

Discovery: The Impact of Performing Arts on Early Education

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Abstract:

Art is a vital component in our life, performing arts education is crucial for children's development, positively impacting their cognitive, social, emotional, and academic growth. This paper reviews studies showing that involvement in performing arts like music, dance, and theatre improves critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving skills, and academic performance. It also enhances social skills such as cooperation, communication, and empathy, while providing an emotional outlet for children to express and manage their feelings.

Keywords: performing arts, child development, creativity, cognitive development.

1. Introduction

What is art? What is the significance of art? Why do we provide art education to children and how important is that? How can gaining aesthetic consciousness and acquiring certain art skill be helpful to the development of minors? How do under-aged children react to those different forms of art? To address these inquiries, I conducted the following research. The Latin word "ars," which indicates art, skill, or trade, is connected to the English word "art." The word was originally recorded in 13th-century manuscripts. The precise universal definition of art does not exist, though there is a common recognizing that "art" is the intended creation of something beautiful or meaningful utilizing skill and imagination [1]. According to Aristotle, art is a type of imitation, or mimesis, that aims to depict human behavior and reality. According to him, the goal of art should not only be to portray life, but also to teach the viewer a deeper understanding of it. It frequently communicates more moral and philosophical lessons than a subject's literal portrayal.

For generations, philosophers have been discussing the definition of art. "What is art?" is the central query in aesthetic philosophy. meaning, in actuality, "How do we define what is art?" This suggests two subtexts: the essential principles of art and its significance in society. Three categories have traditionally been used to define art: representation, expression, and form [1]. Replicating or portraying anything lovely or significant was the main definition of art until the end of the eighteenth century. The Greek word for imitation or copying, "mimesis," is how Plato originally conceptualized art. Because of this, the faithful reproduction of a topic was for centuries considered to be

the essential meaning of art. The way that "good art" is defined has greatly influenced modern and current artists. Humans have used art as a means of self-expression throughout time. Through art, people typically expressed their emotions, ideas, feelings of the moment and point of view of different events [2]. Through art, people can freely think, express themselves, engage and communicate with the environment, and become more aware of what is going on around them. One very useful instrument for instilling a sense of sophistication and elegance in individuals is art. Art is one of the most effective means of achieving the beautiful, the good, and the right. It gives people a whole different viewpoint, improves life, and teaches them to love and appreciate their surroundings as well as anything created that inspires them. Because of this, Herbert Edward Read states in *Education via Art* (1958): "Art is one of those things that is everywhere around us, just like oxygen and soil." But we hardly ever give it a second thought. For this reason, art is not limited to museums, art galleries, or historic towns like Florence and Rome. Whatever definition we give it, whatever we do to satiate our senses involves art [3]. Cultures would become unbalanced without art because it is such an essential mechanism in life.

2. Performing Art

The performing arts include anything from dance and theater to vocal and instrumental music, pantomime, spoken and more. Those are arts that performed for viewers. Each of these disciplines has its own techniques, traditions, and methods of training. They can be performed in a variety of venues, from grand opera houses and theaters, to more intimate settings like cabarets, clubs, and street corners [4].

They vary from the visual arts, which include the use of oil paint, canvas, or different materials to create tangible or static art pieces. They contain a wide range of artistic manifestations that showcase human ingenuity and are present in many other sectors of intangible cultural heritage, albeit to varying degrees.

Among the performing arts, music is arguably the most universal since it is present in every culture. It is typically incorporated into other performing arts as well as other areas of intangible cultural heritage, such as rituals, celebrations, and oral traditions. It can be found in a wide range of settings, including those that are religious or secular, traditional or modern, and directly related to work or leisure [4]. Music has had a significant cultural influence over time. From classic folk songs that passed down stories from one generation to contemporary songs that influenced fashion trends and lifestyle choices, music always reflects the ideals and times of its era. It also serves as a universal language across different civilizations as different styles progressively influence one another.

From the 17th and 18th centuries' classical works by Mozart and Bach to the Beatles' influence on contemporary rock, numerous genres have developed out of one other while maintaining their own distinct sounds and cultural value. This illustrates how musical styles have changed throughout time and how different genres have helped individuals connect across generations globally [5]. One of the most striking characteristics of performing arts is the level of interactivity it involves. Applause, laughing, or even quiet from the audience can have a big impact on the performance and how the event goes. Every performance is a unique event with its own fluctuations and spikes because of this dynamic interaction.

