



IMPORTANCE OF CRAFT IN RECONSTRUCTING EDUCATION: A HOLISTIC APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

Craft in education has long been regarded as a potent tool for bringing about social change at all levels. In India the main goal of education is to guide in a secular, democratic, and socialist community that eliminates prejudice. A child's inventiveness, motor abilities, creative thinking, visual reasoning, problem solving abilities and communication skills are all enhanced through crafts training. Children learn to value and appreciate artefacts and images from various cultures and eras through crafts. And this craft should be a part of our curriculum so that we can develop the all-round development of our children. Crafts are important for more than just self-expression. However, it's a fantastic way for people to find out more, express themselves, and create, especially for kids who are still developing their linguistic skills. Children benefit greatly from crafts because it stimulates their creative abilities and gives them a way to express themselves, detect, and discover the world around them. In the present time, when the child prefers to live in TV, mobile and various types of technology-related gadgets, then in such a time, craft education helps children. It provides a new direction and works to make education also constructive.

Learning through the crafts can be pleasant and interesting while also teaching students numerous important life abilities like Improvisation, problem-solving, collaborative thinking, and even more. Further, it can be said that craft has been used in education since ancient times and in the present time also, through the new education policy 2020, a lot of emphasis has been laid on its enhancement & importance. Recognizing its importance, it has been given an important place in the school curriculum. What we must understand about the importance of craft for reconstructing education is discussed in this article.

KEYWORDS

Craft, Skill, Education, Creativity, Learning

I. INTRODUCTION

If we talk about the importance of craft in education, then this concept is not a matter of today, but since ancient times, craft has been used to educate the students. Craft has been used to understand difficult subjects in the education imparted even during the Gurukul system.

Craft in education has long been regarded as a potent tool for bringing about social change at all levels. In India, the main goal of education is to guide in a secular, democratic, and socialist community that eliminates prejudice. The purpose of introducing crafts skills into schools is to aid in the accomplishment of these

objectives. As a result, it not only forms a crucial component of the educational programme but also has implications for other subjects in instructional methods.

In a world where technology has become a vital part of everyday life and has hooked everyone to their screen, children are no exception too. To keep them entertained and prevent them from being a chaotic distraction, often parents tend to keep them busy with all sorts of technological advancements. Although this invention has innumerable advantages, it also poses a threat to young minds for a number of reasons. But despite what most people might think, there is a great alternative that ensures positive child development and offers all the advantages technology does and more. And that is none other than Crafts.

Before going into deep what is the importance of craft in education, it is essential to know the actual meaning of education. If we look at education in Indian perspective, then we have used Shiksha and Vidya for education. Both these words have both cognitive and non-cognitive aspects.

View education in relation to its process from Adam’s view that it is a bipolar process. John Dewey later described education as a tripolar process.

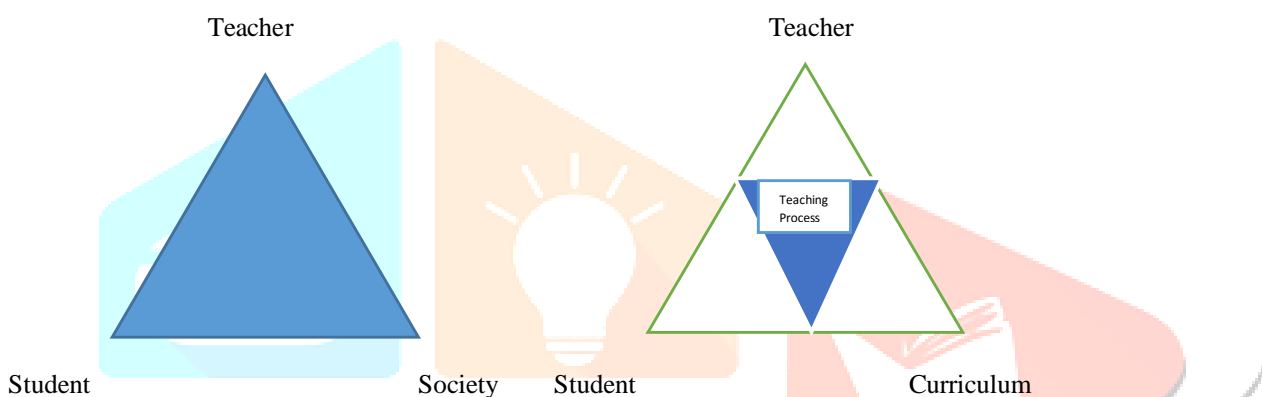


Figure 1- Changing Perspective of Education

If we look at education in a daily perspective and observe behavioural objectives in school education, we will find that we have focused a lot on the skill part.

