

## **Art and Education**

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### **Abstract**

Here, in this article, I will try to focus on art and how it is related with forms of education. How the education can be based on art here will be described. Due to the great importance of arts education I choose to reflect this view on this discussion. Besides, the basic idea of education and art are described here. Art and many theories of art are described here. Basically, the children need the influence of art to be more developed in future. That's why I choose this topic to explain.

**Keywords:** Art; Education; Visual art; Theory; Visual; Performing.

## **1. Introduction**

Arts in education is an expanding field of educational research and practice informed by investigations into learning through arts experiences. In this context, the arts can include Performing arts education (dance, drama, and music), literature and poetry, storytelling, Visual arts education in film, craft, design, digital arts, media and photography. Art is a visual language that provides another means of communication. The openness of art instruction (many solutions, not single answers) naturally allows the expressions or voices of multiple learners.

## **2. Idea of Art**

Art is a conduit to experiencing lifelong learning in ways that are creative and encourage problem finding and solving. Art also provides opportunities to observe, participate in and strengthen aesthetic awareness and critical thinking (likes and dislikes). Built into art classrooms are ways our students can participate in a community of diverse learners since the art teacher sees almost all students in the school (usually within the week) and has them for the entire time that they attend that school.

One way to provide empowerment to all of our students is through educating ourselves to learn how to provide and model best practices of accommodating and improving accessibility to learning and participating in the rich visual language of art. To make this happen there needs to be collaboration between the special needs educator and the art educator. It is the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.

Art is often considered the process or product of deliberately arranging elements in a way that appeals to the senses or emotions. It encompasses a diverse range of human activities, creations and ways of expression, including music, literature, film, sculpture and paintings.

## **3. Idea of Education**

The term ‘education’ is a very common and a popular word that is uttered by many of us but understood by a very few in its right perspective. It is in one way or the other appears to be as old as the human race, though during the course of time, its meaning and objectives have inevitably undergone certain changes. As a student of education course, and, as a future teacher, it is essential for you to understand the meaning of education, its conceptual features and different perspectives that have shaped its meaning from time to time.

Understanding the concept of education and its dynamic features will help you to develop insights about the purpose of becoming a teacher and help you while educating your students. You are, by now, familiar with

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the term 'education', 'educated person' 'educating' and so on. You must have also used these terms on several occasions in conversation with others. What do we mean by education? Does 'teaching' or 'instructing' become education? Or is it learning in an institution? Does developing the child into good human being known as education? Is it possible to have one meaning of education? There are many more such questions that come to our mind when we attempt to understand the concept of education. The term 'education' has been interpreted by different people in different ways. Some people refer to it as formal schooling or to lifelong learning. Some others refer to it as acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes. Some say that education is nothing, but training of people's mind in a particular direction to bring about desired changes. If you ask a statesman, an artisan, a teacher, a parent, a philosopher and a student about what education means to them, you would be surprised to know the multiple interpretations and views people have about education. This only shows that education doesn't have one precise universally accepted definition. It has various meanings with various functions. Analysis of these meanings would help us to understand what education really is. To begin with, let us look into how the term 'education' has evolved and some of the views of great thinkers that exemplifies the concept and meaning of education. Etymologically speaking, the word education is derived from the Latin word 'educare' meaning 'to raise' and 'to bring up'. According to few others, the word 'education' has originated from another Latin term 'Educere' which means 'to lead forth' or 'to come out'. These meanings indicate that education seeks to nourish the good qualities and draw out the best in every individual. Education seeks to develop the innate or the inner potentialities of humans. Some other educationists believe that the word 'education' has been derived from the Latin term 'Educatum', which means the act of teaching or training. The meanings of these root words lead us to believe that education aims to provide a nourishing environment that would facilitate or bring out and develop the potentialities in an individual. You must have come across people who consider that instruction imparted in schools and higher education institutions is nothing but education. The aims of education in these contexts are measured in terms of degrees or certification or promotion. There is a deliberate effort made with a definite purpose to develop certain amount of knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits in these institutions.

This is a narrow concept of education, which is confined only to a few specific, deliberate, and planned efforts that have a bearing on the development of the individual. The educator, in the narrow sense, aims at producing the literate or a professional person such as an engineer, a doctor, a teacher, a businessman and so on. Here, the individual is deliberately 'taught to think' as predetermined by the educators. Thus, in a narrow sense, education is nothing, but a purposeful activity, deliberately planned for the optimum development of an individual's potentials. In the broader or wider sense, education is not limited to a classroom or a school

only. It is considered to be a lifelong process, where all the experiences, knowledge and wisdom that an individual acquires at different stages of one's life through different channels (i.e., formally, informally and incidentally) are termed as education. The broader view considers education as an act or experience that has formative or additive effect on the personality of an individual. It is believed that education is not only an instrument of social change, but also an investment in national development. Such a view of education encompasses all life experiences, as there is a shift in emphasis from individual development to national development.

