

## The Department of English

### **1. Brief history of the Department:**

The Department of English is one of the oldest departments of the College. Kazi Nazrul Islam Mahavidyalaya began its journey on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 1982 and the Department of English was one of the six departments that was part of this charter journey. Initially affiliated to The University of Burdwan, the department had only Pass Course in the subject. However, in the year 2009 the department received affiliation for Honours Course. From the academic session 2015-16 onwards the College became part of Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol and the Department too started teaching courses designed by the curriculum of the affiliating University. The Department has subsequently upgraded itself to a semester-based CBCS system and from the academic year 2023-24 shall follow the NEP 2020 guidelines and is ready to face the challenges of the new 4 year-degree course.

The Department has already played an active role in the larger academic sphere of the region and has earned a reputation of being linked with the mainstream of academic discourse. It had hosted successfully a UGC-sponsored National Seminar on “*Assertion of Identities: a Re-reading of texts in Literatures in English*” on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 which was enriched by the presence of such academic luminaries as Dr Ashok Mohapatra (Retd. Prof.in English, Sambalpur University), Dr Amrit Sen (Professor, DOEML, Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan), Dr Aparajita Hazra (currently Professor, Department of Women Studies, Diamond Harbour Women’s University) , Dr Archana Kumar (Professor, Department of English, BHU), Dr Angshuman Kar (currently Professor, Department of English, Burdwan University) and Dr Arnab Kumar Sinha ( currently Associate Professor in English and Head, The University of Burdwan). The Department has also collaborated with the PG Department of English, Triveni Devi Bhalotia College, Raniganj in co-hosting an ICSSR-sponsored National Seminar on “*Rethinking Literature: Eco-Criticism and Socio-Economic Concerns*” on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 with Dr Pankaj Sekhsaria, Associate Professor, CTARA, IIT Mumbai being the Keynote Speaker and Dr Ashok Mohapatra (Retd. Prof.in English, Sambalpur University)

and Dr Angshuman Kar (currently Professor, Department of English, Burdwan University) being the other Resource Persons.

## **2. Vision:**

The Department from its initiation has had students who hail from the weaker sections of society mostly. The College is located in a remote rural corner of the coal-belt of Asansol-Raniganj area and the Department since its inception has had a vision of imparting quality education to its learners. The Department envisages an integration of its learners into the academic mainstream of Higher Education scenario of not only West Bengal but also of India. It has thus dedicatedly worked towards the creation of an eco-system whereby the learners might be able to become better citizens of the country and to find their own place in the sunshine of the world, according to individual merit. Over the last 13 years in particular, since being upgraded into an Honours Course Department, the College has envisioned a better academic output for its learners and a part of the vision has been realized particularly with its alumni having spread their wings in various fields of life and in finding jobs and respect in various sectors, both government and non-government.

## **3. Mission:**

Department has a common mission that has been envisaged by the College.

These include:

- a. To set up practicable and achievable goals for the betterment of the students of the Department.
- b. The inculcation of a value system within the Department which shall reflect in the larger spheres of society.
- c. To constantly and actively integrate the Department within the eco-sphere with the idealisms of the UGC, NEP, NAAC and NIRF.
- d. To encourage students to have access to tools of education so that they become better citizens of this world.
- e. To grasp every bit of available access to modern teaching aids and methodologies so that the students of the Department become competitive modern day learners and can integrate themselves into the mainstream of Higher education of the state and the country..
- f. To engage in quality research publications on part of the faculties with healthy practices.

## **4. Strength:**

The Department has always felt integrated with the larger mainstream of higher education pedagogy. With its limited resources the Department has been able to produce consistent results at the University level. Over the last seven years in particular the Department has been able to consistently produce students who have progressed to Post Graduation courses or to professional fields of study. A section of the students every year have been able to move onto to hold jobs in various sectors. The faculty members have been able to inculcate a sense of trust with its students based on respect and mutual trust. The faculty has also engaged in quality publication and collaborative teaching with other Colleges of the area and with the affiliating University both at the Undergraduate and Post Graduate levels. Faculty details can be found on the College website.

#### **5. Weakness:**

The chief weakness of the Department is that it has only one full-time faculty member and thus is very under-staffed taking into consideration of the teaching load across semesters. The Department had previously engaged one State Aided College Teacher who had retired and then had been retained as a Guest Faculty until his demise. Currently, the Department is aided by the presence of a Guest faculty. One of the challenges faced by the Department is that a sizeable portion of the students enrolled come from economically and educationally challenged backgrounds and are even first generation learners. Therefore, imparting of quality higher education with the staff constraints is quite a steep ask.

#### **6. Teaching Methods:**

- a. Mostly by lecture methods taking into account the staff constraints and the pressure of completing the syllabus across semesters on time.
- b. Most introductory parts are done by Power Point slide presentations or by showing relevant videos to make specific parts of the syllabus interesting by accessing the ICT tools available in the classroom.
- c. Through the organization of film shows on texts which have a film representation.
- d. By circulating materials either created or downloaded. Some of these materials are even uploaded on the College website for easy access.