

On July 5th and 6th 2022, the second Two-day National Seminar in Collaboration with West Bengal Urdu Academy, titled "Urdu Research and Criticism: Problems and Prospects" of the Department of Urdu, Kidderpore College, Kolkata, was held with great pomp and ceremony.



Department of Urdu Kidderpore College, Kolkata needs no introduction. The best teachers of the city have been associated with this college in all eras and even today, competent teachers like Dr. Syed Ali Irfan Naqvi are associated with this college. So, in 2018, with collaboration of West Bengal Urdu Academy, he organized the first two-day national seminar titled "Elegy Literature of West Bengal" in his HOD period and

under the banner of this college, which was called a very successful seminar.

But due to Corona, no National Seminar could be held offline for two years, but this year this college once again organized its second Two-day National Seminar with Collaboration of West Bengal Urdu Academy, under the guidance of Dr. Syed Ali Irfan Naqvi (Head, Department of Urdu) titled "Urdu Research and Criticism: Problems and Prospects" at Indian Medical Association, 4th Floor, 11/3 Braish Guha Street, Kolkata-17, has succeeded in organizing for which he is to be congratulated. The title of this seminar is also very important and unique.

The seminar started with traditional candle lighting. All the teachers of the college and other dignitaries were also present on this occasion.

The seminar was presided over by the famous and unique critic writer of the city Mr. Zaheer Anwar, while Dr. Abubakar Jilani (Ex- Senior Professor, Kpc) was the Chief-guest and the whole program was conducted by Dr. Shamshir Alam (HO Urdu, TDB College, Raniganj).

After candle lighting, bouquets and shawls were also presented to all the guests on the dais. After that, Dr. Syed Ali Irfan Naqvi gave a welcome speech and presented a gift of

gratitude to all the participants of the seminar and the students. Hon'ble Principal Dr. Abhijeet Ganguly in his opening speech (English) highlighted the activities of Urdu department and expressed his love for Urdu language and literature. In the end, he also entertained everyone in the hall by singing Ghazal on the request of the audience and the distinguished Guests. At the beginning of the ceremony, Dr. Dabir Ahmed (HOD, Urdu, Maulana Azad College) said that we people think of ourselves as researchers and critics by writing several articles,



whereas this is not true because Farooqui, Narang, Arzoo, etc. have edited various genres of Urdu for 40 and 50 years. Then he was called researcher and critic. President of Urdu Department, Lucknow University, Dr. Abbas Raza Nayyar said that he came to Kolkata from Lucknow because of Dr. Irfan Naqvi's literary services and love. Irfan Naqvi is doing a great job here. The genre he has created today is admirable. Earlier, an attempt has been made to understand the research and critical works and critics here.

Now the outsiders are also trying to understand the researchers and critics here, but I will say this to Irfan Naqvi that this two-day seminar will not be sufficient for this topic, for that a separate 5-day workshop should be held and the Critics should be openly discussed. Artists and artworks should be understood. Dr. Jilani also spoke about the situation of research and criticism in West Bengal. Dr. Mirza Shafiq Hussain Shafiq, who belongs to the city of Lucknow, while presenting his

insightful and comprehensive keynote speech on this occasion, said that "disagreement" does not start with words, but with meanings. Criticism starts from where the difference of meaning begins.

Then Mr. Shafaq further says that "O my people of Bengal! If you are ignored by people of other state, don't be sad because the tradition of ignoring is very old. Mohammad Hussain Azad also did not mention

the famous Urdu poet Momin Khan Momin in his book "Aab-e-Hayat". Those who have not raised the pen against those who deserve it, have harmed themselves and not others."

After that Mr. Zaheer Anwar while presenting his presidential speech said that

"Research is heart-burning work. 'The light of the eyes has to be burned.' Justice has to be done to the subject."

After that, he further says that

"When the mistakes were pointed out in the obituaries, criticism began to flourish. If nothing is being written about the people of Bengal, I am not worried that there are some people herewhom people from other states will be forced to write about. That time. It is not far that all the eyes of the people will start falling towards you, but they are starting to fall."

