

# Ravindranath Tagore's Educational Philosophy and its Relevance in Modern Times

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## Abstract

The 20th century produced many renowned philosophers, thinkers, educators, social activists, and intellectuals, including Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore was a captivating individual with a remarkable personality and multifaceted beliefs that are still relevant today. It contests the assertions of traditional social philosophers and symbolises significant contemporary social and cultural shifts. He creates a very eclectic and diverse perspective on education.

**Keywords:** Education, Rabindranath Tagore, Modern India, Philosophy.

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Date of Submission: 06-11-2022

Date of Acceptance: 20-11-2022

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## I. Introduction

A renowned advocate of Indian culture and heritage, Rabindranath Tagore was also a remarkable philosopher, visionary, and social reformer. A complex personality equipped with adaptable genius and unwavering devotion. Tagore made enormous contributions to Indian education. His thoughts show a synthesis of East and West. His ideas and philosophical beliefs were deeply rooted in the Vedas and Upanishadas, as well as in his support of the learning sciences, environmental preservation, and the creative arts. In Tagore's opinion, the inconsistencies of human existence spur people to seek the truth. He was adamant that every person possessed a great soul with the capacity to develop into a superhuman entity inside the universal soul, which can only be attained via education. He argues that the fundamental goal of education is to enable people to achieve self-realization. The educational system of a country should be able to offer all citizens the chance for holistic development while placing an equal focus on knowledge and skill acquisition.

### *The Idea of Education*

Every person is surrounded by education, which offers a road to knowledge and a cultural connection to the larger world, according to Tagore (1931). Higher education should distribute knowledge that can make our living peaceful. However, it was seen that education was badly suppressed and often disregarded in schools. It is tragic because everything we learn throughout our lives, beginning in childhood, reinforces aspects of our very nature and minds that the world is set against, leading to the kind of education we had being neglected and us being forced to lose our world in order to discover a bag full of facts. Because it was given historical facts and numbers, it satisfies a child's need for epic. This situation forces the child to place more significance on protest because it is seen as a catastrophe that results from agony that is eventually suppressed into science by punishment.

### *Ravindranath Tagore's educational philosophy*

The underlying concepts of Tagore's educational philosophy are sufficient and inescapably relevant for today's world, which is marked by paradoxes and turmoil in all spheres of existence. People were able to comprehend Tagore's contributions in order to learn about and create relationships with other people, other nations, and other religions and cultures, particularly with regard to nature. According to Tagore, living a creative life is an art. Life is a constant act of creation. His contributions span a wide range of fields, including philosophy, music, painting, and the arts, as well as education and social structures. Tagore strove to make his lessons relevant to future generations by sharing them through his experiences with the current generation. He spearheaded efforts to construct Shantiniketan and Vishwa Bharati as successful examples of a new educational system as social and educational reformers.

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### **Education in pre-independent India**

Rabindranath Tagore was alerted to the crisis that the students were experiencing. He discovered that a strict educational system has been instilling fear in young children's vulnerable minds. Rabindranath Tagore's educational ideas were not just concerned with producing jobs; they also sought to contribute to the advancement of humanity as he desired more fun and life in the classroom. He accorded both spiritual and scientific knowledge equal weight.

Rabindranath Tagore was against inundating students with information. According to Tagore, everyone who supported globalisation of education should have access to education. One's mind is widened and their tolerance for variations brought about by national, cultural, and geographic borders increases as a result of the globalisation of education. According to Tagore, a country is like a family, and families make up society. For families to make up society, each member must be educated, thus we must eradicate illiteracy and instill skills. He favoured curricula that emphasised skill-based learning.

Rabindranath Tagore, a social reformer, promoted education as an instrument for social transformation by encouraging young people to think independently and creatively rather than becoming obedient followers of rituals and traditions. Our barrier to learning is the weight of our memories. Learning can deepen, consolidate, and become more receptive to exploration through understanding. Continuous integration of thoughts and deeds can result in novel ways of thinking that simultaneously connect the past, present, and future.

Rabindranath Tagore highlighted the importance of a child's freedom in their education and the development of their abilities and knowledge. A child should express themselves fearlessly. For the students, he had three objectives:

- 1) Enhance literature and other forms of art to improve education and advance the community.
- 2) To increase one's capacity for global thinking.
- 3) To give the students the tools they need to overcome the constraints of their animal nature and finish the humanist journey.

The spirituality of Tagore was based on the idea that "God is Satyam, truth". The sky, the earth, and the water have imposed obligations on us in numerous ways. However, the ground festival of innumerable beauty, which is held by the many colours, scents, and melodies inside the water, the air, and the sky, does not impose itself as the least.

### **Education's Relevance Tagore's philosophy in contemporary India**

All members of society should benefit from educational policy that is in line with the requirements and needs of the immediate sociocultural environment of the people. When it comes to developing people's minds, education shouldn't merely be a formal structure; rather, it should be a mindset that emphasises teaching and learning in a spirit of cooperation rather than competition over material possessions.

The current situation that students are currently experiencing calls for an educational system in which fresh ideas and perspectives on life's reality can be poured. The educational philosophies of Tagore are extremely relevant and have significant ramifications for establishing coherence with the shifting social, political, and environmental context. Examples include the unification of the East and West, natural growth under natural conditions, the rejection of education that is book-centered, the learner's independence, the adoption of real and practical instruction, the inclusion of fine arts, and educational initiatives for rural rehabilitation.

### **Consequences**

The main ideas of Rabindranath Tagore's contributions to education and philosophy. It focused on his idea that humanism can be fostered through education and how the systems he advocated can provide solutions to the current educational issues facing both India and the rest of the world. For academicians, administrators, policy makers, researchers, and policy makers, Tagore's eclectic understanding of philosophy has great relevance because they can use these principles to build a nation, foster brotherhood, lessen unemployment, and end discrimination in educational and other opportunities that persists despite an active Indian Constitution and legal system.

## **II. Conclusion**

The existence of the present is constantly on the shoulders of the past, and it will finally be transmitted from the present to the future in a continual process of learning called education. As a result, it is stated that Tagore's teaching methods and educational philosophy are still highly applicable in the current educational environment in use both in our nation and abroad. In order to transform the learning environment and promote nation development with the maximum levels of harmony, productivity, and happiness, educational institutions need to be built close to nature and thriving of all kinds among the people of the great Indian nation, which has a vast repository of knowledge, philosophy, and teaching and learning traditions without endangering the environment or its inhabitants.

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Bindu Sri Chinthakindi. "Ravindranath Tagore's Educational Philosophy and its Relevance in Modern Times." *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 27(11), 2022, pp. 20-22.