



JANGIPUR COLLEGE

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P.O.-Jangipur, Dist.-Murshidabad, Pin-742213



Two Instructional Best Practices

BEST PRACTICE 1

Title: National level Webinar on “The Predicament of Dalit Women: Contemporary Socio-Political and Cultural Perspectives”

Objectives of the Practice:

The said webinar focused on the contemporary socio-political challenges faced by Dalit women in India and delved into the cultural narratives and representations of Dalit women in literature, media and popular discourse. Aim was to highlight the practical measures and policy recommendations to enhance the socio-economic empowerment of Dalit women. Discussions centered on advocacy, community initiatives, and legal reforms necessary to achieve equality and social justice.

The Context:

The English Department of the college has a distinct tradition of going extra mile for students organizing events that showcase uniqueness along with the Equal Opportunity Centre. The latter has organized workshops on marginalized groups and positive discrimination. A valuable addition to that legacy is the said event especially in Covid times when we needed to identify independent assertions of Dalit women, a section trapped in the clutches of a patriarchal society that systematically denies them freedom of choices in all spheres of life making them a key target of violence.

The Practice:

The webinar organized by the Department of English and Equal Opportunity Cell at Jangipur College on October 4, 2021 commenced with an introductory session outlining the historical context and current realities faced by Dalit women, highlighting systemic discrimination and socio-economic disparities. It brought together distinguished speakers including Dr. Debi Chatterjee, Professor Shipra Mukherjee, and Manjula Pradeep. The speakers talked about agency of Dalit women who as victims of exclusion, simultaneously bear the burden of being Dalit as well as women. The distinct aspect of the webinar was representation of literature as repository of other histories which the people in power would like to reject, would like people to forget and would like to sweep under the carpet and how writers and activists move into less threatening domains of literature and under its labels document real unheard histories of Dalits through literature. It is necessary to hear every voice in its authenticity. The high point of the webinar was witnessing the sharing of personal experiences of Manjula Pradeep, founder of Wise Act Visioning & Engagement who faced sexual violence herself at a very

young age. The brutal reality faced by Dalit women can be understood not through books and theories but lived experiences in the villages.

Evidence of Success:

The workshop was well-received among the participants, mainly the students, expressing their appreciation for the comprehensive and engaging presentation. The knowledge gained from the webinar enhanced the confidence of the attendees and equipped them with the social tools needed to counter adversarial behaviour presented towards Dalit women.

Problems Encountered & Resources Required:

Technical snags disrupted the session a few times.

BEST PRACTICE 2

5 days' National level webinar on 'Prasanga Rabindranath'

Objectives of the Practice:

Rabindranath Tagore remains a towering figure reminding us the power of literature, philosophy and history. A national-level webinar on him was to reiterate the recurring significance of his works as diverse and discursive as his life. The objective was to highlight his living legacy.

The Context:

Rabindranath Tagore, the internationally acclaimed poet and writer promoted the idea of unity in diversity. His works championed the rich cultural heritage of India emphasizing the importance of self-reliance and economic empowerment. He is the epitome of amalgamation of cultures of the East and the West. He recognized multiculturalism and emphasized an educational system where learning was holistic. It is important to celebrate Tagore's legacy in the light of postmodern world where we need to hold on to the human spirit to sustain and propel mankind to reach greater heights.

The Practice:

The 5-day national webinar firmly held its footing during the times of Covid-19 when quarantine measures were taken up to arrest the spread of the deadly virus. In those challenging days, notable speakers joined virtually to make the webinar a successful venture. The event was conducted from 16.7.20 to 20.07.20 with a bevy of famous speakers. On the first day, Dr Ashish Lahiri, translator of Rabindranath's works, who spoke on Rabindranath Tagore and his ideas of nationalism. Another riveting discussion on the same day was by Shyamal Chakraborty, Department of Chemistry, Calcutta University who spoke on how the poet's ideas are connected with human perception. The second day began with the discussion on aesthetics in Rabindranath Tagore's works and folk elements embedded in his music. And the third day ended with an engrossing talk by two eminent speakers on role of education in thoughts of Rabindranath Tagore at preserving harmony in social and natural environment. The spotlight of the webinar was surely the presence of Emeritus Professor, Dr Sukanta Chaudhuri, former Professor, Department of English, Jadavpur University who spoke on the project "Bichitra", a directory for preserving the entire corpus of literature and texts written by the poet/author to aid researchers on Tagore's works.

Evidence of Success:

The webinar was aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of Rabindranath Tagore's vast and varied contributions, fostering a deeper appreciation of his work and its enduring impact on various fields. The number of participants were 253 and feedback received were 241.

Problems Encountered & Resources Required:

Webinar was marred by technical issues. Often the audience as well as the participants and speakers encountered poor audio quality, video lag, screen freeze and connection loss. However, the technical problems were overcome by the moderators and they could troubleshoot the situation well.



Dr. Prarthita Biswas
Principal
Jangipur College

Principal
Jangipur College
R.O.- Jangipur, Dist.- Murshidabad
Pin- 742213

