



Fine Arts for Personality Development

Radha Kulkarni*

Abstract :

The author explains how various types of fine arts can be used to develop and create pleasant personality and use to relieve tension and stress, sooth the mind and enthral the psyche.

Introduction

The aim of education is not just teaching the three “R”s but to bloom the personality of a child to the fullest. Fine arts are perhaps the most colourful essence of our life. They Soothe our sentiments, enkindle our creativity, revive our aesthetic sense, refine our social approach, stimulate our sensibilities and enthral our psyche.

As the fine arts are very popular and pleasing to every one they can be judiciously used as teaching tools. Fine arts have been proved very effective in the teaching learning process. Teachers can very well improvise and use .them to make their teaching lively and colourful. In fact, difficult topics can be taught through singing, pictures and dramatics etc. Hence I have covered my experiences to teach through fine arts along with training them in fine arts. I have earnestly tried to render as many points to ponder as possible in

the presentation of these arts. And I have also tried to convince how our teaching process can be made effective through these fine arts with a few practical illustrations. Now I would like to deal with the presentation of these arts in brief. Fine arts are classified as performing arts and Visual arts. Music, Dance, Dramatics are performing arts as they are performed on the stage. Art, Architecture and Literature' are visual arts. Now I wish to share a few points to be noted while presenting these arts through the school children. I hope these tips may be of some use to teachers who wish to take them up.

I Music -

Friends, if you are planning to give a music programme ponder about these points —

1. It can be a solo song or a group song. Prefer a group song as it encourages mass participation.

* *The author is a retired teacher with 40 years of experience. She has varied interests like literature, music, dance, art, rangoli and social work. Her contributions to the society in general won her national and international awards and accolades. She is a member of many cultural and social organisation. Mob No.: 9606501608 / 9901504915 e-mail: radhakulkarni@gmail.com*

2. Select the song suitable to the occasion, e.g. patriotic song for Independence Day or Republic Day, Guru Vandana for Teachers Day and so on. Even devotional songs, patriotic songs and moral songs from films can be sung but strictly avoid cheap songs or romantic songs in the school programmes.
3. While introducing tell the name of the poet, composer (if known) and the names of participating children.
4. Take care of the rhyme and rhythm with the help of music teacher.
5. Orchestra should be set properly once again with the guidance of music Teacher.
6. In group song co-ordination of the singers is very important.
7. Teach the children to sing any song with proper facial expression according to the mood of the song, e.g. if it is a patriotic song they must sing it with pride and vigour. It loses its appeal if it is sung morosely. A melancholy song should be sung with subdued expression. A jovial song must be sung with all gaiety and fervour.
8. Costumes of the children should be according to the occasion, e.g. for patriotic songs white dress with tiny tri-colour flag logo tucked to the shirt or blouse.
9. Children should be encouraged to sing songs of different regional languages to promotenational integration.
10. I made the children to prepare a profile on music in 1981 Named it "Melody". Covered almost all the necessary information about music in this profile.

II Dance -

1. Dance can be solo performance, a group dance or a field dance.
2. Themes of the dances may be decided according to the occasion once again. If it is invocation dance then one can have a classical dance with an offering of reverence to God. Patriotic dances can be performed on Independence Day or Republic day.
3. Song is the soul of dance. Hence a proper song should be selected suitable for the occasion.
4. Rhyme and Rhythm of the song should be taken care of
5. Orchestra should be set properly.
6. Choreography should be done meticulously. The movements should be in tune with the form of dance because each form has its own typical movements.
7. Indian classical- dances are - Bharata Natyam, Kathak, Kathakali, MohiniAttam, Odissi and Manipuri. Each form has typical movements of their own, steps of their own. Care should be taken to stick religiously to the style of dance. Some of the Folk dances of India are Yakshagana (Karnataka), Bhangada (Punjab), Lavani and Tamasha (Maharashtra), Bihu (Assam), Santhal (Bihar), Dandia Ras and Garba (Gujarat), Bamboo dance (Mizoram), Koli dance (Goa) and son on. Even the folkdances have their own typical styles, typical steps and movements which have to be taken care of.
8. In dancing along with the steps and bodily movements **facial expression** is very very important. The facial expressions

should concur with the moods of the songs.

9. Each form of dance whether it is classical or folk they have specific costumes. Most of them are available for hire from drapers. But some you have to make on your own.
10. Use of Properties should be done properly during dance performances. In Bharat Natyam Diyas, pots, Thali etc are used. In Bhangada Kerchiefs and Lathis are used. In Ghoomar dance pots, Bamboos in Bamboo dance, Dandias in Dandia Ras etc are used. These things should be chosen rightly and should be well decorated.

Specially in Field Dances Hoops, Umbrellas, Lazims, Drums (duflis) are needed in big bulk. Hence their decoration distribution needs lot of attention. When Hoops, Umbrellas etc, are decorated with artificial flowers and coloured papers etc, it can be done by the help of children.

11. Make-up- Always avoid too heavy make-up. It should look quite natural.
12. Stage settings can be done according to the Theme of the dance, e.g. for invocation dance photo of Nataraja with garland and lamps to be set on the stage. For Folk dances like Bhangada, Suggi Kunita, Santha etc rural back drop can be set. For Koli dance, Kerala's boat race dance, an artificial boat can be set at the back of the stage.
13. "Rhythm" is the profile on Indian Dances which I got prepared by my students in the year 1982. This profile contained most of the salient features of Indian Dances. In this details about Indian

classical Dances, most of the folk dances and Tribal Dances of India is found with illustrations. While teaching social Science we teach about the cultures of various states. The dance forms of different states would help the children. Action songs can be used to teach about environment, Road Rules Seasons etc., which I have tried.

