

Study on the reflection of the thoughts and ideas of Rajani Kanta Sen, Composer cum Lyrist and eminent Poet among the future generation and to spread the message to the cultural minded people about the Art and Culture of Bengali Song

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Abstract: Remembering the works of Great Poet cum Composer and Lyrist, Rajani Kanta Sen on the occasion of 155 years of his Birth celebration, a vibrating message is given to the future generation and encourage them to cultivate his thoughts and ideas so that they can prepare themselves to stand in their own foot and to create a congenial cultural atmosphere in future and they will be motivated to involve the next generation in the same way so that a sustainable cultural development can be achieved. This Seminar cum training workshop is also initiated with a noble cause of motivating and guiding the cultural minded participants for starting their own venture in cultural programme which added another feather of achievement to its hat So one day seminar cum training workshop conducted by Swasthya Bhabna Welfare Society and Surangan-Abhijan make the ground work for the trainees with motivation for setting up congenial cultural environment in their vicinity.

Keywords: Rajanikanta- Poet cum Composer and Lyrist, Swasthya Bhabna Welfare Society & Surangan-Abhijan- Registered Society under Govt. Societies Registration Act

Introduction:

Great Poet cum composer and Lyrist Rajanikanta was born in a Vaidya family in the village of Bhangabari, Sirajganj of Pabna district, presently situated at Bangladesh. He was the third child of Guruprasad Sen and Manomohini Debi¹. In 1882 he passed Entrance Examination from Boalia Zilla School. then he came to Calcutta and passed FA in 1885 with second division. He completed BA degree in 1889 and BL degree in 1891 from Kolkata City College². He started practicing law in Rajshahi but his mind was involved in cultural activities like music, literature, acting in plays etc. He got interest in music from his friend cum Teacher Tarakeshwar Chakrabarty. He was fluent in writing poems in Bengali and Sanskrit from childhood. He started composing music for his poems and singing those along with playing musical instruments later. Rajanikanta's poems were published in various local magazines. He used to compose songs for inaugural and closing ceremonies for various assemblies in his college days even in very short notice. One such song is stated below:

'Beneath your feet lies the prosperous and bountiful earth/ Behold the blue sky engraved with countless gems above/ She is like a sweet and graceful angel'³

His trust to God was undoubtedly remarkable. Even after the death of his son, his trust to God was not abolished and was reflected through his poem as: *'You (God) gifted life but filled it with sorrow/You filled our hearts with faith in you/ You gave us eyes and filled them with tear/ You make me perplexed so I cry helplessly'*⁴.

Rajanikanta's songs can be divided into four categories: Devotional, Patriotic, Humanitarian and Satire⁵. . Protesting against the partition of Bengal when the people of Bengal showed their protest by boycotting the British goods and using Swadeshi (Indian) items, he motivated the people by writing a famous song: *'My brothers, please accept the coarse clothing offered by your mother/ As this is all your poor mother(nation) can afford'*⁷. The song was a major source of inspiration for the participants of the contemporary Swadeshi movement as well as for the Indian freedom fighters in the years to come. He wrote another popular song with similar intention: **We are extremely poor, we are extremely small/ Yet we are seventy million brothers, rise up**⁸.

Rabindranath Tagore's Kanika influenced him to compose his poems. He started composing satirical songs being influenced by poet Dwijendralal Ray. Sen's major contribution towards Bengali literature and music was the immortal devotional songs which were written and composed by him. His songs were set to Hindustani classical style, mixing Kirtan, Baul and Tappa. He became well known as Kantakabi and his songs are often

called Kantageeti. This Seminar cum training workshop is also initiated with a noble cause of motivating and guiding the cultural minded participants for starting their own venture in cultural programme so that a vibrating message is given to the future generation and encourage them to cultivate his thoughts and ideas so as to prepare themselves to stand in their own foot and to create a congenial cultural atmosphere in future and to involve the next generation in the same way so that a sustainable cultural development can be achieved.

