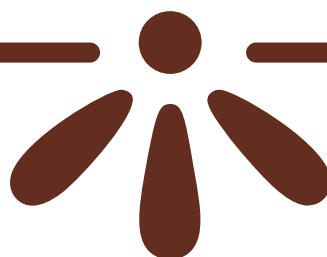

BEACON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

LADY SHRIRAM COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, NEW DELHI



EDITORIAL

As the obscurity of the situation intensifies and the fabric of social relations continues to be stained by an indeterminate hue of uncertainty, we learn the importance of analyzing the social reality and realize the validity of social sciences. With every passing day, there is some form of revelation of the unsettling and wobbling truth with abundant traces of bigotry and injustice. While the pandemic was anticipated by many to act as an enabler self and collective reflection, the oppressors and the facilitators of oppression tossed the potentially strengthening sentiments of togetherness.

The severe situation of the pandemic invokes a feeling of helplessness and the violence imposed on the marginalized invokes outrage, whilst also highlighting the ignorance of many. We must continue to reflect and amplify voices, using resources and platforms to spread awareness for those who were never even benefited in the pre-COVID world, it's important to understand another angle to the anguishing yearning to get out of the "new normal" and return to "old normal". However, our "old normal" has proven to be historically weighed with atrocities and violence based on caste, religion, gender, sexuality, ability, class, and more, for those who fall in the lesser or under privileged side of the civilization. The "old normal" is what permitted sheer lack of organization and monetary help and dangerously alarming employment and the slowdown of our national economy. The "new, post-COVID normal" must be built to create an inclusive, amicable world where dissent takes place without dismay engendered by those in power. Facing reality, where the pandemic has made us come in touch with the imposter residing within us that only we tend to recognize; the problem of irrational and self-defeating thinking, which is also influenced by one's social strata. This feeling of persistent and internalized fear and judgment of oneself as a fraud in terms of what one has achieved is a seemingly individualistic concern tangled with the nature of social and environmental frame we are placed, rather tied in.

There shall always be discourse, there shall always be rage, there shall always be hope to meet a healthier and propitious society. Or at least let our whims of achieving so make us a perennial participant of this conversation. With this, we bring to you another edition of Beacon.

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NATIONAL NEWS

COVID-19 cases in India cross 67L-mark, recoveries surpass 57L

The number of coronavirus cases in India has reached 67,57,131 as 72,049 people tested positive in the last 24 hours, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The coronavirus death toll in the country has risen to 1,04,555, while 57,44,693 coronavirus patients have been discharged. Out of the total cases, 9,07,883 are active.



NCERT textbooks to be made available in Indian sign language: Govt

Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) and NCERT will sign an MoU on Wednesday for converting educational materials into Indian sign language for the benefit of deaf students, the Central Government said on Tuesday. NCERT textbooks of all subjects for classes 1 to 12 in both Hindi and English medium will be converted into sign language in digital format.



Market opened up to farmers, MSP will not be withdrawn: Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that before bringing in the new farm laws, the government had held discussions with the farmers; bodies across the country. She said the minimum support price (MSP) will continue and will not be withdrawn. She added that the farm laws have opened up market access to the farmers, giving them more chances and choices.

UP CM gives SIT 10 more days to submit report in Hathras case

The Special Investigation Team, which is probing the Hathras incident, has been given 10 more days by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath to submit its findings in the case, said Awanish K Awasthi, State Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department. The SIT was supposed to submit its report on Wednesday. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh government suspended Hathras SP, DSP, and other officials.

Dabbawalas, consulates staff allowed to travel in local trains

Mumbai's dabbawalas and staff of foreign consulates and high commissions have been allowed to travel in local trains, officials said on Wednesday. The trains were earlier being run only for essential services staff. Mumbai Dabbawala Association's spokesperson Subhash Talekar expressed happiness on the decision but was skeptical about resumption of services in full capacity amid COVID-19 pandemic.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Deaths at detention centre for Ethiopians in Saudi Arabia

Amnesty International reports 3 deaths in detention centres housing thousands of Ethiopian migrants in Saudi Arabia, where they were facing extreme cruelty. They were detained from Yemen as they were forced out by Houthi rebels and are now facing brutal treatment including being chained together and using their cell floors as toilets. The detainees report sharing cells with 350 people. The Ethiopian government has been urged to urgently facilitate the repatriation of their citizens while Saudi Arabian authorities are being urged to improve the conditions of detention centres in the meantime.

Armenia ready to discuss cease-fire

Armenia ready to discuss a cease-fire in region of Nagorno-Karabakh. This region has been facing heavy dispute between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces, where this week dozens have lost their lives and many have been left wounded. Cease fire calls have come from around the globe. The Armenian Foreign Ministry said that the country is ready to engage with the leaders of Russia, France and the United States — co-chairs of the so-called Minsk Group, which was set up by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1992 to resolve the conflict, in order to re-establish a cease-fire regime.



