

Report on Group Discussion conducted by Mr. Prashant Pradhan of Tezpur University with the few students of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Asutosh College, on the 20th of March, 2022.

The students of Asutosh College, Kolkata had the pleasure of being enlightened by the presence of Mr. Prashant Pradhan, a senior fellowship student from Tezpur University, Assam. Mr. Pradhan is doing his PhD research on **“Representation of Same Sex Desire in Bombay Cinema”**. Under this topic, Mr. Pradhan will watch and critically analyze Bollywood movies that have attempted to promote Same Sex Relationships, over the years. A crucial part of his research constitutes collecting opinions from people of various age groups about their views on the aforementioned topic. For the same, he sat with selected students of different semesters and conducted a focused group discussion, as shown in the figure below.



The session started with Mr. Pradhan introducing himself and his course to the students who were present. He explained to us what a **‘Focused Group Discussion’** is and why were we a part of the research he was conducting. Further, we dived into a **bunch of questions**, formulated by

Mr. Pradhan himself. His questions were all open-ended so that we could freely voice our **opinions and viewpoints**. The questions presented by him were not only chiming in for his research but also was increasing the knowledge paradigm of the students. That LGBTQ community is segregated and ostracized, was a common conclusion that all students agreed upon. Moving on, as the students delved deeper into the topic, they were asked about how what role **Section 377** played in the shaping the community of LGBT people. Again, the conclusion that the law was revolutionary was reached. Next, we discussed about the movies that Mr. Pradhan was conducting his research upon. He reverted that he took movies like **Aligarh, Margarita with a Straw, Badhaai Do and a few more under his consideration**. On this note the students and Prashant Pradhan discussed about how movies as a form of social media can influence people by enlightening them about the LGBTQ being a normalcy and not some alien outer-world concept. The response of the students was overwhelming. They are all media students and it goes without saying that talking about movies was a cakewalk for the brilliant and budding bright minds.





The two most important questions of the session were racked up for the very end. Mr. Pradhan asked the students that **what according to the students were the challenges and stereotypes against the LGBTQ community.** To this question, the response was mind-boggling and it was wonderful to see that this generation is such well informed about social matters. The last question presented before the assembled was **what changes Bollywood cinema can bring about in their direction procedure so that LGBTQ community can be even better represented to the masses.** The students being of Mass Communication and Journalism Department had various opinions about the question. To quote one, **“I would ask a LGBTQ person to direct an intimate scene if any between a gay or lesbian couple, as applicable.”** This was resounded by the entire group in unison. Overall, the session was interactive, informative and as said above a huge gain for the students who want to do their PhD in Journalism, and for the others. As a great man once said “Even a falling autumn leaf, has a lot to teach. But would you be keen enough to learn?” Even if the students vary their future subjects this group discussion will shine as a cornerstone of information and knowledge for application in the long run of life. Before Mr. Prashant left, the students indulged in exchanging pleasantries with the Guest. Gratitude was exchanged amongst the involved parties and the session was ended on a good note.

