

13.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF ART AND AESTHETICS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

There are many positive effects of arts education in several areas including students' intrinsic enjoyment, art form knowledge and skills, social and cultural knowledge, creativity and thinking skills, communication and expressive skills, personal and social development, effects that transfer to other contexts (e.g., learning in other subjects, work-related benefits such as teamwork), culture of the school, and benefits to the local community. Following points will discuss in detail the significance of arts for the secondary school students :

- It makes knowledge interesting.
- It develops aesthetic sense.
- Correlation with other subjects.
- Practical and manual training.
- It saves time.
- Art makes other subjects easy.
- Mental training through hands.
- It develops creativity.
- It helps to acquire habits of concentration and application.
- All round development.
- Art fosters the power of imaginations, observation and initiatives.
- Art develops memory, illustration and nature drawing.
- It develops a person psychologically.
- Art develops an individual morally.
- It develops a person intellectually.
- It develops a person socially.

• **Arts makes knowledge interesting** : With the help of art, we can make the dull theoretical subject easy and interesting. When we add a visual form with any theoretical subject or topic it becomes very interesting. For example a dull subject like maths, if we are going to teach a child addition or subtraction, instead of writing $2+2=?$ We can make the figures of 2 mangoes and 2 bananas. Then when we ask the students to count, they will count the things fastly because it is an interesting game for them. Same we can do in case of geography, language etc. So art is very much helpful in making the knowledge interesting. When we tell a story to the children the effect is less on them. But when we show the

pictures related to the story then tell them the story with the help of picture, it will effect more and they will show more interest and their learning power will increase.

• **It develops aesthetic sense** : Art helps in the aesthetic development of a person and along with aesthetic sense, self expression and the Rasa (feeling of beauty) is also developed. With the help of art, a person is able to appreciate and criticize a work of art.

With the help of aesthetic sense, we can make a thing beautiful. Otherwise without art, for e.g. Architectural designs of cities would be reduced to logs of cabins, without any sculpture we would have to Lo monument. No coined money, no mural decorations no illustration will be there.

So it is the aesthetic sense which helps a person to make the Things beautiful and attractive.

• **Correlation with other subjects** : By correlating the dull theoretical subjects with art, we can make them more interesting and easy to understand. We can motivate the learning power of the students and make the understanding level more higher by correlating the two or more subjects with each other. This will save the time of the teacher as he can teach two subjects in one period. Here the correlation of art with some other subjects is given below as example.

- a) **Science** : Student having the knowledge of art can draw diagrams and can do their practical work etc. more nicely like parts of body, parts of flowers & plants etc.
- b) **Geography** : Drawing of maps, graphs, bar diagrams, etc. showing different places etc. can be beautifully done. Areas can be marked.
- c) **History** : History is the knowledge about past life of the man, how he lived, kings of that period, all these things can be easily shown by the students having the knowledge about art, like the king, His portrait etc. can be drawn for better understanding.
- d) **Economic** : Drawing of graphs, demand, supply etc. these can be shown better by the student having knowledge of art.
- e) **Maths** : Geometry, whole of it is the representation of different shapes etc. which can surely be done well by the art students.
- f) **Language** : It Is the skill of writing & expressing one's emotion Which can be surely done as well by the artist person.
- g) **Craft** : Craft and art are very closely related. Especially in the school, student who is good in art will surely do well in craft also.
- h) **Home science** : Art is helpful in arranging and decorating the things in a room, setting of a kitchen etc.

• **Art helps in achieving better Grades in Examination** : A student can get more marks if he know the drawing. By drawing the diagrams & representation, he can make his paper effective. It improves the writing of the person & leaves good impression on the mind of the on looker.

• **Practical and manual training** : Art develops in a man practical abilities and skills. It develops motor activities of a person and his observation power. Only on the basis of art, this practical ability can be developed in the students. Practical work and skill is very much important in the field of education. We can develop the hidden talent of the students with the help of this skill. There are many crafts which are introduced in primary classes. For example, wooden craft. Gardening, pottery etc. Here when the practical and manual training is given to the students, this will further help the students to adopt these crafts as a profession for their future. This practical and manual training will increase their confidence and develop their skill to the best.

• **It helps to save time** : When art is correlated with other subjects and two or more subjects are taught collectively then the time of both the teacher and the students is saved.

Secondly when the topic is taught with audio-visual aids, students take more interest and learn more in less time. The reason is that half the work is done when we show the aid or picture related to the lesson, surroundings and environment or regarding the school curriculum. The students can understand themselves by looking at that particular picture. Teacher's work becomes less and easy. So it saves time while teaching.

• **Art makes other subjects easy** : Art is very much responsible to make other theoretical subjects easy to understand. Art is the basis of all the audio-visual aids. Because only with the help of art (drawing), we can draw and paint a picture or we can make a "model. These audio-visual aids help the students to clear those facts and concepts which are not so clear to them.

It is also helpful to teach the child second language different from his mother tongue. For example: If we want to teach him about the English word 'C' if he has no knowledge of English, 'c' value is nothing to him. But when we make a picture of cat with 'c' and write on the one side cat, that becomes meaningful for him. Any correlating art with the language, can make learning easy.

• **Mental training through hands** : Art gives mental training and helps an individual to develop his-mental power. It develops imagination power, learning power, observational power, comparison quality etc. All these powers are very much useful for a person in his life. When a person develops with all these mental developments he tries to use it with his hands for example when he looks at a beautiful landscape or scene he puts in into his memory and with the use of his hands, he draws his imagination on the paper or the canvas. So art gives mental training and develops skill in a period.

