

S4 FINE ART NOTES

(IPS)

INTERGRATED PRODUCTION SKILLS

STUDIO TECHNOLOGY

Studio technology refers to the processes and techniques an artist goes through to produce artwork involving the preparation and experimentation of different materials and tools typically in a studio (art room). Studio technology involves thinking, planning, selecting and manipulation of materials and tools to produce an art work.

Studio (art room). This is a place where art works are made from or a work place for artists

Relevance of an art room/ studio

- Learner's creativity is greatly improved through regular contact with a variety of tools and materials.
- Learners develop their level of concentration to tasks
- Level of skills amongst learners is improved through hands on experience.
- Learners greatly improve on the basic language of art.

Characteristics/ good practices of a studio

- Regular cleaning of the studio
- Keep furniture in order to avoid commotion
- Artistic display of finished art works
- Proper storage of art works
- Avoid improper use of materials e.g. painting on walls and other unauthorized surfaces.
- Have enough space to work from and storage
- Have appropriate furniture and work facilities
- Adequate materials and tools
- Be located to ensure security of property, work and materials.
- Should have rules and regulations
- Should have a well-stocked library with relevant books
- Well lit with both natural and artificial light
- Should have space for display of work
- Must have a source of water for cleaning or preparing materials.
- Facilities for emergencies like fire extinguishers, first aid kit
- Should be located away from disturbance

- Have an incinerator /rubbish dump or dust bin

CRAFTS

A craft is an art work skillfully made by hand by changing workable materials from their original state to a functional or decorative state for example changing clay into a pot.

Disciplines in crafts

- Sculpture
- Ceramics/pottery
- Collage and mosaic
- Weaving
- Basketry
- Puppets
- Masks
- Papier Mache
- Leather work
- Ornaments
- Spinning
- Fabric decoration/ textile design
 - Printing
 - Batik
 - Stitchery/embroidery
 - Tie and die
 - Appliqué
 - patchwork

TYPES OF CRAFTS

The types of crafts are grouped into basic categories according to the use and the final product.

1. Functional crafts. These are crafts made for use in daily life. Example of crafts in this category include; pottery, basketry, weaving, leather work.

2. Decorative crafts. These are crafts made for decorative purposes, and these include; mosaic, collage, sculpture, pottery, basketry, masks.
3. Textile crafts. These are crafts made from textiles, and these include applique, batik, tie and dye, crocheting, embroidery, knitting.
4. Fashion crafts. These are crafts made from jewelry e.g. earring, bangles, necklaces etc.

WHY WE STUDY CRAFTS

- Understanding the theory behind the making of a given craft adds value to the artwork as well as giving confidence to the artist i.e. to acquire basic knowledge in various crafts.
- To understand the historical development of a given craft, the materials, tools as well as the methods and techniques used to execute a given artwork.
- Gives learners a foundation to make crafts and explain the process and steps.
- Craft work develops and masters skills of craftsmanship relevant to the crafts.
- Develop the ability of understanding and utilizing the materials within our environment.
- Think imaginatively and creatively
- To preserve culture and tradition, one demonstrates awareness and appreciation of cultural arts through active participation.
- Through crafts we learn to communicate with others in a nonverbal way.
- Helps us to live harmoniously in a society by developing a sense of self-reliance.
- Craft work helps us to occupy leisure time with a beneficial activity.
- Through exhibitions of craft work, we get exposed and share knowledge with other artists.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CRAFTS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

1. Crafts are income generating activities.
2. Industry is the source of employment.
3. Some crafts serve as a source of tourist attraction.
4. Most crafts are used for decoration.
5. Some crafts are used as home appliances like pots, baskets etc.
6. Crafts are used for study purposes.
7. Some crafts are used for entertainment like masks, puppets etc.

HINDRANCES TO THE GROWTH OF CRAFTS

- Materials used to make crafts are hard to get
- Industrial made materials are expensive
- Few people appreciate crafts
- Creates conflict with religion, taboos and culture

- Takes time to execute and finish.
- Lack of galleries to keep art works
- Poor custody of books and knowledge.
- Government policy of failing to set up vocational schools to train artists.
- Poor attitude towards Africans art
- Lack of knowledge of application
- Competition with modern art.

MATERIALS AND TOOLS CRAFTS

- A material is an item/ media that forms an art work. Materials are usually part and partial of a finished article. Examples of materials used in making crafts include clay, paint, papier mache, cement etc.
- Tools are devices used in the making of an art work. Tools help in the making of the work but are not part of the finished work. E.g. cutters, paint brush, knives, chisel, needle etc.

USES OF MATERIALS

- Materials form the physical body of the artwork.
- Materials provide hands on practice which helps learners develop their practical skills
- Learners develop a sense of touch as they practice with different materials
- Learners improve on the creativity as they experiment with different materials
- Materials act as a medium of expression in art and design
- Learners appreciate nature as they explore and experiment with different materials from nature
- Learners develop a sense of belonging to the society as they share materials with each other.

ADVANTAGES OF USING LOCAL MATERIALS IN CRAFT WORK

- Local materials are very cheap compared to other materials used in craft
- They can be available in nearly every location
- They are used to make varieties of craft like pots, cups, plates, tiles, bricks, charcoal stoves, baskets, mats.
- The products made out of local materials in most cases are very expensive compared to machine work therefore fetching some money to the craftsmen.
- The products made out of the local materials preserves the culture of people who make them.

DISADVANTAGES OF USING LOCAL MATERIALS IN CRAFT WORK

- Some products made out of local materials like clay can break easily
- The process of preparing some materials is hectic and time consuming.
- The process of making some craft work using the local materials make people dirty especially clay work
- Dusts that come from some materials like clay can cause deadly diseases.
- Some products made out of local materials do not last longer.
- There is limited market for the products made from the local materials due to their high prices.
- The modern technology is overweighing the local way of making craft work

KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHILE MAKING A CRAFT (FACTORS USED TO JUDGE THE SUCCESS OR FALIURE OF A GIVEN CRAFT)

Several factors can be considered while making a craft besides the elements and principles of art to judge the success or failure and these include;

1) Message.

Art being a language, one has to ensure that one comes up with a subject matter and the theme in order to communicate a message which should be interpreted by the observer.

2) Creativity.

This is the ability for someone to come up with something new. It is judged by the way one forms the different parts of the craft. It depends on how one combines the elements and principles of art to create a unique and impressive composition.

3) Composition.

This is the ability to put together, arrange and organize the elements of art following the principles of art.

4) Structure.

This is judged by looking at how different forms stand out to define the inner mass of the entire craft, showing the relationship between different parts.

5) Use of materials.

Use of materials is judged by the way one uses a material to create a unique piece of art work e.g. if a craft piece develops cracks, such would be interpreted as poor use of materials.

6) Finish. Once the craft has been created, it must be treated so that it lasts.

7) Style and individual technique/ personal quality.

This is judged with a unique way that makes ones work stand out more prominently as compared to others.