

CONFERENCE REPORT

SURPASSING BOUNDARIES TO CREATE/CRITIQUE IDENTITIES: A PRAXIS OF 'FEMALE'

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
PURBASTHALI COLLEGE
JUNE 29-30, 2020



Purbasthali College

(Affiliated to University of Burdwan)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

International e-Conference

on

SURPASSING BOUNDARIES TO RE-CREATE WOMEN'S IDENTITIES: A FEMINIST PRAXIS

Date: June 29-30, 2020

Time: 10.00am IST

Registration →

Link: <https://forms.gle/fnKgoNVVoKU4FPPrAL8>

**Last date: June
27, 2020**

**E-certificate will
be provided**

Dr. Soumya M. Ghosh

Convener

Assistant Professor (English)

Dr. Bibhas Chandra Saha

Chairperson

Principal

Website: www.purbasthalicollege.com



Contact: english.purbasthalicollege@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

A Two-day International e-Conference on “Surpassing Boundaries to Create/Critique Identities: A Praxis of ‘Female’” was organized by the Department of English on June 29-30, 2020 from 5 p.m. IST (GMT + 5.30). The event aimed at addressing the sexual politics surfaced in the society and how the stereotypical representations of women were deconstructed along with issues of politics of gender, sexuality, transnational solidarity, political activism, among others. The programme was part of the institute’s endeavour to go beyond the confined spaces in the time of the pandemic to embrace the world and connect with the global audience to continue the academic activity. The e-conference was streamed live in the YouTube platform so that viewers of all over the world could access the event.

PARTICIPATION

The e-conference witnessed three thousand four hundred and four views in which delegates including academicians, faculty members, research scholars, UG and PG students from six countries— including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Azerbaijan, Norway, and Saudi Arabia— participated. Participants from various parts of India, like West Bengal, Telangana, Assam, Kerala, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Sikkim, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, attended the event. Eight hundred and seventy six delegates registered for the event and two hundred and forty one participants submitted the Feedback Form circulated during the event. Nine abstracts were submitted among which six were selected for presentation in the e-conference.


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INAUGURAL SESSION

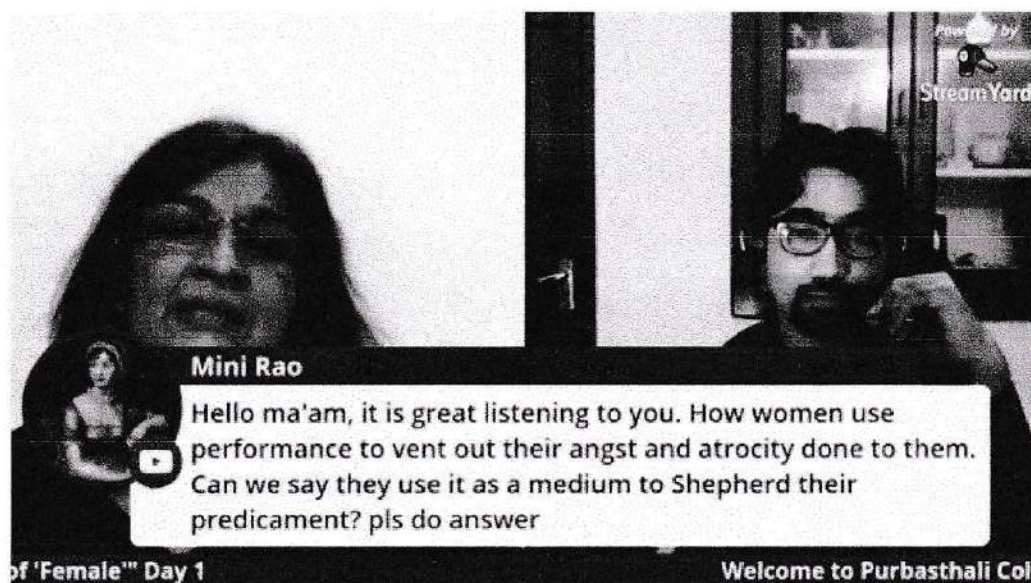
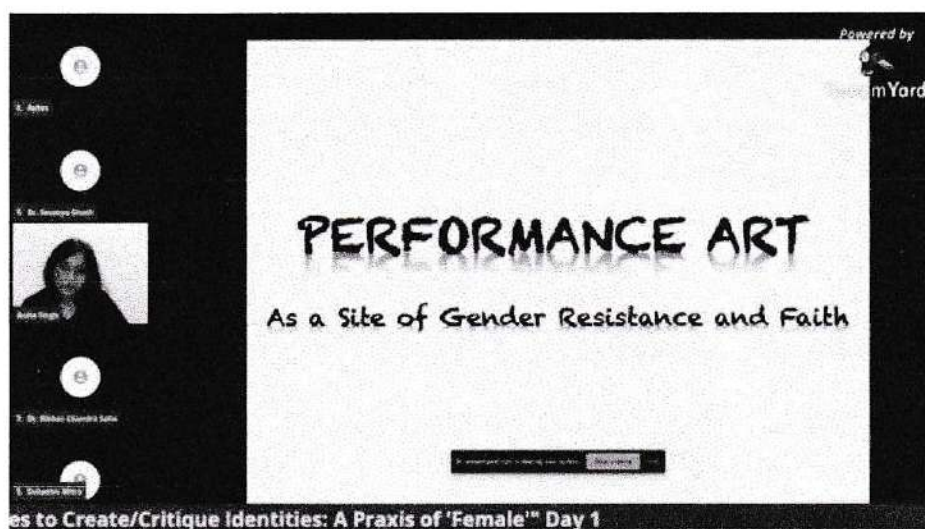


