



Centre For Distance and Online Education Punjabi University, Patiala

Class : B.Ed.-I

Semester : 1

Paper : VI

Unit:II

Medium :English

LESSON No.

SECTION-B

- 2.1 : Art of Aesthetics: Meaning, Concept and Significance at the Secondary Level of School Education
- 2.2 : Aims and objectives, importance of art in child development
- 2.3 : Importance of Exhibitions and cultural festivals

website : www.pbidde.org

**Art and Aesthetics: Meaning, concept and significance
at the secondary level of school education**

Structure of the Lesson

- 2.1.1 Objectives of the lesson
- 2.1.2 Introduction to Art
- 2.1.3 Meaning of Art
- 2.1.4 Concept of Aesthetics
- 2.1.5 Significance of Art
- 2.1.6 Significance at secondary level of school education
- 2.1.7 Summary
- 2.1.8 Key Concept
- 2.1.9 Self Check Exercise
- 2.1.10 Suggested Questions
- 2.1.11 Suggested Books and web sources

2.1.1 Objectives of the Lesson

After studying this lesson, students will be able:-

- i. To know the meaning and importance of Art.
- ii. To understand the concept of Art and Aesthetics.
- iii. To make students aware about the significance of Art at the secondary level of school education.
- iv. To explain definitions of Art given by different Artists.

2.1.2 Introduction to Art

When the word art is mentioned, the first idea that comes in our mind is drawing and painting. It is a narrow concept of art. Art like music, poetry, drama, writing prose, sculpture, painting and drawing are the branches of art. Art is a form of communication through which man expresses his thoughts, feelings, emotions and experiences.

Art is everywhere. We are surrounded by art. Art is a mirror through which one can see gradual and constant development of his own personality. In the field of education, art occupies a significant place in the educational curriculum of a country.

Art is product of personal experience. It is what man himself stands for, what he believes in, what he experiences in his profoundest moments. It is the product of deep feelings and strong convictions, the result of actual operational attitudes and concepts. It helps us in discovering new and significant ways of perceiving the world about us. Art is language of communication. It expresses sometime deepest feelings and releases them which artist has experienced.

Art creates creative emotion in the mind. It is easily understood, that is why children understand picture earlier and better than oral and written work. The power of art can arouse all kinds of emotions from simple joy to deeper feelings and its work can gladden our eyes and enrich our thoughts.

Definitions of Art given by Different Artists:

Rabinder Nath Tagore: “Art is expression of human experiences”.

Tolstoy: “An emotional action or expression which fills the spectator or listener, with the same emotion, is art”.

RigVed : “ All truth, goodness and beauty emanate from the God. Art is eternal and unending. The expression, consciousness of the beauty of God is called art.(Kala)”.

Mahatma Gandhi : “Art is the thought of the spirit. So the outer form of a man is alive only when his inner self is living”.

W.H.Hunt : “The mission of art is to represent nature not to imitate it”.

Michelangelo: “The true work of art is nothing but a shadow of divine perfection”.

2.1.3 Meaning of Art

The word ‘Art’ is derived from the Greek word ‘ar’ which means to create, to make or to fit. In Sanskrit language we call ‘Art’ ‘Kala’ which is derived from the root word ‘Kal’ which means to inspire, or to give pleasure.

Thus the word meaning of Kala is two fold:

1. As beautiful, sweet, tender and pleasure giving.
2. As some skill, some craft, some special ability.

Art is a medium through which one can express his own impressions, expressions, feelings and emotions. Art gives relaxation to the tension of man’s mind. So it is very psychological in its nature. Nobody can be left without the effect of art that is the part of this society.

2.1.4 Concept of Aesthetics

Aesthetics is a branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of art, beauty and taste, with the creation and appreciation of beauty. Aesthetics may be defined narrowly as the theory of beauty, or more broadly as that together with the philosophy of art. Aesthetics is broader in scope than the philosophy of art, which comprises one of its branches. It deals not only with the nature and value of the arts but also with those responses to natural objects that find expression in the language of the beautiful and the ugly.

Meaning:- The word aesthetic is derived from the Greek word *aisthetikos* meaning, “esthetic, sensitive, sentiment” , which in turn was derived from word *aisthanomai*, meaning “ perceive, feel, sense”.

Aesthetics, also spelled esthetics, the philosophical study of beauty and taste. It is closely related to the philosophy of art, which is concerned with the nature of art and the concepts in terms of which individual works of art are interpreted and evaluated.

2.1.5 Significance of Art

Art is now enjoying a very high status in the educational curriculum of our schools. It is now considered as an extra curricular subject. Though in the earlier times, art was not included in the syllabus of school education.

