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Visual Arts Facilitator at Shiv Nadar School, Chennai, discusses the incorporation of art in primary years education and how it should be integrated into a transdisciplinary setup.

One approach to address art is through a transdisciplinary lens, focusing on developing artistic behaviour rather than just artistic skills. This is achieved through a studio setup, where the learning process is kinaesthetic in nature.

Fostering international mindedness is another important aspect of art education. In a transdisciplinary setup, a central concept is explored, and all disciplines collaborate to enhance learners' understanding of that concept. Research is conducted using primary and secondary resources, including field trips, interviews, books, and the internet. For example, when discussing migration, students can delve into the reasons behind an artist's migration and how it influences their artistic practice.

In a transdisciplinary approach, the emphasis is not solely on developing drawing skills but on comprehending the concept being researched. Artistic behaviour is cultivated through a dedicated studio space equipped with various art materials and tools. Students have the freedom to choose their materials and explore different aspects related to the concept at hand. Open-ended assignments are offered, allowing students to exercise autonomy and resulting in unique works reflecting individual perspectives. The process of learning

curricular planning? As long as it is safe for children, various forms of art can be explored. The focus should not be on the end product, but rather on allowing children to understand and find meaning in different art forms. Exposure to a wide range of art forms enables students to make informed choices. In curricular planning, collaboration among teachers is crucial. The central concept serves as the foundation, and related concepts, functions, forms, causation, and responsibilities can be addressed through art. While some overlap may occur, continuous development towards a holistic approach is paramount. Curriculum planning occurs at the beginning of the year, with flexibility for adjustments when necessary.

Should teachers attend professional development courses to teach the concept?

Yes, decoding the important words is not easy and comes with experience and practice. Therefore, it is important for teachers to attend professional development courses to learn from experts about the best ways to teach and implement these

takes precedence over the final product, as it encourages exploration and experimentation. Collaboration and community building are fostered to promote the value of opinions, feedback, and shared responsibilities. Students can collaborate in groups to create collective artworks. Opportunities for exhibiting and showcasing student work are provided, boosting their confidence, fostering appreciation for others' work, and creating a sense of pride.

Kinaesthetic learning is incorporated through movement and physical activities. Outdoor classes, learning from nature, and collaboration with art teachers facilitate this approach. Providing a variety of materials for hands-on experiences and experimentation encourages collaboration and celebrating both successful and trial-and-error attempts. Documenting movements through technology enables the group to reflect on their creative process and endurance. Creating a supportive environment for creativity and risk-taking is essential, as it allows students to learn from mistakes and take creative risks.

Fostering international mindedness involves connecting local and global approaches through art as a means of communication. Understanding different cultures can be achieved by exploring and

concepts. Otherwise, it can be difficult for individuals to self-teach and grasp all the ideas.

What are some examples of ways schools have integrated art into the academic curriculum?

In our school, the learning system is fully transdisciplinary in nature, with everything integrated into a cohesive whole. The entire curriculum revolves around a central concept, and all teachers collaborate to ensure that art is an integral part of the academic system. It is not treated as an extracurricular activity but rather as a co-curricular one. We strive to create a transdisciplinary system where the focus is always on the concept rather than just the content.

Do you want to share any information with educators about art education? What advice do you have for schools that want to incorporate art into their curriculum?

We can take courses and do some reading, but it becomes even more effective when we attend hands-on sessions conducted

appreciating diverse art forms worldwide. For instance, comparing Bhil art from Madhya Pradesh with Aboriginal art from Australia allows students to discover cultural similarities and differences. Making these connections nurtures respect for diverse art forms and enables students to learn about specific cultural histories. Incorporating global themes, contexts, and sustainable development goals in daily art practices helps develop international-minded learners who understand both local and global issues and work towards finding solutions. Collaborating with artists and peers from different countries and cultures provides valuable opportunities for learning and exchange, fostering empathy and building a global community.

Why is art education important for young children?

Art provides children with an alternative means of expression, serving as a unique language that should be nurtured from an early age. Art education contributes to the development of concepts within a transdisciplinary framework, facilitating holistic student growth and expression.

What forms of art can be taught at the primary level?

How can art education be integrated into

by experts. We can also educate ourselves through courses. We live in a world that is both physical and virtual, so if we lack exposure in the physical world, we can still educate ourselves through the virtual world. It is important not to view art solely as a form of art, but rather as a means of expression.

It helps learners solve different problems, and to do so effectively, all disciplines must come together to find solutions. Collaboration with peers is key, as the impact will not be visible otherwise. To achieve effective learning, we must collaborate with various disciplines and create a curriculum that is holistic and contributes to the holistic development of all learners. It is important to gather resources. The concept of any work can be discussed with respective teachers, and their help can be sought in creating visuals that support the topics. We must create a dedicated space with abundant resources where learners can explore and experiment.

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