The event started with the convener cum host, Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh, welcoming the dignitaries on screen and introducing the theme of the e-conference. Mrs. Pratyusha Ghosh, faculty of the Department of Sanskrit, Purbasthali College, was requested to formally inaugurate the event with a song. After that the Principal cum Chairperson of the e-conference, Dr. Bibhas Chandra Saha, welcomed the guests and delivered the Chairperson's Speech. He extended a warm welcome to all the resource persons and the viewers and expressed his gratitude to the guests for gracing the occasion. The inaugural session ended with the Convener's Speech in which Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh remarked that women in literature were mostly constructed as a sexualized object in the dominant patriarchal discourse. The category of woman was a fictional construction, developed, and naturalized over the ages through the writing of the male authors. He also continued that women fit into the category of either a desexualized goddess or an over sexualized whore. It was very recently and sometimes intermittently that these stereotypes were challenged and the boundaries meant for containing were surpassed, but it was not always received cordially. He concluded that the e-conference strived to address some of those issues in the duration of two days.


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SESSION 1- KEYNOTE ADDRESS

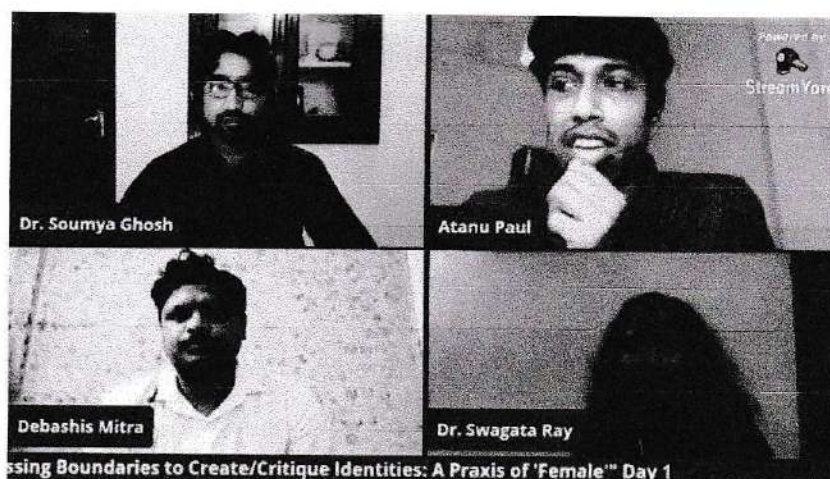


After the end of the inaugural session, the first session began in which the Keynote Address was given by Prof. Anita Singh, Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. The title of her address was "Performance Art as a Site of Gender Resistance and Faith". Prof. Singh stated that theatre was a very contentious space where the once excluded women took hold of the powerful medium and sought to redress the age-old neglect, stereotyping, gender bias, and sexism. Her presentation demonstrated how the proliferation of women's voices broke the barriers and posed resistance against gender based oppressions. The session ended with a brief discussion and question-answer session.


