

The Paradigm of Progressivism in Art Education: Encouraging Direct Experience, Creativity, and Individual Uniqueness

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ABSTRACT:

This article explores the development of art in education, illustrates people's views on the role of art, and highlights the importance of art in the development of emotional, spiritual, and creativity intelligence. The discussion also includes the role of art education in shaping the character of students and its relation to the principles of progressivism. The articulation of this concept opens up insight into how a progressive approach can enhance students' art learning experiences, stimulate creativity, and form the foundation for critical thinking through artistic expression. Art education in schools now focusses not only on developing artistic skills, but also emphasises the development of 21st century skills needed to face future challenges. The integration of technology in art learning provides a new dimension and opens up wider creative exploration opportunities. The need for multicultural art education reflects the awareness of the importance of understanding and respecting cultural diversity in art. Accessibility of art education becomes a focus, with efforts to ensure that every student has the opportunity to access and experience the beauty of art.

KEYWORDS:

Art, Art Education, Art Learning Experience, Creativity, Progressivism.

INTRODUCTION

Art as an inseparable part of human life is always developing in various aspects that surround it, both aspects within art itself and in art education which is a conscious effort to pass on values from generation to generation. And schools as centers for the transformation of values certainly play a big role in carrying out the mandate of education which is the main effort in forming the next generation, which is expected to become a superior generation and bring positive change in all fields. In its development, art is no longer just a skill taught from generation to generation, but art is a tool to convey other knowledge taught in schools.

Several phenomena that occur today, especially in arts education in schools, are that art is still underestimated by some groups of society. Some assume that art is an activity that is only for entertainment and a form of outlet for the boredom of daily activities. "Society's less positive view of arts education is also inseparable from the assumption that art is not yet capable of helping people to live a better life, especially in terms of the practicalities of life, in contrast to the contribution of science and technology (science and technology) which is able to fascinate and provide convenience to humans to achieve various needs and goals in life [1].

The educational paradigm which tends to still glorify exact learning for the development of intellectual intelligence alone certainly has the impact of marginalizing the role of arts learning as an important aspect in students' lives. This is especially true, art is a psychological need that often has to be fulfilled, because contextually beauty is one of the needs that must be fulfilled, so that art and beauty become an important part of human life, especially art and beauty as the fulfillment of emotional and spiritual needs [2].

Therefore, it is important to understand the role and function of art learning for early childhood education. This is of course to break the stigma that art learning is only limited to accompanying lessons, only as recreational lessons. Because in the process, intellectual intelligence must be built together with emotional and spiritual intelligence, so that three aspects of intelligence that are built in an integrated manner are expected to form a complete individual. which is built in an integrated manner is expected to form a complete individual.

Based on the results of several literature reviews regarding the importance of art in the learning and teaching process, it is stated that art has important implications, especially for educators and students. For educators, art can be used to improve pedagogical abilities, especially in building learning situations and conditions, while for students, the context art aims to motivate the interest and potential that exists within him [3].

Art education in schools is a medium for developing creativity and developing artistic talents for students. Arts education has a role in forming students' harmonious personalities by paying attention to children's developmental needs in achieving multi-intelligence. Through art, the expression of one's feelings is expressed into creations in the form of art such as literature, music, visual arts, dance and drama, which contain elements of beauty and can influence the feelings of other people. The aim of art education in schools is for students to gain experience in creating, experience in creating work concepts, aesthetic experience and experience to feel the function of art education for life. Arts education provided through the learning curriculum in schools aims to shape the character of students into humans who have a sense of art and cultural understanding [4].

In the context of the arts, the principles of progressivism have significant implications for how the arts are taught and understood by students. Exploring the relationship between progressivism and the development of arts education in schools can provide in-depth insight into the role and relevance of this philosophical school. In this article, we will explore more about progressivism and how its principles can be applied in the context of arts education. By understanding these connections, we can identify how progressive approaches can enhance students' arts learning experiences, stimulate creativity, and provide a foundation for critical thinking through artistic expression.

DISCUSSION

Arts education

Arts education is one of the Merdeka Curriculum and is a mandatory subject in schools, from elementary to high school/ vocational school levels. The inclusion of this subject aims to ensure that children not only use the left hemisphere of the brain, but also the right brain. "With this balance in the learning process, it is hoped that a generation will be produced that has broad knowledge of science and technology, sufficient faith and high character. "Thus, arts education in schools is a vehicle for students to develop talents and creativity through sound/music, movement/dance, and color/form [5].

