

A BRIEF HISTROY ON ART OF EDUCATION

P.Aswini I Bsc.chemistry

Dr.L.H.R. govt degree college

Mylavaram, NTR District, Andhra Pradesh

Cell: 8008977868, E-mail: aswinipittala70@gmail.com



1.0. INTRODUCTION

The child comes to the world with an innate capacity to learn. The first language of learning you speak to the child, the learning does not start with the alphabets and numerals ,with facts or books , with the schools or classes , actual learning begins with the immediate environment with the visuals around ,with the sounds enveloping the child and the regular events that take place around them. The child repeats the sounds elders produce ,enjoys the giggles and claps ,copies and performs ...

A look at a beautiful picture ,a melodious lullaby , the shower of a lovely smile, the feel of an affectionate hand , there emerges a spontaneous response from a child . On the other hand , the sound of thunder, a flash of lightening , a rough touch and the child deplores it and starts wailing . The voyage of exploration commences through these regular happenings and it is the beginning of learning in **visual and performing arts**.

2.0. KEY WORDS

The Visual Arts

The Performing Arts

3.0. THE VISUAL ARTS

An artist uses paper, canvas , clay, metal, paint etc . which can be moulded or transformed to create some physical or art object.

- a. Drawing
- b. Painting
- c. Sculpture

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Drawing is made on a flat surface with the help of a pen, pencil or brush. In drawing, different forms are made in such a way that they communicate the content through the visual language. Drawing requires regular practice to achieve perfection and drawing of lines becomes rhythmic.

5.0. Human anatomy drawings

Up to the primary stage usually children draw human figures according to their own perception and style. This is the right stage that they should be taught about the physical measurement of the body, specially the basic knowledge of the anatomy of men, women and children. For drawing human body proportionately it is essential to understand the right proportions of body and its inner structure or the skeleton. While drawing human figures the head has been fixed as a unit for measurement. A normal human figure is seven to seven and a half times larger than its head.

6.0. PAINTING

Different forms drawn and painted on a surface with pen, pencil or colours is painting which can be made with different techniques. The teacher can assess understanding of the students regarding different types of painting – water colour, oil, pastel, fabric, ink paintings etc. These works may specially include the traditional, folk and modern forms of painting. Making compositions, still life and landscapes will enhance the creativity.

7.0. THE PERFORMING ARTS

- The artist uses their own body, face and presence as a medium.
- It is something which is performed, seen heard.

Usually the different types of performing arts accepted and understood are:

- Music
- Theatre
- Dance
- Puppetry

8.0. MUSIC

Music is an art in which an artist's emotions are manifested through the medium of swara (melody) and laya (rhythm). As feelings in a painting are depicted through paper, pencil

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and colours , emotions in a poem are described with the help of words and embellishments (chhands) , sculpture is represented through clay or metals , similarly , in music swara and laya are used to facilitate the feelings of an artist.

Music has been an indispensable part of Indian culture . Music in India is specifically related to religion and spiritualism and hence besides enjoyment and entertainment, it is also seen as a means to attain spiritual goal. Indian music is particularly associated with the deities; Goddess Saraswathi is considered to be the creator of Veena , Lord Shiva is the creator of dance and Lord Krishna can never be imagined without the Flute . It is also assumed that Lord Brahma , the creator of Vedas , originated Music . Brahma imparted this art to lord Shiva , Shiva preached it to Goddess Saraswati . Saraswati taught it to Narada , and subsequently Narada preached music to the musicians in heaven (Gandharvas and Kinnaras) and kings . Many saints like Bharata, Narada and Hanuman propagated music on the earth after attaining proficiency in it .Acharya Bharatahari has said

“Sahitya Sangeet Kala Vihinah

Sakshat Pashu Puchh Vishan Hinah”

Means , a human being is considered to be like an animal if he is deprived of literature , music and art.

9.0. TYPES OF MUSIC

Hindi word for music is ‘sangeet’ , which is derived from two words , sam + Geet . ‘Sam’ means ‘with’ and ‘Geet’ means a ‘song’ . So in the light of this definition , music can be defined as a song sung along with the assimilation of other forms like dance and instrumental music. Music in India developed gradually over the centuries . The perspective of Indian music is very wide .It comprises of varieties bhajans, geets , ghazals , regional and folk songs.

Indian classical music has two styles (padhyatis):

- Hindustani Sangeet Padhyati (style)
- Carnatic sangeet Padhyati (style)

10.0. HINDUSTANI SANGEET

Hindustani sangeet padhyati (style) is also known as north Indian classical music style. This style is prevalent in entire country, except south Indian regions. The soul of Hindustani classical music is 'raga' and thus it is swara-oriented style. Lyrics are composed in a raga, which is called a bandish and then the elaboration is done with the aid of alaap, taan, boltaan etc. In Hindustani sangeet padhyati (style) main forms of singing are dhrupad, dhamar, khayal etc. Languages generally used in this style are Hindi, Braj, Bhojpuri, Urdu, Punjabi etc. Main accompanying instruments are Tabla, Harmonium and Tanpura. Usage of Pakhawaj is also seen with the dhrupad and dhamar styles of singing. Dance and instrumental music are also presented in Hindustani sangeet padhyati (style).

