

The Importance of Rabindranath Tagore's Educational Ideas on Education and Culture in Modern Education

Dr. Manvendra Prakash Mourya¹, Mr. Kailash Kumar²

¹ ISBM University Navapara (Kosmi), Block- Chhura , Dist. -Gariaband, Chhattisgarh, Isbm University Navapara (Kosmi) , Block- Chhura ,Dist. - Gariaband ,Chhattisgarh.

² Dhamtari (Chhattisgarh), Isbm University Navapara (Kosmi) , Block- Chhura ,Dist. - Gariaband ,Chhattisgarh.

Abstract

Education and culture are two invaluable gems, without which humanity is akin to animals. Education is the divine light that dispels the darkness of ignorance, guiding humanity towards truth, knowledge, and wisdom, while culture is the soul of any nation. Culture encompasses the social qualities and behaviors of people, including customs, conduct, traditions, religion, and beliefs. Education provides individuals with knowledge, self-confidence, and an ideal life. The sacred Indian culture, which considers guests as "God," is the foundation of humanity, love, philosophy, knowledge, national unity, and world peace, connecting us to our roots and helping us develop a global society. Together, these two play a crucial role in the holistic development of individuals and society. The educational ideas on 'education and culture' of Rabindranath Tagore, the composer of the Indian national anthem, a cultural ambassador who spread our culture to every corner of the world, a world-renowned poet, writer, and great philosopher, serve as a 'lighthouse' for today's modern education system. He shows us practical paths that lead us from darkness to light, which are considered the foundation of today's "global education." The multidisciplinary, holistic, and experiential education discussed in the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) has been successfully implemented by Tagore's Visva-Bharati for the past 100 years. Visva-Bharati is a vibrant laboratory of education and culture.

Keywords - quality education, culture, Vishwa-Bharti, importance of education and culture, Rabindranath Tagore etc.

INTRODUCTION

Education and culture are crucial tools that shape an individual's character and possess the potential to bring about societal change. Culture is a social attribute acquired by individuals within a society, encompassing customs, traditions, religion, and practices. Education and culture share a close relationship. Education plays a vital role in the physical, mental, intellectual, and overall development of a person. It is education that makes humans the most intelligent creatures on Earth and empowers them, preparing them to face life's challenges effectively. Education is a social process that involves the development of innate human potential, the enhancement of knowledge and skills, and the transformation of behavior. Education is a dynamic process that continues throughout a person's life, with schooling being only one part of it. The English word "education" is derived from the Latin word "educare," which means "to lead out," that is, to bring out the hidden talents within children. Thus, education means developing the physical, mental, and spiritual powers and abilities of a person. In a broader sense, education is a continuous social process in any society, through which a person's innate abilities are developed, their knowledge and skills are enhanced, and

their behavior is transformed, making them a civilized, cultured, and capable citizen. In literary terms, education is the path of "understanding and enlightenment" that liberates humanity from the darkness of ignorance. Education is what develops in a person the vision to recognize truth, goodness, and beauty; finding joy even in the bitterness of life and creating even in the face of scarcity is the true mark of being educated. In literary language, education is "transformation." Education is the philosopher's stone that transforms a person's ordinary personality into something as valuable and radiant as gold. According to Tagore, education means the holistic development of a person's inherent potential. Education is a process of "self-realization" and independent development in harmony with nature. Its objective is to achieve perfection by nurturing physical, mental, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual qualities. True education flourishes in a healthy environment, in the lap of nature, and with freedom.

According to Tagore, "Education means enabling the mind to seek and embrace truth, and to have access to knowledge." In his words, education encompasses the intellectual development of a person, including the ability to think and understand beyond mere rote learning; physical development; moral and spiritual development, characterized by love, compassion, patience, and devotion to truth; and cultural harmony, which involves remaining connected to one's own cultural roots while respecting other cultures. According to Tagore, "The highest education is that which not only gives us information but also brings our lives into harmony with the universe." Through education, emphasis is placed not only on increasing knowledge but also on human development and well-being. The purpose of education is to bring about a positive change in the behavior of the child.

