



Open Learning in the Age of AI: Insights from Tagore

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<p>Received 10/06/2025</p> <p>Accepted 12/06/2025</p> <p>Published 09/07/2025</p>	<p>Abstract</p> <p><i>Rabindranath Tagore believed in open learning where students can learn freely and with joy. His ideas were based on nature, creativity, and flexibility in education. Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps to make those ideas real. AI supports learning through games, stories, mother tongue, and even virtual travel. It also helps in moral growth, self-evaluation, and inclusive education. This paper shows how Tagore's thoughts and AI together can build a better future for learning. If used properly, AI can make education more open and meaningful for all.</i></p> <p>Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Adaptation, Self-Evaluation, Social Engagement</p>
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Introduction

It is true that, the main catalysts for the development of any civilization are food and agriculture but education and technology are also played an important role along with these. Because in early civilization technology first arrived with the path of cultivation for food. Then, gradually education came into the world and expand itself. So, we can see that, technology and education are intimately involved with each other. Besides this, in the context of teaching-learning process technology has the most important role in education. When country became independent there were many social thinkers, philosophers were emerged to brought new concepts of education for the improvements of the whole world or society based on the needs at that time. Among from those sages there was one, who was never be ignored, the world-famous poet and philosopher Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore was the first who talked about open learning concept in education. According to him, as it is a life-long process, so open learning is not just a concept, rather a path to live an enjoyable life freely. It is that kind of approach which connects with nature and gives priority on freedom, flexibility, creativity and independence in learning. The philosophical thought, which was hold by Tagore during the articulation of open learning is to keep pace with times and to embrace everything with implementation through the open mind. Therefore, it can be clearly stated that, according to Tagore open learning is the process by which learners can easily adopt and assimilate with the social world by their own capabilities.

At present our everyday life is completely dominated by advanced technology. There are different tools of technology like internet, digital learning which can be access by computers,

mobile phones etc. These are present throughout people's work, education and even their entire lives. Apart from these, now a days another noteworthy application is Artificial Intelligence (AI). This is a part of computer science, made with various software which can generate a system, that can imitate human minds, intelligence etc. In other words, we can say that, this man-made thing can help people in every situation for anything, just like a digital robotic way. So, if we want to follow Tagore's philosophical idea of open learning for future, the usage of AI in education must be expanded otherwise students will fall behind in the path of civilizational change.

Review of Literature

For the purpose of acquiring knowledge and experiences which were needed to write this paper had been required from various sources. Some of are given below –

Sridevi (2022) in her article, "Rabindranath Tagore's Philosophy on Indian Education" discussed about the ideas on Tagore's educational viewpoints and as its foundation, his philosophical concept behind it, also explained here. Along with these, there is also mentioned here about some fundamental principles of Tagore's educational concept.

Barik (2024) in his article, "Relevance of Rabindranath Tagore's Education Thoughts in Present Day Scenario" described about the overview of Tagore's Educational philosophy. Also, here are almost all the possible characteristics of his educational thought have briefly mentioned here.

Pareek & Sharma (2021), in their article, "Educational Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore" discussed about the aims, objectives, principles and the methods of education according to Rabindranath Tagore. Apart from these, as per Tagore's insight what kinds of role should be developed for an ideal teacher, students and for the schools or institutions have introduced here also.

Objectives of the Study

1. To explore the relevance and applicability of Rabindranath Tagore's open learning philosophy in the context of modern AI-integrated education systems.
2. To examine how artificial intelligence can support the core characteristics of Tagore's open learning concept- such as freedom, creativity, self-paced exploration and learning beyond the classroom.
3. To analyze the role of AI in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and its practical implementation, thereby fostering autonomous and experiential learning among students.
4. To identify the potential positive impacts of AI-driven learning on student engagement, critical thinking and personalized educational development.
5. To investigate how AI technologies can contribute to making education more inclusive, equitable and globally accessible in line with Tagore's vision of universal learning.

