

**Mrs. Abida Mahdi Award
for Neuroscience Research**



Mrs. Abida Mahdi

(July 1, 1937 – February 24, 2013)

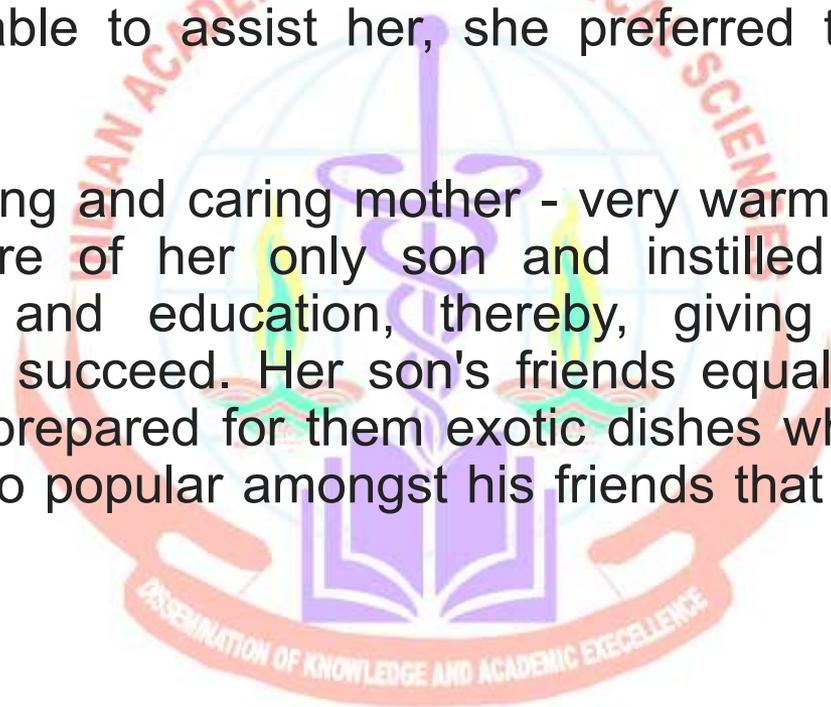


Mrs. Abida Mahdi hailed from a reputed family of Nawabs, Taluqadars and Zamidars of Lucknow and was the daughter of Mr. Mirza Kazim Hussain Khan, a prominent lawyer of Lucknow, who was the grandson of the famous Hakim Nazir Hussain Khan Bahadur. Her mother, Nawab Afsar Jahan Begum, was the great granddaughter of Prime Minister of Awadh. In an era when girls in general and Muslim girls in particular hardly sought formal education at schools or colleges, Mrs. Mahdi did her graduation and post graduation in Political Science and Urdu language, from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. She had great command over Urdu language and poetry.

In late 1959, she got married to Padma Shri Prof. Mahdi Hasan. Post marriage she got herself enrolled for Ph.D. at Lucknow University. In spite of the fact that she wanted to pursue higher studies, being the considerate and responsible person she was, to her, family came first, therefore, she left Ph.D. midway and thereafter dedicated her life for her family as a homemaker.

Mrs. Mahdi was a lady of infinite patience with great charm, poise and grace and was a pillar of strength to her husband. The laurels achieved by Padma Shri Prof. Mahdi Hasan were possible only due to the love and care he received from his better half. She always supported him wholeheartedly in his pursuit of education and research. She and her husband were wonderful hosts. She was very fond of cooking and had great command over the traditional cuisine of Lucknow. Though she had many people available to assist her, she preferred to do all household chores herself.

She was also a loving and caring mother - very warm and understanding. She took great care of her only son and instilled in him moral and intellectual values and education, thereby, giving him strength and encouraging him to succeed. Her son's friends equally enjoyed her care and attention. She prepared for them exotic dishes which they thoroughly enjoyed. She was so popular amongst his friends that they all used to call her "Ammi".



She was a very kind hearted individual who was always very helpful. After the sudden and untimely demise of her younger brother in 1985, she took the responsibility to support his family. She took care of his wife and three children and brought them up as her own. She was a lady full of compassion and humbleness. She not only cared for people in her family but was also very thoughtful and helpful to the poor. Apart from supporting them financially she also sheltered many such people in her own home without any discrimination. She was a generous lady. It would surprise people to see even the domestic helpers and drivers sharing meals on her dining table. She fondly looked after the children of her domestic helpers, supported them in all possible ways and got them educated. Today, some of them are well settled with good jobs in India as well as abroad.

At a comparatively early age she got Alzheimer's disease and suffered a lot from this degenerative disease. She left for her heavenly abode on February 24, 2013 and is survived by her only son, Prof. Abbas Ali Mahdi.