Collaboration is another key feature of the performing arts. Whether it's actors working together to bring a play to life, musicians harmonizing in an orchestra, or dancers moving in sync in a ballet, cooperation is at the heart of most performing arts. It's a beautiful demonstration of collective effort, where each individual's contribution culminates in a shared achievement. Performing arts provide a platform for self-expression. Performers use their bodies, voices, and emotions to convey a story, an idea, or a feeling. This expression can be profoundly personal, providing an outlet for performers to share their inner world. Creativity also lies at the core of performing arts. From the initial creation of the work to the interpretation by the performers, there's a constant process of invention and reinvention. Each performance is an original, creative act, even when the piece being performed is centuries old. Beyond these traits, there are many more advantages

to participating in the performing arts. One major benefit is cognitive development. Memory, concentration, problem-solving skills, and even academic abilities like reading, writing, and language comprehension can all be improved by engaging in performing arts activities [6]. "If Drama is about meaning, it is the art form of theatre which encompasses and contains that meaning. If theatre is about expression, then it is the dramatic exploration of the meaning which fuels that exploration" by Christopher [7].

3. Childhood Education of Performing Arts

In the early years of a child's life, the world is a playground for exploration and discovery. Pre-school-aged children, typically those between the ages of 3 and 5, are naturally curious and eager to understand the world around them. They are in a stage of rapid development and learning. Early infancy is a crucial period for avoiding disruptive behaviors, interacting positively with peers and adults, and playing cooperatively with other kids [8]. The performing art is crucial for children to develop physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually during the first six years of life. This is a fundamental stage of life [9]. Performing art education is not merely about nurturing the next generation of artists. It's about fostering creativity, enhancing motor skills, aiding emotional expression, and promoting social and cognitive development. Pre-school children are still learning how to express their emotions verbally. Performing art can offer a non-verbal outlet for these feelings, helping children communicate their emotions in a safe and constructive way. Whether they're painting a sunny day or a gloomy rain cloud, children can use performing art such as drama or music to express their inner world, providing valuable insights for parents and educators [10]. Pre-schoolers have a rich imagination. Performing art education can provide them with the tools to express and develop their creativity, fostering innovative thinking that can benefit them in many areas of life. By encouraging children to think outside the box and create something uniquely theirs, we are nurturing the creative problem solvers of the future. Group art activities can teach children about cooperation, sharing, and respect for others' work. They learn to appreciate the diversity of ideas and expressions, fostering a sense of community and belonging. Art education can thus play a crucial role in developing the social skills that are vital for a child's overall growth [11].

4. Lack of Art Education

The problem of lack of art education to young is intelligible. The necessity of art, our educational system, our culture, and the media all exhibit a grave insensitivity to art, art education, and art criticism. People lack aesthetics when there is no artistic expression. uses music and painting to express his emotions and ideas to the surroundings. Changes in society are facilitated by the influence of art. It stimulates cognitive, perceptual, emotional, and comprehending capacities in humans. A society's level of culture is defined by the quantity of skilled artists, as well as by the amount of individuals who comprehend art and form value judgments about it. As a result, art serves as a measurement for a society's development in culture. Young people should be taught art in a way that allows them to independently determine that learning is a step toward human, spiritual, and cultural development rather than a requirement. The beauty of emotion, cognition, substance, or nature can be revealed and expressed through the medium of art [2].

The pattern of art education is one of the main problems facing by the public. For instance, a Chinese art school abandoned its traditional concept of cultivating artistic potential through a humanistic approach and adopted Western academic realism, which excels at technical training. The division of art categories and specializations has become ever finer since the Soviet art education system was implemented, and numerous professional art institutions have sprung up as a result. The integration has been getting weaker and weaker while the specialty has been getting stronger and stronger. Although the student's technique has been improving steadily, their humanistic qualities have been declining. Conventional art education overlooked the differences between professional knowledge, crafts, and talents and muddled them all. Instead of emphasizing how information and skills can be enhanced to become artistic abilities and wisdom to survive, which can contribute to the progress of individuals' lives, art education places more emphasis on the brief transmission and learning of these things [12].

Art is a vital component that helps people learn about nature, become more perceptive in interpersonal interactions, and build their confidence. People who are able to think critically and adapt to their surroundings as well as observe and assess anything that upholds societal standards aesthetically are better able to think and reason. This is made achievable by art education. In our nation, more attention needs to be paid to the arts and art education. It is more suitable to accompany art courses with artistic

endeavors rather than restricting them to art instruction alone. Humans strive to comprehend the meaning of their creation in order to acknowledge their connections with nature, appreciate the abundance of their creator, acknowledge their own frailties, and achieve self-assurance [13].

5. Conclusion

This essay explores the critical role of art, specifically performing arts, in children's development. It highlights how involvement in music, dance, and theatre positively impacts cognitive, social, emotional, and academic growth. The essay begins by discussing the historical and philosophical definitions of art, emphasizing its importance in human expression and cultural understanding. It then delves into the unique characteristics of performing arts, such as interactivity, collaboration, and creativity, which contribute to their educational value. The paper underscores the significance of performing arts education in early childhood, noting its role in fostering creativity, enhancing motor skills, aiding emotional expression, and promoting social skills. The essay also addresses the lack of adequate art education in society, arguing that this deficiency hinders cultural and personal development. Ultimately, the essay concludes that art, particularly the performing arts, is a vital force that enriches children's lives and shapes a more empathetic and creative society.

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