

REPORT  
on  
National Webinar on  
***'Being Woman- From Theory to  
Praxis'***

Organized by  
The Women's Cell and the NSS Unit  
In association with IQAC,  
GGDC, Mangalkote  
*Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022*  
Time: 5 p.m. onwards  
Platform: Google Meet



# **REPORT:**

**Name of the Programme:** International Women's Day on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## ***Objectives of the webinar:***

The primary purpose of organizing a webinar with the theme 'Being Woman- From Theory to Praxis' was to discuss and understand the everyday negotiations and struggles of women as they oscillate in their locations in theory and realize their locations in practice. The position of women is linked to the lived realities in which they find themselves in their daily lives, at the same time, these lived realities are deeply informed by the position of women in theory. Therefore, to find explanations for the variations in the positions of women in different societies, we return to this realm of theory and ideas. If we trace a trajectory of these ideas, theories and principles, we will be able to find the trajectory of the location of women in praxis. The location of women in praxis has also displayed a concomitant transition including the states of being free, constrained, or liberated, associated with the nature of theory that was predominant in a particular place and time.

## ***Proceedings of the Webinar:***

The webinar entitled 'Being Woman- From Theory to Praxis' was organized on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 from 5 p.m. to celebrate International Women's Day, globally observed on 8<sup>th</sup> March every year. The program started with the inaugural session where the Convener of Women's Cell Ms Tahira Tashneem introduced the theme 'Being Woman- From Theory to Praxis' of the webinar and welcomed our honourable Officer-In-Charge Dr. Pradipta Kumar Basu and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Coordinator Dr. Debraj Biswal to inaugurate the program with their inaugural speech and special address respectively. The inaugural session was followed by lectures delivered by the three eminent resource persons each getting a stipulated time of 40 to 45 minutes to speak on their specific topic. Ms Sanchari De acted as the moderator of these sessions.



## Lecture I:

Dr. Rajarshi Chakraborty (Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Burdwan) spoke on the topic 'Revisiting the Different Waves of Feminism- Understanding their Significance'. Dr. Rajarshi Chakraborty started his deliberation with the historical background of masculine superiority. Society developed in three definite stages- prehistoric society, the barbarian society and the civilised society. In a prehistoric society, as there was no concept of the private ownership of the means of capital, there was no domination of women by men. It was the barbarian society that saw the evolution of animal husbandry and agriculture where men were supposed to hunt, provide food, build dwelling houses and do all other field work and women were supposed to bear and rear children. This was the starting point of men owning the body of women. Dr. Chakraborty depicted women's position in Indian society through the historical period because the contribution of women has always been ignored and thus, it has always been 'HIS STORY' and not 'HER STORY'. He talked about women's position in Indian society in ancient times, mediaeval times and at the time of colonial rule. Dr. Chakraborty developed his argument by referring to Razia Sultana, Nur Jahan, and Rani Laxmi Bai. He also stated that even if some manage to secure their position in Indian history their contribution is always referred to or glorified with the help of masculine ideas. He also very immaculately brought in the references of the Ramayana and Mahabharata, the references of *Sita* and *Draupadi* who were time and again made subject to patriarchal whims by men.



The respected speaker also pointed out the differences between biological sex and sexuality as construed by the society that obeys the dictates of men. Through his discussions, he elucidated the different schools of feminism and feminist thinkers namely Liberal Feminism, Marxist Feminism, Revolutionary Feminism and Cultural Feminism. It was a very well-structured lecture combining both theoretical and practical learning.

## Lecture II:

Mr. Abhisek Das (Assistant Professor, Department of English, Government General Degree College Narayangarh) spoke on the topic 'I Choose to Unconform, I Choose to Unfollow- Social Constraints and Women Emancipation in India'. Mr. Das's discussion logically followed from where Dr. Chakraborty left off and he started with the epistemological difference between masculinity and femininity. This epistemological difference stems from the difference between the private sphere and the public sphere. The private sphere is the emotional sphere and thus belongs to women and the public sphere is the logical sphere and thus the domain of men. Feminists have actively agitated against this distinction for a long time. He talked about patriarchy as a political set-up deliberately designed to subjugate women. Professor Das also highlighted the phenomenon of biological determinism which considers men to be natural rulers and superiors. While discussing the different branches of feminism, our respected speaker drew on references from everyday life (mainly in Indian society) to substantiate his discussion



For example, the public sphere is a combination of social, economic, religious and political domains and in each of these domains, women are victims of male dominance and dictates. Mary Wollstonecraft, Simone de Beauvoir, Radcliffe Richards, Susan Moller Okin, and others were discussed as important feminist protagonists. Mr. Das concluded by concentrating on the societal mindset that prevents any major changes in the position of women. He prioritised the need for spreading awareness about human rights and dignity as such which in turn will logically talk about women empowerment.

