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Integrating Performing Arts in Education: A Perspective on NEP 2020

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Abstract

The NEP 2020 aims to transform India's education system through a comprehensive framework. An essential aspect of this policy is its acknowledgment of the significance of performing arts in education. This abstract explores the role of performing arts according to the NEP 2020. Performing arts include various forms like music, dance, drama, and theatre, providing students with a distinctive avenue for self-expression and the development of vital life skills. The NEP 2020 emphasizes achieving holistic growth by integrating performing arts into the educational process. The policy advocates for the inclusion of performing arts at all educational levels, from early childhood through higher education. It encourages schools to adopt arts-based methods in their curriculum, enabling students to engage in a spectrum of performing arts activities. The NEP 2020 also recognizes that these experiences foster the development of students' imagination, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and emotional intelligence. Furthermore, it highlights the importance of cultural heritage and diversity, aiming to protect and promote local art forms and traditions. The policy advocates partnerships between educational institutions and artists, as well as cultural organizations, to expose students to a wide array of performing arts practices.

Keywords: Theatre in Education; Drama; Storytelling; Music; Performing Art; NEP-2020

INTRODUCTION

Performing art is a complex and multifaceted form of artistic expression that includes various disciplines such as music, dance, theatre, and both verbal and non-verbal communication, as well as facial expressions. Its cultural and aesthetic impact is profound, often captivating audiences in live performances. The performing arts, which include a range of genres like theatre, folk performances, classical dance, and music, are extremely important to Indian culture and heritage. These artistic disciplines have evolved throughout the ages, greatly impacted by historical occurrences, local traditions, and religious beliefs. According to a variety of Indian viewpoints, performing arts can be used to tell stories, preserve cultural history, build social cohesiveness, and cultivate spiritual connections (Devi, 2020). Performing arts venues have always been

amazing in Indian culture. It has been essential for achieving transcendence and spiritual connection.

Classical music, including Carnatic and Hindustani music, has its origins in the centuries-old tradition of Nada Yoga, which uses sound to promote spiritual unity. In the words of famous musician Shri Ravi Shankar, "Indian classical music is the ancient art and the purest form of expression that touches the heart and soul of the listener." Intricate talas (rhythmic patterns) and ragas (melodic structures) are used by musicians to create melodic journeys that elevate the listener to a higher plane of awareness.

Classical dance styles like Kathak, Odissi, and Bharatanatyam are spiritual as well as physical arts. These dance styles use exact gestures, facial expressions, and movements to illustrate abstract ideas and narrate stories from Hindu mythology (Mandavkar, 2023). Many different emotions and concepts can be expressed through complex hand movements called mudras. The performer can communicate with the divine and convey the essence of human experience through dance. Dance and music are not the only performing arts that have spiritual meaning. Since ancient times, Indian theatre, or Natak, has had a rich and long history. As a kind of worship, plays were frequently based on legendary tales and presented at temples. These plays aimed to inspire and educate the audience rather than entertain them (Com, 2021).

In India, spiritual significance is also infused into the visual arts. Intricate mandala and rangoli designs are thought to have a relaxing impact on the mind and spirit in addition to being purely ornamental. Henna, also known as Mehndi, is regarded as a type of body art with aesthetic and spiritual significance.

Another important medium for conserving and passing on India's culture to future generations is the performing arts. Local customs, rituals, and festivals are firmly ingrained in folk arts like Kathputli (puppetry), Bhangra, and Garba, which highlight India's cultural diversity and regional identities. Through taking part in and attending these performances, communities preserve their cultural legacy and cultivate a feeling of pride and inclusion. These artistic expressions serve as a reminder of India's dynamic traditions and values and are a monument to the nation's rich cultural past. They also give performers and artists a stage on which to display their skills and express their ideas in front of a wide range of people. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of India's performing arts, which are a source of amazement and inspiration. People throughout the world are still inspired and captivated by the nation's artistic tradition, which is integrated into its cultural fabric.

Actors, musicians, and the audience frequently participate collectively in these performances, resulting in a dynamic and captivating shared experience. "The stage is a space for dialogue, understanding, and building bridges between people," says theatre director Habib Tanvir. "Street narratives and storytelling can address social issues, promote cultural understanding, and encourage social integration."

Storytelling is an essential component of Indian performing arts, which include dance, music, and theatre. Ancient epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, as well as local folklore and folktales, all function as educational resources by offering amusement and moral teachings (Devi, 2020). The importance of storytelling has been articulated by actor and filmmaker Nandita Das, who claims that stories teach us empathy and what it means to be human.