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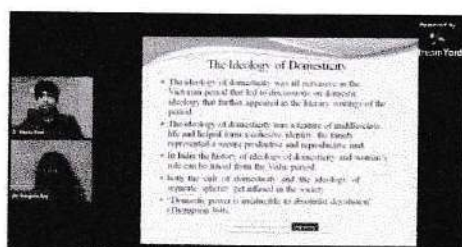

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SESSION 2- TECHNICAL SESSION I



Soon after the first session, the first technical session started. This session was chaired by Mr. Atanu Kr. Paul, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of English, JMS College Munger.

In this session, three paper presenters presented their researches.



The first presenter, Dr. Swagata Ray, Associate Professor, Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad, India, presented a paper titled “Narratives of Domesticity and The Politics of Private Spheres”.



The second presenter, Mr. Debashis Mitra, Assistant Professor, Government Engineering College, Daman, DNH & DD, India, presented his paper on “‘Unsex me here’- Decolonizing Sex and Detexturing ‘me’ (Female Body): A Queer Reading”.

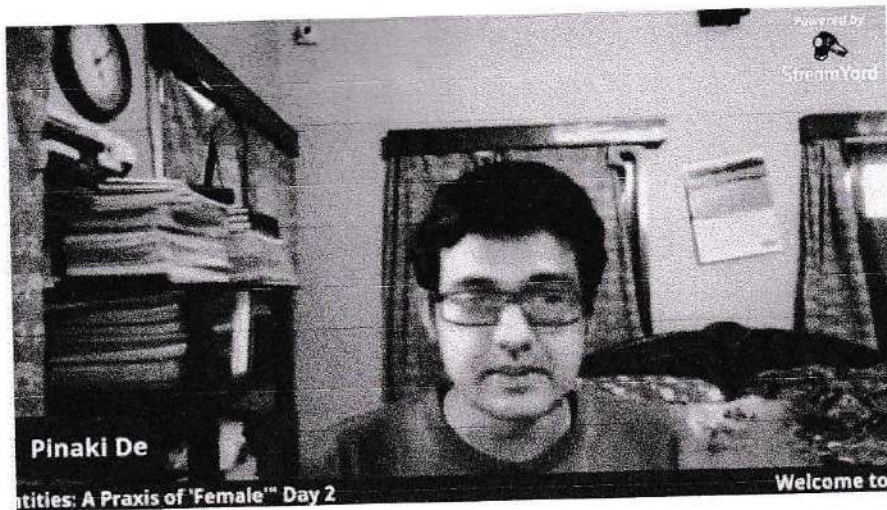


The third presenter, Dr. Partha Sarathi Mandal, Assistant Professor, Manbhum Mahavidyalaya, Purulia, India, presented his paper on “Finding a Voice :A Study in the Folk -Songs written by Anonymous Women Writers”.

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SESSION 3- PLENARY SESSION I

