

POST – EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

Name of Event: XIII Usha Bhattacharyya Memorial Lecture

Date of Event: September 8th, 2023

Venue: Seminar Hall, Lady Keane College

Number of Participants attended: 75

Summary Report

On September 8th, 2023 the Department of Philosophy organized an annual lecture in memory of (Lt) Usha Bhattacharyya former Principal and Teacher of Philosophy, Lady Keane College. 75 participants attended the memorial lecture and started sharp at 11.00 A.M. The programme started with a welcome address by the Principal of the College Dr D.K.B. Mukhim, where he welcomed the resource person and other fellow participants with warm welcome speech and brief introduction to (Lt) Usha Bhattacharyya.

The resource person for the lecture was Dr Sukalpa Bhattacharjee (HOD) Department of English, North Eastern Hill University and the participant were mainly teachers and students of Lady Keane College and other colleges in and around the town. After the welcome address by the principal, the Resource Person was introduced by the host of the programme with her achievements & Publications followed by her lecture on the theme “Philosophy and Literature Critical Interface”. Dr Sukalpa, lectured on how philosophy and literature are interconnected to each other. She delivered the lecture by stating that literature and art can be just as powerful a medium for the expression of philosophical ideas as philosophy itself and this is due to the complexity and importance of the question it asks and the way both literature and philosophy elaborates on them. She brought into light firstly the relation of literature to philosophy and secondly, the way literature influence readers cognitively. Dr Sukalpa introduced different authors, philosophers and novelists like Philip Kitcher, Charles Dickens, Jeremy Bentham to relate the philosophical involvement that literary or musical work manifest. She spoke on the novel of Charles Dickens (A tale of two cities) to relate philosophical insight in literature. The age and the period of French Revolution is the scenario Dickens is speaking in his novel. It was the best time, it was the worst time, it was the age of wisdom, it was the season of darkness at the same time. This age instills the mind with philosophical thoughts and concepts of good and evil and reflect in the character and situation throughout the novel. Substantive ideas from philosophy are taken over and applied to the literary account. Also, fictional work is used for the explanation of philosophical question, the lecture by Dr Sukalpa gained a very interesting and thoughtful surrounding specially to the students from philosophical background. They were inquisitive to know more on the literary background as well and that it also relates to Philosophy. The lecture was delivered almost 45 minutes followed by the interactive session between the resource person and the participants. The lecture as well as the interactive session was a fruitful one for our students. This annual event not only marks the Memorial Day of Usha Bhattacharya, but on this day every year the department of philosophy also felicitate the meritorious students of the Department of Philosophy, where the merit list students are honored for their excellent results in their final semester end examinations conducted by NEHU. The students are awarded with a cash prize, a generous contribution by the former retired HOD of the department DR. Anju Joshi. This year the department of philosophy awarded miss Juvy Vepthomi for securing 3rd Rank with 80.75% in her final semester end examination, 2023.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks from the HOD of the philosophy department Dr. Sabita Das Homroy. She thanked the principal for his constant support, Dr Sukalpa for accepting the invitation as a resource person, participants for their active participation, support staff, technicians. She also wished the department future success. The programme ended at around 1:45 P.M followed by lunch.