

## Indian Contribution to Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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Balsarkar Geetha

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Dr. Chandrakant Gokuldas Saraiya

Dr. Chandrakant Gokuldas Saraiya is loved by all the members of the Mumbai Obstetrics and Gynecological Society. He was the society's 20th President. He is described as a rare combination of a good clinician, teacher, and surgeon. He is known as the Professor of

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professors in the science of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India. He is a staunch proponent of ethical practice in medicine, a gentleman, and an aristocrat who shunned from being in the limelight. The oldest living President of MOGS rarely comes to conferences nowadays. He spends most of his time seated on a *jhoola* in his spacious balcony in Malabar hill.

Dr. C. G. Saraiya was born in Ahmedabad on October 22, 1916 and his family came to Mumbai when he was 2 years old. His father was a lawyer, and his brothers were in cotton business.

He finished his MBBS from Grant Medical College in 1938 and joined the Department of General Surgery in J. J. Hospital for a year. "In those days, surgeons were addressed as Mr. and not Dr.," he says. Though he wanted to study in England, he could not do so because of the Second World War. So he spent two more years in J. J. Hospital. In 1941, he moved to Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital, where he worked with Dr. V. N. Shirrodkar and Dr. K. M. Masani.

He had been the Professor and Head of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Grant Medical College, Sir J. J. Group of Hospitals and Sir H. N. Hospital. He was Honorary Obstetrician and Gynecologist at Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital and was also with the Central Railways Hospital. Not only he a very popular teacher, but was also an examiner in obstetrics and gynecology in various states.

He became the President of Bombay Obstetrics and Gynecology Society in 1972. In 1975, he became the

President of FOGSI. During his tenure as FOGSI President, he initiated the formation of speciality sub-committees for easy distribution of work in the society. He was a vigorous opponent of the then common practice of ventral suspension of uterus. He believed in cesarean section as a

progression of modern obstetrics whenever it is warranted. He always put his patient first and conducted every surgery giving his personalized attention.

Even today, he keeps tab on progress of his innumerable students. Kudos to this great teacher!