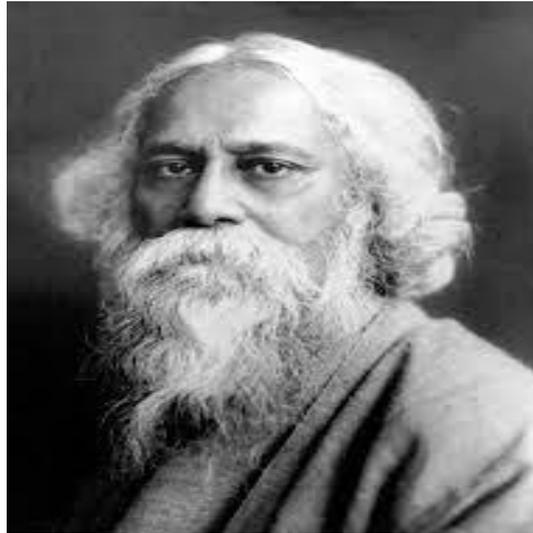


# Philosophy of Education



***“The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence”.*** - (Rabindranath Tagore)

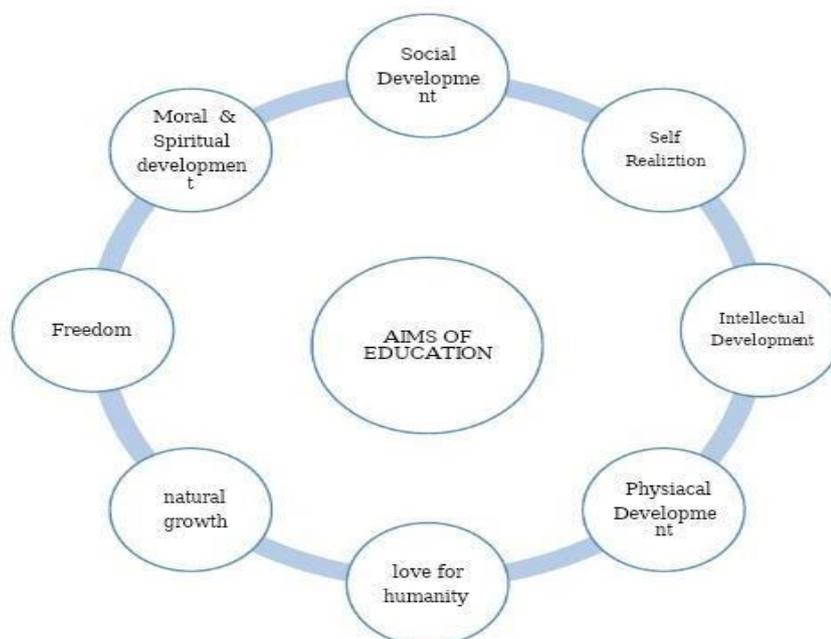
There are four fundamental principles in Tagore's educational philosophy; naturalism, humanism, internationalism and idealism.

Shantiniketan and Visva Bharathi are both based on these very principles. He insisted that education should be imparted in natural surroundings.

As a humanist, he talks about human brotherhood and spiritual bondage of universe; aim of education to develop the all aspects of human personality i.e. physical, intellectual, and spiritual. As an individualist, Tagore talks about – Every child has his/her inborn abilities which make him/her unique and enhancement of abilities would be able to achieve the state of perfection. As an idealist, he talks about tapasaya and sadhana. As a naturalist, he talks about that – subjects should be taught through the utilization of the various elements which are present in child's environment so that he or she would be able to understand the subject in effective manner. Education cannot be flourished appropriately in rigid classroom environment. It should be in open environment just as Gurukul system where learners learn subject according to his or her experiences. He emphasized on – a person learns through his or her own experiences from the nature. God has created nature and if one is sync with nature means sync with God. Freedom is necessary for over all

development of the learners. It can be understood through his poetic lines which are given below: ***“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; Where knowledge is free; Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls; Where words come out from the depth of truth; Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection; Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit; Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.”***

**Aims of education according to Tagore:**



- **Self-realization:** It is the procedure of introspection and the potential to perceive oneself as an individual who is different from others. It is a way to understand one's existence with full awareness. In other words: to realize as one is thinking being and to think about one's thoughts and channelize it according to demand of situation.