

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

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Abstract

I have translated Rabindranath Tagore's essay named 'Siksha o Sanskriti' which was written in 1935. This essay was included in his collection, 'Siksha'. It was written in Bengali language. I have renamed it as 'Education and Culture'. Rabindranath Tagore's ideas of education and culture are very vital in the modern age. Tagore's idea of education is really innovative. He has focussed on heart and mind of man and how they are associated with education. He has also given importance to culture. I have translated this essay to introduce Tagore's ideas of education and culture to the world-audience. It is a part of Translation Studies.

Keyword: Education, culture, Translation, studies

1.INTRODUCTION

I have translated Rabindranath Tagore's essay named 'Siksha o Sanskriti' which was written in 1935. This essay was included in his collection, 'Siksha'. It was written in Bengali language. I have renamed it as 'Education and Culture'. Rabindranath Tagore's ideas of education and culture are very vital in the modern age. Tagore's idea of education is really innovative. He has focussed on mind and heart of man and how they are associated with education. He has also given importance to culture. I have translated this essay to introduce Tagore's ideas of education and culture to the world-audience. It is a part of Translation Studies.

I have decided to discuss about the policy of education, meanwhile I am glad reading an essay in an American newspaper. My opinion has rightly been expressed in this newspaper. The principal reason behind this is America is addicted towards worldly affair. Its volume is broad and its greed is very large. It is gradually expanding. While the creativity of social mass has been covered up the achievement of greedy people has been

raised. Suddenly these greedy people have fallen down in the dust impairing many precious wheels of vehicles, crushing the engine in the middle of their path of work. Now his thought would be that what is left with man except all ruined parts. So many decades he has highly valued what is external thing. When one is broken outside and at the same time is empty inside what will be his consolation? Furnitures are gone, but where is the man? Now he laments saying he is a beggar; he cannot say "My heart is full of wealth". Now he does not have any value; he has made you a market-man, that market has broken.

Once upon a time India has its rich culture, the country does not fear of losing wealth or does not seem to be ashamed on that as the principle aim of India lies in the world of heart. The most important part of education is to assess this aim, to exercise and to recognize its ideal. But commercial education is also important to some extent because man is a combination of practical and spiritual elements. The man who is fully efficient but without culture is a lame man riding bicycle. He does not care to think and suddenly it collapses. Then he understands that his own legs are better than the precious machine. The man who boasts about his wealth he actually does not realize how poor he is. The value of bicycle has not been reduced but the value of these legs is greater than the value of bicycle. The type of education which develops the vitality of legs is admirable but the type of education which makes people addicted towards mundane affairs is convenor of obtuseness.

When I first establish school at Shantiniketan this aim was so intense in my mind. After finding furnitures we do not need to do meditation for using those furnitures. But we need to be indifferent to worldly affairs. We should be efficient worker and at the same time we should keep dignity in heart. This is the power of education. That time in hermitage we live like poor people and we are not ashamed on that and this was in our mind. Lavish lifestyle should not be the reason of

jealousy or it should not be specially respected – my teachers are aware of it as I put these thoughts in their mind.

The poverty which arises from weakness is frightful. It is said : The embellishment of power is grace. Thus, the embellishment of efficient man is short. So the education of efficiency is needed and the habit of enjoyment should be eliminated. The poverty which is associated with inefficiency makes the head of India down. God never pardons inefficient people.

"I can do everything, I will do everything" – our mind can utter these words with full self-confidence. "I know everything" – our all senses and mind are enthusiastic to declare these words, but the absolute words are "I can do everything". Today these utterances are the words of Europe. He claims, "I can do everything, I will do everything". He has endless respect for his own power. He has been valorous through this respect, he has become a winner everywhere. We are looking towards destiny, that is why we are deceived by it for many centuries.

After a long time I have read the itinerary of an eminent globetrotter named Swen Hadin. He has dedicated himself to invent the way of meteorological theory in Asia's impassable desert. The main mantra of this dedication is "I will know everything, I will do everything". We can understand the spirit of power through his book. If we label them realistic we are weak souls.

"We will do everything" – this slogan may enliven our country. From the very beginning, we should exercise the proper promptness of all senses and mind in all works and this should be regarded as the vital duty of meditation of education. I know the guardians would be the primary hindrance. In our school if we see the wind of assiduous efforts in young pupils we will understand the invitation of Lakshmi will be succeeded in our country. This invitation lies not in the degree of Economics, it depends upon strong character, the pupils should be dutiful. This golden opportunity is not given in any school, but it is given to the pupils in our hermitage. Many works are going on in various departments and one has to be able for applying power in these works.

This type of education is essential but it is not enough. The American writer has discussed this. He mentioned that culture has trickled from modern education. We have erased the richness of mind. We have only given

importance to lavish lifestyle. But how is this possible without culture?

Culture makes the deep layer of people's mind veritable. Thus, the entire mind of man has become successful. It develops the fondness for deep knowledge and modest act. The actual culture has focussed on genuine courtesies, not on trivial rituals. The culturally enriched man can harm himself but cannot be exacerbating. He does not like to show off much. Whatever is abominable or illusory generates pain to his heart. He delights in showering respect to all excellent things in art, literature and even in the history of humanity because he is cordially tied to their mastery. He has the ability to judge, to pardon, he does not consider disagreements. The person can see only the goodness in people. He does not envy the successful people around him. It shows his broadness of mind.

The entire mankind has own ideal in every big society. This ideal is evident in their school and even in their families. This ideal has weakened in this hapless condition of our country, we can see its deplorable instance. So, terrible condemnation becomes profitable commodity in our country. We believe in memorizing texts with our sharpest merit. We pass B. A. , M. A. examinations. But the jealous devil of human character spoils all good works and good acts. It has happened because the ideal of humanity has injured for lack of culture. Today Bengalees have failed in every act and become disrespectful. The principle aim of our school is to extirpate the poisonous seed of indecency from the very beginning. I hope so. In the history of mankind, whatever is good or delightful should be introduced with respect. Once upon a time, my poet-assistant Satish Roy worked in our pilgrimage and another assistant was Ajit Chakraborty. That kind of teacher is still found but now teachers are too busy to kill the innocent minds and to hand over them to the giant of exam. Consequently, there is no time left to go to the upper level of education.

The American writer has observed these consequences of culture. He asserted that the effect of education has created a broadness of mind. It provides peace in soul, self-respect, self-confidence, the sense of liaison in mind. Thus, life becomes prosperous.

One day I saw that a cart has gone down in the muddy path of Shantiniketan. My pupils have rescued the cart with all their positive efforts. There is no coolie when a respected guest has arrived in our pilgrimage. But a

young pupil from our pilgrimage does not hesitate to posit his luggage. The duty of pupils is to provide hospitality to our guests. The pupils have dedicated their souls to construct the paths of their pilgrimage. This dedication is the part of their decency. The culture has entered into their education. I know each and every pupil, but I have not seen them for many times. I hope that they are not aspersers, jealous souls but are always ready to help distressed people and can sense goodness. 15 July 1935.