### **Lecture III:**

Ms. Deblina Mukherjee (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Jhargram Raj College Girl's Wing) discussed the topic 'Dominated Consciousness to Critical Consciousness- The Changing Agency of Women Versus Unchanging Role Expectations'. Ms Mukherjee's discussions were based on awareness, consciousness and change as the primary motivating factors in women's empowerment. Imparting knowledge does not automatically result in women's empowerment but knowledge needs to be imparted in such a manner that it resonates with logic, societal differences and cultural differences. Women should be the initiators of their change. Imposing awareness without involving those for whom it is meant appears to be fruitless. Professor Mukherjee discussed the subjugation of women under three broad headings- power and decision-making, power and agenda-setting and power and thought control. This is society's mechanism to control its women.



She drew on examples from everyday Indian households to elaborate on her points: starting from female foeticide to denying education to the girl child, forceful marriage, ,denying financial independence and domestic violence. Women, from a very early age, are taught not to question the established norms. Claiming back their rights and rightful position, as Ms Mukherjee mentions, will be a long-drawn process entailing not only women not conforming to mainstream societal ideas and institutions but also men, be it father or brother or boyfriend or husband, coming forward to support their women.

### **Discussion:**

After the discussions on relevant and significant topics were completed by reputed speakers, an interactive session of approximately 15 minutes started between the active participants and specific resource persons where critical questions were raised, opinions, and suggestions were provided and discussed with everyone so that every active participant gets enlightened on various issues and pertinent problems related to women.

### **Participants:**

A total number of 91 individuals participated in the Webinar.

### **Vote of Thanks:**

The programme ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Madhumita Chakraborty, Head Department of Political Science.



## Conclusion:

The discussions revealed that the objectives were achieved. The students were able to develop a concrete idea about the different schools of feminism. They also learnt about the position of women in different historical periods. They also learnt the difference between the realm private sphere and the public sphere and were made aware of the need for human rights and women empowerment. They also came to know that women should be the agents of their social change.



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**GOVERNMENT GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE, MANGALKOTE**  
Internal Quality Assurance Cell

Panchanantala, Khudrun Digchi, Mangalkote, Burdwan-713132, Dist. - Burdwan  
Email: ggdc Mangalkote@gmail.com; Website: <http://mangalkotegovtcollege.org>

NO.: IQAC/02(Min.)/2022

DATE: 18.02.2022

### Minutes of the meeting held on 18.02.2022

The online meeting held on 18.02.2022 was attended by the members (together with the conveners and joint conveners) of the Women's Cell, National Service Scheme (NSS) and IQAC committees. The work plan of the celebration of 'International Women's Day' in March, '22 was chalked out. In this respect, the following decisions were taken:

1. *Tentative schedule of the programme: 15.03.2022 (5.00 pm to 8.00 pm) [One day seminar]*
2. *Tentative topics of the online talks:* Each talk will be approximately of 45 minutes duration followed by a general discussion between the speaker and the participants. The topics shall be decided by the concerned speaker(s) which are to be taken care of by Ms. Tahira Tashneem, Convener, Women's Cell and Mr. Anitra Rudra, Convener, NSS committee.
3. *Resource persons:* This is to be taken care of by the Conveners of Women's Cell and NSS committee.
4. *Documentation:*
  - a. The flyer is to be prepared by Dr. Suchismita Das in consultation with the Convener and Joint Convener of Women's Cell.
  - b. Google forms for registration and feedback are to be prepared by Dr. Akash Kedia, Dr. Animesh Mondal and Mr. Dinesh Maity. Other members of the NSS committee are asked to help them.
  - c. E-certificates that will be given to the participants will also be prepared by Dr. Akash Kedia, Dr. Animesh Mondal and Mr. Dinesh Maity. Other members of the NSS committee are asked to help them.
  - d. Dr. Debasish Kundu will be uploading the documents to the college website from time to time.
5. *Proceedings:* After the completion of the programme a brief proceedings is to be prepared by the members of the Women's Cell and mailed to the Coordinator, IQAC (preferably by 25.03.2022).

Coordinator, IQAC  
GGDC at Mangalkote  
Purba Bardhaman



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**WOMEN'S CELL & NSS**

In association with IQAC, GGDC, Mangalkote  
celebrates

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

*Being Woman ■ From Theory to Praxis*

MONDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2022  
AT: 5.00 P.M.

