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## THE GREAT THINKER – RABINDRANATH TAGORE ROLE IN EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

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### Abstract:

This paper deals with the educational philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore's contribution as a philosopher and thinker is described. The Contribution of Rabindranath Tagore in this respect as well as in other fields, especially in education, has been paramount. Rabindranath Tagore, one of the epoch-making figures of the twentieth century, is one of the most widely acclaimed wordsmiths of India. He believed that education should help an individual to attain complete manhood, so that all his powers may be developed to the fullest extent for his own individual perfection as well as the perfection of the human society in which he was born.

**Keywords:** Philosophy, Gitanjali, Shantiniketan, educational ideas,

### Objectives:

1. To study the thoughts and ideas of Rabindranath Tagore.
2. To study on philosophical ideas of Rabindranath Tagore on Education.
3. To draw a relevance of Rabindranath's ideas in present context

### Intruduction:

Rabindranath Tagore is a well-known poet of the world as he was awarded the most popular 'Noble Prize' for his 'Gitanjali'. He was the first Indian to win this award not only in India but in Asia. He is ranked among the world's greatest poets like Shakespeare and Kalidas. Tagore wrote dramas, novels and short stories also. Ram Mohan Roy was the founder of this great religious movement which brought into prominence the ancient Hindu thoughts of the Upanishads but was not averse to new western ideas and ideals. Rabindranath was also very much influenced by this movement. Tagore's religious as well as educational views were moulded by the upanishads; The classical Sanskrit literature especially that of Kalidas - his 'Shakuntala' and 'Meghduta' influenced his ways of thinking. Tagore was not only a writer or

thinker but a doer . He practiced what he preached . He utilised the whole noble prize money for establishing 'Shantiniketan'.

### **Aims of education:**

**Moral and Spiritual Aims:** Tagore said that the principles of education should be the development of moral and spiritual aspect of the child's personality. One important objectives of starting Shantiniketan was to give spiritual culture to our boys.

**Physical Development:** Tagore emphasized the physical well-being of the children. He said that education in nature, play activities, dancing, exercise , body and sensory training were the tools.

**Intellectual Development:** Education should develop thinking and imagination rather than memory or storage of scattered information.

**International Brotherhood:** he said that since Brahman manifests himself through main and he is the source of all the creations all equal and our brothers and sisters. he wanted to promote intercultural and inter social understanding for the unity and harmony of mankind.

**Education for Fullness:** according to **Tagore's**, "The aim of education should be harmonious development of all human faculties".

### **Discipline :**

According to **Tagore's** , "An educational institution is an open house in which students and teachers are one they must leave their combat live together he observed that an educational institution must not be a dead cage.

### **Curriculum:**

Subjects: Literature and languages, Mother tongue, other Indian Languages and other foreign languages; Mathematics; Natural sciences such as Botany, zoology ,physics, chemistry, general science; health Education; Social Sciences like geography, history, civics, economics, and Sociology; Agriculture and Technical Subjects; Arts, Music, Dance etc.; Philosophy; Psychology and Religion Broad-based Curriculum

Activities and Occupations: Dancing, Dramatics, Music, Games and Sports, Drawing and Painting, Excursions, Agriculture and Gardening, Regional Study, Laboratory work Social Service , Actual living And Community Service Broad-based Curriculum Education through emotions through music, fine arts, Painting, dance, dramatics and crafts 2. Education through mother-tongue but was not against of English Physical and Social Sciences real legacy is the cultural heritage of the whole community Curriculum.

### **Method of Teaching:**

Rabindranath Tagore believed in activity and dynamic method of teaching based upon the interest, need, ability and mental development of the child. Learning should be linked with joy and happiness. He wanted to give education in natural surroundings characterized by freedom and creativity. He favoured discussion, activity or learning by doing method.

### **Role of the Teacher:**

In teaching, the guiding spirit should be personal love based on human relations. In education the teacher is more important than the method. Tagore pointed out. "A teacher can never truly teach unless he is learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp unless it continues to burn its own flame. according to him the teacher should not be hard taskmaster rather a friend, philosopher and guide. He believed that the relationship between teacher and student should be a friendly in nature. Tagore concept of good teacher is stated in these words that "A teacher can never truly teach, unless he is still learning himself".

## Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore:

His philosophy of life was based on the ideals of dedication, patriotism and naturalism. He was an ideal philosopher, but the thoughts of naturalism, pragmatism and individualism are also reflected in his philosophy. Like Rousseau, Tagore was an individualist and naturalist. He believed in the rights and freedom of an individual to shape his life in his own way. But in an individual's development, he ultimately wanted the unity of mankind. He said that every individual is different from another and everyone is unique.

*“Experience of the spiritual world, religion as the right centre of life's activities and the unity of thought and truth”* was the keynote of Tagore's great philosophy.

