

THE EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF TAGORE AND GANDHI: A QUEST

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ABSTRACT

As far as the community is concerned, educational opportunities and development play a vital role in every aspect for the communal progress. The more educational institutions are prevalent in a society the more educated and sophisticated their mindset will be. By this way the students will be benefited. Leaders as well as think tanks of the society or so called intellectuals mould the theoretical aspects of a society whereas the rulers are responsible for implementing these theories and making them true in the real world. Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore are the prominent personalities who designed the nation and contributed much for the wellbeing of the millions dwelt in it. As a matter of fact educational concepts and theories of this duo are the core draft of the educational policies implemented today even in this twenty first century. This paper is an attempt to analyse the educational theories of Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi comparing the similarities and differences between them.

Key words: community, Rabindranath Tagore.

INTRODUCTION:

At the outset, the paper deals with the ideas of Tagore and Gandhi a concerning their conception about philosophy and Education as well as it's inter relation in the comparative perspective. It deals with the study of fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence, considered as an academic discipline. The term 'Philo' means 'lover' and 'Sophy' means 'wisdom' Altogether we say "The Lover of wisdom."According to Plato, "Philosophy is neither accidental, nor supernatural, but inevitable and normal. Some people refer to it as formal schooling or to lifelong learning. Some others refer to it as acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes. Some say that "education is nothing, but training of people's mind in a particular or direction to bring about desired changes."Education is not complete without philosophy and Philosophy is not complete without Education. It has

a very close relation. They are called the two sides of the same coin. That's why educationists and teachers must have basic information about various educational philosophies in order to know the whole nature of a specific educational ends. Both philosophy and education are based on the conceptions of wisdom ideology and critical enquiry, the difference being that philosophy is contemplative. The basic relationship between philosophy and education can be analysed as follows. It is philosophy that provides the purpose or the aim and it is education which makes it practical. Philosophy and education are closely related. If we want to discuss philosophy, automatically without education philosophy cannot be discussed.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

View point of Tagore and Gandhi's Educational Philosophy:-

We are living in the twenty first Century. In this era, it is observed that many people are jobless worldwide. The cause of their problems is insufficiency of education. So, education plays a key role in the life of a person. Tagore and Gandhi were far sighted persons. Gandhi's philosophy of basic education is comprehensive enough because he looks upon education as an instrument for socioeconomic progress, material advancement, political evolution and moral development for individuals in the society. Some of the ideas of Tagore are similar to Gandhi. According to a moral student Tagore's theories are most applicable. In the duration of study, student's mind must be free. It helps children to concentrate better.

Educational Policy: -

Mahatma Gandhi was mainly a freedom fighter. His philosophy of basic education is a key to social economic advancement. His view of basic education is greatly influenced by his philosophy of truth, non-violence, firm belief in God and dignity of labour. He emphasized on the key point that the educational philosophy should be sympathetic friendly characterised by a deep feeling of love.

Keeping aloof from Modern Machinery: -

Gandhi opposed to modern Machinery as it indirectly produces disadvantage. This indirectly ruining our cottage industry. Tagore also insisted on cottage industry. That's why he established Shriniketan where we can get hand woven goods. According to Gandhi, "If the machinery craze grows in our country, it will become an unhappy land." Today this concept of education as propagated by Gandhi is impossible because people can't live without modern Machinery.

SIMILARITIES:**Keep Mother tongue as the medium of instruction:-**

Both Tagore and Gandhi wanted that mother tongue to be the medium of instruction by this way the student will learn properly. Gandhi thought that being an Indian he can't speak his mother tongue in the court. So, he saw it through the eyes of politics. When a person speaks in English he is entertained everywhere. But it is not correct we know English. Is an important language. Numbers of books are written in this language. But it cannot be stopped immediately. Moreover English is taught in the school syllabus. Tagore wanted Western as well as Eastern education and it should be united. It is a synthesis between East and West. Both Tagore and Gandhi were in favour of vernacular as the medium of Instruction.

Inclusion of Handicrafts in the Syllabus:-

Both of them emphasized on crafts such as spiraling, weaving, metal work, basket making etc. At Shrinkeetan Tagore also started cottage industry like weaving. It proves that he was also in favour of crafts.

Rationalism: -

Both Tagore and Gandhi believed in rationalism as a way to educational development. They also denounced colonial education. Tagore's system of education emphasized on intellectual, physical, social, moral, economic and the spiritual. By this way a man can develop his towering personality.

Lover for humanity:

According to Tagore educational philosophy is international, sympathetic and promotes universal brotherhood. The feeling of oneness should he developed through the concepts like brotherhood. In the eyes of God all creatures are equal. He spoke about physical development. Therefore he was in favour of giving training for sports, games etc. He emphasized on dance, drama, music and literature also.

Differences:

The major difference between their theories is spiritualism. Gandhi focused on education for moral development. But focused on education for moral development and life after death. Tagore idealism pervades with world brotherhood and love for God. Another difference is physical development, there are a divergent is view on the same aspect of two maestros. Sometimes both of them used to criticize each other.

According to Romain Rolland,

“The controversy between Tagore and Gandhi between two great minds, both moved by mutual admiration and esteem, but as fatally separated in their feeling as philosopher can be from an apostle, a St. Paul from a Plato, is important. For, on the one side, we have the spirit of religious faith and charity seeking to find a new humanity. On the other, we have intelligence, free born, screen and broad, seeking to unite aspirations of all humanity in sympathy and understanding.

CONCLUSION:

Both Tagore and Gandhi denounced colonial education. They looked at education from a post colonial perspective. Their experimentations bore the stamp of India’s national heritage the Vedas and Upanishads. Tagore’s view was to re-introduce Ashramic education under the natural shelter. Gandhi also invoked the ancient Indian practices. A child is born in a family. So he/ she learn everything from his parents. So family is the first agent in the socialisation of the child and as we all know ‘charity begins at home’. In the past, the child used to learn from the parent the trade practiced in the family. Later on with this main learning activity he would learn arts, especially literature in a cheerful mood. Education is an important thing according to human beings. In all field education is a necessary process. As Simon Peres, president of Israel said “Agriculture is more revolutionary than industry. In twenty five years Israel increased its agriculture yields seventeen times. Later on people realised that. So, without education it would not have been possible.

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