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## A study on the teaching methods in TTD educational institutions according to Ravindranath Tagore educational ideas.

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### Abstract

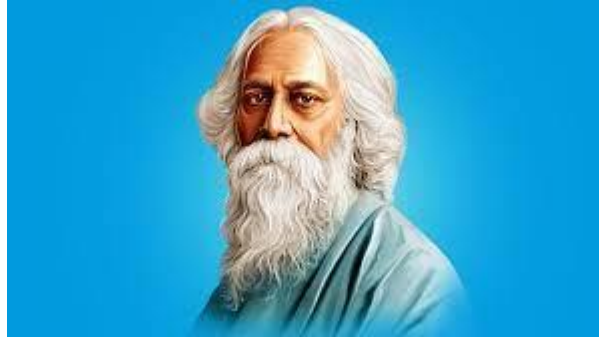
Ravindra Nath Tagore is the greatest of the Indians writing in English as well as in Bengali Hindu poets. Among many works the famous book 'Gitanjali' focused on spirituality which contains the collection of 103 spiritual songs, titled as "Song Offerings" was published in 1912, by London Society. He was very much influenced by Vaishnava lyrics and his works are found to be embodied to great extent in Indian religious beliefs and Upanishadic themes. This paper highlights Tagore's Spiritual Humanism in Gitanjali as well as educational philosophy & Nature of Ravindranath Tagore and spiritual activities in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Tirupati.

Key words : Spirituality, Hinduism, Tagore, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams

### Introduction

Ravindranath Tagore was born on 7th of May, 1861 in Kolkata. He is popularly known as "Gurudev". He has eminent talent in art, poetry, painting as well as writing novels. His world famous book "Gitanjali" is a collection of 103 spiritual songs, titled as "Song Offerings" was published in 1912, by London Society. Out of the 103 poems present in the English Gitanjali, 53 were from Gitanjali, 16 from Gitimalya, 16 from Naibedya, 11 from Kheya, 3 from Shishu, and the remaining each one from Chaitali, Kalpana, Achalayatanand Utsarga. Gitanjali is deeply intertwined with spirituality, as Ravindranath Tagore explores themes of divine love, human longing, and the search for meaning in the universe. The atmosphere of *Gitanjali* is characterized by the very first verse of the first poem, in which Tagore says that he worships his creator in the dust of the earth. Humility, devotion and love are the key which determines the tone of his work. Devotion to God, the celebration of man's union with the God, the immortality of

the soul, the omnipresence of God, idea of liberation of the soul are some of the recurring themes in Gitanjali. Devotion to God, the celebration of man's union with the God, the immortality of the soul, the omnipresence of God, idea of liberation of the soul are some of the recurring themes in Gitanjali. He was very much influenced by Vaishnava lyrics and his works are found to be embodied to great extent in Indian religious beliefs and Upanishadic themes and he sees God as his beloved and he yearns for an eternal union with God. Ravindranath Tagore in his poems strongly illustrated that God is omnipresence.



### Objectives of the study :

To study the educational practices of Tagore's educational system and TTD educational institutions.

To study the importance of nature according to Tagore and practices in TTD to protect Nature

To focus the spiritual activities run in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

**Ravindranath Tagore spiritualism :** Gitanjali poems of Ravindranath Tagore's obviously reinstated that God is omnipresence. Humility, devotion and love are the key which determines the tone of his work. Vedantic philosophy says that Nature and God are the same, the two aspects of the absolute. He is of the opinion that relationship of soul with God is not possible without relationship of soul with man. Tagore says that God lies among human beings. He is in you, me and every living being. Consequently, to love everyone in this world is to love the Almighty and to serve mankind is to serve the God. God is not to be found in the temple but with the tiller, the stonebreaker and honest Labourers. Many of his songs express his spiritual humanism and his sense of oneness with the poor and the downtrodden. He believes that man can not ignore his fellow-men for God is with needy and poor rather than with priest and Prince. He prays to God for an ideal state of living and development of his country. He prays for spiritual freedom, freedom from fear, narrow-mindedness and evil desires prevailing in the society. Hence it is observed that service to humane is service to God.

Nature in Tagore is the very core of the spirit. Tagore looked at the objects of Nature through his first-floor room window and clouds, trees and birds enchanted him. He felt spirituality in them. When his father entrusted him with the administrative management of the landed property of the family in Bengla, and Orissa, he came in close contact with nature. Nature is apart and parcel of God. Vedantic philosophy says that Nature and God are the same, the two aspects of the absolute. Nature in Tagore is the very core of the spirit. God which prevails in all phenomenon of holy mysticism and nature. Mountains, trees flowers, changing modes of weather, stars, universe, and rotation of day and night, the sun, the moon etc. are all great manifestations and exhibitions of God.