Culture means 'Rites', that is, the learned behaviors and social qualities of human beings. It is the environment in which a person's personality develops and flourishes. The word "culture" is derived from the Latin word "cultura," which means to cultivate or care for. Humans learn culture effortlessly and unconsciously. Culture is the sum of social qualities. It encompasses all social attributes, including religion, traditions, customs, lifestyle, laws, literature, language, and social behavior. "Culture is the man-made part of the environment."

According to MacIver and Page, "Culture is the expression of our nature in the ways of living and thinking found in our daily behavior, art, literature, religion, entertainment, and enjoyment."

In Tagore's words, culture means, "the means by which man recognizes the infinity within himself and establishes harmony with the entire universe." Culture is that complex whole which includes all knowledge, beliefs, art, moral principles, laws, customs, and all other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society. The culture of a society means the entire way of life of that society.

"Culture is the ocean, vast, deep, and eternal. It contains all the knowledge and experience of our ancestors. Education is the 'wave' that rises with time, touches new heights, and leaves its mark on the shore. Every wave is a part of the ocean. No matter how modern education becomes, its water comes from the ocean of culture." For the holistic development of a child, both education and culture are the light that shows the way of life. Culture brings out the 'spiritual completeness' within a person. Tagore advocated for a culture that frees the human mind from rigid traditions and old superstitions. He advocated for the confluence of Eastern and Western cultures. For Tagore, culture meant the 'pursuit of beauty'. The development of human civilization is the result of education and culture. True education and culture can flourish only in the lap of nature. According to Tagore, "The plant of education grows in the soil of culture and breathes the air of nature. Only when these three meet is a complete human being created." Education should be such that it teaches respect for one's own culture.

Rabindranath Tagore's educational ideas on education and culture have become even more relevant and opportune in the 21st century. While the world is now discussing "mental health," "holistic development," and skill-based education, Tagore had already provided the blueprint for this 100 years ago. Tagore's Visva-Bharati is a living testament and example of this. The purpose of education, according to him, is to awaken the innate spirit of the child. The experience-based education advocated in the current New National Education Policy (NEP-2020) is a direct outcome of Tagore's philosophy. In the age of machine learning and AI, mere information has no value. What is valuable today is "creative thinking." If 21st-century education is to be safe from becoming purely "robotic," then adopting Tagore's "heart-centered" education is essential. Modern education is producing robotic humans devoid of culture. Tagore's educational ideas, based on music, art, culture, and literature, are crucial for fostering empathy, compassion, love, self-reliance, and a sense of humanity in students.

In today's world, where children are confined to the four walls of the school and screens, Tagore's Santiniketan model reminds us that true education takes place outside, in the lap of nature. According to Tagore, "nature is the greatest teacher" for a child. The closer a child is to nature, the more natural and profound their development will be. Nature doesn't speak, but it teaches us so much. The process of a seed growing into a tree teaches patience, and the changing seasons teach that joy, sorrow, and change are inevitable in life. Nature activates all five senses of a child. By being in nature, a child learns in their mother tongue that ants, trees, plants, animals, and humans are all connected by the same life force. This education makes them sensitive and non-violent. When a child comes into contact with all of this, their intelligence becomes "living" rather than "mechanical." Today, children are suffering from "Nature Deficit Disorder." They are so engrossed in mobile phones and computers that they have no experience of the outside world. Humanity has become so greedy and selfish that it is forgetting its culture, conduct, behavior, and moral values. The declining standard of education, which is plaguing the entire society, and the technology of digital mobile phones and computers have turned children into robotic machines. machines, not human beings because they lack original thought, reflection, life values, culture, social values, and good conduct.

