



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Office of the Principal

SHAHID MATANGINI HAZRA GOVT. GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Chakshrikrishnapur-Kulberia :: Kulberia :: Purba Medinipur 721649



matanginicollege@gmail.com/ principal@matanginicollege.ac.in 03228-262261/262262 www.matanginicollege.ac.in

Report of Webinar on Reflections of Age and Agency in autobiographies by Indian Women held on December 26th, 2021

On December 26th, 2021, the Department of English at Shahid Matangini Hazra Government General Degree College for Women successfully conducted online webinar, featuring an insightful lecture by Ms. Madhu Srivastava. The focus of the day was on two significant literary works: *Amar Jibon* and *The Prisons We Broke*. This session offered students an opportunity to explore themes of social justice, personal narrative, and the fight against oppression.

Ms. Madhu Srivastava, an expert in Indian literature and gender studies, began her lecture with an analysis of *Amar Jibon*. She introduced the work as a powerful autobiographical account that provides a window into the life and struggles of its author. Ms. Srivastava discussed how the text reflects the broader social and cultural issues of the time, particularly focusing on gender roles and the limitations imposed on women in traditional society. Her lecture highlighted the significance of *Amar Jibon* as both a personal narrative and a social critique, offering students a deeper understanding of the ways in which literature can be a tool for social change.

The second part of Ms. Srivastava's lecture was dedicated to *The Prisons We Broke*, a seminal work in Dalit literature. She provided a thorough examination of the book, which narrates the harsh realities of caste oppression in India. Ms. Srivastava discussed the themes of resistance, identity, and the fight for dignity that run through the text, emphasizing how the work gives voice to those who have been historically marginalized. Her analysis also explored the narrative techniques used in *The Prisons We Broke*, such as the use of personal testimony and collective memory, to convey the lived experiences of Dalit women.

Principal
Shahid Matangini Hazra Government
General Degree College for Women
Chakshrikrishnapur, Kulberia, Nilmoturi
Tamluk, Purba Medinipur

Principal,
Shahid Matangini Hazra Govt. General Degree
College for Women,
Chakshrikrishnapur, Kulberia, Purba Medinipur



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Office of the Principal

SHAHID MATANGINI HAZRA GOVT. GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Chaksrikrishnapur-Kulberia :: Kulberia :: Purba Medinipur 721649



matanginicollege@gmail.com/ principal@matanginicollege.ac.in 03228-262261/262262 www.matanginicollege.ac.in

Following the lecture, an interactive Q&A session was held, where students engaged with Ms. Srivastava to discuss the issues raised in the texts. The discussions were lively and thought-provoking, with students exploring how the themes of gender and caste continue to resonate in contemporary society. Ms. Srivastava's expertise and thoughtful responses greatly enriched the students' understanding of the material.

This session was live-streamed on the college's official YouTube channel, ensuring that a wider audience could access the valuable insights shared during the lecture. The webinar was organized under the guidance of Yasmin Chaudhuri, Head of the Department of English, and Sayantika Sen, Assistant Professor of English, whose leadership and dedication ensured the success of the entire series. The Department of English continues to be committed to providing students with enriching academic experiences that deepen their understanding of literature and its relevance to societal issues.

Principal
Shahid Matangini Hazra Government
General Degree College for Women
Chaksrikrishnapur, Kulberia, Niltouri
Tamluk, Purba Medinipur

Principal,
Shahid Matangini Hazra Govt. General Degree
College for Women,
Chakshrikrishnapur, Kulberia, Purba Medinipur