

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

A Profile

The Department of Sociology in the University of Bombay, which is celebrating its Platinum Jubilee, has the distinction of being the oldest centre of teaching and research in Sociology in India and, after Japan, the second oldest centre in Asia. In addition, it is also the oldest Department in the University. The Department was set up in 1919 with an eminent British sociologist and town planner Sir Patrick Geddes as the first Professor and Head. The Department brought out a volume in memory of Sir Patrick in 1976.

Professor Sir Patrick Geddes was succeeded by Dr. G.S. Ghurye, who was appointed Reader and Head of the Department in 1924. He became professor in 1934 and continued to head the Department until his retirement in 1959. After his retirement he was designated the first Professor Emeritus in the University of Bombay. A festschrift in Professor Ghurye's honour, edited by K. M. Kapadia, was brought out on his sixtieth birthday in 1954. Another volume, edited by S. D. Pillai, was brought out on his eightieth birthday. Professor Ghurye breathed his last, at the ripe age of 90, on 28th December, 1983.

Professor K. M. Kapadia succeeded Professor Ghurye as Head of the Department in 1960. His tenure and scholarly career came to a rather abrupt end with his unfortunate death in 1967. Professor Kapadia will be remembered for his notable contribution to the study of kinship, family and marriage in India. The Department brought out a volume in his memory, edited by Dharendra Narain, in 1975.

Professor A. R. Desai succeeded Professor Kapadia as Head of the Department in 1967. Professor Desai made a significant contribution to Sociology through his numerous publications relating to political sociology, rural sociology, peasant struggles and trade union movement. His book *Social Background of Indian Nationalism*, *Rural Sociology in India*, and *Peasant Struggles in India* are widely used as recommended texts in several universities in India. Professor Desai retired in 1976. He was elected President of Indian Sociological Society in 1979. A festschrift in his honour, edited by Ghanshyam Shah, was brought out in 1990. Professor Desai passed away on November 12, 1994. A volume in his memory, edited by Manorama Savur and Indra Munshi, was published in October this year.

The Golden Jubilee of the Department was celebrated during Professor Desai's tenure in 1969. An international seminar on the "Modernization of Under-developed Societies", organised in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee, was attended by a number of distinguished foreign and Indian scholars. There included Professor Paul F. Lazarsfeld, Professor Robert K. Merton, Professor Conrad M. Arensberg (Columbia University), Professor David G. Mandelbaum (University of California), Professor Marion

Platinum Jubilee Souvenir

Dept of Sociology, Uni of Bombay

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J. Levy Jr. (Princeton University), Professor Theodore P. Wright Jr. (University of California), Professor T. Koyama (Tokyo University), Dr. Edita Vas (Yugoslavia) Dr. H. Faulwetter, Professor Stolberg (German Democratic Republic), Professor M. N. Srinivas, Professor Irawati Karve, Professor V. M. Dandekar, Professor Surajit Sinha, Professor I. P. Desai, Professor M. S. Gore, Professor Y. B. Damle, Professor R. K. Mukherjee, Professor Yogendra Singh, Professor L. P. Vidyarthi and Professor N. R. Sheth, among others.

Professor J. V. Ferreira assumed the headship of the Department in 1976. Initially trained in the Department of Sociology, Professor Ferreira subsequently went to Vienna and obtained a doctorate from the University of Vienna. Professor Ferreira contributed to anthropological theory and methodology through his book *Totemism in India* (1965) and later through numerous papers and monographs. He edited the second series of the ICSSR-sponsored *Survey of Research in Sociology and Social Anthropology* in 1985. During his tenure as Head of the Department Professor Ferreira also served as Director of Western Regional Centre of ICSSR. He retired in 1982.

Professor Dharendra Narain succeeded Professor Ferreira as Head of the Department in 1982. Professor Narain completed his doctoral dissertation under the guidance of Professor G. S. Ghurye, which was later published as *Hindu Character* (1957). He was invited to contribute an article on Ghurye, which was published in the Biographical Supplement of the *International Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences* in 1979. He also edited the ICSSR-sponsored volume containing abstracts of M.A. and Ph.D. dissertations completed in the Department of Sociology. He retired in February 1991.

The other members of the teaching faculty who joined the Department at different times include Dr. N.A. Thoothi (1925-1950), Dr. (Miss) P.H. Cabinetmaker (1951-1968), Dr. (Mrs.) Manorama Savur (1968- 1988), Dr. S. S. Jha (1971-1986), Dr. M.N.V. Nair (1968- 1973) Prof. S. P. Mohanty (1971-1994) and Dr. Radhika Ramasubban (1981-1985).