Methodology:

Swasthya Bhabna Welfare Society and Surangan-Abhijan both are the Regd. Society and had decided to organize the Seminar cum training workshop on the life and activities of Rajanikanta Sen, the Composer cum Lyrist and eminent Poet. No of participants were recruited as 70 and representation were given to students, cultural persons and members of both the organizations. Team of Resource Persons were consisting of Eminent Sangeet Shilpies, NGO representatives and Educative persons. A Brochure was prepared containing the programme schedules, views of Resource persons on different aspects of Rajanikanta. Group discussion and Meeting with the Cultural Organizations of Municipal and Block levels of Serampore Sub Division of Hooghly District was held with a view to form a Organizing Committee and Sub-Committee in a democratic way. Work distributions among the members of Organizing and Sub Committees was made. Invitation of eminent Resource Persons of different Cultural Organizations was done for their views and suggestions and selection of Resource Persons for Short oration on the event day. Felicitation of eminent Cultural Personnel and successful participants according to their merit as selected by the Judges was also performed. Publicity and campaigning programme were organized by the committee members through Street Rallies, mike campaigning, distribution of leaflets and placing Posters and Hoardings at the prominent places of Serampore Sub Division. Invitation was given to all the Headmaster and Headmistress of the Schools and Colleges of Serampore Sub Division, Municipal Chairman and councilors, Gram Pradhan and Panchayat Samiti, B.D.O, of Serampore-Uttarapara Block of Hooghly district, S.D.O., D.M., Zila Sabhapati of Hooghly district, appealing for the interested participants. Organization of Seminars, Training workshop, Discussions among the school students and Cultural organizations were held.

Results & Discussion:

The inaugural session was started on 6th September, 2018 where Eminent singer, Mrs Kumkum Bhattacharyya and many other Resource Persons and educated persons made their presence on that day and delivered a good lectures before the participants and other guests audience. Then a team of Skilled Resource Persons took the sessions of both theoretical and practical sincerely. Students and other participants also got the interest accordingly. They were provided an illustrated good brochure. From the participants, it was revealed that (**Table-1**) out of 70 participants, number of male participants were 30 and female participants were 40. According to their age group classification, 15 belonged within 16-20 years of age, 20 belonged to 21-30 yrs, 20 belonged to 31-40 yrs, 10 belonged to 41-50 yrs and only 5 belonged to the age group above 50 years. According to their educational qualification, 10 participants possessed Post Graduate qualification, 25 belonged to Under Graduate qualification and 35 passed the secondary standard. The resource Persons who were engaged in the seminar were grouped as eminent Singer, Professors of Recognized University, NGO Authority. The students and Resource persons attended the programme according to the schedule and sincere presence was reflected in the Attendance Register. A feedback report was taken from both of them which was recorded in the Reporting Manual. In the feedback report (**Table-II**) 90 per cent of the trainees opined that the information about the training workshop was covered fully whereas the opinion of 10 per cent of the trainees was average coverage. As about the opinion of the participants regarding sequence of topic, 95% of the participants remarked as good and 5% opined as average. Rating of background material of brochure module provided to the participants, 94% of the participants rated as very good, 6% rated as good and no one rated as average or poor standard. Regarding the session timings 95% opined as convenient time and 5% opined as inconvenient time session. Regarding the knowledge, skill, deliberation, attitude and practices 35% rated excellent standard, 60% rated as good standard, 5% rated them as fair standard. During the role play by the Trainees the performances were excellent in 10 % cases and good performances in 90% cases. About the impact of programme in future benefits, 40% of the trainees opined that it would help in a very big way in future, 60 % of the trainees remarked that it would help in a big way in future but no one thought that this type of programme would not help not at all. The participants were very much pleased to know from the discussions of seminar cum training workshop that within a short life span (**Table-III**), Rajanikanta wrote more than 200 songs in compare to other composers and lyrist. They were also astonished to learn that in his composition of songs lot of variations like lyrical and musical (**Table –IV**) variants were present which was as melodious as solacing to our mind and enriched our Bengali songs. After the training session an oral examination in the form of a quiz preparation was taken by a team of Resource Persons and accordingly their Gradation was enumerated. Finally the valedictory session was

conducted by Swasthya Bhabna Welfare Society at Surangan- Abhijan from 4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. which was attended by Professor Samit Kar of Moulana Azad Government College and other eminent personal who at their speeches encouraged the participants, praised their efficiency, bestowed the prizes and certificates and assured all sorts of help if they were interested to be a Research Scholar on this aspect in near future. Some of the successful participants opined that they were enriched with the knowledge and skill provided by the Resource Persons in this seminar cum training workshop and they will try their best to become a successful singer cum scholar.