In Indian performing arts, narratives are used to captivate audiences, arouse feelings, and maintain oral traditions. The craft of storytelling serves as a vehicle for social change in addition to providing enjoyment. Indian actors can inspire social change and raise awareness of societal issues through theatre. People from different backgrounds feel more connected to one another because of the dynamic nature of group engagement in performance art. Storytelling has a long history in Indian performing arts and has been handed down through the generations. The varied cultures, customs, and beliefs of the nation are reflected in the stories. These stories' strength resides in their capacity to bridge cultural and generational divides by spanning time and location. They are a promise for the future, a glimpse into the past, and a link to the present.

Indian performing arts combine dance, music, and theatre to produce an immersive and engrossing

multimodal experience. It makes it possible to communicate feelings, ideas, and thoughts in a way that is not possible with just words (Mandavkar, 2023). The audience becomes a part of the story as the stories come to life. Actors, musicians, and audience members all work together to produce a shared experience that strengthens ties to the community.

The unique contributions of theatre, drama, and music enhance the performing arts community. Plays, musicals, and dance shows are just a few of the many live performances that fall under the umbrella of theatre. Drama, on the other hand, focuses on the development and performance of stories, employing characters, dialogue, and staging strategies to make stories come to life. By using sound and rhythm to further improve storytelling, music adds another level of expression and emotion to the mix.

Theatre Education

Students can acquire a variety of abilities, including creativity, communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and empathy, by studying and practicing the theatrical arts in an educational setting (Kumar, Prakash, & Singh, 2021). This is known as theatre education. From a variety of angles, theatre education is seen as a way to promote cultural awareness, academic enrichment, and social and personal growth.

Drama Education

Drama education, sometimes referred to as theatre education, is a type of art education that uses dramatic methods and practices to encourage learning and personal growth (Aithal & Aithal, 2020). It gives children a way to participate in a creative and cooperative setting where they can experiment, produce, and perform. From a variety of angles, drama education is viewed as a means of promoting self-expression and creativity, strengthening social and communication abilities, and enhancing academic learning.

Music Education in Performing Arts

A thorough grasp of music theory, technique, and interpretation is acquired by performers via music education, allowing them to express themselves artistically. In addition, music education facilitates cross-cultural interactions by fostering an understanding of many musical traditions and advancing diversity in the performing arts industry (Mandavkar, 2023). A more harmonious society is eventually the result of this interchange, which improves tolerance and understanding of other cultures.

Storytelling

For ages, the performing arts have been strongly connected to the craft of storytelling. It has the capacity to captivate listeners, take them to new places, evoke feelings, and promote empathy. In addition to delivering strong messages that may have an enduring effect on the audience, they can foster a feeling of connection between the performer and the audience (Devi, 2020). As a result, appreciating the importance of storytelling in the performing arts and embracing its transformational potential are crucial.

National Education Policy 2020

The comprehensive framework known as NEP 2020 lays forth a plan and goal for the reform of India's educational sector. Its main goal is to address the flaws and gaps in the current system and give all residents access to a thorough and affordable education. We shall examine the core features and potential results of the NEP 2020 in this analytical study. We may better comprehend how the policy might change India's educational scene by closely examining its main elements.

NEP 2020 emphasizes how important diversity and cultural heritage are to the performing arts industry. In addition to encouraging innovation and experimentation, the strategy supports the promotion and preservation of traditional art forms (Kumar, 2021). Infrastructure and resource provision, as well as

collaborations with cultural organizations and specialists, guarantee that students have the chance to demonstrate their abilities and gain knowledge from experts (Aithal & Aithal, 2020).

CONCLUSION

The importance of the performing arts in creating a comprehensive and well-rounded educational system is being emphasized in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 (Kumar, Prakash, & Singh, 2021). The NEP recognizes the importance of performing arts in helping students build 21st-century skills and competencies, with the promotion of multimodal learning, creativity, and critical thinking as its key values. To give pupils a well-rounded education that extends beyond academic disciplines, NEP 2020 seeks to incorporate the arts and culture into the curriculum. In order to accomplish this, the performing arts— which include dance, music, theatre, and visual arts—are essential. The NEP acknowledges the enormous potential of creative discipline in promoting students' creativity, inventiveness, and self-expression by integrating performing arts within the curriculum. Students who participate in the performing arts can develop a greater appreciation for and knowledge of cultural diversity. Additionally, they foster collaboration, teamwork, and communicational skills, which are critical abilities in today's jobs. Students can express themselves and gain confidence through the performing arts, which is essential for the development of their whole personalities.

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