

Remembrance of S.K. Srinivasan

I met Professor S.K. Srinivasan without knowing his name (and him) as a member of the Interview Panel for my Ph.D. admission in IIT Madras in 1976. There were several sharp questions from him during the interview. On the subsequent working day I went to the Department to find out whether I have been admitted to the program. The office staff directed me to Professor Srinivasan. I asked for the possibility of knowing the result. Professor Srinivasan mentioned that he cannot tell me the results and smiled.

Subsequently, I was admitted to the Program. Professor Srinivasan told me that he has recruited me on behalf of his friend and colleague Dr. R. Subramaniam. He said he would look after me for six months and then hand over to Dr. R. Subramaniam. That was a beginning of a very cordial and affectionate professional relationship with Professor Srinivasan.

He was ruthless in his expectations, kind in his gestures and humane in his approach during my stay at IIT Madras and subsequently. He encouraged me explicitly as well as implicitly.

He was instrumental in directing me to attend the International Statistical Institute Conference in Delhi. He was a constant source of inspiration. He believed in hard work and professional orientation. Subsequently what started as a student—teacher relationship becomes somewhat personal. He was kind enough to visit IIM Ahmedabad. He visited my family, met my children and kept a strong bond with members of my family.

Subsequently there was no family function which he did not attend. He made sure that I was invited to all professional conferences he organized by him in Madras. He nurtured me intellectually and encouraged me professionally. He gave me the best advice possible when I was confused about my professional career in 1982.

In him I found an outstanding scholar, great human being and a wonderful friend.

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