



## **Jesus and Mary College**

**IQAC in collaboration with Department of English**

### **Webinar Report**

**Title:** “Impact of the Pandemic on the Metropolitan Middle-Class Indian Woman”

**Speakers:**

Prof. Debashis Bandyopadhyay, Professor of English and Coordinator of the Centre for Stress Management, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, India

Prof. Rukmini Sen, School of Liberal Studies and Director of the Center for Publishing, Ambedkar University, Delhi

**Moderator:** Ms. Dolly Kapoor, Associate Professor, Dept. of English

**Q/A by:** Ms. Jennifer Monteiro, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English

**Date:** 12 June 2020

**Time:** 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Webinar platforms used:** Google Meet

YouTube (live streaming)

[Click here](#) for video on YouTube.

[Click here](#) for video on JMC website.

**Total Registrations: 447**

Number of Registered Students: 260

Number of Registered Faculty Members: 160 (Assistant Professor: 119; Associate Professor: 39; Professor: 2)

Others (including school teachers, guest and contractual teachers, Research Scholars, home-makers): 27

**Number of participants on Google Meet:** 219

**Number of participants on YouTube:** 360 and counting

**Organizing Team:**

Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L. r.j.m., Principal  
Dr. Alka Marwaha, IQAC Coordinator

### **Webinar Team**

Dr. Ameeta Motwani,  
Webinar Committee Coordinator

Mr. Naveen Joseph Thomas,  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics

Ms. Vrinda Moda,  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Commerce

Ms. Megha Jacob,  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics

Dr. Shikha Singh,  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mathematics

Mr. Gaurav Verma,  
IT Consultant, Administration

### **Department Core Team**

Ms. Dolly Kapoor,  
Teacher-in-Charge

Ms. Purnima Topden,  
Associate Professor &  
IQAC Member

Dr.. Sharon Pillai,  
Assistant Professor

Ms. Jennifer Monteiro,  
Assistant Professor

Ms. Ishita Singh,  
Assistant Professor

### **About the Speakers**

**Debashis Bandyopadhyay** is Professor of English and Coordinator of the Centre for Stress Management at Vidyasagar University, in Midnapore, India. Formerly he was Professor of English at Banaras Hindu University, Visiting Professor at University of Guanajuato, Salamanca, Mexico, Associate Professor at Presidency College, Kolkata and Faculty Adjunct in California State University, Fresno, California, USA. As a Fulbright Fellow he pursued research on the sense of acculturation among the Armenian American people in the USA and as a Charles Wallace Fellow he worked on Goldwin Smith and the American Civil War in St Antony's College, University of Oxford, UK. His research interests include literature, culture studies and psychoanalysis. He is presently engaged in psychoanalytic research on Mindfulness based on meditative practices in India. He is widely published in India and abroad.

Among his significant publications are:

a) *Locating the Anglo-Indian Self in Ruskin Bond: A Postcolonial Review*, Anthem Press, New York and London, 2011

b) *Imperial Maladies*, Nova Press, New York 2013

c) *Connect: A Course in Communicative English*, Cambridge University Press, New Delhi, 2017.

He can be reached at [debashis@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:debashis@mail.fresnostate.edu).

**Rukmini Sen** is Professor in Sociology at the School of Liberal Studies of Ambedkar University, Delhi. She is also the Director of the Centre for Publishing at AUD since June 2019. She has previously worked at WB National University of Juridical Sciences and Centre for Women's Development Studies. She is teaching courses on Law and Society, Relationships and Affinities, Gender and Society, and Social Research, Women's Movements. She is a member of the National Human Rights Commission since 2019, as a gender-expert, and was a member of the expert team on women and law for the National Commission for Women between 2010-2012. She is Co-investigator in the ongoing research project: Feminist Taleem: Teaching Feminisms, Transforming Lives: Questions of Identity, Pedagogy and Violence in India and the UK (2017-20; Ongoing). This project is funded by UGC-UKERI in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Her recent publications include:

a) (2019) Co-editor *Trust in Transactions*, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi

b) (2018) Co-editor special issue 'Indian Feminisms, Law Reform and Law Commission of India: Special issue in Honour of Lotika Sarkar', for the *Journal of Indian Law and Society*, published by WB National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, 6 (Monsoon)

c) (2017) Co-editor *Power and Relationships in the Academia: Feminist Dilemmas beyond the List-Statement Binary* at the *Economic and Political Weekly Engage*

### **Webinar Summary**

On 12 June 2020, IQAC, in collaboration with Department of English organized a webinar titled "Impact of the Pandemic on the Metropolitan Middle-Class Indian Woman". It began with a warm welcome by the moderator, Ms. Dolly Kapoor, Teacher-In-Charge, Department of English wherein Ms. Kapoor welcomed everyone and introduced the esteemed guests. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude towards the Principal, Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L. r.j.m. and invited her to address the audience and invoke the blessings of God. Sr. Rosily began with an emphasis on the relevance of the topic of the webinar, followed by a prayer to the Lord Almighty for all those who are suffering due to the pandemic and the cyclone Amphan. She concluded by congratulating and thanking the Department of English and the Webinar Committee for organizing the webinar.

