

ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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ABSTRACT: Education is a facilitating process of learning, or acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, and so on in order to help an all-round development of child's personality. But in the present system of education in India, we see a lot of deviation in the process which is mainly aimed at scoring Marks and Ranks. This is ultimately leading to stressful conditions and resulting in negative attitudes among students. Against this backdrop, we are in the moment of redefining and reconstructing the system of education. But this may take a lot of time to become a reality. In this transition period there is a need to find a solution to bring in stress-free environment in education for a student. This paper assumes that music has an alleviating role in this situation. Hence this paper focuses on Music which is a performing Art, and to prove its contributory role for creating an environment which may realize the following healthy aspects:

- a. Unraveling the hidden talent
- b. Enjoyment through doing/participating
- c. Healthy Man-woman relationship
- d. Team Spirit
- e. Sense of fulfillment
- f. Engaging oneself in healthy hobbies
- g. Driving away boredom
- h. Self-actualization

Against his backdrop, this paper concludes that Music and/or other Performing Arts have substantial role to play in training the Soul/Mind. Therefore the introduction and strengthening of Performing Arts in educational institutions acquires undeniable importance.

Key Words: Unravelling the hidden talent; Enjoying through doing/participating: Self-actualization

Introduction:

At the outset, to foreground the present topic and to establish the rationale in the present topic, the following may frankly be verified with regard to the environment that is available for a student to learn and to grow:

1. Whether the system in the present schooling is proving space for children to have the childhood experience and to discover their natural interests .
2. Whether, there is an opportunity for a child to be happy and study without having to face un-necessary competition and comparisons.

3. Whether the school system, especially Government school or Private school system is facilitating thought provoking and experimental learning environment.
4. Whether Government school system has a provision and space in practical ways to incorporate Fine Arts like Music, Dance, drawing, drama and others.
5. Whether Education in the true sense is helping the individual to be mature and free, and to blossom in love and goodness.

Unfortunately, even a casual verification proves that there is not any space for any of the above.

Present condition of Education among the Pupil

What has become fashion or norm is making the kids to memorize without bothering about understanding the content. Assuming that the technology has market demand, children are in a way compelled to take up technology-based courses of study. In the process, children are forced to learn these subjects by rote system, studying day and night. The tragedy lies in the parents believing that this method /option alone will bring success to the kid while actually this method turns kids into unthinking, mechanical learners.

In fact, we have made success highly personalized. We have turned scoring marks as evidence of success. Schools have become arenas for wrestlers who test their prowess/ energy by lifting heavy weights as students make self-evaluation by comparing the marks they have lifted/scored. By driving students into this race of scoring, we are encouraging the kids to develop strategies of cunning, cheating and harboring secret hatred to outwit one another. Once engaged in this unhealthy and unwanted race, the student would either resort to over stretch or overreach himself by slogging late into the night or, unable to cope with the rat race, the student may get frustrated and indulge in bad habits as a way of escape. Caught in frustration and depression, sometimes, some of these students may go to the extent of becoming violent, causing harm to others or committing suicide.

Actually children should be able to enjoy blissfulness of their childhood irrespective of time, space and other factors. But the children are engaged in a ruthless competitive learning are actually getting frustrated. According to 2016 statistics 9474 students committed suicide unable to cope with the forced academic pressure. But the warning bells are not heard by anyone. In this process death toll totaled up to 26,476 during the period, 2014-16. Maharashtra is leading the situation, closely followed by West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Madhyapradesh and Chattisgarh. These are as per the official records. But there could be many more deaths of this which might not have entered due to the feeling of prestige of family and pride or simply due to lack of access to police. Every year Indian youth population, equivalent to Japanese population, is ending their lives permanently. When we watched this data, we understand that because of the feelings of uselessness and frustration and lack of care, many of the youth, aged 15-29, are ending their lives permanently. Lancet committee endorsed the same.

In this context, it is to be noted that India has iron-grid / rigid examination system but not equally strong teaching and learning system. Hence exams are taken seriously but not the actual teaching –learning process. Hence students are taking exams too seriously and any failure at the exam is disturbing the youth. It is ironic to note that when in the developed world exam system have become liberal and student -friendly, Indian exam system is becoming more and more rigid.

On the whole, this is how on one side we have personalized success and made it a point of life and death, and on the other side, we ourselves have been striving or claiming to develop ‘best’ Human Resources. Ultimately to overcome these contradictions we are depending on counseling to overcome the present situation, and imparting training for personality development. All these problems and contradictions have emerged as we have failed to develop holistic education system.

In the prevailing present situation, we must make everybody to think about turning the youth towards healthy learning and living situation. Fine Arts can play a big role in channelizing the energy and mind of the youth which will save much precious life. It is worthwhile to quote Jiddu Krishna Murthy’s pragmatic words, “ There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.” Once again to recall his words, “Education in the true sense is helping the individual to be mature and free, to flower greatly in love and goodness. That is what we should be interested in , and not in shaping the child according to some idealistic pattern”.

