

Dr. K.D. Banerjee - A Tribute

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My association with Dr. K.D. Banerjee was since the day of my joining the Institute of Archaeology, New Delhi. He was a prehistorian, combined the essence of geology and anthropology to derive more scientific interpretations for prehistoric phenomena. He was known for his established work on the cultural sequence of Madras Lithic Industry and the role of sea level changes. He presented strong, cogent, and well researched arguments on the impact of sea level fluctuations in human development during Pleistocene period especially in the Peninsular India. He always viewed archaeology in the scientific perspective. Dr. Banerjee nurtured the Institute of Archaeology with great affection. He took care to sustain the interests of budding archaeologists (including me!) by making several important changes such as extending the course for two years, providing hostel facilities to the students, increasing their stipend amounts. Archaeology being a field oriented subject, he rightly felt the need for students to explore. He invited experts to participate and initiate students while at campsites, the best place to imbibe the subject. Even vacation time was work time, the students were asked to explore the sites of interest near their hometowns and prepare reports to be submitted after vacation!

We had the great fortune to visit almost every archaeological site in India from Prehistory to temple architecture including the monuments at Leh and Ladakh. During all these trips we were never allowed to be idle, knowledge flow was always continuous.

In all interactions with Dr. Banerjee, the most important aspect was that all of us were recipients of the genuine care and affection that he was capable of.

One final word: Today I am working as an archaeologist, the seed was sown by Dr. K.D. Banerjee. Therefore, all the work that I have done and will be doing in future is because of the fascination for this field engendered by Dr. Banerjee. No words are sufficient to express my gratitude to him. We hope that this volume comprising 44 articles by the different authors would be an apt tribute to Dr. K.D. Banerjee.