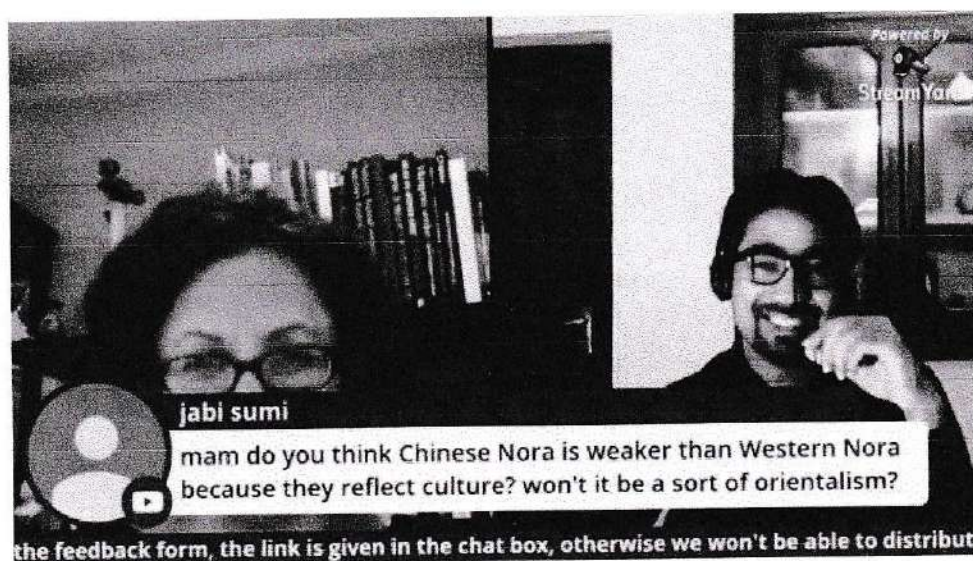
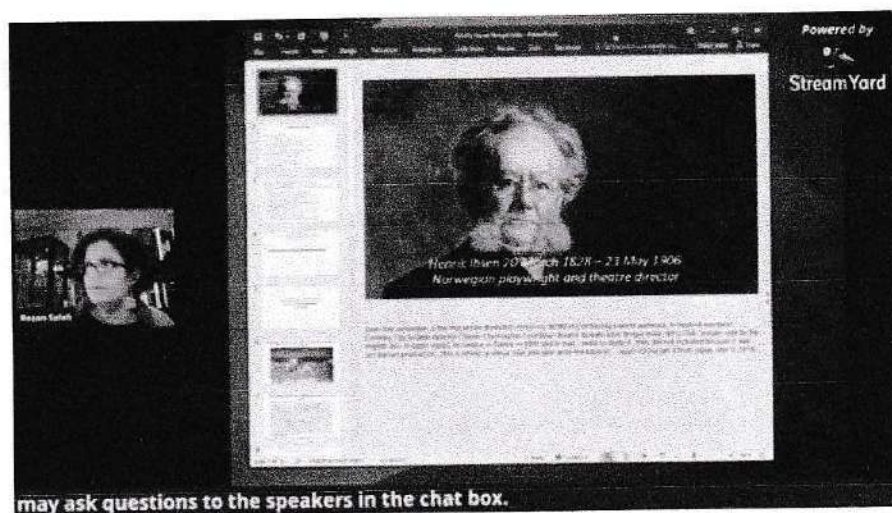


The second day of the e-conference started with the first Plenary Address by Dr. Pinaki De, Associate Professor, Department of English, Raja Peary Mohan College, Uttarpara, West Bengal, India. The title of his talk was "Drawing themselves: Women Comics Creators and their Art". He highlighted that the comics industry with its association of strong masculine protagonists, superheroes, and the presupposition of young male consumers was a male dominated genre, where women had to fight their way through the misogyny, male bias, and sexism. His presentation revealed how the women were able to draw themselves and present an alternate vision. The session ended with a brief discussion and question-answer session.

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SESSION 4- PLENARY SESSION II



After the end of the first Plenary Session, second Plenary Session started in which the speaker was Mrs. Rezan Saleh, a theatre scientist, multicultural concept developer, and an international cultural researcher, who was working as a Guest Researcher at the Center for Ibsen Studies at the University of Oslo (Norway). The title of her talk was “Inter-culturalism in *A Doll's House* in a Political Cultural Perspective: A Case Study”. She stressed on the global impact of Ibsen’s landmark play *A Doll's House*. Her presentation gave an insight on the influence of Nora Helmer in different cultures across the globe. The session ended with a brief discussion and question-answer session.

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SESSION 5- TECHNICAL SESSION II



Soon after the two Plenary Sessions, the second technical session started. This session was chaired by Dr. Swagata Ray, Associate Professor, Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad, India. In this session, three paper presenters presented their researches.



The first presenter, Ms. Yasmina Melikova, Research Scholar, Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan, presented a paper titled “Gender, Identity, and the Stage: A Study of the Modern Stage”.



The second presenter, Mr. Atanu Kr. Paul, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of English, J.M.S. College, Munger, Bihar, India, presented his paper on “Exiting the Exoskeleton of Gendered Space: A Study of Major Woman Characters in Monica Ali’s *Brick Lane*”.



The last presenter, Ms. Srijita Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Kultali Dr. B. R. Ambedkar College, West Bengal, India, presented her paper on “Portrayal of Women Characters in the Novels of Suchitra Bhattacharya”.

By Anshu
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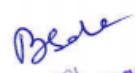
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SESSION 6- VALEDICTORY



The session marked the closure of the e-conference after engaging discussions in the two days. The formal Vote of Thanks was proposed by the Convener, Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh, in which he thanked all the guests, speakers, paper presenters, and all the viewers for their participation, and officially declared the e-conference closed.