It is considered that education is a lifelong process that includes all experiences that the child receives in the school or at home, in the community and society through interactions of various sorts and activities. The broader meaning of education implies the process of development, wherein the individual gradually adapts himself/herself to various ways to his/her physical, social and spiritual environments.

#### **4. Education as Process and Product**

There is always a controversy whether education is a process or a product. Mostly, we consider education as a product, that is, something that has been produced as a result of certain inputs which in this case is instruction or experiences. In this sense, it is the sum total of what is received through learning — the knowledge, skills, values that are the outcomes of learning. The concept of education as acquisition of knowledge was prevalent since the beginning of history of education. Many literature sources and the religious doctrines have propounded that 'knowledge is power' and 'knowledge is virtue'. Even now it is believed that knowledge leads to wisdom.

Education becomes a product only when it assimilates the culture of any society, and is transmitted from one generation to another. Education fosters values in people, which are universally accepted as valuable at a given point of time. Transmission of knowledge or skills which takes place as a purposeful activity in a variety of ways could be termed as the product of education. Education can also be referred to as a process. In this sense, education is referred to the act of developing the intellect, critical thinking abilities, social and cultural understanding, and understanding of one's own self. Education is considered as an active and a dynamic process which takes place continuously during one's life by way of various experiences through either in a formal or in an informal manner. The individual continuously learns. In this process, he or she learns to utilise one's experiences in learning new things and also to reconstruct new things in the place of old ones. Thus the learning takes place throughout life which is an active and a dynamic process. This dynamic process is nothing but education. So, it can be said that education is a product as well as a process.

Besides the above, education is viewed in various other ways by different philosophers and educationists. Some of them are given here in Activity 1 for you to explore and find out their meanings.

## **5. Idea of Visual Art**

"Visual Arts" is a modern but imprecise umbrella term for a broad category of art which includes a number of artistic disciplines from various sub-categories. Its wide ambit renders meaningless any attempt at definition, so rather than define or compose some diluted meaning for it, here is a list of its constituent disciplines. The visual arts are art forms that create works that are primarily visual in nature, such as ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, crafts, photography, video, film making and architecture. These definitions should not be taken too strictly as many artistic disciplines involve aspects of the visual arts as well as arts of other types. Also included within the visual arts are the applied arts such as industrial design, graphic design, fashion design, interior design and decorative art. The current usage of the term "visual arts" includes fine art as well as the applied, decorative arts and crafts, but this was not always the case.

Before the Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain and elsewhere at the turn of the 20th century, the term 'artist' was often restricted to a person working in the fine arts (such as painting, sculpture, or printmaking) and not the handicraft, craft, or applied art media. The distinction was emphasized by artists of the Arts and Crafts Movement who valued vernacular art forms as much as high forms. The visual arts are art forms such as painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, video, filmmaking, design, crafts, and architecture. Many artistic disciplines (performing arts, conceptual art, textile arts) involve aspects of the visual arts as well as arts of other types. Also included within the visual arts are the applied arts such as industrial design, graphic design, fashion design, interior design and decorative art. All fine art belongs to the general category of visual arts. These include activities such as: Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture, along with associated activities like Graphic art, Manuscript Illumination, Book Illustration, Calligraphy and Architecture.

The visual arts also include a number of modern art forms, such as: Assemblage, Collage, Mixed-media, Conceptual Art, Installation, Happenings and Performance art, along with film-based disciplines such as Photography, Video Art and Animation, or any combination thereof. This group of activities also includes high tech disciplines like computer graphics and giclee prints. Another modern visual art, is the new environmental or Land art, which also includes transitory forms like ice/snow sculpture, and (presumably) graffiti art. Although various forms of art have been practiced for hundreds of millennia, it is only comparatively recently that the role of the "artist" has emerged. During Classical Antiquity, as well as the era

of Byzantium, Carolingian, Ottonian, Romanesque and Gothic art, painters and sculptors were treated as mere artisans - paint-appliers or carvers. Then, during the Renaissance, thanks to individuals such as Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo, the profession of "artist" was raised to a new higher level, reflecting the newly perceived importance of the "design" element - or "disegno". Suddenly, painters and sculptors had a new unique status - on a par with architects. For fine artists, this situation has remained largely unchanged to this day, except that they have now been joined by visual artists involved in installation, video art, conceptual works, assemblage and the like. Some crafts are also included under the umbrella of visual art, although most continue to be funded by "crafts" (rather than "arts") bodies.

