

Obituary

of

Professor (Mrs.) Hamida Ahmad
 Department of Psychology
 Aligarh Muslim University, India

This is to put down with a heavy heart that Professor (Mrs.) Hamida Ahmad passed away on 20th July 2017. Professor Hamida Ahmad was one of the most influential academics in the areas of cognitive Psychology and research methods, a mentor to many fine scholars, and an efficient administrator. She was an extraordinary scholar, who promoted and believed in the distinctiveness of Psychological research, the need for specific theories and models in research and application of the research outcomes into public domains. She made considerable research and teaching contributions that her students can build on.

Professor Hamida Ahmad articulated and grasped the relationships between inimitable resources and actions, processes and value creation in a way that was meaningful to the academic community and beyond. In the capacity of Director, She nurtured and helped to grow the Centre for Distance Education at the Aligarh Muslim University and mobilized various categories of resources to the best use of students. Her understanding of professionalism and resource development enabled young academicians to hone up their professional skills and to improve their efficacy in knowledge processing and service creation. She executed such services being Director of Academic Staff College at Aligarh Muslim University. Her insight has also had extensive impact on large research projects and institution development in India. She helped India's top academic leadership to improve best practices in the Indian Universities



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while as a member of the finance committee of University Grants Commission. Her critical skills were used best to ensure educational quality in the country when She worked as one of the members of NAAC peer team that assessed and rated the academic institutions across the country.

As one of the celebrated students of the historic Abdullah Girls' College, She was elected as the President of the Students' Union of the college. She took inspiration from the mission statement of the college and became a harbinger of women's education and empowerment. She chose to join academia and in this role she served as an exceptional role model for female faculty.

Professor Hamida was a true and professional academic. She was an exemplary scholar based on her thoroughness and search for in-depth knowledge within the topic area where she had her interests. Her work was always characterized by high quality. This enabled people around her—her students and colleagues—to understand what it takes to do high-level research. At the same time, she was always willing and generous to share her insights and ideas. She was curious and wanted to develop knowledge rather than protect it.

Professor Hamida had a strong desire to help develop future researchers and was passionate about her students. Both students and colleagues have had the privilege of her ability to mentor and inspire. She spent a lot of time identifying good PhD candidates to convince them to be innovative—within the area of academia. She was also a very engaged PhD supervisor.

While her extraordinary qualities as a scholar stood out—Professor Hamida was first and foremost a great person. She valued people around her and had the ability to set rank and seniority aside to engage in light but informative conversations in any given situation. She saw the qualities of the person behind an idea. She also had the ability to laugh and make a tough academic discussion into something more—a conversation among friends.

We are proud to have had the opportunity to work with and know Professor Hamida Ahmad and miss her greatly.

DAUD SALIM FARUQUIE