

## Obituary

*Prof. S. C. Tiwari*

*(24 January 1928 – 13 November 2022)*

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we lost last of the trinity of the Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi in Prof. Surendra Chandra Tiwari (SCT) to a brief illness in New Delhi. We had already lost Prof. J. D. Mehra and Prof. I. P. Singh. Among the three of them, SCT was the most accessible, approachable and friendly of all maintaining contact with old students and colleagues till very recently. There was something special in him in having magnetic element in his personality that will attract colleagues and students towards him. Anyone coming in contact with him would feel his special love and affection. Everyone was important for him, worthy of his attention, irrespective of age, gender and status and he in turn would get respect from all and sundry. While we were students, his room was the one having an antechamber and the main outer room with plenty of chairs. It was quite a common site when there would be many teachers sitting in the room and his research scholars would be preparing tea for them. J. D. Mehra, J. S. Bhandari, I. S. Marwah, Mrs. Swadesh Seth, A. K. Kalla, besides the visiting anthropologists were to be commonly seen in his room. In our student days, his colleagues would also come to his room for a quick smoke as well. I was fortunate to inherit his room while I served the Department of Anthropology as professor. He would quite often come to visit me and would tell me that the central table that I had was the table belonging to the founder of the Department, Prof. P. C. Biswas.

Born on 24<sup>th</sup> of January, 1928 at TallaDaniya in a Brahmin family of the city of Almora in Uttarakhand, he belonged to the second batch of Anthropology masters students in the University of Delhi in the year 1948. His teachers were P. C. Biswas, Hilda Raj and Freda Mukherjee. The anthropological training at his time consisted of studying subjects like ethnology, physical and cultural anthropology, prehistory, technology and museum methods. He



specialized in physical anthropology in his final year. He once told me that they had gone to Jaunsar-Bawar for their M.Sc. fieldwork under the supervision of Hilda Raj. Incidentally, SCT and my first fieldwork was in the same set of villages, namely Thana, Tungra and Rikhar near Chakrata town. His master's dissertation was on "The Material Culture of the Jaunsaris". He had developed specialization in Material Culture and Technology and for many years, he would be teaching this course in the department, I being in one such batch of students in 1973. He had brought a leaf container from the Rajis and a leaf raincoat from the Jaunsar-Bawar, both items are kept in a special showcase in the departmental museum. Immediately after passing M.Sc. in 1950, SCT joined for Ph.D. under Dr. P. C. Biswas. His thesis covered both physical and cultural aspects of the Rajis of Askot,

whom he referred as 'Royal Wildmen of the Forests', with a titled "Ethnological Study of the Rajis".

SCT told me that his viva voce examination was a bit problematic, not because of its quality of presentation, but was for something else. He showed me the letters which mentioned about the date of viva voce examination with instructions that he should present himself to the office of the Registrar in official gown for his viva in front of the external examiner. For two times, he went in the ceremonial gown to appear for his viva, but the external examiner did not arrive and therefore for two times he had to return empty handed. It was only in the third attempt when he presented himself before the Registrar that his viva voce examination was finally held. This incidence reminds me of my viva which was held when SCT was the Head of the Department in 1985. At that time, I was working in Garhwal University and telegram was the only medium for faster communication. SCT had fixed my viva and the external examiner Prof. A. C. Bhagawati had also arrived in Delhi from Assam. When I reached half an hour before the time of viva voce examination straight from Srinagar, Garhwal, SCT was furious because he had not received any confirmation from me. I told him that I had sent a telegram immediately after receiving his telegram. Fortunately for me, as we were talking, the postman knocked at the door and informed that he has brought a telegram, this was my telegram delivered late. That was one of those rare occasions when I had seen SCT angry otherwise he was one of the most charming and courteous persons of DU department.

While SCT was doing his doctorate, he worked as Anthropologist for the Army Statistical Organization between April 1952 to September 1953 at an honorarium of INR 175 per month. He measured a total of 5,000 Army personnel on 50 somatometric measurements besides studying their blood group, blood pressure and other physiological variables. In the month of October, 1953 SCT joined the Department of Anthropology as a Research Assistant and worked in this position for a year when he became lecturer in Anthropology on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1954. He remained in the service of the Department of Anthropology till his superannuation in January, 1993. While he was in the service of Delhi University, he was awarded Benington Memorial Scholarship and Social Research

Foundation, Water House & Co. Scholarship of the University College, London. He left for London in a ship from Bombay. While leaving Delhi on 5<sup>th</sup> of November, 1960, he was given a warm farewell and dignitaries like L. P. Vidyarthi, J. D. Mehra, I. P. Singh, R. D. Sonwal, V. Bhalla, J. C. Sharma, Abhimanyu Sharma, D. D. Kapoor, P. K. Dutta, A. K. Mitra, J. D. Mawalwala and many others were present at the Delhi Railway Station to see him off. This memorable photograph is available at the Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi website under the title 'Down the Memory Lane'.

