

BAMANPUKUR HUMAYUN KABIR MAHAVIDYALAYA

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Report of ‘Seminar on Classical Literature and its relevance today’ and performance of the Ring story from Shakuntala.

The Department of English at Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya (BHKM) orchestrated a compelling event on October 13, 2018, titled the 'Seminar on Classical Literature and its relevance today.' The seminar took place in the esteemed Seminar Hall and was followed by an enthralling performance of the ring episode from Kalidasa's renowned play, Abhijyanam Shakuntalam, which had been adapted into a captivating rendition named the 'Story of the Ring' by Professor Madhu Sriwastav, the esteemed Head of the Department of English at BHKM.

To commence the session, Professor Madhu Sriwastav, with his warm welcome address, set the stage for an intellectually stimulating gathering. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Subhash Biswas, the esteemed principal of BHKM, who, in his brief speech, eloquently shed light on the richness and significance of our ancient classical literature, seamlessly establishing the tone for the entire seminar.

The session unfolded with a thought-provoking paper presentation by Professor Ashis Biswas, a distinguished faculty member of the Department of English, entitled 'Classical to Modern Literature: Forms may change, but values remain the same.' Professor Biswas expounded upon various texts from Western Classical Literature, drawing insightful comparisons with select works from Indian Classical Literature. Through this analysis, he showcased how the values endorsed by human civilization throughout the ages, transcending cultural boundaries, have remained unaltered. The presentation sparked engaging discussions among the attendees, fostering a deeper understanding of the enduring qualities within classical literature.

Following the enriching paper presentation, the audience was treated to a remarkable theatrical performance titled 'Story of the Ring.' Professor Madhu Sriwastav had deftly crafted this production, drawing inspiration from episodes within Kalidasa's Abhijyanam Shakuntalam, which had been prescribed in the first semester of the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) syllabus for the Department of English at BHKM. The play, performed by the talented students of the Department, received resounding applause and a standing ovation, indicative of its remarkable quality and impact.

Concluding the session, Professor Ashis Biswas expressed his gratitude and delivered the vote of thanks. This marked the end of a truly enlightening and engaging Seminar on Classical Literature and its relevance in the present day. The event had successfully brought together scholars, students, and enthusiasts of literature, creating a platform for the exploration and appreciation of the timeless treasures of classical literary works.

The Seminar on Classical Literature and its relevance today, organized by the Department of English at Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya, was a testament to the institution's commitment to academic excellence and the promotion of cultural heritage. By blending intellectual discourse and artistic expression, the seminar offered a comprehensive understanding of the enduring value and significance of classical literature in our contemporary world.

The seminar, held in the esteemed Seminar Hall of BHKM, commenced with a warm welcome address from Professor Madhu Sriwastav, the Head of the Department of English. His opening remarks set a welcoming and intellectually stimulating ambiance for the event, promising an engaging exploration of classical literature's relevance today.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Subhash Biswas, the respected principal of Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya. In his inaugural speech, Dr. Biswas provided a concise yet insightful overview of the richness and depth of ancient classical literature. His words eloquently captured the essence of classical literary works and established a profound context for the subsequent discussions.

The session commenced with a captivating paper presentation by Professor Ashis Biswas, a distinguished faculty member from the Department of English. Titled 'Classical to Modern Literature: Forms may change, but values remain the same,' Professor Biswas's presentation delved into the fascinating realm of both Western and Indian classical literature. With meticulous analysis and comparative insights, he highlighted the timeless values that have transcended cultural boundaries and remained steadfast throughout human civilization.

Drawing upon selected texts from Western Classical Literature, Professor Biswas skillfully juxtaposed them with corresponding works from Indian Classical Literature. Through this comparative approach, he shed light on the common moral and ethical principles that have withstood the test of time. By examining the enduring themes of love, honor, duty, and the pursuit of truth, Professor Biswas revealed the remarkable continuity of human values across different cultures and epochs.

The thought-provoking paper presentation sparked a spirited exchange of ideas and perspectives among the attendees. Scholars, students, and literature enthusiasts eagerly engaged in discussions, sharing their own interpretations and insights into the enduring relevance of classical literature. The session became a vibrant intellectual forum, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the profound impact classical works continue to have on contemporary society.

Following the stimulating paper presentation, the audience eagerly anticipated the much-anticipated theatrical performance titled 'Story of the Ring.' Crafted by Professor Madhu Sriwastav, the play drew inspiration from the timeless masterpiece *Abhijyanam Shakuntalam*, penned by the celebrated Indian poet and playwright Kalidasa. Professor Sriwastav, recognized for his expertise in dramatic adaptations, skillfully adapted and reimaged the ring episode from *Shakuntalam* into a mesmerizing production.

