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## Art as Communication: Its Relevance In Education

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### ABSTRACT

Art as a form of communication plays a crucial role in education by enhancing students' ability to express and interpret complex ideas. This abstract explores the significance of integrating art into educational practices to foster critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence. By engaging with various artistic mediums, students develop a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives and cultural contexts, enhance problem-solving skills, and encourage personal and collective reflection. By incorporating art into education practices, educators can create a more holistic learning experience that nurtures students' cognitive and emotional development. This exploration underscores the necessity of valuing art as a core component of education to enrich the learning process and support diverse forms of student expression and comprehension.

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### INTRODUCTION

Education is a process of interaction between the individual and his environment. This interaction also occurs in the processes of artistic creation and that of learning through creative activities. In fact, the process of artistic creation is such that it demands total environment; social and physical awareness of constraints, possibilities of artistic media, materials and technique and above all, realization of self. It provides for self-learning which helps in preserving the uniqueness of the individual as reflected in his actions, thoughts and emotions. Education is art can take many forms as students can create art through various mediums such as painting, sculpture, photography and more. All this implies that better organized art activities in school will help achieve the broad knowledge of education and arts. (National Art Education Association 2016, Getty foundation, 2015). In considering this view, one is bound to ask these questions. What is communication and what is Art? Who is an Art teacher? Of what relevance is communication through art to societal development including education?

**Objective:** The objective of art as communication emphasizing art as communication in education is to foster creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence among students. By integrating art into education, we aim to cultivate a deeper understanding of cultural diversity, history and individual expression, preparing students to engage meaningfully with the world around them. This approach not only enhances cognitive development but also nurtures empathy and social skills, equipping students with the tools effectively communicate navigate complex societal challenges. Ultimately, art in education serves as a powerful catalyst for holistic learning and personal growth.

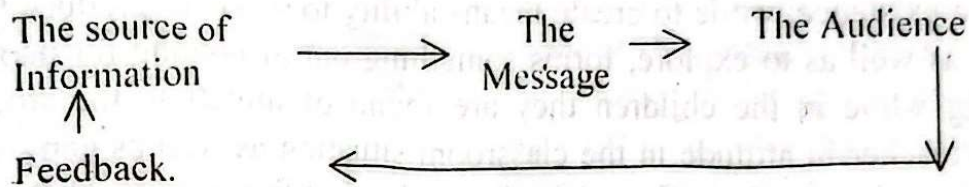
**Significance of Art as communication in education;** Enhances communication skills; Art provides students with a unique and powerful means of communication , allowing them to express themselves and convey ideas beyond words .Promotes creativity and innovation,; Art encourages students to think creativity experiment with different techniques and develop their own unique artistic voice .Fosters Cultural Understanding ;Art exposes students to diverse cultures and perspectives, m fostering empathy, tolerance and a deeper appreciation for the world around them.

**Methodology for integrating Art as communication;** establish clear Objectives Define the specific communication skills, create thinking abilities and cultural understanding that students should develop through art education. Incorporate Art into the curriculum integrating art activities and projects into various subject area, such as language arts, social studies and science, to enhance communication and understanding of concepts.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Art serves as a powerful form of communication in education Though various artistic mediums such as visual arts, music, drama and literature, individual can express thoughts emotions and ideas that might be challenging to articulate through traditional means (Eisner, 2002, Winner, & Hetland, 2007), However, these authors explore how arts can enhance cognitive and emotional development, particularly in educational setting. Communications as the act or fact of communicating, transmission, the imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions or information by speech, writing or signs, that which communication or imported. Ball (1959) sees communication” as a process of a transmitting information, involving dimension such as space, time, the methods of transmission as well as the social and cultural context in which the process taking place. One can infer therefore that communication is an act of explaining our inner emotion to the receiver in such a way that the feedback is effectively received either through appreciation or more persons that is process of Information exchange between two parties in an attempt by one party to persuade, the other or effect changes in the other's behaviour.

Language is an important medium of expression like the Arts. It is used for effective "self-expression" since man discovered language for the purpose of sharing his experience with his fellow men and communication his ideas thought and feeling to them. Language is one of the arts which serves has a mode of self-expression and communication which man has been able to develop over a long period of time. The following diagrams will help to elucidate this viewpoint. (Adeboye & Afolabi 1991)



**Figure 1. Shows the source of information.**

While the message is the speech. Signs and the writing. The audience is the receiver that sends is feedback to the source.

