

# Living in 2016

## *Are Indian Women Empowered?*

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**Kolkata, February 2, 2016:** First day of the **Seminar Week 'Empowerment of Women in Post Independent India'**, organised by the departments of Economics, Film Studies, History, and Political Science, in collaboration with Bijaygarh Jyotish Ray College, is a big success. It is UGC Sponsored State Level Seminar.

Prof. Sunetra Sengupta, along with Dr. Madhumanti Maitra and Prof. Sharmistha Dutta Roy greeted every participant and conducted the entire seminar in a very structured way with their usual elegant style.



Eminent bengali indian filmmaker and theatre personality, **Prof. Ashoke Viswanathan** presided the second session of the seminar with his unique style of lecture delivery, both in Bengali and English.



Renowned film analyst, **Prof. Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay**, with his unmatched style of lecture delivery, enthralled the audience. After felicitation both of them explored the title of the seminar very critically and compelled the listeners to search the real root of women empowerment citing examples from different formats

of films.

Prof. Viswanathan, said about women's representation in today's media, and positive impact of their knowledge along with the obvious questions arise in their mind. He explained how so-called women-centric films have disillusioned us and silently drive away from the real problems. He presented several instances of women-independence related films, including Ritwik Ghatak's – '*Meghe Dhaka Tara*' , Mrinal Sen's – '*Aekdin Protidin*' and Satyajit Ray's – '*Mahanagar*'.

This was followed by Prof. Mukhopadhyay's speech on how girl childhood is being killed. He analysed how the Indian women-society has changed their outlook from the days of partition to today's 4G society. He also analysed in detail, how the typical male-dominated Indian society painted *Nita's* character in '*Meghe Dhaka Tara*' - one who doesn't want to be portrayed as self sacrificing *Durga* but wants to live her life like a natural human being with self respect. He expressed his wonder that, even today if a girl returns late at night she is questioned while a male is not. It is very necessary that we must change our outlook and thought process towards women empowerment. The program came to an end shortly at 4:20p.m. with Vote-of-Thanks.

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