UGC SPONSORED TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

"Theory, Policy and Practice: Re-interpreting Historical and Social Contexts of Ageing"

9th & 10th September 2016



Organised by

Department of History
Saldiha College, Saldiha
Bankura, West Bengal
India

In Collaboration with

Bankura University
Bankura, West Bengal
India.

&

CIRAG, (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Ageing and Gerontology),
The University of Burdwan, Burdwan, W.B., India

Invitation

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our great pleasure to inform you that a two-day U.G.C. sponsored National seminar on **"Theory, Policy and Practice: Re-interpreting Historical and Social Contexts of Ageing"** would be organized by the Department of History, Saldiha College, Saldiha, Bankura, West Bengal, India in Collaboration with Bankura University, Bankura, West Bengal, India & *CIRAG* (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Ageing and Gerontology), the University of Burdwan, Burdwan, W.B., India on 9th & 10th September 2016.
We solicit your kind presence on that occasion as a Dignitary/Resource Person/ Participant or Paper presenter on the relevant topic.
Success of our Seminar depends entirely on your active presence and participation.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Shaikh Sirajuddin.
(Teacher-in-Charge)
Saldiha College
Saldiha , Bankura
West Bengal

Dr. Sanjoy Mukherjee: Organising Secretary of the seminar
And
Associate Professor &Head of the Department,
Department of History, Saldiha College
Mr. Binay Barman: Convener of the Seminar
& faculty member, Department of History, Saldiha College

Theme of the Seminar

Gerontology is the study of the environmental and psycho-social aspects of ageing. The development of this discipline within India has lagged behind Europe, North America and Australasia. This has primarily been because India has been characterized by a demographically younger population. Globally, the population is ageing for the population of the elderly persons has been increasing over the years. As per the UNESCO estimates, the number of the aged (60+) is likely to 590 million in 2005. The figure will double by 2025. By 2025, the world will have more elderly than young people and cross two billion mark by 2050. In India also, the population of elder persons has increased form nearly 2 crores in 1951 to 7.2 crores in 2001. In other words about 8% of the total population is above 60 years. The figure will cross the 18% mark by 2025.

In India, discourse that 'problematizes' population ageing flourishes as there is not strong evidence for a counter-argument. Authors frequently refer to the fragmentation of the Indian family and herald the disintegration of traditional family systems. However, most articles are speculative and are not underpinned by robust data. Hence, the need of the hour warrants us to look at the concept of ageing in its entirety, using a Gerontological lens and keeping in mind the socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-historical contexts of growing old, in mind.

As such, the proposed seminar aims to look at both the historical and social contexts of ageing keeping in mind Gerontological theory, governmental policy and ground reality from the point of view of Historicity as well as Heritage and Society.

"Cursus est certus aetatis et una via naturae eaque simplex,
suaque cuique parti aetatis tempestivitas est data" (Cicero 44 BC)

Cicero believed that the racecourse of life is fixed and involves physical growth and decay – a broadly single natural order in the life of man. Similar ideas on old age can also be found in the writings of Theophrastus, Demetrius of Phaleron, Aristo of Ceos and even Aristotle. Plato in the opening scene of *Republic* gives an ideal

picture of a man who can enjoy the delights of old age. Similarly, Ovid too believed in humanist Gerontology, for he speaks about old age continuously in *Metamorphoses.* Later, the idea of naturalness appears in medieval writings from the time of Bede to the Fifteenth Century, and even in writings of Latin, French and Italian writers, including Dante, the ages of man were commented upon in schematic terms, often involving three, four, six or even seven *aetates hominum.*

