A study on educational thought’s of Rabindra Nath Tagore in relevance to the present context

Sambhu Debbarma
Assistant Professor, College of Teacher Education, Unakoti district of Tripura, Dept. of Education (India)

ABSTRACT

Rabindra Nath Tagore was marked as a great idealist as well as naturalist to the core. Tagore’s idealistic philosophy emphasizes on various developmental aspects of human life, by which a man can develop an integrated personality. The present study aims to understand the contribution of Rabindra Nath Tagore in the field of education. The study mainly focuses on its relevance of his theories and practices in the present education system. So the researcher has taken an interest in conducting a study relating to Tagore’s contribution in education. So the researcher has chosen historical method for the aforesaid study. However, based on secondary data the researcher has interpreted the said study.

INTRODUCTION

Rabindra Nath Tagore was a great social reformer, writer, dramatist, nationalist, humanist, painter and renowned poet as well as philosopher to the core. He was born on 6th May 1861 in Bengal and he established the famous ‘Visva Bharati University’ a place of learning of Indian philosophy, arts and literature for the whole world. Rabindra Nath Tagore imbibed the idealistic philosophy of life and adopted the highest ideals of truth, beauty and goodness as the chief aims of education to be achieved by all human beings. He believed in the absolute and immortal existence of god and accepted this world as his best creation. He regarded man as reflection of god. He also dislikes discrimination between man and man and advocated unity among all the people of world. Besides that Tagore wanted to inculcate self respect and dignity in manhood. For this, moral and mental progress is essential for the education to promote and strengthen in all means of human life. Rabindra Nath Tagore strongly opposed the education prevailing during his time and instead insisted that education should acquaint the child with the voice and mission of individual an accomplished harmonious development of a child.

OBJECTIVES

➢ To study the relevance of Rabindra Nath Tagore’s contribution in the present educational context.
➢ To understand the effectiveness of Tagore’s contribution towards teaching learning process.
➢ To study the educational thought of Rabindra Nath Tagore in the present context.

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Like other philosophers, Tagore was also one of the renowned philosopher. Who contributed a lot in the society, not only in the field of education but also in various aspects of human life? His contribution in the society has benefitted the people in various ways. His recommended aims, curriculum, teaching strategy has become very significant in the present education system, which will enable the learner to ensure dedication, interest and motivation in moving forward in their future.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The research problem undertaken is entitled as “A study on educational thoughts of Rabindra Nath Tagore in relevance to the present context”. This study will make an endeavour to find out the perceptions of the people regarding the relevance of Tagore’s contribution in the present educational context.

METHOD AND PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

Like other great educationist Rabindra Nath Tagore as a philosopher who has delivered his ideas in different form to create new vision in the learners. His valuable thoughts have been completed in the shape of books and Audio and visual cassettes. The present research work was to study the educational thought of Rabindra Nath Tagore. The investigator has selected Historical method for the purpose of the study.

➢ Historical method: The present study will be based on mainly secondary sources: It includes books written by Rabindra Nath Tagore and documentary files regarding his life and work.

TAGORE’S CONTRIBUTION IN THE PRESENT EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT

Tagore was a great educationist and philosopher. He advocated that education should be according to the realities of life. Any education which is not relating to life is useless. Hence, any plan pertaining to education should involve both the nature and needs of man in a harmonious programme. Tagore has himself written “Next to nature the child should be brought into touch with the stream of social behaviour”
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TAGORE’S EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY ARE AS UNDER:

- Medium of instruction in any institution should be in mother tongue for the convenience of the learners.
- During education the child should enjoy full freedom.
- Child should be educated in the laps of nature far away from towns.
- Through education, children should be acquainted with the ideals and values of national culture.
- Children should be provided with full freedom to live in natural environment and learn by doing or experience something new.

Concept of Education: Tagore was totally against the system of education that snatched the child from the laps of nature. According to Tagore education should be “That education is highest which not only imparts information and knowledge to us, but also promotes love and fellow-feeling between us and the living beings of the world.”

Aims of Education: The aims of education as advocated by Tagore are as follows:-

- Physical and Mental Development: Tagore believed that a healthy mind lives in a healthy body. Hence he insisted that the first aim of education should be to develop the child physically. According to him child should involve in various activities like swimming, Games and sports etc.

Tagore believed that second aim of education should be to promote mental development. Tagore says “In comparison with book learning, knowing the real living directly is true education. It not only promotes the acquiring of some knowledge but develops the curiosity and faculty of knowing and learning so powerfully that no class room teaching can match it”

- Moral and Spiritual Development: Tagore as an Idealist emphasized that the third aim of education should be to promote moral and spiritual development of a child. For this purpose education should teach children self-discipline, tolerance, courtesy and inner freedom.

Curriculum: According to Tagore curriculum should be such as to develop an individual physically, mentally, morally, and spiritually. Tagore emphasized that along with various subjects, different types of co-curricular should also be introduced in the curriculum. He prescribed subjects like History, Geography, Agriculture, Gardening, Laboratory, Field Study, Arts, Sculpture, Vocational, Professional and Technical Subjects etc.

Methods of Teaching: Tagore emphasized that methods of teaching applied in the classroom should be based on joyful learning and vibrant. So he considered some of the following methods of teaching as proper and effective:

- Teaching while walking: Tagore believed that education imparted in the class room does not influence the mind and body of the child. Students remain passive and inactive. In his words:“Teaching while walking is the best method in teaching.
- Discussion and Question answer method: According to Tagore real education is not mere cramming of books. But it must be based upon real problems, where students get opportunity to think logically and argue out.
- Activity Method: Tagore emphasized the activity method as a method of great importance because it activates all the faculties of the body and mind of the child.
- Teacher and Students: Tagore believed that only man can teach another man. According to him a teacher should be with great love, affection, sympathy and consideration.

Students should possess well discipline, punctuality, love and respect. He also emphasized that child should get full freedom in learning.

FINDINGS

The above study indicates that Rabindra Nath Tagore was a great educationist; his contribution in the field of education is very significant and relevant to the present educational context. He mainly emphasizes on practical aspect of the learner which will help the learner to enable him in to enrich with knowledge and skills etc. Besides that being an idealist he conveys the message of moral ethics to the child to be honest, love, respect, discipline and punctuality.

CONCLUSION

Rabindra Nath Tagore laid emphasis on various aspects of human development like, intellectual, physical, moral; aesthetic should be nurtured and cultivated in a good educational system. He also emphasized that education of child should be according to his needs, interest and capacity. However, the ability of the child should be utilised in proper place. Intellectual cultivation, power of reasoning cannot be gained through mere book reading. He was aware that "since childhood, instead of putting the entire burden on the memory, the power of thinking, and the power of imagination should also be given opportunities for free.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- More research should be conducted with regard to the educational thoughts of Rabindra Nath Tagore.
- More research should be conducted with reference to methods of teaching.
- A research on comparative study with different educationist on the views of present education system should be conducted in the future.
- More comparative study should be undertaken in the future.

REFERENCES