France announces ban of wild animals in circuses

France's environment ministry announces that there will be gradual ban of wild animals like bears, lions, tigers, and elephants in traveling circuses, on keeping dolphins and whales in captivity in marine parks and on raising minks for fur. It was also announced that three of marine parks will no longer be able to bring or breed dolphins and killer whales, starting now. However, no ban has been applied to wild animals in permanent shows and in zoos as of now. There is no specific date assigned to this ban but it was announced that the process should ideally start as soon as possible.

Corona virus second wave in europe

Europe is currently seeing a fresh spike in COVID-19 cases after decelerating the outbreaks earlier this year. Countries such as Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Montenegro, and North Macedonia are seeing more number of cases than the first wave of the pandemic. This could also be the result of increase in the volume of tests. Countries such as France, the UK, Poland, the Netherlands and Spain have started taking actions in order to curb the intensity of the second wave.



BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC NEWS

Farmers Paid Rs. 1,000 Crore For Procurement Of Paddy On MSP

On Sunday, the central government claimed to disburse Rs. 1,000 crore to 41,084 farmers. This was done for the procurement of paddy on the Minimum Support Price (MSP), and as per the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the procurement of paddy for 2020 to 2021 has already been initiated across the states that are procuring it. This was witnessed in a press release. In the total outflow of MSP, "As on October 3, 2020, cumulative procurement of Paddy in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2020-2021 is 5,73,339 MT. The total number of farmers benefited are 41,084..." said the report. The seed cotton procurement, i.e. of Kapas during KMS 2020-2021 has started from October 1, 2020. Moreover, the Cotton Corporation of India is said to have procured a cumulative quantity of "147 bales under MSP for a value of Rs. 40.80 lakh benefiting 29 farmers," as on October 3, 2020 according to the report.

42nd GST Council Meeting Begins In India

Headed by Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, the 42nd goods and services tax (GST) council meeting has been approved of expansion with respect to the GST compensation levy beyond 2022. According to sources, the levy will be reviewed and a decision will be taken on grounds of the review from time to time. This will go up until 2024. The decision for the GST levy was taken in one of the Centre's proposals to meet the shortcomings in GST compensation. Moreover, for the purpose of faster disbursement of funds, the central government has proposed the special borrowing window. As per the Former Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, "The outcome of the GST Council meeting today will be a test for the central government's adherence to law and to its promises." With borrowing options, the GST Council has worked on consensus among all stakeholders since inception, and many sources say that they are yet to arrive at a consensus to facilitate the procedural process.

Government Investment Proposals Are The Lowest In A Period Of 16 Years

The investment proposals made by the central and the state governments of Rs. 25,800 crore are observed as the lowest in many quarters in the past 16 years, since June 2002. As a result of the nationwide lockdown, many entrepreneurs have taken a backseat and nearly 55% of the new investments in September 2020 quarter are from the manufacturing sector, wherein, the chemicals industry has witnessed a surge. 44% of the new investments are by government agencies, while the rest are by the private sector. New investment proposals are not expected to cross Rs. 5 lakh crore this year, according to the CMIE. The government has not shown any proclivities to enlarge capacity-building investments in 2020.

COVID-19 Vaccine Could Lift The Global Economy

According to The Wall Street Journal, the deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine in the year 2021, could enhance the prospects of the global economy. The public health officials have stated that in the upcoming stages of testing, vaccines will soon be available, which according to the economics could boost forecasting. As per the researchers associated with the Center for Global Development, it has been estimated that only 50% probability could ensue with the vaccine's safety and effectivity by April 2021, and manufacturing challenges may face deliberations up till September 2023.

Indian Exports Witnesses A Change In Trend Against A 6-Month Losing Streak

After witnessing a contraction in over a period of 6 months, India's exports grew by 5.27% to \$27.4 billion in September, according to the Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal. This has been observed as an indicator of the "rapid recovery" of Indian economy, regardless of the COVID-19's role to play in it. While earlier, petroleum, leather, gems and jewelry has witnessed a falling trend in their sectors, there has been a surge in the numbers of exports as reported by the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI). As the anti-China sentiment has risen, according to President Sharad Kumar, Federation of Indian Exports Organisation (FIEO), "...a lot of orders have come."



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Fashion Faux pas: Misuse of tribe's apparel by Designer Ritu Beri

Ritu Beri and the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs) are being sued by the Chakhesang Women Welfare Society (CWWS) for causing damage to their culture by misrepresenting the GI registered Chakhesang shawls at a fashion show ("Naturally North East: The Naga Narrative") held at the Surajkund Crafts Mela on 7 February. The shawls called Rira are worn by men and Rura worn by women were worn by the wrong gender. These Shawls are peculiar to the Chakhesang Nagas and are a symbol of distinguished achievement and depict their ethics. While the show generated employment to local Craftspersons of Nagaland, Fashion brands often do not undertake sufficient research or appreciation of culture, negating the efforts of a community trying to preserve their culture.

