

OBITUARY



Prof. G. R. Soman
(1948-2021)

Prof. G. R. Soman (born on 26th April 1948), an excellent teacher of Sedimentology, Structural Geology and related Petroleum Geology, Marine Geology and well known researcher in the field of Sedimentary Petrology of the Department of Geology, Savitribai Phule Pune University (Formerly University of Pune), Pune-7; passed away in the evening of Saturday 30th April 2021 due to Covid-19 related illness.

Prof. G. R. Soman completed his M. Sc. in Geology from University of Poona in 1970. He was the recipient of fellowship from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun and was first student to complete his Ph. D Thesis from the Department of Geology of the then University of Poona in 1975 on the topic entitled "Geology of the Tota Am area Almora and Nainital Districts, Uttar Pradesh" under the supervision of Late Prof. K. B. Powar. Subsequently, he joined Department of Geology, University of Poona, as Demonstrator (1975 to 1977), Lecturer (1977 to 1989), became Reader in 1989 and Professor in 1997. He served as Head, Department of Geology University of Pune; during 2005 to 2008. He was also member of Board of Studies in Geology and various other administrative committees of University of Pune.

His research interest was in the field of Sedimentary petrology, Structural Geology and established the Sedimentology laboratory with basic facilities. He was excellent field geologist and has always emphasized that students should observe, document the field characteristics and relationships to the maximum possible details. He guided three students for their Ph. D Thesis on the sedimentological aspects from parts of Kaladgi basin, Pranhita-Godavari basin and one M. Phill on the Lameta sediments from Nagpur area. He supervised several M. Sc. Dissertation thesis on various topics from different parts of India. His expertise in the field of Sedimentary petrology was pivotal in providing Consultancy Service to Reliance Petroleum - A

multinational private company engaged in Petroleum exploration.

Prof. Soman was associated as Principal Investigator and Coinvestigator on various research projects sponsored by ISRO (Kaladgi basin), ONGC (Satpura basin) and DST (Quaternary Karals of Coastal Maharashtra). Based on his expertise and experience, he was nominated as a Member of IGCP Project. Prof. Soman has published several papers in National, International Journals and also participated in International Geological Congress (27th IGC Moscow, 1984). He was Life Member of Indian Association of Sedimentologists, Aligarh; Gondwana Geological Society, Nagpur and Indian Geologic Congress, Roorkee and actively participated in the thematic as well as other Seminars, Conferences and workshops. He has successfully organised Annual Convention of Indian Association of Sedimentologists of 1992 in Department of Geology, University of Pune.

Prof. G. R. Soman is survived by his wife Asha, his son Mihir and daughter Madhura. We the students, colleagues from Department of Geology, Savitribai Phule Pune University; has lost a very excellent teacher and researcher of Sedimentology. The Department conducted an online Condolence meeting on 14/05/2021 which was attended by more than 60 participants. We the students, faculty members and non-teaching members of Department of Geology, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune-7; convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

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