

## Dr. Sunanda Ghosh (1935 - )

Academician and Author

Dr Sunanda Ghosh passed B.A.(Hons) in 1955 from Bethune College. In 1961 she started teaching in the Department of Political Science in Bethune College and retired in 1995 as the Head of the Department.

Dr. Ghosh's highest contribution to women's history is to establish Chandramukhi Basu as the first female candidate to have passed the Entrance Examination of the University of Calcutta in 1876. Details of her research is published in her book *Chandramukhi Basu: A Pioneering Daughter of India* (2017). Dr. Ghosh was instrumental in bringing back to Bethune College the 2-volume set of Shakespeare that Pundit Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar presented to Chandramukhi with a benediction written in his own hand, after she passed M.A. in 1884.

In 1999 in British Library Sunanda discovered a portrait of J. E. D. Bethune on ivory, the existence of which was unknown in India. Thanks to Sunanda an enlarged copy of this portrait may be seen in the college Principal's office.

She has several single-author publications to her credit. Her Ph.D thesis on The Legislative Committees of West Bengal was published in 1974. Her second book on Parliament and Information Flow was published in 1991.

After retirement she focussed on women's education in Bengal and worked on Monomohan Ghosh, the real architect of Bethune College and lesser known facts of the life of J.E.D. Bethune. In her book *Expanding Horizons* (2012), she investigated the role of Bethune School and College on women's education. Her seminal work on the status of women's education in late nineteenth century is *Bodhita Bama* (2022), based on the Government reports and concurrent periodicals. Among the volumes she edited, are *বেথুন স্কুল ও নারীশিক্ষার দেড়শ বছর* and *Bethune – His School and the Nineteenth Century Bengal* (2006).