Livelihood for Kannadiga theatre Artists

Owing to the Pandemic, as no live performances are taking place, many artists and their affiliated technicians have not been able to earn a livelihood. The Bangalore based theatre group Sanchaya raised one Lakh rupees and were able to support 33 senior artists. They have also created a platform, the Sanchaya Cares Organization where certain plays will be recorded and put online to give them greater visibility around the globe. The theatre community has supported them by providing a free auditorium and lighting experts and videographers have charged a lower fee. Five plays were launched on 2 nd October at the Filmmakers United Cub.

Remembering SP Balasubramaniyam

SP Balasubramaniyam a renowned playback singer, actor and music director passed away on 25 th September after testing positive and then remaining in poor health. He sung over 40,000 songs in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam in a span of over 50 years. His voice echoes beyond southern India. His father was an harikatha artist, the tradition of narrating songs and stories about the gods but he never trained in classical singing. He made his debut with movie "Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna" and The song "Emi E Vintha Moham" and he gained popularity in Tamil Cinema thereafter. Balasubrahmanyam adapted his voice to the changing landscape of Tamil cinema as well as to the personalities of the actors on whom the songs were filmed. He also made his position in Hindi cinema with, "Tere Mere Beech Mein", from K Balachander's "Ek Dujhe Ke Liye"

Uninhibited in a Saree, #SareeFlow goes viral

Eshna Kutty, a flow movement artist and hooper went viral with her #sareeflow dance video. Her attempt was to challenge notions of femininity and "encourage women to embrace the traditional nine-yards and not view it as to complicated or the pressure of being a delicate lady". There are certain expectations that come with wearing a sari or any "feminine" fashion which can be inhibiting. There is politics behind whether a woman has complete control and autonomy over what she wears, how she wears it and when she wears as it is policed by patriarchy. Clothing for women has and is being designed in a manner that hinder their ability work. This viral video aims to challenge that view.

Prime and Netflix contribute to 2020 Emmy Nominees

The 2020 International Emmy awards released its list of nominations. Arjun Mathur of Made in heaven has been listed in the Best actor category. This series unveils the patriarchy that hold the seemingly progressive upper class of India. Delhi Crime, based on the 2012 Nirbhaya rape case and police procedure behind it is nominated in the Best Drama series and Four more shots, a story of the struggles, flaws and successes of 4 friends that received a mixed response is seen in the Best Comedy series. Last year Sacred games and lust stories were nominated. The winners will be declared on 23 rd November.



SPORTS NEWS



IPL 2020, CSK VS SRH: Highlights of the match

IPL 2020 match, Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Chennai Super Kings by 7 runs; SRH managed to win by a partnership between Abhishek Sharma (31 runs) and Priyam Garg (51) and they posted 164/5 in 20 overs. CSK'S MS Dhoni scored 47 runs off 36 balls and Ravindra Jadeja who scored a 35 ball 50. The two of them managed to make a late comeback for CSK however, they fell short by 7 runs leading to the third defeat of the team in the season.

Ludiana : Foundation stones for 13 rural parks laid on Gandhi Jayanti

The Punjab Minister, Bharat Bhushan Ashu on 2nd October 2020, through an online ceremony, laid foundation stones for 13 sports parks in the district; the state government is building these parks to encourage and facilitate the rural youth. The chief minister, Captain Amarinder Singh has also laid the foundation stone for 150 rural parks to be constructed within the state. Regarding the district-based project in Ludhiana, the parks are to be open to the public in the next six months with each block having five complexes.

Fit Telangana Run held in Hyderabad

Sports Minister, V Srinivas Goud, SATS chairman, A Venkateshwar Reddy, and others took part in the Fit Telangana Run which is part of the Fit India Run initiative on 2nd October 2020. The aim was to promote wellness across the citizens of the state and encourage fitness; the State is also in the process of constructing stadiums in all the 119 assembly constituencies.

Optimisation of training in sports

The Indian Olympian swimmer, Shikha Tandon is currently the director of the US-based organization-Silicon Valley exercise analytics which works on the role of data and technology in improving athletes' performance. Shikha Tandon has conducted work in this area and believes that optimization is necessary to make the efforts of athletes as effective as possible irrespective of the length and intensity of the training period. According to Tandon, optimization works better with individualist training regimens for athletes which is now possible with technology that enables the collection of data- the athletes nutrient intake, profile, training load, and recovery load. With these statistics, a coach can come up with an optimal training plan that works best for the athlete.

COGITO ERGO SUM

Janet Abu Lughod

Janet Abu Lughod was a path-breaking sociologist and urbanist who has made great contributions in the sociology field; as a thinker, activist, and researcher. Abu-Lughod through her works has enabled generations of students to pick up new approaches for critical inquiry and such an approach is specifically seen in her work on modern world systems.