Methodology of the Study

To present the subject matter of this study, a qualitative research method has been adopted here. The information included here, has been collected from secondary resources. Which are various research articles, e-journals and secondary text books by scholars and professors on Tagore's concept of open leaning. This paper also employs a descriptive method. Therefore, at the end of this paper it will be evident whether the content successfully fulfills its original purpose.

An overview of open learning concept by Rabindranath Tagore

The open learning idea came out from the philosophical thoughts of education by Tagore. As education is open to all, to him, also its essence should be boundless forever. According to his biography, since his childhood always he preferred an open space for his study time. For him, that kind of education does not able to help the holistic development of learners, which takes place in a specific room space. Thus, he established the Aasramik Vidyalaya in Santiniketan to make the whole society realize the importance about the idea of child's learning in the midst of nature. This revolutionary thought as the strong base of its fundamental principles. Some of are as follows,

Principle of Freedom and Flexibility: According to Tagore, education should be more flexible, so that, students can acquire knowledge by their own abilities. As because, every child is special for their individual characteristics it should not be restricted by any kind of rules and regulations. This unrestricted form of education is called 'Freedom in Education' by Tagore.

Principle of Adaptation and Assimilation: To survive in the world is a war itself. To win this war adaptation and assimilation should be taken as two weapons for warriors. So, the quality of education must be received such level, where learners can be able to accept new concepts and knowledge whole heartedly. As a result, they can easily adopt and assimilate with the pace of this world.

Principle of Holistic development: One of the main goals of education is the improvement of student's behavior. But it will happen only when, the physical and psychological both changes have positively occurred together. In this context social values are also need to be developed in learners by the educational knowledge. If a learner is enough healthy in body and mind then he can increase his creativity through learning. In the field of education all of these developments are collectively introduced as 'Holistic'.

Principle of Communication: Human and nature have been intimated with each other since the world began. The activities of human's world impacts on nature whether it is positive or negative. Further, the consequences of it also affects human life. So, we have to be aware about our actions. According to Tagore, education should be such that, it can input the environmental awareness in learners.

Principle of Creativity: Every child has their own imagination power. This power is generated by experimental knowledge, which comes from a good education. Therefore, education is the root of imagination what can make a mind creative. That is why its scope need to be wider, so that, students can go far with their imagination in the process of learning.

Principle of Self-Sufficiency and Independence: Education can help to build self-knowledge. What kind of existence, freedom and moral values carried by an individual are made by education. These are introduced as self-knowledge. In this context, education has also a strong power to realize about it. This is the final destination of education—Realization about ourselves. When a man starts his journey to understand and feel his own self in the way of educational path, then it must be worth.

Principle of Integration: To foster the holistic development of students, Tagore felt the integration of arts and science much important in education. For this reason, Tagore was concerned about how home-crafted things could be explored by the way of education. So, his educational thought was

very much focused on it. In this way he wanted to create a bridge between arts and science, in which, students could implement their knowledge in their real life.

Concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a program that can think and learn. It works like a human brain. AI can solve problems and make decisions. It is used in different fields of technology such as phones, cars, and computers. AI helps to develop games, chat bots, robots and so many things. It learns from data and improves over time. AI is fast and can do many tasks simultaneously. It makes our life easier and smarter.

How AI helps on the method of open learning by Tagore

The various methods have been used by Tagore in his Aasramik Vidyalaya for the purpose of open learning. Now a day, AI can help us to follow his methods of learning in our current education system in a very good way. Despite of the usage of internet and online resources, it's significance with our education is given below -

Learning with activity: According to Tagore music, dance, drawing are not just co-curricular activity but these can be applied as learning method also. The unique function of AI is Chatbots, Voice bots which are able to help the learner so that, they can learn, create, improve and implement their skill very easily.

Learning with enjoyment: This advanced technology has its various forms like animations, gamification, pictures, videos, chatbots etc. Any age of student would be enthusiastic, if those forms can be used as learning equipment. It is able to satisfy the students for their inquisitiveness for knowledge.

