

# Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya



(Accredited by NAAC)

111/3, B.T. Road (Bon-Hooghly), Kolkata – 700108

Phone: 8697169513

E-mail :pcmm.principal@gmail.com

Website: www.pcmm.edu.in

## INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

on

## DALIT LITERATURE AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

organized by

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Date: 03.05.2023

Time: 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: Virtual Meet and Seminar Hall, Room no 15, College Premise (Online and Offline)

Number of Participants: 130 (Including Teachers, Students, All Faculties)

**Name and Designation of Resource Person(s):** 1. Dr Mrinmoy Pramanick, Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Language and Literature, University of Calcutta

2. Mr Debayudh Chatterjee, Teaching and Graduate Assistant, Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Brief Report:** A Seminar on Dalit Literature and Social Transformation was organized by the Department of Sociology and IQAC of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya on 3rd May 2022 from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm at Room No 15.

Dr Arnab Ghosh, Principal, Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya delivered the inaugural lecture. The first Resource Person was Dr Mrinmoy Pramanick, Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Language and Literature, University of Calcutta. He delivered a lecture on Reimagining Dalit Literature. His lecture focused on the problematic notion of a national language. The idea of nation is thus imposed on the subaltern communities. His lecture further delved into understanding the role of translation in nation building. Most modern Indian languages have benefited with their interaction with European literature but some indigenous languages focus on oral and folk traditions. The idea of unity in diversity actually excludes indigenous cultures by homogenizing them.

The second Resource Person was Mr Debayudh Chatterjee, Teaching and Graduate Assistant, Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He delivered his lecture through Google Meet. The topic of his lecture was Marxism and the Caste Question in Bangla Dalit Literature. It has been widely alleged that the organized communist movement in India, especially in Bengal, privileged class over caste in orienting their struggle to such an extent that caste was practically 'invisible' in the public discourse. His lecture not merely contested such a blanket statement but looked at how the official stance of the communist party regarding caste changed from absolute ignorance and dismissal of caste struggles to a tactical appropriation of Ambedkar since its inception in the 1920s to current times. Focussing on the autobiography [Aamar Jibon, Kichu Katha (2014)] of Kanti Biswas, a Dalit Communist and the former education minister of Bengal, he proposed that such modifications over time were brought about by the changing political scenario of India from the eighties. The rise of identity politics accompanied by the rise of the Hindu right to power gradually led to the decimation of the Left. In its attempts to regain lost ground, the Left in India has been forced to not just rethink its earlier theoretical releases on caste but drastically move away from such a framework to embrace a strategy that it once considered regressive. The autobiography, in this context, testifies how the Dalit voice within the folds of the party was at once sidelined and assimilated. Pointing at the limits of Marxist politics without Ambedkarite consciousness in India, he argues that the communist appropriation of the testimonio—the traditional vehicle of Dalit assertion—emerges as a fissure in the monolithic party narrative. He reads this as a crucial inward critique against the hegemony perpetuated by

an incomplete understanding of Marx in the context of the persistent problem of caste. Taking a cue from this, he claimed that the uninterrupted tenure of the Marxist regime influenced the opposing Dalit literary and social movement so politics without Ambedkarite consciousness in India, he argues that the communist appropriation of the testimonio—the traditional vehicle of Dalit assertion—emerges as a fissure in the monolithic party narrative. He reads this as a crucial inward critique against the hegemony perpetuated by an incomplete understanding of Marx in the context of the persistent problem of caste. Taking a cue from this, he claimed that the uninterrupted tenure of the Marxist regime influenced the opposing Dalit literary and social movement so profoundly that the Dalit literary sensibility in Bengal could not help but be informed by class ideologies rather than embracing an independent Ambedkarite programme.

The Seminar was moderated by Ms Monolina Seth, SACT, Department of Sociology, Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya.

The Question-and-Answer Session was moderated by Mr Debadyuti Karmakar, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Sreyasi Chatterjee, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya.

The benefits of such seminar are as follows:

- The students of the Department of Sociology understood the trajectory of the Dalit Movement in India.
- The students of the Departments of English and Bengali understood the politics of language.
- The faculty members were made aware of new research methodologies and tools



### AMBEDKAR JAYANTI 2023

Organized by  
Department of Sociology and IQAC, Prasanta Chandra  
Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata

Date: 03.05.2023 Time: 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: Room No 15 (PCMM College)

Schedule of Events:

1.00-2.00 pm	Inter college Dalit Poetry Elocution Contest Judge: Mr Ashoke Viswanathan, eminent Film Maker and Theatre Personality
2.00-2.45 pm	Special Lecture By: Dr Mrimoy Pramanick, Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Language and Literature, University of Calcutta
2.45 pm-3.30 pm	Special Lecture and Interactive Session By: Mr Debayuth Chatterjee, Teaching and Graduate Assistant, Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

CELEBRATING DALIT HISTORY MONTH!