Tagore's views on God clearly reinstated that the devotees can't define God and His love in words. We need a pure, devoted heart to understand Him. The heart of the human being can only grasp the reality behind Him. He doesn't exist in words but the poet feels Him in the core of

his heart or soul. It obviously defined that God existed everywhere and when we serve the people and nature with pure heart we can get God blessings.

Tagore further emphasized on the importance of one's work and art as a medium of devotion, as opposed to materialistic expressions as ordained by religious doctrines. Tagore's emphasis on human relationships when exploring his relationship with his God can be analyzed through the manner in which he addresses his God. It also influenced the devotees to think on the way to reach the God is to serve the people and nature assuming God exists everywhere.

### Educational system in Ravindranath Tagore Santhinikethan :

Rabindranath Tagore founded several schools and a university at Santiniketan, in West-Bengal. He aimed at providing a holistic education that was deeply rooted in one's culture and surroundings but also connected to the wider world. Tagore was a pioneer in education for intercultural understanding and peace, for respect and intimacy with nature, for rural reconstruction and social engagement and for artistic abilities and creativity. At the same time Tagore aspired to provide education nearer to nature where the students can learn at free environment as well as learn according to the wish of the students without any pressure. Education through excursions and debates as well as discussions will improve the knowledge and interest on education towards studies is the concept of Ravindranath Tagore. He further stated that the duty of students is humility in behavior, purity in behavior, adherence to rules and regulations, Cleanliness of body and environment, discipline in personal and social life, independent thinking. Tagore strongly believed that heuristic method can improve the standards of students.

### Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams spiritual activities : Food for all, health service, education,

As part of service to humane is service to God Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam started Venkateswara Nithya Annadanam Endowment Scheme on 6-4-1985 with an intention to serve food at free of cost to 2,000 pilgrims per day at Tirumala later it was expanded and at present more than one lakh pilgrims are being utilized the facility, gradually the management implemented the free food scheme to the devotees at local temples in around Tirupati also.

TTD management is providing advanced health facilities through established hospitals such as SVIMS, BIRRD, SV Ayurveda Hospital, SV Children hospital, and arranged dispensaries in various areas in Tirumala and Tirupati. Apart from that Sri Venkateswara Pranadanam Trust aims at providing free medical facilities to poor patients afflicted with life threatening diseases related to the heart, kidneys, brain, cancer etc., for which the treatment is very expensive and beyond the reach of poor patients. The scheme also proposes to encourage research and development in the treatment of diseases/ conditions like chronic renal failure, hemophilia, thalassemia and cancer. Basic amenities including blood-bank, artificial limbs, physiotherapy, tools and implants will be provided to poor patients, free of cost. This scheme will be applicable to all poor patients, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Treatment will be provided at all TTD-run hospitals- SVIMS, BIRRD, SVRR and the maternity Hospital.



The T.T.Devasthanams has undertaken various social and welfare activities in fulfillment of its Motto of "SERVING TO THE LORD BY SERVING HUMANITY". With a view to give a helping hand to the poor and orphans, the TTD has established Sri Venkateswara Balamandir in Tirupati in the year 1943.

Children, both boys and girls, who have no parents as well as those whose father expired and mother is unable to bring up the children and vice-versa are admitted to this institution. The TTD is providing accommodation, food, clothing and education to the children admitted to Sri Venkateswara Balamandir from 1<sup>st</sup> class onwards. The children are given education upto graduation in TTD run schools and colleges. Meritorious students are also given coaching for EAMCET. It is the motto of the TTD to see that orphans admitted to the Balamandir live on their own. Give a helping hand to the orphans.

### Review of literature

Ghosh Tpushree, (2021) carried out a study on reading Ravindranath Tagore's Gitanjali, meaning for our troubled, pandemic stricken times with an objective to re-reads Tagore's Gitanjali from the present position of being sufferers of a global crisis. The study concluded that the rereading of this text can heal us and make us introspect; it can provide us with aesthetic pleasure, delight and ananda, thereby helping us emotionally and psychologically to tide

over the present state of crisis and turmoil successfully. The study recalled the Ravindranath Tagore poems strongly illustrated that God is omnipresence.

Lal Babu, (2014) in his study on spiritual humanism in Tagore's Gitanjali expressed the views of Ravindranath Tagore. According to him Ravindranath Tagore opined that that relationship of soul with God is not possible without relationship of soul with man. Tagore says that God lies among human beings. He is in you, me and every living being. Consequently, to love everyone in this world is to love the Almighty and to serve mankind is to serve the God. God is not to be found in the temple but with the tiller, the stonebreaker and honest Labourers.