*Invited speakers:*

**Dr. Rajarshi Chakraborty**

Assistant Professor, Department of History,  
The University of Burdwan

**Mr. Abhishek Das**

Assistant Professor, Department of English,  
Government General Degree College, Narayanagarh

**Ms. Deblina Mukherjee**

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science,  
Jhargram Raj College, Girl's Wing



*Basu*  
Dr. Pradipta Kumar Basu  
OFFICE IN CHARGE, W.C.E.S.  
Government General Degree College, Mangalkote  
Dr. Partha Sarathi Das, West Bengal-713112



# Speaker I: Dr Rajarshi Chakraborty

Deb B is presenting

Photos

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*celebrates*

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
*Being Woman - From Theory to Praxis*

MONDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

Break the Bias

Shrabani tahira Deb SUMANA Shilpa

Riya Bina Deblina Rajarshi shilpa

You Deb Payel Dr. Pradipta Ku... sanct 79 others

Delivering his lecture

# Moderator: Ms Sanchari De



Introducing the second speaker



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Email: ggdc Mangalkote@gmail.com; Website: <http://mangalkotegovtcollege.org>

Memo No.: 128/MGC

Dated: 11/03/2022

To,  
Dr Rajarshi Chakraborty  
Assistant Professor in History  
The University of Burdwan  
West Bengal

**Sub: Invitation to deliver a lecture in the Webinar organized by the Women's Cell and NSS, in association with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Govt. Gen. Degree College, Mangalkote**

Sir,

On the occasion of International Women's Day, we feel privileged to invite you to deliver a lecture on *Being Women: From Theory to Praxis* on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, (Monday) at 5.15 pm, in the Webinar organized by the Women's Cell in association with IQAC and NSS, Government General Degree College, Mangalkote, Purba Barddhaman-713132, West Bengal. We sincerely hope it will be an enriching experience for the students and faculty members to listen to your interesting and thought-provoking deliberation. The tentative duration of the talk is 40 (35+5) minutes.

We shall be obliged if you kindly accept our invitation.

Thanking you,

With regards,

**Officer-In-Charge  
GGDC, Mangalkote**

*Dr. Pradipta Kumar Basu*  
OFFICER IN CHARGE, W.B.E.S.  
Government General Degree College, Mangalkote  
Dt. Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal- 713132



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Email: ggdc Mangalkote@gmail.com; Website: <http://mangalkotegovtcollege.org>

Memo No.: 127/MGC

Dated: 11/03/2022

To,  
Mr Abhisek Das  
Assistant Professor in English, WBES  
Government General Degree College, Narayangarh  
Rathipur, Paschim Medinipur  
West Bengal

**Sub: Invitation to deliver a lecture in the Webinar organized by the Women's Cell and NSS, in association with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Govt. Gen. Degree College, Mangalkote**

Sir,

On the occasion of International Women's Day, we feel privileged to invite you to deliver a lecture on *Being Women: From Theory to Praxis* on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, (Monday) at 6.00 pm, in the Webinar organized by the Women's Cell in association with IQAC and NSS, Government General Degree College, Mangalkote, Purba Barddhaman-713132, West Bengal. We sincerely hope it will be an enriching experience for the students and faculty members to listen to your interesting and thought-provoking deliberation. The tentative duration of the talk is 40 (35+5) minutes.

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Memo No.: 129/MGC

Dated: 11/03/2022

To  
Ms Deblina Mukherjee  
Assistant Professor in Political Science, WBES  
Jhargram Raj College, Girls' Wing  
Jhargram, West Bengal

**Sub: Invitation to deliver a lecture in the Webinar organized by the Women's Cell and NSS, in association with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Govt. Gen. Degree College, Mangalkote**

Madam,

On the occasion of International Women's Day, we feel privileged to invite you to deliver a lecture on *Being Women: From Theory to Praxis* on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, (Monday) at 5.15 pm, in the Webinar organized by the Women's Cell in association with IQAC and NSS, Government General Degree College, Mangalkote, Purba Barddhaman-713132, West Bengal. We sincerely hope it will be an enriching experience for the students and faculty members to listen to your interesting and thought-provoking deliberation. The tentative duration of the talk is 40 (35+5) minutes.

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DATE: 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022

## Certificate of Appreciation

This is to certify that Dr Rajarshi Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Department of History, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal, delivered a lecture on **“Revisiting the different waves of Feminism: Understanding their significance”** in the Webinar on **“Being Women: From Theory to Praxis”** on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, organised by the Women's Cell and NSS Unit in association with the IQAC of Government General Degree College, Mangalkote, Burdwan, West Bengal.



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## Certificate of Appreciation

This is to certify that Mr Abhisek Das, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Government General Degree College, Narayangarh, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, delivered a lecture on “ ‘I choose to unconform, I choose to unfollow’--- Social Constraints and Women Emancipation in India” in the Webinar on “Being Women: From Theory to Praxis” on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, organised by the Women's Cell and NSS Unit in association with the IQAC of Government General Degree College, Mangalkote, Burdwan, West Bengal.



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DATE: 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022

## Certificate of Appreciation

This is to certify that Smt. Deblina Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Jhargram Raj College Girls' Wing, Jhargram, West Bengal, delivered a lecture on "From 'dominated consciousness' to 'critical consciousness'- The changing agency of women versus unchanging role expectations" in the Webinar on "Being Women: From Theory to Praxis" on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, organised by the Women's Cell and NSS Unit in association with the IQAC of Government General Degree College, Mangalkote, Burdwan, West Bengal.



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