dasgupta, Retired Professor, Department of Economics, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling passed away on 8th May 2020 at 9.30 pm IST as reported in the Uttarbanga Sambad, 09th May 2020, p.8]