

PROJECT REPORT

English Honours

Semester 6

ENGA, DSEB3

Title of the Project- Binodini Dasi

Binodini Dasi (1863–1941), also known as **Notee Binodini**, was an Indian Bengali actress and thespian. She started acting at the age of 12 and ended by the time she was 23, as she later recounted in her noted autobiography, *Amar Katha* (The Story of My Life) published in 1913. Binodini Dasi contributed a lot towards the growth and development of Bengali theatre but received little acknowledgement from patriarchal society due to her status as a public woman. The project focuses on impact of Bengal Renaissance on theatre. It also focuses on emergence of women actors in theatre. Emergence of ‘New Women’ in the literature, representation of women in Tagorean novels such as *The Home and the World* feature in the project in order to draw contrast with Binodini Dasi. Binodini Dasi was not a ‘bhadramahila’. She was marginalized as a colonial subject, as women and more importantly owing to her status as a ‘nati’.

Outline of the Project-

The project focuses on the following areas:

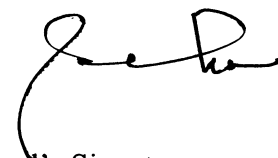
- a) The history of Bengal theatre and location Binodini Dasi in the context of Bengali theatre
- b) Binodini Dasi’s autobiographical texts are significant as being a ‘nati’ she was free from social restrictions on dress, behaviour and education. Students were also

encouraged to look up contribution of other actresses like Gopalsundari, Elokeshi, Shyamasundari.

The project critically analyses the text, focusing on the text from autobiographical, feminist standpoints. The text is a strong expression of the ill treatment meted out to her by society. She suffered from betrayal at different juncture in her life and scripts her personal and professional life in her autobiography 'My Story'. It is (her)story. She reveals the dark side of being a woman in a male dominated profession and brings to forefront multiple issues like pay disparity, objectification by audiences and co-actors, poor working conditions and caste discrimination. The project helps to acquire a better understanding of Binodini Dasi's 'My Story' and her status as a marginalized woman in spite of being a talented theatre actress.

Tapashree Ghosh

Signature of Project Co-ordinator



Principal's Signature

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