Before inviting the first speaker of the day, Ms. Kapoor introduced and contextualized the theme of the webinar, stressing on the gender implications of the pandemic. She further discussed the new normal vis-a-vis the changing notions of 'home' and family in the wake of the imposed lockdown. In this context, the altering dynamics between public and private spaces sharpened the pressures and challenges faced by the Indian middle class woman, rupturing the narrative of family bonding and harmony.

Ms. Kapoor's introduction was followed by the lecture by Prof. Debashis Bandyopadhyay who spoke on 'women and the pandemic: the emergence of a new normal'. Prof. Bandyopadhyay began by expressing his gratitude towards the Department of English and the Principal, JMC. In his talk, Prof. Bandyopadhyay problematized the concept of the 'normal' in the context of the pandemic that revealed the rather dismal socio-economic realities of the country. As the Coordinator of the Centre for Stress Management, Prof. Bandyopadhyay has been working with a large team of Clinical Psychologists and Psychoanalysts, and as practicing psychoanalyst, Prof. Bandyopadhyay and his team have conducted case studies on the impact of the pandemic on women and their relationships. In his talk, he referred to several case studies that further enriched the discussion. Further, he investigated if our definition and understanding of the normal was going to change due to the pandemic. He concluded his talk with a discussion of the inherently contradictory behaviors, and the emerging crisis within the middle-class, and questioned whether the short-term adjustments of man-woman relationships can really lead to a paradigmatic shift.

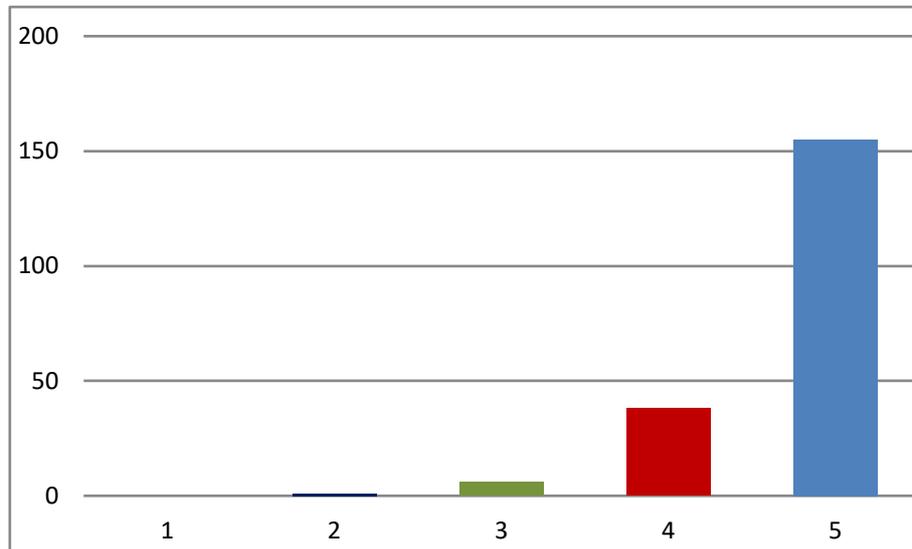
Prof. Bandyopadhyay's lecture was followed by Prof. Rukmini Sen's lecture on 'the burden of multitasking on working women, and domestic violence'. Prof. Sen began by thanking the Department of English for organizing a webinar and bringing together people to discuss issues of contemporary relevance during the pandemic. She began the lecture with a quote from Albert Camus' *The Plague*. Living in the interstices of hope and despair, gendered experiences of the pandemic become vital to discuss as all disasters and wars have always had a gendered impact. Within this context, Prof. Sen took up three concepts — home, work and violence — to discuss questions of multitasking and the pandemic. Prof. Sen discussed the gendered impact of the pandemic through examples of communications and advisories on the pandemic by the State and government bodies, and images of multitasking women working from home and taking the "home" to the workplace. In this context, she discussed how the divide between the public and private is being blurred or rearranged and argued for a material meaning and definition of housework. In the absence of the support services that enable women to perform housework, she discussed what it then meant to work *from* home and work *at* home. Prof. Sen concluded her talk on a hopeful note with a discussion of feminist futures.

