

## B. C. GUHA: THE DOYEN OF INDIAN BIOCHEMISTS AND PIONEER OF VITAMIN C RESEARCH\*

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*B. C. Guha is considered to be the father of modern biochemistry in India. It will, however, be wrong to judge the personality of this unusual biochemist through biochemistry alone. Till the last day of his life Guha fought for the development of teachings and research in science and technology throughout the country. It is unfortunate that fifty years have passed by since Guha suggested the remedial measures, but apparently very little has been done. A shabby condition still persists in most teaching institutions in our country. The universities, colleges and particularly the schools are still, by and large, ill-equipped and ill-staffed for science teaching. In the name of progress, we have increased the number of schools and colleges and university departments with increased intake of number of students. The progress is mostly quantitative and not qualitative. We recruit young faculties and overload them with classes, without giving them adequate seed money and time to start research. Teaching and research enrich each other. In early twentieth century, a galaxy of illustrious Indian scientists evolved from Calcutta University and it was one of the top ten universities in the world. Slowly and gradually it has fallen to a very low position. The point of flow of excellence, unfortunately, appears to have been dried up. Quality has been the worst victim. It is high time that a holistic approach should be made by the university authorities and find ways and means for revival of the past glory.*

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