



## **Professor Ram Lal Sharma**

He was born at Baitu, a small village in Barmer district of Rajasthan, India in 1945.

His father was a poor farmer. Even when he was a student at high school he started to work part time to support his parents.

But He had a strong desire to gain higher education and despite several obstacles managed to graduate in Economics from university of Jodhpur. He was later appointed faculty in the same university .In 1969 he received Fulbright scholarship to study at Arizona University, USA.

During his career as a university teacher he taught at several institutes of high reputation in India and abroad which included Birla Institute of Technology Pilani, Nairobi University, Kenya and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. <sup>2, 3</sup>

Throughout his career he worked on several research projects in Economics. <sup>1, 2,3,4,5</sup>

His second life started after retirement at the age of 60 in 1999.

He 1<sup>st</sup> started to teach at newly started Aravali Institute of Management at Jodhpur in 1999, where he was hardly paid anything. Initially he felt cheated by the institute but never complained as he considered teaching as a service to humanity.

Soon National Law University, Jodhpur appointed him as a valuable faculty member.

Later he was granted emeritus professorship from university grant commission (UGC) and was working on project Money Cycle in India.<sup>5</sup>

His life was full of struggle but he never gave up desire to live and serve .He was taken ill in 1996 and doctors predicted his life of few weeks. But he rose again and was back to work within a year and never stopped.

In Jan.2010 he was appointed a faculty at IIT-Jodhpur where he delivered last lecture of his life. He was taken ill again and developed severe Pneumonia. He was put on Ventilatory support and his life was predicted of a few days

But once again he proved those predictions wrong and recovered. But unfortunately his heart became weak and he developed severe heart failure.

During last one year of his life he was mostly house bound but never lost desire to live and work hard. He was still visited by several graduates and PHD students in Economics and was happy to help them all the time.

He was a simple soul who started his journey from a small village and made it to several prestigious institutes in India and abroad.

He was served by equally devoted wife Mrs.Shanti Sharma who looked after him while he was home bound.

Throughout his life he never charged any tuition fee from students whom he taught at home. His own room at his home was like a classroom where he was surrounded by university students .Teaching was his passion and service to the humanity.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 he passed away sitting next to his wife at home.

He never received any Prize or glorification from any government or non government bodies. The respect he gained from his students, colleagues and peers was more than any medal or prize.

His contribution to education especially in Economics was enormous. He was a true son of Rajasthan. His family members have taken initiative to start Professor Ram Lal Sharma education trust to help improve level of education in Western Rajasthan.

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