

## **Report on International Seminar on "Portrayal of the Dalit in Society as Reflected in Bengali and Hindi Literature"**

Date: 9th February 2023 Venue: Sarojini Naidu College for Women Organized by: Departments of Bengali, Hindi, I.Q.A.C, Sarojini Naidu College for Women Convenor: Dr. Gouri Sanfui and Dr. Vivek Shaw Chairperson: Dr. Barun Kumar Chakroborty Speakers: Harishankar Jalodash, Dr. Bipul Mandal, Dr. Ambar Kumar Chaudhary, Prateek Singh Participants: More than 100 students of SNCW

Introduction: The International Seminar on "Portrayal of the Dalit in Society as Reflected in Bengali and Hindi Literature" was held on 9th February 2023 at Sarojini Naidu College for Women. The seminar aimed to explore the representation of Dalits in Bengali and Hindi literature, shedding light on their social, cultural, and political struggles.

Objectives:

To analyze the portrayal of Dalits in Bengali and Hindi literature. To understand the socio-cultural and political implications of such portrayals. To explore the role of literature in shaping and challenging societal perceptions of Dalits. To provide a platform for scholars and students to discuss and exchange ideas on the topic.

Content:

Opening Remarks: The seminar began with an introduction by Dr. Barun Kumar Chakroborty, the Chairperson of the event. He highlighted the importance of studying the portrayal of Dalits in literature and its relevance in addressing social inequalities. Keynote Address: Harishankar Jalodash, a renowned literary critic, delivered the keynote address. He provided an overview of the historical and literary context of Dalit representation in Bengali and Hindi literature, emphasizing the need for nuanced analysis and understanding. Presentations: a. Dr. Bipul Mandal presented a paper on "Dalit Identity in Bengali Literature: A Comparative Study of Selected Works." He examined the works of prominent Bengali authors and their portrayal of Dalit characters, focusing on themes of discrimination, resistance, and empowerment. b. Dr. Ambar Kumar Chaudhary discussed "Dalit Voices in Hindi Literature: Exploring Subaltern Narratives." He analyzed the narratives and perspectives of Dalit authors in Hindi literature, highlighting the challenges faced by Dalits and their struggle for social justice. . Prateek Singh presented a research paper titled "Intersectionality of Gender and Caste in Dalit Literature: A Comparative Analysis." He explored the intersectional experiences of Dalit women in Bengali and Hindi literature, discussing the ways in which gender and caste intertwine to shape their lived realities. Panel Discussion: The seminar concluded with a panel discussion where the speakers and participants engaged in an interactive dialogue. The discussion focused on the role of literature in challenging stereotypes, promoting empathy, and fostering social change.

Outcome:

Increased awareness: The seminar provided an opportunity for participants to gain a deeper understanding of the portrayal of Dalits in Bengali and Hindi literature, contributing to increased awareness about the challenges faced by Dalits in society. Knowledge exchange: The event facilitated knowledge sharing among scholars, students, and participants, fostering a rich academic environment for interdisciplinary discussions. Critical analysis: Through the presentations and discussions, participants were encouraged to critically analyze the representation of Dalits in literature and explore the socio-cultural implications of these portrayals. Sensitization: The seminar aimed to sensitize the participants towards the issues faced by Dalits in society, fostering empathy and a commitment to social justice.

