



BAMANPUKUR HUMAYUN KABIR MAHAVIDYALAYA

Minakhan, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal

**National Webinar on
Literature in the time of Epidemic / Pandemic**

Organized by

Departments of English

**Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya in collaboration with
Sarsuna College and Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College**

Date: 23rd May'2020, Saturday

Time: 3.00- 6.00 pm

Venue: Zoom platform

Organizing Secretary

**Mrs. Madhu Sriwastav, Asst. prof and Head of the Department of
English**



National Webinar

Literature in the time of Epidemic / Pandemic

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Departments of English

Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya in
collaboration with Sarsuna College and
Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College
on 23rd May, 2020, Saturday, 3.00- 6.00 pm
on Zoom

Keynote Speaker: Professor Ranu Uniyal
(Department of English, Lucknow University)

Plenary Speaker- Deepa Agarwal
(Distinguished author)

Register to attend by clicking on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/mCW9Uw3bYo2knryz9>

Last Date of Registration – 21st May, 2020.

Zoom Meeting id and Password will be provided on time.

E Certificates will be provided to all registered participants

Report of Webinar on Literature in the time of Pandemic /Epidemic

The Department of English, Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalya, in collaboration with Departments of English, Brahmananda Keshav Chandra College and Sarsuna College organized a webinar on “Literature in the time of Pandemic /Epidemic” on 30.05.2020 at 3 p.m. on ZOOM platform.

The resource persons were Prof. Ranu Uniyal from Lucknow University, Writer Deepa Agarwal, Dr. Nishi Pulugurtha, Dr. Nabanita Sengupta and Prof. Madhu Sriwastav.

The sessions were conducted by Prof. Madhu Sriwastav, Head of the Department of English, Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalya. The webinar was formally inaugurated by Principal of Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalya, Dr. Subhash Biswas, then Principal of Brahmananda Keshav Chandra College, Dr. Papia Chakraborty said a few words.

Key note address was delivered by Prof. Ranu Uniyal from Lucknow University. She spoke on ‘Wonder of Living and Anxiety of Death’, i.e., literature written during the pandemics and epidemics in English Literature, speaking on Albert Camus’ *The Plague*, along with Shakespeare’s texts written during the plagues of London. Through a detailed discussion she showed how many classic works have used the metaphor of an epidemic to scrutinize both political and personal issues, while diaries of real pestilences provide actual experiences.

Plenary Session speaker was writer Deepa Agarwal, who has published more than 50 books for children and adults. She spoke on ‘Pandemic Literature: Seeking meaning in Disaster’, literature written during the ongoing pandemic on virtual medium such as face book as well texts written during epidemics and pandemics in world literature since ancient times. She spoke on American author Katherine Anne Porter’s short novel *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*, (1939) as well as the Hindi short story “Love in the Time of Corona” by Prachand Praveer and Reenu Talwar’s “Lockdown Diary” on Facebook.

First speaker of the Business Session 1 was Dr. Nishi Pulugurtha. She spoke on ‘Reading Poe’s The Mask of the Red Death’. She showed how Edgar Allen Poe’s short story [*The Masque of the Red Death*](#) (1842) depicts the failure of authority to adequately address and respond to disaster. The story starts with the advent of a deadly disease called ‘Red Death’ and reveals the horror of it and the way it affects all.

Second speaker of this session was Dr. Nabanita Sengupta, who spoke on ‘Integrated Living as Panacea: Manjula Padmanabhan’s Living *Planet*’ as an attempt to read the story as a critique of modern lifestyle presented in the form of children’s literature. Through a simplistic storyline, the author sends out a warning, her reference to ‘Dark times’ uncannily resembling the world as it is today.

Third and last speaker of this session was Prof. Madhu Sriwastav, who spoke on ‘Mary Shelley’s Apocalyptic Novel: *The Last Man* and the survival of the Novelist’. She speaks of the uncanny novel which has forebodings of a pandemic with similarities of corona virus and how the novel becomes symbolic in the author’s own life as she struggles to survive in her bereaved private world as the last woman having lost many in the family to death and disease.

Business Session 2 had two papers by students, Nabiha Rehman, who spoke on ‘Death and Disease in Bengal and its reflections in Literature’ and Sayan Mukherjee, who spoke on ‘Stage Three: Macbeth’.

There was a question answer session after each session. The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Nabanita Sengupta. It was an enriching webinar. About 75 people participated in the Webinar.

Screenshots of the webinar:

