

## "Contribution of Rabindranath Tagore in the field of social and political: A critical Analysis"

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### **Abstract**

*Poet, Philosopher, educationist, patriot, humanist and internationalist, Rabindranath Tagore was one of the spokesmen of the soul of India. He was not a mere ideal dreamer. He has translated his thoughts into practice. His challenge against social injustice, his warning against social exploitation is reflected not only in his great poem like Apamanita in Gitanjali, or Africa. His novels too express inner dissatisfaction against political and economic exploitation. His writings have enriched the literature not only Bengal and India but of the world. The Simplicity of his style, his rich imagination and his intuitive apperception of things have given him an almost unique literary position in modern India.*

*Rabindranath Tagore had always supported nationalism. His political and social journey was very good. He has depicted many social and political aspects in his works. He had devoted himself completely to education, literature, and service to the society.*

**Keywords:**  
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Rabindranath Tagore had great distrust in the state and its institutions. According to him, effective human development cannot be ensured only through political action. He did not like to be involved in action policies. It was beyond his poetic spirit. But when situation arose involving the honors of the country and countrymen, he could never sit idle. Time and again he had shown that. In letter to Rothenstein he spelt out his outlook in a candid manner.

"I have nothing to do directly with politics; I am not a nationalist, moderate or immoderate in my political aspiration. But politics is not a mere abstraction. It has its personality and it does intrude into my life where I am human. It kills and maims individuals, it tells lies, it uses its sacred sword of Justice for the purpose of massacre, it spreads misery broadcast over centuries of exploitation, and I cannot say to myself, 'poet, you have nothing to do with these facts for they belong to politics. This politics assumes its fullest diabolical aspect from a whole nation only because it wants to enjoy in comfort and safety the golden fruits reaped from abject degradation of human races.'"<sup>1</sup>

Rabindranath Tagore never took active part in Politics, but he was not indifferent to it. He was of the opinion that political subjection is not so much dangerous as that of social and moral subjection. He always inspired the people to be bold and courageous. Unity among Indians irrespective of caste, religion and language was his chief anxiety all problems.

The political views of Tagore were greatly appreciated by the people. He did a lot of work for social upliftment. He realized that unless the living conditions in villages are improved social reform movement in India will remain a for cry. So, he said, " Our aim must be to give these few village music and recitations going on, as in the old days. Fulfill this ideal in a few villages only, and I will say. That these few villages are my India. And only if that is done, India will be truly ours."<sup>2</sup>

In the middle of 1904, there was a mammoth meeting in calculate. It was presided over by Ramesh Chandra Dutta. Tagore read a paper there on *Swadeshi Samaj*. It was here that for the first time Tagore asked the national leaders to concentrate their energy on the development of rural India. Tagore said," The core of India. lies in her villages. The problems. of these village are the problems of India, India progress only when you can bring new life to these villages."<sup>3</sup>

Rabindranath Tagore suggested to the educated youth of the country to help in the construction roads, schools, ponds etc. without any direct political affiliation. "Only then, in no time the dream Swadeshi will come true". He had put these ideas into practice in Many of his own estates. In 1886, Tagore wrote a social poem whose purpose was to awaken the people. He worked tirelessly to improve the social condition of his time.

Tagore was source of inspiration to the depressed and subjugated members of society not only in his own country but also

in the colonial parts of the world who have groaned under the tyranny of social, economic and political exploitation through centuries. He always stood the cause of their inspiration particularly political emancipation and economic progress.

Tagore developed his philosophy of life along with the development of education and philosophy. The elements which had an impact in the development of his philosophy of life, the same elements had an effect on his education philosophy as well. He had acquired sufficient knowledge natural and social sciences by his sharp intellect, which had a substantial impact in the formation of his philosophy of education.

Tagore wanted to develop the spirit of love in all the things of the present through education. He was the greatest prophet of the educational revival of modern India. He struggled relentlessly to establish the highest ideals of education in front of his country.

Rabindranath Tagore laid emphasis on education. He believed that society cannot be improve without the light of knowledge. An Illiterate can never understand the problems of life. He is like a blind man for whom day and night are not different. Tagore always opposed formal education that to only makes a habit of mind. Full personality development is not possible by formal education. He had ridiculed the present system of education. " our education to us is like the carriage to a horse, a bondage, the dragging of which merely serves to provide it with food and shelter in the stable of its master, the horse has not the same freedom of relationship with the carriage

as its owner, and, therefore, the carriage ever remains for it it an imposition of beggarly necessity."<sup>4</sup>

This education enables man to become expert in oratory and journalism. In his poems 'WILD HOPE' and 'HEROES OF BENGAL', he has pointed out how the young men of our country have lost their energy for work. It is satirizing the lazy and pampered students.

Rabindranath Tagore stressed much on education. So, education according to him is the royal road to the solution of all problems. His educational ideals found concrete shape in Shanti Niketan.

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