## **6. Purposes of Visual Arts**

In below, I am explaining shortly the purposes.

Ceremonial – ritual, celebration, artworks created to support worship ceremonies

Artistic Expression – artwork to express or communicate emotions, ideas, feeling, (for self-expression, to decorate or beautify objects

Narrative – artworks that tell stories, describe and illustrate experiences, or communicate information, art to document important or historical events (Lange’s photography of the Depression Era)

Functional – artistic objects used in everyday life (pottery, quilts, baskets, etc.)

Persuasive – artworks that promote ideas, philosophies, or products (advertising, marketing, propaganda, ideology, etc.)

## **7. Performing Arts**

These are the forms of creative activity that are performed in front of an audience, such as drama, music, and dance. Performing arts are basically arts or skills that require a performance in front of a public audience. Examples are acting, singing and dancing. Other forms of the Performing Arts include opera, theatre, magic or illusion performances, mime, spoken word, recitation and public speaking. These are types of art (such as music, dance, or drama) that are performed for an audience. The arts involving performance, such as dance, theatre, singing, etc. Performing arts are a form of art in which artists use their voices, bodies or inanimate objects to convey artistic expression. It is different from visual arts, which is when artists use paint, canvas or various materials to create physical or static art objects. Performing arts include a range of disciplines which are performed in front of a live audience. Performing arts may include dance, music, opera, theatre and musical theatre, magic, illusion, mime, spoken word, puppetry, circus arts, performance art. There is also a specialized form of fine art, in which the artists perform their work live to an audience. This is called

performance art. Most performance art also involves some form of plastic art, perhaps in the creation of props. Dance was often referred to as a plastic art during the Modern dance era.

## **8. Performing Arts and Visual Arts**

Visual and performing arts programs explore the scholarly and practical study of a wide variety of artistic techniques and styles. Within the visual and performing arts is a range of educational opportunities and potential careers. Study.com provides a wealth of information to help you choose the educational options that are right for you and the corresponding vocation. According to The College Board, even those wishing to pursue a general degree in the visual and the performing arts are usually trained for a career in a specific art form, be it theater, studio art, dance or music. Within that discipline, however, they may require training in a range of skills, such as sculpting and painting for studio arts programs. Programs also focus on both the history and theory of the discipline in addition to the actual practice of the profession. Here are a few educational paths to consider. While most programs in the visual and fine arts require hands-on education at a college campus in order to hone one's skills, there are distance learning options available. There are even free classes in some areas, although these generally don't contribute towards a degree. The provided links will explain more. Performing arts is a form of art where artists use their voices, and bodies to convey a message or artistic expression. It is different from visual arts, in which an artist use paint, canvas and various materials to create art objects. The visual Arts gives a way to express feeling, emotion, opinion, or taste through visual means, for instance, photography, painting, sculpting and drawing. Performing Arts have ways to express an opinion, emotion, feeling, or taste, through means of performance, like, theatre, public speech, dance, music, and more. There are other forms of art too; Culinary Art expresses personality, and culture, as well as, atmosphere through the creation of taste and composition of food on the plate. Poetry and writing fall in a category of art called written art. Visual arts are primarily created for Aesthetic Purposes, and judged for its beauty and meaningfulness. Visual Arts include painting, sculpture, watercolour, graphics, drawing and architecture. Also falling in the Visual Arts category is; music, poetry, film, photography, conceptual art and printmaking. People in this field are termed, artists. Performing arts are basically arts or skills that require a performance in front of a public audience. Examples are acting, singing and dancing. Other forms of the Performing Arts include opera, theatre, magic or illusion performances, mime, spoken word, recitation and public speaking. People in this field are termed, performers.

## **9. Art Gallery**

An art gallery is a place where works of art are collected, cared for, researched, interpreted and displayed for everyone to visit and enjoy. A contemporary art gallery is a place where contemporary art is shown for

exhibition and/or for sale. The term "art gallery" is commonly used to mean art museum (especially in British English), the rooms displaying art in any museum, or in the original sense, of any large or long room. A contemporary art gallery is a place where contemporary art is shown for exhibition and/or for sale. The term "art gallery" is commonly used to mean art museum (especially in British English), the rooms displaying art in any museum, or in the original sense, of any large or long room. An art museum or art gallery is a building or space for the display of art, usually from the museum's own collection. It might be in public or private ownership and may be accessible to all or have restrictions in place. Although primarily concerned with visual art, art galleries are often used as a venue for other cultural exchanges and artistic activities, such as performance arts, music concerts, or poetry readings. Art museums also frequently host themed temporary exhibitions which often include items on loan from other collections.

