

## **A TRIBUTE TO PROF. DR. SYED ABDUL QADIR JUNAIDI: A PIONEER ECOLOGIST OF PAKISTAN**



**Dr. Syed Abdul Qadir Junaidi**  
(6<sup>th</sup> October, 1929 – 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2001)

Dr. Syed Abdul Qadir Junaidi S/O Syed Abdul Latif Junaidi was born on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 1929 in Hyderabad Deccan in a very religious and noble family. He completed his early education in Raichoor Hyderabad Deccan and did his M.Sc Botany from Osmania University Hyderabad Deccan in the year 1952. He migrated to Pakistan in the same year. He served Defence Science Organization from the year 1952 to 1956. He joined Botany department, University of Karachi in 1956. In 1961 he was awarded full bright scholarship to pursue his Ph.D under the able guidance of Prof. A.A. Lindsey from Purdue University, Lafayette. His major subject was Plant Ecology and minor subjects were systematic Botany and Agronomy. The title of his Ph.D thesis was “A study of Edaphic Control of Tree species in the pre-settlement forests of Northern Indiana.”

After his Ph.D, Dr. Qadir once again joined Botany Department University of Karachi in the year 1964, and served there for ten years. He resigned from University of Karachi on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov, 1974. In the year 1974 he went on deputation to serve in Botany department, University of Tripoli Libya and serve there till 1979. He served Botany Department University of Balochistan Quetta between 1982 to 1989. There he worked as Chairman of the Department from 1-6-1982 to 6-10-1989 and Dean Faculty of Science from 2-4-1988 till his retirement on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1989. During 1991 -1992 Dr. Qadir served in Farooq-e-Azam rehabilitation center F.B area Karachi. During the years 1996 to 1998 he served as a professor in the Institute of Environmental Science and Research in Pakistan Steel Mills Karachi.

Dr. S. A. Qadir died of heart attack on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2001. May God rest his soul rest in peace and give courage to his family members to hear loss patiently. Dr. Qadir has left his wife Mrs. Azra Nishat, four children (Dr. Syed Wahaj Junaidi, Yasin Mahnaz Junaidi, Adeela Junaidi and Besma Junaidi) and a large number of friends, colleagues and students to mourn.

Dr. S.A. Qadir was a good teacher, devoted researcher, an honest and trustworthy colleague. His prof. Dr.A.A.Linsey once remarked about S.A Qadir “He was always held in highest esteem and respect by his students and associates. Both professionally and personally he impressed every one with his ability, hard work and integrity as a scientist. His pleasing and effective public presentation of Botanical information always impressed the audience”.

Dr. S. A. Qadir had 42 years of teaching and research experience (1956 to 1998) to his credit. He trained two students for Ph.D and four students for M.Phil and reviewed dozens of M.Sc, M.Phil and Ph.D thesis. He has trained hundreds of students spread all over Pakistan as well as throughout the world. Some of his students are leading Ecologists of Pakistan. They have reached the zenith of his teaching and research.

Noteworthy among them Prof. Dr. Syed Shahid Shaukat, Professor of Botany, eminent scientist and ex Chairman Department of Botany, University of Karachi. He earned his Ph.D from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. His major research interest includes Statistical Ecology, Mathematical Ecology, Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Soil Biology. Dr. S.S. Shaukat has published more than 300 research papers and 3 text books of BS level and related to Soil Science, Biostatistics and Ecology. He supervised several M.Phil and Ph.D students as

principal supervisor and co-supervisor in Department of Botany, University of Karachi, Department of Botany, Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology and Institute of Environmental Science, University of Karachi. He is editor-in-chief of a quarterly published scientific journal "International Journal of Biology and Biotechnology" Department of Botany, University of Karachi.

Prof. Dr. Moinuddin Ahmed who has introduced an innovative-multidisciplinary Science of Dendrochronology and established a most sophisticated and first modern laboratory in Pakistan. He organized several Inter-departmental, National and International conferences on Dendrochronology, Plant Ecology and environment. He is supervising a team of a dozen M.Phil and Ph.D. students. He has so far published around hundred research papers in journals of national and international repute. He has been able to publish three books on Dendrochronological and Ecological aspects is coordinating with several National and International universities in research.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser ex Chairman Department of Botany and Dean of Science University of Karachi and presently Vice chancellor of Federal Urdu University a favorite student of Dr. S.A. Qadir has on several occasions acknowledged that Dr.S.A. Qadir was a person who infused research thinning in him. Dr. M.Qaiser assisted Dr. S.I. Ali and E. Nasir in editing 215 booklets of "Flora of Pakistan". He has more than 170 research papers to his credits published in the journals of world repute. Ten of his student have completed Ph.D in the field of systematic Botany under his supervision. He organized several National and International Conference on systematic Botany. He has established Herbarium and centralized laboratory of faculty of Science during 2006 as well as Botanic garden in 2007 in the University of Karachi.

Prof. Syed Sadruddin Hussain ex principal of Adamjee Govt. Science College is also an author of "Pakistan manual of Plant Ecology" for degree students. It was published by National book Foundation Islamabad. The book was supervised by S.A.Qadir. Mr. Hussain has also published several research papers in the Journal of World repute. Dr. Pervez Naeem an IUCN expert on Ecology has served in Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Dr. Mirza Naeem Baig an ecologist was also supervised by Dr. S.A. Qadir in his M.Sc. He did his Ph.D from University of Calgury. Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, ex Chairman Botany Department served as a Professor in Botany Department University of Karachi for more than 35 years. He has supervised several research students for their Ph.D, and published dozens of research papers on pollution problems in Karachi. One of his students Mr. Waqar-ul- Haq is controller of examination FUUAST. Prof. Dr. Rasool Bakhsh Tareen Chairman, Department of Botany, University of Balochistan has completed his Ph.D under S. A. Qadir. Dr. Mudssir Israr Dean Faculty of Science, Balochistan University, Quetta has also done M.Phil under the supervision of Dr. S. A. Qadir. Mufakhra Jan Durrani and Ghazala Shaheen both of Balochistan University have done M.Phil under his supervision. Dr. S.A. Qadir introduced the discipline of plant Ecology at the University of Karachi. He conducted extensive phytosociological survey in Karachi University campus, Calcareous hills and industrial zones of Karachi as well as rural Sindh, Balochistan and Libya. He gave useful recommendation to the Government of Pakistan regarding the appropriate land use and research.

Along with the students he worked on the Aut-Ecological life histories of various wild species of Sindh like *Acacia Senegal*, *Euphorbia caducifolia*, *Capparis decidua*. He also supervised the seed germination behavior of many herbs, shrubs and trees. In all the universities where he served. Dr. S.A.Qadir was also deeply concerned with the deteriorating urban environment due to industrial pollution, automobile exhaust and noise pollution in the urban centers of Sindh. Dr. S.A. Qadir was able to publish 63 research Papers in National and International journals of world repute. On some of his research papers he was presented with National awards as well as award from the University of Karachi. He was member of editorial board of Pakistan Journal of Botany during 1971 to 1974 and 1982 to 1991 and Journal of Science University of Karachi 1972 to 1974. He was the President of Botany Society of Pakistan during 1988 to 1991 and President Plant Ecology and Plant geography section in 3<sup>rd</sup> National plant society conference held in Peshawar in 1987. No doubt he was a pioneer Ecologist of Pakistan, May his soul rest in peace.

Prof.Dr.Moinuddin Ahmed  
Prof. Syed Sadruddin Hussain  
Laboratory of Plant Ecology and Dendrochronology,  
Department of Botany,  
Federal Urdu University of Arts Science & Technology, Karachi, Pakistan