



Rabindra Nath Tagore: An eminent thinker educationist

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Abstract

Indian history is the richest of eminent personalities. One of the best Rabindranath Tagore was an eminent thinker of the eastern culture. Who pinned his faith as idealism, humanism, naturalism, and perfectionism. He was incorporeal in his idealist philosophy and the fundamental ideas of the Vedas and upnishad has. Tagore believed that during education child should enjoy freedom. Hence, like Rousseau, Tagore also upheld Nature as the most effective and powerful teacher for a child. Tagore has himself written "Next to Nature the child should be brought into touch with the stream of social behaviors" and he also advocated, "Education is highest which not only imparts information and knowledge to us, but also promotes love, and fellow – being between us and all the living beings. Tagore was not only creative but also a superb representative of his country-India- the man who wrote its National ANTHEM –his life and works go far beyond his country. He is truly a man of the Earth, product of the best for both traditional India, and modern Western cultures. The school of wisdom is proud to have for his meaningful work, world culture and contribution in the field of Education.

Keywords: idealism, humanism, naturalism, perfectionism

Introduction

It is difficult to write about Rabindranath Tagore's personality. He was an eminent personality, his views are found scattered a large number of independent essays, journal articles, in speeches of various audiences and letters to individuals over a number of years. He was the earliest educators to think in terms of the global village. His educational model has a unique sensitivity and aptness for education within multi-racial, multi-lingual and cultural situations, amidst contributions of acknowledged economic disparities and political imbalance. He was considered as proud of India. The Asian first NOBLE Prize in Literature was awarded to him, people called him *GURUDEV*. Ravindranath Tagore was born on May 7th 1861, at some toward the end of seventeenth century, Rabi (nickname of R.N.Tagore) was the youngest of his parent's 14children, his father was Debindranath Tagore and his mother was Sarada Devi. Tagore's personal life was, in much way's an unhappy one. He married in 1883, lost his wife in 1902, and never remarried. He sought close companionship, which he did not always get (perhaps even during his married life –he wrote to his wife, Mrinalini;"I love you and I could be comrades in all our work and in all our thoughts it would be splendid, but we cannot attain all that we desire"). Due to a platonic attachment to the literature –loving wife, he dedicated all life as a supreme symbol of India's culture and spirits.

Ravindranath Tagore and his Educational views

Tagore was a great educationist, he emphasized freedom and natural education for the child, yet he was of firm view that education is a vehicle of social reform. Hence, it should act a life giving current to the modern society serving it in various ways. He advocated that education should be according to the realities of life. Any education cut away from life is useless. Hence, any plan of education should involve both the nature and needs of man in a harmonious

programme.

Basic Principals of Gurudev's Education

- a. Child should be educated in the lap of the nature far away from towns;
- b. Indian children should be given Indian education;
- c. During the education, a child should enjoy full freedom;
- d. The medium of instruction should be mother tongue;
- e. For developing creativity facilities, the child should be provided opportunities for self expression;
- f. During education in natural surroundings, child should be provided opportunities for social contacts so that a sense of social service is developed in him;
- g. Education should develop harmoniously in all the facilities of the child;
- h. National education should be closely connected with national life and basic need of the Child. According to him a teacher should do followings –Believing in the purity and innocence of child, and teacher should behave with him with great love, affection sympathy and consideration without any physical attention.

Method of teaching

According to him should be full of life and vitality, development of the child according to natural interests and tendencies. Hence, the child should be provided with more and more opportunities to investigate and research from original resources by his free activities so that he gains knowledge directly. He suggested activity method, Discussion Method, questioning –answering method, and teaching while walking is the best method of education. Tagore's educational efforts were ground – breaking in many areas. He was one of the first in India to argue for a humane educational system that was in touch with the environment and aimed at overall development of the personality of the child.