While he was in London for little more than two years, he joined the Department of Eugenics, Biometry and Genetics and Department of Anthropology of the University College, London, London University. He was appointed an Honorary Research Assistant to do research under Professor Lionel Sharples Penrose, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., F. R. S. who was the Galton Professor of Eugenics and Head of the Department of Eugenics, Biometry and Genetics and Professor Nigel Ashworth Barnicot of the Department of Anthropology. Penrose was a leading medical geneticist and mathematician well known for Penrose triangle, Penrose method and Penrose square root law. Barnicot, on the other hand was a leading expert in skin and hair pigmentation, haemoglobins, haptoglobins and transferrins. SCT learnt many techniques in Anthropometry, Biometry and Serology while in London. Before SCT, the Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi was primarily specializing in dermatoglyphics. After SCT's return from England, the publication profile of the Department took a drastic turn. He introduced new areas like Haptoglobins and Transferrin, Crossing, Skin Reflectance and advanced researches in Serology which was possible because of the training that he received in UCL.

A true teacher, he firmly believed in motivating, inspiring and guiding students by simplifying very tough topics. Although, he had access to the latest in the field of biological anthropology and genetics, he would share his knowledge to anyone and everyone. Prof. A. Paparao fondly remembered his fortnight visit to the Department of Physical Anthropology and Pre-historic Archaeology, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati when SCT went there as a U.G.C. visiting

fellow to deliver a series of lectures on recent trends in physical anthropology. He was very popular in Lucknow where he had delivered K. S. Mathur Memorial Lecture in 1985. In fact, he was a very close friend of K. S. Mathur. In 1977, when K. S. Mathur had come to take our M.Sc. Final Practical Examination in social anthropology, he would meet people in SCT's room. After our exams were over, he desired to meet me as he was impressed with my viva voce. When I went to meet him, he was with SCT who introduced me as belonging to the hills. He at once invited me to join for a doctorate study in his department at Lucknow University. It is another matter that I could not pursue my doctorate from Lucknow due to his untimely death in 1978, but SCT was primarily instrumental in helping me in my career development. After my return, it was SCT who persuaded J. D. Mehra to take me as doctoral student as he was a very close friend of him. In fact, it was SCT who would call J. D. Mehra by his first name as Jai. He was also the only person in the department who would call me by my first initials PC.

He occupied many distinguished administrative positions in the University of Delhi. He was Head of the Department of Anthropology, Chairman, Board of

Research Studies in Science, Member of the Academic Council and Executive Council of the University. While he was the Dean of Science Faculty, he organized the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Indian Science Congress, which proved to be a highly successful event.

I enjoyed a very special relation with him, not because I hailed from Almora, but I think, anyone coming in contact with him would have this feeling that SCT treats one like that. He was extremely happy when I became Vice Chancellor I/C of University of Delhi. He wanted to visit me in my official room in the colonial building – Vice Regal Lodge. But, due to Covid pandemic, he could not come to my office. But we (myself, I. S. Marwah and A. K. Kalla) would often meet him for lunch at India International Center and enjoy his company. SCT is no more with us but he will be always remembered for his accessibility, courtesy, modesty, elegance and above all his clean-cut sense of dressing. As a scholar, he trained a whole generation of anthropologists, though many were not his direct students. He will be specially remembered for initiating studies on haptoglobin and transferrin variants in India.

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## CORRIGENDUM

*Attention readers:* The article titled: “Prevalence of Undernutrition among Children and Adolescents of Three PVTGs in West Bengal”, that appeared in *South Asian Anthropologist*, 2022, 22 (2): 113-121, contained some typological errors when the manuscript was submitted by authors. The errors remained in print; those have been corrected now by the authors and are presented below. We express regrets for the inconvenience caused to the readers

for the table presented earlier — *Editor*

1. Instead of “2 SD, please note and read as: –2 SD, on page 115, 116, 117.
2. Instead of +SD, please note and read as: +2 SD, on page 115.
3. Instead of  $C^2$ , please note and read as:  $\chi^2$ , on page 116, 118.
4. The Table 1, 3, 5 and 6 of the above article have been revised and corrected, and are presented below:

TABLE 1

*Differences of intra and intergroup nutritional status based on Z-score among the under 5 years PVTGs*

