

A Report on a documentary film “Begum Rukeya Hossain”

Organised by the Department of Political Science

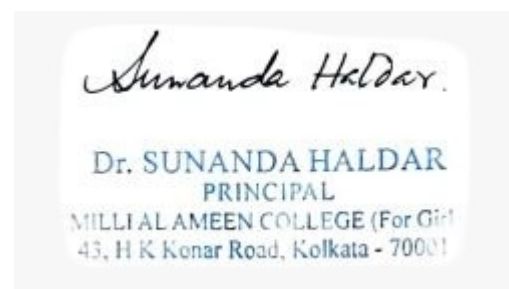
Date: 10th March, 2023

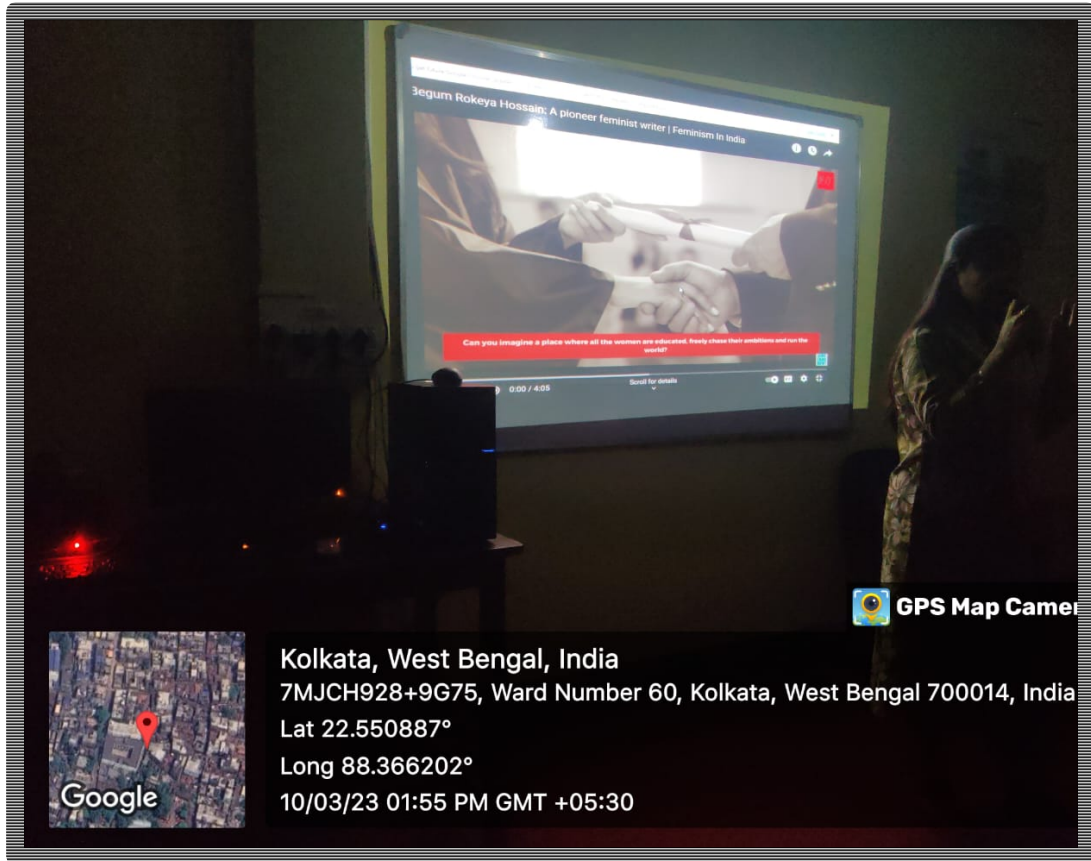
Time: 1.30pm

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, the legendary Bengali writer-activist whose leadership had transformed the lives of thousands of people in this region and beyond, was born in 1880. For those who may not know, Begum Rokeya was an advocate of women's rights in the Indian subcontinent during the British rule. Through her charismatic and resilient leadership, she defied all obstacles put up by a society that barred women from pursuing their dreams. With a sound knowledge of the history of the region and the challenges facing the time and society in which she lived, she was a woman far more advanced and progressive than her contemporaries.

The department of Political Science organised a program where a documentary was shown on this eminent personality followed by a speech by Shazia Afreen, faculty member, Department of Political science.

Through her writings, she raised her voice against the challenges and had the vision for the emancipation of Bengali Muslim women at a time when it was unthinkable for anyone to think so. She showed how a misinterpretation of Islam and a deep-seated patriarchal mindset in society combined to keep women behind doors, and deprived of their rights. In 1916, she founded the Anjuman-e-Khawateen-e-Islam (Muslim Women's Society), an organisation that was at the forefront of the fight for women's education and employment. Its members advocated for women's legal and political rights, sponsored women's attendance at school, gave shelter to orphans, offered legal and financial assistance to widows. It was the cornerstone of the feminist movement in Bengal, and paved the way for the vibrant and politically progressive feminist movement seen in contemporary Bangladesh.





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