



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

School of Social Sciences

DD 26, Sector – I, Salt Lake – 700064

Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

Report of the One Day National Seminar on 'Gender, Culture, Politics: Bengal in the 20th Century – Open Distance Initiative' held on 24th September, 2016

Introduction

The School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University has taken initiative to organize One-Day University Grants Commission (UGC) and Distance Education Bureau (DEB) sponsored National Seminar on '*Gender, Culture, Politics: Bengal in the 20th Century – Open Distance Initiative*' held on 24th September, 2016. Since its establishment of the university initiates different kind of academic exercises like seminar, symposium, conference and memorial lectures for cultivating advanced knowledge and intellectual debates on modern cultural traditional society of Indian and western as well. This seminar has exercised same academic culture of our university, has two major parts of significance; one is an 'integral part' which has generally organized through the paper presentation of the scholars coming from different higher educational institutions. Another is very credential of publishing 'Seminar Proceeding' on the day of the seminar through the peer review process which may be considered as the fruits of this academic exercise.

Professor Mahua Sarkar, Department of History, Jadavpur University, expressed keynote address in the seminar. From the very beginning of her lecture outlines how many different ways the Twentieth century Bengal was marked by long term transformation over the women's question. Women's question though addressed quite prominently in the colonial discourse as a civilizing project yet the visibility of women could be owed to the nationalist movement. Professor Chandan Basu, Director, School of Social Sciences, NSOU, gave us an introductory

speech which is broadly reviewed of Bengal's historical transition and cultural orientation covered the period of 19th and 20th centuries all around. Our chief guest was Professor Radharamad Chakrabarty, former Vice Chancellor, NSOU, interpreted historically pre-ordained phenomenon of the Bengali society with deeply ensconced social recognitions and socio-cultural ascriptions. Professor Debnarayan Modak, former Director, School of Social Sciences, NSOU, has given presidential address in the seminar.

Exploring the Theme of the Seminar

Theme of the National Seminar that is, **Gender, Culture, Politics: Bengal in the 20th Century**, is an outcome of the long deliberation among the faculty members of the School of Social Sciences, NSOU. The faculties, who are happened to be engaged in researches related to Bengal, especially modern Bengal, in some way or other, have come to the shared conclusion that Bengal's historical development in twentieth century needs to be addressed from new and fresh perspectives. It was also postulated that innovative methodologies, critical application of theoretical insights and unconventional areas of researches must come from the younger generation of research scholars. The Seminar Organizing Committee prepared a Concept Note, as highlighted in the website of the University requesting the interested scholars to submit their papers. This call for papers got enormous responses, and finally distributed almost fifty papers into four broad subthemes, namely, *open and distance learning*, *gender*, *culture* and *politics*. Most of the contributors are either research scholars or younger generation of teachers. If we simply make a quick scan of the papers, we will be amazed to see the varieties of issues and wider arena of topics that have been addressed and analyzed in the submitted papers. These papers have not only interrogated the theme of the Seminar from most unconventional ways, but also critically expanded the limits of the perspectives of the theme of the seminar itself.

Professor Sarkar uttered in her keynote on '*Women in Twentieth Century Bengal: Historical Perspectives*' which aptly explores the long-term changes as well as continuity of the history of Bengal during twentieth century. Her contribution will be a valuable asset of the Proceedings posits the contested question of women in the historical perspectives of Bengal in the twentieth century. She primarily focuses on the transformative role of women in broader context of education, society and politics particularly in the post-1947 period. Here lies the basic difference between the nineteenth century and twentieth century. In fact, after the partition of the

country in 1947, the changing social realities created conditions for the expansive role of women in the public domain.

The Subtract of the Seminar

The aim of the seminar is to explore the interplay of gender, culture and politics– the three distinct but interdependent elements of the history of the Twentieth century Bengal. The notable point is that it is to interrogate the historical evolution of Bengal through the prism of gender, culture and politics. Any historical account of colonial and post-colonial Bengal, particularly Bengal of the 20th century, should pay adequate attention to the complex transformation of the economic pattern, social structure and political processes: the rise and growth of nationalist movement, the development of communalism, the movements of the plebeian social classes, the partition of the province, the erosion of colonial dominance, the birth of West Bengal and the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign nation etc. Bengal also witnessed major expansion of education during the period under review. The modern form of education which was introduced by the colonial authority in Bengal during 19th century to meet the political, administrative and financial requirements of the British rule started taking a popular character in the Twentieth century.

