

**Dr. N. A. Purandare**  
**M.D., (Bom.), F.R.C.O.G.**  
**Date of Birth 27-04-1877**  
**Date of Demise 12-12-1964**



Dr N. A. Purandare

Late Dr. Nilkanth Anant Purandare was born in 1877 on 27th April. After passing his matriculation examination he joined the Grant Medical College in 1896.

While studying medicine he captured a number of prizes and scholarships. In 1900 he graduated securing Charles Morehead prize in Medicine. His scholarship got him an appointment as an Hon. Asst. Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Bai Motlibai and Petit Hospitals and Tutorship at the Grant Medical College. While holding these posts he passed his M.D. in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with distinction.

In 1926, when King Edward Memorial Hospital and G.S. Medical College were started, Dr. Purandare was selected as an Hon. Professor in Midwifery and Gynaecology at the College and Hon. Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the hospital. Later, he was appointed as Hon. Obstetrician at the N. Wadia Maternity Hospital. He was the pioneer in the establishment of the departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at K.E.M. and Wadia Hospitals. He retired in 1940 but continued as an Emeritus Professor till his death. He put these departments not only on the map of India but also got them International recognition.

He wrote a book in marathi named "Prasuti Shastra" on Obstetrics for the nurses.

He was a keen researcher; two very important researches in the field of midwifery go to his credit-(1) Importance of location of anterior shoulder in the progress of labour and its significance in obstructed labour and (2) A method for detecting cephalopelvic disproportion. These were universally recognised and even incorporated in text books written by British obstetricians.

He was honoured as the Hon. Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London, for his distinguished academic career.

The Bombay Obstetric and Gynaecological Society and the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India owe their existence and growth to him. He was the first President of the Bombay Obstetric and Gynaecological Society.

He presided over the 3rd All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congress at Calcutta in 1941. In his Presidential Address he suggested that a Journal should be published by the Federation to report the work of the Indian obstetricians and gynaecologists. He provided the Bombay Society with premises on the top floor of his own Nursing Home which he founded in 1936.

The last honour came to him in December 1963 when he was made an Hon. Founder Fellow of the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences. He was awarded a scroll at a special convocation.

On 12th December 1964, Dr. Purandare passed away in his 88th year after playing a magnificent role in the medical world.