

RESEARCH ARTICLE



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA
2395-2636 (Print); 2321-3108 (online)

Aspect of Education in The Travelogues of Rabindra Nath Tagore and Mahasweta Devi

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DOI: [10.33329/rjelal.13.2.505](https://doi.org/10.33329/rjelal.13.2.505)



Article info

Article Received: 08/06/2025

Article Accepted: 28/06/2025

Published online: 30/06/2025

Abstract

Travelogues have been proved concrete to see the reality of the time, these are the living sources of records for the facts that ran around us with respect of the time, and the records available in these travelogues also show us the different forms of social issues which also help us a lot to explore the truth of the contemporary time. A single person can never be familiar with different culture and the aspects of the world but if the records that the prominent travelling writers have covered with vivid subjects and modes are available with us. We may easily find it out and with the help of these records we may have many experiences and knowledge of that fact or events that influenced them while travelling. They found the issues enough important and thinking it to be useful for the world the required information was sketched for the welfare of the world. these travelogues seem to be more interesting just because one can see much more about the facts of the time through the ideas given by the different travellers or writers of the contemporary age. Being there at comfort zone at our home we can easily have a glance of truths hidden in it, and if a level of an effort has been made to see the facts hidden in these records more secrets can be revealed out of it. Going through the travelogues of writers who covered the incidents and the facts of their time in their writings in the form of an art and the hard work we have an offer to see the things beyond the simple purpose, they applied their best wit to create the pieces, in fact these are wonderful medium offering us to know about maximum things of the age. A knowledge lover can go through these wonderful works in order to tell the world the facts that may influence the humanity. The famous maxim is there that 'The literature is the mirror of the society'. Many things of the society can be seen by these sources. Along with these all-literary ideas and way of writing according to the era is another aspect of it. It can widely be used for historical as well as futuristic values, study of these pieces also reflect other useful aspects of the period and literature that leads the world towards its betterment.

Keywords: Role of agencies in Education.

Introduction

We are all very well familiar with many great travellers of the world whose efforts of writing and creating the facts in the forms of the texts have given the world an offer to go through the facts of the world which have played an important role give present shape of this world. Among them two most prestigious souls of the world, the Nobel Prize winner Rabindra Nath Tagore and Gyanpith Puraskar awarded great pen crusader Mahasweta Devi . Both of the great minds have made the English literature rich with their great contribution in the form of their inner wisdom and mundane experiences, both of the writers are telling about the consecutive period of time both in home land and foreign land that is about 150 years when included, they are almost respective with their life span hence a long consequent period of time can be seen throughout their work. A scene of both mother land and neighbor land can comparatively be studied in order to see the hidden facts which can easily be seen by us. They have shaped their real live thoughts while writing their works. They have got the facts painted as the real issues, scenes, events and environment etc.

Devi has made an extensive journey to the Indian states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh West Bengal and some other adjoining states of India, Tagore too had made his travelling in more than 34 countries including home and foreign lands which are solid source of his view and the world theology, he was not only the citizen of India but the world, by chance both of the writers belong to same country telling us the facts of the foreign lands and their home land, their inner wisdom painted the scene in the forms of the words, nature, politics, humanity. Apart from this both travelled in some common land like Bangladesh and some parts of India like West Bengal, Bihar, while travelling and going through the core of

