

Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies

School of Humanities

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

Established By Act (W.B. Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognised by U.G.C.)

Head Office: DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064; Phone: 033 40663214

Memo no: SoH 17/1096

Dated: 21/12/2017



Report of the Khulna University visit by research delegates from NSOU under NSOU-KU Collaborative Research Project on Partition & Liberation War of Bangladesh.

On September 29, 2018 a team of delegates from Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata, India consisting of four researchers namely Raj Kumar Pal, Chanchal Mandal, Sukhendu Das, Indranil Ghosh and two research coordinators namely Dr. Sharmistha Chatterjee Sriwastav, Head & Associate Professor, Department of English, Aliah University, Kolkata and Dr. Anindita Dasgupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Bengali, Gurudas College, Kolkata visited Khulna University, Bangladesh to participate in an interactive discussion- cum- Seminar with their counterparts from the English Discipline, Khulna University on the progress of the NSOU – KU Collaborative Research Project on Partition and the Liberation War of Bangladesh. English Discipline, Khulna University welcomed their guests on the previous day, i.e. September 28, 2018, in an extremely generous and friendly manner in the wide, green and peaceful campus of the University.

The day's, i.e. 29th September, events were divided into two sections viz. a closed- door meeting between the delegates of both the universities to share the progress of the work in the project and an open discussion on the subject in the smart class room of the English Discipline, Khulna University. In that meeting Professor Sabiha Huq, English Discipline and Dr. Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman, Head & Professor, English Discipline, Khulna University shared their achievements and future planning in the project and, on the other hand, Dr. Sharmistha C.

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Sriwastav and Dr.Anindita Dasgupta confided the contributions of Netaji Subhas Open University so far in the same. The meeting ended with an extremely happy note with an expectation of great possibilities in the task of forming an enriched partition repository consisting of field work based findings from both the sides of West Bengal and Bangladesh.Later in the day, in the Smart class room, one of the researchers of NSOU, Indranil Ghosh delivered a power point presentation before an well-endowed audience comprehensively covering the entire work process of NSOU in this project through field survey, interviews,conferences, book reviews, document collection, partition lecture series, and so on. Ghosh's presentation also contained a brief comparative analysis of three interviews of the survivors of Partition conducted by himself which highlighted the heterogeneity in responses from the interviewees depending on their gender, class, and experiences during the Partition in 1947.Sukhendu Das, another researcher of NSOU, in his power point presentation conveyed the audience in detail the procedureadopted by NSOU in conducting an interview of a partition survivor and shared his personal experiences during the time of his field work and conducting interviews. Chanchal Biswas, again a researcher of NSOU expressed the difficulties and problems faced by him in the process of participating in a conversation with the interviewees.

Prof. Huq and Prof. Ahsanuzzaman of English Discipline, Khulna University then voiced their experiences of conducting field survey and interviews in Bangladesh with the help of their researchers comprising of Assistant Professors and students as well of the English Discipline. Both of them in their lectures enlightened the audience with their bizarre experiences in the process of sharing memories of the Partition- survivors in Bangladesh,

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which ultimately helped to understand the reason of the gap between the responses to the incidence of Partition from the either sides of the border. Their invigorating comments and analyses inspired the audience to participate in the open discussion on the subject. And to appease multiple queries from several angles both the research coordinators of NSOU, Dr.Sharmistha Chatterjee Sriwastav and Dr.Anindita Dasgupta provided with their erudite and analytical comments on the difference between western and eastern partition of India, effects of partition on male and female survivors, treatment of the Partition in literature in the contemporary time, and the involvement of religion in the incidence of Partition. The seminar ended with warm greetings from both the ends. After the lunch the delegates from NSOU, with the arrangements done by the English Discipline, Khulna University, visited some historic places in Khulna like the Khulna branch of *Bangladesh Betar Bhavan*, the site of genocide during the liberation war of Bangladesh near the Khulna University campus.

On the next day, i.e. 30th September, Prof. Ahsanuzzaman, Head, English Discipline, Khulna University was personally present to farewell their guests from NSOU in the morning and, thereby, the visit ended in an ambience of sincerity, affection and positivity.