“Art is a form of expression”. It enables one to express one’s views, ideas, emotions, beliefs, sentiments and thoughts. Art provides the stage to students to express themselves. A child feels greatly relieved when he tries to express his views by drawing rough and crude surfaces, though his efforts are rough and crude but displays a great sense of satisfaction to him. Now art is not only a part of the school activities, but the center of all the school activities. Art is introduced in schools in the form of painting, music, dancing, craft etc. Art is of great importance for the children’s all round development. Intellectual, social, psychological, educational and moral development is ensured by art.

2.1.6 Significance at Secondary Level of School Education

School can certainly change enormously the power to express and direct the emotions. The other purpose of art education is to train observation power to see accurately, to make one realize the value of accuracy and to develop the power of cleanliness, Patience, invention, proportion, harmony. The aim is to encourage child’s

natural impulse to give a visible form to his ideas, to make him accurately aware of what is beautiful in nature, and what is fine and honest in craftsmanship.

Arts, as the school subject is not an extra subject but an essential and important subject for the overall development of the child. It helps the students to relax between tough subjects of the time table.

It gives:

1. Outlet to their creativity
2. Development of the imagination.
3. Development of their aesthetic value.
4. Period of mental rest and mental growth.

The role of arts in education has been path-breaking in many areas of institutionalized teaching, but still implementation in most of the schools varies where it flourishes in fits and starts as in hobby classes or occasional events and celebrations. There are inspirational studies from schools and other organizations, sharing, and scaling it up shall serve in the promotion and effective implementation of arts education in our schools. Education in arts can be (1) taught as individual study subjects, through the teaching of the various arts disciplines, thereby developing students' artistic skills, sensitivity, and appreciation of the arts, (2) seen as a pedagogical process in artistic and cultural dimensions included across curriculum. Art education utilizes the art as a medium for teaching general curriculum subjects and as a way to deepen understanding of these subjects.

It helps the education by giving its service to the school by making the other subjects more easy and interesting. It breaks the monotony of the dull theoretical subjects. Significance of art as school subject is as follows:

1. **Art makes knowledge interesting:** With the help of art we can make the dull theoretical subjects easy and interesting. When we add visual form with any theoretical subject or topic,

it becomes very interesting. For example, for a 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 we ask the students to count, they will count the things quickly 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 and then tell them the story with the help of picture, they will show more interest and their learning power will increase and the topic will retain for longer time.

- 2. 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 no monuments.

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

- 3. 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 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:

- 1. Science:** Students having the knowledge of art can draw diagrams and can do their practical work more easily like parts of body, parts of flowers and plants etc.
- 2. Geography:** Drawing of maps, graphs, bar diagrams, etc. showing different places can be beautifully done. Areas can be marked.
- 3. History:** History is the knowledge about past life of the man, how he lived, kings that ruled, culture that survived and things those developed during 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.
- 4. Economics:** Drawing of graphs, demand, supply etc. can be shown better by the students having knowledge of art.
- 5. Maths:** Geometry, whole of it is the representation of different shapes etc. which can surely be done well by the knowledge of arts.
- 6. Language:** It is the skill of writing and expressing one's emotion which can be surely done well by the artistic people.
- 7. Craft:** Craft and art are very closely related. The school student who is good in art will surely do well in craft also.
- 8. Home Science:** Art is helpful in arranging and decorating the things in a room, setting of a kitchen etc.
- 9. Examination:** A student can get more marks if he knows the drawing. By drawing the diagrams, making tables and graphs he can make his paper effective.
- 10. Improves handwriting:** It improves writing of the person & leaves good impression on the mind of the onlooker.

- 4. Practical and manual training:** Art develops practical abilities and skill in a person. It develops 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 e.g. wooden craft, gardening, pottery etc. Here when the practical and manual training is given to the students, it helps the students to adopt these crafts as a profession for their future. This practical training increases his confidence and develops his skill to the best.
- 5. It saves time:** When art is correlated with other subjects, two or more subjects may be taught collectively and the time of both teacher and the students can be saved. Secondly when the topic is taught with audio-visual aids, students take more interest and they 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 by themselves by looking at that particular picture. Teacher's work become less and easy. So it saves time while teaching.
- 6. Art makes other subjects easy:** Art is responsible for making other theoretical subjects easy to understand. Art is the basis of all 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 clear to them.

It is also helpful to teach the child second language which is different from his mother tongue. For example:- If we want to

teach him about the English letter 'C' and if he has no knowledge of English, 'C' value 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. So by correlating art with the language, we can make learning easy.