DR B.R. AMBEDKAR  
14.04.1891-06.12.1956

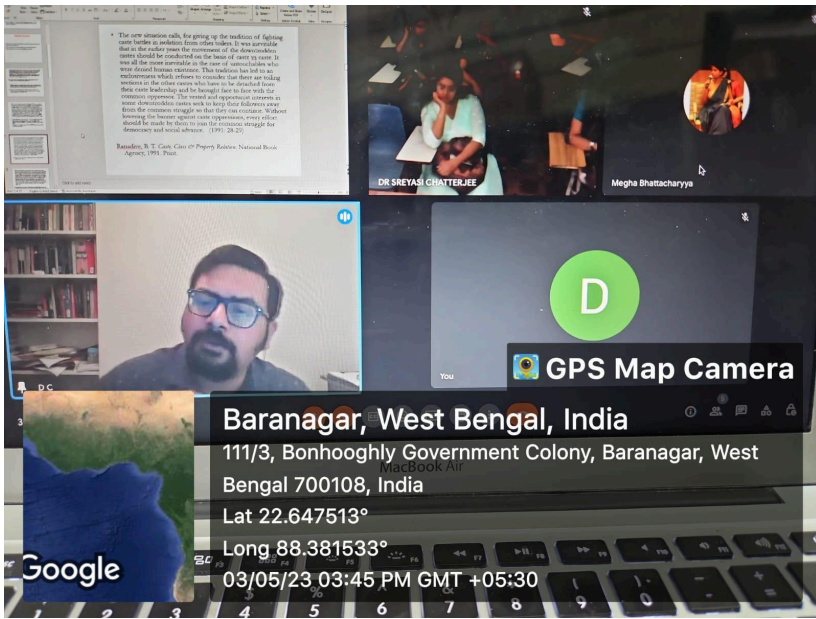
## Banner of Seminar on Dalit Literature and Social Transformation



### Seminar on Dalit Literature and Social Transformation: Inaugural Session



Dr Mrinmoy Pramanick Delivering His Lecture

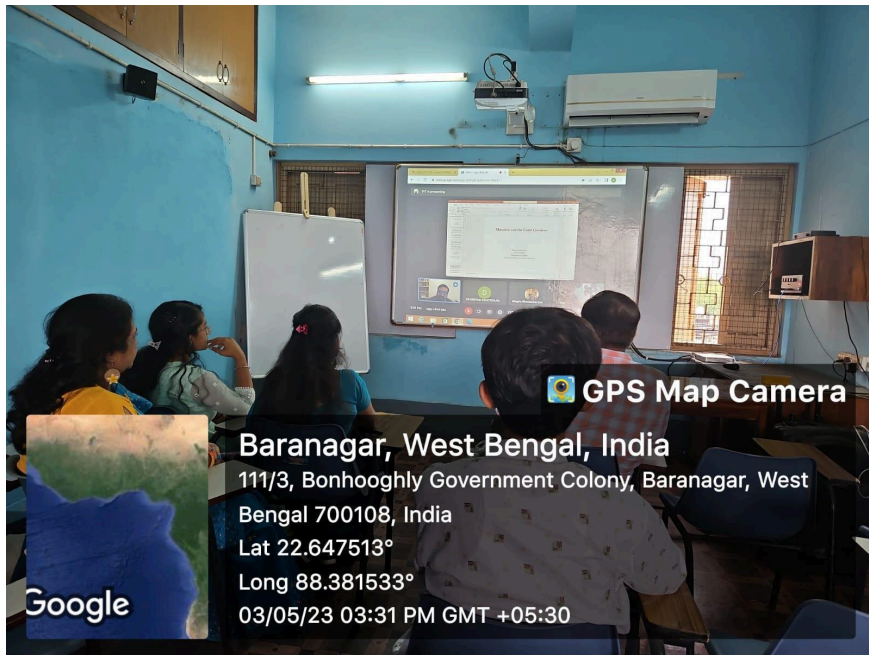


**Mr Debayudh Chatterjee Delivering His Online Lecture**



**The Audience Attending Dr Mrinmoy Pramanick's Lecture**





**Department of Sociology Students Attending Mr Debayudh Chatterjee's Online Lecture**

*A Ghosh*  
Principal  
Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyaaya  
111/3, B. T. Road, Kolkata-108

(Dr Arnab Ghosh)  
Principal