

OBITUARY



Gool Nowroji Vazifdar

Dr. Gool Nowroji Vazifdar was born in an illustrious and famous family in Bombay, now called Mumbai, on 1st December 1907. She was brought up in an atmosphere of medicine and teaching of medical students at home ever since her early childhood. Khan Bahadur Nowroji Vazifdar MBE, her eminent and widely known father was one of the founders and seniormost members of the college of Physicians and Surgeons of Bombay, wrote books on Physiology and was running private classes at home for medical students. It was no wonder that at an early age of five years she was determined to be a doctor.

She studied at St. Alexandra Girl's High School, passed the matriculation examination in 1924 and joined Elphinstone College in first year Arts. The next year she passed Inter Science from the Royal Institute of Sciences and joined Grant Medical College. It is interesting to note that in those days 10% of seats were reserved for female students. She was in the first batch of female students sent at Cama and Alibless Hospital to conduct the 20 mandatory deliveries. There she worked under Dr. J. Jhirad with whom, in later life, she had long and close association in working for the Journal. The College of Physicians and Surgeons used to confer their Fellowship (FCPS) as an Honorary degree but when it opened the Fellowship by examination Dr. Vazifdar was one of the first two students to acquire the FCPS by examination.

In 1935 she was appointed Asst. Hon. Obstetrician at Cama and Alibless Hospital. At that hospital and also in private practice she worked in very close association with Dr. Dossibai J. R. Dadabhoy who incidentally possessed

and used Radium for treating cancer. The only other place in India where radium was then in use was Patna. Tata Memorial Hospital was born later only in 1941.

Ever since 1937, she was closely associated with the activities of Indian Red Cross Society on whose behalf during the second World War she started a blood transfusion service in her private hospital with a large number of voluntary blood donors. For their devoted service she was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal and Dr. Dossibai J. R. Dadabhoy an MBE in 1947. After independence, Dr. MDD Gilder, the then Health Minister requested her to move to St. George's Hospital to organise, start and head a Obstetric and Gynecological unit which subsequently undertook teaching.

In 1950, FOGSI requested Dr. J. Jhirad to start the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India and be its Editor. She requested Dr. K. M. Masani to join her as Associate Editor and Dr. Vazifdar as Secretary and Manager. The Journal owes much to Drs. Jhirad Masani and Vazifdar for its development and growth and for ever remembers their selfless and dedicated services with deep gratitude. After 40 long years of painstaking and devoted service to the Journal as Secretary and Manager Dr. Vazifdar retired from the Editorial Board.

Dr. Vazifdar was elected President of FOGSI for 1978. In her Presidential Address during the 22nd All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Indore, she emphasized upon the human and ethical aspects of medical practice which were the hallmarks of her illustrious career. Besides being a sound and competent clinician, she was a good surgeon. She excelled in whatever she did. Dr. Vazifdar had a pleasant personality. She was a generous host and made even juniors feel at home. Her colleagues enjoyed her good company.

She left for her heavenly abode on 6th January 2003 at a ripe old age of 96 years. May her soul rest in Eternal Peace.

Editorial Board.