

Educational Philosophies of Rabindra Nath Tagore

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Biography



1861-1941



Life History

- Tagore was born on 6th may 1861 in Bengal in a prosperous family.
- His father Maharishi Debendranath Tagore, a well known Hindu reformer and mystic and his mother was Shrimati SharadaDevi.
- At primary level his father provided him education in Sanskrit language, Indian philosophy & Astronomy.
- For higher education he was sent to Bengal Academy where in he developed an aversion to the prevalent dull rigid and dull education.
- He was then sent to England where in he left it and further studied on his own. He gradually started writing in magazines etc.
- He turned into a poet, dramatist, philosopher and painter. He was then awarded the title of Gurudev.
- He got the Nobel prize in 1913 for Gitanajali.
- The then Indian govt. awarded him with knighthood bestowed in 1915 which he eventually gave away after the Jalyanwalabagh incident.
- He established Vishwa bharti on 22nd sept, 1921 whose aim was to create a synthesis of the east and west.
- He died in 1941

Novels

Tagore wrote eight novels and four novellas such as [Gora Chaturanga](#), Shesher Kobita, Char Odhay, Noukadubi, and The home and the World (Ghare Bairte)

Story books

Tagore composed some beautiful stories which are worthy to read. [The hungry stones](#) is one of importance.

[Kabuliwala](#) is another which depicts the friendship of a fruit seller from Kabul and little Mini instead of their age difference.

Books of plays

Tagore wrote plays like Chitra, The post Office, "The king of the dark chambers"

Non-fictional books

- Tagore wrote many non fictional books on variety of subjects like Indian History, Linguistics, spirituality etc.
- His travelogues, essays, lectures and letters are compiled in several volumes.
- He wrote Sadhana which includes ideal way of spiritual upliftment.

His Philosophy

As a Vedantist: He had a firm belief in the philosophy of veda.

- He believed in “*Nam Brahma*”
- There is a spiritual bond between man and man.

As an Individualist: he believed in giving right type of freedom to individual.

- Every individual is unique.

As an Idealist: He believed that the man should live for the ultimate truth which liberates us from from cycle of birth and death

- ▣ Had 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, colors and rhythm of nature.

- **Tagore's Internationalism:** He was an ardent prophet of world unity.
- He believed in world brotherhood

Aims of Education



Concept of Education

- According to Tagore,

"God reveals himself through nature more effectively than through man made institutions. Hence ,the education of the child should be under natural surroundings so that he develops love for all things around him"

- According to Tagore,

"That education is highest which not only imparts information and knowledge to us, but also promotes love and follow feeling between us and the living beings of the world"

Aims of Education





Physical development

To include activities like swimming, diving, climbing trees, plucking flowers, etc.



Mental Development

Acc to Tagore
"In comparison with bookish learning, knowing the real living directly is true education.

It not only promotes the acquiring of some knowledge but develops the curiosity & faculty of learning and knowing so powerfully that no class room teaching can match it."



Moral & Spiritual Development

Education should strive for a number of moral and spiritual qualities like self discipline, tolerance, courtesy and inner freedom



Development of all faculties

Chief aim of education should be the drawing out of the latent faculties of the child.