humanity and nature they were closely touched with rural problems, Devi has actually got her fame just because of tribal literature. Her 'Imaginary Maps' is a very famous piece of work which is an account of three stories dealing with some practical contemporary problems of community she travelled Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh and got the chance to catch the evils or the hurdles of the human world, the three parts of the book are 'The Hunt', which is an account out of a tribal girl Marry struggling a human stigma over her, the piece is set in Palamu district of Jharkhand, 'Tohri'. 'Pterodactyl' 'Pirtha and Puran Sahay', Pirtha, a tribal village in Madhya Pradesh struggling with poverty ,hunger and the government neglected the condition of the village, the village was starving,it was having lack of support and resources, it highlights the exploitation, oppression, and the marginalisation of tribal communities, we find a very struggling character Puran Sahay who comes from Bihar to help the people of Pirtha as a journalist. He exposed the plight of the village and gave it to the notion of the government. He has drawn a mysterious cave drawing depicting a pterodactyl, symbolising disconnection between urban India and tribal Communities. The third mind blowing part is "Douliti The Bountiful". An account of Bihar at the time of bondage system where in a girl Douliti became scapegoat for the evil system like bonded labour. These three parts are specially talking about the problems and the hurdles being faced by people living in these areas even after a number of years passed India calls itself to be free, natives of the country were devoid of fundamental needs. 'Dust On The Road' of Devi originally written in Bengali and translated into English by Maitreya Ghatak delves into problems of Jharkhand region like Palamu , Garwah, Dhanbad, Ranchi and Hazaribagh etc. these are the places where Devi spent her major life span and became the crusader for the welfare of the tribal community.

Similarly, Educationist Tagore has contributed his insight throughout his travelogues written by him travelling in west Bengal and Bangladesh (India at that time), Japan, Russia, Indonesia etc. He too travelled a lot. He was filled with the rarest kind of humanity and knowledge; he gave powerful records about the regions he made a visit to. He too was not untouched with humanity like Devi and has recorded the facts of the time as an issue throughout his writing. 'Glimpses of Bengal' is a collection of his letters written by him around 1890 which at first got published in 1921, the piece provides us vivid pictures of the spot telling about the different aspects and bits of the society.

Here it is a little bit different. I would like to bring in the notion of the readers that Tagore came into this world in 1861 and covered the living issues till his death in 1941. Continuing since then almost similar pictures have been presented by Devi, as she came into the world in 1926 and wrote the problems of her surroundings till her death in 2016, thus an aspect of various issues raised by them can be seen for a consequent period which covers 150 years.

Hence the present paper is going to explore the facts hidden for the welfare of the present and future human society, along with it the study is going to explore the aspects of education and other issues in their travelogues which in a combination of a period holding about 150 years for the same areas and the lands.

Literature Review

As the study of the travelogues have been very interesting it gives an amazing image of the facts through the texts of the great scholars. Many of the scholars have gone through the various travelogues for their different purposes and explored the facts out of the pieces of works which have been covered by some significant tall literary figures of the advancing period of time. The traveler travelled a lot throughout their life in order to witness the facts and to

make a living record by their art of literary intelligence. These works have been a mirror of the live facts of the contemporary period.

Among some twentieth and twenty first century great Indian travel writers these are some following great personalities usually counted :- Anita Desai, Vikram Seth, Shashi Tharoor, Khushwant Singh, Rabindra Nath Tagore and Mahasweta Devi. These all great souls have given us a big opportunity to understand the issues running through their contemporary period, their pieces are the documents as a proof of the issues written in them. Reading and going through the most of the works we may have the maximum scene of the society. These papers are showing the world's scenery. Present condition of the issues raised or written in their work can give us a chance to study about them because being an intellectual issue and the things written by them were only for the welfare of humanity and nature.

After studying a lot this paper is going to explore the facts covered by Tagore and Devi in their selected travelogues which have been a witness of the real scenario of their time. The kinds of thought that ran over them to create the works will be accessed, and in this order, it is better to talk about a piece created by Devi- 'Imaginary Maps' a book written by Devi and published in 1993 deals with the practical problems of Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, 'Dust on the Road' too got created by her as a grand documents of the facts running in the society of the aforesaid places or Indian states. These two books are especially dedicated to the tribal problems and their educational aspects which influenced the society a lot. And because this paper has to look for the facts written in the travelogs of Tagore too it is better to bring on his travelogue also that is 'Glimpses of Bengal' published in 1921. It has been written by him during his journey to the different parts of east Indian regions where being an educationist he had wonderfully described the pathetic condition of the people, and being the

legendary person 'Education' could not be untouched by him. 'Chhoti Munda and his Arrow' by Devi is revealing an actual condition of social elements where we come to know about the contemporary aspects of education. While going through the different research papers many of the scholars have tried their best to open the rural facts of the exploited community. Along with it some research papers/ articles are also supporting the issues which have been accepted as a path finder of the problems of the land we have been discussing, these articles and papers are opening the real aspects, the turmoil of the contemporary period. After a deep study and exploration it came into their mind as a topic of the world that it got published as a source of facts that can further be taken for the next significant exploration.

