



REPORT ON ONE DAY POETRY WORKSHOP

A Poetry Workshop--- “Our Poetry, Our Selves” was organised by Library, Vidyasagar College for Women at Bhagawati Devi Sabahghar on April 12, 2019. The workshop witnessed significant participation from other colleges and Universities from in and around Kolkata including Calcutta University, West Bengal State University, Rastraguru Surendranath College, Jaipuria College, Maharani Kasiswari College and Narula Institute of Technology. The Chief Guest of the Event was the eminent and distinguished Sahitya Academy award winning poet-- Prof. Subodh Sarkar. Prof. Sarkar, currently President of Kabita Academy also delivered the key-note. He spoke about this poetry workshop as an extremely noteworthy venture to shape talented, impressionable minds and instill amongst today’s youth a love for poetry.

Prof Sarkar spoke on Poetry as the language of the soul and the poet as a socially sensitive human being. A poet raises his voice against social discrimination, injustices and registers his protest through his poems. He cited how the famous Bangladeshi poet Nirmalendu Goon has launched a life-long hunger strike to protest against the brutal rape and murder of Nusrat Jahan Rafi.

Prof. Angshuman Kar from the Department of English, Burdwan University conducted the day-long workshop at the Sabahghar. He started the first half of the session by discussing ways of writing poetry with emphasis on form, content, style, diction and rhythm.

Kar stated how contemporary poets should focus on using colloquial language. However he stated 19th century old Bengali language was deftly handled by contemporary poets

like Goutam Chowdury and Pinaki Thakur. Yet budding poets, Kar emphasised, should try their hands in colloquial language.

Prof Kar mentioned that poems should have a take-off point. He substantiated his argument with poems like *AmalKanti* by Nirendranath Chakraborty. He highlighted how a good poem should have memorable rhymes which would stand the test of time. He illustrated his argument with Tarapada Ray's *Thanda Machine* and Utpal Kumar Basu's *Sukh Dukkher Sathi*.

Use of similes were substantiated from poetry of Jibananda Das. There were significant references to *Hothat Neerar Jonyo* by Sunil Gangopadhyay. Tarapada Ray's *Sabaash Ustaad* and Benoy Majumdar were also discussed while talking about originality and innovations in poetry. Metaphysical poets like John Donne's conceits were discussed as opposed to the stale, artificial worn-out imagery of the Petrarchan poets in Elizabethan England. T. S. Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* was taken into consideration to elaborate the concepts of startling similes and conceits.

Interesting discussion unfolded when both Prof Sarkar and Prof Kar discussed the poetry of revelation or when they looked at the Poet as seer and social activist.

The last session witnessed active students' interaction. Students of Vidyasagar College for Women—Poushali, Deyasini, Rima, Saheli, Debrupa, Antara, Megha, Pratyusha and from Vidyasagar Evening College Pritam and Azizul recited self-composed poems. Dr. Pradipta Mukherjee coordinator of the workshop read poems of Prof. Angshuman Kar. Principal Dr. Rupali Chaudhuri extended her support and cooperation. Sri Debasis Mallick, President of the Governing Body, Dr. Tapan Ray, IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Amit Mohan Rakshit, Associate Professor of Physics and Smt Moumita Ash, Librarian of the college graced the occasion.

**Newspaper clipping: Published in The Sunday Statesman dated 21st April, 2019.
Report published by workshop coordinator Dr. Pradipta Mukherjee**



