

Report of the programme organized by Department of Sociology, Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya to Protest Against Racism on 29.5.2020

Venue: Online

Date: 29.5.2020

Time: 2 p.m.-3p.m.

Report Prepared By: Dr. Runa Das Chaudhuri

Introduction

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was murdered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States, while being arrested on suspicion of using a counterfeit \$20 bill. During the arrest, Derek Chauvin, a white police officer with the Minneapolis Police Department, knelt on Floyd's neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds after he was handcuffed and lying face down. Two other police officers, J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane, assisted Chauvin in restraining Floyd. A fourth police officer, Tou Thao, prevented bystanders from interfering. Floyd's murder led to worldwide protests against police brutality, police racism, and lack of police accountability. The students of the Department of Sociology, BHKM prepared a poster to show solidarity to the cause of protesting against the gruesome killing of George Floyd.



The Poster Prepared by students of Department of Sociology, BHKM



BAMANPUKUR HUMAYUN KABIR MAHAVIDYALAYA

**(Affiliated to the West Bengal State University and Recognised under section 2(f) and 12B
of the UGC Act)**

ESTD.-2007

BAMANPUKUR• NORTH 24 PARGANAS• PIN-743425• (W.B.)

(NAAC ACCREDITED)

No.

Date: 25.5.2020

Department/Cell/Committee of: Sociology

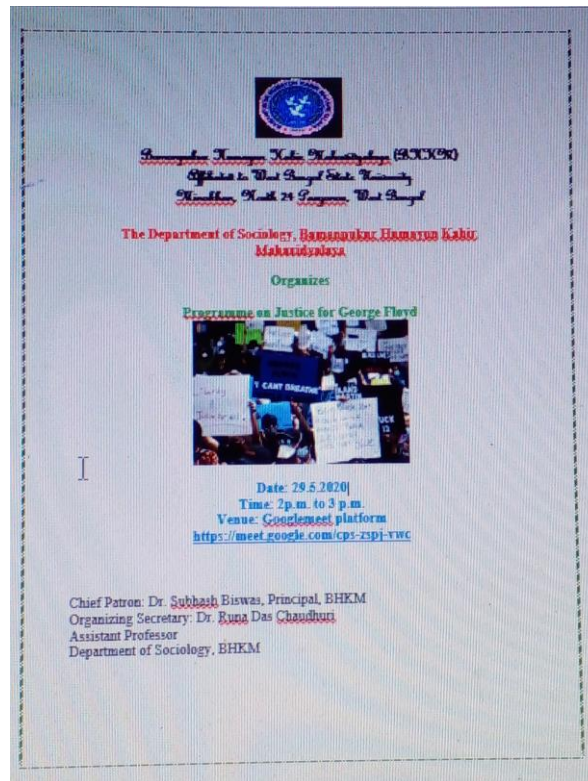
NOTICE

This is to notify all students that the Department of Sociology is going to organize a programme to release a poster prepared by the students online in the google meet platform on 29.5.2020 to protest against racism in the aftermath of the brutal killing of George Floyd. All students are requested to be present in the aforesaid solemn gathering.

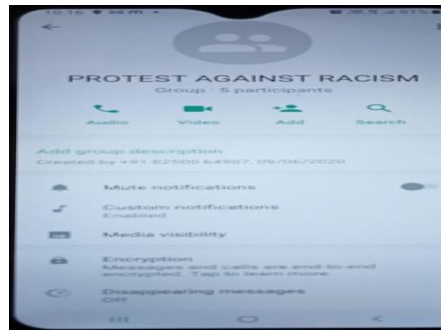
Runa Das Chaudhuri

Signature of the In-charge

Brochure of the programme:



Black lives do matter. The harshest of ends meted out to George Floyd, a 46 year old black on 25th May, 2020 in Minneapolis triggered demonstrations and protests in several US cities and around the world against police brutality. More significantly this incident unveiled the brazen existence of racism, albeit police racism. The ripples of protest have however continued and reached distant lands. The students of the Department of Sociology of Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya (BHKM), a college in the village of Bamanpukur, a district in North 24 Parganas in West Bengal, India have also shown solidarity to this cause and raised their voice of protest.



The Official Whatsapp Group on ‘Protest Against Racism’

The COVID pandemic had closed the college since mid-March. But residents of North 24 Parganas possibly suffered more grievous damages caused by the super cyclone Amphan on 20 May than the COVID scare. Amphan, the worst cyclone in 283 years which lashed on to the district with a wind speed of 120mph (190km/h) causing storm surges of up to 5 metres (17ft) claimed several lives. Evacuation efforts had been hampered by the need to follow strict physical distancing precautions to prevent the spread of coronavirus, with infection numbers still soaring high. Many students were stranded without homes and others were completely disconnected from the world outside caused by disruption of electricity for days together.

Yet the few who survived the ravages of the wreckage of Amphan managed to put their mobile networks to work and expressed their solidarity with a cause that otherwise had scant relation with their everyday struggles. With the little resources, the students of the Department of Sociology and most notably girl students of the college designed a poster to protest the brutal killing of George Floyd. The one male student, Rakesh Kumar Mondal who also participated in these efforts chose to remain absent in the poster since he felt that ‘the most marginalized of all in society, here women in Indian society’ need to sound the loudest. The organizing secretary of this programme Dr. Runa Das Chaudhuri, Head Department of Sociology created a whatsapp group and students put in their efforts to release the poster on 29.5.2020. A total number of 8 students were involved in this programme. The students in the poster included Priyanka Pramanik, Tamasa Mondal, Ratna Natuya and Susmita Sau along with Head, Department of Sociology, Dr. Runa Das Chaudhuri are represented in the poster. This poster was also published in the official newsletter of the Department of Sociology, namely *Sociological Illuminations*.