Culture makes a person truly human. Today, indiscipline, idleness, insolence, lack of values, and a deficiency of human qualities are constantly increasing among students. The character of students is being eroded. In the current environment, disorder prevails everywhere. The declining standards of education and morality among students are giving rise to various social evils in society, the main reason for which is the lack of "education and culture." Only the best education and culture can make society and humanity great. Man is a social animal and can achieve his full development only by living in society. A person is known by their education and culture; therefore, the educational ideas on education and culture of Rabindranath Tagore, the creator of the Indian national anthem and Nobel laureate for Gitanjali (1913), are exemplary and significant, serving as a "lighthouse" for modern education. Visva-Bharati is a living laboratory of Tagore's educational ideas on education and culture. This research paper explores Tagore's educational ideas on education and culture. He was a prolific Indian who excelled in literature, art, philosophy, education, and culture. Tagore's educational experiments, conducted at Santiniketan (1901), challenged the colonial concepts of education and proposed an education system that included spiritual and emotional development, nature-based education, the importance of activities, debate, learning by doing, learning by experience, and the inductive method. Santiniketan (1901) and Visva-Bharati (1921), founded by Rabindranath Tagore, the ambassador of Indian culture, are educational institutions that serve

as a global symbol of the confluence of human love, nature-based education, art, culture, and craftsmanship. The greatest message of Tagore's Santiniketan is that "education should not be a burden but a source of joy." Children should be as eager to go to school as they are to go to the playground. Santiniketan is a center of cultural exchange and art, where writers, scholars, historians, and artists from all over the world come together.

Shantiniketan was declared the 41st World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2023. It is the only university in the world where the Prime Minister of India serves as the Chancellor (Acharya). Visva-Bharati is a center of education and culture, offering curricula in Vedic literature, Buddhist literature, Western literature, various Indian and foreign languages, music, dance, painting, crafts, social education, labor, agriculture, rural welfare and cooperation, and agricultural research, among other academic disciplines. In the Shantiniketan ashram, teaching and other programs were conducted under the shade of trees, amidst cool breezes and a pure environment, where students sat on their mats and received instruction from their gurus seated on a platform. This scene can still be witnessed in Shantiniketan today. Tagore believed in "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family). He believed that Indian culture should move forward in conjunction with Western science and ideas. The greatest purpose of religion and culture, he felt, should be service to humanity and love. The educational and cultural ideas of Rabindranath Tagore, a creative artist of modern India, reflect the liberation of the soul, a natural environment, creativity, freedom, humanity, ethics, a global perspective, and experimental education. Education should be a joyful and experiential process in direct contact with nature. Nature inspires creativity, which awakens curiosity in students. Students should have freedom while receiving education; Tagore strongly opposed strict discipline and punishment. Freedom and a stress-free environment make learning more effective. Intellectual freedom, creative freedom, natural freedom, and freedom of rights inspire children to learn.

Children's education should be in their mother tongue. Education in the mother tongue allows children to fully express their feelings, thoughts, and imaginations, while a foreign language hinders intellectual and emotional development. Tagore says, "In education, a child's mother tongue is like mother's milk."

Children should have a clear understanding of Indian ideology, social values, culture, and the background of Indian society. Education should include India's past and culture, so that students have a clear understanding of the diversity of their country. Education should be a blend of society and culture. Creative and artistic education should be a fundamental element. The curriculum should be "experience-centered" and "nature-centered," giving importance to all aspects of a child's development, such as physical, mental, emotional, social, moral, cultural, and spiritual development. Tagore emphasized learning by doing, learning through exploration, self-effort, self-reflection, debate and question-answer methods, the mother tongue method, and understanding-based learning, and strongly opposed rote learning.

Education is the foundation of any nation, and teachers are nation builders. A teacher helps a child differentiate between right and wrong. A good teacher should be like a mother, who understands our emotions. An excellent teacher is like a guide, facilitator, mentor, director, supervisor, inspector, counselor, motivator, and gardener, who recognizes the hidden talents in a child, such as art, music, and writing, and nurtures them with the light of knowledge.

"Teachers are the backbone of any country, teachers are the pillars of a nation, transforming the potential of youth into reality." The future of any nation depends on its education system, the thoughts, character, and conduct of its teachers.

