

DR BHARATI BAROOAH

Committed to Professional Ethics

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r Bharati Barooah, the renowned obstetrician and gynaecologist was born in 1931 to her illustrious parents, Lokabandhu Bhubaneswar Barooah and Induprova Barooah. Right from her childhood, she was gifted with extraordinary merit and sharp intelligence shining with exceptionally brilliant results all through her academic career. She passed MBBS with distinctions and record marks from the AMC, Dibrugarh and subsequently set sail to the United Kingdom to become the first woman recipient in Assam of MRCOG from the Royal College of London. Later she was awarded the prestigious FRCOG by the same college. Brialliance- academic and professional was the hallmark of Dr Bharati Barooah's remarkable career.Dr Bharati Barooah served the GMC first as registrar and then as Assistant Professor of Obstretics and Gynaecology and retired as a Professor of the same department. During her tenure as a doctor, she served the hospital with unflinching devotion and exemplary dedication. Always loving, caring, compassionate, conscientious and duty bound, she possessed those sterling qualities of a doctor which are the sine-qua-non of the much talked-about Hippocratic Oath, and which make the noble profession of a doctor sacrosanct. She was always guided by a solemn sense of duty and responsibility and to respond to the call of duty even at the odd hours of night was always uppermost on her mind. Her top-priority was the patients of the hospital, and for them, and for many of her colleagues and students, she was perennial source of guidance and inspiration. After her retirement, she was attached to a charitable hospital at Bonda, Guwahati where she offered her valuable services to the economically underprivileged with the same spirit of commitment and charity.

An archetype of a very noble profession, Dr Bharati Barooah represented those time-honoured values and evolved an attitude to life which was humanitarian. She was often traumatized to see the disparity between appearance and reality, how the most cherished values of life are preyed upon by a new trend of rat-race, professional rivalry and competition. Amidst all this sick hurry and divided aims, she often considered herself an anachronism and chose to live a life sans luxury and material comfort. Dr Bharati Barooah was always for fairness and justice, and true to her genuine self, she detested all masquerading and artificiality, all sham and hypocrisy. Elegant, graceful, dignified, meticulous, cultured, witty, sweet and suave-these were some of the countless, outstanding qualities which endeared her to her friends, relatives and many of her patients. Till her sad demise on August 2, 2006, Dr Bharati Barooah continued to maintain her professional ethics as the crowning glory of her life. $\Box\Box$