

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

2014

Professor Arun Kumar Sharma is P K Kelkar Chair Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Adjunct Faculty in Industrial and Management Engineering Department. He was born on 12 December 1953 at Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh. With a Bachelor's degree in Physics, Statistics and Mathematics and Master's in Statistics, he went on to study Demography at International Institute of Population Sciences, Bombay. He earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Bombay in 1980. He joined IIT Kanpur as a lecturer in Sociology in 1980 after a short stint as Research Executive in Operations Research Group, New Delhi.

Professor Sharma's research interests lie in social demography, gender, social movements and sociology of health. Having guided more than twenty doctoral and postdoctoral students in these areas, he has also published seven books and over hundred articles in peer reviewed journals. His research addresses issues such as how gender affects achievements among faculty members in leading academic institutions in India, why female foeticide is more common among the upper castes and classes, and the problems attendant on implementing Gandhi's theory of Sarvodaya and Swaraj. He has been conferred membership of the Asian Population Association and also of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, both apex professional bodies in population studies. He has also successfully undertaken 37 national and international research and consultancy projects.

Prof. Sharma's colleagues and students deeply admire him for his genuine approach to people and issues and his fine sense of humor. He has designed and taught a wide variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, namely sociological theory, industrial sociology, population, social movements, social inequality, health and illness, statistics, research methods, participatory rural appraisal, social problems of India, and human values.

Significantly, Prof. Sharma has actively contributed to the academic and administrative endeavors of the Institute. Besides serving in key leadership positions such as JEE vice-chairman, SPGC Chair, and Headship of the HSS Department, he is also the founding chief editor of the Institute Hindi magazine *Antas*. It is with pride and pleasure that IIT Kanpur confers the Distinguished Teacher Award for 2014 on Professor Arun Kumar Sharma.