

Thoughts of Rabindranath Tagore on Education in his writings

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ABSTRACT :

Rabindranath was the worshipper of beauty. He searched for the beauty throughout his life. For this reason his writings have become significant. Philosophical idea of education of 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 advised to take special care on making syllabus. So that the human culture is reflected on it. Philosophical idea of Education focus on his Poems, Short Stories, Novels, Dramas and also in Articles.

KEY WORDS :

Rabindranath, Writings, Education, Philosophical idea, Syllabus, Student, Teacher.

INTRODUCTION :

Rabindranath Tagore was the worshipper of beauty. He searched for the beauty throughout his life in his writings - Poems, Songs, Novels, Short stories and

Dramas. He was exceptional and all round genius. He engaged himself throughout his life in well being of mankind. So his influence fell on different aspects of human life. Education is an important part of human life. So his philosophical thoughts on education exposed on his various writings. As a result his writings have become valuable and significant.

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. But his

thoughts on education did not stop not only on theory. Rather it was applied on real life also. That is still in vogue and is applicable to contemporary time in place of the world. It is seen throughout his writings.

1. Awakening of Philosophical Idea:

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.

2. Experience:

Education is common for all. It has no limitation. It advances in its own way of advancement or progress. From the moment of birth, man has right for education. Education helps a man to give and to take also. Nothing of it wastes or spoils. Rabindranath got experience about the educational system of a particular period and he was hostile about the conventional field of contemporary educational system and its limitations. So he was impressed by the Ashram Siksha of ancient India and there is a clear reflection of that system in his writings.

3. Writings:

Knowledge is essence of education. Philosophical idea of Education focus on Poems, Short Stories, Novels, Dramas and also in Articles of Rabindranath Tagore. Some of Articles are basically written about Education method and Education system. But many of his writings are containing thoughts of educational philosophy.

3. i) Rabindranath believed that after the completion of education an urge must rise in the student's mind. This idea has been revealed in a character, Koch in his poetry Biday Avishap. Koch is a symbolic character. Educational thoughts of Rabindranath focus on him. Which was composed on the basis of Puran. But urges rose in the mind of Koch -

- a) To carry light of education in mind for ever.
- b) Education will be bright like Sunlight and will illuminate all and every one.
- c) Education of the student cannot be like burden.
- d) Education should be worth for application.
- e) Education cannot be a curse.

3. ii) Rabindranath was against bookish knowledge. Such kind of ideas are focussed in the allegorical and symbolic drama Achalayatan. In this drama Panchak and Mahapanchak are very significant characters. In this connection a severe fiction arose between them. Panchak liked songs, love, light and liberty.

So Panchak got support of the writer. All round development of a student depends on nature. Panchak was son of nature. Earning degree in the examinations, earning money, recognition of merit are not the only aim of education. So all round development and development of personality of an individual are very necessary.

4. Aim or motto of Education:

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-

- i) Goodwill for the human life.
- ii) To awaken spiritual thought to one's mind.
- iii) To shake up scientific thought in student's mind.
- iv) To bring out the social values of the student.

5. Real Education:

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.

6. 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.

7. Ideal Teacher:

Rabindranath always said about the Ideal teacher. Ideal teacher will be full of self realization and he will not follow a premeditated process. He always gave importance on the eternal

relationship between a teacher and a student. Because he believed that a student must come to companionship with his teacher so that he can learn the ethics and follow his immediate role model in front of him always, therefore he set up hostels so that they stayed with their teacher nearby in Santiniketan.

8. Importance of Mother-tongue in real Education:

Rabindranath gave importance in learning with mother-language and was not interested in English. He organised learning in Sanskrit as well as all other modern Indian languages.

9. i) Rabindranath believed that syllabus should be suitable to the mind of students. In the poem Chhelata the syllabus was not suitable to the mind of the very interesting character Chhelata. He did not pay heed to lesson. So Chhelata was considered as stupid. So Rabindranath wanted to establish the necessity of good teacher for imparting good education. This is why he wanted to include language, literature, science and philosophy in curriculum.

9. ii) Rabindranath also told about ideal teacher. According to him a teacher will be a worshipper. Only a good teacher can alight the mind of a student. Education should influence the mind of student. Definite method cannot be for education. Relation between students and teachers should be fair. In the poem Chhelata relation between Chhelata and the teacher was not so good. So result became very tragic and a failure. The teacher became a laughing-stock.

10. There is an indication of co-operation in the philosophy of education of Rabindranath and therefore it has been spread all over the world as a part of world humanity. He also believed that one must promote education to universal

level by crossing the barrier of provincialism and nationalism. He brought education to open ground from the uncharitable atmosphere of confined houses. His realistic and supernatural thought of learning makes him one of the great educationalist of modern era. He himself has set an paradigm to the field of educational system in the whole universe.

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