



Department of English

*Khudiram Bose Central College
71/2A, Bidhan Sarani, Kolkata - 700006*

*Report on International Webinar
Department of English – Faculty*

*Rajdeep Mondal
Somnath Bhattacharya*

Kakoli Sengupta

Rinjee Lama

Sriparna Dutta

Topic: Shadow Pandemic: Crisis within a Crisis
Dates: 27th & 28th August, 2020
Time: 4:00 pm (each day)
Platform: Google Meet, You Tube
Collaborating Body: Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
Target audience: Students & academicians
Number of Participants: 80

Speakers:

Day 1: Prof. Nazmunnessa Mahtab
Supernumery Professor
Women and Gender Studies
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Prof. Polly Vauquiline
HOD, Department of Women's Studies
Gauhati University, India

Day 2: Dr. Tania Haque
Women and Gender Studies
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Prof. Prachi Prabhu
Assistant Professor
Department of Women's Studies
Goa University, India

Introduction to the Webinar

The whole world is now in the grip of a biological monster that is creating havoc in our lives. A monster that we cannot see but whose presence has disrupted the equilibrium of our existence. There is also another danger that is looming large – a danger that was there pre Covid 19 and will continue to exist post Covid 19 – the danger of the shadow pandemic, i.e. domestic violence.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, *Executive Director of UN Women* on April 6, 2020 said “With 90 countries in lockdown, four billion people are now sheltering at home from the global contagion of COVID-19. It’s a protective measure, but it brings another deadly danger. We see a shadow pandemic growing, of violence against women.”

Confinement within the walls of the home has resulted in increasing tension caused due to financial, psychological strain. The current global joblessness and sense of insecurity have aggravated violence within the confines of the home. Even before COVID-19 existed, domestic violence was already one of the greatest human rights violations. As per UN report in the past 12 months, 243 million women and girls (aged 15-49) across the world have been subjected to sexual or physical violence by an intimate partner.

In India, the state-run National Commission for Women reported a total of 257 complaints received through email alone related to various offenses against women from March 24 (when the lockdown was announced) through April 1. Out of these, 69 incidents are related to domestic violence. NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma told the media that complaints are increasing every day and she suspects that the number of such cases must be much higher, but many are not getting reported due to the constant presence of the abuser at home.

The picture is quite gloomy. If not addressed this shadow pandemic will severely bear on the mental, physical, emotional well being of women. We cannot also ignore the economic loss that the world will face if this threat against woman is not dealt with. The global cost of violence against women had previously been estimated at approximately USD 1.5 trillion. We can only expect this figure to rise as violence increases now, and will continue in the aftermath of the pandemic.


While the UN Secretary-General has called for all governments to make the prevention and redress of violence against women a key part of their national

response plans for COVID-19 as responsible global citizens it is also our duty to make ourselves aware of how grave the situation is and what consequences we will have to face if not checked.

Our webinar has speakers from India and Bangladesh who will talk on this issue and at the end of this webinar we will have a better knowledge if there can be an eradication of this problem. The whole world now works shoulder to shoulder trying to find an antidote to the Corona virus, similarly we also need to work together to find an antidote to end this violence against women. Not only as women but as human beings we have to ensure that every individual gets to exercise his/her birth right, i.e the right to live a life of dignity. If this happens only then will we rise as women and accordingly the rules for gender conformity will be rewritten.

Literature can never disassociate itself from the happenings of the times. In fact literature is a mirror that reflects the economic, political, social and environmental aspects of a particular place at a given time. As students of literature we need to have an open mind to all the multi various issues that impact our lives. We cannot be evasive in nature and hide from this burning issue that has been boring holes into the very heart of our society – violence. The current pandemic situation has seen a rise in this global problem and the department of English of the College wanted to raise its voice against this aberration.

Webinar Flyer

Patrons	 Khudiram Bose Central College Department of English in collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Pramita International Webinar on "Shadow Pandemic: Crisis within a Crisis" Date: 27 th & 28 th August 2020, Time: 4:00pm	Speakers
Dr. Subir Kumar Dutta, Principal		27.08.20 Dr. Nazimunnissa Mahtab Dept of Women & Gender Studies, University of Dhaka
Dr. Shubhra Upadhyaya, Coordinator, IQAC		Prof. Polly Vasuquine Dept of Women Studies, Gauhati University
Convener		28.08.20 Prof. Tanis Haque Dept of Women & Gender Studies, University of Dhaka
Dr. Sriparna Dutta, HoD, Dept. of English	Technical Support Team Prof. Shadi Binwas Ashikary Prof. Payal Nandi	Prof. Prachi Prabhu Dept of Women Studies, Goa University
Joint Convener	Faculty, Dept. of English Prof. Kaboli Sengupta Prof. Somnath Bhattacharya Prof. Rajdeep Mondal	
Rinjas Lama Asst. Prof. Dept. of English	Registration link: https://forms.gle/wUibZdFHfxZgYmsL8 Streaming on YouTube: Link will be shared via email with registered participants	

Khudiram Bose Central College

Department of English,

in collaboration with

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)


Presents

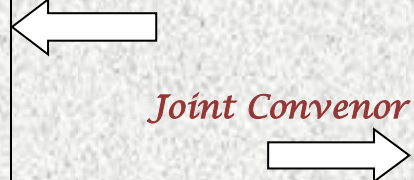
International Webinar

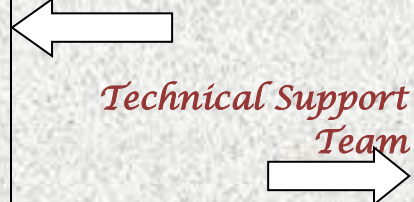
on

“Shadow Pandemic: Crisis within a Crisis”

Date: 27th & 28th August 2020, Time: 4:00pm onwards



<i>Dr. Subir Kumar Dutta Principal, KBCC</i>	<i>Patrons</i> 	<i>Dr. Shubhra Upadhyaya Coordinator, IQAC</i>
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<i>Dr. Sriparna Dutta, HoD, Dept. of English</i>	<i>Convenor</i>  <i>Joint Convenor</i>	<i>Prof. Rinjee Lama, Asst. Prof. Dept. of English</i>
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<i>Prof. Kakoli Sengupta, Prof. Somnath Bhattacharya, Prof. Rajdeep Mondal</i>	<i>Faculties, Dept. of English</i>  <i>Technical Support Team</i>	<i>Prof. Sheuli Biswas Adhikary Prof. Payel Nandi</i>
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Programme Schedule

27.08.2020, 4:00pm onwards

 <i>Dr. Subir Kumar Dutta Principal</i>	<i>Inaugural speech</i> ← <i>Introduction to webinar</i> →	 <i>Dr. Sriparna Dutta HoD, Dept. of English</i>
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 <i>Department of Women & Gender Studies, University of Dhaka</i>	← <i>Prof. Nazmunnessa Mahtab</i> 4:30 pm - 5:15pm Q&A - 5:15pm - 5:30 pm → <i>Prof. Polly Vauquiline</i> 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm Q&A - 6:00pm - 6:15 pm	 <i>Department of Women Studies, Gauhati University</i>
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28.08.2020, 4:15pm onwards

 <i>Department of Women & Gender Studies, University of Dhaka,</i>	← <i>Prof. Tania Haque</i> 4:15 pm - 5:00pm Q&A - 5:00 pm - 5:15 pm → <i>Prof. Prachi Prabhu</i> 5:15 pm - 6:00pm Q&A - 6:00pm - 6:15 pm	 <i>Department of Women Studies, Goa university</i>
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*Prof. Rinjee lama
Asst. Prof. Dept. of
English*

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