Some questions came out from open discussions, debates and interaction of the seminar, the issues like patriarchy, domestic subordination, sexual oppression, social violence against women etc. could not be comfortably explained from the conceptual tools of homogeneous modernity. What we need now a new cultural turn which would dare to question the internal structure of patriarchy both in the realms of public and the private. The modern history of Bengal during the period under review could be an ideal site for new researches following the unmasking of covert ideology of patriarchy and masculinity. This Seminar reflects some of the serious questions on transition of Bengal in this estimated period in a more articulated way which helped us to rethink Bengal taking with through the following questions for further research.

1. What were the constitutive elements of the idea of ‘Bengal in twentieth century’?
2. Is it at all a meaningful theoretical proposition?

3. Can we advance idea of Bengal in twentieth century as a marked historical epoch?
4. Would it be legitimate to identify Bengal in twentieth century as distinct from both nineteenth and twenty-first centuries?
5. Or is it a fractured time which signifies nothing but hollow land?

Output of this seminar is a Proceedings Volume entitled '**Gender, Culture, Politics: Bengal in the 20th Century – Open Distance Initiative**' with ISBN, edited by Chandan Basu, Barnana Guha Thakurta and Manosanta Biswas, what is a reflection of these questions as arose in the recent researches. A number of scholars, especially the younger scholars, make critical efforts to throw light on cracks and splits in making of the one of the most vibrant regions of South Asia, that is, Bengal. It fulfils, indeed, the objective of the Review Committee, School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University: to create an open space of dialogue and debates for the conduct of intensive, multi-faceted researches on gender, culture and politics of Bengal in twentieth century. The present Proceedings volume is a humble attempt to make an exclusive study of Bengal in twentieth century through the lens of gender, culture and politics.

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Call for Paper

One-Day UGC-DEB Sponsored National Level Seminar
Title of the Seminar

**Gender, Culture, Politics: Bengal in the 20th Century -
*Open Distance Initiative***

Date: 24th September, 2016

**Venue: Seminar Hall, Netaji Subhas Open University, DD-26 Salt Lake,
Kolkata-64.**

Concept note:

The twentieth century Bengal occupies an interesting position in the history, culture and politics of India. In recent years, it has also emerged as a major site of debate and deliberations among the scholars', sociologists, historians and experts' of other fields of social sciences. Recent historical interpretations have made significant contributions and more imaginative micro-study in the realm of gender, culture and politics to locate and identify the specificities of regional historical experiences. The Bengali society witnessed long-term transformation in the 19th and 20th centuries as a result of the introduction of colonial rule. As a result of this transformative process, the women questions had emerged in 19th century India as distinctly articulated discourse. The most interesting point is that it was a public discourse. In 20th century Bengal, the women penetrated in the male dominated public life more strongly. The presence of the women was felt not only in the political sphere of nationalism, but also in the wider arena of left politics. Most interestingly, the women also appeared as a strong social force beyond the circle of the organized politics. It was in the subaltern politics of resistance, the women played most critical role in radicalizing the protest movement. The higher caste elites were able to monopolize the nationalist politics of Bengal in the first two decades of 20th century. They however had lost their domination in mass nationalists' movement during the 1930s. The emergence of the caste movement constituted an important watershed in the history of nationalism in Bengal in the decades late 1930s and 1940s. The Bengal Partition was also an extremely important event which produced new social, political and cultural processes in the state. The transition towards a *decolonized political form* brought new groups in to the public sphere of newly constituted state, that is, West Bengal. The introduction of universal adult franchise also created new types of dynamism and popular participation in the political perspectives of West Bengal. The politics of protest also took new turn in the decades after independence. It generated new research questions in the academic circle.

