

From: Sundaram Mudaliar <nansunsan@yahoo.co.in>

Sent: 28 September 2023 20:03

To: Swami-MSSRF

Subject: Condolence message

Respected Soumya Swaminathan Madam,

Namaskaram.

I am personally aggrieved so much on hearing the news of your father's (Thiru (Dr) M. S. Swaminathan) sudden demise today the 28th September, 2023. I hereby convey my heartfelt condolences to you, your sisters and the entire bereaved family.

For Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, I may be one among the thousands of human beings he came in contact in his life time and he may not even remember me, had I happened to meet him without prior appointment. But for many ordinary mortals like me, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan is always a great personality inspiring us in all walks of our life. To me personally, Prof M.S. Swaminathan is always a simple person for his stature and achievements in his life and needs to be worshipped for ever. I express my inability to pay my last respects to Prof. M.S. Swaminathan with deep sense of sorrow and hence this email which I hope will receive your attention.

I was fortunate to meet your father twice in my life which are very memorable to me. In the year 1974, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan visited the Tuticorin Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, where i was just a Laboratory-cum-Field Assistant, to chair a Group discussion on Pearl Culture. As a staff of TRC of CMFRI, I was also involved in organizing the meeting. Number of experts on pearl culture were speaking on this occasion. At the end, as Chairman of the meeting, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan summarized every speaker's message in his concluding address and the entire audience listened to it in apt silence. By his speech he proved that he is the best expert on pearl culture even though he is an agricultural scientist. Since then, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan became my role model. Even today, I could fondly remember his excellent address in the group discussion. He was kind enough to shake hands with me too on that occasion.

Second time I was fortunate to meet Prof. M.S. Swaminathan in his Research Foundation at Taramani, Chennai some time during 2013. By this time I came up in life from a humble Laboratory-cum-Field Assistant to the position of Registrar of Universities. Recalling my first time meeting with him at TRC of CMFRI, I requested Prof. M.S. Swaminathan for an appointment in connection with a foreword for my first book on higher education titled "CURRENT SCENARIO OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN SIKKIM". To my surprise, he immediately granted me an appointment and received me cordially in his office and spent almost 45 minutes enquiring about my career growth, etc., Prof. M.S. Swaminathan shared some of his experience in Sikkim as First Chancellor of Sikkim Central University, I was the Registrar of Sre Ramasamy Memorial University Sikkim, Gangtok at that time. Finally, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan was kind enough to give his foreword for my book. A very memorable moment for me.

Subsequently, in the year 2018 too, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan was again very kindly gave his foreword for my second book on higher education titled "GOVERNANCE OF INDIAN CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES - A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ACTS AND STATUTES OF SOME SELECTED INDIAN CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES", which was published by M/s. Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany. A great personality.

Again, when I contacted for a foreword for my third book on higher education titled "INNOVATIONS IN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION - GUJARAT MODEL", Prof. M.S. Swaminathan politely declined informing me his inability due to failing health conditions. Immediately, I expressed my concern for his health through email.

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan was always inspiring and a driving force for me in my life and career. Probably, God

Almighty is not kind enough to enable me to pay my last respects to the departed soul. But, I will respect Prof. M.S. Swaminathan till my soul departs from this material world.

I pray for his soul to rest in peace. Om Shanthi.

Faithfully,

Dr. N. Sundaram, Ph.D.,  
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