Apart from this, Dr. Diba Hashmi, Dr. Swathi Pal and Dr. Tanika Bhattacharya also expressed their views in this opening ceremony. At the end of the meeting, Inamur Rehman thanked all the guests of honor.

The first session of the seminar started at 12 noon under the chairmanship of Zaheer Anwar. Dr. Irfan Naqvi has performed the administrative duties. The first paper of this session was presented by Dr. Arshia Iqbal (Guest Lecturer, Milli Amin College, Kolkata). The title of his paper was:

"Research and Criticism in Murshidabad: Problems and Prospects"

And the second paper was by Dr. Rehan Hasan (Head of Department of Urdu and Persian, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab). His paper was titled:

"Contemporary Landscape of Urdu Research in West Bengal" while the third paper was by



Maqsood Danish who titled his paper "An Overview of Fiction Criticism in West Bengal after Independence".

At the end of the first session, Mr. Zaheer Anwar advised Dr. Arshia Iqbal to avoid mentioning himself in his paper, while commenting on Dr. Rehan Hassan's paper, he said that if only two or four people were looked at. The article would have been more useful. After that, he expressed his views on the thesis of Maqsood Danish and said that Maqsood Danish should take care of ethics and some sentences related to Abu Zarhashmi have been made in such a way that they are against ethics. The first session of the seminar ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Itu Singh (Department of Hindi).

Immediately after lunch, the second session started at 4 pm.



The session was presided over by Dr. Abubakar Jilani, while the administrative duties were performed by Dr. Rehan Hassan. The first paper in this session was by Dr. Nuzhat Zahra (HOD, Urdu Department, Surendranath College for Women) who presented her paper titled "Few Eminent Researchers and Critics of West Bengal after Independence". While the HOD of Urdu Department, TDB College, Raniganj, Dr. Shamsheer Alam delivered his paper entitled "A Few New and Old Researchers". And Mr. Zaheer Anwar presented "Urdu Criticism in Post-Independence West Bengal: With References to Some Credible Critics". President of the meeting, Dr. Abubakar Jilani, expressed his views on all the articles. Ms. Razia Sultana thanked all the people.

The third session of the seminar started on 6 July 22 at 12 noon under the chairmanship of Dr. Rehan Hasan and moderated by Dr. Irfan Naqvi. Bouquets, mementos and shawls were presented to the the writers. In the third session, Dr. Masood Ahmed presented his paper entitled "Part of Women in Urdu Research and Criticism". Dr. Derakhshan Zareen delivered a paper entitled "Research and critical works of Dr. Abubakar Jilani in the contemporary era". While Sabiha Tazeen presented "Urdu Criticism in Post-Independence West Bengal" and Razia Sultana presented "Some Important Researchers of Post-Independence West Bengal" as well as Abbas Raza Nayyar's Mehjri Adib of West Bengal: Shahzad Manzar and Haralt Calcuttavi.

Since the time was over, the papers of the fourth session were also read in this session. Thus, Dr. Javed Alam (Research Scholar 'JNU, Delhi) presented his paper "Urdu Research and Criticism: Problems and Prospects (Regarding West Bengal)" and Dr. Mirza Shafiq Hussain Shafiq (Department of Urdu Hasinaabad Government College, Lucknow) read his

paper entitled "Bright Stars of the Sky of Cash and Research in West Bengal". In the end, Mr. Ashraf Ahmad Jafri made the closing session enjoyable by reading his paper titled "Situation of Urdu Literary Research in West Bengal."

At the end of the session of the second and last day, Abbas Raza Alias Nir Jalalpuri won the hearts of the audience with his varied speech on the continuous request of the audience. A few lines from his poem are quoted:

They quench the thirst of the thirsty world

At the feet of those who are thirsty, Zam Zam lives

After that, the president of the meeting briefly commented on all the papers and concluded his speech with this poem:

When the traces of the pen are alive in Tilak Dahar

Even after death we will understand that we are alive.

Irfan Naqvi thanked all the learned person, writers, students and other guests and said that if your love continues like this, then this series of Seminar/ Workshop will definitely continue.

