

## OBITUARY

### Prof. Satya Gupta (1929 – 2024)



On 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Prof. Satya Gupta, revered teacher and academician, left the world for a greater journey ahead, leaving behind a rich legacy and a large family of grieving pediatricians. Prof. Satya Gupta was among the doyens in child health in India and started her illustrious academic career in 1960 as Reader and Head of Department of Pediatrics at the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry. In 1967, she joined the Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC), New Delhi, as a full time Professor and Head of Department of Pediatrics. During her stint at MAMC, she was known for her strict nature and rather unpredictable temper. However, those close to her, knew that beneath the steely exterior, she had a heart of gold. Her belief that “Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence”, made her constantly nudge her students to perform better. She reprimanded her students when they made errors but she also loved them and stood by them in their hour of need. As a departmental head, she was authoritative, disciplined and fiercely protective of her students and colleagues.

Prof. Satya Gupta was not only an outstanding teacher, but also a dedicated clinician. She was a visiting professor and examiner to many prestigious universities across the country, and served as an expert and advisor to various national and international agencies. She was appointed as the Foreign Student Advisor, as well as the Advisor for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded Children by the Government of India. She was awarded the prestigious Fellowships of the American Academy of Pediatrics, National Academy of Medical Sciences, and the Indian Academy of Pediatrics.

In 1976, she became the first woman Editor-in-Chief of *Indian Pediatrics* and continued to discharge her editorial responsibilities with utmost *sincerity* and *vigor* till March 1980 when she took over the reins of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics as its President. In 1981, she sought voluntary retirement but continued her clinical practice. Despite the tragic happenings in her family during the late stages of her life, she continued to retain a cheerful persona.

She will be remembered as a vibrant, affectionate, and dignified personality. Her love for her students and dedication to her patients will always be cherished. The Indian Academy of Pediatrics and the Editorial Board of *Indian Pediatrics* joins the entire pediatric fraternity in praying for the peace of the departed soul.

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