



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Office of the Principal

SHAHID MATANGINI HAZRA GOVT. GENERAL DEGREE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

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**Webinar Report on 'Shaktasahityer Bibartan'
Speaker: Dr. Shantanu Chattopadhyay**

Date: 08/06/2023

Today was the second day of the discussion series organized by Shahid Matangini Hazra Government General Degree College for Women's Bengali Department and IQAC jointly organized on 'Bangla Sahitya: Multidimensional Review'. Professor and researcher Dr. Shantanu Chattopadhyay was present among us today. The topic of his speech was: 'Shaktasahityer Bibartan'. At first he informed us that the flow of Shaktatantra is still prevalent in Bengali literature. He spoke about Ramprasad Sen at the beginning of his speech. Ramprasad Sen used to say of the contemporary social and political situation keeping the esoteric theories of Shaktatantra hidden in his devotional songs. Our respectable speaker also spoke of a trend of Vaishnavism that was running parallel at that time. Ramprasad's friend Aju or Ayodhya Nath Goswami used to sing Vaishnava poems. Sir told us about Kamlakanta Bhattacharya after Ramprasad. We also learned how Shyama or Uma took place in the poems of Madhusudan Dutta or Nazrul Islam. After that, in Shantanu babu's speech, Kapalik context of Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay's novel 'Kapalkundala' took special place. Incidentally, he spoke about the Ujani civilization, where Goddess Chandī is presented in the woman of sixteen years form in Mukundaram Chakraborty's poetry 'Chandimangal'. A remnant of Shaktism remains here. We also learned about novelist Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay's novel 'Dhanpatir Upakhyān'.

After then Shantanu Babu said that Raghupati in Rabindranath Tagore's 'Bisarjan' drama is a representative of Shaktatantrachara. Bhairavi, the character found in Saratchandra Chattopadhyay's novel 'Dena Paona', is also a representative of the Shaktatantra. We also learned that Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay was particularly interested in Tantra Sadhana and the influence of Shaktatantra can be seen in his stories like 'Chalanamayi', 'Putreshti', 'Kharga', 'Chandiray Sannyasa'. Apart from this, we came to know in a special way that the influence of Shaktatantra has remained active in the writings of different genres of fiction writers like Tarapranab Brahmachari, Kalikananda Abadhuta, Prabodhkumar Sanyal, Pramodkumar Chattopadhyay, Shasthipada Chattopadhyay etc. Finally, he thoroughly discusses the two novels 'Kishore O Sannyasini' by Sunil Gangopadhyay and 'Yogini' by Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay to show that the influence of Shaktism is still equally active in Bengali literature.

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