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ANNEXURE 1

E-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Day 1 June 29, 2020 17.00 hours (IST)

Platform: YouTube

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pQ4_vmzH_I


- 17:00–17:10 hours (IST) Inaugural Song
- 17:10–17:15 hours (IST) Welcome Address by the Principal, Purbasthali College
- 17:15–17:20 hours (IST) Convener's Address
- 17:20–18:05 hours (IST) Keynote Address by Prof. Anita Singh, Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India
- 18:05–18:20 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session
- 18:20–19:05 hours (IST) Technical Session -1
Session Chair: Mr. Atanu Kr. Paul, Assistant Professor & Head, J.M.S. College, Munger, Bihar, India
 - Dr. Swagata Ray, Associate Professor, Geethanjali College of Engg. & Tech., Hyderabad, India
 - Mr. Debashis Mitra, Assistant Professor, Government Engineering College, Daman, DNH & DD, India
 - Dr. Partha Sarathi Mandal, Assistant Professor, Manbhum Mahavidyalaya, Purulia, India
- 19:05-19:15 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session


Day 2 June 30, 2020 17.00 hours (IST)

Platform: YouTube

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLQUaIOk_i8

- 17:00-17:45 hours (IST) Plenary Talk- 1 by Dr. Pinaki De, Graphic Designer and Illustrator, and Associate Professor, R. P. M. College, West Bengal, India
- 17:45 -17:55 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session


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- 17:55 -18:40 hours (IST) Plenary Talk- 2 by Mrs. Rezan Saleh, Theatre Scientist and Researcher, Centre for Ibsen Studies, University of Oslo, Norway
- 18:40 -18:50 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session
- 18:50 -19:25 hours (IST) Technical Session -2
Session Chair: Dr. Swagata Ray, Associate Professor, Geethanjali College of Engg. & Tech., Hyderabad, India
- Ms. Yasmina Melikova, Research Scholar, Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan
 - Mr. Atanu Kr. Paul Assistant Professor & Head, J.M.S. College, Munger, Bihar, India
 - Ms. Srijita Roy, Assistant Professor, Kultali Dr. B. R. Ambedkar College, West Bengal, India
- 19:25 -19:35 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session
- 19:35 -19:40 hours (IST) Valedictory Session


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SURPASSING BOUNDARIES TO CREATE/ CRITIQUE IDENTITIES: A PRAXIS OF 'FEMA...

Fig. 1. First day of the Two-day International e-Conference on "Surpassing Boundaries to Create/Critique Identities: A Praxis of 'Female'" on June 29-30, 2020

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SURPASSING BOUNDARIES TO CREATE / CRITIQUE IDENTITIES: A PRAXIS OF 'FEMA...

Fig. 2. Second day of the Two-day International e-Conference on "Surpassing Boundaries to Create/Critique Identities: A Praxis of 'Female'" on June 29-30, 2020

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Report of the Seminar

1. Name of the Program: Seminar
2. Topic: "Sensitization about Gender Equality"
3. Organizer: Women's Cell, Purbasthali College
4. Duration: 1 day
5. Date: 27.02.2020
6. Number of participants: 28
7. Venue: Room No. 9
8. Name of resource person: Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Purbasthali College
9. Summary of the Event: The seminar on "Sensitization about Gender Equality" aimed to raise awareness and foster understanding about the importance of gender equality in all aspects of society. The speaker addressed key issues related to gender equality, such as stereotypes, biases, and societal norms that perpetuate inequality. Discussions also focused on the intersectionality of gender with other factors such as race, ethnicity, sexuality, and socioeconomic status. Participants engaged in interactive sessions to explore how individuals and institutions can contribute to promoting gender equality in their respective spheres of influence. Strategies for challenging gender stereotypes, promoting inclusive language, and creating equitable opportunities were among the topics explored.
10. Outcome: The seminar on "Sensitization about Gender Equality" resulted in several tangible outcomes aimed at promoting greater awareness and action towards achieving gender equality:
 - Heightened Awareness: Attendees gained a deeper understanding of the complexities of gender inequality and its impact on individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

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- Empathy and Understanding: Participants developed empathy and understanding towards diverse gender experiences and perspectives, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment.
- Actionable Strategies: Speaker and participants shared practical strategies and resources for promoting gender equality in various contexts, including education, workplaces, and policymaking.

Overall, the seminar on "Sensitization about Gender Equality" served as a platform for education, dialogue, and action, empowering individuals and communities to contribute to a more equitable and inclusive society.

