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Review Article

Contribution Of Rabindranath Tagore in Education

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Abstract

Rabindranath Tagore was not only a poet and philosopher but also a visionary educationist who transformed the concept of education in India. His educational philosophy emphasised freedom, creativity, nature, and holistic development of the child. Tagore opposed rote learning and believed that education should develop harmony between human beings and nature. He established innovative institutions such as Visva-Bharati University to promote global learning and cultural exchange. This paper discusses Tagore's contributions to education, his educational philosophy, and the relevance of his ideas in modern education systems.

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1. INTRODUCTION

More Education plays an essential role in the development of society. During the colonial period, the education system in India was largely influenced by Western models, focusing mainly on rote learning and examination. Rabindranath Tagore criticized this system and proposed a more humanistic and creative approach to education. Tagore believed that education should nurture the child's imagination, creativity, and emotional development. His educational experiments at Santiniketan became an important model of progressive education in India.

Educational Philosophy of Tagore

1. Education in Harmony with Nature -

Tagore believed that children learn best when they are close to nature. Therefore, classes at Santiniketan were often held in open spaces under trees.

2. Freedom in Learning -

According to Tagore, education should not impose rigid discipline. Students should have the freedom to explore knowledge and express their creativity.

3. Holistic Development -

Tagore emphasized the development of the body, mind, and spirit. He included music, dance, art, and literature in the curriculum.

4. Internationalism -

Tagore believed education should promote global understanding. This vision was realized through the establishment of Visva-Bharati University.

Major Educational Contributions

1. Establishment of Santiniketan

In 1901, Tagore founded an experimental school at Santiniketan where students studied in a natural environment.

2. Founding of Visva-Bharati University

In 1921, Tagore established Visva-Bharati University with the aim of combining the best elements of Eastern and Western education.

3. Integration of Arts in Education

Tagore emphasized music, drama, painting, and literature as essential parts of education.

4. Rural Reconstruction Education

Tagore started rural education programs through Sriniketan to improve village life and promote practical learning.

Relevance of Tagore's Educational Ideas in Modern Education
The ideas of Tagore remain highly relevant in the 21st century. Modern educational approaches such as experiential learning, creativity-based education, and interdisciplinary studies reflect Tagore's vision. In the era of technology and artificial intelligence, his emphasis on human values and creativity is even more significant.

CONCLUSION

Rabindranath Tagore made remarkable contributions to educational thought and practice. His philosophy emphasized freedom, creativity, cultural harmony, and learning through nature. Institutions like Visva-Bharati University continue to reflect his educational ideals. Tagore's vision of holistic and humane education remains an important guide for modern educational reforms.

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