In the classroom situation Teacher → The message → Students

### Examination

Figure 1 explains the system of communication in the school, how the message is sent through the teacher and the message gets to the students which is the receiver through the channel which includes speech, writing and signs. While Examination is the Feedback to the source. The examination is how art education supports cognitive, social and emotional development in children. (Grace, 2023); Jessical, (2022).

Deasy (2002). Stress that, arts education improved academic performance, social development and overall students well-being. In this view artist searches for symbols which represents and conveys his message effectively. Uzoaga (1980) is of the view that art means self-expression. This idea can be said to be correct because when teaching drawing and painting in the primary or kindergarten levels, it is better for the teacher to suggest topic related to the children's experience. Discuss fully using demonstration and dramatization where necessary and then ask the children to draw or paint pictures about these topic or story. But, Art can be viewed as a universal language which everybody understands in that everyone in the society can interpret road signs and appreciate what is beautiful as well as distinguishing what is bad so, for one to love good things in his environment he has to appreciate the aesthetic of the thing and so creativity and arts in early childhood education, emphasizing their importance in holistic development. ( Sharon,M.& Lynn,M 2021);Rebeca,T & Shirley,C. (2019).

Art deals with the ability of being creative. According to Creative gift means being Original and newness of ideas, thought or expression which produce novel and innovative things. The word 'gift' here refers to something bestowed, a talent, not from man but from God. (Robinson, 2009) focuses on importance of fostering creativity and passion which central to arts education. While Lowenfeld and Brittain (1975) opine that, creativity is thought or as being constructive, productive behaviour that can be seen in action or accomplishment'. It does not have to be a unique phenomenon in the world, it does have to be basically a contribution from the individual.

Creativity therefore means innovation as well as inventiveness, the ability to bring new age into existence, while to create means ability to make, to produce to set cause as well as to explore, forms something out of nothing for people's understanding while in the children they are found of imitation, the students imitate their teacher in attitude in the classroom situation as well as copy some habit which would later be reflected in the student's life forever.

That is while the teacher needs to prepare properly before coming to the room to impact the necessary knowledge to the students., however, Eric, (2018) advocates for the integration of arts education in schools and its transformative impact on students learning experiences. In the Fine -Arts, there are some basic elements which the teacher needs use for effective communication to the students as well as the society in general. Some of these elements include the use of line: direction, shape size, texture, value, colour as well as the use of light and shape where necessary. Marjorie (1997) suggests 'the expressive power of images elements of design line, shape, colour, value, and space - are the lexicon of images'. Since the society loves to interpret art works as it appeals to them, so the students/children loves to touch, feel and appreciate aesthetic in the work little or no interpretation. That is the reason why Kunin, the newly developed standards released for arts education stresses that 'arts have been an in separable part of the journey. They provide us with pleasure spark our creativity and frame reality in fresh perspectives. We value them for themselves, and because we do, we believe knowing and practicing them is fundamental to the healthy development of our children's minds and spirits.

The objective of incorporating the arts into education are multifaceted; Creativity The arts foster creativity by encouraging students to explore, experiment and express themselves in diverse way. Engagement with the arts promote critical thinking skills as students analyze, interpret and evaluate artistic works perspectives and techniques. However, Artistic expression serves as a powerful forms of communication, allowing students to convey complex ideas, emotions, experiences through various mediums The arts nurture personal development by fostering self-awareness, confidence, resilience and emotional intelligence.

The arts inspire innovation by encouraging students to think outside the box, take risks and explore new possibilities through creative problem-solving. So, incorporating the arts into education not only enhances academic learning but also promotes holistic development, lifelong learning and meaningful engagement with the world.

### **3. THE ART TEACHER**

An Art teacher is a person who-co-ordinates, organizes, directs and dictates, organizes, directs and dictates the activities of the learners in a classroom situation. A teacher is a person who impact knowledge and still required of the children into all areas of life; satisfying the cognitive, affective and psycho-motive domains. The art teacher occupies a unique position in the school. He serves as a leader in his own right and exercises a pervasive influence in the classroom, that is the reason Jerome (1970) stresses various kinds of cognitive learning's for the art class, that 'students should become aware specific facts names, dates, place, students should become aware of trends and sequences for example, to understand the flowering of Italian, painting in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, to understand the period known as the renaissance, the influence of such painter as Gitto must 'be seen.

