

Educational Thought of Rabindranath Tagore

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ABSTRACT

Rabindranath Tagore was influenced by his personal lifestyle. He was impressed by the ancient Indian system and there is a clear reflection of that system in his literature. Self education builds up self-realization. It is assimilated in education. So a student must have self-confidence. Purpose of education is to introduce one with the whole universe. So the syllabus of education is the main bearer of that culture. He was not just a mere poet or writer; he was the harbinger of an era of literature which elevated him to the stature of the cultural ambassador of India. Even today, decades after his death, this saintlike man, lives through his works in the hearts of the people of Bengal who are forever indebted to him for enriching their heritage. He was the most admired Indian writer who introduced India's rich cultural heritage to the West and was the first non-European to be bestowed the prestigious Nobel Prize. Rabindranath Tagore's educational model has a unique sensitivity and aptness for education within multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-cultural situations, amidst conditions of acknowledged economic discrepancy and political imbalance.

KEYWORDS: Rabindranath, Education, Philosophical Ideas

INTRODUCTION

"A teacher can never truly teach, unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp, unless it continuous to burn its own flame"

Rabindranath Tagore, one of the epoch-making figures of the twentieth century, is one of the most widely acclaimed wordsmiths of India. Tagore, through the sheer brilliance of his narratives and incommensurable poetic flair, laid an ineffaceable impression on the minds of his readers. He was not just a mere poet or writer; he was the harbinger of an era of literature which elevated him to the stature of the cultural ambassador of India. Rabindranath believed that true education can develop humanity. Only true education can make good relation between each other. He realised the importance of education in the society wandering the whole world. Foreign education system influenced him from his childhood. But he gave importance more on ancient Indian education system. He had great respect on Vedic education. From all these thoughts his Philosophical idea on education enriched. His Philosophical idea on education was based on valuable idealism

Objectives Of the Study:

The objective of the study is –

- Aims Of Education
- Curriculum
- Teaching Methodology
- Qualities of Teacher

Delimitation of the Study:

The study was limited to comparative study of Educational thought of Rabindranath Tagore and content analysis was taken to achieve the objectives of the study.

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Methodology of Study:

The Study was based on Historical work

Philosophical Ideas of Rabindranath Tagore:

Education makes a man perfect. It builds up humanity, builds up the foundation of character. Philosophical idea of education of Rabindranath Tagore was influenced by his personal lifestyle. Valuable and applicable idea was built in presence of his father Mohorsi Devendranath Thakur. Bitter experience of his childhood forced him into educational reforms. He believed that the success of true learning mainly depends on self realization and self awakening. He also believed that a man can manifest his soul fulfil by combining with super soul as a man is a small part of super soul and he realised it from the mythological Purans, Gita, Upanishad etc.

Education of Rabindranath Tagore:

Rabindranath has connected prophetic Philosophy with scientific aspect to dictate about the main objective of education. According to him one man can get entirely in to education by continuous process of self realisation and upliftment of his own thinking. He has explained about education that-

1. Goodwill for the human life.
2. To awaken spiritual thought to one's mind.
3. To shake up scientific thought in student's mind.
4. To bring out the social values of the student.

Self education is built over self realization which is assimilated in education and therefore a student must have self confidence. A student must come in touch of all without distinction of caste and creed. Actually, Rabindranath wanted that a man will go to supreme position by the path of real education and he must have adequate mental and physical strength. Real education is the soul of nation. It enriches nationality.

➤ **Syllabus of Education:**

Rabindranath believed that if the purpose of education is to introduce one with the whole universe then the syllabus of education is the main bearer of that culture and therefore, he advised to take special care on making syllabus so that the human culture is reflected on it. Actually Rabindranath was not the great poet only, but the great teacher also. He emphasised singing, dancing, storytelling, sports, acting, gardening etc. Besides theoretical intents and organised them in Viswabharati, Santiniketan. He not only included local handicraft, cultivation but also included mass education and mass literacy in syllabus to enlighten whole India with the light of wisdom.

Analysis and Findings Of the Study:

➤ **Aims Of Education:**

Self Realization:

Spiritualism is the essence of humanism; this concept has been reflected in Tagore's educational philosophy. Self-realization is an important aim of education. Manifestation of personality depends upon the selfrealization and spiritual knowledge of individual.

Intellectual Development:

Tagore also greatly emphasized the intellectual development of the child. By intellectual development he means development of imagination, creative free thinking, constant curiosity and alertness of the mind. Child should be free to adopt his own way learning which will lead to all round development.

Physical Development:

Tagore's educational philosophy also aims at the physical development of the child. He gave much importance to sound and healthy physique. There were different kinds of exercises. Yoga, games & sports prescribed in Santiniketan as an integral part of the education system.

Love for humanity:

Tagore held that the entire universe is one family. Education can teach people to realize oneness of the globe. Education for international understanding and universal brotherhood is another important aim of his educational philosophy. The feeling of oneness can be developed through the concepts like fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man all creatures are equal on this earth.

Establishment of relationship between man & God:

Man bears the diverse qualities and potentialities offered by God. These qualities are inborn and innate. The relationship between man and God is strong and permanent. However the dedication to spiritualism and sacredness will lead to the harmonious relationship with man, nature and God.

Freedom:

Freedom is considered as an integral aspect of human development. Education is a man-making process, it explores the innate power exists within the man. It is not an imposition rather a liberal process their provides utmost freedom to the individual for his all round development. He says, Education has leaning only when it is imparted through the path of freedom".

Co-relation of Objects:

Co-relation exists with God, man and nature. A peaceful world is only possible when correlation between man and nature will be established.

➤ **Curriculum:**

Subject:

Literature and languages, mother tongue, other Indian Language, Math, Social Science like History, Economics, Sociology.

Activities and Occupations:

Dance, Drama, Games, Sports, Excursion, Agriculture

Actual Living and community Service Broad- based Curriculum

➤ **Teaching Methodology:**

Teaching by Walking:

The mind in the class room does not remain active hence by walking the mind remains active & awake. Teaching by walking is the best method of education.

Discussion & Question Answer:

Real education is based on real problems of life hence Question – answer method is effective.

Activity Method:

This method is of great important because it activates all the faculties of the body & mind.

➤ **Qualities Of Teacher:**

Education can be successful because imparted by the understanding childhood and giving oneself totally in love and union with it.

Conclusion:

Rabindranath Tagore believed that all faculties of human beings, intellectual, physical, moral, aesthetic should be nurtured, cultivated in a good educational system. He emphasized the cultivation of intellect in order to counter balance emotional immaturity and instability where it exists, and he appreciated the contribution that western science can make to the progress of India. He strongly believed that if reason, with its uncompromising dedication to truth is not reinstated on its lonely pedestal, rejecting superstition and the undue cult of the supernatural in every field, neither education nor the general intellectual life of the people will be released from its fetters.

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