

# Impact on Education in the Light of Art Education as a Pedagogical Subject in the School Curriculum

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CHAPTER

10

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### Abstract:

Education helps us grow as human beings and contribute to the globe's betterment. Art and art education helps in the all-round development of children. "Art does not solve problems, but makes us aware of their existence," sculptor Magdalena Abakanowicz has

said. Arts education, on the other hand, does solve problems. Years of research show that it is intricately linked to everything we as a nation say we want for our children and demand from our schools: academic achievement, social and emotional development, civic engagement, and equitable opportunity. Involvement in the arts is associated with gains in math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skill. Arts learning can also improve creative thinking, motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork.

### Introduction:

Art education is vital for future students. Art allows students to learn about themselves, their culture, and their community. By taking art classes, students will begin to visualize the world differently. The creativity and imagination of students will be pushed through the development of art. It is necessary to cultivate and guide students with quality art lessons to increase their understanding and relationship with the world of Art. Art classes are very influential because they affect students in many ways that other classes cannot. Art classes will help develop a child's creativity, thought process, and way of expression. Art educators will help guide a child's mental development. According to Freedman and Stour (2000), art education conserves "and transmits heritage, helping students to recognize and appreciate the diverse perspectives they will encounter in an increasingly global community" (p. 3). Art allows students to "draw meaningful relationships among the artworks they have created and interpreted and many other cultural texts in the arts, humanities, and sciences" (p. 5). According to Freedman & Bought, in preparation, many parts of the brain are involved when learning about art, and it builds deep cognitive connections. This explains how children understand that one symbol may represent different ideas among many cultures.

### Scope for Art Education

The world has woken up to the importance of Art education in their cultural, economic, social, and educational. Therefore, the scope of art education is wide and multi-dimensional. Some of them are-

- Art education helps learners to become professionally skilled and aesthetically competent.

- Education in arts improves life skills in students, such as better memory, enhanced understanding, and an ability to communicate with others.
- Art education has considered a valuable tool for cognitive development in children.
- “Young Children and the Arts: Making Creative Connections”, a report released in 1998 and stated that art education can contribute significantly to a child’s cognitive, language, and motor skills.
- Through art education, a child can get guidance for their creative expression. Otherwise, most of the time, one must compromise their interest and drop out.
- Art education inspires students to think out of the box.

There is a wide range of scope in art education, and this is because art education consists of varieties of forms to express any artistic vision. The forms include in art education are

- Drawing
- Painting
- Ceramics
- Sculpture
- Photography
- Architecture, etc.

### **The importance of Art Education**

Art in education is an integral part of the development of each human being. Plato emphasized the importance of the arts in the education process. Arts education refers to education in the disciplines of music, dance, theatre, and visual arts. Studying art is important to our society for its development. The arts are what make us most human, most complete as people. The arts cannot be learned through occasional or random exposure, so a continuous process of learning art is important, just like other subjects such as math, science, history, geography, etc. Therefore, education and engagement in the fine arts are an essential part of the school curriculum and a critical component in the educational program of every student from kindergarten to high school.

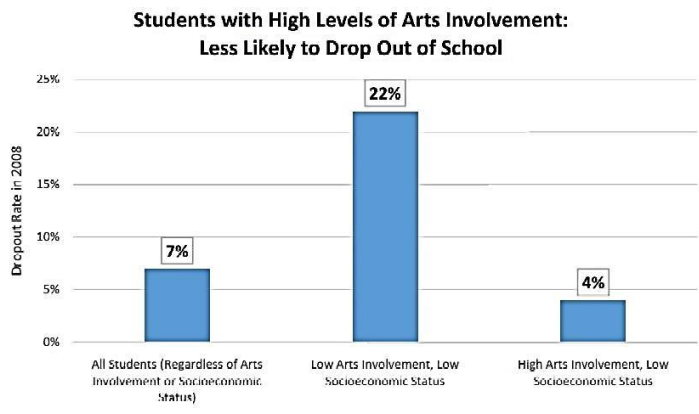
Sufficient data supports the belief that study and participation in the fine arts in the school curriculum are key components in improving learning throughout all academic areas. Evidence of its effectiveness in reducing student dropouts, raising student attendance, developing better team players, fostering a love for learning, improving greater student dignity, enhancing student creativity, and producing a more prepared citizen for the workplace for tomorrow can be found documented in studies held in many varied settings, from school campuses to corporate America.

