

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SEMINAR REPORT

Seminar on: “Economic Exploitation and Commercialization of Agriculture in British India”

Date: 21 February 2026

Venue: Smart Classroom, Old Academic Building–01, Rama Devi Women’s University (RDWU)

The Department of History, Rama Devi Women’s University, organized a seminar on “**Economic Exploitation and Commercialization of Agriculture in British India**” on 21st February 2026. The distinguished resource person for the seminar was **Dr. Sujata Sahoo**, a renowned scholar and expert in the field of Modern Indian History.

Objectives of the Seminar

1. To help students understand the nature and mechanisms of economic exploitation under British colonial rule.
2. To provide systematic knowledge about the commercialization of agriculture and its impact on Indian peasants and rural society.
3. To develop a critical understanding of British land revenue policies and their long-term socio-economic consequences in India.

Proceedings of the Seminar

The seminar commenced at **10:30 AM** in the Smart Classroom, Old Academic Building–01, RDWU. The esteemed guest, Dr. Sujata Sahoo, arrived at the venue along with the faculty members of the Department of History and was warmly welcomed by the students and staff.

The session began with an introductory address by **Mr. Paramjit Singh**, who highlighted the academic achievements, research contributions, and scholarly excellence of Dr. Sujata Sahoo. After the formal introduction, the session was handed over to the resource person to deliver her lecture.

Dr. Sahoo began her presentation by explaining the concept of **economic exploitation in colonial India**, focusing on how British policies were designed primarily to serve imperial interests. She discussed major land revenue systems such as:

- The Permanent Settlement
- The Ryotwari System
- The Mahalwari System

She elaborated on how these systems led to heavy taxation, indebtedness of peasants, and the rise of intermediaries like zamindars and moneylenders.

The speaker further explained the **commercialization of agriculture**, highlighting the shift from subsistence farming to cash crop production such as indigo, cotton, jute, tea, and opium. She emphasized that this transformation was driven by British industrial needs rather than Indian welfare.

Dr. Sahoo also discussed the economic consequences of commercialization, including:

- Decline of food crop production
- Frequent famines
- Rural poverty and indebtedness
- Deindustrialization and drain of wealth

She critically analysed how colonial economic policies disrupted India's traditional agrarian structure and integrated it into the global capitalist system under British control.

The session was highly interactive. Students actively participated by raising questions regarding land revenue policies, peasant movements, and the long-term economic impact of British rule. Dr. Sahoo addressed their queries comprehensively, encouraging analytical and evidence-based understanding.

The seminar concluded with an engaging Question-and-Answer session, which significantly enriched the students' knowledge.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, students:

- Gained clarity about the nature of economic exploitation under British rule.
- Understood the causes and consequences of commercialization of agriculture.
- Developed awareness of colonial land revenue policies and their impact on Indian society.
- Enhanced their critical understanding of modern Indian economic history.

The seminar proved to be intellectually enriching and academically valuable for all participants.

Conclusion

At the end of the session, the distinguished guest was felicitated and presented with a sapling as a token of appreciation and respect from the Department of History.

Finally, **Dr. Jitendra Suna**, Senior Faculty Member of the Department of History, delivered the Vote of Thanks, expressing sincere gratitude to Dr. Sujata Sahoo for her insightful lecture and to everyone who contributed to making the seminar a grand success.

The program concluded on a positive and appreciative note.

Seminar Photos And Attendance

Rama Devi Women's University
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Dr. Sujata Sahoo
Assistant Professor
Dhenkanal Autonomous College

Topic: Economic Exploitations & Commercialization of Agriculture in British India

21 FEB 2026
Room No. 209 (Smart Classroom)
Old Academic Building 1



Topic - Germany Unification 1871

By - Mr. Purna Chandra Dash
Time - 11:00 AM

Date - 27.02.2026

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