Early Life

Abu-Lughod was born in 1928 and raised in New Jersey; she obtained graduate degrees from the University of Chicago and the University of Massachusetts Amherst respectively. She was greatly interested in the field of urbanization after reading the works of Lewis Mumford. Janet Abu-Lughod died at the age of 85 in 2013.



Career and Contributions

Her career in teaching began at the University of Illinois after which she has taught and headed urban studies programs in many universities such as Northwestern University along with various esteemed positions in the American University of Cairo, Smith University, New School for Social Research, etc.

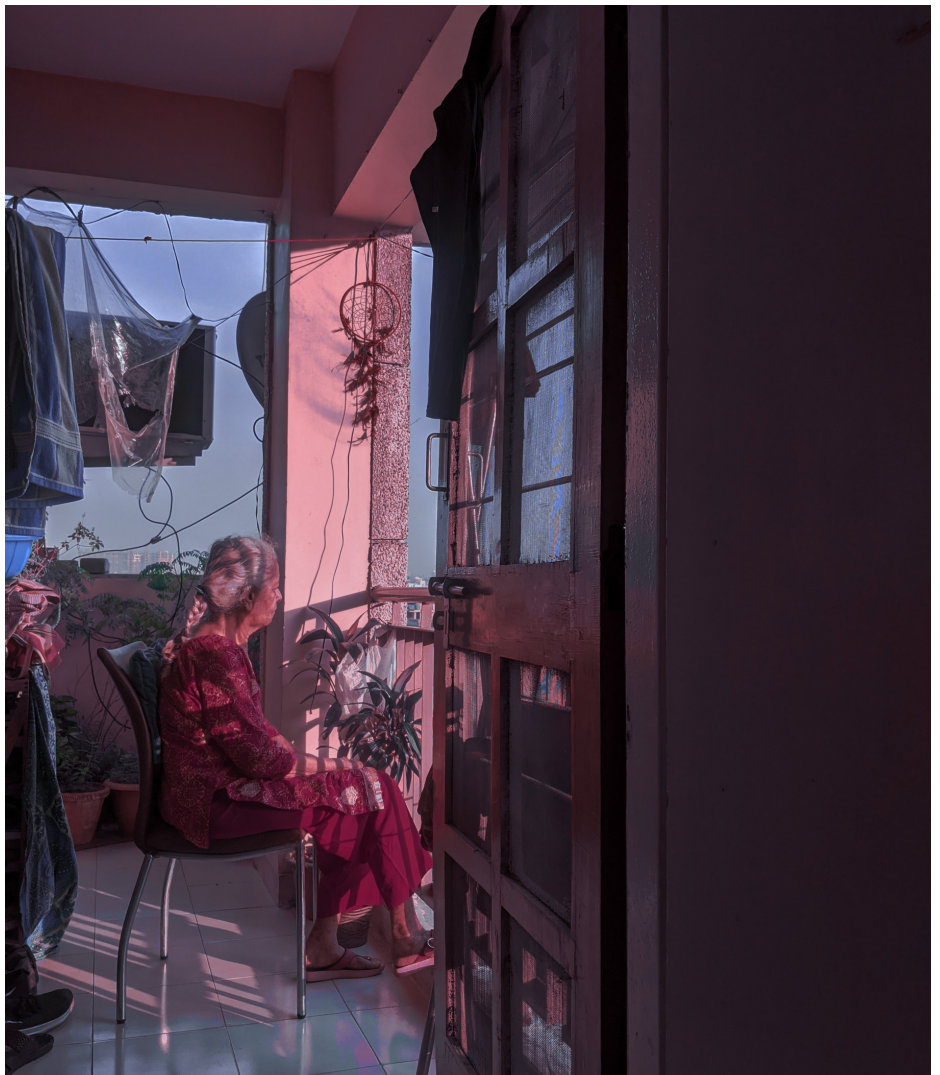
Abu-Lughod belonged to the generation of women who faced several battles in their work-life in particular and she along with a few other women established the Organization of Women Faculty at Northwestern University. The studies conducted by this organization revealed the gender disparities that the administration was facing. In the course of her career, she has published 13 books and over a hundred articles, which deal with several topics under urban sociology.

