

## **IN MEMORIAM: MY MENTOR, MY GUIDE**

### **PROF. MOHD. SHAHEER**

Writing about memories of Prof.Mohd.Shaheer brings tears to my eyes because it is too soon and so sudden. It has taken awhile to realise that expressions of gratitude, updates about profession and family would no more be related to a Delhi phone number. This is like an umbilical cord being cut unceremoniously without a 'by your leave'. No time to say goodbye. Never did, come to think of it...

It is often said that after a parent it is the teacher who knows us better and as the advisor for my doctoral thesis perhaps Prof.Shaheer knew me the best. He emphasised being prepared to the best of one's ability and nurtured intellect rather than imposing his own experience or knowledge. I feel privileged to be his only doctoral research student worthy of his time. I say this because as students we know him as a stern task master but as my advisor he was gentle, constantly enquiring about my children and meticulous with feedback.

I miss Prof. Shaheer because we collaborated on projects in Hyderabad and he never would miss letting me know if Mrs. Shaheer was with him. He told me about her liking for Seetaphal and about his son Kabir as well. My responsibility towards my family increased because of his constant reference to family. This extended to my daughter's selection of her groom who is a Punjabi! Prof.Shaheer and his family attended my daughter's wedding reception in Delhi.

Teaching students of Architecture for more than 30 years constantly has Prof.Shaheer, his values and sincerity as a reference. It was his patience that converted a non-architect like me into a Landscape architect. For this I am so grateful to my profession which allowed my long association with Prof.Shaheer to flourish inspite of my residing in Hyderabad.

Prof.Shaheer will continue to be my favourite memory. May his soul rest in peace.

***Dr.Sridevi Rao,***  
Hyderabad  
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