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Fig. Seminar on "Sensitization about Gender Equality" on 27.02.2020



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Report of the Seminar

1. Name of the Program: Seminar
2. Topic: "Women Empowerment"
3. Organizer: Women's Cell, Purbasthali College
4. Duration: 1 day
5. Date: 07.12.2019
6. Number of participants: 32
7. Venue: Room No. 9
8. Name of resource person: Dr. Subhas Singha Roy, Associate Professor, Chandidas Mahavidyalaya
9. Summary of the Event: The seminar on "Women Empowerment" discusses and explores strategies for promoting gender equality and empowering women. The event covered a range of topics, including access to education, economic opportunities, healthcare, and political participation for women. Key discussions revolved around the challenges women face in different spheres of life, such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and unequal access to resources. Participants shared personal experiences, research findings, and successful initiatives aimed at addressing these challenges and promoting women's empowerment.
10. Outcome: The seminar yielded several outcomes aimed at advancing the cause of women's empowerment:
 - Increased Awareness: Participants gained a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding women's empowerment, including the root causes and potential solutions.
 - Knowledge Exchange: Experts and participants exchanged valuable insights, strategies, and best practices for promoting gender equality and empowering women in various contexts.

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- **Networking Opportunities:** The seminar provided a platform for networking and collaboration among individuals working towards women's empowerment, fostering new partnerships and alliances.
- **Empowerment Initiatives:** Inspired by the discussions, participants committed to implementing or supporting empowerment initiatives in their communities, workplaces, and organizations.
- Overall, the seminar on "Women Empowerment" served as a catalyst for collective action and mobilization towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society for women.

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Fig. Seminar on "Women Empowerment" on 07.12.2019

SPEAKERS



Dr. Subhas Biswas
Associate Professor
Dept. of History
University of Kalyani



Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh
Director
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
Institute of Asian Studies

**E-certificates will be
provided to
Participants**

WEBINAR ON

Partition, Migration : Case of Bengali Refugees

(দেশভাগ, দেশত্যাগ : প্রসঙ্গ বাঙালি বাস্তুহারা)

Organised by :

Department of History, Purbasthali College, Parulia, P.O. Bardhaman

Chairman: Dr. Bibhas Chandra Saha, Principal, Purbasthali College

Convenor & Contact person: Shri. Anupam Das, Faculty (History), Purbasthali College
Mobile: 9896738852

Email: anunepakalyan1887@gmail.com

Organizer (Technical) & Host : Shri. Ashes Datta,
Librarian, Purbasthali College

Additional Organizer (Technical):
Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh,
Faculty (English)
Purbasthali College

Last date of registration:
24.06.2020

Registration fees : Nil

Registration Link :
<https://forms.gle/BZbATXHrHWYH6G8F8>

26.06.2020

11am-7pm

Webinar platform:

YouTube



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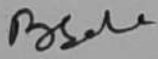
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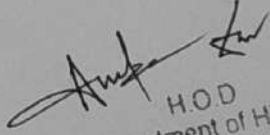
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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

WEBNAIR REPORT

A State Level Webnair was Organized by Department of History of Purbasthali College on 26.06.2020. Titled "**Partion, Migration : Case of Bengal Refugee**". Dr. Subhash Biswas of dept of History, Kalyani University, & Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Direct of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, was our distinguished invited speakers. The online platform was Youtube. Total number of Participants was 217. Link of Youtube Chanel was <https://youtu.be/OdMNZuY2Tkl>.


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PHOTO GALLERY OF WEBINAR ON

“Partition, Migration: Case of Bengali Refugees”

Date : 26/06/2020



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Report

1. Name of the programme: **IQAC Special Lecture**
2. Topic: **“A Comparative Study of Rabindranath and Jibananada Das' Poetry”**
3. Organizer: **IQAC, Purbasthali College**
4. Duration: **1 day**
5. Date: **11.11.2019**
6. Number of participants: **17**
7. Venue: **Room No. 9**
8. Name of resource person: **Mr. Firoj Khan, Purbasthali College**

Introduction:

An IQAC Special Lecture on “A Comparative Study of Rabindranath and Jibananada Das' Poetry” was organized by IQAC, Purbasthali College on 11.11.2019 at 2.00 pm at Room No. 9.