PVTGs	Nutritional indicators	BoysMean (SD)	GirlsMean (SD)	t-value	p-value
Birhor	WHZ	-1.73 (1.31)	-1.64 (1.02)	0.29	0.775
	HAZ	-2.72 (1.91)	-2.00 (1.47)	1.73	0.089
	WAZ	-2.68 (1.23)	-2.35 (1.06)	1.18	0.242
Lodha	WHZ	-1.37 (1.54)	-1.15 (1.18)	0.61	0.547
	HAZ	-1.87 (1.48)	-1.89 (1.25)	0.06	0.950
	WAZ	-2.01 (1.26)	-1.90 (0.81)	0.37	0.710
Toto	WHZ	0.02 (1.34)	-0.44 (1.25)	1.33	0.189
	HAZ	-1.11 (1.25)	-0.85 (1.34)	0.74	0.465
	WAZ	-0.59 (0.82)	-0.83 (0.97)	0.99	0.329
ANOVA	<i>B-L-T</i>	F-value	p-value		
	WHZ	Boys	12.64	<0.001	
		Girls	8.63	<0.001	
	HAZ	Boys	7.74	0.001	
		Girls	5.98	0.004	
	WAZ	Boys	25.85	<0.001	
Girls		19.31	<0.001		

*B – Birhor, L – Lodha, T – Toto*

TABLE 3

*Differences of intra and inter-group nutritional status based on Z-score among 5 to 19 years PSTGs*

PVTGs	Nutritional indicators	BoysMean (SD)	GirlsMean (SD)	t-value	p-value
Birhor	HAZ	-1.92 (1.14)	-1.51 (1.26)	1.58	0.118
	BAZ	-1.32 (1.08)	-1.15 (0.94)	0.77	0.442
Lodha	HAZ	-1.41 (0.97)	-1.53 (1.06)	0.75	0.452
	BAZ	-1.66 (1.00)	-1.34 (1.01)	2.17	0.031
Toto	HAZ	-1.19 (0.92)	-1.12 (0.87)	0.43	0.670
	BAZ	-0.84 (0.92)	-0.37 (0.81)	3.40	0.001
ANOVA	<i>B-L-T</i>	F-value	p-value		
	HAZ	Boys	7.109	0.001	
		Girls	3.906	0.022	
	BAZ	Boys	12.843	<0.001	
Girls		26.115	<0.001		

*B – Birhor, L – Lodha, T – Toto*

TABLE 5  
*Composite index of anthropometric failure (CIAF) of under 5 years PVTGs*

Group	Description	Birhor		Lodha		Toto	
		Boys(n 29)	Girls(n 36)	Boys(n 37)	Girls(n 23)	Boys(n 29)	Girls(n 27)
A	No failure (%)	20.7	27.8	40.6	30.4	75.9	85.2
B	WT only (%)	3.5	2.8	2.7	0.0	6.9	3.7
C	WT & UNW (%)	10.3	19.4	13.5	17.4	0.0	3.7
D	WT, ST & UNW (%)	13.8	16.7	13.5	4.4	0.0	0.0
E	ST & UNW (%)	44.8	33.3	18.9	26.1	0.0	3.7
F	ST only (%)	6.9	0.0	10.8	21.7	17.2	3.7
CIAF: B to F (%)		79.3	72.2	59.5	69.6	24.1	14.8
Chi-square*		Boys, <i>B-L-T</i>		Girls, <i>B-L-T</i>			
		$\chi^2$ -value		18.36		23.70	
		p-value		0.001		<0.001	

WT – Wasting, ST – Stunting, UNW – Underweight, B – Birhor, L – Lodha, T – Toto, n – frequency  
 \* Between two groups' frequency (n): 1. No failure, 2. CIAF (B to Y)

TABLE 6  
*Composite index of anthropometric failure (CIAF) of 5 to 19 years PVTGs*

Group	Description	Birhor		Lodha		Toto	
		Boys(n 41)	Girls(n 45)	Boys(n 84)	Girls(n 100)	Boys(n 69)	Girls(n 83)
M	No failure (%)	36.6	51.1	48.8	50.0	79.7	84.3
N	ST and TN (%)	17.1	4.4	13.1	6.0	1.5	0.0
O	ST only (%)	31.7	35.6	13.1	26.0	13.0	13.3
P	TN only (%)	14.6	8.9	25.0	18.0	5.8	2.4
CIAF: N to P (%)		63.4	48.9	51.2	50.0	20.3	15.7
Chi-square*		Boys, <i>B-L-T</i>		Girls, <i>B-L-T</i>			
		$\chi^2$ -value		40.98		26.10	
		p-value		<0.001		<0.001	

ST – Stunting, TN – Thinness, B – Birhor, L – Lodha, T – Toton – frequency  
 \* Between two groups' frequency (n): 1. No failure, 2. CIAF (N to P)



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