Arts education today reflects a variety of phenomena manifested in educational policies, teaching practices, and trends in global education. The following are several phenomena that can be encountered in the current context of arts education:

- 1) **The Importance of Creativity and Arts Skills:** More and more education systems are realizing the importance of developing creativity and arts skills as an integral part of the curriculum. Arts education is recognized as a way to stimulate creative thinking, innovation, and problem solving.
- 2) **Technology Integration:** Technology plays an important role in arts education today. The use of graphic design software, digital tools, and creative platforms opens up new opportunities for artistic expression and more interactive learning.
- 3) **Curriculum Diversification:** There are efforts to diversify the arts curriculum to include various forms of art, such as fine arts, music, dance, theater and literature. This reflects recognition of the diversity of artistic expressions and interests of students.
- 4) **The Importance of Multicultural Education:** Arts education is increasingly integrating multicultural approaches to ensure better representation and appreciation of the world's diverse cultural and artistic heritage.

Progressivism in education

Progressivism is a modern educational philosophy that requires changes in the implementation of education to make it more advanced. This flow of progressivism prioritizes the implementation of education in schools centered on children and makes educators only limited to being facilitators, mentors and directors for students. The aim of the flow of progressivism in education is to change educational practices which have previously seemed authoritarian to become democratic and more respectful of children's potential and abilities, as well as encouraging the implementation of learning that involves more students. By implementing the flow of progressivism in education, it is hoped that changes and progress in education in Indonesia will be of better quality, so that it will be able to realize Indonesia's national education goals [6].

Progressivism, developed by John Dewey, is an educational approach that emphasizes direct experience and student activity as the center of learning. In the context of the arts, the principles of progressivism have significant implications for how the arts are taught and understood by students. Exploring the relationship between progressivism and the development of arts education in schools can provide in-depth insight into the role and relevance of this philosophical school. Dewey said art should be a means to achieve educational goals, and not art for its own sake. With this approach, learning experience and build a deep understanding of art. The following are several principles of progressivism that can be applied in the context of arts education: art education is obliged to help achieve general educational goals, which are to provide rational and emotional balance, intellect and sensibility within the framework of a harmonious personality. This is especially true in public schools.

Progressivism is a school of educational philosophy that emphasizes direct experience, exploration and problem solving as learning methods. Arts education that adopts progressivism principles can provide a more comprehensive

1) Hands-on Experience and Creative Activities:

Allows students to experience art directly through active arts practices such as painting, drawing, dancing, or acting. Encourage students to explore various artistic media and techniques to enhance their creativity. Provide a space for students to express their ideas and feelings through personal and authentic art projects.

2) Problem Solving and Critical Thinking:

Integrate art as a form of problem solving, where students are given the challenge to explore various creative solutions. Encourage students to reflect and question the meaning behind works of art, as well as analyze their impact on society and culture. Teaches students to make artistic decisions based on deep consideration and critical thinking.

3) Respect for Individual Uniqueness:

Accept and appreciate diversity in artistic expression, recognizing that each student is unique in their talents and interests. Gives students the freedom to explore styles and art forms that suit their own personalities. Uses a differentiation approach to accommodate varying skill levels and interests in art classes.

4) Collaboration and Communication:

Encourage students to collaborate on art projects together, promoting teamwork and the exchange of ideas. Teaches communication skills through reflecting on works of art and conveying ideas verbally. Facilitate discussion and positive feedback between students to increase their understanding of art.

5) Engagement and Choice

Give students the autonomy to choose topics, media, and art styles that interest them. Encourage active participation and involvement of students in the art learning process. Provide art projects that are relevant to students' daily lives to increase learning motivation. By applying the principles of progressivism in arts education, schools can create an environment that stimulates creativity, empowers students to develop critical thinking, and increases appreciation of art as a valuable form of expression in their lives.

The approach to education through art is very important and its role can be clearly observed at the primary and pre-school education levels. For example, when the teacher conveys the concept of addition, it is used with pictures. The number two plus three can be displayed in a picture of two oranges in one group and three oranges in another group or it can be in another picture. Drawing skills are used as a tool or means of calculating. In this way students learn with art (education with art). The implementation of this approach to education through the arts places more emphasis on the process than on the results [1].