Learning with individuality: AI can able to teach a student according to his IQ level. Suppose, for a particular topic a student does not able to understand about which explanation AI gives him. Then this system could present various animations, pictures and another explanation about that according to his commands.

Learning through mother-tongue: The various languages and their rich literatures have been installed in this system. So, it can help any student or people through their mother-tongue from the different part of the world, where he belonged. Therefore, as per Tagore, AI can fulfill the goal of education through mother-tongue.

Learning through story telling: There are many tools in AI which can be used for voice chatting. Such as, voice bot, voice based chatbot etc. Students can use these tools in their learning not just as a story teller but also a guide, that can be able to teach about any kind of knowledge.

Learning with debate and discussion: The huge information of everything in this world has placed into this system. If a student wants to develop more knowledge on a specific topic that may be geographical, historical, scientific, ethics. AI is able to give such data even on emotional thought. For this reason, learning through debate and discussion will be possible.

Learning with imagination: AI has been invented as such that the boundary of imagination could not be seen anywhere in this function. As a result, with the help of AI a learner can fly with his own imagination power in the sky of his creative world. Where they are completely free to discover new things.

Learning through travelling: Another versatile method of education is learning through travelling. This method helps to minimize the distance between the real object and its abstract ideas. For special children, sometimes it is too difficult to organize it. In this regard, AI can be able to help for gaining knowledge about any historical or geographical or any other place through its data storage of pictures, videos, audios etc.

The help of AI for the development of learners

There are various things in education and many characteristics can develop in students by the help of AI under the shadow of Tagore's open learning thought. These are,

Art and culture development: Every country has their own cultures, customs, tradition. The various information on it, have been installed in AI tools. As a result, learners are able to know the diversity of the whole world. On the other hand, AI has high quality features in which, abstract or imaginable concepts of education can easily appear in visible forms. These are very helpful for learners to develop the idea of art and culture in themselves.

Ethical and moral development: One of the other outcomes of education is decision making capacity. This capacity emerges ethical and moral values in human. It develops when a person tries to solve his problems in a difficult situation. In this kind of situation everyone needs a guide to tell them about the consequences of right or wrong things. The function of AI has been generated with moral and ethical values, so it can help a student on this aspect, as much as a guide can.

Development of adaptation: People should move forward from their rigid thought just like as technology. As, technology becomes more advanced day by day, there are many things left to know. But how and what is not known by us. From this aspect, AI could be a savior for us. Because, it can speak about its upcoming new features, facilities and usage also. So that, people could easily accept the changes and assimilate with it.

Creativity development: Every student has carried their own imaginary thought. There are many tools of AI can make a learner more creative by its advanced features. So, it can be said that, AI raise up the limits of imagination and helps to execute the real version of it.

Development of self-evaluation: There is huge knowledge of various subjects in AI. With the help of that knowledge, a learner could be able to justify and examine himself how much he has learned. In this way, AI develops the capacity of self-evaluation.

Social engagement: One of the other reasons for set up the Aasramik Vidyalaya in Santiniketan was to improve villager's life. So that, students from there could be able to know and solve their problems. From this aspect, AI has the huge source of knowledge in which they can get the updates based on their needs easily. In this way, learner can engage not only with their society, but also the whole world through AI.

Inclusive education: For the expansion of inclusive education, AI can help more than anything. There are many students who have their special needs. For the blind students the virtual tools of AI and its features helps better than any books or human. Those, who are physically disable to go out for education, can easily get the knowledge through the access of AI from their home.

These are the various positive effects of the usage of AI. Instead of that, some disadvantages are also there. There are many things on which teenage students could be addicted. Such as, ultra-modern games, adult films etc. These can be harmful for their studies and affects

their humanity. So, the users of AI should follow some guidelines and take some precautions based on their age about it.

Conclusion

The outcomes of education have a long-lasting effect in our life. So, the open learning thought of education by Tagore is useful for not only students, but also for adults. In this context AI can improve our education in advanced way. So that, we can learn about how to adjust and adopt the upcoming trends of education based on technology.

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