



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
Accredited 'A' Grade by NAAC

Department of History, School of Social Sciences
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Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

REPORT

National level Student Seminar (online mode), 10 May, 2022
Topic: *Rabindranath Tagore: His Ideas on Nation and Society*

- ❖ **Organized by: Department of History in collaboration with NSOU Centre for Social studies, School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University**
- ❖ **Date & Time: 10 May, 2022, 12 to 3.30 pm**
- ❖ **Mode: Online (facilitated by NSOU ICT)**
- ❖ **Participants: 116 participants** including 5 NSOU faculty
- ❖ **Female- 62, Male-54**

➤ **About the National Student Seminar:**

Rabindranath Tagore's birthday was celebrated on 9 May, 2022, and *Rabindra Jayanti*, and it was the perfect time to reminisce his contribution to the country, society and humanity as a whole. It is in this context that the Department of History, School of Social Sciences in association with Centre for Social Studies organized a National-level Student Seminar for the UG/PG students/learners enrolled in the Universities and Colleges of India, in the online mode on 10 May, 2022.

➤ **Objectives of the Student Seminar:**

- To build quality human resource base for the progress of the state and nation
- To provide facility of lifelong education to the intending learners
- To integrate technological tools in the pedagogy for facilitating the learning experiences
- To ensure that the political and social ideas of Rabindranath Tagore message are not lost to posterity

- ### ➤ **Preparation for the Seminar:** A notification with all necessary details related to the National-level Student Seminar titled, *Rabindranath Tagore: His Ideas on Nation and Society* was uploaded on NSOU website well in advance. This notice was also circulated through WhatsApp and word of mouth.

The National-level seminar was open to all PG/UG students/learners enrolled in the Universities and Colleges of India. The paper presenters for the seminar were selected on the basis of papers submitted by them on the topic *Rabindranath Tagore: His Ideas on Nation and Society*. The papers were judged strictly on the basis of merit by the Department of History, NSOU. The learners were notified in advance about the acceptance of their respective papers. They were required to make power point presentations for the webinar. Learners who were not adept at making PPTs were helped by the teachers of the History Department, School of Social Sciences, NSOU in this regard. Since this seminar involved students no fees was charged. Registration was free for all paper presenters and participants.

❖ **Minutiae of National-level Student Seminar (online mode):**

❖ **Inaugural Session**

- **Welcome Address:** The programme began on time at 12 noon with the Welcome Address. It was delivered by Dr. Manoj Kumar Halder, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Co-ordinator, NSOU School for Social Studies. He warmly welcomed the faculties, paper presenters and other participants from all colleges and universities to the online seminar and expressed belief that the seminar would be beneficial to all.
- **Introduction of the Topic:** Professor Chandan Basu, Director, School of Social Sciences and Professor of History, NSOU elucidated the historical significance of the topic *Rabindranath Tagore: His Ideas on Nation and Society*. He pointed out that though Rabindranath is generally remembered for his literary achievements, he was above all a great humanist and to students of History, his views on nation and society are of great significance and can serve as a model to diffuse many prevalent problems in today's society and polity not only in India but all over the world. He applauded the initiative taken by Head, Department of History and Coordinator, NSOU School for Social Studies and the tremendous response from the students.
- **From the Vice-Chancellor's Desk:** On this occasion the Department was highly honoured and obliged to receive an encouraging letter from the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of NSOU, Professor Subha Sankar. His message was read aloud by the Head, Department of History. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor pointed out in his message that the seminar was a platform for the students from different universities and colleges of India to deliberate upon the thoughts and ideas of Tagore and take his legacy forward. He whole-heartedly appreciated this initiative taken by the School of the Social Sciences and wished it a grand success.
- **Special Address:** Professor Anirban Ghosh, Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) & Director, School of Professional Studies & School of Vocational Studies, NSOU delivered a special address, mentioning the 'A' grade awarded to NSOU by NAAC and the various measures being taken by the University, under CIQA, to reach out to the unreached learners and enrich them with quality education. He appreciated the efforts of Department of History in organizing a seminar that involved learners directly. He spoke eloquently on the innovative educational approaches of Tagore.



❖ **Session I:** There were twelve paper presenters in the first session, namely, the following:

Paper Presenters:

1. Sanchaly Bhattacharya, MA Public Administration, NSOU
2. Aayushee Chakraborty, MA History, NSOU
3. Samiran Halder, M.Phil History, University of Kalyani
4. Pinki Biswas, MA Political Science, NSOU
5. Orion De, MA History, NSOU
6. Mamata Santra, MA History, NSOU
7. Aritro Mukherjee, BA History Hons, Maulana Azad College
8. Arnab Rakshit, BA History Hons, Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya Haripal, University of Burdwan
9. Chandana Roy, MA Education, NSOU
10. Payal Das, MA History, West Bengal State University
11. Plabani Jana, MA History, NSOU
12. Arijit Kayal, BA History Hons, NSOU

Each paper presenter was allotted 6-8 minutes to present her/his paper with the help of a power point presentation. The effort taken by the learners to prepare their power point presentations with relevant pictures was indeed appreciable since some of them were not at all conversant with ICT tools. Above all the manner in which the students traced the role of Tagore in opposing British colonialism, his constructive debates with Gandhi, forging Hindu-Muslim unity, repudiating aggressive nationalism, was indeed laudable.