7. Mental training through hands: Art gives mental training and helps an individual to develop his mental power. It develops imagination power, learning power, observation power and quality of comparison. All these powers are very much useful for a person in his life. When a person develops with these mental developments, he tries to use it with his hands e.g. when he looks at a beautiful landscape or scene he puts it 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 person.

8. 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 drug addiction, no two ideas will be the same. Every poster will be different from each other because every person is unique and will make it 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 gives the ideas to students.

9. Art helps to acquire habit of concentration and application: When a person draws and paints a picture, he first of all concentrates over the scene which he wants to draw. Then he cares for 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, by 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.

10. 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 e.g. patience, endurance, satisfaction etc. It is a skill and the applied arts need a great intellect. So it develops a person intellectually, when he gets the training of these skills. Art is very much responsible for the all sided development of a person.

11. Art fosters the power of imagination, observation and initiatives: Art is very much responsible for the development of these qualities. First of all anyone 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 help him in other

subjects of education too. He can write beautiful poems, paragraphs, prose etc.

12. Art develops memory, illustration and nature drawing:

When an artist looks at a scene in the nature he tries to keep it in his mind. As Keats says, "A thing of beauty is joy forever". To make this joy forever, it is very essential to memorize that scene. Only then he can use it in his illustrations and poems. Then only the memory of a thing will live forever in his mind if he tries to memorize it. This will help him 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 memorize subjects matter very perfectly. Only then he can use it in his exams or in creative thinking.

13. Art develops a person psychologically:

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

14. It develops a person intellectually:

Art is a skill and the applied arts need a great intellect. To create pleasing forms, like pottery, manual works like embroidery etc. all need a great intellect.

15. 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 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 feeling and for his creative imagination. 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.

2.1.7 Summary

Art is the expression of the views, emotions, ideas and thoughts. It gives the way to a person to express his inner feelings. In the past it was thought that the art of drawing and painting flourished in some garden, pursued by a few talented people 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 affects every attitude and every channel of human experience. It is a creative attempt to unfold the order and beauty of life. 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. 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 desire 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 and crude, but these are full of life & vigor. They are like his language.

Art as a school subject is of great value. It develops in the students the aesthetic sense. It enables them to develop socially emotionally, physically, intellectual, psychologically and morally. We can say that without art every school subject will become dull and bore. So

it is very important to include art as a school subject in school curriculum. It is therefore mandatory for impressionable minds to get the right exposure to arts in their formative years as it develops creativity, individuality and expression through art activities.

2.1.8 Key Concept

- i. Art- Art is a form of communication through which man expresses his thoughts, feelings, emotions and Experience
- ii. Aesthetics: Aesthetics is a branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of art, beauty and taste.

2.1.9 Self Check Exercise

- i. Art makes.....interesting.
- ii. Art is formed from.....the word 'Ar'
- iii. The word.....is derived from the Greek word aesthetics.
- iv. Art is a good tool to develop.....
- v. Art makes a person socially reliable and.....

Ans.: 1. Knowledge 2. Greek 3. aesthetic
4. Creative Expression 5. Self-dependent.

2.1.10 Suggested Questions

- Q.1 What is Art? Give its importance in the life of an individual.
- Q.2 Define the meaning of Aesthetics.
- Q.3 Art is responsible for the overall development of person. Discuss.
- Q.4 What is the significance of Art as a school subject at secondary level?

2.1.11 Suggested Books and web sources

1. Bharati, Chetna (2010): Teaching of Fine Arts. Kalyani Publishers, Ludhiana .
2. Sharma, L.C.(1997): A Brief History of Indian Painting. Goel Publishing House, Meerut.
3. www.en.wikipedia.org/
4. www.ncert.nic.in/

Arts in Education: Aims and objectives, importance of art in child development.

Structure of the Lesson

2.2.1 Objectives of the lesson

2.2.2 Introduction to the lesson

2.2.3 Art in Education

2.2.3.1 Integration of Arts with school subjects

2.2.3.2 Features of Arts in Education Approach.

2.2.4 Aims and objectives of Art in Education

2.2.5 Importance of Art in Child Development

2.2.6 Summary

2.2.7 Key Concept

2.2.8 Self Check Exercise

2.2.9 Suggested Questions

2.2.10 Suggested Readings

2.2.1 Objectives of the Lesson

After studying this lesson students will be able to:-

- i. To make students aware of the meaning of Art in education.
- ii. To know the aims of Arts in Education.
- iii. To understand the importance of art in child development.