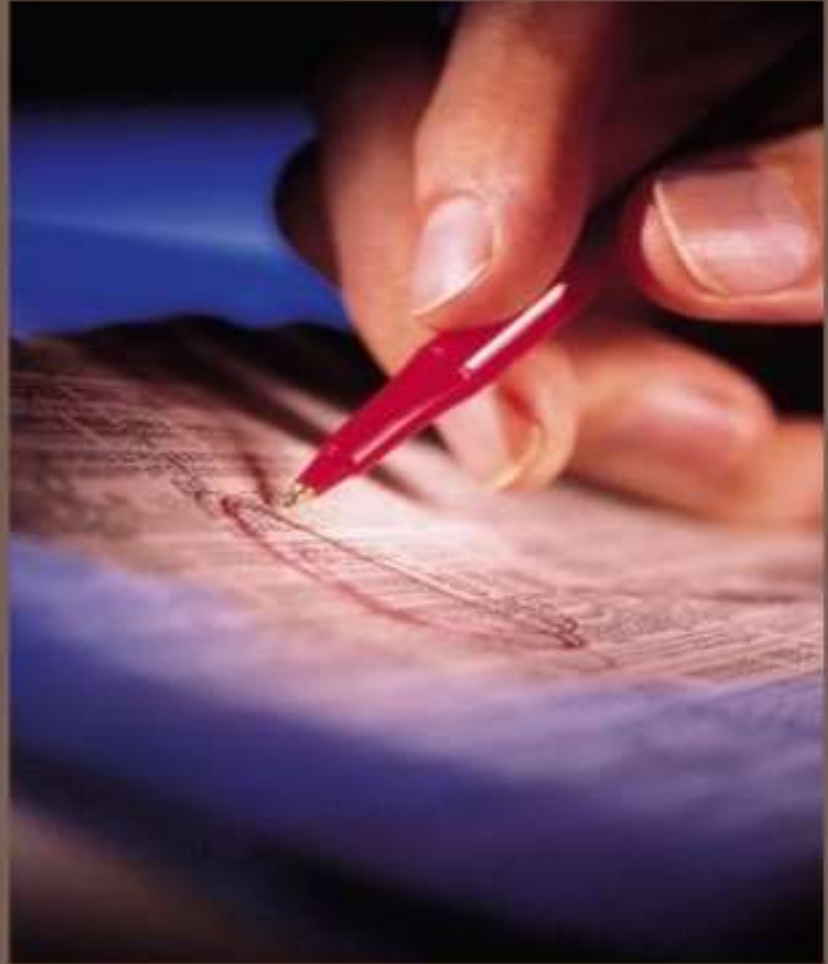
To him a child is more important than himself hence he opposed the crushing of the child's individuality. Hence he should be given full freedom



International Brotherhood

Though Tagore was a individualist yet he believed in socialism, internationalism. Acc to Tagore individual should develop to the fullest extent and then he should contribute his best to the promotion of international welfare

Curriculum



Broad-based Curriculum

I. 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

2. Activities and Occupations:

- Dancing
- Dramatics
- Music
- Games and Sports
- Drawing and Painting
- Excursions
- Agriculture and Gardening
- Regional Study
- Laboratory work
- Social Service

3. Actual living and Community Service



Curriculum : Other views

- 1. Education through emotions**

through music, fine arts, painting, dance, dramatics and crafts

- 2. Education through mother-tongue**

but was not against of English language

- 3. Manual training for spiritual aspect**

found God in the labourer, the path-breaker and the tiller

- 4. Physical and Social Sciences**

real legacy is the cultural heritage of the whole community



Teaching Methodology





Teaching by Walking

The mind in the class room does not remain active

Hence by walking the mind remains active awake, hence the child easily grasp things

"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 wherein the teacher put the questions & ask the students to participate in discussions. Thus they gain essential knowledge

Activity Method

This method is of great importance because it activates all the faculties of the body & mind. In Vishwa Bharti, he made compulsory the learning of handicraft. He allowed any physical exercise or activity even during the class teaching



Methods of Teaching



- Teaching while travelling
- Debate and discussion method
- Activity method
- Heuristic method

Qualities of Teacher



How the teacher is?

1. Tagore gave an important place to teachers and asked them to carry out the following activities.
2. Believing in purity and in his own experiences, innocence of child, the teacher should behave with him with great love and affection, sympathy, affection.
3. Instead of emphasizing on book learning, the teacher should provide conducive environment to the child so that he engages himself in useful and constructive activities and learn by his own experiences.
4. The teacher should always be busy with motivating the creative capacities of the children so that they remain busy with constructive activities and experience.
5. Education can be successfully imparted by understanding childhood and giving oneself totally in love and union with it



Discipline

- Against traditional school discipline
- Was in favor of giving freedom to child
- Believed in self imposed discipline

Role of Teacher

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Some other features of education



- **Women Education:** he advocated women education
- In 1908 he established department of women education in Shantiniketan
- **Education for masses (Universal Education)**
- **Vocational Education**
- **Religious Education**



- Vishwa Bharti
- In 1901 Tagore set up a school Shantiniketan.
- Gradually over the years, it developed into Vishwa Bharti- an international university
- Teachers and students live together in a spirit of perfect comradeship with the motto “ where the whole world forms its one single nest.”

Evaluation of Tagore's Philosophy

According to Radha Krishnan –"

- Rabindranath did not claim to produce any original philosophy. His aim was not to analyze or speculate about the Indian tradition .He expressed in his own vivid phrases and homely metaphors, and showed its relevance to modern life."

In the words of H.B.Mulherji –"

- Tagore was the greatest prophet of educational renaissance in modern India. He waged ceaseless battle to uphold the highest educational ideal before the country, and conducted educational experiments at his own institutions, which made them living symbols of what an ideal should be."



Thank You!