Tagore was born on Tuesday, 7th May 1861 in a wealthy family in Calcutta. He was the ninth son of Debenadranath and Sarada Devi. His grand father Dwarakanath Tagore was a rich landlord and social reformer. Even though he was from a very wealthy family, in those days Jorasanko house was a centre of culture.

The Thakurbari was the hub of Bengal's cultural life for well over a century. From the early nineteenth century, the Jorasanko Thakurbari was flourishing and resonant, a pioneer in social reforms. The men of this household were progressive and innovative thinkers. The women were also far ahead of their times. They travelled to England and America for intellectual pursuits, took part in the freedom movement and worked towards promoting the cause of women. Digambari Devi, wife of Dwarknath Tagore, is believed to have consulted Brahmin Pundits on whether a wife could reject a husband who had abandoned traditional principles. Maharishi Debendranath sent his daughter, Saudimini, to Bethune College as one of its first students, setting an example for other Bengali families. The very first