One of her most significant contributions has been to the world- systems research which revealed the eurocentrism present in the previous studies conduct; Abu-Lughod's work on Cairo titled 'Cairo:1001 years of the victorious' is a classic and an important contribution to the anti-European scholarship. In 1976, Janet Abu-Lughod received the Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship for Sociology and throughout her career, she has been awarded several fellowships and grants due to her contributions in urban sociology, urban planning, demography, and so on. Some of her important works include her studies on Palestine and its demography which continue to be relevant today and her work titled 'Before European Hegemony: The world system AD 1250-1300'. She has also published works on American cities titled 'American Global cities and race, space, and riots in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles'

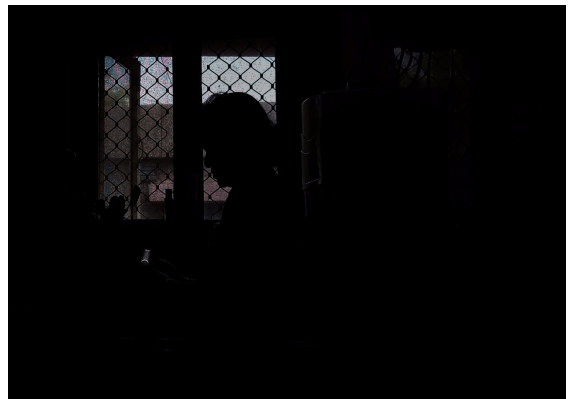
WOMEN IN SPACES



WOMEN IN SPACES



WOMEN IN SPACES





VOX POPULI

Unschooling Patriarchy- The Relationship between Indian Classrooms and Gender

A classroom is a space for learning, but apart from learning math, physics, art – do we also learn something else? Yes. We learn patriarchy. As Judith Butler, the famous writer of 'Gender Trouble' has said that masculine and feminine is not something fixed, its socially constructed. Through gender-based stereotyping, problematic syllabi, and implicit norms, we imbibe gender. Its safe for me to say that the institution of patriarchy is thriving today because of our faulty educational institutions. In this article, I will be exploring three P's of Patriarchy- Privilege, Power, and Purity, drawing from my personal experiences at school.

Gender Bender? – Stereotypes And Privileges In Classroom Settings

It all begins in your eight forty five class, when the teacher enters and says "Good morning boys and girls". This simple greeting is loaded with a heteronormative bias. When a teacher calls on the boys of their class to move furniture and a girl to prepare a dance for an assembly, that's where stereotyping starts. It's that simple. This minor detail is important because it gives us an idea of how cognitive structures develop. Earlier in school, I would be forced to think that boys are stronger than girls in the physical sense because of such incidents. That's not all. Teachers often use gender as an important label to differentiate between and organise students. An implicit stratification takes place in classrooms when boys are told to sit with girls and vice versa as a punishment.

It is taken for granted that boys don't want to befriend girls and vice versa. This creates an implicit division which then leads to the formation of homogenous groups. Having limited interaction with the other gender, we can't defeat the stereotypes given to us by the world. We also lose out on understanding appropriate modes of behaviour (by appropriate I mean, making sure you don't make someone uncomfortable). Implicit To Explicit Patriarchy: From Privilege To Power Boys often end up commanding power in society as a result of what happens in educational institutes. Firstly, the example of how it's assumed that a male will be physically stronger than a female ends up reinforcing the idea amongst males that they have the edge over my female counterparts and can exercise dominion over them.

VOX POPULI

Secondly, since girls aren't allowed to stay back in school for functions or practices because a parent is more likely to allow a boy to come back late than a female. This takes away the myriads of opportunities they might have had if they were allowed to stay a little later at school, their office etc. Power then is accumulated because of these opportunities. Thus, who is more likely to go for competitions, get better posts, participate in functions, get a pay raise? Men. Spaces like the office, schools, public transport are made unsafe for women and girls on account of sexual harassment. Fathers and brothers tell the girls that it's risky to stay there, and then these spaces and opportunities get taken over by men themselves. Hence, the cycle of patriarchy rides on. Another arena where gender differentiation takes place is the PT period or even the lunch break. It's common to see girls flocking to the canteen, while the playground is a space dominated by boys. This happens because young women are exposed to "ideal" beauty standards from a very young age. The idea of "feminine beauty" dissociates itself from all things "masculine". They are told to cut your hair short, or hang around in the sun for too long is ugly and unladylike. Thus they resort to staying in during breaks conforming to the ideal standards laid out for them. The ideas of femininity are used to control girls from doing things that are considered "masculine", disabling them from achieving power.

Men, too, are disallowed to partake in anything outside of "masculinity".

Applying nail paint, growing out their hair over a certain length, or even participating in the Home management club is looked down upon by their peers. Boys are often told to "man-up" when they complain about bullying to their teachers.





VOX POPULI

Learning Patriarchy Through Textbooks (Or The Lack Of Them)

In a country like India, where textbooks occupy a central place in classrooms, we must write them more inclusively and sensitively. A recent study by the American Economics Association found out that women are underrepresented in economics textbooks. Three-quarters of the people mentioned in the textbooks are males: real and imagined. It's also important to notice that when these textbooks do end up mentioning women, they are usually passive and are doing secondary tasks unrelated to economics, while men perform the more active part. Often since women don't find models in these textbooks, they are uninspired to get into subjects which are seen as male-dominated. Many times, the language used in these textbooks is also sexist. The problem with sexist language is that if sexism is a disease, sexist language is both its symptom and the cause of the disease. This kind of language includes words that are exclusionary. You automatically associate the word chairman to a male head, despite the fact that chairmen can also be women. Using "man" to mean people causes a lot of confusion and ambiguity.