The art helps develop neural systems that produce a broad spectrum of benefits, from fine motor skills to creativity and improved emotional balance. However, one must realize that these systems often take months and even years to fine-tune. In a study by Judith Burton, at Columbia University, research evidenced that subjects such as mathematics, science, and language require complex cognitive and creative capacities “typical of arts learning” (Burton, Horowitz, & Abeles, 1999). “The arts enhance the process of learning. The systems they nourish, which include our integrated sensory, attentional, cognitive, emotional, and motor capacities, are, in fact, the driving forces behind all other learning” (Jensen, 2001). The fine arts also provide learners with non-academic benefits such as promoting self-esteem, motivation, aesthetic awareness, cultural exposure, creativity, improved emotional expression, social harmony and appreciation of diversity. These are the fibers of the fabric known as our country’s culture.

A 2005 report by the Rand Corporation about the visual arts argues that the intrinsic pleasures and stimulation of the art experience do more than sweeten an individual's life - according to the report, they "can connect people more deeply to the world and open them to new ways of seeing," creating the foundation to forge social bonds and community cohesion. A study of Missouri public schools in 2010 found that greater arts education led to fewer disciplinary infractions and higher student attendance, graduation rates, and test scores.



**Arts Facts...Improved Academic Performance**  
 Students who participate in the arts, both in school and after school, demonstrate improved academic performance and lower dropout rates.



- Longitudinal data of 25,000 students demonstrate that involvement in the arts is linked to higher academic performance, increased standardized test scores, more community service, and lower dropout rates (see chart above). These cognitive and developmental benefits are reaped by students regardless of their socioeconomic status.
  - Arts in the schools increase test scores and lower dropout rates. The report, *Critical Links*, contains 62 academic research studies that, taken together, demonstrate that arts education helps close the achievement gap, improves academic skills essential for reading and language development, and advances students' motivation to learn.
  - Research conducted between 1987 and 1998 on young people working in the arts for at least three hours on three days of each week throughout at least one full year, demonstrated the following:
    - ✓ 4 times more likely to have been recognized for academic achievement
    - ✓ Being elected to class office within their schools more than 3 times as often
    - ✓ 4 times more likely to participate in a math and science fair
    - ✓ 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance
    - ✓ 4 times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem
- Sources: NEA Office of Research & Analysis (Catterall 2012); Arts Education Partnership (Deasy 2002); Americans for the Arts (Heath 1998).

[www.AmericansfortheArts.org](http://www.AmericansfortheArts.org)

The following are findings reported in *Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning* (Fiske, 1999) that should be noted by every parent, teacher, and administrator:

- The arts reach students not normally reached in ways and methods not normally used. (This leads to better student attendance and lower dropout rates.)
- It changes the learning environment to one of discovery. (This often re-ignites the love of learning in students tired of just being fed facts.)

- Students connect better. (This often results in fewer fights, a greater understanding of diversity, and greater peer support.)
- The arts provide challenges for students of all levels. (Each student can find their level from basic to gifted.)
- Students learn to become sustained, self-directed learners.

### **Correlating Art activities with other school activities**

- Designing the school magazine, making posters for a school function, and stage scenes for drama, dance, music, etc., can be related to Applied Art activities.
- Creating Puppets and their costumes and designing the puppet stage or theatre stage background can be related to subjects like Home Science and Arts.
- Designing utility craft items for society can be related to Work Education activities.
- Creating murals painting on the school walls and classrooms can give an aesthetic look that will spread positive vibes among the students and teachers.

### **Education policies regarding art Education in India**

Since independence, various government policy documents have mentioned art education as an area of immense importance for the overall development of students. If we say at Benzimen Bloom's classification for the development of Cognitive, Affective, and Psychomotor domains, Art Education plays a significant role. As early as 1952-53, the then Education Commission's report emphasized the "release of creative energy among the students so that they may be able to appreciate the cultural heritage and cultivate rich interests, which they can pursue in their leisure and later in life."