2.2.2 Introduction to the lesson

Art is a form of communication through which a man expresses his thoughts, feelings, emotions and experiences. Art is product of personal experience. It is what man himself stands for, what he

believes in, what he experiences in his profoundest moments. It is the product of deep feelings and strong convictions, the result of actual operational attitudes and concepts. It helps us in discovering new and significant ways of perceiving the world about us.

Art figures in almost every walk of life. And it helps make life fulfilling and gratifying. Any nation thus, thriving on its industrial and scientific advancement, cannot turn a blind eye to any creative self-expression, which is an integral part of the growth of a human in any culture. Arts integrated learning is a way to teach artistic skills in conjunction with academic material. This approach to education values the process and experiential learning as much as creation of art object or performance oriented learning.

Education ought to inculcate a deep sense of discretion and a feeling of self-respect and freedom in the individual to be able to think independently and make choices. It has to aim at preparing the individual to become an integral part of the value system the society has built over a long period for the behavioral pattern of its members. Education deals with human nature, which has its own potential and pace of growth. Its objective is not to mould, but to facilitate the individual to grow and develop into a creative and productive citizen. The aim is to make an individual free to make his/her own choices in life and grow holistically. In other words, education in general and Art Education in particular is a way for one to grow and become sensitive to the beauty in nature, of social values and the aesthetic aspects of life as a whole. In Art Education, training of the hands and body to develop skills is only an objective to build a creative, fulfilled and balanced personality.

The main purpose of Art Education is to develop creativity, individuality and expression through art activities. Art Education fosters cultural awareness and promotes cultural practices, and is the means by which knowledge and appreciation of the arts and culture are transmitted from one generation to the next. It is

therefore mandatory for impressionable minds to get the right exposure to arts in their formative years.

2.2.3 Art in Education

Art occupies a significant place in the educational curriculum. The educationists have fully realized the importance of art in mental, psychological and physical development of a child. It is an admitted fact that art helps in the harmonious development of an individual and unfold his hidden self. Self expression is an important consideration and art puts into the hands of students a new means of expression and power, perhaps the earliest known form of the education. Art aims at providing activities for continuous self expression and for self realization. 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, music), literature and poetry, storytelling, Visual arts education in film, craft, design, digital arts, media and photography. It is distinguished from education in art by being not so much about teaching art, but focused on:

- a. how to improve learning through the arts
- b. how to transfer learning in and through the arts to other disciplines
- c. discovering and creating understanding of human behavior, thinking, potential, and learning especially through the close observation of works of art and various forms of involvement in arts experiences

2.2.3.1 Integration of Arts with School Subjects

Only a few subjects can be taught in isolation, and a holistic perspective on subjects is imminently desirable. And that can be achieved with integrating academics together. Integration entails arts and academic teachers setting class agenda together in a manner that academic topics also become the subject matter of

visual and performing arts classes. This is consistent with the concept of multiple intelligences, and allows teachers additional ways of assessing whether children have grasped lesson material or have been unresponsive.

Through theme related stories children play games in the sports ground, sing and dance, share their ideas and thoughts, as also listen to stories and even enact them. They thus create their own stories and songs, decorate the place, make things using their hands, and learn through exploration and experiences of their own. Through projects, children get hands-on experience of making models in various mediums to represent things being studied in other subjects. Integration also serves to overcome inhibitions and promotes exploration besides helping maintain individual originality.

2.2.3.2 Features of Arts in Education approach

Quality education is one of challenges to face the new millennium. In order to respond to essential needs of the today's world, education should not merely transmit knowledge and technique, but also encourage children to build their creativity by supporting their emotional development and ethical consciousness. Educators, who are now paying more attention to the importance of creative-building education, become increasingly aware the importance of arts education, affirming that arts education should no longer be considered as a secondary subject. A working document of UNESCO on building creative capacities for the 21st century says, 'Arts Education is an essential area of quality education'. So without quality 'Arts Education' quality education cannot be accomplished. The approach of Arts in Education (AiE) has certain key features:

- a. AiE uses the arts as a tool for equipping students with knowledge and skills across the curriculum to stimulate cognitive development and to encourage innovative and creative thinking.

- b. The AiE approach is often explained using the concept of “multiple intelligences”, reflecting the belief that there are many kinds of intelligence and a number of ways of learning.

Therefore through engendering a range of cross cutting skills and abilities in learners and by motivating students to take an active participation in class, arts education is recognized as a means of achieving the goal of quality education.