Sex Education is also absent as a proper course in all schools in India. Sex ed will be a monumental step towards gender equality since it will enable people to dispel notions of purity with regards to menstruation, virginity and sexual intercourse. Schools are imperative contexts for socialization; we learn our attitudes and behaviours in the school itself. Unfortunately, teachers receive very little training in firstly recognizing their own unconscious biases and secondly in combating them. Despite the suggestions of the NEP, we still have a long way to go. We need massive efforts from civil society and organizations like Pravah and Unlearn that work on gender to help make more inclusive curricula, train teachers, and do workshops with students.

Going from a co-ed school to an all-girls college, I had to unlearn a few things myself. LSR (Lady Shri Ram College) was a totally different egalitarian space. "Come on girls, let's pick up that sofa," said my sociology teacher while we were gearing up for a function, and at that moment, I had power, a kind of power I had never known before.



AVANT GARDE

Draupadi is a short story written by Mahasveta Devi and translated from Bengali into English by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. Devi was born to an upper-class family of social workers and intellectuals. She has closely worked with landless peasants, Sabras, Santhals, Mundas, and other tribes of eastern India. Her political writings bring out the dialogue between the subaltern or whom Spivak calls the "fourth world" with the power structure from which they seemed to be completely removed. Her writings incorporate regional struggles, their dialects and intersectional issues of caste, class, tribe and gender. Spivak in her Forward, understanding the shortcomings of translated works successfully translates the Gendered Subaltern through Dopdi. The anthologised story removes Mahabharata's Draupadi and reconstructs a demythicised tribal Dopdi Mejhen who is an active agent in the nation's cultural and political discourse during the 1970s local Naxalite Movement. Dopdi and Dulna are on the run from the Special Forces as they are on the target list of Operation Bakuli for killing an upper-caste wealthy landlord, Surja Sahu and his son for taking over the water source during drought and refusing access to the tribals. As fugitives, they live and work anonymously under different landowners. Senanayak, described as "an elderly Bengali specialist in combat and extreme-left politics" is the director of this manhunt who believes to destroy the enemy, it is important to become one. Dulna, however, falls victim to Senanayak's cunning methods and was countered while drinking water. Dopdi initially eluded Senanayak by living in disguise. Alluding to the Cheerharan of Draupadi in the Hindu epic, Dopdi is gang-raped in police custody. However, she takes control of the narrative and challenges the "manhood" of Senanayak by refusing to be clothed. "What's the use of clothes?. You can strip me but how can you clothe me again?".



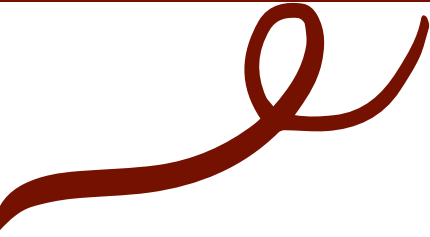
AVANT GARDE

Devi presents a graphic image, describing Dopdi's naked "black body" "mangled breast," thigh and pubic hair matted with blood" and "dry bleeding vagina" The sight make the reader and Senanayak uncomfortable and successfully dethrones him. Earlier the men did not hesitate to "make her" (rape) but seeing Dopdi clothed in nothing but her bare and crude female sexuality (by her own consent) who refuses to acknowledge her dishonour showcases her resistance. The patriarchal construct of a woman's modesty, morality, and purity are put under the scanner as she refuses to act predictably. Senanayak is described by Spivak as a first world scholar who claims proximation to the thinking of the third world by mastering army handbooks and other western perceptions of the subaltern. Thus, his knowledge is limited to theory and he becomes complicit in reinforcing the exploitative society that he believes to be a part of. Senanayak and his army represent the state which continues to uphold the hegemonic patriarchal structure that unclothes a woman's dignity every day. It manifests as cases of open rape threats, questioning of a woman's morals, the state and its arms (such as the police and army) granted impunity and shielded from prosecution for sexual assaults they commit through legal, cultural, economic and political mechanisms. The story also invokes numerous cases of rapes, both heard and unheard, committed against women across caste, class and tribe. Mahasveta Devi's Draupadi is subalternized at least twice. Once by her identity as a Tribal activist in the Naxalite movement and then as a woman. But she ceases to be the voiceless when she challenges the State power embodied by Senanayak to "counter" her. Draupadi in Mahabharat shows how the female body is controlled so as to be maintained as an obedient object of desire. This is evident when she is traded like other properties of Pandavas in the game of dice and when she invokes Krishna to protect her being unclothed completely and. Dopdi aims to retell this male-dominated legacy of Draupadi by presenting Draupadi as an agent of control.