Ravindranath Tagore: A Maestro

Asia's first Nobel Laureate was born in to a prominent Calcutta family known for its socio-religious and cultural innovations during the 19th Bengal Renaissance. Within the joint family, Rabindranath's thirteen brothers and sisters were mathematicians, journalists, novelists, musicians and artists. Rabindranath Tagore's creative output tells a lot about this Renaissance man. A variety and quality are unbelievable. As a writer, Rabindranath Tagore primarily worked in Bengali, but after his success with *Gitanjali*, he translated many of his other works into English. His great love was music, Bengali style. He composed more than two thousand songs, and both the music and lyrics. Many of his paintings can be found in museums today, especially in India, where he is considered as the greatest literary figure of India of all time.

Ravindranath Tagore and his Idealistic views

Tagore was an idealist, he believes in the absolute and immortal existence of God, but he believes in God as a Superman and accepted the word as best creation. In fact, Tagore was a follower of 'Monism'. As such, he writes – "we should try to search for God and thus realize that truth which will liberate us from material bonds of existence and which is capable to illuminate the whole world with its diving light". Tagore believed that God is one and he has created human being and Nature. We perceive a unity in Him and through Him, the fraternal bonds between all human being and the external Nature. Hence, he emphasized adjustment between Nature and Human Soul i.e. man. Tagore was a great humanist and regarded man as a reflection of God. Tagore wanted to inculcate self respect and dignity in man hood and elevate his soul. For this moral and mental progress is essential. Hence, he emphasized that idealistic education should promote this progress by all means.

Ravindranath Tagore and his political views

Ravindranath Tagore's political views were very complex and tortuous. He opposed imperialism and supported Indian nationalists and these views were first revealed in *Manast*, which was mostly composed by Gurudev Through somewhat critical of Gandhian activism, Tagore plays a key role in resolving a Gandhi-B.R. Ambedkar dispute involving separate electorates for untouchables. Untouchables were people considered lowest in the social order. Tagore renounced his knighthood, in response to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in the repudiation letter to Chelmsford -the Viceroy, he wrote. "The time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in the incongruous context of humiliation, and I for my part, wish to stand, short, of all special distinctions, by the side of those of my countrymen who, for their so called insignificance, are liable to suffer degradation not fit for human beings.

Tagore's cultural & brotherhood

Rabindranath did come from a Hindu family-one of the landed gentry who owned estates mostly in what is now Bangladesh. But whatever wisdom there might be in Akhmatova's invoking of Hinduism and the Ganges, It did not prevent the largely Muslim citizens of Bangladesh from having a deep sense of identity with Tagore and his idea. Nor did it stop the newly independent Bangladesh from choosing one of Tagore's songs- the "Amar Sonar Bangla"

which means "my golden Bengal" – as its national anthem. This must be very confusing to those who see the contemporary world as a "clash of civilizations"- with "the Muslim civilization," "the Hindu civilization," and "the western civilization," each forcefully confronting the others. They would also be confused by Ravindranath Tagore's own description of his Bengali family as the proud of "a confluence of three cultures; Hindu, Mohammedan, and British". Rabindranath Tagore grew up in a Arabic and Persian family cultural atmosphere in which a deep knowledge of Sanskrit and ancient Hindu texts was combination with an understanding of Islamic traditions as well as Persian literature. It is not so much that Rabindranath tried to produce – or had an interest in producing – a "synthesis" of the different religions (as the great Moghul emperor Akbar tried hard to achieve) as that his outlook was persistently non-sectarian, and his writings- some two hundred books- show the influence of different part of Indian cultural background as well as of the rest of the world.

Rabindranath Tagore was an Idealistic and Humanist. He was not only a Philosopher but a great nationalist also. He emphasize education should establish close contact between nature and man with the principles of- Read details, Develop body and mind and soul in the lap of the nature.

Tagore believed that during education child should enjoy freedom. Tagore also upheld Nature as the most effective and powerful teacher for a child. He wrote "Next to Nature the child should be brought into touch with the stream of social behaviors" and he also advocated, "Education is highest which not only imparts information and knowledge to us, but also promotes love, and fellow – being between us and all the living beings.

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