*The following are the values enriched as a philosopher, according to Tagore:*

**As an Individualist** He believed in giving right type of freedom to an individual.

**As an Idealist** He believed that the man should live for the ultimate truth, which liberates us from the cycle of birth and death. He should have faith in absolute values.

**As a Spiritualist** He believed that every individual should try to attain spiritual perfection

**As a Humanist** He preached human brotherhood, having faith in fundamental unity of mankind. He remarked that “even God depends upon man, for perfecting his universe”.

**As a Naturalist** He considered nature as a great teacher. God revealed himself through various forms, colours and rhythm of nature.

**As a Vedantist** He had a firm belief in the Philosophy of Veda. He believed in ‘I am Brahma’.

### influencing tagore's philosophy of education :

1. Influence of the home environment
2. Influence of the school environment
3. Love for nature
4. His extensive visits.

### Tagore's literacy works:

**Poetry** Tagore poems are varied in style and subject matter.

**Gitanjali** his most known collection, winning him Nobel Prize in the year. This collection replicates the true Indian philosophy in all its Glory.

**Novels** Tagore wrote novels, such as *Gora Chaturanga*, *ShesherKobita*, *Char Adhyay*, *Noukadubi* and *The Home and The World*.

**Story Books** Tagore composed some beautiful stories, which are worthy to read. The **Hungry Stone** is one of importance.

**Kabuliwala** It depicts the friendship of a fruit seller from Kabul and little mini instead of their age difference.

## Educational Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore

**Harmony with all things** His philosophy emphasized on in a journalism humanism intern nationalism idealism and pragmatism. Harmony with all things means harmony with nature, humans are windings and harmony in international relations.

- *Principle of freedom*
- *Principle of creative self expression*
- *Active communication with nature and man*

According to **Tagore**, “Education is to produce good thinkers and achievers in all aspects of life, physical, intellectual, moral and Spiritual. An educated person is ready to serve society and country at all times”.

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES STARTED BY TAGORE

ShisuBhawan (Nursery School)

PathBhawan (school Section Matriculation examination)

ShikhaBhawan (higher secondary)

VinayBhawan(college of undergraduate and postgraduate studies and research)

Kala Bhawan (college of fine arts and crafts)

SangeetBhawan (college of dance)

Sriniketan (college of rural reconstruction)

### Visvabharati and Shantiniketan

The word Visvabharati is composed of two words. In Sanskrit a word Visva means word and bharti means “culture. Thus VisvaBharati means world culture. The moto of this university is YatraVisvamBhavatiEksmidaie where the world meets at one place. Through the Visvabharati as a whole, the poet and the seer Sought to establish a relationship between East and West to promote tercultural and inter-social armity and understanding and to the highest mission of the present age and the unification of mankind.

Shantiniketan is a small town near Bolpur in the district of West Bengal. It was established by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore and later expanded by his son Rabindranath Tagore whose icon became what is now a university town Visvabharati Univernity Shantiniketan means '**the abode of peace** ' .

## Educational Implications

- The study on educational ideas of Rabindranath Tagore has its implications on our educational system. The views and ideas of Rabindranath Tagore drawn by the study are useful for our educational system in the following ways.
- The method of teaching and learning may be based on productive work. All work is educative. It is educative only when it is preceded by mental effort. We have to plan first the work in our mind then to think out the way and means of doing it then the performing it.
- The education is through doing this is the concept of education Of Rabindranath Tagore. Students should learn through Practical work.

## Way of life according to Tagore

Rabindranath believed that adjustment was the actual way of life. So he acquainted himself with contemporary affairs. As we find Upanishadic thoughts in his writings so we find the character of 'Open' and 'Krishnakanta', in 'Dui Bigha Jami' beautifully described giving an account of their sorrows and pains. Though he had Upanishadic thoughts in his mind, he renounced salvation. He thought that proper salvation lay in the works of the masses who toiled hard with their sweat and blood for the uplift of the society. So, he never disowned the society and its people. He wanted an active life developing process free from evil and inhumanity. In this sense, he was not only a true patriot but also a rebel.

## Conclusion

To conclude, it may be said that Rabindranath was a universal Philosopher as well as a great educationist. His educational efforts were immense an enormously of his endeavour was significantly important. He tried to build up the mind and culture of more than one generation of men. That is why he is adorned primarily in Bengal and indirectly all over the world. He was a great Poet indeed but none can deny that he was a great all round Man of letters. The core of Tagore's educational philosophy was learning from nature, music and life. This is the reason why his Education is easily acceptable by human mind. The study has traced the great influence for the development of Personality, learning habits, development of knowledge to gain Concentration, develop physical health etc. The views of educational Ideas of Rabindranath Tagore are thus stated to have a great impact in the field of education. It is found to have a fertile area for the.

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**Online Resources :**

- [www.indiadvine.org/hinduism](http://www.indiadvine.org/hinduism)
- [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
- [www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com)
- [www.vahoo.com](http://www.vahoo.com)