Conclusion:

This Seminar cum training workshop is also initiated with a noble cause of motivating and guiding the cultural minded participants for starting their own venture in cultural programme which added another feather of achievement to its hat. Most of the participants belong to the nearby places of Serampore. Purposely the batch size is kept in such a way to give individual attention to the candidates. This enabled the Resource persons for adopting interactive sessions. Even this group has varied educational and social background. It included school and college students, fresh graduates, housewives, single ladies and so on. The sharp minds of fresh graduates, the determination of few slow learners and the personal life experiences of family persons collectively flourished the group through the sharing of thoughts and experiences within a short span of time. Through the interaction it came to reveal that, some of them are really interested to start their cultural activities within a very short period. In the allotted sessions, most of the Resource Persons covered the subject very efficiently and eloquently. The participants gave their valued suggestions regarding the future programmes. Remembering the works of Great Poet cum Composer and Lyrist, RajaniKanta Sen on the occasion of 155 years of his Birth celebration, a vibrating message is given to the future generation and encourage them to cultivate his thoughts and ideas so that they can prepare themselves to stand in their own foot and to create a congenial cultural atmosphere in future and they will be motivated to involve the next generation in the same way so that a sustainable cultural development can be achieved.

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Table-I Different categories of participants in EDP Training

According to Sex category	Male 30	Female 40					
Educational category	Secondary standard 35	Undergraduate 25				Post Graduate 10	
Age category	16-20 Yrs 15	21-30 Yrs 20	31-40 Yrs 20	41-50 Yrs 10	50 Yrs+ 5		
Category of Resource Persons	Eminent Singer 4	Professo rs 2	NG O AU TH OR IT Y 2			Tec hnic a 2	Othe rs

Table-II Feed Back Report From Participants Regarding Seminar Cum Workshop Training

Information about the training programme	Full coverage 90%	Average 10%	Not satisfactory 0%	
Opinion of the participants regarding sequence of topic	Good 95%	Average 5%	Inappropriate 0%	
Rating of Faculty members regarding their knowledge, skill, deliberation, attitude, practices etc.	Excellent 35%	Good 60%	Fair 5%	Satisfactory 0%
Rating of background material/brochure module provided to the participants	Very Good 94%	Good 6%	Average 0%	Poor 0%
Opinion regarding session timings	Convenient 95%	5%		
Course	Adequate 100%	Not adequate 0%	Too early 0%	
Motivation training	Very useful 100%	Not useful 0%		
Role played by the Trainees	Excellent 10%	Good 90%	Satisfactory 0%	
Impact of programme in future benefits	In a very big way 40%	In a big way 60%	Not at all 0%	

Table-III No. of Songs written by Great Bengali Composers within their Lifespan

LYRICAL	MUSICAL
Devotional	Kirtan Angik
Patriotic	Classical orientation
Humanitarian	Ramprasad
Satire	Miscellaneous

Table-IV Classification of Songs of Rajanikanta

Name	Birth-Death	Age	No. of Songs written
Rabindra Nath Thakur	1861-1941	80	2332
Dwijendra Lal Roy	1863-1913	50	250
Rajanikanta Sen	1865-1910	45	291
Atulprasad Sen	1871-1934	63	200
Nazrul Islam	1898-1976	78	4500

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Short Profile of Dr. Pradip Kumar Das

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Obtained the Fellowship from International College of Nutrition, The Zoological Association of Burdwan, University of Burdwan, School of Tropical Medicine in HIV/AIDS, Fellowship from Foundation for Science & Environment,

Study works done on Smoking Habit of the people in an Urban City (Calcutta) under Dr. Ashok Chowdhury, Ex Head of Dept. of Medicine. NRSMCH, study paper was read in World Health Conference in Simla in the year 1983. An article on Arsenicosis published in TRENDZ, a Dermatological Journal published by the Indo-Swift Communication Private Limited and also published a Book for Arsenic Pollution in West Bengal., a Book on *Bharater Paribesh Bhabana* was published in collaboration with Dr. Suhas Bhattacharyya.

RAISING ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS AMONG THE CITIZENS IN A MUNICIPAL AREA : A STUDY WORK CONDUCTED BY ME ON BEHALF OF SWASTHYA BHABNA WELFARE SOCIETY was published in OCT 2012 on 15th OCT 2012.The journal is internationally indexed and listed at Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, ProQuest, U.S.A.; E-ISRJC, Philippines; EZB, Germany;

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“Study of adverse events following immunization with universal and newer vaccines the Serampore IMA child clinic over a period of 7 years” was published in Journal of Indian Medical Association in April, 2013 issue.

Organisation of Entrepreneurship Development Programme on behalf of Swasthya Bhabna Welfare Society for facilitating the scope of employment among the unemployed youth was published in the ZENNITH INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF Business Economics and Management Research-----ISSN 2249-8826, ZIJBMER, Vol 4 (6), June ,2014.

Awarded.“Karmaveer” by the Rotary Clubs of Calcutta Mid East for rendering services of the rural people. Awarded Rastrio Samman Puraskar in the year 2010, International Award from Lions Clubs International , 100% President Excellence Award in 2003,. Awarded with Swaraswat Shiromoni Award by The Editors of Little Magazine.

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