Along with the above mentioned books some online research papers are seen by me which are as follows - Travelogues of Tagore and Mahasweta Devi:- A comparative study by Dr.Sutapa Choudhry, paper published by Oxford university Press (2015) reveals their perspective on culture, identity and social justice. 'Comparative study of travelogues of Mahasweta Devi and Rabindranath Tagore' by Dr. Ipsita Chanda from Jadavpur university published in 2018 by Routledge, tells about the representation of space, place and cultural identity. Apart from this a paper 'Traveling Culture:- A comparative study of Tagore's and Mahasweta Devi's Travelogues' by Dr. Nandini Sen published by Cambridge University Press analyses their perspective on cultural exchange, identity and social justice. Among the research articles, 'A comparative analysis of the travelogues of Rabindranath Tagore and Mahasweta Devi by Dr. Anjana Sharma published in International Journals of Educational Research in 2020, examines their perspectives on education, culture, and social justice. Looking further on the topic I found some other supporting documents like 'Travelogues of Tagore and Mahasweta Devi:- 'A comparative study of their perspective on

Culture and Identity by Dr. Soma Sen published in 2019 which talks about culture and identity, the paper got published in the Journal of Indian Writing in English. "Selected Work of Tagore" published by Penguin books is also explaining the facts of the place along Padma river (now in Bangladesh), he travelled at that time and has presented real pictures of human problem and reality of contemporary nature.

These all papers are giving their view about social aspects and its problems for the places it is talking about, but the aspects of the education, and the factors who influenced it could not be seen, and this is the main purpose of this paper, the periods when the pieces were written or we can say when the truth of the society got collected in the form of literature, became a concrete source for the facts. The pieces have been covered by them and now the most important and significant one topic is nothing but education which I think should be seen so that our education system may become aware of it. In fact the aspects of education influencing the society that left us behind and remained back which would be seen and the world would know about the reasons and the factors which left the community devoid of it.

Methodology/Experimentation

Inductive methodology of this research is going to explore the facts of travelogues written by both of the prominent writers Rabindra Nath Tagore and Mahasweta Devi. A quantitative research criteria has been followed here in order to find the better result of this research. For the extensive study of the facts online and offline platforms have been followed. For the selection of the facts books written by Tagore himself has been used by me like 'Selected Works of Tagore' published by Penguin books which was originally written during 1890 in Bengali and was later translated into english by himself to show the world the life of padma river area as a model of the problems and the scenario of the society along with some chore aspects of the facts, they have left us the proof to know the

things so that the facts can be taken by the english literature lover. Furthermore 'Glimpses of Bengal' is the book published by Pharos books limited New Delhi, and the book is presenting the reality of the people and their educational condition living in the banks of the river, apart from this some of the chapters are still presenting a live live picture of West Bengal too. For more support of the research books written by Mahasweta Devi - 'Imaginary Maps' a book with collection of three stories where 'The Hunt' first part of the book is revealing the vivid picture of Jharkhand, Latehar, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Ramgarh and Bokaro etc. Furthermore the second one part 'Douloti The Bountiful' of the book is talking about the exploiting system prevalent in Bihar at that time which led society towards the downfall of education. The third one is the part named with- Pterodactyl, Pirtha and Puran Sahay which is a witness document about the exploitation in Madhya Pradesh on the people by some powerful people who contributed their system in the society at that time, and the level of the education was influenced just because of it. One more important book for the same purpose 'Dust On The Road' is also presenting the rare pictures of Jharkhand region like Palamu and its adjoining districts which is talking pathetic condition of the system and we can say that these above facts are trying to show the real aspects of the education system that ran in the society and changed or brought a degradation in the knowledge system of the area.