Thus it had been prevalent among preachers, exegetes and historians to relate the ages of man and more prominently, old age to temporal patterns and linear time of history. Today, Gerontology is the emerging field of scientific study dealing with various aspects of human ageing, be it later life, old age or older people. Considered by Christina R. Victor to be a 'young' science (01) and first coined by the Russian biologist Metchnikoff in *The Prolongation of Life* (1908), Gerontology studies is in its nascency in India. Contrastingly, human preoccupations with growing old and different aspects of the ageing process are evident in writings of scholars thousands of years old like Aristotle, or in the works of such famous scientists as Francis Bacon, Benjamin Franklin and Francis Galton (Victor). And there are human records which point to Methuselah having lived as long as 969 years or that Thomas Parr was presented to Charles I as being over 150 years old. As such, "there have always been 'older' people present within societies" (Victor) who have generated interest in the secrets of their life span.

The study of ageing would essentially have to deal with the biological, psychological and social aspects (Victor) or perspectives of growing old thereby making Gerontology a wonderfully multidisciplinary field of study and investigation. While the biological approach deals with the effects of time on physiological systems, the psychological approach delves on the person's personality, mental faculties and concepts of self and identity. Different from such attitudes to ageing, is the sociology of ageing or studying of the social, historical and cultural aspects of growing old. As such, social gerontology is a wide discipline which is able to incorporate social science perspectives about the historical, social, legal and cultural contexts of ageing in human society and trace the evolution of ageing to its culmination in 'successful ageing' (Rowe and Kahn, 1999).

Sub-Theme of the Seminar

This seminar is expected to cut across disciplines and will address, though not strictly limited to, the following issues:

- Ageing and Society
- Ageing and History
- Ageing and Culture
- Gendering Gerontology
- Ageing Populace and Demographic Change
- Migration, Urbanisation and Ageing
- Ageing and Social Exclusion
- Gerontology and Public Policy
- Narratives of Old Age
- Cultural and Literary Gerontology

Our Distinguished Dignataries & Eminent Speakers

1. Professor Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay, Honourable Vice Chancellor, Bankura University, Bankura, West Bengal, India & Secretary, CIRAG (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Ageing and Gerontology), University of Burdwan, Burdwan, West Bengal, India.
2. Dr. Subiresh Bhattacharyya,Chairman, West Bengal Central School Service Commission, Kolkata.
3. Dr. Kiran Shankar Chakroborty, Regional Director, IGNOU, Kolkata.
4. Prof. Dr. Manik Chakroborty, Professor, Department of Law, The University of Burdwan; Director, H.R.D.C., The University of Burdwan and former Controller of Examinations, The University of Burdwan
5. Prof. Faruque Ali, University Professor of Zoology, Head, Department of Zoology, T.N.B. College, Bhagalpur, Bihar.
6. Mr. Ardhendu Maity, M.L.A., Bhagwanpur, East Medinipur.
7. Dr. Anjan Saikia, Principal, Cinnamara College, Jorhat, Assam.
8. Prof. N.V. Aski, Principal, Terdal First Grade Govt. College, Bagalkot, Karnataka.
9. Dr. Sarbojit Biswas, Associate Professor of English, Bankura University.
10. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Saha, Associate Professor of Law, Bankura University.
11. Dr. Subhadeep Paul, Assistant professor of English, Bankura University.
12. Mr. Ayan Guha, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Bankura University.
13. Dr. Subir Roy, Assistant Professor of Law, Bankura University.
14. Dr. Jati Sankar Mondal, Assistant Professor of English, SKBU, Purulia.

About the College

Saldiha College is situated by the side of Bankura-Purulia via Bangla, Zorda, Saldiha Bus-Route, and 33 K.M.s off from Bankura town on the south-western border of Bankura District in *jungle mahal* region of West Bengal. The College was established on 22nd August, 1966. The site of the College is calm & cool, beset with Bowery trees, "far from the madding crowd". The College has been diffusing learning in Arts, Science & Commerce Stream with Honours in different subjects. Financially aided by the UGC, the College has been running 'Service Coaching' and 'Remedial Coaching Centres'. The College has a distant education Centre in M.A. & M.Sc. under Vidyasagar University. Computer & Internet facilities are available here in all the departments. The College has a well equipped gymnasium with latest & modern apparatus. We have digitalized and fully computerized Library. So many Minor Research Projects are submitted and presently running in this College by different faculty members sponsored by the U.G.C. The College is under the University of Burdwan of West Bengal.

