

A Tribute to Professor V. D. Choubey

Prof. Vishnu D. Choubey

M.Tech, Ph. D (Engg-Tech.)
F.G.S; ISRM; IAEG; IAT, FGMS

Prof. Vishnu D. Choubey was a teacher par excellence. He is internationally recognized for the pioneer work in the fields of Rock Engineering and Rock Mechanics. He completed his doctorate during 1966 under the supervision of Prof W.D. West in United Kingdom. He undertook Post Doctorate work at Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) during 1974-77. This was the landmark period for rock engineering as the new Rock mass classification system popularly known as Q-system was evolving at Norwegian Geotechnical Institute under Prof. Nick Barton. Prof. Choubey played pivotal role in this development as it is evident from his 1977 publication on Shear strength of Joints and Joint Roughness Coefficient with Prof. Barton. This paper was highly acclaimed and is widely referred by many researchers and geotechnical professionals even today.

Professor Choubey has left an everlasting impression on his students during a long and distinguished career from 1977 to 1994 as Professor of Engineering Geology at Indian School of Mines (ISM), the most coveted institute of Mining and Rock Engineering in India. During this period Prof. Choubey not only supervised 15 PhD and 85 M.Tech students but also contributed to the development of rock engineering and rock mechanics by more than 120 technical and research publications in various International/ National Journals and Conference proceedings. His students are well established at key positions in various establishments and are contributing to the development of the nation.

Prof. Choubey has visited several countries including Norway, England, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, United States, Australia, Thailand, Japan and Nepal as visiting Professor and Technical Advisor. He was National Executive Secretary of Inter Union Geological Sciences, Paris from 1986 to 1989. Subsequently after his retirement from ISM Dhanbad in 1994 after rendering his invaluable service as Professor of Engineering Geology he continued serving Rock Engineering by accepting the position of Chief Engineering Geologist at Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, Oslo from 1994 to 1996. He was also Visiting Professor at Civil Engineering Department, NIT, Hamirpur between 1996-98 followed by a short stint as AICTE, Professor Emeritus, New Delhi between 1998- 2001.

Professor Choubey has contributed enormously to the development of hydropower in India and abroad. During his Post doctoral work at NGI, he was associated with Svartevan Dam, Sira – Kvina Dam and Norsk Hydro Project in Norway. In India also he has given extensive technical contributions during the development of several major hydro projects in India such as Nathpa Jhakri, Tehri, Chamera-I, Indira Sagar, Sardar Sagar, Ban Sagar, Ranjit Sagar, Pench, Salal (J&K), Beas Sutlej link Project, Ranga Nadi, Uri, Kopli and Loktak. During the last decade when Government of India invited private companies for development of hydro projects he came forward and humbly rendered his service as Senior Consultant to various hydropower developers such as J.P. Associates for Siang Lower, Karcham–Wangtu and Baglihar hydropower projects, Halcrow India for Jangi-Powari and Alaknanda hydropower projects, Polyplex India Ltd for their Lauching and Bilangana-III projects, Indo Canadian Consultancy and RSW International, Canada for Spiti Valley Projects and Yangthang, Sumti-Kothang, Rammam-IV, Kosi Valley, Alaknanda Valley and Chamelia, Balephi, Likhu-IV hydro projects in Nepal.

Professor Choubey worked extensively for sustainable solutions of Landslide Problems and Rock Slope Stability Investigations in Sikkim, Garhwal Himalaya, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram in India. He participated in two International field work shops in Nepal Himalayas. He also visited Australia, Newzealand, Switzerland and Italy to participate in International symposium on Landslides.

He has contributed significantly to Mining engineering also by studying rock slope stability problems of Jharia and Singrauli coal fields. He has undertaken several mining industry sponsored Consultancy Projects including Geohydrological problems of Jharia and Singrauli coal fields and Neyveli Lignite Mine in Tamil Naidu.

He has given enormous contribution to various Executive Development Programs on Geo-Technical Engineering. He has been Course Co-coordinator for more than fifteen EDP each of two weeks duration. Course participants from CWC, NHPC, G.S.I, CSMRS, CIL, MOIL, TISCO, NTPC, HCL, NEEPCO and various technical institutes, CSIR labs and various on-going hydropower projects attended these programs which were highly appreciated and were huge in demand. He was also writing a book on Geo-technical Engineering.

We lost a great academician and profound teacher on 6th of June 2013 when Professor Choubey left us for heavenly abode. The vacuum created by his departure in Engineering Geology and Rock Engineering fraternity shall be difficult to fulfill. However, Professor Choubey shall eternally serve the community and the nation through the enormous pool of students and followers he has created during his life time.

Editorial Team
ISEG