



Report on the Webinar on “Beloved and Draupadi” held on December 5th, 2021

On December 5th, 2021, the Department of English at Shahid Matangini Hazra Government General Degree College for Women organized a significant online webinar focusing on gender in literature. The event, conducted via Google Meet, was designed to offer students an in-depth understanding of how gender issues are portrayed in literary works. The session began at 11:00 AM and featured two distinguished speakers: Dr. Amar Chakraborty and Dr. Saranya Rajendran.

Dr. Amar Chakraborty opened the webinar with a thought-provoking lecture on Mahasweta Devi's *Draupadi*. He explored the powerful depiction of the female protagonist, Draupadi, as a symbol of resistance against patriarchal and state violence. Dr. Chakraborty emphasized the gender dynamics within the story, highlighting how Draupadi's character challenges traditional gender roles and asserts her autonomy in the face of oppression. His discussion provided students with a deeper understanding of the intersection of gender, caste, and class in Indian literature.

Following this, Dr. Saranya Rajendran presented a compelling lecture on Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Her talk focused on the novel's exploration of gender and the impact of slavery on the identities of African American women. Dr. Rajendran discussed how Morrison portrays the struggles of women who have faced extreme trauma and the ways in which they reclaim their sense of self and motherhood. By analyzing the complex female characters in *Beloved*, Dr. Rajendran highlighted the novel's critique of the dehumanization of women under slavery and their resilience in overcoming it.

The webinar also included interactive Q&A sessions after each lecture, where students engaged with the speakers on issues related to gender and literature. These discussions allowed for a deeper exploration of the themes presented and offered students the opportunity to reflect on the ways in which gender influences literary narratives. The event was meticulously organized by the Department of English, under the guidance of Yasmin Chaudhuri, Head of the Department, and Sayantika Sen, Assistant Professor of English.

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