

Dr Asrafi Khatun
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Dr Asrafi Khatun, Principal, M.U.C. Women’s College, Purba Bardhaman, is a distinguished creative writer and academician, widely recognized for her multifaceted contribution to poetry, fiction, children’s literature, research, and editing. Her academic journey reflects a strong and consistent engagement with Bengali literary studies. She did her B.A. (Hons) in Bengali at M.U.C. Women’s College, Burdwan; earned her M.A. from Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan; obtained her B.Ed. from the University of Calcutta; and later had her M.Phil. and Ph.D. from the University of Burdwan. Her doctoral thesis, titled “Society in Bengali Fiction of the 1940s,” stands as a significant scholarly contribution. Her post-doctoral thesis, *The Common People in Rabindranath’s Literature*, has received considerable appreciation from readers and scholars alike.

She began her professional career as Assistant Teacher at Pursa High School, Burdwan. Subsequently, she joined Sonamukhi College, Bankura as Lecturer in Bengali and then served Jamalpur College, Purba Bardhaman, where she shouldered the academic and administrative responsibilities as Head, Department of Bengali. Furthermore, she also visited the Department of Bengali, the University of Burdwan as Guest Lecturer and is presently associated with the same university as a Ph.D. Research Supervisor in Bengali.

For more than two decades, she has been editing *Lalpari Nilpari*, a UGC-approved research journal devoted to children’s literature—an exceptional and rare contribution to this specialized field of literary studies. Her edited volume *Sekal O Ekal-e Bangla Shishusahitya* is widely regarded as a milestone in the history of Bengali children’s literature. She has also edited critical editions of Rabindranath Tagore’s *Sanchayita* and Michael Madhusudan Dutt’s *Birangana Kavya*.

As an author, she is highly prolific, with more than fifty-five published books to her credit. Her writings span a wide range of genres, including short stories, novels, essays, poetry, fiction, micro-fiction, children’s fiction, rhymes, and travel narratives. Several of her short stories have been included in nationally and internationally acclaimed anthologies. Notably, the English translation of her short story “A Letter to the Sky” was published in *The Silence That Speaks*, an anthology of Indian women writers published by Oxford University Press. Her works have also been published by reputed presses in Bangladesh. She is the recipient of numerous prestigious literary awards and honours from India and Bangladesh, including the West Bengal Bangla Academy Award, Dilip Kumar Roy Award, Coffee House Literary Award, Rokeya Award, Ekusher Bhasha O Sahitya Award, among many others.