

OBITUARY



Our dear colleague, Prof. Sumita Naskar, fondly called *Sumita di*, passed away on 27th May 2022 at 6.45 pm. She was an epitome of warmth and kindness; a motherly figure to everyone, a person who would make everyone around her comfortable and happy. Prof. Nasker started her teaching career at the Department of English, Lady Brabourne College. She joined the University of Calcutta on 06 March 2000. Her retirement was due in July of this year, marking the end of an illustrious career, but that was not to be.

Despite her long bouts of illness and the struggles she faced while commuting, she never lost interest in teaching. She loved life and loved all who were in her life. She was keen on providing help to all of her students and colleagues and always gave voice to the discriminated. She will be fondly remembered not only as a teacher, but as a warm and kind human being. Generations of students would remember her teaching of fiction. They would remember her lectures on American literature, especially American Drama, along with those on Sylvia Plath, Ben Jonson's satiric drama, Charles Dickens and the Great Paintings of Tagore.

Among her colleagues, she was known as a gentle and generous person who would accept everyone as family. Her disability never stopped her from performing her duties and she was a beacon for many as she never once complained about the hardships that must have been her constant companion. With time her disability became more and more pronounced, but she never allowed anyone to feel her pain. She believed in fighting her own demons, sharing her agony only with a handful of very close people. Her spirit was one that inspired many and will keep doing so for ages to come. Always conscientious, she would always be anxious as her ability to serve the students was hampered by repeated bouts of illness. Even till the end she was more concerned about her duties than her own well-being.

The university stands with the family members of Professor Nasker and hope they get strength during these difficult times.