2.2.4 Aims and objectives of Arts in Education

Art stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. It enables children to communicate what they see, feel and think through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. Children become involved in shaping their environments through art and design activities. They learn to make informed judgements and practical decisions. They explore ideas and meanings through the work of artists and designers. Through learning about the roles and functions of art, they can explore the impact it has had on different times and cultures. The appreciation and enjoyment of the arts enriches all our lives. The aims and objectives of Arts in Education are:

- To enable children to record from first-hand experience and from imagination, and to select their own ideas to use in their work;
- To develop creativity and imagination through a range of complex activities;
- To improve the children’s ability to control materials, tools and techniques;
- To increase their critical awareness of the roles and purposes of art and design in different times and cultures;

- To develop increasing confidence in the use of visual and tactile elements and materials;
- To foster an enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts and a knowledge of artists, crafts people and designers.

2.2.5 Importance of Art in child development:

Arts education is an important component of any child's development because it teaches teamwork, analytic and creative skills. These skills are often left out of traditional curricula that emphasize technical skills, such as math and science, to prepare students for undergraduate degrees, master's degrees, and even Ph.D.s in a rewarding field of study. This leaves children little room for individual expression and a chance to work on personal development and concentration.

Art can also help children work out any frustrations in their lives by offering a healthy, expressive medium. In addition, exposure to art and the chance to develop their own art provides children with a more diversified experience that can help them in the classroom as well. In the classroom, art education is a crucial component for a child's personal development. Several studies have concluded that art education is very important at a young age, because children are still developing their critical thinking and problem solving skills. Students also have the opportunity to fine-tune their motor skills through art. In terms of musical arts, students are able to use their knowledge of musical notes and translate that into math skills. Musical rhythms can provide a way for students to learn fractions, counting, and patterns in a way that traditional classrooms cannot teach. Nevertheless, early childhood is the ideal stage to teach children all the different artistic disciplines. Importance of Art in child development is as under:

1. Motor Skills

When kids participate in creating arts and crafts, there are many movements involved. From holding a paintbrush to coloring with a crayon, a child's fine motor skills progress through this hands-on approach to education. Other actions, such as using scissors, help develop the dexterity children need for writing.

2. Language Development

In addition to getting their hands physically dirty creating art, children have the opportunity to expand their vocabulary by learning words for colors, shapes and various actions. This helps children use descriptive words to discuss their creation, and will help them express what feelings are elicited from observing different types of art by the time they are in elementary school.

3. Decision-Making

Studies show art education strengthens both critical-thinking and problem-solving skills in young children. The process of creating art gives children choices and urges them to make decisions in the course of creating their art – a crucial skill that translates into other parts of life. For example, exploration through art will encourage children to try new ideas in other areas of life. Not only will this further spark creativity and imagination, but children can also use critical thinking to react to new experiences and problem-solve when necessary.

4. Cultural Awareness

Exposing children to a variety of interpretations on society is a great way to help them understand the nuances of their surroundings. Its a way to embrace the differences they see around them in the diverse society we live in today.

5. Encourages Neural Connections

Art employs any or all of the senses, such as sight, sound, taste and smell. The synapses in the brain of a small child fire away as they experience situations that immerse their senses and further

encourage their creativity. In young children, artistic activities lead to the formation of well-rounded personalities, good attachment, self-esteem and better mental health.

2.2.6 Summary

Art is not a subject alien to mankind, and brings into its gamut an array of art forms ranging from performing, visual, literature and crafts. Since each existing culture has unique artistic expressions and cultural practices, the diversity of their creative, artistic and practical prospects represents contemporary and traditional forms of human creativity. Subsequently, its study uniquely contributes to the nobility, heritage, beauty and integrity of human civilizations. In the backdrop of history relating to expression of activities through arts since ages is the basis of art education.

Possible and appropriate roles for the arts in education are widely debated, and they should be. There are basic questions about the nature of learning and teaching in and through the arts. Generally speaking, arts education puts emphasis on its traditional role for art's sake, such as obtaining basic skills in art forms which allow them to express themselves, and appreciating aesthetic aspects of artistic works and their surroundings. Without losing attention to this most important contribution of arts education, it would be also important to direct the attention of arts education toward positive aspects of cognitive approach such as perception, memory and recognition.

Education in Arts is crucial for the child's development. Many school boards feel that art education is not a necessity and not very important in the lives of today's students. Art classes are constantly compared to the main core classes, such as math and English. Many people feel that core classes are much more valuable to a child's education. Art classes offer children critical lessons about life that they are not exposed to in any of the other classes.

