



# *perception*

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Department of Political Science  
**SHRI SHIKSHAYATAN COLLEGE**

## PERCEPTION

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## FOREWORD

'Perception' is in its thirteenth year of publication and in its sixth with an ISSN (print). For the Department of Political Science it has since been a vanguard and a platform for addressing, analysing a range of issues germane to the understanding of our existential academic reality.

The past one year, in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, has been unprecedented and tumultuous in ways that have redefined our lives. The Department, in cooperation and assistance with different stakeholders, has innovated and executed academic projects, webinars and interfaces to enable a special teaching-learning experience.

It is heartening to note the spirited participation and exuberance of the students and faculty in embracing the 'new normal'. These have fostered bonds of empathy and compassion for life to move on and for work to continue with new found respect for the value of 'now'.

Writings for publication in 'Perception' have come despite odds in maintaining a work life balance in these trying circumstances. This edition is an embodiment of hope, triumph and resilience of the collective human spirit.

In gratitude for being where we are and for everything we are able to do, my best wishes for tomorrow to the entire Department. May we grow from strength to strength.

*Aditi Dey*



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PHOTO GALLERY 2019-2020



Departmental Award ►  
 B.A. Political Science Honours  
 (Left to Right)

Sakshi Tewari	Roll. No. 158
Muskan Jaiswal	Roll. No. 167
Shagufa Farook	Roll. No. 171
Madhura Sen	Roll. No. 239
Mahek Didwania	Roll. No. 254
Shireen Gupta	Roll. No. 284



**SWASHIKSHAYA – ISWARCHANDRA VIDYASAGAR**  
 ( SANGBAD PRATIDIN : ROBBAR : 'SAWANG' 21.02.2021)

Dr. Mandar Mukherjee  
 Faculty, Department of Political Science, Sri Shikshayatan College  
 Translation : Smt. Subha Sarkar

No social being can be labelled as completely 'self-tutored' as his appearance on earth is guided by several predetermined factors. Genetic, hereditary and environmental elements play a definite role in his making, during or even before procreation. Mostly, these innate traits start getting honed after his birth. We cannot write-off even a nondescript person as he is protected by the groups with whom he shares his congenital traits. Even then, when we mark someone as 'self-tutored' we actually indicate towards an observer or defender of an avenue which has been laid-out by him; from where he would never deviate.

Yes, Iswarchandra Vidyasagar is one such personality, who is not only a path-seller, but also an adamant pilgrim on his own avenue.

Naturally, question arises, in what sense should we call him 'self-tutored', when all through his growing age to attaining his academic title 'Vidyasagar', he was mostly under the guidance of his father Thakurdas, mother Bhagabati Devi and several other teachers and scholars, starting from his village school to Sanskrit College. Therefore, we have to look for that unique quality which made him so distinguished that even Rabindranath had to apply such adjectives like 'inexhaustible humaneness' and 'invincible vigour' phrases, which Tagore did not even characterise his father Debendranath with.

It should be kept in mind that there were several other contemporary scholars who also earned the title 'Vidyasagar'; besides, there were eminent stalwarts like Bhudev Mukhopadhyay, Rajnarayan Basu, Akshaya Kumar Dutta, Dinabandhu Mitra and above all, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. Let it be accepted beyond doubt that Iswarchandra became rather eminent in his lifetime and his fame widely touched both the native and foreign intellectuals, as well as, the illiterates. A contemporary book-store owner even ignores a permanent buyer like Gaganendra Nath Tagore to spend more time with Iswarchandra and allows him free access to sit among piles of books and make his selection. When he returns to his dwelling at Badurbagan after the day, we find him engaged in various domestic chores like a common householder; thereby, often mistaken as a cook or a gardener by strangers. This shows what an 'out of the box' character he was, always clad in *dhoti and chadar*.

Subha Sarkar an alumna of Visva Bharati and a former Head of the Institution of Saroj Basu Smriti Banka Vidyamandir Govt. Sponsored School.

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