

HISTORY

CLASS - X

Chapter : Alternative Ideas and Initiatives

Q1. Relation between development of printing text to the growth of knowledge.

Ans. With the modernizing of the printing press there was a massive growth in the spread of education. After the start of monthly 'Bangadarshan' in 1872, the era of social newspaper started in Bengal. Before Vidyasagar the Baptist Mission press started printing books in Bengali and other provincial languages. The most prominent publishers of 'Battala Literature' were Biswashar Dev, Bhavani Charan Banerjee. Also, Hindustani Press (1802), Persian Press (1805), Sanskrit Press (1807) helped to spread the education by printing various books. Calcutta Schools Book Society (1817), Calcutta School Society (1818) were established to print the text books, grammar books.

Press also helped to spread the child education. The most helpful books for kids were "Sishu Siksha" by Madanmohan Tarkalanker, "Barna Parichaya" by Vidyasagar, "Balla Sikha" by Ramsudev Basak, "Ankabodh" by Pranlal Chakraborty.

Q2. What were the purpose of "National Council of Education"?

Ans. The nationalists of contemporary Bengal thought of establishing an education system over which the Indians would have the full control. Also during the Anti-partition movement it was felt that a parallel indigenous education system was necessary to finalize the scheme. National Council of Education was set up in 1906, with 92 members under the presidency of Satyendranath Tagore. There were two groups of opinions in the council. The majority members wanted a three dimension 'instruction-literacy-scientific-technical education. The minority group was in favour of technical education.

Q3. What was the opinion of Rabindra Tagore on the colonial system of education?

Ans. The long existing education system during the British rule in India was of the colonial nature. In this system, there was a fear of failing in the examination, confinement of students in the class. As a critique, Rabindranath Tagore criticised the colonial ideas of education for many reasons :

- 1) **Methodology :** Kabiguru himself was not ready to accept the methods adopted by his teachers during his school days. According to him a school was necessarily a tool or a factory for providing education to the children, where the teacher was a part of this factory. The factory opened by ringing bell at 10:30 in the morning and again closed by ringing the bell again at 4 in the evening.
- 2) **Lack of development in thought :** According to Rabindranath, education should be such that it enables and promotes the students think and evaluate. Education will lead to the all round development of the thought process of the mind and a child will not simply grow but evolve into a complete man with an ideal character. He criticised colonial education policy in his 'Totakahini'.
- 3) **Cultural heritage neglected :** In the 14th volume of "Rabindra Rachanabali" discussing the problem of education, he commented, "We have studied in English schools, where only the English ideals are visible. This education over ignores our country's history and culture".

Evaluation : He advocated that the students should themselves be able to evolve on their own, decide and analyse their own performance and in case of failures should be able to stand up. From these thoughts Kabiguru was able to create his own education system in form of the creation of the institute of "Shantiniketan" or "Biswabharati".