LIBERUM VERBA



मन की पुकार

सात घंटों की **online classes** के उपरांत,
जब हो जाते हैं कुछ-कुछ परेशान,
तो सोचने पे हो जाते हैं विवश,
ज्ञान तो मिल रहा है धारा प्रवाह,
पर क्या कुछ आ रहा है समझ?

सुबह साढ़े-आठ बजे से होती है तैयारी,
अपने कमरे को **classroom** में,
करना है तब्दील, यह तो बेबसी है हमारी।

एक चेहरा जो सदैव दिखता है **screen** पे,
वो है हमारे **professors** का,
हम तो छुप सकते हैं **video** के पीछे,
पर समझते हैं उनकी मजबूरी,
उन्हें चेहरा दिखाना है ज़रूरी!

आश्वासित करना चाहते हैं हम आप सबको आज,
आँखें चाहे बंद हो,
पर जानते हैं बनेंगे तभी काज,
जब कान और मानस पटल होंगे सतर्क,
तभी जान पाएँगे,
समाज विज्ञान के तर्क-वितर्क।



LIBERUM VERBA



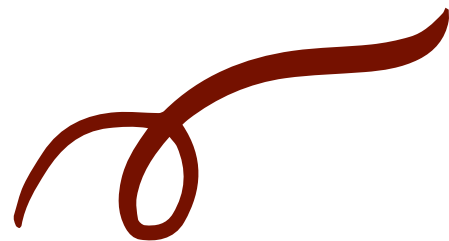
अवसर मिला है आपको बताने का,
इस विषय, माने समाज विज्ञान ने,
पिछले एक-डेढ़ साल में,
सामाजिक चिंतन करना सिखलाया,
जीवन की विषमताओं को आत्मसात करना बतलाया।

पर हम श्रेय केवल विषय को कैसे दे सकते हैं?
आखिर खून और पसीना तो आप लोगों ने ही बहाया!

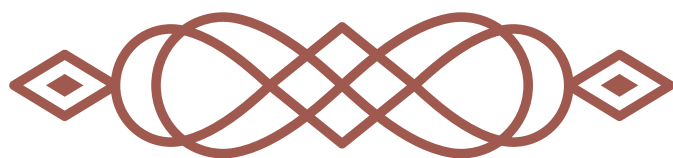
चाहे ठंडी जनवरी की गरम राजनीतिक गतिविधियाँ रही,
या फिर राम भगवान के जन्म-स्थान की चहलकदमियाँ ही सही,
दिल्ली में हुए चुनाव,
या फिर महामारी में बदले हुए स्वभाव,
यह सब समझने की क्षमता आप लोगों से ही मिली,
धीरे-धीरे करके,
सामाजिक-चिंतन, और मनन की विधि खुली।

आप ही की ज्ञान-संरचनाओं ने,
सामाज विज्ञान को बनाया इतना सजीव, इतना जीवंत, की,
ज्ञान सागर में डूब ही गए थे हम,
पर अचानक यह क्या हुआ!
क्या **college** में रह कर भी,
College life का हो गया है अंत?

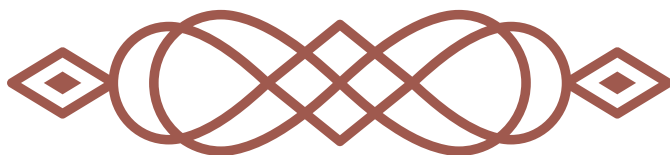
आखिर में एक बार फिर कहना चाहते हैं,
बुरा ना मानिए **professors**,
आँखे सच में थक जाति हैं,
और **video** बंद करने पर ही हमें साँस आती है!