Objectives:

The primary objective of this seminar is to provide an open discussion platform for academicians, researchers, and scholars in a collaborative environment to present and discuss issues on gender, Culture and politics in the historical perspectives of the 20th century Bengal. Our most important task is to pay attention to create an academic environment in which new perceptions and new ideas may be articulated by the presenters, experts and participants. Finally, our aspiration is that the seminar will create a bridge between conventional researchers and the thinkers, scholars and researchers who are kind of non-conventional or open thinker.

Subthemes:

Society
Culture
Education
Gender
Politics of Protest
People at Margins

Important Dates:

- Last date for Full Paper submission: **10th August, 2016**
- Acceptance/Rejection of papers will be notified by **15th August, 2016**
- Last date for registration: **05 September, 2016**

Paper Submission:

- **Order:** Author details—Title of the Paper---Abstract ----Key Words----Body---- Conclusion----References-----Appendices
- **Author details:** Name, email, designation, affiliated instruction, mobile no.
- **Key words:** seven
- **Full paper:** 3000 words without references
- **Abstract:** 150-200 words
- **Format:** front size 12, Times Roman, Microsoft Office Word.
- **Line space:** 1.0, page- A4.
- **Please follow APA format for citation**
- **For Example:**

Author's name (last name, first and any middle initials) (Date of Internet publication) Document title, Where available: URL (or other retrieval information). Retrieval date.

Shapiro, H. (1999). Professional Communications, Available: http://www1.esc.edu/personalfac/hshapiro/professional_communications/default.htm [November 6, 2001].

Book

An online book may be the electronic text of part or all of a printed book, or a book length document available only on the Internet (*e.g.* a work of hyper fiction).

Bryant, P. (1999). Biodiversity and Conservation. [Online]. Available: <http://darwin.bio.uci.edu/~sustain/bio65/Titlepage.htm> [October 4, 1999].

Article in an electronic journal (ejournal)

Fine, M., and Kurdek, L.A. (1993, March 9). Reflections on determining authorship credit and authorship order on faculty-student collaborations. Available: *American Psychologist*. 48. 1141-1147 <http://www.apa.org/journals/amp/kurdek.html> [June 7, 1999].

Article in an electronic magazine (ezine)

Adler, J. (1999, May 17). Ghost of Everest. Available: *Newsweek*: http://newsweek.com/nwsrv/issue/20_99a/printed/us/so/so0120_1.htm [May 19, 1999].

Newspaper article

Azar, B., & Martin, S. (1999, October). APA's Council of Representatives endorses new standards for testing, high school psychology. Available: *APA Monitor*. <http://www.apa.org/monitor/inl.html> [October 7, 1999].

Government publication

Bush, G. (1989, April 12). Principles of ethical conduct for government officers and employees. Exec. Order No. 12674. Pt. 1. Available: <http://www.usoge.gov/exorders/eol2674.html>

[November 18, 1997].**E-mail. (Simply include a reference to the date sent and the subject heading)**

Ward, Neil (nwar@asia.com). (2001, October 22). Tutoring Japanese students. E-mail to Shirley Jackson (sjacks55@lottery.com).

However, if the E-mail source is a consistently retrievable, subscriber-based journal or other text/document on E-mail, include it in the reference page as follows:

Funder, D. C. (1994, March). Judgmental process and content: Commentary of Koehler on base-rate [9 paragraphs]. *Psycoloquy* [On-line serial], 5, (17).

Available E-mail: psyc@pucc Message: Get psyc 94-xxxx

Registration Fee: Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for each participant. In case of joint or more than two authors of a single paper, each participant has to pay the Registration Fee of Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only). Registration Fee should be made through NEFT/ RTGS mode only. **(Cash Payment/Bank**

Draft will not be entertained in any way).

The Bank Details and Registration Procedure will be intimated to the participants in due course through Email.

Publication:

The Editorial Board will publish all the selected papers in the Seminar Proceedings (with ISBN). The Editorial Board will however reserve the right to accept/reject any paper for presentation and/or publication. The Scrutiny Process will be done through double blind peer review method. **The ‘Editorial Board’ will also select fifteen papers out of the submitted**

Papers for presentation in the seminar

Abstract and full papers are to be sent to the Email ID:socialsciences.nsou@gmail.com

Organizing Secretary:

Dr. Manosanta Biswas

Assistant Professor of History

School of Social Sciences.

