

Literary legacy of Rabindranath Tagore: a Review

Dr. Vijay Madhukar Khadse

Department of English

Arts, Commerce and Science College

Arvi, Dist-Wardha.

Mail Id-khadse.vijay090@gmail.com

Abstract:

Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore is also known as Gurudev. He breathed his last on 7 August 1941 in Kolkata. Gurudev was a multifaceted personality. He was a poet, litterateur, philosopher, playwright, musician and painter. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for the creation of the world famous epic Gitanjali. He is the only Indian to win the Nobel in the field of literature. The presented paper throws light on the literary life of Rabindranath Tagore.

Keywords: Rabindranath Tagore, Litratione, cultural, global influence

Objectives:

- To study the life and background of Rabindranath Tagore
- To analyze the literary works of Rabindranath Tagore.
- To analyze the cultural and artistic vision of Rabindranath Tagore.
- To analyze the global influence of Rabindranath Tagore.

Preface:

Rabindranath Thakur was born on 7 May 1861 in Kolkata. His father's name was Devendranath Tagore and his mother's name was Sharda Devi. After completing his schooling at St. Xavier's School, he entered a public school in Bridgeton, England in 1878 with the dream of becoming a barrister. He studied law at London University but returned to India without a degree in 1880. Rabindranath Tagore placed humanity above nationalism. Tagore respected Gandhi a lot. But they differed from him on issues like nationality, patriotism, exchange of cultural ideas,

rationality. Tagore's approach to every subject was less traditionalist and more rational, concerned with universal welfare. Tagore gave Gandhi the title of 'Mahatma'. Gurudev breathed new life into Indian cultural consciousness through Bengali literature. He is the only poet whose two compositions became national anthems of two countries. India's National Anthem Jan-Gana-Man and Bangladesh's National Anthem Amar Sonar are compositions of Bangla Gurudev. The basic relationship between God and human beings is now emerging in various forms in his compositions. There is hardly any genre of literature without his compositions - songs, poems, novels, stories, dramas, essays, sculptures; his compositions are world famous in all genres. Gitanjali, Geethali, Gitimalya, Katha O Kahani, Shishu, Shishu Bholanath, Kanika, Kansika, Kheya etc. are prominent among his compositions. He translated many books in English. After the English translation, his works spread and became famous all over the world. Gurudev

left Sealdah and came to Santiniketan in 1901. Tagore established Santiniketan with trees, gardens and a library in the bosom of nature. Tagore established the Vishwabharati University here. Tagore wrote many of his literary works in Santiniketan and his house here is of historical significance. Rabindranath Tagore composed about 2230 songs. Rabindra Sangeet is an integral part of Bengali culture. Tagore's music cannot be separated from his literature. Most of his compositions are now included in his songs. Influenced by the thumri style of Hindustani classical music, the song presents many shades of human emotions. Gurudev's songs in different ragas give the impression that they were composed specifically for that raga.

Early Life:

Rabindranath Tagore was born on 7 May 1861 in Jorsanko Thakurbari area of Kolkata city in the Indian state of West Bengal he was also a great writer, poet, dramatist, musician and painter. His father's name was Devendranath Tagore and mother's name was Sharda Devi. His wife's name was Mrinalini Devi, he had five children. Rabindranath Tagore's mother died when he was young, his father traveled, so he was raised by servants. At that time the Tagore family was at the forefront of the 'Bengal Renaissance' (Renaissance). Magazines, plays, Bengali and western music were being published in West Bengal at that time, so their home environment was no less than school. Rabindranath Tagore was a world famous poet, writer and philosopher. He is the only Indian writer to have won the Nobel Prize (1913). Tagoreji is a poet of the world

who composed national anthems of two countries, one is India and the other is Bangladesh, Tagoreji has written national anthems of both countries. The national anthem of India is 'Jan Gana Man' and the national anthem of Bangladesh is 'Amar Sonar Bangla'. He gave a new direction to Bengali literature and music. His talent can be estimated from the fact that he wrote his first poem when he was 8 years old. His poems began to be published at the age of 16. Rabindranath Tagore was a nationalist who protested British rule and demanded independence for the country. After the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, he gave up the knighthood given by the British. Tagore's own – his elder brother Dwijendranath was a philosopher and poet. Another brother, Satyendranath Tagore, was the first Indian to join the Indian Civil Service. He had another brother named Jyotindranath, who was a very good musician and dramatist. His sister Swarnakumari Devi was a poetess and novelist.

Literary Life of Rabindranath Tagore:

Rabindranath Tagore was very interested in his poetry, poetry and language from childhood. He was multi-talented and interested in every subject. At this age, children are not able to read properly and are interested in sports. He wrote his first poem at the age of eight, and in 1877 he wrote his first short story when he was only 16. Rabindranath Tagore wrote many novels, essays, short stories, travelogues throughout his life, also wrote plays and hundreds of songs. He was mostly known for his short

and simple poems. His big poems have also been very popular. He wrote many books related to history, linguistics and spirituality. Rabindra gave a new dimension to Bengali literature and became the author of a modern literature. He breathed a new life into Indian cultural consciousness. He became an epoch-maker who made invaluable contributions to Bengali literature. On the occasion of Gurudev 150th birth anniversary, his works were published in the present Bengali tense, arranged in chronological order. In this a Rachnabali compilation of his entire works, titled 'Rabindra Rachnabali' has been published in Bengali language. The work of editing this book was done by Fakral Alam and Radha Chakraborty. Harvard University Press in association with Visva-Bharati University completed the work of publishing "The Essential Tagore" in 2011. Rabindranath Tagore's childhood inclination was towards poetry and stories. He wrote his first poem at the age of 8. He was 16 years old in 1877 when his first short story was published. Gurudev was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1913 for his most popular composition Gitanjali. Tagore was also awarded the title of 'Knighthood'. To which Tagore returned after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919). In 1921 he laid the foundation of 'Shanti Niketan'. It is also known as 'Vishwa Bharti' University. By the way, Tagore wrote many compositions, but when he wrote 'Jan Gun Man' in Bangla, he became quite popular which later became the national anthem of India. At the same time, 'Aman Sonar Bangla' was written by Gurudev, which later became the national anthem of Bangladesh.