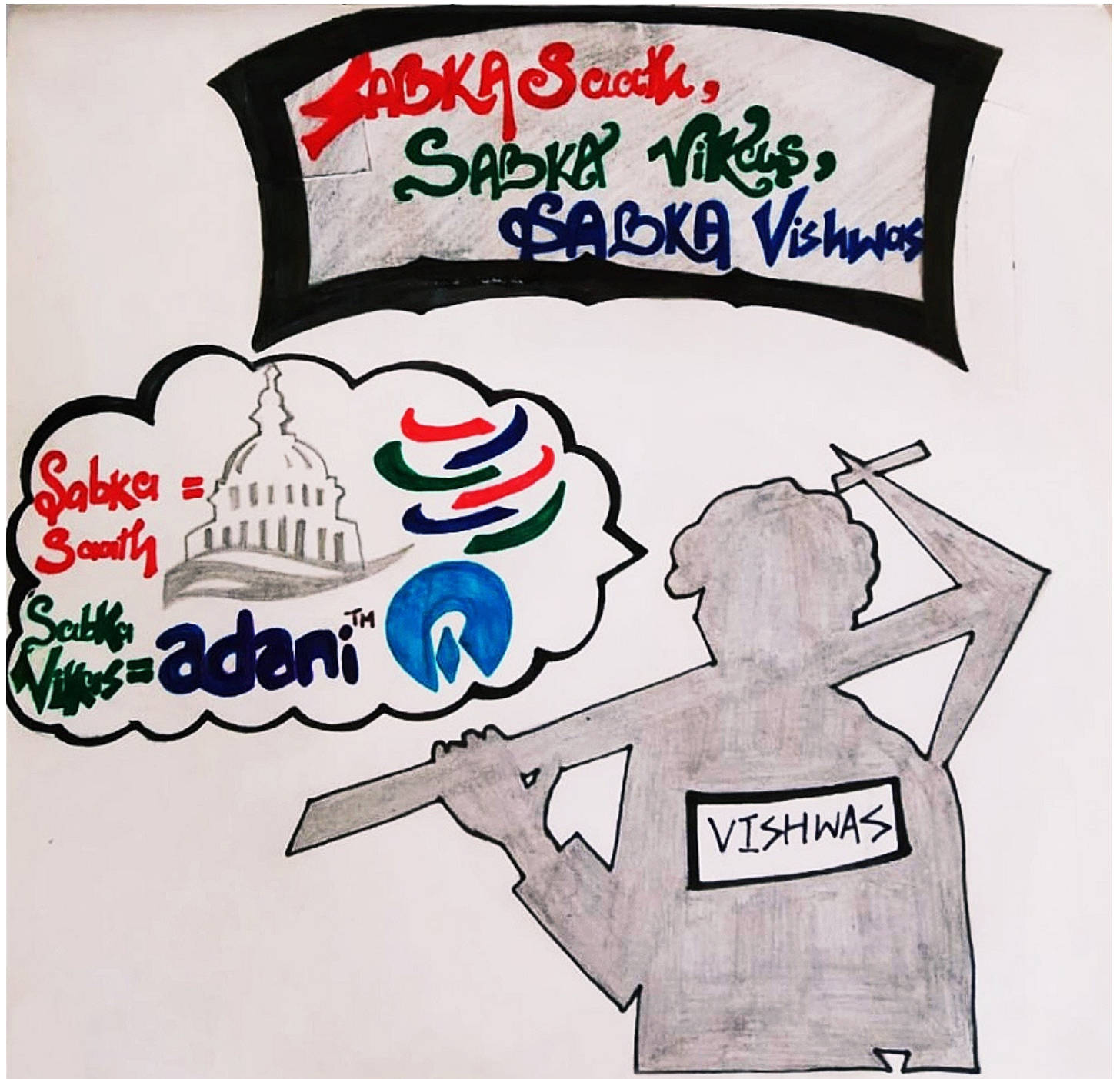
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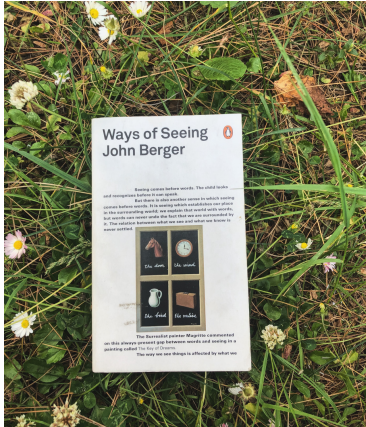
I Have a Seat in the Abandoned Theater

By Mahmoud Darwish
Translated by Fady Joudah

I have a seat in the abandoned theatre
in Beirut. I might forget, and I might recall
the final act without longing ... not because of anything
other than that the play was not written
skilfully
Chaos
as in the war days of those in despair, and an autobiography
of the spectators' impulse. The actors were tearing up their scripts
and searching for the author among us, we the witnesses
sitting in our seats
I tell my neighbour the artist: Don't draw your weapon,
and wait, unless you're the author!
—No
Then he asks me: And you are you the author?
—No
So we sit scared. I say: Be a neutral
hero to escape from an obvious fate
He says: No hero dies revered in the second
scene. I will wait for the rest. Maybe I would
revise one of the acts. And maybe I would mend
what the iron has done to my brothers
So I say: It is you then?
He responds: You and I are two masked authors
and two masked
witnesses
I say: How is this my concern? I'm a spectator
He says: No spectators at chasm's door ... and no
one is neutral here. And you must choose
your part in the end
So I say: I'm missing the beginning, what's the beginning?

Palestinian Mahmoud Darwish was born in al-Birwa in Galilee, a village that was occupied and later razed by the Israeli army. Because they had missed the official Israeli census, Darwish and his family were considered "internal refugees" or "present-absent aliens." Darwish lived for many years in exile in Beirut and Paris. In the 1960s Darwish was imprisoned for reciting poetry and traveling between villages without a permit. Considered a "resistance poet," he was placed under house arrest when his poem "Identity Card" was turned into a protest song. Mahmoud Darwish's early work of the 1960s and 1970s reflects his unhappiness with the occupation of his native land.

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