Objective:

The objective of the IQAC Special Lecture on "A Comparative Study of Rabindranath and Jibananada Das' Poetry" was conducted with the aim of exploring and analyzing the poetic styles, themes, and contributions of two prominent Bengali poets, Rabindranath Tagore and Jibanananda Das.

Key Discussions:

The lecture commenced with an examination of the distinct poetic styles employed by Rabindranath Tagore and Jibanananda Das. The speaker delved into their use of imagery, symbolism, and linguistic innovations to convey their respective worldviews. The lecture explored the recurring themes and motifs in the poetry of both poets, including nature, love, human emotions, and existential angst. A comparative analysis was conducted to highlight similarities and differences in their treatment of these themes. The speaker provided insights into the cultural and social milieu that influenced the poetic sensibilities of Rabindranath and Jibanananda Das. The lecture examined how their poetry reflected the socio-political landscape of their times and contributed to the literary movements of Bengal. Attendees gained an


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understanding of the enduring legacy of Rabindranath and Jibanananda Das in Bengali literature and beyond. The lecture discussed their influence on subsequent generations of poets and the continued relevance of their works in contemporary literary discourse.

Outcome:

- Enhanced understanding of the poetic styles and thematic concerns of Rabindranath Tagore and Jibanananda Das.
- Appreciation of the cultural, social, and literary contexts that shaped their poetry.
- Stimulated intellectual discourse and critical engagement among participants.
- Promotion of interdisciplinary dialogue between literature and cultural studies.

Conclusion:

The IQAC Special Lecture on "A Comparative Study of Rabindranath and Jibanananda Das' Poetry" provided a valuable opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of the rich literary heritage of Bengal. By examining the works of these two iconic poets, the lecture underscored the importance of literary analysis in fostering cultural appreciation and critical thinking.


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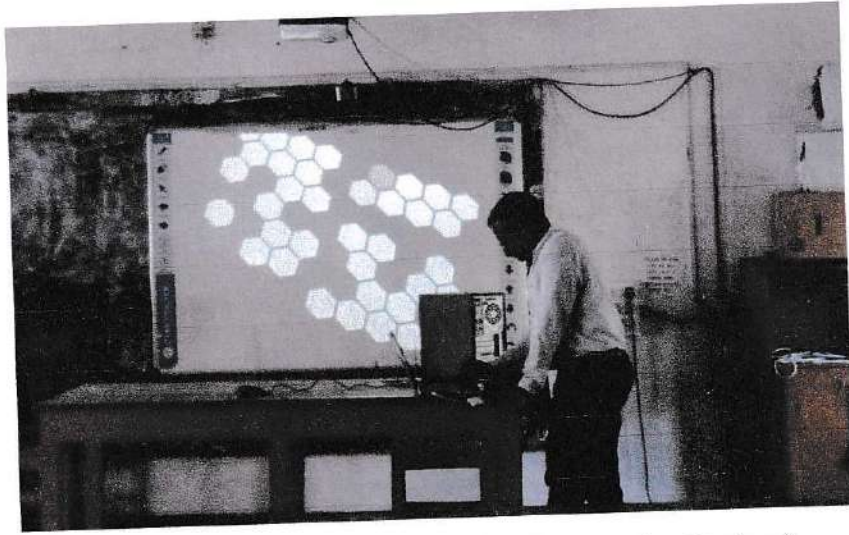


Fig. Mr. Firoj Khan's lecture on "A Comparative Study of Rabindranath and Jibanananda Das' Select Poetry" on 11.11.19


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Report

1. Name of the programme: **IQAC Special Lecture**
2. Topic: **“Rabindranath's Concept of Women Emancipation”**
3. Organizer: **IQAC, Purbasthali College**
4. Duration: **1 day**
5. Date: **08.11.2019**
6. Number of participants: **18**
7. Venue: **Room No. 9**
8. Name of resource person: **Dr. Lipika Ghoshal, Purbasthali College**

Introduction:

An IQAC Special Lecture on “Rabindranath’s Concept of Women Emancipation” was organized by IQAC, Purbasthali College on 08.11.2019 at 2.00 pm at Room No. 9.


Objective:

The objective of the IQAC Special Lecture on "Rabindranath’s Concept of Women Emancipation" was to delve into the visionary thoughts of Rabindranath Tagore regarding the emancipation and empowerment of women, exploring his literary works and social philosophy.