The Kothari Commission report of 1964-66 emphasized that education for creative expression acquires added significance in an age that values discovery and invention. "Adequate facilities for training of teachers in music and the visual art in education improvises the educational process and lead to a decline of aesthetic tastes and values." The National Policy of Education 1986 emphasized fostering among students an understanding of the diverse cultural and social systems of the people living in different parts of the country as an important objective of school education. All the previous National Curriculum Frameworks of 1975, 1988, and 2000 emphasized art education by defining its aims and objectives in the school curriculum. Teaching the different arts, dance, music, painting, etc., should be based on the same fundamental principle of providing students opportunities for perfecting their capacities and helping and encouraging them in the process. There was a change in thinking in the objective of art education from the dignity of labor by working on crafts to developing aesthetic sensibility and free expression.

India's National Education Policy 2020 envisions a better education system for its students. The impact of the National Education Policy (NEP) reflects in several art activities, collectively known as Art Education. A new education policy of the NEP brings importance to India's varied cultural heritage in terms of arts, crafts, traditions, and literature. At the same time, highlights the need to preserve this wealth for India's economy and identity. The policy analysis reveals its focus on developing extracurricular activities and nurturing education of the arts. It recognizes the potential and power of teaching arts to students.

The important provisions of the policy mentioned above are:

- Artist(s) in Residence, this feature helps students engage in **arts during their school hours**. It also involves local artists and communities and the recognition of their art. This furthermore provides students with direct experience and out-of-the-textbook learning.
- Student tours under 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' This program encourages students to choose tourist destinations to study heritage and become culturally aware of the background, architecture, and current situation of historical sites in India.
- Provide Vocational Education from an early age. The policy states that schoolchildren should be exposed to vocational education at a young age. It constitutes internships with Indigenous artists and artisans to teach students the dignity of labor.
- Push Research and Innovative Thinking. Lastly, the NEP wants to endorse a curriculum where students engage in creative thinking for more inquiry-based and analysis-based learning. The commitment to a **National Research Foundation** is also made to sponsor quality research on art and how to make it accessible to all.

### **Regarding art as a subject, the National Curriculum Framework 2005 states as follows:**

The emphasis should be on interactive approaches, not instruction because art education aims to promote aesthetic and personal awareness and the ability to express oneself in different forms.

We must bring the arts squarely into the curriculum domain, infusing them in all areas of learning while giving them an identity of their own at relevant stages.

The arts need to become a vital component of learning in the curriculum. Children must develop skills and abilities in these areas. Students will be introduced to the country's rich and varied artistic traditions through the arts curriculum.

Art education must become both a tool and a subject taught in every school as a compulsory subject up to class ten, and facilities for the same may be provided in every school.

### **Recommendation for the improvements in the status of arts education in schools:**

- Obvious guidelines should be prescribed to schools, teachers, and parents to implement various dimensions of the arts education curriculum effectively.
- Though several handbooks designed as per the National Curriculum Framework -2005 about arts education still much to be done. In addition, teacher education and orientation at different levels need a drastic change.
- Subjects like Art Education, Yoga, physical and health education, and work experience were introduced in the schools and placed in the timetable given.
- Art education should be made compulsory at the Secondary school certificate level.
- Arts education is an enjoyable experiential learning process for the free expression of children. Therefore, ample opportunities should be provided for their creative expression.
- Schools should provide time, space, and resources for arts education activities within and outside the school. The authorities should view this seriously. Otherwise, the recognition of schools should be canceled.
- More awareness must be created regarding arts education among different beneficiaries and stakeholders.

## Conclusion

Art and education affect each other and even have some common areas. The child comes to the world with an innate capacity to learn. Art and Art education helps a child to blossom like a perfect flower with all its colour and beauty. Art Education is a primary pathway to learning, a journey of discovery of the meaning of teaching for aesthetic experience. Movement manifests emotion, voice modulation gives way to the inner self, drawing reveals the inner layers of the mind, and Sculpture mirrors the inner self -This is Art education. Therefore, we need Art Education. The main purpose of art education is to develop creativity, individuality, and expression through art activities. But in our culture, however diverse it may be, all celebrate art as part of everyday life.

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