Some of the leading figures in Indian Sociology and Anthropology had their initial training in the Department of Sociology. Mention may be made of M.N.Srinivas (M.A. 1938, Ph.D. 1943), Irawati Karve (M.A. 1928), I. P. Deasi (Ph.D. 1943), Y.B. Damle (Ph.D. 1950), Vilas Sangave (Ph.D. 1950) and M.S.A. Rao (Ph.D. 1953).

The Department has played a pioneering role in the professionalisation of Sociology in India. The Indian Sociological Society and its journal *Sociological Bulletin* owe their inception to the initiative of Professor Ghurye and his colleagues in the Department. Professor Ghurye served as the President and Professor K.M. Kapadia and Professor J.V. Ferreira as secretaries of Indian Sociological Society from its inception in 1952 till 1966.

Teaching Faculty

The strength of the teaching faculty is 12, comprising three Professors, five readers and four Lecturers. The composition of the teaching faculty is as follows:

Dr. A.R. Momin	Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Head of the Department
Dr. S.K. Bhowmik	Professor of Sociology
Mrs. Priscilla Fernandes	Reader in Sociology (on lien)
Dr. Indra Munshi Saldanha	Reader in Sociology
Dr. Kamala Ganesh	Reader in Cultural Anthropology
Dr. Nasreen Fazalbhoy	Lecturer in Sociology
Dr. Jyotsna Bapat	Lecturer in Sociology
Dr. S.M. Michael	Lecturer in Sociology

Research Projects

The integration of Sociology and Anthropology, an interdisciplinary and eclectic orientation and a blend of macro and micro approaches comprise the strengths of the Department. These are reflected in the composition of the teaching faculty, research orientations as well as the teaching programme.

The following provides a list of the projects completed in the Department as well as the on-going projects.

- (1961) Dr. K.M. Kapadia took up a UGC-sponsored project on "Home Desertion by Juveniles". It was completed by Dr. S.D. Pillai in 1969.
- (1968-9) Dr. A.R. Desai and Dr. S.D. Pillai made a study of slum dwellers in Bombay. The project was financed by the Planning Commission. The report was published in the form of a book entitled "A Profile of an Indian Slum" in 1972.
- (1969) Dr. A.R. Desai and Dr. S.P. Punalekar took up a UNESCO- sponsored project on the "Relationship between Literacy and Productivity of Industrial workers".
- (1969) Professor S.P. Mohanty and Mrs. Minal Shah took up a project entitled "A Study of the Demographic Aspects of the Household in Greater Bombay".

The project was sponsored by the City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra.

- (1970-72) Dr. A. R. Desai and Dr. Manorama Savur made a study of an artisan community in the industrial setting. The report entitled "The Kumbhars of Kumbharwada" is mimeographed.
- (1973) Professor S. P. Mohanty and Mrs. Minal Shah took up a project on "Social Change in Maharashtra: A Trend Analysis based on Census Data for the period 1901-1971". The report is mimeographed.
- (1974) Dr. A. R. Desai edited "A Documented History of the Trade Union Movement" (in two volumes). The project was sponsored by the Indian Council of Historical Research.
- (1974-75) Dr. Manorama Savur made a study of "Structure of an Indian Village, with particular reference to Maharashtra". The report is mimeographed.
- (1977) Dr. Manorama Savur edited, with Dr. Kamala Ganesh, "A Documented History of the Trade Union Movement" (Vols. V-VI). The project was sponsored by the ICNR.
- (1978) Dr. S. S. Jha took up an ICSSR-funded project on "Relocation and Improvement of Slums in a Metropolis". The report has been published.
- (1978-79) Dr. Manorama Savur made a study of "Under-development in Ratnagiri: A case of rural-metropolitan relation". The report is mimeographed.
- (1979) Dr. J.V. Ferreira and A.R. Momin took up a project on "Kokans and Malhar Kolis of Thana District". The project was sponsored by the Anthropological Survey of India.
- (1981-82) Dr. Manorama Savur took up a Departmental project on "role of the Corporate Sector in Rural Development".
- (1991) Dr. A. R. Momin has taken up a project on "Nasik: Ethnology of a Temple-Town in Western Maharashtra". The project has been sponsored by the ICSSR.
- (1992) Dr. A. R. Momin completed a project on "social Mobility and Development among the Tribal Communities of India". The project was sponsored by the ICSSR.
- (1991) Dr. Indra Munshi-Saldanha began work, along with Dr. Manorama Savur and Dr. Swapna Banerjee-Guha, on "State and the Changing Face of Forests in India, with particular reference to Pulp and Paper Industry". The project has been sponsored by IDPAD-ICSSR.

Independence (1986), *Violation of Democratic Rights in India* (1980), *Depression and Resistance in India* (1990) and *State and Repressive Culture* (1994). He was the President of the Indian Sociological Society in 1980. Professor Desai inspired several generations of students all over the country during his active and illustrious career.