Jemima, Cinthia N, (2013) made an attempt in his work quest for spirituality in Gitanjali and Psalms A comparative study expressed to analyze the quest for spirituality in *Gitanjali* and *Psalms*. In this essay he explained the structure of Gitanjali. According to him this book is divided into two major parts. The first one is the quest for the and the second one is the realization of God. The first seven poems sing the immensity of God. They deal with the infinite, mystic relationship of man and God and express the feeling of gratitude for the Supreme God for his immortal gifts to mortals. The study opined that humility, devotion and love are the key which determines the tone Ravindranath Tagore works.

Educational system in TTD run Degree Colleges with reference to Ravindranath Tagore educational ideas. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams is running many educational institutions.

### **Nature according to Ravindranath Tagore & TTD**

Tagore's educational system is very closer to nature as naturalism is one of the pillars of his educational philosophy. In his opinion Nature is a valuable instructor. Tagore assumed that Nature is compassionate, generous and kind. Tagore strongly expressed that if the education is isolated from the nature it inflicts numerous harms to students. Nature can influence the man and his activities. He believed that God is existed in nature and human beings.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam believed that service to man is service to God.

**Methodology :** The researcher has selected 150 students from selected 3 Degree colleges 50 students from each college randomly.

### **Data analysis**

Among them the researcher has chosen 3 Degree colleges for the present study

Table No 1

Name of the College	Boys	Girls	Total
S V Arts College	40	10	50
SPW Degree College		50	50
SGS Arts College	40	10	50
Total	80	70	150

It is observed from the above table that 80 students hail from the selected 3 degree colleges belong to boys and the remaining 70 students are girls.

Table No 2

Name of the Group/discipline	No of students
Arts & Humanities	44
Mathematics & Life sciences	48
Commerce	60
Total	150

Table 2 indicates that most 60 of the respondents belong to commerce group followed by 48 belong to Mathematics & Life Science department and the rest of 44 respondents come from Arts & Humanities.



Table No 3

Teaching method based on Freedom to learner

Method	Yes	No	Total
Freedom to learner	118	32	150

It is clear from Table No 3 that 118 respondents expressed their positivity regarding the freedom to learners whereas the remaining 32 respondents said that they have no freedom in learning.

Table No 4 Education through excursion

Method	Yes	No	Total
Education through excursion	86	64	150

Table No 4 shows that 86 respondents opined regarding education through excursion that the management of their colleges are providing in that manner and the remaining 64 respondents expressed that they have no such excursion based education.

Table No 5 Education through debates and discussion

Method	Yes	No	Total
Education through debates & discussion	122	28	150

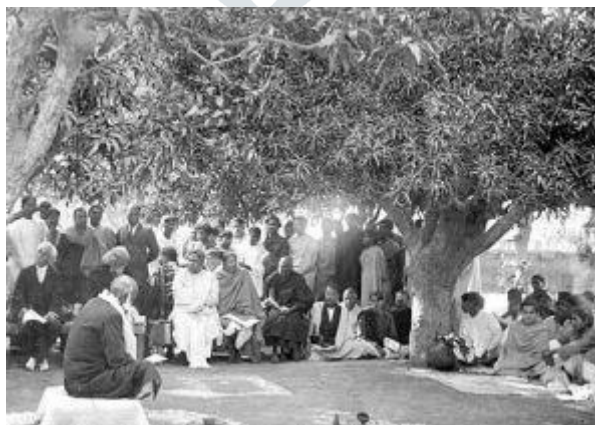
Table No 5 depicts that 122 respondents opined regarding education through debates & discussion that the management of their colleges are providing in that manner and the remaining 28 respondents expressed that they have no such debates & discussion based education.

Table No 6 Education through heuristic method

Method	Yes	No	Total
Education through heuristic method	116	34	150

It is obvious from the above Table that 116 respondents opined regarding education through heuristic that the faculty of their class are adopting heuristic manner and the remaining 34 respondents expressed that they have no such kind of education.

**Heuristic method:** Knowledge, action, love Language, context and books



## Results discussion & Conclusion :

Results show that majority features of the education system of Ravindranath Tagore is being implemented in the education system of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam educational institutions but the standards in terms of

inculcating dedication among students, universalization of syllabus pattern should needs to be improved. The study suggested that heuristic method education can absolutely improve the standards and quality of education among students and the management needs to focus the innovative methods to strengthen the educational system.

Now a days the need of spirituality among human beings is very essential to get salvation from their routine commitment on visible and invisible sins. Ravindranath Tagore contributed many articles on spirituality which indicates that man is ever related to spirituality and nature which are closely comes from the rigvedas. It is clear from the study that Ravindranath Tagore followed the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams activities in serving humanity which leads to service to man is service to God. TTD is maintaining food for all devotees continuously.

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