It was designed by him in 1905. At the same time, when Tagore founded the Vishwa Bharti University in Shanti Niketan, he came here to study from the Ananda of Sri Lanka. After six months he returned to his country. After returning from here, he composed 'Sri Lanka Mata'. This composition later became the national anthem of Sri Lanka. It is said that Anand Samarakoon composed 'Namo Namo Mata' in 1940. It was largely influenced by Rabindranath Tagore. Some sources say that Tagore composed its music. Whereas, some historians say that it was Tagore's design. In 1951, this song became the official national anthem of Sri Lanka. At the same time, when controversy started over it, in 1961, 'Namo Namo Maat' was replaced by 'Sri Lanka Mata'. This song written by Tagore in 1938 was translated into Sinhalese and made the national anthem.

Literary legacy of Rabindranath Tagore:

Rabindranath Tagore has an important place in Indian literature. They represent almost a complete century of Indian literature. Just as Valmiki, Vyasa, Kalidasa and Tulsidas improved and strengthened Indian culture through their literary works, in the modern era, Rabindranath Tagore presented the refined form of Indian culture to the Indian public and foreigners through his literary activities. There will not be such a language that Rabindra did not write. As a result of his compositions, the literature of a provincial language like Bangla gained an important place in world literature. His literary works were given so much respect that he was called the world-poet and he also received the Nobel Prize in literature.

Rabindranath was not a poet but a great man. Tagore's literary contributions are as follows-

❖ **Poet:**

Tagore started writing these poems in his childhood. A book named 'Gatha' and some poems and stories were published before 20 years. Love of nature and spiritual themes are prominently described in his poetry. Tagore has also written many poems in prose-poetry style. His poetry is immense. He has written countless love songs and poems. He also wrote poems full of country-premise in Bangla literature. 'Sonar Nari', 'Kathaon Kahini', 'Balaka', 'Urvashi', 'Gitajali' etc. are some of his excellent poetic compositions.

❖ **Play writer-**

Rabindranath also wrote many dramas and farces. His plays have become interactive poetry.

❖ **Novel and story literature-**

Rabindranath Tagore was also a great novelist. Many of his novels are social. Social novels are mostly psychological. It has a poignant depiction of the mental conflicts of men and women. Rabindranath's major novels are 'Karuna', 'Badi Thakurani Ka Haar', 'Rajarshi', 'Char Adhyaya', 'Aankh Ki Kinkiri', 'Nauka Dubi', 'Ghar Bahare'. Rabindranath Tagore started writing small stories in Bangla. In his novels and stories, Rabindra has portrayed Indian life poignantly. His Indianness speaks volumes in his compositions.

❖ **Bangla Literature-**

As a result of Rabindranath Tagore's lifelong pursuit of literature, Bengali literature reached the highest peak of its fame. He was a writer, commentator and actor. He left the Sadhu language of Bengali and adopted the common language of common people and added wonderful beauty and grace to it. He made language musical. Because of the beauty, form and flexibility that Tagore gave to the Bengali language, it is considered one of the most beautiful and developed languages of the modern world.

❖ **Gitanjali –**

'Gitanjali' is a great work of writer Rabindra. This work soon became the Gita for Bangla. Poetry connoisseurs hailed it as a unique book of world literature. The Council of Science-Art- literature declared this work as the best book of world literature and declared Rabindra as worthy of the Nobel Prize. Rabindra became immortal through this work in the world of literature. This literary text composed by Rabindra in 1909 AD. Published in initially it was in Bangla language. This book is a collection of beautiful, hilarious and immortal poems. Many poems collected in this book are full of emotional description. He was felicitated warmly in the town hall of Calcutta for this book. Then he himself translated this book into English and traveled to England.

Famous writer W. V. Yeats wrote its role. This book received praise from scholars and critics in Europe and America. Yeats wrote - "I have found the world from these poems, whose dreams I have dreamed of throughout my life. This is the greatest cultural text." Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1913 for this book.

Conclusion:

Rabindranath Tagore, a famous poet, philosopher and educationist, left an indelible mark on the literary and educational environment of India. His writing contributions, especially poetry and prose, have received international acclaim. Tagore's influence, however, extended beyond his writing prowess. Rabindranath Tagore's writings have a timeless quality that transcends linguistic and cultural barriers. His words, loaded with poetic beauty and deep emotions, continue to enthrall people all over the world. Tagore's poems, be it the vivid imagery of nature in "The Gardener" or the beautiful love songs in "Fruit Gathering". Rabindranath Tagore, Nobel laureate and distinguished poet, is known for his magnificent poetry that strikes the depths of the human soul. His poems, written in Bengali and translated into many languages, continue to enthrall audiences worldwide.

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