

PERIODIC LECTURES

“Basic Values Embodied in Indian Culture and Their Relevance to National Reconstruction”

On 25th and 26th February, 2020

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(Organizer)**

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Once, Sir Julian Huxley proclaimed that in upcoming days, dialogue on values and morality will be increased rapidly, exclusively because of the reason that it is connected with the human mind. He further asserted that the mind has been emerged from the brain and the infinite and immense possibilities are flourished within the nucleus of human mind. For this reason, science of value may be called ‘science of human possibility’. Keeping in mind such a line of thought, Government General Degree College, Singur chose the theme for Periodic Lectures titled: ‘Basic Values Embodied in Indian Culture and Their Relevance to National Reconstruction’. It is apt to note that Government General Degree College, Singur is sufficiently privileged to receive the Grant for conducting the ‘Periodic Lectures’ on the aforesaid theme from ICPR (Indian Council of Philosophical Research) under the Department of Human Resources, Govt. of India and the two-day program of Periodic Lectures took place at the Seminar Hall of the Government General Degree College, Singur on 25th and 26th February, 2020.

On 25th February, the programme was inaugurated by Dr. Tafajol Hussain, Professor, Department of Philosophy, Burdwan University. After that Dr. Santanu Chakraborty, Principal, Govt. General Degree College, Singur delivered welcome address to the audience. Dr. Chaitali Chowdhury, Coordinator, I.Q.A.C offered her views before the audience. Next, the students of Department of Philosophy welcomed and felicitated Dr. Pralayankar Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Calcutta. Dr. Bhattacharyya delivered his lecture on ‘National Reconstruction and Tagore’s Response’ in the first session (from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.). He mentioned Tagore’s view on culture, values and nationalism. After the lunch break, the second session started at 2 p.m. In this session, Dr. Bhattacharyya explicated Gandhism and tried to link it with Tagore’s stream of thought. In the first day total number of teacher-

participants from both our college and other colleges was 55 and number of students participated in the seminar was 120.

On the second day i.e. 26th February, 2020, we invited Dr. Madhumita Chattopadhyay as a resource person of the Periodic Lectures. She was also welcomed and felicitated by the students of the Department of Philosophy. She started her first lecture in the first session evaluating basic value-concepts of Buddhism. She also pointed out peculiar worsened situation of today's world and explained how values are getting deteriorated day by day. She tried to set forth Buddhist Ethics in such a way as we get rid of moral degradation. She also expressed her observation on Neo-Buddhism which may be used as a means to combat castism in India. After her lecture, interactive session was held. In this session students were up and doing to interact with the speaker. They shared their daily experiences of individual life by which they are affected and demoralized. Dr. Chattopadhyay heard their individual experience very attentively and responded to them with suitable answers. On the second day of the 'Periodic Lectures' almost 30 teachers and 90 students were present at the seminar hall.

Teachers from different colleges shared their thought on the aforesaid theme. Many thoughts emerged during the discussion of how national reconstruction is possible by keeping an eye on basic values embodied in Indian Culture. One of the teachers of English Department of our college asked Dr. Chattopadhyay why we should always stick to the basic values. Value, a volatile concept, has taken its varied form in present-day world. So, why do we stress to the basic values embodied in old scriptures? Dr. Chattopadhyay answered very gently and told that it is believed value is a volatile concept, but actually it is not so. Belief content and reality content are two different things. Value might take different shape in different cultural orientation, but basic value behind its diverse shape remains all the same. She took the example of Truth, one of the Silas of Buddhism. Buddha passed away almost two thousand five hundred years ago, but his concept of Truth remains intact though multi-dimensional changes. So we have to stick to the basic values embodied in Indian Culture because of their infallible nature. We cannot deny them in case morality has been nurtured.

After the splendid session of discussion, Dr. Santanu Chakrabarty distributed 'participation certificate' among the participants. Dr. Susmita Bhattachariya, H.D.O, Singur Govt. College, furnished vote of thanks to the audience in decent manner. Student's active participation in the program was out and out satisfactory to the College and to all concerned.