

Department of English

REPORT OF WALL MAGAZINE (Session2024-2025)

Type of Activity: Participative Learning

Name of the Activity: Wall Magazine

- Objective of the Event:
 1. To make learning delightful
 2. To encourage students' participation
- Date: 20.05.2025
- Duration of the Event: 8 days
- Number of Participants:12

Venue: Departmental Notice Board, Serampore Girls' College

- Topic: **Her Story: Women Autobiographers of the 19th Century**
- Brief Description: Wall magazine engages the students in developing their academic as well as creative skills. These magazines are prepared by the students of each semester on various topic related to their syllabus.
- Outcome:
 1. The students develop interest in their specific fields
 2. The class rooms and corridors gain a special look.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
WALL MAGAZINE

HER STORY: WOMEN AUTOBIOGRAPHERS OF 19th CENTURY BENGAL



BINODINI DAS (1862-1941) was one of the first actresses in South Asia to write her own autobiography. She wrote *Amar Katha*, and *Amar Avhitrin Jibon*. In both the books she talked about her life, struggling from her childhood to her experiences in the theatre world of colonial Calcutta as an actress. Her contribution as an actress and an entrepreneur and a make-up artist is unforgettable. She is attributed with the creation of an entirely new make-up style that blends both European and Indian.

Binodini Dasi, popularly known as *Neti Binodini*, was a leading stage actress of her time, who started acting at the stage at tender age of 12 and gave it up at 25 (1874-1886) in spite of her enormous popularity and acclaim. She was born in Calcutta in 1874 and lived house No. 145, Cornwallis Street, Calcutta with her grandmother, mother and a younger brother.

During a career spanning twelve years she enacted over eighty roles, which included those of *Hamlet*, *Sita*, *Draupadi*, *Radhika*, *Ayesha*, *Kaushiki*, *Melchior* and *Kapalkundala*, to name a few.

A staunch feminist, her body of her work, as an author contributes to the commentary on the 19th century Bengali society and its treatment of women. She makes bold statements about the hypocrisy towards women and actresses in particular at a time when actresses worked in poor conditions and were considered to be "bad women" for being in the public eye, receiving wages and possessing the mobile that only men had access to.

Binodini Dasi contributed immensely to women's accessibility to public spaces, especially the stage. Making her way through a highly gendered and class and caste conforming society, she made it acceptable for women to be on stage, and play a range of diverse and substantial roles.

RASSUNDARI DEVI (1810-1899) is one of the earliest women writers in Bengali literature. Rassundari Devi was born in East Bengal and was the first Indian woman to write an autobiography, *Akash Jibon* (My Life), her autobiography was published in 1876.

Rassundari Devi was born 1809 in the village of Polajia, in Patna district. Her father Padmalochan Ray died when Rassundari was a raised by her mother and relatives. Formal education was not provided to girls at the time. She used to live near a boys' school run by a missionary woman in her father's house. Rassundari learnt the basics of the Bengali language by listening to the lessons going on at school.

At the age of twelve she married Sitamath Sankar from Ramdia village, Rajbari, Faridpur. She learnt how to read and write in the flickering light of candles at night. She bore twelve children out of whom seven died early. Her husband died in 1868. Her son Kishori Lal Sankar became an advocate at Calcutta High Court and is the author of several noteworthy works.

Rassundari Devi challenged the gender norms of her times by dreaming of what was deemed wrong. She passionately chased her dream of learning to read and write her moving life story. She set a benchmark of what a woman can achieve if she has the courage to break the norms of the society. Through her moving life story, she becomes an inspiration for many women.



Techeta Akuli, Anmika Patra, Shreyas Ramanik
Sem - XI

THE STUDENTS WITH THEIR WALL MAGAZINE