Key Discussions:

The lecture commenced with an introduction to Rabindranath Tagore, highlighting his multifaceted contributions to literature, music, art, and social reform movements. The speaker elucidated Rabindranath Tagore’s nuanced understanding of women's emancipation, emphasizing the need for holistic development encompassing education, empowerment, and societal transformation. Participants explored excerpts from Tagore’s literary works, including poems, essays, and novels, to decipher his portrayal of women characters and their struggles for autonomy and self-expression. The lecture delved into Tagore’s advocacy for social reforms aimed at challenging traditional gender roles and promoting women's rights, including


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access to education, participation in public life, and economic independence. The discussion also examined the contemporary relevance of Tagore's ideas on women emancipation in the context of evolving gender dynamics, socio-cultural norms, and policy interventions.

Outcome:

- Enhanced understanding of Rabindranath Tagore's perspectives on women emancipation among participants.
- Exploration of the literary and philosophical dimensions of Tagore's works pertaining to women's empowerment.
- Identification of key themes and motifs in Tagore's writings that continue to resonate with contemporary discourses on gender equality and social justice.

Conclusion:

The IQAC Special Lecture on "Rabindranath's Concept of Women Emancipation" provided a stimulating platform for participants to engage with the rich legacy of Rabindranath Tagore and his profound insights into the emancipation and empowerment of women. By critically analyzing Tagore's literary works and social philosophy, the lecture aimed to inspire reflection and dialogue on the enduring quest for gender equality and justice in society.


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Fig. Dr. Lipika Ghoshal's lecture on "Rabindranath's Concept of Women Emancipation" on 8.11.19


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Report

1. Name of the programme: **IQAC Special Lecture**
2. Topic: **“Usha Ganguli's Hum Mukhatara': A Study of Female Agency”**
3. Organizer: **IQAC, Purbasthali College**
4. Duration: **1 day**
5. Date: **24.12.2019**
6. Number of participants: **19**
7. Venue: **Room No. 9**
8. Name of resource person: **Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh, Purbasthali College**

Introduction:

An IQAC Special Lecture on “Usha Ganguli's Hum Mukhatara': A Study of Female Agency” was organized by IQAC, Purbasthali College on 24.12.2019 at 2.00 pm at Room No. 9.

Objective:

The lecture aimed to delve into the thematic depth and narrative nuances of Usha Ganguli's acclaimed work, focusing particularly on the portrayal of female agency in the context of Indian society.

Key Points Discussed:

The lecture commenced with an overview of Usha Ganguli's seminal play, 'Hum Mukhatara', providing insights into its socio-cultural backdrop and thematic framework. The speaker elaborated on the portrayal of female characters in 'Hum Mukhatara', analyzing their complexities, aspirations, and struggles within patriarchal structures. The discussion delved into the themes of empowerment and liberation depicted in the play, highlighting instances of resistance, resilience, and self-assertion


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among the female protagonists. The lecture contextualized 'Hum Mukhatara' within the broader socio-cultural milieu of contemporary India, examining the challenges faced by women and the evolving dynamics of gender relations. Various critical perspectives were presented, offering diverse interpretations of Usha Ganguli's portrayal of female agency and the significance of her contribution to Indian theatre.

Outcome:

- The special lecture facilitated a deeper understanding of Usha Ganguli's play "Hum Mukhatara" among the participants, particularly in terms of its exploration of female agency and empowerment.
- Participants engaged in critical analysis and interpretation of the themes presented in the play, fostering a nuanced appreciation of its socio-cultural significance.
- The discussion on female agency and empowerment stimulated reflection on gender dynamics and societal norms, promoting greater gender sensitivity and inclusivity.
- The lecture served as a catalyst for further exploration and research into the works of Usha Ganguli and the broader themes of gender representation in Indian theatre.
- Participants gained insight into the rich cultural heritage and literary tradition of Indian theatre, contributing to their overall cultural enrichment and intellectual growth.

Conclusion:

The special lecture on "Usha Ganguli's 'Hum Mukhatara': A Study of Female Agency" provided a stimulating platform for intellectual inquiry and cultural exploration. By examining the dynamics of female agency in the context of Indian theatre, the lecture contributed to fostering a nuanced understanding of gender dynamics and empowerment narratives.


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Fig. Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh's lecture on "Usha Ganguli's 'Hum Mukhtara': A Study of Female Agency" on 24.12.19


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