

Title: “Should Men Worry About Patriarchy?”: Special Online Lecture by Prof Niladri Chatterjee

Date: 18.07.2021

Platform: Google Meet

No. of participants: 80 approximately

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/3MalGI2jP24>

Objective: To create awareness about how patriarchy is not only a means of controlling women, but also of men and how the dismantling of patriarchy will not take away the rights of men, but allow them more freedom to express themselves in the way they like.

Context: After years of feminist struggle against patriarchy, now people by and large acknowledge the role of patriarchy in controlling and suppressing the freedom of women. However, what eludes most men is that they too are victims of patriarchy which enforces particular stereotypes of masculinity to which they have to conform even at the cost of their own freedom, desire and mental well being. This special lecture was conceived in order to create an awareness about the detrimental effect of patriarchy on men and help the male students of the college identify these problems.

Practice: The Gender Sensitization Committee collaborated with the Department of English to organize a special online lecture by Professor Niladri Chatterjee of Kalyani University on “Should Men Worry about Patriarchy?” The speaker presented a very engaging talk on the ways patriarchy functions as tools for controlling men in certain ways which may not only be detrimental for individuals but also for society at large. The simple lucid way in which he explained fairly complex ideas of gender politics and the varied examples he provided from various everyday life and popular culture made the ideas more accessible to students. He introduced them to the problems of toxic masculinity and also suggested ways in which they can resist being victimized by patriarchy and its constructs.

Evidence of success: The programme was attended by around 80 participants which included mostly students and some teachers. The lively interactive session at the end of the talk showed that the audience followed and enjoyed the talk immensely.

Problems Encountered: As is usual in online programmes, some participants could not attend the programme or follow the lecture throughout because of connectivity issues.

POSTER OF THE EVENT