Students should develop a sense for theory and structure and as well as students should learn to seek out principles and generalization in the area of forms painting, sculpture architecture the imagery of motion picture television and others. This occur as a result of the role he plays in the classroom, he can also be called the director since he gives orders and get things done quickly. The teacher is particular holds important position in the development of the society. In the aspect of illustration, teacher guide the students to see how other have given from to idea and feeling t is how they involve in suing line, shape colour, texture as well as way to convey meaningful symbols with the available tools and materials in their vicinity. Also as art teacher, he must set forth his ideas as to achieve set out objective, which he had planned with allocated period of time.

### **Art in Communication**

As an adage say "Art is the foundation of all subject or disciplines in education. It easily links with all subjects taught in the school simple illustration drawn is of significant interpretation. For examples a drowning of a market scene, can help in the teaching of numbers of figures as well as identification of figures present in the composition. Also student too can be led to draw things which they come by in their daily life, that is the reason while Marjorie (1995) sees art as 'a living expression, an empowered and empowering voice of contemporary society, urging and mounding society as well as reflecting it. In the classroom situation students can be given a topic based on imaginative composition, which has a bearing with their environment. This could be market scene, landscape, road accident or events.

This will open their minds towards the activities going on in their vicinity Ideas of illustration and children's retention. Cording to Adeyemo (1975) 'Memory is the power of the mind to hold, to bring back and to recognize past experiences'. It refers to the past, which includes recognizing a thing for which it is really. Memory is essential to all knowledge of Art. So it is our duty as teachers to adopt in our teaching methods illustrating objects which will help children to remember what we are teaching them furthermore, it is through these illustration that accident in the society can be reduced to the minimum in that Road signs are made by the artist to communicate effectively to the drive's message such as "Dangerous Bends, Corners, stop, No parking among others.

Apart from the illustrations on the vehicle which serve as warning for the drivers, illustrations depicting message such as, 'Horn before you over take' is also educative. In the texts, illustrations help to communicate views to the children. For example in the teaching of mathematics or vocational subject in which the use of line, shape, size among the basic elements of triangle, rectangles, parallel lines, square cubes to mention a few. The artist can sketch two figures for teaching one and two, may be one boy, two boys or two girls in English language etc. Some caption shown inside the television is another method of developing the mind of the children in terms of imagination and creativity. The use of cartoons in the newspapers by artists is another method of public enlighten, which help to teach morals in the society.

Art also expresses people's culture in the area of hair dos, Fashion designs in which norms; values and aspiration of the society are depicted in the fabric to educate children. As an example, Igogo festival in Owo is depicted on clothes during the ceremony in Owo Township. The artist too is able to gain something financially. FESTAC' 77 is also an example of culture being expressed by the art for people's enlightenment.



Art reflect knowledge which is facts and abstractions of which social studies cannot make know in that images can be used effectively to create complacency, urge, patriotic, fervor, enrage against injustice, because sculptural object in society are meant for teaching the past heroes like Ajasin Bust in Imade College Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria, is an example. These are displayed at the important places in town title where children can ask questions based on them; this is another means of communicating views within the society. According to Folarin (1993:12). Art is truly a comprehensive language, which relates the dreams and accomplishments, the activities, beliefs and desires of humanity inspirational understandable and universal term. In this while, what the arts are trying to communicate in the society require little or no interpretation. Urban sculpture, as an example has often complemented man's effort in environmental beautification in many cultures over many decades. Ever since man has been living and meeting together in urban cluster, towns and cities he has used sculpture to communicate important civil events, to glorify and honour great and brilliant personalities in the society.

### **Suggestions**

For effective communication in the field of art education. The government is advice to give loan to schools and encourage them in organizing; seminars and workshops to prepare the teacher towards achieving the set out objective for their children. Parents should co-operate with the teacher in terms of providing necessary materials to aid effective's communication to the children. Parents are well as the government should encourage children to take art as a subject in schools in order to enhance their creativity.

The government is advised to give incentives to the teacher to work very well in the system.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

In this paper art as communication and its relevance in education is studied. The writer has also examined the concepts of communication, art and an art teacher. Engagement with the arts promote critical thinking skills as students analyze, interpret and evaluate artistic works perspectives and techniques. However, Artistic expression serves as a powerful forms of communication, allowing students to convey complex ideas, emotions, experiences through various mediums The arts nurture personal development by fostering self-awareness, confidence, resilience and emotional intelligence At this junction, the importance of art in communication into the societal development is discusses in which recommendation and suggestion are made to parents, government and children to develop the attitude of effective communication teaching system.

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