Netaji Subhas Open University.

Sri. Manoj Kumar Halder,

Assistant Professor of Political Science,

School of Social Sciences.

Netaji Subhas Open University



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Programme Schedule

One-Day UGC-DEB Sponsored National Seminar

on

Gender, Culture, Politics: Bengal in the 20th Century- Open Distance initiative

Date: 24th September 2016

Venue: NSOU Head-quarter, DD 26, Sector- I, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700064

Time	Event	Venue
10.00- 10.30am	Registration	NSOU Head quarter, 1 st Floor.
10.30am – 12 Noon	INAUGURAL SESSION. ➤ Welcome address by Manoj Kumar Haldar, Assistant Professor of political Science, School of Social Sciences, NSOU. ➤ Introducing the Theme by Dr. Chandan Basu, Officer-in-Charge, School of Social Sciences, NSOU. ➤ Key note address by Prof. Mahua Sarkar, ➤ Department of History, Jadavpur University ➤ Address of the Chief Guest by Professor Radharaman Chakraborty, Former Vice Chancellor, NSOU ➤ Presidential Address by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, NSOU / ➤ Prof Debnarayan Modak, Professor of Political	Seminar Room, 1 st Floor.

	Science, NSOU.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vote of thanks by Dr. Manosanta Biswas, ➤ Assistant Professor in History, NSOU. 	
12.00– 12.10 p.m	TEA-BREAK	NSOU Head quarter, 1 st Floor.
12.10 p.m – 1- 30 p.m	TECHNICAL SESSION-I	SEMINAR HALL 1 st Floor.
Chair : Prof. Mahua Sarkar, Department of History, Jadavpur University		
Paper presented by		Title of the paper
Dr Aparajita Dhar Assistant Professor, Dept. of History The University of Burdwan		Women’S Writing and Politics in Colonial Bengal: Some Leading Muslim Women
Sreetanwi Chakraborty Assistant Professor Amity Institute of English Studies and Research ,Amity University Kolkata		Re-reading a kaleidoscopic presentation of women in Naxalbari: Role conflicts, marginalization and gender discrimination
Sumallya Mukhopadhyay, Story Scholar, Oral Historian in 1947 Partition Archive, University of California, Berkeley.		Speaking Truth to Power through One’s Body: Politics of Protest of Subaltern Women in Mahasweta Devi’s Short Stories ‘Dhouli’ and ‘Draupadi’
Amrita Haldar Assistant Professor in History Banwarilal Bhalotia College, Asansol,		Football and Communalism in Colonial Bengal: Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bengalee Muslim Society: 1891-1947.
1.30 p.m – 2.00 p.m		LUNCH -BREAK

2.00 p.m – 3.20 p.m	TECHNICAL SESSION-II
Chair : Prof Debnarayan Modak, Professor of Political Science, NSOU	
Paper presented by	Title of the paper
Dr. Sabyasachi Chatterjee Associate Professor Department of History University of Kalyani.	Contextualizing Culture of Science in The Psyche of the People in Twentieth Century Bengal
Sagnik Banerjee Ph.D. Research Scholar Department of English, University of Calcutta	Negotiating gender and space in post-independence Calcutta: Reading NarendranathMitra's <i>Abataranika</i> and Satyajit Ray's <i>Mahanagar</i> .
Dr. Pintu Kumar Maji Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Sarsuna College & Dr. Rita Singha Roy Assistant Professor, Department of Education Swami Niswambalananda Girls' College	Implementing Multicultural Education in Diverse Classroom
Dr. Shiladitya Chakraborty Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science University of Kalyani	Radical Resistance and Peoples Movement in West Bengal: The story of Lalgurh
3.20p.m – 3.50	Distribution of Proceedings & Certificates.

(The Report is prepared by **Dr. Manosanta Biswas**, Assistant Professor of History, School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University)