2.2.10 Suggested Readings

1. Bharati, Chetna. (2010). Teaching of Fine Arts. Kalyani Publishers, Ludhiana .
2. Sharma,L.C.(1997). A Brief History of Indian Painting. Goel Publishing House, Meerut.
3. www.arteducators.org/
4. www.ncert.nic.in/

Importance of Exhibitions and cultural festivals

Structure of the Lesson

- 2.3.1 Objectives of the lesson
- 2.3.2 Introduction to the lesson
- 2.3.3 Types of Exhibitions
- 2.3.4 Importance of Exhibitions
- 2.3.5 Cultural Festivals
- 2.3.6 Artistic Significance of cultural festivals
- 2.3.7 Summary
- 2.3.8 Key Concepts
- 2.3.9 Self Check Exercise
- 2.3.10 Suggested Questions
- 2.3.11 Suggested Readings

2.3.1 Objectives of the Lesson

After studying this lesson students will be able to:-

1. To know about importance and types of Exhibition.
2. To make students aware about various cultural festivals.
3. To understand the Artistic Significance of cultural festivals.

2.3.2 Introduction to the Lesson

An exhibition, in the most general sense, is an organized presentation and display of a selection of items. In practice, exhibitions usually occur within a cultural or educational setting such as a museum, art gallery, park, library, exhibition hall, or World fairs. Exhibitions can include many things such as art in

museums and galleries, history museums, commercially focused exhibitions and trade fairs. Educational exhibitions are conducted in educational institutions to educate the learners. Generally these are organized by the students. Consumer exhibitions involve a large number of industries on display to the general public. Trade exhibitions are designed to meet the needs of one particular type of business or product.

In education, the term exhibition refers to projects, presentations, or products through which students exhibit what they have learned. It is a way of demonstrating what they have achieved. An exhibition is typically both a learning experience in itself and a means of evaluating academic progress and achievement. It is a test of the teachers as well as the students and their combined learning process. Exhibitions are generally conducted in the educational institutions for students. Museums, galleries, library, exhibition halls can also be used for this purpose. These days, the online art exhibition is also in trend and students are provided with an online platform to showcase their talent and learning.

2.3.3 Types of Exhibitions

Exhibitions are of two types:

1. Oral Exhibition: Here, the students present their model and explain the interpretation orally to their audiences. An audience can ask questions about the use and benefits of the model displayed and students are asked to answer all the queries.
2. Multimedia Exhibition: The exhibition where the displayed model is explained with the use of multimedia technology like powerpoint presentations is termed as a multimedia exhibition.

2.3.4 Importance of Exhibitions

Education does not simply mean the ability to read and write, it is a wide term used to describe the complete process of development. Education in today's scenario aims at the holistic development of the children. The aim of this holistic development is only achievable with the pragmatic approach to education. Pragmatic approach imparts learning by doing and experiencing things. Exhibitions, seminars, projects, presentations, etc. are the mediums of wholesome development of the students in schools. Schools organize such exhibitions and seminars to enhance the student's knowledge and making learning a fun experience. It becomes easy for the teacher to teach the students to learn new things very easily in a better way.

1) CREATING INTEREST

In the fast moving and technical world, students are no more interested in listening to the boring lectures and cramming facts. The minds of students work faster. The curiosity level and enthusiasm to learn any knowledge are commendable. It is the responsibility of the teacher these days to maintain this enthusiasm and give a positive direction to the curiosity of the students. Exhibition is a wonderful tool that engages students in learning new facts and inventions with a zeal of interest.

2) SOCIAL SKILLS

An exhibition is a platform for the students to work together in groups. This gives the opportunity to the students to develop social and moral skills. Students apart from the scientific knowledge learn to respect each other's views and thoughts. The students learn public speaking and it helps the students remove the fear of speaking in public. These type of exhibitions boosts the confidence

of the students and develops their interest and curiosity even further.

3) CREATIVITY

Education always reveals a new truth, a new discovery, an unknown reality. Exhibitions explore the creative talent of the students and force them to think outside of the box. Exhibitions develop a scientific spirit and curiosity in a student which in turn forces them to think and creatively find solutions to the challenges. Students enjoy learning through such exhibition and feel a sense of belongingness as they make the models with their own hands.

4) SCIENTIFIC ATTITUDE

Problems and challenges of life make people nervous and full of fear but education has a solution to every problem and challenge. By taking part in such different exhibitions a student develops a scientific attitude towards his problems and challenges of life. The student develops an inquisitive nature and learns to ask questions. The student does not feel scared and fearful of any challenge of life.

5) APPLICATION

The application of classroom learning can be best done through the exhibitions held at schools. The students apply their classroom and bookish knowledge in these exhibitions and develop taste for learning by doing. Students avail the opportunity of practical learning and experiencing everything first hand during these exhibitions. The students get an opportunity to showcase their talent in front of others and feel proud of their achievements.