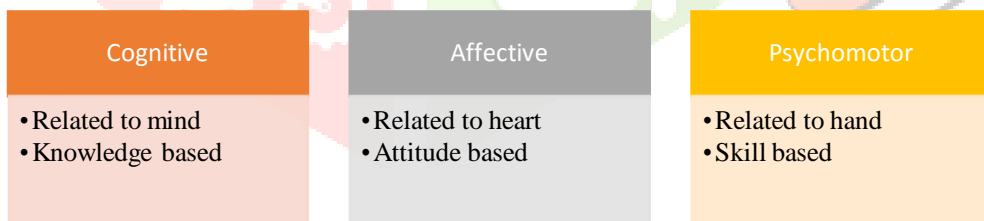


Figure 2- Different Domains as per B S Bloom

Along with the curricular activities in the school curriculum, the Co. Curricular activities have also been given an important place. And skill is required to perform co-curricular activities. Since ancient times, the craft is a great medium to run our livelihood and education. A child's inventiveness, motor abilities, and creative thinking are all enhanced through crafts training. Children learn to value and appreciate artefacts and images from various cultures and eras through crafts. They are able to critically evaluate both their own work and that of others thanks to their experience in design crafts. They gain the ability to work logically and creatively while acting and thinking like designers and artists.

II. CRAFT IN THE EDUCATION PROCESS

If we look at the history of Indian education, we find that craft education has been an integral part of Indian education, even in Gurukul system, craft education has been given an important place, Gandhi Ji emphasised that "Handicraft should be taught not merely for production work but for developing intellect of the pupils" He put emphasis on the development of psychomotor skills. This idea has been implemented in schools as SUPW (Socially useful and productive work. It could be Stitching, embroidery or clay making. Gandhi ji had emphasized on handicraft education and learning by doing. Kothari commission has also been inspired by Gandhian ideology. After independence, the government understood the importance of craft and accepted its contribution in the economic world. Policies have been made related to crafts and institutions have been also developed for flourishing craft education.

Craft can be considered as "Self-regulation skills". So through craft education, we can enhance self-dignity among students for students in the formal education system, craft is usually taken for granted as an essential course in the school curriculum. Unfortunately, many schools have decreased the amount of craft instruction in their curricula over the past few years. The creative crafts have virtually vanished from the Indian educational system in the current academic climate. When creative classes were once required for the enrolment of the parents, teachers, and students all gave them the respect they deserved. However, Crafts have been marginalized in the current climate of increasing educational demands and curriculum objectives. Co-curricular activities are increasingly being neglected in favour of the overbearing emphasis on academics. Unfortunately, most of the time, the parties involved are still unaware of how important those particular subjects are to a child's academic and personal development. Theatre, craft, and music are quickly vanishing. Crafts are without a doubt enjoyable activities for kids. There are many crafts-related activities that can pique children's interest and maximize their artistic possibilities, whether it be colouring with pencils & crayons, creating clay miniature form statues, folding papers to make beautiful origami, or creating a handmade celebration card.

We can help the kids' intellectual, physical, and social growth by getting them involved in crafts activities in the classroom. Any activity that requires skill in making something by hand while complying with a guideline or convention is considered a craft. It could or might not be utilitarian, but it will always have a cultural aesthetic and be connected to the livelihood of an entire community. In a nutshell, a utilitarian item must be aesthetically pleasing, have social and economic value, and indicate the cultural heritage of a community in order to be regarded as a craft.

And this craft should be a part of our curriculum so that we can develop the all-round development of our children. All-round development depends on all three aspect of human beings i.e. cognitive, emotional, and psycho-active aspects.

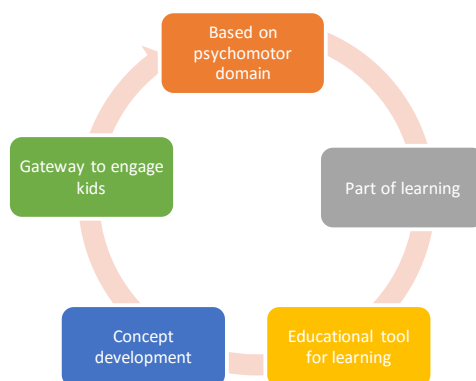


Figure 3- Craft in Education Process

III. GENERAL AIMS OF CRAFT IN EDUCATION

The comprehensive list of objectives that follows is meant to be applicable to all crafts, but the examples of taxonomic targets that follow are necessarily adapted for specific crafts. A variety of crafts have been selected to demonstrate the range of potential applications.

