



## Report on Periodical Lecture -2020

Professor Raghunath Ghosh, Ex-Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of North Bengal and presently Senior Fellow, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, has delivered two lectures on 'Critical Thinking and Philosophizing' in Maynaguri College on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 with the financial assistance of Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi. At the outset Prof. Susmita Pandit, Teacher-in-Charge, Maynaguri College, has delivered her welcome address after due felicitation of the guests and a brief introduction of Professor Ghosh has given by Dr. Purnima Das, Head of the Department of Philosophy. The lecture was attended by large number of students and teachers of the

college. Most of them have raised many interesting questions and philosophical problems which have made the lectures more lively.

Professor Raghunath Ghosh has discussed on "Critical Thinking and Philosophizing" with special reference to Nyaya Philosophy, Advaita Vedanta, Upanisad, Manusamhita, Srimadbhagavadgita etc. and shown how these critical thinking can be applied in our life and day to day life and society. He has referred to the modern Indian thinkers like Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo, Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda by way of justifying relevance of Indian thinkers concepts in the present day society. He actually has concentrated to the Rational and Ethical philosophy of the *Bhagavadgītā* is centered around the assimilation of diverse value and it can provide a harmonized ethical view of life and hence it may be called *Jīvangītā* (song of life) which is proposed to be highlighted here. It rejects the extreme conditions of life. It does not accept the hedonistic attitude for the attainment of pleasure. The world of sense and sensibility is recognized by the *Gītā*. It brings harmony between reason and passion after solving the conflict. The justice can be done to others if such synthesis of values is done. Those who are engaged in doing welfare of others and of themselves are called the *Dhārmikas*. It has been stated in the *Bhagavadgita* that self exists in all beings and all beings are in self (*Sarvabhūtasthamō ātmānamō sarvabhūtānicātmani*). All the good qualities that are essential for the justice are originated from this notion of self. The qualities which make a man's life fruitful are called *Sadgunas* (moral virtues). In the *Mahābhārata* it is stated that all these virtues are to be obtained for the development of complete harmony. The forgiveness (*ksamā*), steadiness, non-violence, equality, truth, non-miserliness (*akārpanya*), shame (*hrī*) etc. are included in the *Sadgunas* i.e. moral virtues. Due to the inclusion of *akārpanya* in the list it is said that, if somebody thinks of his own interest, this is due to his narrowness called miserliness (*kārpanya*) which is not at all treated as a good quality. For, *kārpanya* indicates the lack of sacrifice (*tyāga*) in an individual. If sacrifice does not find room in a society, there will be conflict, malice, hatred, violence etc. leading to the society into astray. That is why; this selfishness or miserliness is described as a defect which counters the noble human nature (*kārpanyadoṣopahatasvabhāvaḥ*). The performance of sacrifice is the only way to prosper as pointed out by the Divine Teacher. A man can have all the desired objects through sacrifice, just as a man gets whatever he needs from a mythological cow (*kāmadhuk*). In this context the term 'prosper' (*prasavidhvamō*) can be interpreted as both this-worldly and other-worldly prosperity.

His lectures were so interesting the teachers and students could not resist their temptation to raise questions and clarifications, which proves the lucidity in presentation and depth of the subject of the speaker. The undergraduate students overwhelmed with the beauty of philosophical thought embedded in the lectures of Prof. Ghosh of the University of North Bengal. It is very much worth-mentioning that teachers from other departments like English, Bengali, History, Sanskrit etc, teachers from the neighbouring colleges and librarians of our college and other colleges attended the lectures and took part in discussion.



**Report on National Webinar of Philosophy Department (4<sup>th</sup> September, 2020)**