



Rabindra Sangeet - The Development of Spiritual Consciousness of the New Generation

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Abstract: Rabindranath Tagore is the greatest poet, writer, painter, composer, dramatist; singer on the other hand is a great philosopher who is well known not only Bengal. He is the poet of the world. His influence on Bengali poetic literature is immense. His songs are called Rabindra Sangeet which reflects philosophy towards life. Philosophers have explained the term spirituality in a very mystical and logical way. It considered related to the soul. Spirituality is not a religion. It equates the human mind with the God. Rabindranath Tagore believed that God is the pure form of every soul. God is not outside. This thought is reflected in his songs. *“Simar majhe, asim, tumi bajaoapon sur /amarmodhye tomar prokash tai ato Madhur”* (Gitanjali, p.76). Spirituality is the form of Brahman called soul encounter or self-knowledge. Since ancient times our music has been considered to belong to spiritual nature. The language of music, melody, composition, rhythm is the expression of our feelings. Without such a soul the body does not exist just as spirituality without music also does not exist. That’s why Nadais called Brahman in the scriptures. Which is denoted by Om’?

The variety of lyrics and melody of Rabindra Sangeet affects the human mind and elevates him to the higher level of consciousness. Feeling the rasa inherent in his music creates a deep joy in the mind. That is supreme joy that helps bring about self-encounter. Most of his poetry and music reveal the full spectrum of spiritualist thought. His Gitanjali poetry is a complete expression of spiritual thought. Gitanjali’s first poem is *“Amar mathanoto kore dao he tomar chorono dhulartole”* (Rabindranath Tagore, 1906), that is bow my head under your feet. His lyrics repeated convey the message of finding the pure form of soul within oneself. Such as *“Amar praner manus acheprane/tai heritae sokol khane”* (Rabindranath Tagore, 1910) or *“Amar hiyar majhe lukiye chhile dekhte ami paini”* (Rabindranath Tagore, 1914) etc. In this century new generation is very fast getting attracted to material things and drifting away from the truth, forgetting it so webbing. They are increasing ly rushing to ward acquiring external knowledge instead of acquiring their own inner knowledge. Therefore, one of the tools to save this new generation from falling into the pit of dark hell is the development of its spiritual consciousness and enlightenment. So, learning the songs of Rabindranath is one of the most appropriate mediums in the spiritual development of the new generation. The subject of the paper is how to develop the spiritual consciousness of the new generation by learning Rabindra Sangeet. Some of the notable songs of Rabindranath have been selected from **Gitabitan** to fulfill the purpose of the study.

Keywords: Spirituality, Rabindra Sangeet, Consciousness, Music, New Generation, Gitabitan.

Introduction: Our India has crossed 75 years of Independence and Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated in educational institution across the India. It is true that Our Country is constantly following the path of progress through the hands of people who have devoted their lives to the country. With the passage of time education policy has improved, technology has improved, through which education has reached people's home, communication systems have expanded, everything is at our fingertips today but with the advancement of this technology, people are completely attracted to it and involved themselves in a very busy life. Everything is being done by mechanical process and human thinking and imagination are disappearing. Rabindra Nath Tagore said that there is no doubt that thinking and imagination are the two essential powers for living life, that is, if we want to be like human beings, then those two substances can't be excluded from life. Today there is a great lack of people who can guide the new generation to lead their lives in a beautiful and fairway but it is our sole responsibility and duty to guide this new generation in the right direction. Separation of life with education destroys our body and mind. Therefore, to save the new generation from being trapped in the wave of mechanization, we have to take refuge in the educational thought, philosophy of life, literature and music of Rabindra Nath Tagore.

- ❖ **Spirituality:** The thought and practice that gives strength to the soul is spirituality. The soul is the essence of each person. Who am I? and why am I? Spirituality is what explains this in explicable mystery. Spirituality is the instinct of the imagination that directs man to the highest aspects of life and elevates him with an interest in living a life of inner peace and gentleness. Spirituality is the form of Brahman called true knowledge, the development of consciousness and curiosity to know the mysteries of creation.

According to Buddha- "Just a candle cannot burn without fire, man cannot live without a spiritual life."

Swami Vivekananda said, "You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you; none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but your own soul".

Spirituality is not a religion. A person can be spiritual without being religious. Spirituality is a broad concept. Religion is a specific set of organized beliefs and practices, usually shared by a community or group. On the other hand, spirituality recognizes that your role in life has a greater value than what you do every day. It can relieve you from dependence on material things and help you to understand your life's greater purpose.