Discussions

After going through the aforesaid pieces of the works created by Tagore and Mahasweta Devi, research papers by different scholars upon their travelogues, it has been found that the land specially covering the east part of India like Jharkhand Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bangladesh (at that time India when Tagore was talking about the Place) had been the land of exploitation on nature, humanity and almost upon all the aspects of the development, thus education also got

influenced by them as they (Rich and elite people) who were using the natural products of the areas in order to make their life and generations prosper destroyed the educational system in these areas, Jharkhand, West Bengal Madhya Pradesh being rich in minerals and Nature became a hub for the people who wanted to grab a handsome amount for their life and long generations but did never care even a little bit about the education of the people whose land and everything was being used by them for the upliftment of their own life actually they never wanted the locals to be literate so that they could be erratic in their system and the wealth of the land could be used, out of system they got an enormous profit if local were known/educated they would never be able to do theirs, they were baking their breads, being even an authorised/ affiliated company never followed the policy of government they surpassed it, they never supported towards betterment of the education otherwise these states could have been in a far better state in education and would be called developed. What I found is that the documents are available to tell that companies, capitalist of the time who came here came to know about the literacy or educational level of tribal people who lived in remote areas of these states and it became a halt for looting as the tribals of the places were not educated they did not know about any government rule, being irresponsible about education they were having only an intention of looting them. They knew they could do theirs own until these people got education or became united. Upon the exploitation of these people many of the documents are available which show that education was neglected by those people who were ruling over us using our public wealth for their personal use and life. They made these states centre of their trade just because these were the states from where they could do their business by sea routes and remained almost unnoticed by the right powers/ authorities of the areas. Book 'Imaginary Maps' and short story travelogue 'Arjun' by Devi reveals how these

people subdued the voters by ill politics and came into power only and only for their own personal purposes. Thus, this is to say with this paper that those people who came in these states for mining and other natural products business disturbed the education system at that time for which we have still been lagging behind in many sectors also, they did this in these states or area so that they could fill their own bags by the wealth of these tribals heritage. Thus, they played an important role to give the shape of education in the society. Education is the thing which influences everything about human society.

Conclusion

As a conclusion of this paper this should be explained that since the era for the lands being talked about in the paper has been the land of exploitation in nature and in humanity. The people who came here, were holding a real responsibility at that time because this was the time (around 1890) when we had no our organized government and local ruling system of ours took or got a little bit time to reach to these remote areas till then it got late, at the time of tagore brokers of britishers were working against the knowledge system and at the time of Devi which in a consequence political agents never cared anything about it, consequently some political people and industrialists not only wanted but got success up to some of the extent in order to grab our wealth and wisdom as much as it was possible by them, that's why we remained back by them, they dreaded and befooled us mentally tortured us, economically made us compelled to become their servant or bonded labour like thing. These persons were the respected thieves who looted the poors of these areas behind the curtain. A honey tongue of the heart of gale was there, and being poor by our wealth and thought, being less educated we could not access them with their plan and ill mentality. These things and their plans were making us lagged behind. They wanted to continue the system in the same way so that they could keep their loot continue . If they would

have educated the people in these areas they would have never become able to do their own, hence they never kept an eye towards the upliftment of education which was more important than the food for that time. The works are presenting the supporting documents for this from 1880 right after the birth of legendary person Tagore, Devi came into the world and covered the similar facts till Devi remained healthy in the world that is around 2010 in the world. Thus, this paper covers the terms of almost 130-150 years. The records prove that they are the one who left us back. And adding some more I must tell you all to ponder upon it if even nowadays little or more it is getting done. We must throw our vision towards our present scenario so that the same must not be repeated.

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