3.1 Discovery of Personality Type to Make Adjustments

As we all know that there are different types of personalities. According to those types, the child is taught to adjust through craft education. Each child learns to adjust according to his personality, in different ways through craft education, from society, from the family and from the environment. So teaching adjustment is the main aim of the craft education received.

3.2 Create a Setting that is Conducive to Goal-Oriented Activity

Under craft education, a goal is set and all activities are done to achieve that goal. The child does a variety of activities in a given time to achieve the set goal, and in this way, the education received by the child to achieve the set objective. The child is led towards the achievement of the goal

3.3 Increases Student Achievement

Another important objective of national education is to increase the achievement of the child. All the efforts made within the school are aimed at taking the child's achievement under a certain direction and making progress in it. The achievement of mathematics, language and other subjects can be increased through craft education.

3.4 Provide Technological Assistance for One's Own Adjustment

Technological assistance is provided to the child through craft education so that he can measure his achievement by himself. It is very important for the child to have knowledge of technology to understand the various achievements in different fields. Which influenced education. Craft education is not untouched with its influences Therefore, the education received through the technological assistance teaches the child to adjust

3.5 Analyse the Level of Goal Achievement.

At present, education has been described as a tripolar process, under which all efforts are goal-oriented. But various types of analysis methods are required to check whether these goals have been achieved or not. Under craft education the target is set and efforts are made towards its achievement.

3.6 Discover Abilities for Creating Craft Education Successful

The effect of craft education received in the present time cannot be denied, therefore efforts have been made to find various types of methods for its success. Efforts have also been made in this direction from time to time by various researchers. So that teachers can make craft education successful by using various methods.

IV. BENEFITS OF CRAFT IN EDUCATION

Crafts are important for more than just self-expression. However, it's a fantastic way for people to find out more, express themselves, and create, especially for kids who are still developing their linguistic skills. Children benefit greatly from crafts because it stimulates their creative abilities and gives them a way to express themselves, detect, and discover the world around them. Additionally, the freedom to come up with ideas and play with this practice assists them not only with skills like motor, spoken language, and problem-solving but also with dealing with a variety of tensions while at the same time discovering and becoming familiar with each other and their surroundings.

The education sector now has additional responsibilities in an environment where the requirement for leaders, influential people, and thinkers is urgent and growing. The effectiveness of instruction will undoubtedly improve as a result. The following points can be used to summarise the main advantages of using craft as an educational tool.

4.1 Creativity Enhancement

Crafts encourage creativity, which is a vital quality to possess because it enables people to bring their imaginations to life. This is not just limited to sketching; in fact, famous people who altered the course of history were only capable to do so by introducing their crazy ideas into reality through prolific creation and amazing discovery. Children who are creative are also more productive and are better able to identify their true calling and nurture it into a successful career. This quality is essential in all spheres of life, including interpersonal, professional, and personal.

4.2 Hone Child's Problem-Solving Abilities.

Children depend upon their imagination and adaptability to complete assignments that are less regimented and directed. This encourages exploration of their surroundings, the growth of creativity, and self-awareness. Sometimes children suddenly fall into a problem while making designs in craft, then they try to overcome that problem by using their critical thinking, thus their mental power is also developed through the education received.

4.3 Enhance Hand-Eye Coordination.

Coordination between the hands and eyes greatly improves when children participate in creative pursuits from an early age. This will assist a child as they form letters or space out expressions in later secondary school years. In this way, through craft education, children use their eye and hand senses and learn to establish harmony between them and by creating new designs, they learn to use these two senses properly.

4.4 Hone Abilities to Communicate.

Children have the chance to learn novel phrases, colours, designs, and acts when discussing art. When they examine various techniques and works of art and craft, they begin to speak in terms that define their work, talk about their ideas, and express their emotions. Under craft education, many times teachers get group work done by which children develop collectivism and they learn to interact properly with other members of the group. They learn to convey their ideas to others and listen to others ideas.

4.5 Enhance Physical Ability.

Fine motor abilities are a crucial physical abilities that can be enhanced through craft-related activities. Children frequently use the different muscles in their fingers, wrists, and hands while engaging in crafts. Regular exercise increases both the power and dexterity of those muscles, making different tasks—like writing—much simpler.

4.6 Hone Cognitive Abilities of a Child.

When children are taught how to glue and put things on a small surface, it teaches them about the distance between objects. Children develop their problem-solving and flexibility skills by combining colours to make new ones. By comprehending discipline, compassion, and endurance, they can better manage their feelings. Children develop confidence and productivity when they successfully complete their tasks.