## **10. Theories of Arts**

Now, I will describe many theories of art in below. At the broadest level, a theory of art aims to shed light on some aspect of the project of defining art or to theorize about the structure of our concept of 'art' without providing classical definitions, namely traditional functions. If the work of "art" has a materialistic intent it is a "tool" whether a tool intellectually, physically, spiritually or mentally. And thus not "Genuine True Art" which has no purpose but to be itself".

## **11. The Principle of Harmony**

If too little variety can become boring, too much variety can create chaos in a work of art. Artists avoid chaos in their works by using harmony. Harmony refers to blending elements to create a work of calm, restful appearance. An artist may use similar textures, colors values, to make a piece feel even and together.

Sometimes, harmony is referred to as unity. In Picasso's "Blue Guitarist" the use of the color blue throughout the painting makes it seem to fit together. In Robert Delaunay's painting "Rhythm" the use of similar shapes, values, and colors give the feeling of harmony or unity. One technique of creating harmony in a work of art is by utilizing smooth, flowing lines and subtle color schemes that will easily blend together.

## **12. The Principle of Contrast**

Contrast refers to differences in values, colors, textures, shapes, and other elements. Contrasts create visual excitement and interest to a work of art. If all the other elements – value, for example, are the same – the result is monotonous and plain.

Examples-

- a) Contrast of Color – warm vs. cool colors



- b) Contrast of Texture – smooth vs. rough
- c) Contrast of size – large vs. small
- d) Contrast of shape – organic vs. Geometric

### **13. The Principle of Gradation**

Gradation refers to a way of combining elements by using a series of gradual changes in those elements. Examples- Small - to – large shapes, Light – to – dark hues of color

Telephone poles in landscapes (ordered, step-by-step change as they go back in the distance). Gradation of size and direction produces linear perspective. Gradation of color.

### **14. The Principle of Variety**

The same routine day after day can become dull and boring. The same color or shape repeated over and over in an art work can become equally dull. To avoid dullness, artists use the principle of variety in their works. Variety is a principle of art concerned with combining one or more elements to create interest by adding slight changes.

By giving a work variety, the artist heightens the visual appeal of the work.

### **15. The Principle of Pattern**

Pattern uses the art elements in planned or random repetitions to enhance surfaces of paintings or sculptures.

Patterns often occur in nature, and artists use similar repeated motifs (a distinctive and recurring form, shape, figure, etc., in a design, as in a painting or on wallpaper) to create these occurrences. Repetition refers to a way of combining art elements so that the same elements are used over and over again. Repetition will create a visual pattern.

Thus, repetition and pattern go hand-in-hand. Examples- 1. Fabrics – regular or planned patterns – because certain elements are repeated with accuracy (lines, shapes, swirls, or other design elements). 2. Quilts

### **16. The Principle of Movement**

You may not have realized it, but when you look at a work of art your eye moves from part to part.

Artists use the principle of movement to lead the viewer's eyes throughout the work. Movement is the principle of art used to create the look and feeling of action and to guide a viewer's eye throughout the work of art.

### **17. The Principle of Rhythm**

Often artists seek to make their works seem active. When they do, they call upon the principle of rhythm. Rhythm is the principle of art concerned with repeating an element to make a work seem active or to suggest vibration. Event- Sometimes to create rhythm, an artist will repeat not just elements but also the same exact objects over and over.

One example is Edvard Munch's *The Scream*.

Example of rhythm is Andy Warhol's version of Marilyn Monroe.

## **18. The Principle of Balance**

Balance is concerned with arranging elements so no one part of a work overpowers, or seems heavier than, any other part. Three Kinds of Balance are-

- a) Formal (symmetrical) Balance – Two halves are mirror images.
- b) Informal (asymmetrical) Balance – Two unlike elements seem to carry equal weight.  
For example, a small shape painted bright red will balance several larger items painted in duller reds.
- c) Radial Balance – This occurs when elements or objects in an art work are positioned around a central point.

## **19. The Principle of Emphasis**

To attract viewer's attention to important parts of a work, artists use the principle of emphasis.

This principle creates one or more centers of interest in a work. Emphasis is making an element in a work stand out by using an element of art. Emphasis can be created by contrast or by extreme changes in an element. In Claus Oldenberg's large public sculpture "Stonebridge" we see an everyday object blown up to massive size. The use of the large form, as well as the dark red color of the cherry focus us to look at the sculpture.

## **20. Conclusion**

In education, arts-based teaching and learning activities may be implemented throughout a whole school. Models include whole-school art activities, whole-school arts-based curricula, and comprehensive school reform. Schools have also implemented arts-based teaching and learning as a comprehensive school reform model. Other implementation models focus on arts-based teaching and learning activities at the classroom level. Classroom models bring art activities to students in a regular classroom setting. Thus we may describe the whole about the topic.

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