6) SPEAKING ABILITY

There are some very intelligent students in schools who are hesitant of public speaking, lack confidence or feel shy to speak. Exhibitions

prove to be a great platform for such students and for the presentation of their talent. The students speak about their projects in front of everyone and develop public speaking skills. It boosts the confidence of the students and outshines their personality.

7) MASS MEDIUM

Exhibitions provide the students with a large platform to showcase their talent and present it in public. It is a mass medium through which students can represent their learning and hidden talent among others.

8) EXPOSURE

Exhibition gives exposure to the students, exposure to the needs of the society, exposure to the new discoveries and inventions and exposure to working in the group.

9) RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL MINDSET

In the process of exhibiting a model, the students undergo a lot of research work to arrive at the required meaningful information. The mind develops a technical approach towards any given problem and start analyzing the hidden facts and procedures of the model.

10) AWARENESS

Getting involved in an exhibition demands awareness about the latest researches and challenges of the society. A student who is not aware of what is happening around him would not be able to give desired results during the exhibition.

2.3.5 CULTURAL FESTIVALS

India is well known all over the world as a country of cultural and traditional festivals as it has many cultures and religions. One can enjoy the festival celebration in India every month. It is always crowded with the people involved in the fairs and festivals

celebration. People from each religion have their own cultural and traditional festivals. Some of the festivals are celebrated by the people of all religions in the entire nation. Each festival has its own history, legend and significance of celebration. Indian origin people in the abroad also celebrate their cultural festival with the immense passion. Some of the festivals are celebrated at national level whereas some are at regional level.

1. Mahashivratri

Mahashivratri is a festival which is celebrated annually by the Hindus. People, during this day perform bhajans throughout the night. It is celebrated in the reverence of Lord Shiva. It is the day when Lord Shiva married Goddess Parvathi.

2. Lohri

Lohri is celebrated every year on 13th of January. It is a festival to worship fire. At night, people gather around the bonfire and throw til, puffed rice and popcorns into the flames of the bonfire. Prayers are offered to the bonfire seeking abundance and prosperity. People make merry by dancing & singing traditional songs.

3. Holi

Holi is the festival of colours. Hindus celebrate this festival with joy and by pouring colourful water on each other. This festival is celebrated to mark the beginning of Spring and the end of winter.

4. Diwali

Diwali is known as the festival of Lights. Diwali is one of the ancient festivals celebrated by the hindus. Diwali symbolises the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good

over evil. Diwali is celebrated on the return of Lord Rama and his wife Sita from exile of 14 years. During this festival people burst crackers and lite lights all over the place.

5. Baisakhi

Baisakhi is a harvest festival and marks the ripening of the Rabi harvest especially in the Punjab.

6. Makar Sankranti

Makar Sankranti (also known as Makara Sankranti or Maghi) refers both to a specific solar day in the Hindu calendar and a Hindu festival in reverence to deity Surya (sun) that is observed in January every year. It marks the first day of sun's transit into the Makara (Capricorn). The festivities associated with Makar Sankranti are known by various names such as Lohri by north Indian Hindus and Sikhs, Sukarat in central India, Bhogali Bihu by Assamese Hindus, and Pongal by Tamil and other south Indian Hindus.

7. Janmashtami

This festival is celebrated on the eighth day of dark fortnight of the month August. Hindus celebrate this festival by fasting and worshipping Lord Krishna by staying up until midnight, the time when Lord Krishna is believed to be born. Temples also conduct readings of the Hindu Religious book of Bhagavad Gita.

8. Navratri/ Dussehera

The first nine days of this festival is called as Navratri and people worship goddess Durga on this festival. During this festival people perform a dance a danceform called as Garba. the tenth day of this festival is called as Dussehera. It is devoted to celebrating the defeat of the demon king Ravana by Lord Rama. In eastern India this festival is celebrated by the name of Durga

puja. People worship huge statues of goddess Durga and immerse the statue in the holy river of Ganges.

9. Ganesh Chaturthi

This marvelous eleven day Ganesh Chaturthi festival honors the birth of the beloved Hindu elephant-headed god, Lord Ganesha. People decorate their houses and offer offerings to Lord Ganesha. In the 11th day the statues of Lord Ganesha are immersed in water marking the end of the festival. People perform various kinds of Bhajans and Aartis during this festival.

10. Ramnavami

The festivals of Ramnavami marks the birthday celebrations of the Hindu God Rama, the seventh incarnation, of lord Vishnu. According to the Hindu Calendar, it falls on the 9th day of the Chaitra month in the spring season. Celebrations of Ram Navami start on GudiPadwa, the first day of Chaitra, and continue for nine days.

