

Obituary

SULTAN S. HASHMI (1921–2000)

Dr Sultan S. Hashmi, renowned demographer and a senior colleague at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, passed away on August 31, 2000. His loss is deeply felt by PIDE and the entire community of social scientists in Pakistan. Dr Hashmi introduced demography as a discipline at PIDE, and then through it in Pakistan. He successfully applied his energies to raising the standards of demographic research as well as securing USAID endowment funds to support and sustain it. Many demographers of international repute, and certainly those working currently in Pakistan, owe much to his patronage, guidance, and encouragement.

Dr Hashmi took his doctoral degree at the University of Chicago in 1959. He is best known for his earliest, pioneering work on the Population Growth Estimation (PGE) experiment, which was the first source of estimates of the birth and death rates for West Pakistan and East Pakistan (the latter is now Bangladesh). He was often seen as the Pakistani counterpart of an illustrious team of international experts whose work was followed in several other developing countries. An outstanding piece of work was *The People of Karachi: Data from a Survey* (1964), completed in collaboration with Masihur Rahman Khan and Karol J. Krótki. He made numerous contributions to *The Pakistan Development Review*, of which he was the Editor for a period in the 1970s. His contributions were highly valued, and his leadership had done us proud.

It was no surprise to younger colleagues that Sultan Hashmi's name was linked with demographers like John Caldwell, Ansley Coale, and William Brass. He held both academic and advisory appointments in Pakistan and abroad and was well regarded in the small community of scholars comprising the IUSSP, the International Union for the Study of Population. He was Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan in 1968–69, Chief, General Demography at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), 1970–76, and later, Joint Director at PIDE. He also held advisory positions in Iraq, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. Later, in Islamabad, he worked as Adviser to the National Institute of Population Studies, an institution that he worked hard to set up and build, from 1991 until his death.

In Pakistan, his services to the country's Population Programme and to the Planning Commission's Five-Year Plans have been widely acknowledged. He provided the population projections; he analysed numerous surveys; and he wrote

reports and articles besides initiating innovative projects. Until recently, he appeared to have endless energy and was tireless in his devotion to work. His contribution to the field was duly acknowledged by Pakistan, with the award of the Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 1998.

At PIDE he was both a colleague and a mentor for many. There is deep respect for his work and for his personality, which will continue to help us become better social scientists and better human beings.