In the modern era, the educational ideas of the world-renowned poet Rabindranath Tagore on "Education and Culture" have become not just an option, but a necessity in today's digital and stressful age. While the modern education system is solely focused on grades and career competition, Tagore's ideas show the way to humanize it. Today, when the whole world is talking about "environmental education" and "holistic development," Tagore's educational philosophy was successfully implementing these concepts at his Santiniketan institution more than 100 years ago. The new National Education Policy (NEP-2020) draws inspiration from Santiniketan in several aspects, including the integration of arts and flexibility in the curriculum. Today, as society moves towards polarization, Tagore's idea of "cultural harmony" teaches us tolerance and respect for each other's views. In the corporate world and in education, EQ (Emotional Quotient) is now being given more importance than IQ, a concept Tagore recognized a century ago. Tagore's ideas are not merely "old ideals," but rather a blueprint for the future of education. They remind us that the ultimate goal of education is not just a degree or a job, but the creation of a complete human being. Tagore believed that we should keep the foundations of our own culture strong, while also keeping our windows open to embrace the good aspects of other cultures. Today, in multicultural societies where people often become rigid about their own culture, Tagore's idea of cultural harmony shows the path to peaceful coexistence. In the current times of global conflicts, Tagore's concept of "world culture" reminds us that we are human beings first and citizens of a particular country second.

The ultimate goal of NEP-2020 is not merely to create "mechanical workers" but to cultivate "sensitive" human beings. While educational systems worldwide are now talking about "nature-based" and "holistic development," Tagore was already successfully implementing these principles at his educational institution, Santiniketan, proving that his ideas were far ahead of their time. Therefore, Tagore's ideas on education and culture remain relevant in the modern era.

Education in the lap of nature: Tagore considered nature to be the greatest teacher, believing that children learn better under the open sky than in closed rooms. Today's "eco-friendly" education and "outdoor learning" are extensions of this concept of education in the lap of nature. It helps reduce students' mental stress and fosters environmental awareness. The atmosphere of Tagore's Visva-Bharati, with its emphasis on music, art, and nature, demonstrates the most effective way to achieve this goal.

"Visva-Bharati is the foundation upon which the edifice of modern India's new education policy can be built."

Rabindranath Tagore emphasized the integration of creativity and art with education to preserve his culture. He considered music, painting, and dance essential in education, believing that the development of imagination is as crucial as the development of logic. The current National Education Policy (NEP-2020), which aims to eliminate the distinction between 'curricular' and 'extra-curricular' activities, is based on Tagore's educational philosophy. Today, when we talk about 21st-century skills, Tagore's principles stand at the core. The "STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)" model being discussed in modern education demands Tagore's integrated approach, so that students view life not in fragments but as a whole. Indian culture is one of the oldest and most vibrant cultures in the world. "Atithi Devo Bhava" (The guest is God) has been a distinctive feature of Indian culture and

tradition, forming the basis of hospitality towards guests and tourists in India, from ancient scriptures, Upanishads, Vedas, and sages to the present day. "Atithi Devo Bhava" is a sacred mantra of ancient Indian culture, meaning "The guest is God" or "The guest is like God." It signifies treating a guest who comes to one's home with the same respect, honor, and hospitality as one would treat God, reflecting the values of hospitality and selfless service. The guest is revered; this is the identity of our culture, which conveys the message of humanity, love, national unity, and world peace.

Through universal brotherhood and cultural unity, Tagore, through Santiniketan and Visva-Bharati, attempted to connect Indian culture with other cultures of the world. In this era of globalization, Tagore's ideas inspire students to become "global citizens," rooted in their own culture but open to the world. Since learning a foreign language can hinder a child's mental development, providing early education in the mother tongue allows children to become more creative and intellectually independent.

Against rote learning in the age of robotics: In this era of AI, rote learning is obsolete, as machines can perform tasks that previously required memorization. Tagore emphasized art, music, and original thinking. "Critical thinking" and "creativity" are essential for future jobs, and these can only be fostered through Tagore's art-based educational philosophy. Today's education is making individuals "skilled" but not "sensitive." Tagore's concept of culture meant compassion towards others. To combat rising intolerance and crime today, there is a need for value-based cultural education, which stems from Tagore's humanism.