- ❖ **Development of spiritual consciousness :** When a person is aware of the deep truth and is able to recognize the positive forces within him, his brain is no longer influenced by any external negative forces. Through values and virtues, he can maintain balance even in adverse situations. Consciousness makes one mindful of experience, more sensitive to the world, rising above all religions to accept all as a child of one God. Spiritual consciousness brings inner peace and personal transformation which lead to outer peace. It can make a positive contribution for making wholeness and improvement of all life on this planet.

- ❖ **Rabindra Sangeet:** Rabindra sangeet also known as Tagore's songs, are songs from the Indian subcontinent written and composed by Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore composed

approximately 2232 songs in his whole lifetime. The songs have distinctive characteristics in the music of Bengal, popular in India and Bangladesh.

- ❖ **New Generation:** According to the analysis of Generation by Pew Research Center in 2019, anyone who born from 1997 onwards in part of a new generation. So according to the year 2023, student aged 7 to 22 years can be considered as the new generation.
- ❖ **Gitabitan:** Gitabitan is a book forming a collection of all 2232 songs written by Rabindranath Tagore.

❖ **Objectives:**

1. To develop spiritual consciousness among new generation through music.
2. To develop inner peace among new generation through the practice of Rabindra Sangeet.
3. To realize the importance of practicing Music along with traditional education.

- ❖ **Discussion:** A brief description of spirituality has already been given, but it is not possible to study is to learn Rabindra Sangeet as a means of developing spiritual consciousness, so more importance is given to this subject. Music is a spiritual art through which we can relate to the Devine. Nada is purely spiritual and music originates from this Nada which is called Brahman According to the doctrine of Vedanta, Brahman is a comprehensive consciousness entity. It is said in Matanga's Brihaddesi book that Sruti originates from Nada, Swara from Sruti and Music from Swara, so the quality of Nada exists in the sound used in music. Just as a soul is supreme in the body of an animal, Nada is supreme in Music. It is said in Sangeet Darpan that there is an expression of Varna from Nada, Varna from Pada, Vani from Pada. The melodious creation of tune and lyrics in the music through which it is possible to realize Brahman or God. Constant practicing of music ignites the lamp of one's heart and unites the soul with the Devine.

Rabindra Sangeet is the companion of thought and meditation of Bengali. The combination of melody and lyrics of his songs make the realization of beauty of world, the sense of spiritual life and philosophy of life is revealed. Feeling the color of Universe, the small feelings of every moment, the path of their life will become very holy and beautiful. If a part of his wonderful creations can be presented to the new generation, it can be made a companion of their daily life will become very holy and beautiful. The melody of music always attracts the mind of everyone from small children to adults. Therefore, it is possible to change their consciousness and thinking very easily and naturally. The development of spiritual thought is manifested through his music. Sometimes he called God as Friend, sometimes as father and sometimes as Lord in his devotional songs. Such as "He shokha momo hridoye roho" (Rabindranath Tagore, 1900), "*Klanti amar khoma koro probhu*" (Rabindranath Tagore, 1914). Through some songs, his thoughts of travelling the Universe are revealed. He expressed his self-feeling that one is the King of the entire Universe. So he wrote "*Bohe nironoro ononto anondo dhara,ekoko okhondo brombhando rajye, poromo ako sei rajo rajendro raje*" (Rabindranath Tagore,1897). Sometimes he felt the presence of God with in his heart after much searching. Then he wrote "*Amar hiyar majhe lukiye chhile*

dekhte ami pai ni” (Rabindrath Tagore,1914). Rabindranath Tagore believed that God is pure form of every soul. God is not outside.

He wrote in a song of Gitanjali *“Shimar majhr ashi tumi bajao apon sur, amar moddhe tomar prokash tai ato modhur”* (Gitanjali, p.76). These songs belong to puja parjay but are not limited to the thought of puja and prayers. These songs are about living a new, loving yours yourself, surrendering yourself to the God, moving forward with new vigor and bringing the whole World unite. Here is a list of some Rabindra Sangeet of Puja Parjaay suitable for new generation to learn which will help them to develop their spiritual consciousness.