• **Art develops creativity** : Art is the best medium to develop creative expression among children. Art itself depends on creativity. It also gives opportunity to create new things. It develops creative emotions in the minds of the children. For example, in a class if we give a topic to the students to make a poster on drugs addiction. No two ideas will be the same. Every poster will be different from each other because every person is unique and thinks according to his own way of thinking and choice.

It is the creativity of the minds of the students which helps to make a poster. Surrounding and environment which gives the idea to student's creativity gives us the opportunity to create a new order of reality, its knowledge and understanding. Its function in education is to create intelligence.

•**Art helps to acquire habit of concentration and application** : When a person draws & paints a picture, he first of all “concentrates over the scene which he wants to draw. Then he carries out the drawing or sketching i.e, if it is similar to the imagination or not. And after drawing a pencil sketch, he concentrates on the colours which he wants to use in his painting. So we can see the concentration first and after that application. Only after concentrating on the things to be drawn, one can apply it in his work of art. Both are very essential steps. Without concentration there will be no imagination and without imagination we will not be able to create a thing and we cannot apply it in our work of art. So to make a good piece of art, we should concentrate and only then it is possible to apply it in art.

•**All round development** : Art is the best way to express one’s views, ideas, emotions and expression. It gives freedom to the mind. It is very psychological in nature, it directs emotions. It gives pleasure and relaxes the man’s mind. It helps economically as a man can earn his living by adopting art as a profession. It makes a person socially reliable. It develops in a person all the moral qualities for example patience, endurance, satisfaction etc. It is a skill and the applied arts which needs a great intellect. So it develops a person intellectually, when he gets the training of these skills. By looking at all these facts and figures, we can imagine the contribution of a person. Art is very much responsible for the all sided development of a person.

•**Art fosters the power of imagination, observation and initiatives** : Art is very much responsible for the development of these qualities. First of everyone who is willing to make a painting, a sketch, a portrait, a still life or a composition, he has to observe the surroundings and environment to get the idea for his drawing or sketching. Secondly he has to set in his mind these ideas. Only then he will be able to imagine a new creative idea for his painting. Then he will take the initiative to start his work of art. Without sound observation and imagination, it is impossible to create or think about a scene. These are the basic requirements for drawing. When a person develops these qualities, then these will help him in other subjects of education too. He can write beautiful poems, paragraphs, prose etc.

•**Art develops memory, illustrations and nature drawing** : When an artist looks at a scene in the nature, he tries to keep in his mind. As Keats says, “A thing of beauty is joy forever”. To make his

Joy forever, it is very essential to memorise that scene. Only then he can use it in his illustrations and paintings or poems. Only the memory of a thing will live forever in his mind if he tries to memorise it. This will help to concentrate and imagine properly, to make his new creative idea on the canvas, In education also, it is very essential for a student to learn and memorise subject matter very perfectly. Only then he can use it in his exams or in creative thinking.

•**Art develops an individual psychologically** : Art helps the students to relieve to a great extent from the burden of theoretical tyranny of purely academic and theoretical instruction. It creates balance between intellectual and practical experience. This is the active knowledge which helps an individual, how to obey life circumstances, studies or bookish knowledge. They get themselves busy in their work of art and enjoy themselves.

• **Art develops a person morally** : Art makes a person content. It creates in a person a sense of satisfaction. He develops the qualities of patience, because he does his work with great ease and comfort. Art develops the aesthetics sense, to look for beauty etc. Art makes a person humble, honest and truthful. And this way helps a person in the development of his moral character.

• **It develops a person intellectually** : Art is a skill and the applied arts needs a great intellect. To create pleasing forms, like pottery, manual works like embroidery etc. all need a great intellect.

• **It develops a person socially** : Art makes a person socially reliable and self dependent. In the realm of art, the manual work is of great importance but in one society, it was seen as a degraded job, but now an artist enjoys an equivalent status as a man sitting on the desk and working.

Moreover, art as a hobby as well as profession is of utmost value. A student when learns some applied arts and makes it a profession later on he enjoys and satisfies his inner appetite and on the same time, gets the reward for his work.

Art helps the child to live more graciously in school and out. It provides an outlet for his thoughts and feelings and for his creative imagination. It gives him increasing power over materials and the ability to improve his surroundings. Art education stimulates a growing point in the child's mental and spiritual make up. Thus the teacher must provide the atmosphere and the material within which this unfolding can take place.

To Conclude : In the past, it was thought that the art of drawing And painting flourished in some garden, pursued by a few talented person and far beyond the understanding of common people. Art was considered something academic, forcible and require some extra ordinary power to reach its depth to understand and to appreciate its meaning. It may not be possible to define art but it can be experienced, lived and enjoyed by everybody, because it effects every attitude and every channel of human experience. It is a creative attempt to unfold the order and beauty of life. Since this enduring reality may be approached and reached through every aspect and channel of life, thinking, looking, making, feeling. There is no reason why it should not be included in the curriculum of our school.

Though the value of art in schools was not appreciated long before, yet, today, there is an increase in artistic work being done in schools. Though it cannot be the occupation of every immature worker, yet it is becoming popular in the extent of its practice. Art is doing its share in providing suitable channels for the adequate expression of child's intelligence through his inherent capacity for the art. It is now an admitted fact that a child has natural desires to express himself in some form. It is because of his desire that a child feels delight in doing art work and drawing something. Those initial efforts at art though rough & crude, but these are full of life & vigour. They are like his language. This appetite for exploring the world brings him simply an endless succession of self impression; were it not guided by his own preferences. One texture or one taste is preferred to another, leading him to his own world.

Art as a school subject is of great value. It is the centre of all the activities. It develops in the students the aesthetic sense. An appreciation sense enables them to develop socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually, psychologically and morally. We can say that without art = every school subject will become dull & bore. So it is very important to include art as a school subject in school curriculum.