Performed by the talented students of the Department of English, the theatrical rendition breathed new life into the ancient narrative, captivating the audience from the very first scene. With their impeccable acting skills and nuanced portrayals, the students brought the

characters to life, evoking a range of emotions and immersing the spectators in the enchanting world of the play.

The 'Story of the Ring' received resounding applause and a standing ovation, attesting to the exceptional talent and dedication of the student performers, as well as the visionary direction of Professor Sriwastav. The profound impact of the theatrical production resonated with the audience, serving as a testament to the enduring power and relevance of classical literature in evoking profound emotions and conveying universal truths.

As the session drew to a close, Professor Ashis Biswas expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the organizing committee and delivered the vote of thanks. He extended his appreciation to all the participants, including the distinguished speakers, the principal, the faculty, the students, and the audience. The seminar had successfully achieved its objective of fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of classical literature and its abiding significance in the contemporary world.

The Seminar on Classical Literature and its relevance today, organized by the Department of English at Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya, exemplified the institution's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and cultural enrichment. By bringing together scholars, students, and literature enthusiasts, the seminar provided a platform for intellectual discourse, artistic expression, and the exploration of timeless literary treasures.

Through the thought-provoking paper presentation and the captivating theatrical performance, the seminar shed light on the enduring values and themes present in classical literature. It demonstrated how these works continue to resonate with audiences, transcending time, culture, and geographical boundaries.

Moreover, the seminar served as a reminder of the immense literary heritage that we inherit, urging us to appreciate and safeguard our classical literary traditions. By engaging with these timeless works, we gain insights into the human condition, grapple with complex moral dilemmas, and find solace and inspiration in the beauty of language and storytelling.

The Department of English at Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya, through its diligent efforts, succeeded in fostering a sense of pride and reverence for classical literature among the participants. By organizing such events, the department encourages a deeper exploration of literary works that have stood the test of time, ensuring that they remain relevant and accessible to future generations.

The Seminar on Classical Literature and its relevance today also emphasized the interdisciplinary nature of literary studies. By incorporating elements of performance and theatricality into the event, the organizers showcased how literature can be brought to life through various artistic mediums. This interdisciplinary approach not only enhances the audience's understanding and engagement but also underscores the enduring impact of classical literature on diverse forms of artistic expression.

Furthermore, the seminar highlighted the role of academic institutions in preserving and promoting cultural heritage. Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya, with its Department of English at the forefront, recognizes the importance of nurturing an appreciation for classical literature among its students. By incorporating texts like Abhijyanam Shakuntalam into the curriculum, the department ensures that students are

exposed to the richness and depth of our literary heritage. Such initiatives not only contribute to a well-rounded education but also instill a sense of cultural identity and heritage in the students.

In addition, the seminar fostered a sense of community and camaraderie among the attendees. Scholars, students, and enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds came together to celebrate the timeless beauty of classical literature. The event provided a platform for intellectual discussions, where different perspectives and interpretations could be shared and respected. It encouraged dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas, creating an environment conducive to the growth and development of literary scholarship.

Moreover, the seminar showcased the talent and creativity of the students involved in the production of 'Story of the Ring.' It provided them with a unique opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge and artistic skills in a real-world setting. By participating in the performance, the students not only gained practical experience but also developed a deeper understanding of the nuances and complexities of classical literature. This hands-on approach to learning enriches their educational journey and equips them with valuable skills for their future endeavors.

The Seminar on Classical Literature and its relevance today left a lasting impact on the participants, inspiring them to further explore the vast realm of classical literary works. It served as a reminder of the profound wisdom, universal truths, and timeless beauty contained within these texts. The seminar's success lies not only in its execution but also in its ability to ignite a passion for literature and encourage a lifelong engagement with the written word.

In conclusion, the Seminar on Classical Literature and its relevance today, organized by the Department of English at Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya, was a resounding success. Through thought-provoking discussions, a captivating theatrical performance, and a sense of community, the event highlighted the enduring relevance of classical literature in our contemporary world. It underscored the value of preserving and appreciating our literary heritage while also fostering intellectual growth and artistic expression. By embracing classical literature, we not only honor the past but also gain profound insights into the human experience, enriching our present and shaping our future.

GLMIMPSES OF THE PROGRAMME