Sl No	Name of Song	Raga	Tala	Swarabitan No	Written On
1	Jini sokol kaje kaji	Behag	Dadra	52	1911
2	Tomari gehe palicho snehe	Khambaj	Ektaal	4	1900
3	He sokha mamo hridaye roho		Ektaal	4	1900
4	Tumi amader pita		Ektaal	36	1910
5	Ore nutan juger bhore	Bhairabi	Ektaal	47	1937
6	Klanti amar khoma karo prabhu	Iman-kalyan	Dadra	43	1914
7	Amar matha nato kore dao he	Iman-kalyan	Teyora	23	1906
8	Probhu amar priyo amar		Ektaal	36	1910
9	Alokerei jharnadharay	Pilu	Ektaal	16	1915
10	Mahabishwe mahakashe mahakalo- majhe	Iman-kalyan	Teyora	4	1896
11	Bhubanjora asan khani	Behag	Teyora	16	1916
12	Nibiro ghano adhare		Nabataal	4	1903
13	Akash jure shuninu oi baje	Behag	Kaharwa	34	1919
14	Ananda dhana bohiche bhubone	Mishra-Malkosh	Tritaal	45 / 64	1894

15	Bahe nirantoro anonto aanondodhaara	Lachhasaar- Bilawal	Jhaptaal	22	1897
16	Tomaro asime praanomom loye	Behag	Tritaal	4	1901
17	mon,anonto bromhando- majhe		Surfanktaal	36	1909
18	aachho tumi aamar gaaner o pare	Iman	Tritaal	40	1914
19	kaachhe e bar maagi	Bhairabi	Dadra	44	1914
20	bhoriye trisha horiye	Khambaj	Dadra	41	1912
21	aadi tabo shokti	Sohini	Surfanktaal	36	1910
22	Shraaboner dhaarak moto poruk	Behag	Dadra	11	1914
23	ajanare jaanaile tumi	Hameer	Rupakra	26	1906
24	hiyar maajhe lukiye chhile	Pilu	Ektaal	41	1914
25	pranner maanus aachhe praane		Dadra	42	1910
26	dhorite diyogo amare	Bhairabi	Ardhajhap	40	1914
27	mukti aaloy aaloy ei aakashe	Mishra- Kedar	Teyora	5	1926

Conclusion: -

Man is precious creature in the union of mind body and soul. They are the only animal in the living world that is a spontaneous conscious species full of happiness, sadness, joy, hope and desire. Motivation is the driving force behind human intentional action. The society is gradually progressing on the path of improvement already by the hands of some intellectual people.

Through long sacrifices and struggles Indians have gained physical freedom but their mind is still bound by the chain of subjugation. With the development of technology new generation to adults are attracted towards technological decoration. Books and technological equipment's have become the means of acquiring knowledge. Its outcome is positive in some cases but negative is most. The purpose of education has become only to earn money and there is a battle for marks in traditional education. Disharmony of education with life has led to separation of mind and brain and deviating from real character-building education. The new generation has forgotten unity and alienated from its own being.

Education has become machine dependent. Swami Vivekananda said, “There is no development of will power in the machine, the machine does not want to overcome the rules, the more development of the will power, the greater happiness, the bigger living being what is education? -reading books? -no. Acquiring various knowledge? - not that. Through education, the speed and impulse of willpower is controlled and successful” (Swami Vivekananda, Amar Bharat Amor Bharat, 1986, p. 44)

The society of teacher has a great responsibility to make the new generation a real human being. It is the teacher’s duty to remove the hinderance from them on in order to bring out the perfection that is inherent in them. Swami Vivekananda again said that every child is reservoir of infinite God and energy and we must try to awaken the dormant Brahman with in him. Music is the form of Brahman. Rabindranath Tagore composed his song with simple sweet melodies and words express his spiritual consciousness which songs are included in the puja parjaay. By learning the songs, new generation will be able to realize the Brahma in a very simple way. To free the new generation from the bonds of mechanics, it needs to developed spiritual consciousness. Rabindra Sangeet is one of the best mediums in this regard.

Realizing the meaning of his song if they practice the songs and makes them a part of their daily life, the children’s mind will be focused and detached. They will be able to find his infinite divine power within himself. They will learn to think fundamentally and solve their own problems in the struggle of life. So, the development of spiritual consciousness to music along with traditional education will develop the power and intelligence of the new generation’s mind and make their life and character will pure and clear. The whole world will be enlightened by the light of true knowledge. Beautiful society will be built by them, a beautiful India enlightened with the light of peaceful knowledge, which will become a model for the whole world. We should be committed to the new generation to guide them in the way that they can save Mother Earth from drowning into darkness of ignorance and unconsciousness. By the light of true knowledge in their hearts, our Mother Earth will become Heaven.

“Asatoma Sad-Gamaya Asatoma Sad-Gamaya Tamaso Maa Jyotir-Gamaya

Mrytyor-Maa Amritam Gamaya Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantihi Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantihi

Lead me from the untruth to the Truth.

Lead me from darkness to light. Lead me from death to immortality Om Peace Peace Peace.

(Shani Mantra of Brihadaranyak Upanisad)

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