III Dramatics –

1. Choice of the play should be done according to the occasion, e.g. play on Gandhiji on Gandhi Jayanti Day, Freedom struggle episodes on Independence Day, plays on famous women on "**International Women's Day**", episodes on friends on "**Friendship Day**", Plays based on spread of literacy on "**World Literacy Day**" and so on.
2. Choose right children for right roles.
3. Each character should be given the scripts of their dialogues with clues. Initially the teacher should explain the theme of the play.
4. The teacher has to read the dialogues with proper intonations. Then ask the children to learn their dialogues by heart.
5. Give rehearsals with directions for rendering their dialogues, movement, expression and co-ordination.
6. Costumes and make-up should be suitable for the characters.
7. Stage settings and back drops should be according to the scene, e.g. scene of a home, scene of a class room, scene of a forest and so on.
8. Develop acting skills, by giving topics and situations and asking them to act in

free time. The teachers would monitor and give guidance wherever necessary.

9. Dramatics can be used very effectively in teaching, e.g. to teach History some historical events can be enacted by children. Episodes from the lives of great personalities can be enacted by children.

IV Art, Architecture and Sculpture

1. Drawing, painting, making greeting cards, models, dolls, etc. are very good hobbies. Children can be taught to make gifts for presenting to their parents/teachers and friends, using these talents. These are very good hobbies and can serve as a meaningful pastime even in old age children should be taught different types of Art like oil painting, Glass painting, Nib painting, spray work, kaleidoscope, Spirograph, Rangoli etc. They should be encouraged to use their leisure time to practice these arts.

I was assigned to head the Art Club when I was teaching in Mumbai. I made the children to try several types of painting whole year and also to gather information about these types of paintings and famous artists. Finally along with the information I collected all their paintings and prepared a profile on Art. We gave the title "Panorama" for that. One more thing I tried was I made it a compulsion for all the children that each one has to contribute at least one painting for the profile.

One who is good in art and calligraphy can prepare nice charts which can serve as effective teaching aids. Children should also be encouraged to participate in various Art competitions. As part of Architecture one can teach the children to make models of monuments which can be used in the teaching of social science. Models and working models

of specimens of science like planetary system, Windmills, eclipses etc.

While making these models let the children use throwaway things or waste materials. I had made a model of Taj Mahal using a fused electric bulb for tomb, the stoppers of shringarbindi bottles for side tombs, straws for pillars. I had got the Kutub Minar done by children using tube caps and caps of cococola bottles. I made the children to prepare the model of sanchistupa with a half coconut shell.

Rangoli- Rangoli of different types can be taught to children. In fact different regions of India have different styles of Rangoli. Even the names differ in these parts. Let the students study these details. Rangoli can be put up even with various pulses, flowers, pearls etc. When I had conducted workshops of Rangoli I used to tell the children about the significance of Rangoli and used to explain about the various styles from different parts of our country. I was training them to put Rangoli in Thalish. Children were most excited when they were taught to put Rangoli on the water and below the water. On the occasion of silver Jubilee of I.I.T Mumbai. I was asked to put up a Rangoli exhibition. I had displayed the growth of the institution in 25 years, synonymously with the growth of a tree with Rangoli in 20 x 20 square. It was most appreciated by one and all.

V Literature –

This is the most useful skill one has to develop in children from a tender age. Here are a few methods to initiate children to write.

1. In free time give the children some current topics - may be social issues like child labour, Dowry System, Population explosion, Destruction of greenary, Air pollution, Water pollution, conservation of energy, preserving ecological balance,

Regionalism, Corruption and so on. Or reporting of school events like Annual Day, Sports Day, Childrens' Day, Teachers' Day and so on. Some children are endowed with poetic flare. They can be encouraged to write small poems on topics of their interest.

2. In the end of the year these articles would be written beautifully and get them bound. That makes a lovely manuscript magazine. Ofcourse there is a detailed article on this project in this book. The school can bring out an annual printed magazine in which best articles from these class magazines can be selected and published.
3. To give impetus to the best writers their articles can be sent to some regular News papers and Journals for publishing.
4. Poem writing competitions essay writing competitions can be organized in the school.
5. The Librarian can take initiative to make the children read more books. Now and then in the Library periods he / she canorganise quiz programmes about the books, authors, Jnanapeetha Awardees and so on. He/she can arrange symposia on some important books
6. The Literary talent can be used in teaching Social Science. Children can write plays based on the events from the lives of historical personalities. They can write

plays about social issues. I have written plays in Kannada, Hindi and English based on the philosophy of Gandhiji, on the life of Kitthur Chennamma and Buddha, on social issues like child Labour, Dowey system, population explosion, Illiteracy, Protection of Environment. I have written Radio plays covering the cultural panoramas of different states like Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa etc. I have also written three collections of poems most of them based on the syllabuses of school or the important days we celebrate in the schools like Independence Day, Teachers' Day, Sports day, Friendship Day, World Environmental Day and so on.

Conclusion

Fine arts can play an important role in personality development and also for relieving mental tension. Any one or more fine arts mentioned could be learned and practised. one does not have to be an expert but just learn enough to practise with the interest for one's own enjoyment and soothing of the mind. It will be a good practice if children can be introduced to the fine arts during primary education, depending upon their tastes and facilitate them to continue to develop both the art and personality.

