

REPORT
ACADEMIC EXTENSION LECTURE ON 'CASTE IN INDIA':
2018-2019

The Department of Sociology, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan organized an academic extension lecture on 'Caste in India' on 9th March 2019 at 12 pm in Seminar Hall, Academic Building, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan. Dr. Antara Ray, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Presidency University, Kolkata was our esteemed speaker for the day. All the Departmental students attended the lecture.

Dr. Antara Ray's lecture at the Department of Sociology, St. Xavier's College Burdwan focussed mainly on the challenges to understand caste in Indian society despite of having so much of literature on it. As the audience of the lecture were undergraduate students of the department, Prof. Ray first tried to problematise the concept and term 'caste' and then attempted to understand the indigenous concepts like "jati" and "varna" and the inherent opposition between the two and thereby tried to look into the late colonial period when the caste discourse took a definite shape. Furthermore, the lecture will also focussed on the presence of diverse forms of literature on Caste that has dominated the Indian social science discourse. Caste has been persistent and tenacious though it had been claimed during independence that caste will lose its significance in independent India. Caste having invaded Indian politics seems to have become a prime force. Not only that, she discussed several sociological studies that are being carried out to evaluate the current scenario of caste and the relations arising out of it in rural and urban areas.