4.7 Bolster Educational Achievement.

Academics and creative endeavours do indeed go hand in hand. Students who adopt craft classes several times a week are more likely to be academically acknowledged, to get involved with mathematics or science exhibitions, or to win prizes for their poems, essays and creative designs.

4.8 Thinking Ahead and Creating

Giving students the chance to practise their planning abilities is an important component of an educator's lesson planning. Planning can be easily incorporated into the school's curriculum. It's crucial for kids to start arts and crafts projects with a clear end in mind. They must also consider the potential materials and tools they may require. For a creative vision to be successfully realised, it is a good idea for kids to plan ahead and think about how they will accomplish the end result. Planning and foresight are vital life skills that go hand in hand with other crucial abilities like organization.

V. WHY CRAFT IS IMPORTANT FOR RECONSTRUCTING EDUCATION

Young children can explore and convey feelings through craft. They gain knowledge on how to communicate with those who are close to them.

Talk about the challenges, the future, desires and hopes. Even though they do not yet have sufficient language skills to do so. Additionally, it fosters strength and a positive sense of self. What part does art play in learning? Learning through the crafts can be pleasant and interesting while also teaching students numerous important life abilities like Improvisation, problem-solving, collaborative thinking, and even more. What we must understand about the importance of craft for reconstructing education is discussed below

5.1 Dignity of Self

Kids can take satisfaction in their own work and feel a sense of accomplishment through craft works, which helps them feel more confident. Making art is a fantastic, risk-free way to learn that it's all right to commit errors and that doing things "incorrectly" can inspire completely original thinking. Children experience new things while also honing theirs.

5.2 Socialization (Interaction with Parents, Peer group and Teachers)

Small children want to spend more and more time with their parents, so if parents engage them in craft activity, they learn to coordinate with their parents and complete any task properly. This also improves their bonding with their parents, they learn to share their views, as well as they develop a sense of socialization and sociability

5.3 Hone Judgemental Abilities

Through craft activity, the decision-making ability of the child is developed. Many times, while doing craft activities, such problems come in front of the children that they do not understand their solution, but still they take their decisions with patience. By doing this, they try to find a solution, thus they develop critical analysis, the ability to evolve and the ability to take the right decision at the right time.

5.4 Tolerance

Everyone is aware that achieving perfection requires time. It requires patience and commitment to complete an artistic endeavour, regardless of how long it takes or how well it is executed. Children will experience a great sense of achievement once their artwork is finished, and they will discover that perseverance and hard work are greatly recognized. When something is taking more time than expected, it can be appealing to rush to finish it or give up entirely. But as they grow older, kids' degree of perseverance will rise and they will understand that positive changes take time.

5.5 Focus

Likewise to learning a new skill, Focus takes time to develop. Some kids may find it difficult to focus on the assignment at hand and keep their minds from wandering. However, young talented artists will concentrate on their artistic vision because they have a clear end in mind and are driven to succeed. Focusing exercises will help them in all facets of life and across a wide range of disciplines.

5.6 Managerial Skill

Children gain an appreciation for artwork and pictures from different periods and cultures by conducting crafts. They are able to critically evaluate both their own creative creations as well as the creations produced by others gain the ability to work logically and imaginatively while acting and thinking like creative people. Additionally, they discover how to preserve cultural heritage through crafts a lot of the information we have now about people that lived millions of years ago came solely from our cultural Heritage

5.7 Improve Mental Capacity & Visual Reasoning

Through crafts, children find out about new colours and shapes as well as become more accustomed to a variety of structures and characters. Activities requiring visualization and retention of complicated patterns in the mind involve mastering colour combinations and making different designs. Crafts support the aforementioned qualities as well as improving student achievement. Overall, these are child-friendly pursuits that are a tonne of entertainment.

VI. CONCLUSION

There is much more significance to art and craft compared to what has been talked about. In the end, it can be said as a conclusion that craft has been used in education since ancient times and in the present time also, through the new education policy 2020, a lot of emphasis has been laid on its enhancement & importance. Recognizing its importance, it has been given an important place in the school curriculum. Along with the mental development of children, craft education also develops their muscles. By developing their memory, it helps in the development of their logical ability and reasoning ability. In the present time, when the child prefers to live in TV, mobile and various types of technology-related gadgets, then in such a time, craft education helps children. It provides a new direction and works to make education also constructive. They can become an all-rounder with a diverse set of abilities who has limitless opportunities to learn about and excel. So the use of craft in education is very important for the reconstruction of education.

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