11.0. CARNATIC SANGEET

Carnatic sangeet padhyati (style) is also named as south Indian music style, because it is popular in south Indian regions of the country like Tamil nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Andhrapradesh. Main forms in this style are raga, pallavi, kriti and kirtan. Raga is elaborated with the help of aalapam and tanam. Carnatic music is a rhythm dominant (taal pradhan) style. Languages used in the compositions are Kannad, Telugu, Tamil etc. Mridangam is the main rhythm instrument used in Carnatic music. Apart from Mridangam other instruments used during the performance are Ghatam, Violin, Tambura and Shruti box.

India has also a very rich tradition of regional and folk music.

Some musical instruments are :

- ❖ Harmonium
- ❖ Shehnai
- ❖ Tabla
- ❖ Dholak
- ❖ Manjeera
- ❖ Ghanta
- ❖ Tanpura
- ❖ Sitar

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- ❖ Mridangam
- ❖ Ghatam

12.0. THEATRE

Theatre has been used as a means for the education for children in different educational settings . Gandhiji advised and used drama in the basic education programme at Wardha . The different aspects and processes of theatre help students to act and think freely .

Drama also uses poetry , music and movements to create rhythm. Many times dance and drama are combined and there are musical plays or dance drama. Theatre can be used as an educational tool in creative forms to enhance creative skills. They explore children's imagination and observation nourishing their mental energies.

Many groups use historical themes as the story for drama. Tughlaq , Ragia Sultan , Bhagat Singh and Mahatma Gandhi are some of the historical figures whose life stories have inspired contemporary playwrights. The works of recent storywriters have also been dramatised by modern directors. In recent times many also been dramatised by modern directors. In recent times many theatre groups have been formed who besides performing professional plays also work with children. About theatre workshops that encourage children to learn the processes of drama.

12.0. DANCE

Dance is the expression of body, mind and soul. The co-ordination of body parts with face expression along with Music can be termed dance. India is a country of diverse culture and there are dances in every region which are inherited. The important aspects in dance are body movement, facial expression, music, musical instruments, literature , space management, group and solo co-ordination , makeup, costumes and ornaments of dances are inspired by the atmospheric condition of any area. Regional dance form is performed in groups on religious occasions , marriages , any cultural event , Republic day parade , local festival of a particular region, movie cinema, tourist places etc. These dances are performed solo, duet and in groups. In these dances people of varied age groups perform spontaneously in dances of their specific regions. E.g. in Gujarat Dandia or in Punjabi Bhangra we find thousands of people dancing together to the beat of regional music.

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Solo: Solo dance is performed by an individual.

Duet : It is performed by two performers. Generally it is done to both genders with their individual characteristics or identities at the same time.

Group :

We observe large groups of people dancing together to celebrate occasions.

Dhimsa (Devi puja)..... Andhra Pradesh

Garba Gujarat

Bihu Bengal

The Musical instruments we have read about in the previous pages are also used and are very important in dances.

Types of Dances

- Folk Dance
- Classical Dance
- Creative Dance

13.0. PUPPETRY

Puppets are a unique aspect of performing art which can be pedagogy. It helps in spreading social awareness , environmental consciousness ,historical incidents, traditional stories like Vikramaditya's 32 puppet throne "singh asanaBattisee" which helps to teach morals etc . puppets are used to communicate our viewpoint, ideas and thoughts. The moment we hold a puppet in hand, we merge into the character and introspect. This rings a bell in the mind and the character suddenly comes alive giving the ability to understand and interpret. It brings more fun to the content and yet brings out serious debate through manipulation. All the elements of visual art and craft like colours, harmony etc are used in puppetry. Most common themes of puppetry are-moral values stories, epics, local region identity and characteristics and are created keeping in mind the same. Puppetry is successfully used for spreading education, awareness and for mentally & physically challenging people so that they can understand the concept in a better way.

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Few example of regional puppetry are given below :-

Type of Puppet	Place / Region	Theme/ Name of Puppet
Glove of puppetry	Uttar Pradesh	Radha- Krishna
	Orissa	
	West Bengal	Play called ‘Pavokoothu’ Ramayana & Mahabharata
String Puppet	Rajasthan	Kundhei
	Orissa	Gombeyyatta
	Karnataka	Bomalattam

14.0. CONCLUSION

Art education can help students develop creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills. It can also help them develop motor skills, improve their self – confidence, and build empathy. “ Art is a powerful and essential part of our lives”.

Benefits of art education:

Art education can help to improve cognitive development, improve memory, creativity, critical thinking, motor skills, socializing, cultural awareness. It can also help to develop values like dedication, perseverance, and collaboration. These traits can help students achieve academic success and have great mental health. The coordination of arts and culture into education is certainly not a simple extravagance yet a need for holistic development.

15.0. BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. The History of Fine Arts, Edith Tomory, Orient Blackswan, 1989
2. For successfully completing my article, I have taken help from following :

From art education book, google, www.wikipedia.