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The contributions of Nirmal Kumar Bose to the analysis of Indian society

*Srabanti Choudhuri**

Nirmal Kumar Bose was an anthropologist with a sociological temperament. His insightful mind with a strong academic bent of mind was reflected from the very beginning of his career. He was a sharp and enterprising student. The earlier phase of his biography showed clear signs of a social scientist that he would soon evolve into. He joined the department of anthropology, to get an opportunity to work and interact with the several human groups in society. He worked assiduously collecting evidences as objectively as possible. The university also realized the perseverance and doggedness with which he worked like a ramrod. In the year 1925, not only he superseded his own cohorts but topped the university across the departments. His research experience of the geology department helped him immensely. His predilection for this new subject can be comprehended by a quick gaze at his biographical backdrop.

His intent urge for social benevolence and munificence enveloped in nationalist spirit was evident. This was coupled with his roots in Orissa that boasted of its ancient and sustained tradition as well as its eloquent folk culture which must have inspired Bose. In the meantime he studied the fishermen of Puri and the Munda tribes of Ranchi. The teachers of his department understood that an extremely potential, brisk, quick-witted and discerning student had joined their department. The dissertation paper of his post-graduation course conducted on the spring festival stood out for its perceptive and sagacious approach and for the vividness of details. It also charted out his analytical and sapient mind that turned him such a genius at adolescence. It only maps out his locus of interest that lied especially around Ranchi and its neighbourhood which he inhabited. He was a keen observer and observed everything that came his way. He did not have to go afar

*Assistant Professor in sociology, Netaji Subhas Open University

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