

DR. C.G. SARAIYA, MD, MS, FRCS

Written by Dr Shirish Sheth



Dr. Chandrakant G. Saraiya was born on 22nd October 1916 as he enters 101st year on 23rd October 2016, alive but not kicking but with the same powerful brain and number of grey cells. An eminent Obstetrician and Gynecologist with sound and perfect knowledge of the subject. Indeed, Teacher of Teachers. He practised what he preached and he preached ‘Diagnosis must precede the treatment’ and words of Hippocrates that ‘Do No harm’. He Graduated from Grant Medical College and J.J. Hospital and later was appointed as Honorary Consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist at Grant Medical College and J.J. Hospital and Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital for few decades, till his retirement. He had MD and MS with distinction and later walked through FRCS (Edinburgh) examination. In fact, at FRCS exams in Edinburgh in the nineteen forties, the examiner himself was stumped by his answer to the first question that was asked to him.

He served as president of All India Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India (FOGSI) in 1975-76 and president of Bombay Obstetric and Gynecological Society (BOGS) in 1973-74. He was miles away from politics and manipulations.

Students would wait to attend his lectures. In depth knowledge that he imparted with incomparable sense of humour. His comments would be the last word. They were eagerly awaited to carry the message home. Class room or hall would be packed to listen to him. Command over English and sharpness in talk was well beyond normal and one has to be sharp in talking with him.

Even today, with his completion of 100 years on 22nd October 2016, the brain is functioning as it was in the past. No news is new to him as somehow he has received it before most people. He fully well knows all the major and worth knowing minor events. His talks are interesting and always with humor. No dimming of sharp intellect even today.

He had an enviable Obstetric and Gynecological practice in the era of colleagues Dr. V.N. Shirodkar and Dr. B.N. Purandare, which includes delivery of wife Jaya of the legendary and most loved Amitabh Bachhan besides USA Consuls etc.

He has slept in the hospital on numberless nights and examined a woman in labour with wait-n-watch approach, half hourly or 4 to 5 times with caesarean section rate of less than 5%. There was no difference in attending to the patient whether she was at J.J. Hospital or in his private practice at Sir Hurkisondas Hospital or Breach Candy Hospital.

His beloved wife Mrs. Annie Saraiya, with Lawyer's genes was great. Poetry writer and with literacy outputs. She had written books for children and was a member of Senate of Bombay University. She once led the Annual convocation procession along with the Chancellor.

He has liberally donated to Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital, Shanti Avedna (Bandra), School for Blind (Dadar), Ophthalmic outdoor at SNTD College (Santacruz) and even in Gondal (Gujarat).