The balance of physical and mental development: Tagore believed that education is not merely an exercise of the mind. He considered physical labor, gardening, and handicrafts to be an integral part of education. This idea forms the basis of today's 'Vocational Training' and 'Skill India' initiatives, where practical skills are valued alongside academic knowledge. Tagore opposed blind nationalism and advocated for a liberal culture. He favored a synthesis of Western science and Eastern spirituality. He said that a culture that does not give importance to art, music, and literature is a dead culture. He considered 'beauty' (Sundaram) to be an essential part of life. In today's fast-paced, materialistic life, Tagore's ideas offer us mental peace and an artistic perspective on life. Frightening a child in the name of discipline stifles their natural curiosity. A child should have the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them. The modern education system emphasizes a 'student-centered' approach, where the teacher is not a 'dictator' but a 'guide'. Rural revival and folk culture: Tagore did not only focus on the high culture of cities, but through 'Sriniketan', he revived rural folk arts, handicrafts, and festivals. This idea strengthens today's 'Vocal for Local' and rural tourism initiatives, providing respect and employment to local artists.

Environmental awareness and climate change are among the world's biggest problems today. Tagore spoke of "harmony with nature" decades ago. In modern education, simply teaching about the environment from books is not enough. According to Tagore, unless a child loves nature, they will not protect it. Therefore, "nature-based learning" is a crucial need today. Regarding the need for social harmony, Tagore's philosophy aimed at breaking down the culture of "ego." In modern times, when society is divided along caste and religious lines, his teachings guide us towards "cultural liberalism." "Education that lacks the cultivation of the

heart only produces clever devils." This idea serves as a significant warning for today's corporate and technological world.

Regarding community engagement, Tagore's vision was not limited to the school alone; he connected students with the problems of the village through "Sriniketan." The increasing emphasis on "Social Internship" and "Community Service" in modern education is an extension of Tagore's idea that an educated person should be aware of the ground realities of their society.

The end of rote learning: Tagore's famous essay "The Parrot's Training" is a satire on how the education system stifles children's originality. In today's world, where information is available with a single click on Google, the need for rote learning has disappeared. What is needed now is "independent thinking," which Tagore called "self-realization."

CONCLUSION

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is attempting to implement, in a modern context, the principles that Tagore spoke of nearly 100 years ago. In the modern era, both education and culture hold significant importance. The confluence of education and culture is what elevates humanity from "animalistic" tendencies to true "humanity." The purpose of education is not merely to fill the mind with information, but to connect it to the universe through one's culture. Tagore believed that only by receiving education in close contact with nature does a person truly become cultured. The National Education Policy (NEP) emphasizes early childhood education in the mother tongue, along with a multidisciplinary approach, holistic development, experiential learning, creativity, critical thinking, reduced stress from board examinations, bagless periods, 360-degree assessment, and a move away from rote learning, all aimed at the all-round development of the child. Tagore had already successfully implemented all these principles and approaches at his Santiniketan and Visva-Bharati institutions nearly 100 years ago. Tagore's educational institutions, Santiniketan and Visva-Bharati, stand today as living proof, a vibrant laboratory of his ideas. Therefore, Tagore's educational ideas on education and culture are highly influential and significant in modern education. In short, for Tagore, "education is a seed," and "culture is the fertile soil" in which that seed flourishes. When these two combine, a "global citizen" is created, who is useful not only to their own country but to the entire world. His Santiniketan remains a living example of this profound conclusion.

Reference:

1. Ravindranath Tagore: philosophy of education and painting. by Devi Prasad.
2. Personality (1917) In a chapter titled "My School" of this book, he has explained in detail the establishment of Shantiniketan and the purpose behind it.
3. The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore by S. Radhakrishnan
4. "Creative Unity": This book explains the interrelationship between art, culture and humanity.
5. Comparative study of philosophical ideas of Rabindranath Tagore and the Mahatma Gandhi and the relevance of research work in present prospective.
6. International Journal of advance in social science . Mrs Ranjana Thakur assistant teacher. K. D. Rungta Science and Technology College Raipur(C.G.)
7. travel nfx channel . Net. Shantiniketan history visva Bharati University.
8. Mission one way Dindayal sir. Shantiniketan (visva- Bharati) Shiksha Darshan, uddeshy.

9. Utrakhand Open University halwani 263139. Nainital methods and sticstice.
10. "The Centre of Indian Culture" It expresses views on the cultural basis of Indian education and the role of the university.