About the History Department

Since the very inception of the College in 1966, the College has been teaching History. The department started teaching Honours course of the studies in History from 1969. The Department has its own departmental Library with Computer set and internet connection. At present there are two whole time teachers in the Department. Associate Professor Dr. Sanjoy Mukherjee is now Head of the Department. Other teacher is Mr. Binay Barman (Assistant Professor of History). Another two Govt. approved Part-Time Lecturers N. Patra & T. Mukherjee are in the Department. Two UGC sponsored MRP on "History of Health" and "Reforms in the Rajbansshi Society from 1890-1935"submitted earlier by faculty members Mr. Sanjoy Mukherjee and Mr. Binay Barman. Two whole time faculty members of the Dept. have many research papers published in National and International Journals. They have their own published books also with ISBN. The Department has already organized a Two-Day UGC sponsored National Seminar on "*Oscillating Historicity of 'Jungle Mahal': A Query with regard to its Legacy*" and published Seminar Proceedings in a book with ISBN. One International Seminar on Historical Geography also organized by the Dept. The Department is well equipped with historical maps, pictures, audio-visual as teaching aids. *Historia* is our wall magazine. The mission of the Department is to promote higher education and to place the students in higher position. The department also conducts historical excursion frequently

Call for papers and Submission of Abstract

Participants intending to present papers are requested to send the abstract of papers (not exceeding 300 words) on or before 15th August 2016. The full paper should reach on or before 31st August, 2016. Both the abstracts as well as full papers should be sent in the form of soft copies, text typing using MS word along with the hard copies in printed form (font size 12). Participants are requested to send a copy of abstract to email ID also to smukherjee67@rediffmail.com or sanjoy_m @ yahoo.com & papers may be in English or Bengali or in Hindi. LCD Projectors will be available.

Registration

Registration Fee should be sent before 7 days before the Seminar to the Teacher-in-Charge, Saldiha College by demand draft.

Charges are

1. Out stations delegates:- Rs. 500/-
2. Scholar- Rs. 250/-
3. Students:- Rs. 200/-

***Accommodations*:-**

It is not possible to provide accommodation for all due to paucity of funds. However, accommodation in different hotels/guest houses may be arranged on actual payment basis, if requested by any participant well in advance. Accommodation will be provided to registered outstations delegates on prior intimation latest by 30/08/2016.

Contact & Communication:-

Dr. Sanjoy Mukherjee,
9475646436,

Mr. Binay Barman.
9475836546,

REGISTRATION FORM

U.G.C. sponsored Tw0-Day National Seminar on "Theory, Policy and Practice: Re-interpreting Historical and Social Contexts of Ageing"

On September 9-10, 2016. Organized by the **Department of History, Saldiha College, Saldiha, Bankura, West** Bengal in collaboration with **the *Bankura University***, *Bankura, West Bengal India &* ***CIRAG***, (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging and Gerontology), t*he* University of Burdwan, Burdwan, W.B.

1. Name: …….

2. Designation: ……..

3. Institution: …….

4. Address for communication: ……...

……..

5. Telephone: …… Mobile: …….

6. E-mail: ……...

7. Sex: Male / Female

8. Age: …….

9. Whether presenting a paper in the Seminar: Yes / No.

10. Copy of the paper/extended abstract of the paper enclosed: Yes / No.

11. If yes, title of presentation: …….

12. Any other information: ……

13. Accommodation required – Yes/No

14. Date & time of arrival and departure:

15. Food habit: - Veg. / Non-veg.

Date:

Place:

(Signature)

Photo copy of this Form may be used.