❖ **Session I- Question-Answer, Discussion:** The discussion was really active, and the attendees posed a lot of interesting issues. The webinar was additionally enhanced by the personal understanding of the participants about Tagore's life and activities. Dr. Anuradha Ghose, Associate Professor of History, NSOU initiated the discussion by referring to the role of songs in expressing the nationalist sentiments of Tagore.

The Inaugural session and Session I was compered by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra.

❖ **Session II:** A total of eleven papers were presented in the second session making the final tally of paper presenters in both the sessions ten in number.

The paper presenters in the second session were as follows:

13. Jayanta Basak, MA Political science, NSOU
14. Nirmalya Bhattacharya, BA History Hons, NSOU
15. Riya Pramanick, MA History, NSOU
16. Rita Hazra, MA Political Science, NSOU
17. Swapan Sarkar, MA History, NSOU
18. Rounak Zafar, MA Political Science, NSOU
19. Mitali Barman, MA History, NSOU
20. Ananta Biswas, MA History, NSOU
21. Rohan Dey, BA History (Hons), Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya Haripal, Hooghly, Burdwan University
22. Tuhina Nandi, MA History, NSOU
23. Shila Roy, MA History, NSOU

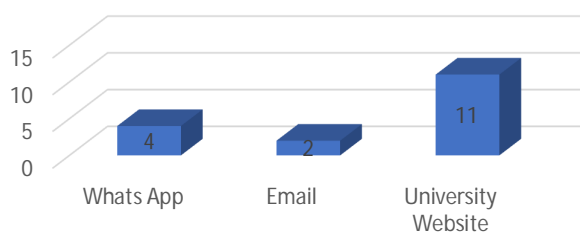


The students in this session discussed Tagore's understanding of the Swadeshi Samaj, the role of the rural society in national regeneration and his successful educational and socio-economic experiments in Santiniketan and Sriniketan. Many learners expressed the opinion that his form of liberal yet traditional education should be adopted as a role-model in the modern pedagogy.

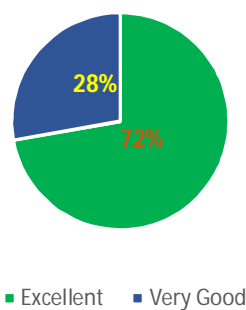
Session II Paper Presentation was ably coordinated by Dr Manoj Kumar Haldar.

- ❖ **Session II- Question-Answer, Discussion:** The participants and paper presenters exchanged ideas and modern outlooks regarding Tagore's contribution to nation-building.
- **Wrapping-up:** Professor Chandan Basu wrapped up the Student Seminar by effectively combining the main themes presented by the paper presenters belonging to different departments and universities as well as the comments of the participants during the discussions.
- **Technical support:** Valuable and glitch-free technical help was provided by NSOU ICT during the student seminar. E-Certificate of participation and presentation was also duly provided.
- **Vote of Thanks:** The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Head & Associate Professor, Department of History, School of Social Sciences.
- ❖ **Feedback from Participants on the basis of Feedback Forms Submitted:**

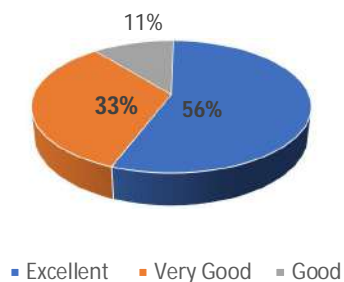
How did you get to know about this programme?



Please rate the Programme



Rate the Management



❖ Outcome of the National-level Student Seminar (online mode):

- Effectively broadening the horizon of knowledge, promoting original thinking and creating a context of lifelong learning for all involved in the National Student Seminar
- Higher Education students were provided a wide platform to express their opinions about Tagore's role in History and the contemporary relevance of his message and legacy to the young generation of our country, on the occasion of *Rabindra Jayanti*
- A diverse group of participants were able to share their perspectives on Netaji and distinguish between fact and fiction in the context of his thoughts and activities.
- Learners who were unfamiliar with ICT tools learnt to create power point presentations with the support of NSOU faculty and technical staff

- The online seminar was a lesson in time management for the organizers and paper presenters
- The participants' feedback form revealed that every single respondent was in agreement that Department of History, SoSS, NSOU should continue to organize such fruitful Student Seminars in the future too

*Report prepared by Dr. Ritu Mathur Mitra, Head & Associate Professor, Dept. of History,
School of Social Sciences*

Ritu Mathur Mitra

17/05/2022