11. Id-ul-Fitr (Ramazan Eid)

This festival is celebrated to end month of Ramadan and to mark the beginning of the Shawwal. Muslims donate and offer food to the poor people. The food items consists of dates, barley, Wheat flour items, etc. Muslims, on this day also wear new clothes and attend communal prayers.

12. Raksha Bandhan

One of the famous festivals of India, Rakhi is celebrated among Hindu. Signifying the brother-sister bonding, during Rakhi, the sister performs Aarti (prayer), applies tilak, and ties

rakhi (a sacred thread) on the brother's wrist wishing his well being. The brother, in return, vows to protect the sister.

13. Christmas

Christmas marks the birth of Jesus Christ and is celebrated on 25th December. It is a very important festival for the christians all over the world. In India too, christians and even all other people from different religion celebrate Christmas with great joy and fun. Santa Clause visits houses and puts in presents for children on the day before of christmas.

National Festivals

1. Gandhi Jayanti

Every year, October 2nd is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi Ji was born on October 2, 1869, into a Hindu family, in Porbandar city of Gujarat state. His father, Karam Chand Gandhi was the Diwan of Porbander State, which was a small princely salute state in the Kathiwar Agency of British India.

2. Independence Day

Every year, August 15 is celebrated as Independence Day to commemorate India's freedom from British rule. This auspicious day is also marked as a birth of the world's biggest democracy, India. Independence Day is one of the three national festivals of India and binds the people of different cultures and religions into a bond of unity and brotherhood.

3. Republic Day

On 26th of January every year India celebrates its Republic Day. It is one of the national holidays of India and regarded as the most important day in the Indian history as it was on this day in 1950 the constitution of India came into force and India became a truly sovereign state.

2.3.6 Artistic Significance of Cultural Festivals

1. **Exhibition of different forms of art:** People show different forms of arts through different festivals. Competitions like paintings, singing, music, dance, drama etc. are the part and parcel of Indian festivals.
2. **Role Playing of God and Goddess:** These festivals can be appreciated only with some imagination. When an individual participates in Durga Puja or take part in Ram Lila, he imagines the real behind the unreal. Acting is a form of Art and angriness, sadness, dancing form like Natraj, fighting scene between God/Goddess and the devils during religious show artistic talents in best possible manner.
3. **Expression of Happiness:** Festivals are a kind of expression of happiness. When people feel joy at the time of harvest the whole community is full of happiness and they exhibit their happiness through art and aesthetics in festivals.
4. **Importance of colours:** Colours are the symbols of our emotions. During festivals people and kids wear colourful clothes and purchase colourful things which develop a positive attitude towards life.
5. **A platform for creative self-expression:** Festivals are the occasion when an individual express his emotions freely forgetting the pains and sorrows of daily life. The art may be dance, music, painting, photography and literature. The artist expresses his feelings, thoughts and ideas freely.
6. **Develop aesthetic values:** During festivals the whole house as well as the surroundings is cleaned with utmost care. People not only give importance to beautification of their residence but also to their surroundings. Festivals provide the people with an aesthetic sense of life.

2.3.7 Summary

Education is the fusion process of teaching and learning. Apart from the theoretical knowledge the education system also aims to develop social skills and soft skills among the students. An exhibition is a wonderful tool that caters to these entire requirements at the same time. The exhibition is also one of the best tools in the teaching-learning process which develops the competitive spirit among the young generation.

The spirit of India is expressed year round in festivals by its people. Enthusiastic celebrations of Gods and Goddesses, saints and prophets, history, culture and the advent of new seasons occur almost daily throughout the country. By taking part in these colorful festivities, one sees the vitality of India today as it embraces the traditions of its fascinating past.

2.3.8 Key Concept

1. Exhibitions: An exhibitions are organized, presentation and display of a selection of items.
2. Cultural Festivals: Festivals has its own history, legend and significance of celebration.

2.3.9 Self Check Exercise

Match the words

1. Gandhi Jyanti	Regional level
2. Lohri	National Level
3. Republic Day	Regional level
4. Diwali	National level
5. Maha shivarati	National level
6. Independence Day	National level

Ans: 1. National level
 3. National level
 5. Regional level

2. Regional level
 4. Regional level
 6. National level

2.3.10 Suggested Questions

4. What is Exhibition.
5. What is the importance of Exhibitions.
6. What are the different types of Exhibitions.
7. List some Cultural festivals and their significance.
8. What is the significance of colours in Indian Festivals.

2.3.11 Suggested Readings

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