The webinar concluded with a lively question and answer session moderated by Ms. Jennifer Monteiro, Assistant Professor, Department of English after Ms. Monteiro provided a succinct summary of the lectures for the audience. Following this Dr. Alka Marwaha, IQAC Coordinator, gave the vote of thanks. She expressed her gratitude towards both the speakers of the webinar and thanked the Department of English and the Webinar Committee for organizing an engaging webinar on a pertinent topic. She also thanked Sr. Rosily for being a pillar of support to the faculty members involved in organizing webinars. She concluded her vote of thanks by thanking the participants and inviting them for webinars organized by Jesus and Mary College in the future.

**Feedback Summary:** After the webinar, the feedback form was circulated and received 200 responses from 104 institutions all over the country. Of these responses 22%, i.e. 44 were from Jesus and Mary College. The feedback was overwhelmingly and unanimously positive. Below is a brief analysis of the data from the feedback forms:

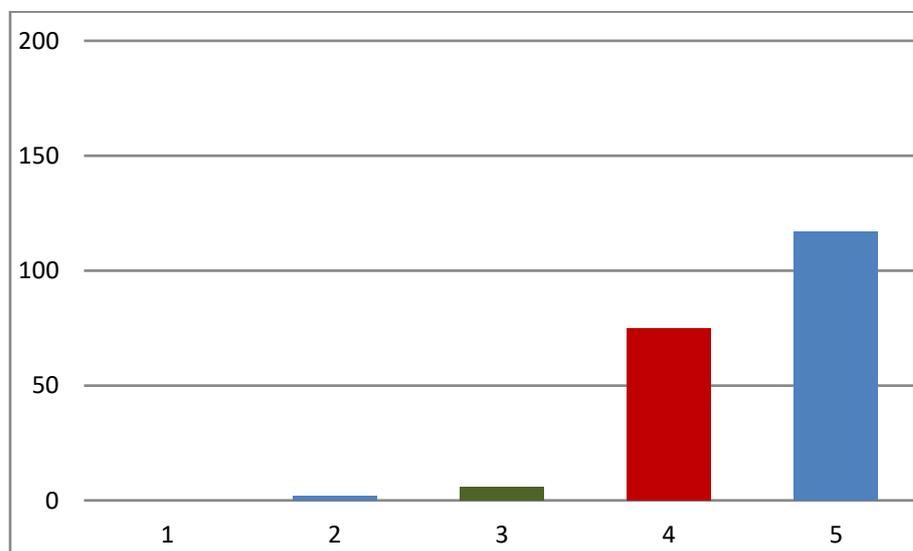
**Relevance of the webinar to respondents (on a scale of 1 to 5):**

155 of the 200 i.e. 77.5% of the respondents rated the relevance of the webinar on the highest score of 5, 38 scored it 4, 6 scored it 3, 1 scored it 2, while none scored it 1.



**Response to whether the content met the respondent's expectations (on a scale of 1 to 5):**

117 out of 200 i.e. 58.5% of the respondents scored the content of the webinar 5, 75 scored it 4, 6 scored it 3, 2 scored it 2, while none scored it 1.



**Responses to their willingness to participate in more such webinars:**

97% of respondents, i.e. 194 out of 200, expressed willingness to attend more webinars organized by the college.

■ Yes

■ Maybe

■ No



JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE

IQAC in collaboration with Department of English

Invites you for a webinar on

**IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON THE METROPOLITAN MIDDLE-CLASS INDIAN WOMAN**

Date: 12 June, 2020

Time: 11 am - 12:30 pm

#### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

11:00 - 11:10 am	Welcome by Moderator, Ms. Dolly Kapoor, Teacher-in-Charge, Department of English  Address by Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L. r.j.m., Officiating Principal  Introduction by Ms. Dolly Kapoor
11:10 - 11:35 am	Lecture by Prof. Debashis Bandyopadhyay, Department of English, Vidyasagar University
11:40 - 12:05 pm	Lecture by Prof. Rukmini Sen, School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University
12:05 pm onwards	Q/A session moderated by Ms. Jennifer Monteiro, Department of English  Vote of thanks by Dr. Alka Marwaha, IQAC Convener



JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE  
University of Delhi



IQAC in collaboration with Department of English

## IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON THE METROPOLITAN MIDDLE-CLASS INDIAN WOMAN

Time: 11 am to 12:30 pm | Date: 12 June, 2020

Webinar on  | Live streaming on  [CLICK HERE](#)

[Register here](#)

**Moderator:** Ms. Dolly Kapoor,  
Teacher-in-Charge, Department of English

**Q/A by:** Ms. Jennifer Monteiro,  
Assistant Professor, Department of English

### Speakers



**Prof. Debashis Bandyopadhyay**  
Professor, Department of English  
Vidyasagar University  
Fulbright Scholar, Charles Wallace Fellow



**Prof. Rukmini Sen**  
Professor, School of Liberal Studies  
Director, Centre for Publishing  
Ambedkar University, Delhi



Sr. (Dr.) Rosily T.L. r.j.m.  
Officiating Principal

Dr. Alka Marwaha  
Convener, IQAC

Dr. Ameeta Motwani  
Convener, Webinar Committee

Ms. Dolly Kapoor  
TIC, Dept. of English

## ORGANISING TEAM

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Associate Professor  
Teacher-in-charge

Ms. Purnima Topden  
Associate Professor  
Member, IQAC

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Assistant Professor

Ms. Jennifer Monteiro  
Assistant Professor

Ms. Ishita Singh  
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### JMC Webinar Team

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Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics

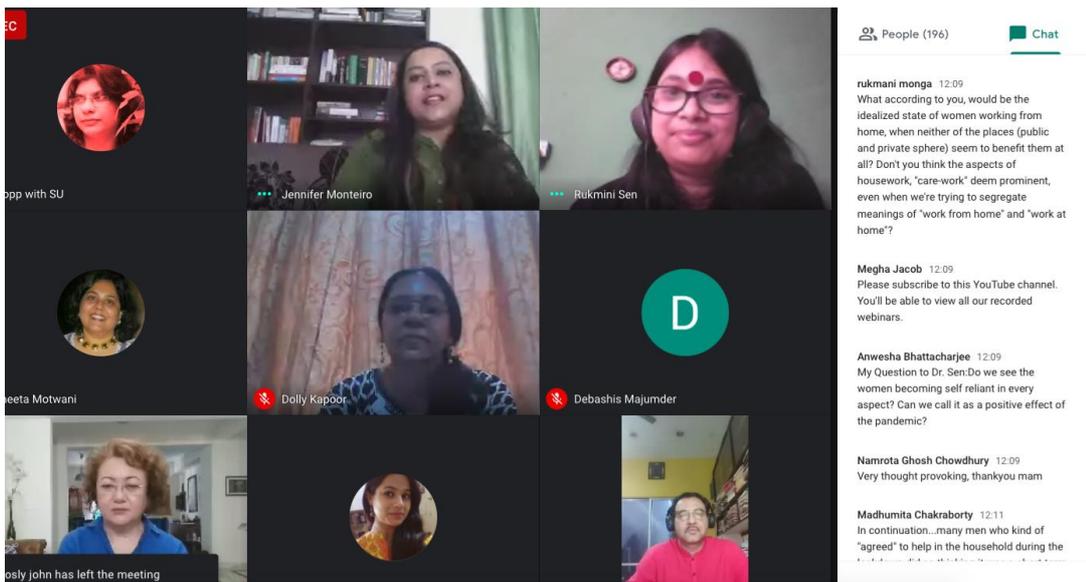
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Assistant Professor  
Department of Mathematics

Mr. Gaurav Verma  
IT Consultant, Administration

*E-certificates will be given to all participants.*



REC

Meeting details ^

Turn on captions Present now

People (191) Chat

- Ishita Singh (You)
- Aanchal Kukreja
- Abanti Bhattacharya
- Achingliu Kamei
- Agnes Joseph
- Alfisha sabri
- Alka Marwaha
- Alma Ali
- Amandeep Singh
- Ameeta Motwani
- Anamika Asthana
- ananya garkoti
- Aneesha Puri
- Angel Mary Thomas
- ANINDITA MUKHERJEE

REC Vrinda Moda is presenting

Meeting details ^

Turn on captions Present now Vrinda Moda

People (199) Chat

- Charu Kala
- chetan saini
- CHRISTHU Doss
- Christina John
- Debajit Creation
- Debashis Bandyopad
- Debashis Majumder
- Debirupa Basu
- Deblina Mishra
- Deepakshi Bisht
- Deepayan Datta
- Dharmendra Kumar
- Dipasree Roy
- Palak Mehta

