

Paper -women education

By:-Mrs.Rinki kumari

Paper code-303

Deptt.of Education

Semester-3rd

MMHA&PU,PATNA

The comparative analysis over Women Education via Tagore & Gandhi

Introduction

Education is the only tool for overall human development irrespective of gender. But education was denied for ages to women which have hindered their freedom from accessing knowledge. Rabindranath Tagore through his numerous novels and short stories emphasized women education which has paved the way of women emancipation. He portrayed such bold characters in his stories, which was rare and even inconceivable at that time he wrote them because they have questioned the traditional role of women, defying the customs in their own way in search of freedom to live a normal life which was denied and ultimately in pursuit of greater freedom of inner self.

Tagore's Views towards Women Education

Tagore was one of the greatest supporters of women education. He viewed that man and women were complimentary to each other leading to the concept of mutual respect and need. He was one of the strongest champions of the cause of women. Therefore, he gave his views regarding different aspects to woman education. Through education, he wanted to bring harmony between man and nature and man and God. He recommended harmonious development of women's personality. That means, there should be physical, mental, moral and spiritual developments of girls through education. Similarly, he wanted that girls should be economically independent. He also wanted to attain the

freedom of mind and give importance to individual and social development of girls. As an internationalist, Tagore was in favour of developing international understanding and world citizenship among boys and girls. Apart from this, he also suggested that education could also bring about cultural and character development of girls.

Tagore's ideas reveal that women should be equal partner of men in all fields, neither subordinate nor superior. He expressed definite opinion towards women education. Unlike Rousseau, he was not against education of women. He wanted women of the country to come forward and lead in promoting women education. He wanted women to be true to their nature, real companions of men, standing by their side in movements of crises, sharing their anxiety and lending company in their grief. Such were his views on women's education. There was perhaps no stronger champion of the cause of women like him. He strongly advocated education for girls and equal status with them. But at the same, he held that women had their own sphere and their deeds were complementary to men as their competitor.

Tagore recommended same curriculum for girls and boys. He thought that girls should be taught different sciences like natural science, social sciences and especially domestic science must be compulsory for girls. To widen mental horizon of pupils, he wanted to include mathematics in curriculum. Tagore wanted to develop aesthetic sense among girls; therefore, he also introduced music, painting, dance and craft in curriculum. To make girls financially independent, Tagore also recommended agriculture and technical education for girls. Regarding medium of instruction he wanted that mother tongue should be adopted but he also did not deny the importance of foreign language. He also favored that religious education should be given to girls for their spiritual development.

In order to meet the aims of education for girls, Tagore had given different methods of teaching. He adopted realistic approach, activity principle and teaching while walking. He also suggested some teaching methods to teach girls, for example, he laid stress on discussion and questioning methods. Therefore, his methods of teaching were activity centered. In spite of all these aspects, Tagore also wanted that girls should be aware of their rights. He wanted to educate girls so that they could get knowledge about their rights which are equal to men.

Gandhi's Views towards Women Education

Gandhi was also a great emancipator of women education. He wished to improve the status of women in the country. He was of the view that needs and aptitude of women should be basis of their education. Like Tagore, he also had brought into light the different aspects of women education. He said that harmonious development of women's personality is possible only through education, hence, he emphasized on physical, mental, moral and spiritual development of women. Education should develop self-supporting capabilities in women. He wanted to provide that kind of education to the girls which leads to salvation i.e. freedom of mind. He was also conscious of both the individual and social development of girl pupils. Gandhi laid stress upon character building and he was of the opinion that character is the expression of the whole personality. He gives equal importance to cultural development of girls to the fullest of their growth in multiple realms.

Regarding curriculum, Gandhi suggested same curriculum for boys and girls up to fifth class. There should be natural sciences, social sciences and Mathematics in curriculum. After fifth class, domestic science should be introduced in schools especially for girls to teach them how to handle domestic problems. Gandhi also gives importance to music and drawing. He wanted to provide education through crafts to make girls economically independent. Gandhi was great advocate of native language and he also wanted to include religious education for girls in curriculum.

Gandhi has been of the view that women have to perform their separate responsibilities which are as important as that of men. In fact, both women and men are complimentary to each other none is superior to any other. So, women also should be given education according to their particular roles in life. They have not to compete with men, but there should be no bar for them to any avenue which is generally considered as more suitable for men. The Wardha Scheme has been so planned as to be consistent with Gandhi's basic ideas regarding women education. Gandhi was very much worried about the deplorable condition of women in the country. He wanted to raise their social status. He desired that women should be given education according to their needs and aptitudes. He was of the view that as far as possible women teachers should be appointed for girls. He thought that married women should be appointed for girls. He thought that married women would be better teacher

than unmarried ones, since they have a vast ocean of knowledge which could be beneficial for the girl students.

To make teaching effective, Gandhi suggested different principles for women education. He wanted to correlate all subjects with craft. He also believed in learning by doing and learning on the basis of self-experience. He suggested craft as a medium of imparting education for both girls and boys. He also advocated lecturing, questioning and project methods to teach boys and girls. Gandhi wanted that girls should realize their rights who are as capable as men. He wanted to provide the sort of education which was helpful for them.

The Similarities

- Tagore and Gandhi both advocate for harmonious development of women's personality through education.
- Both stressed upon self-sufficiency among women which could be achieved through education.
- Both recommend individual and social progress of girls through education.
- Tagore and Gandhi agreed that domestic sciences should be included in the curriculum of girls' education.
- Both Tagore and Gandhi are in favored of activity method for imparting instructions in educational institutions.
- Tagore and Gandhi assign an important place to hand work or craft in the scheme of women education.
- Both stresses that mother tongue should be the medium of instruction in schools.
- Both are conscious about deplorable condition of women in country therefore, they were conscious about benefits of educating the women.

The Dissimilarities

- Tagore and Gandhi recommend education of national culture to women but its scope differs. Gandhi devises the scheme of education strictly for Indian children but Tagore wants to bring about a harmony between the east and the west.

- Tagore recommends similar education to boys and girls but Gandhi laid stress that on that women should be given education according to her needs.
- Gandhi gives more importance to character and cultural development of girls as compared to Tagore
- Gandhi and Tagore stress upon self-sufficiency among women. Gandhi advocates for earning while learning but Tagore does not agree with it.
- Tagore gives stress upon education to a woman who leads to world citizenship but Gandhi importance to women education for national citizenship.
- Tagore laid stress upon imparting technical education to women whereas Gandhi favoured mainly craft-based education.