Performing Arts and Human

Art is a means of Self- Expression. Any form of Art is an act of creativity. It gives the feeling of newness. We may call it the unknown. It is also an ever going- on process or activity which has an inbuilt refreshing ability. Fine Arts are an expression of newness /creativity, and this is a combination of innate desire, talent and skill. This is a natural skill that makes the difference between humans and animals. In fact human civilizations owe a lot to this feature. And it is evident that humans can never be satisfied with *Roti, Kapada and Makan* (Food, Cloths and Shelter).They have inherent desire to satisfy the soul which longs for aesthetics which provide sense of fulfillment. The natural craving for Self-fulfillment can be made possible through Performing Arts –be it music, sculpture, painting, dance, or drama.

Music: its Role and Importance in Educational Institutions

It is very well known to everyone that right from the mother’s lullaby and the infant stages, humans are attracted to, and get solace (relief) and peace from Music—singing and the verbal melody. In all cultures all over the world, music (vocal and instrumental) is considered an integral part of qualitative life. Song and dance are an indispensable part of all festivals and celebrations. This innate inclination in man towards harmonious sound and rhythmic movement sets man apart from other beings on the earth.

But, it is a sad plight to see that in the present educational system of India, music, dance and other performing arts have no place to speak of, leave alone, academic importance. We have laid too much importance on developing mental and intellectual aspects of children and put to sheer neglect the emotional and creative aspects of their personality. This serious imbalance in the educational outlook is taking a heavy toll on children's lives.

It is high time that we gave serious thought to this and took steps to save the tragic situation by introducing and strengthening the study of music and other performing arts at all the levels of our educational system. At this point, I wish to enumerate a few of the many benefits that children can derive by learning music in schools and colleges :

1. Music can be a comforting activity to many students. It is a way to relieve stress. It is almost everybody's experience that, when angry or frustrated, playing or listening to music has a soothing effect.
2. Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them — a world of work, culture, intellectual activity and human evolution. .
3. Studies conducted all over the world have shown that music is directly connected to intellectual, emotional, and social evolution.
4. Research found that learning music facilitates learning in other subjects and enhances skills that children necessarily use in other areas.

Benefits of Music for the students

- Music participation provides a unique opportunity for literary studies preparation. Whether children are singing and playing or listening, teachers direct them to listen and hear in new ways which exercise their aural discrimination. Playing instruments and adding movement to the lessons teaches about sequential learning which is essential in reading comprehension.
- Plato once said that Music "is a more potent instrument than any other for education." we all shall happily agree with him. Recent Research indicates that Music uses both sides of the brain, a fact that makes it A recent study from the University of California found that Music trains the brain for higher forms of thinking . Second graders who were given music lessons scored 27% higher on proportional math and fractions tests than children who received no special instruction. Research indicates that Musical training wires young mind for enhanced performance.
- Learning to sing and keep rhythm develops coordination.
- Music education greatly enhances students understanding and achievement in non musical subjects. In a s ten year study, which tracked over 25,000 middle and high school students, showed that students in music classes receive higher scores on standardized tests than students with little or no musical involvement. The study stated that this concept is called transfer: 'Transfer between tasks is function of degree to which the tasks share cognitive processes.'
- Correlation between rhythm instruction and spatial – temporal reasoning, which is integral in the acquisition of Mathematics skills. And this transfer can be explained by the fact that rhythm training

emphasizes proportions, patterns, fractions and ratios which expressed as mathematical relations. this demonstrates that Music can affect improvement in many different academic subjects.

- Practice of Music reinforces teamwork, communication skills, self-discipline and creativity which will really help practically since these qualities are highly sought out in the work place.
- Columbia University, in a study reveals that students who participate in the arts are more cooperative with teachers and peers, and have more self-confidence, and better in expressing themselves.
- Music education provides personal benefits too which in enrich their lives. Performance of Music requires the perfection which needs preparation and rehearsal, thoroughly. The preparedness attitude continues throughout their lives.
- Leadership skills also will develop among students practicing music and dance. To Organize band troupe, instrumental group performances, it requires coordination and group leading quality.
- We are emotional beings and every child requires an artistic outlet. Music may be considered as this artistic outlet.
- Music is life. It will be there with us for lifetime. A sports man or a player may not be able perform after 60/70 years. But we can or play instrument for life. We can enjoy listening to it forever. It might be gift that we are giving to a child that will last for their entire life.
- Even though Music education benefits students in many ways, many people argue that it is still not required essentially in schools. However, spending time on music classes will definitely not hinder the academic performances. On the other hand, music enhances the academic performance of a stud

In conclusion, I wish to mention some illustrious people like great scientist Einstein, used to play on the violin, Dr.A.P.J .Abdul Kalam, the Missile man of India, used to play on the Veena. and Stephen Hawking who used to listen to music for hours. In all these instances, it can be safely assumed that music must have helped them to enhance their professional performance. Such is the unique status of Fine Arts and neglecting them is a peril to all of us. Hence it may be hoped that we all will wake up to the reality and take advantage of Music or any other form of Fine Arts.

In our country, schools like Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas , Kendriya Vidyalayas, Army schools and some other central government institutions alone have Music and Fine Arts in their curriculum. I wish, teaching Music and Fine Art should be implemented and made mandatory in the curriculum in all the government and private Educational Institutions to help the students to become stress-free and flower in goodness.

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