C. Development of arts education in schools

Art education in schools is a medium for developing creativity and developing artistic talents for students. Arts education has a role in forming students' harmonious personalities by paying attention to children's developmental needs in achieving multi-intelligence. Through art, the expression of one's feelings is expressed into creations in the form of art such as literature, music, visual arts, dance and drama, which contain elements of beauty and can influence the feelings of other people. Along with current technological advances, arts education has also developed along with other scientific disciplines. For example, the arts and culture learning process in schools has been able to create an interesting and modern process such as the use of powerful learning multimedia which can support the arts learning process in the classroom.

The current phenomenon of arts education in schools includes various aspects that can be reflected in the dynamics of society, technological developments, and changes in teaching approaches. The following are several phenomena that can be seen in the context of arts education in schools today:

- 1) **Challenges in Understanding the Value of Art**
Some groups of people still see art as merely an entertainment activity and do not appreciate the educational value behind it. There may be a view that a focus on science and technology is more important than art.
- 2) **Technology Integration in Arts Learning**
The use of technology, such as graphic design software, music production software, and digital media, is increasingly becoming an integral part of arts learning in schools. This creates new opportunities for creative exploration and innovative artistic expression.
- 3) **The Importance of Multicultural Arts Education:**
In a global context, arts education in schools is increasingly realizing the importance of including elements of multiculturalism in the curriculum. This includes introducing students to the arts and culture of various countries and ethnic groups.
- 4) **Accessibility of Arts Education**
There is awareness of the importance of making arts education more accessible to all students, regardless of economic background or cultural diversity. Inclusive arts education programs can help ensure that every student has access to arts experiences.
- 5) **Emphasis on 21st Century Skills Development**
Arts education today focuses not only on developing artistic skills, but also on developing 21st century skills such as creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking.
- 6) **Exploration of New Art Forms**
With the development of contemporary art trends, art education in schools can include the exploration of more modern and experimental art forms. This can include digital art, installation art, and other forms of art that reflect changes in contemporary art.
- 7) **Student Empowerment in the Creative Process**
There is a trend to give students more control over their own creative process. This approach can include independent and collaborative art projects that provide greater space for personal expression and creativity.
- 8) **The Importance of Arts Education During the Pandemic**
During the COVID-19 pandemic period, arts education may undergo a transformation to accommodate distance learning. The use of online platforms and virtual collaboration tools is becoming increasingly important in facilitating arts teaching.

Through understanding and adapting to this phenomenon, arts education in schools can continue to develop and make a valuable contribution to student development in aspects of creativity, critical thinking and cultural understanding. Ideally, students will no longer get bored or feel left behind in the learning process. The availability of learning media devices such as audio visuals, creative learning videos, or devices that support technological developments such as Android and others are readily available and can be used as study companions or as sources of information at any time. Art seems to be transforming into a field of study that is highly regarded now and in the future. There has been a lot of research related to arts education which has also become a reference for educators, practitioners and art observers to continue developing the arts education curriculum both in formal and non-formal settings.

According to [7], arts education in Indonesia actually has a vision, because foreign nations have seen the potential and competitive and comparative advantages regarding the quality of the content. For example, Indonesian art, as a legacy from the nation's ancestors, has character, style and principles and essence in life. even able to fill and become the basis of life. Traditional art is proof that art training is informal, where families teach art to the next generation.

CONCLUSION

Arts education in schools currently faces various phenomena that reflect societal dynamics, technological developments, and changes in educational paradigms. There is a shift from the traditional view of art as mere entertainment towards a recognition of the profound value of education in developing creativity, critical thinking, and cultural understanding. However, there are still challenges in overcoming society's views that do not fully appreciate the important role of art in education.

Arts education in schools now not only focuses on developing artistic skills, but also emphasizes developing 21st century skills needed to face future challenges. The integration of technology in art learning provides a new dimension and opens up opportunities for wider creative exploration. The need for multicultural arts education reflects awareness of the importance of understanding and appreciating cultural diversity in the arts. Accessibility of arts education is a focus, with efforts to ensure that every student has the opportunity to access and experience the beauty of the arts.

In the face of change and challenges, arts education in schools needs to continue to evolve, adapt to contemporary trends, and provide a stimulating, inclusive and relevant learning environment. In this way, arts education can continue to be an important platform in forming a generation that is creative, thinks critically and is connected to the world around them.

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