

ART INTEGRATED LEARNING PEDAGOGY IN A CONSTRUCTIVIST CLASSROOM

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Abstract

Art Integrated Learning is a teaching learning model which is based on learning ‘through the arts’ and ‘with the arts. Art integration is that in which we integrating arts while teaching a particular concept, it is not teaching an art or a craft separately. Art experiences, both in visual (drawing and painting, clay modelling, pottery, paper crafts, mask and puppet making, heritage crafts etc) and performing arts (music, dance, theatre, puppetry etc) helps in better understanding and construction of knowledge about different concepts. The present study is a conceptual study which focuses on the importance of Art Integrated Learning (AIL) in classroom, various types of resources that can be used for AIL, how to manage an art integrated classroom, assessment in art integrated learning and the pedagogical methods of imparting art integrated education in various curricular subjects.

Keywords: Art Integrated Learning, Constructivism.

INTRODUCTION

Today’s classroom teaching is facilitated by the theories that enable students to construct knowledge on their own knowledge and make their learning stable. Student’s construction of knowledge is based upon the theory of constructivism. Constructivism means self-learning through experiencing things and reflecting on those experiences. Here the teacher plays the role of a facilitator and enables students to construct knowledge. Many pedagogical strategies are used by a teacher for facilitating classroom teaching learning in a constructivist classroom. Art Integrated Learning is also a strategy the teacher can use effectively in a constructivist classroom. “Art Integrated Learning is a teaching learning model which is based on learning through the arts and with the arts”- (NCERT, 2019). In art integrated learning, art becomes the medium of teaching- learning which helps the students to understand the concepts clearly. “Art experiences, both in visual (drawing and painting, clay modelling, pottery, paper crafts, mask and puppet making, heritage crafts etc) and performing arts (music, dance, theatre, puppetry etc) helps in better understanding and construction of knowledge about different concepts”. (NCERT, 2019). Hence constructivism which gives importance to the knowledge construction

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by students themselves can be effectively implemented in our classroom with the help of art integrated learning. Art integrated learning can enhance cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities of learners.

Students who are studying and participating in fine arts can more concentrate on what they do and can stretch their mind beyond bookish knowledge (Khan & Ali, 2016). Test scores in Mathematics and English are improved by employing art in academic classrooms and integration of arts in education can bring academic, social and personal benefits to students. (Donna St. George, 2015). Art integrated teaching in classroom can significantly develop the conceptual understanding of students in geography. (Basu & Mohalik, 2020). “Art integrated learning incorporates skill of planning and organising age-appropriate art experiences to make learning of different subjects appealing and interesting provides creative space for every learner to explore, experience and express and also cater to individual needs and preferences.” (Basu & Mohalik, 2020).

The present study is a conceptual study which analyses the importance of Art Integrated Learning (AIL) in classroom, various types of resources that can be used for AIL, how to manage an art integrated classroom , assessment in art integrated learning and the pedagogical methods of imparting art integrated education in various curricular subjects.

IMPORTANCE OF ART INTEGRATED CLASSROOM

Art integration is that in which we integrating arts while teaching a particular concept, it is not teaching an art or a craft separately.

“Art- integration is a cross- curricular pedagogical approach that utilises various aspects across subjects. As a part of the thrust as experiential learning, art- integrated education will be embedded in classroom transactions not only for creating joyful classrooms, but also for imbibing the Indian ethos through integration of Indian art and culture in the teaching and learning process at every level. The art- integrated approach will strengthen the linkages between education and culture”. (NEP2020, page 12. Para 4.7)

Learning through arts can lead longer retention and better attention from students. Also qualities like team work, empathy, coordination, cooperation and communication can be developed through art integrated learning. This type of learning can focus more on socio- emotional. Cultural, mental health etc. rather than focusing on conventional subjects only. It can be used to create inclusive classrooms also.

TYPES OF RESOURCES FOR ART INTEGRATED LEARNING

Material Resources

Those resources that are economic, environmental friendly, reusable , innovative and locally available should be taken into consideration while planning and selecting materials for AIL.

Some of those materials include

- Old newspapers and magazines
- Old and new books and used packing materials
- Old clothes, Socks, Duppattas/Saris etc
- Clay strings, threads, beads, ribbons (different colours) etc
- Bangles, Bindi
- Fish clips, Buttons
- Coconut shells, pistachio shells, walnut/ almond shells etc
- Pebbles, feathers, sand, bamboos, match sticks and broom sticks
- Lids, bottles, bottle caps and carton boxes
- Invitation cards, balloons, balls sponges

Community Resources

Resources from community can optimally be utilised for AIL.

- School authorities can invite local artisans, local weavers, potters and different such service providers for enhancing the sensitivity and awareness towards the indigenous cultural heritage.
- Periodic field trips and excursions are included to visit places like hospitals, post office, bus depot, railway stations etc.

Space

In AIL, the teacher should be flexible in selecting and using learning spaces.

- Those spaces that provide an opportunity to explore, experiment, create and express themselves freely catering the inclusive needs of the children should be selected.

Classroom Management

- Provide flexible seating arrangement so that students and teachers will be free to move for their activities.

- Seating arrangements in U- shape, semicircle etc should be encouraged to create space for activities and presentation.
- Teacher should facilitate each child in the classroom. Children should be encouraged to work in groups and encourage the process of inclusion while grouping students.
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- Encourage presentation by children
- Children's work should be displayed in the display area in classroom
- The classroom should consist of a reading corner and an innovative performing area

ASSESSMENT IN ART INTEGRATED LEARNING

Art Integrated Learning as a pedagogy provides opportunity for “assessment as learning”, “assessment for learning” and “assessment of learning”.

- Assessment should start with identification of clear learning outcomes and can occur at various points within the teaching and learning process.
- Assessment should be non- judgemental, non-comparative, non- competitive and non-threatening
- Both individual and group performance need to be assessed
- Verbal and nonverbal expressions of students need to be assessed.

This assessment helps facilitator to assess the socio emotional and life skill development of the children like creative thinking, critical- thinking, empathy, coping with stress, coping with emotions, inter personal relationships, effective communication skills, decision making skills, self-awareness & problem solving.

ART INTEGRATED PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES IN CLASSROOM

Variety of art integrated activities can be implemented in a classroom for successful transaction of the curriculum.

Different activities that can be used for different subjects.

English classroom

- Poetry (through songs)
- Role play method
- Story through drawing

- Puppets
- Clay modelling
- Spin a yarn
- Story telling through origami
- Scrap book

Science classroom

- Concept through story
- Roleplay
- Drawing & Colouring
- Craft Work
- Clay modelling
- Dance (rotation & revolution)

Mathematics classroom

- Pattern Drawing
- Rangometry
- Warli Art
- Mandala Art
- Tessalations
- Fractals
- Spidorns
- Math Art

Social Science classroom

- Mock elections
- Poster making

CONCLUSION

Art is a powerful tool for curriculum transaction. It develops fine motor skills and eye- hand coordination. Art Integrated Learning helps the children to experiment with materials, use art to connect learning across the disciplines and respond to the experiences through art. Instead of teaching art as a separate subject, teachers can use a variety of art forms like drama, music, drawing, etc to teach a variety of subjects in a more engaging way. A 360-degree holistic

learning is possible by integrating art in classroom. Creativity and innovation utilised in the artistic process compel children to think creatively and help these skills come more naturally in real life and in future work place.

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