I. P. DESAI

Professor I.P. Desai was a postgraduate student of the Department of Sociology, University of Bombay. He did his masters in Economics and Sociology, and then registered for the Ph.D. under Prof. G.S. Ghurye. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on "Social Basis of Crime" in 1943.

In June 1944, before he completed his Ph.D., Prof. Desai was appointed as a Research Assistant to Prof. G.S. Ghurye. He held this post for two years. He subsequently became lecturer in Economics and Sociology at the Deccan College, Poona. In 1952 he was appointed as a Reader in Department of Sociology at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. He succeeded Prof. M.N. Srinivas, who had left Baroda to set up the Department of Sociology in Delhi University in 1959. Prof. Desai founded the Centre for Social Studies in Surat in 1969.

Prof. Desai contributed to educational sociology, family sociology and the sociology of caste and tribe. The phenomenon of social change engaged Prof. Desai's attention throughout his productive years. Some of the important works of Prof. Desai include *Some Aspects of Family in Mahuva*, *Untouchability in Rural Gujarat*, *Patterns of Migration and Occupation in South Gujarat village*, and *The Craft of Sociology and Other Essays*. He died on 26th January, 1985.

IRAVATI KARVE

Iravati Karve (b. 1905) was initially educated at Ferguson College, Poona where she did her B.A. in Philosophy. She changed to Sociology in Bombay University. She wrote her M.A. dissertation on Chitpavan Brahmins: A Social and Ethnic Study in 1928. In 1930 she proceeded to Berlin University and did her Ph.D. under Prof. Eugene Fisher. On her return from Germany, she was appointed the Registrar of S.V.T. College. After sometime she left it to join Deccan College and Post Graduate Research Institute at Poona as Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and Head of the Department. Karve's association with this internationally reputed research institution was life long. Prof. Karve presided over the Anthropology section of the Indian Science Congress in 1947. She went to the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, during 1951-1953 as a visiting lecturer, and to California University as a visiting scholar during 1960-1960. She represented India as a delegate at the Pan-African Congress on Prehistory.

N.A. THOOTH

Dr. N.A. Thoothi (b. 1982) served as a Reader in the Department of Sociology from 1925 to 1950. Like Sir Patrick Geddes, he was initially trained in botany. Subsequently, under the influence of Sir Patrick, he switched over to sociology. Dr. Thoothi began his teaching career as a lecturer in philosophy. He was widely admired and respected for his deep knowledge of comparative religion as well as eastern and western philosophy. He proceeded to Oxford University for his doctoral dissertation, which was later published as *The Vaishnavas of Gujarat*.

M. N. SRINIVAS

Professor M.N. Srinivas (b. 1916) did his M.A. from the Department of Sociology, University of Bombay in 1938. He wrote a dissertation on Marriage and family life among the Kannada castes of the Mysore State for his M.A. Subsequently, he wrote his doctoral dissertation, under the guidance of Professor G.S. Ghurye, on the Coorgs: A Socio-Ethnic Study (1945). He served as a Research Assistant in the Department of Sociology from 1942 to 44. Later, he obtained a D. Phil. from Oxford University. He has been a visiting professor at Wellesly College, USA (1986-87), National University of Singapore (1981-82), University of New England, Australia (1980-81), University of California (1978), Cornell University (1970-76) and University of Manchester (1963). He set up the Departments of Sociology at the M.S. University, Baroda in 1951 and the University of Delhi in 1959. He has delivered lectures at Cambridge, London and California and has been awarded honorary degree by the Universities of Nice, Chicago, Mysore and Manipur. He is associated with a number of national and international organizations. Professor Srinivas' major publications include *Religion and Society among the Coorgs of South India* (1952), *Social Change in Modern India* (1966), *The Remembered Village* (1977) and *On Living in a Revolution and other Essays* (1992). Currently he is JRD Tata Visiting Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore.

A. R. DESAI

Professor A.R. Desai (b. 1915) started his academic career in 1946 as a lecturer of Sociology in Siddharth College in Bombay. He joined the Department of Sociology in Bombay University in 1951. In 1969 he became Professor and Head of the Department, a post he held till his retirement in 1976. He authored, edited and compiled a large number of books. His pioneering studies are *Social Background of Indian Nationalism* (1948) and *Recent Trends in Indian Nationalism* (1960). Professor Desai wrote extensively on a wide range of subjects, including rural sociology, urbanisation, labour movement, peasant struggles, modernisation, religion and democratic rights. Among his major works are *Peasant Struggles in India* (1979), *Agrarian struggles in India after Independence* (1986), *Vidhata to Democracy Rights in India* (1988), *Depression and Resistance in India* (1990) and *State and Repressive Culture* (1994). He was the president of the Indian Sociological Society in 1987. Professor Desai inspired several generations of students all over the country during his active & illustrious career.