

A Project Report on  
**“The Critical Analysis of the poem, Where the mind is  
without fear by Rabindranath Tagore”**

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Under the guidance  
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**CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that M. Divya- MPCs, Y. Vinika- MPCs, K. Bhavani- BA, G. Saritha- BA, B. Nikhitha- MbZC, G. Sravanthi- MZC, K. Chitti, A. Snehalatha- B. Com, Ch. Latha- B. Com, Ch. Poojitha- B. Com, students of Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Degree college (W) have successfully completed their English Project report on "The Critical Analysis of the poem, Where the mind is without fear by Rabindranath Tagore "under the guidance of Rehana Iffath.  
Second year students of Academic year 2022-23

  
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# **A Project Report on “ The Critical Analysis of the poem, Where the mind is without fear by Rabindranath Tagore”-**

- Where the mind is without fear-  
Rabindranath Tagore**

**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.**

# **ABOUT POET-**



Rabindranath Tagore (born May 7, 1861, Calcutta [now Kolkata], India—died August 7, 1941, Calcutta) was a Bengali poet, short-story writer, song composer, playwright, essayist, and painter who introduced new prose and verse forms and the use of colloquial language into Bengali literature, thereby freeing it from traditional models based on classical Sanskrit. He was highly influential in introducing Indian culture to the West and vice versa, and he is generally regarded as the outstanding creative artist of early 20th-century India. In 1913 he became the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature.

# **SUMMARY-**

This poem is written by Rabindranath Tagore during pre-independence days, when India was a colony of the British.

The underlying theme of the poem is absolute freedom; the poet wants the citizens of his country to be living in a free state. According to the poem, we see that the poet is expressing his views there should be a country, like where people live without any sort of fear and with pure dignity...they should not be felt suppressed by any authority. The idea of democracy seems well receptive here.

Next, the education should be accessible to all irrespective to their caste, creed, religions and so on. Broadly, there should be no social layers that should stop people from taking education. One education for all, without discrimination.

The next appeal is that the people of the country should be living united, not to be bogged down by the social barriers like casteism, regionalism or religion etc. In the next lines, the poet says that people must remain free from superstitions and must try to achieve perfection in their skill sets. In the end, the poet requests God that let his country get awakened in all those conditions which he mentioned earlier.

## **BACKGROUND-**

Tagore wrote the poem while India was still under British rule and people were excitedly anticipating their independence. It is a prayer to the Almighty for a nation free of all manipulation and corruption.

## **CRITICAL ANALYSIS-**

The poem's first line, part of the title, holds significant meaning.

"Where the mind is without fear, and the head is held high" 'Fear' in this line refers to the Fear inculcated in the minds of Indians under British rule. Here, the poet speaks of the miserable life of the people dominated by the British. The poet sees India as a country where people's minds are free from Fear and live dignified lives. He also wanted to communicate that freedom could be achieved when the mind was fearless and the head was respected and held high. The poet also argues in the line "Where knowledge is free" that achieving independence will allow people to learn and become independent, which was restricted under British rule.

**"Where the world has not been broken up into fragments**

**By narrow domestic walls", Here, the poet discusses the different evils that were affecting society at the time. The British adopted the "divide and rule" strategy and created rivalries among the different sections of society. The term "narrow domestic walls" describes barriers that people have built based on their race, religion, caste, and faith. It may additionally refer to the different superstitions that ruled the community then.**

**"Where words come out from the depth of truth" implies that the poet wanted the people in his nation to live with complete and honest intent.**

**Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection", Here, the term "tireless striving" has been personified. According to the poet, everyone should strive for perfection, or the status of an ideal country, and after all those years of struggle, they would finally reach their goal of attaining freedom and perfection.**

**"Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit."**

The poet refers to reason and habit using metaphors. He describes reason as a 'clear stream' that is unpolluted and pure. In this passage, he discusses how people's ideas should be unclouded, honorable, honest, and free of corruption. The line "dreary desert sand of dead habit" also refers to societal evils like irrational customs that defy logic and reason.

In the last three lines, the poet asks the Almighty to guide and support him in his quest for independence. The poet wanted his fellow citizens to be encouraged by their noble thoughts and actions. He referred to freedom as heaven and God as the Father, asking him to awaken His people and help them reach this glorious place.



# ***POETIC DEVICES-***

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"Where the Mind is Without Fear" is a poem by Rabindranath Tagore. It includes various poetic devices:

1. **Imagery:** Tagore uses vivid and powerful imagery to create a clear picture of his vision.
2. **Metaphor:** The poem is rich in metaphors, symbolizing concepts like knowledge as a "head held high" and a "heaven of freedom."
3. **Alliteration:** The repetition of consonant sounds, like in "mind is without fear" or "head held high," adds musicality to the poem.
4. **Assonance:** The repetition of vowel sounds, as seen in "clear stream of reason" or "where the mind is led forward," creates a rhythmic effect.
5. **Repetition:** The repetition of the phrase "Where the mind is without fear" serves to emphasize the central idea.
6. **Symbolism:** Tagore uses symbolic elements, such as the "clear stream of reason" and the "dreary desert sand of dead habit," to represent abstract concepts.
7. **Parallelism:** The poem often employs parallel structures, repeating similar grammatical patterns for emphasis.

## **CONCLUSION-**

Rabindranath Tagore's poem "Where the Mind is Without Fear" is a poignant plea for a nation characterized by freedom, dignity, and unity. Written during India's struggle for independence, the poem reflects Tagore's vision of a country free from oppression, social barriers, and superstition. He envisions a land where knowledge is accessible to all, truth prevails, and continuous striving for perfection leads to a noble and enlightened society. Through powerful imagery, metaphors, and other poetic devices, Tagore effectively communicates his hopes for an ideal nation. His prayer to the Almighty for guidance underscores the spiritual and moral dimensions of his aspirations, making the poem a timeless call for a world where freedom and reason triumph.