

Importance of Arts for Children

Knowing how to help a child who struggles to learn is one of the greatest parenting challenges imaginable. When our children don't fit the traditional model of what a student is or should be able to do, it can be a painful and frustrating experience for the entire family. Is it possible that the arts, while not a cure-all for what affects a child's learning process, can provide a lifeline to children who are having trouble succeeding in school?



Reluctance writing: If child shows anxiety facing a blank page, give him the chance to build something, dance, make music, create a collage or draw a picture before ever putting a pen to paper. Engaging in concrete, visually and kinesthetically rich experiences will stimulate language development and support his or her ability to express his or her ideas with words.

Communicating with teachers: You might need to be child's advocate if his/her teacher does not yet understand the relationship between the arts and learning. Explain to the teacher that artistic projects can help make child's thinking more visible to others, assist his/her memory and lead to more success in school.

Talk to your child about his or her strengths: Too often, children whose abilities lie in the visual, spatial and kinesthetic realms believe themselves to be less intelligent than their peers, especially in a school culture with so much standardized testing. The most important lifeline child can have is the understanding that being artistic is a way of being "smart"!

Developmental Benefits of Art

Motor Skills: Many of the motions involved in making art, such as holding a paintbrush or scribbling with a crayon, are essential to the growth of fine motor skills in young children. According to the National Institutes of Health, developmental milestones around age three should include drawing a circle and beginning to use safety scissors. Around age four, children may be able to draw a square and begin cutting straight lines with scissors. Many preschool programs emphasize the use of scissors because it develops the dexterity children will need for writing.

Language Development: For very young children, making art—or just talking about it—provides opportunities to learn words for colors, shapes and actions. When toddlers are as young as a year old, parents can do simple activities such as crumpling up paper and calling it a "ball." By elementary school, students can use descriptive words to discuss their own creations or to talk about what feelings are elicited when they see different styles of artwork.

Decision Making: According to a report by Americans for the Arts, art education strengthens problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. The experience of making decisions and choices in the course of creating art carries over into other parts of life. "If they are exploring and thinking and experimenting and trying new ideas, then creativity has a chance to blossom," says MaryAnn Kohl, an arts educator and author of numerous books about children's art education.

Visual Learning: Drawing, sculpting with clay and threading beads on a string all develop visual-spatial skills, which are more important than ever. Even toddlers know how to operate a smart phone or tablet, which means that even before they can read, kids are taking in visual information. This information consists of cues that we get from pictures or three-dimensional objects from digital media, books and television.

Inventiveness: When kids are encouraged to express themselves and take risks in creating art, they develop a sense of innovation that will be important in their adult lives. “The kind of people society needs to make it move forward are thinking, inventive people who seek new ways and improvements, not people who can only follow directions,” says Kohl. “Art is a way to encourage the process and the experience of thinking and making things better!”

Cultural Awareness: As we live in an increasingly diverse society, the images of different groups in the media may also present mixed messages. “If a child is playing with a toy that suggests a racist or sexist meaning, part of that meaning develops because of the aesthetics of the toy—the color, shape, texture of the hair,” says Freedman. Teaching children to recognize the choices an artist or designer makes in portraying a subject helps kids understand the concept that what they see may be someone’s interpretation of reality.

Improved Academic Performance: Studies show that there is a correlation between art and other achievement. A report by Americans for the Arts states that young people who participate regularly in the arts (three hours a day on three days each week through one full year) are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair or to win an award for writing an essay or poem than children who do not participate.

Gender Based Violence

Gender based violence is a common problem prevailing in almost all the developing countries. Even in India the issue continues unabated creating many hassles and challenges for the social growth. The age old cultural beliefs and tradition have identified various issues of gender-based violence that over the period of time has become a major cause of harassment faced by the child & women.

The very first issue faced by the women is the marital torture. In the Hindu Law marriage is a religious and sacred knot tied between two bodies, minds, and souls. It is a pure relationship shared between the two then why this high level of purity is subsided by the society

Domestic violence can take a number of forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, and sexual abuse, which can range from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape and to violent physical abuse such as female genital mutilation and acid throwing that results in disfigurement or death. Domestic murders include stoning, bride burning, honor killings, and dowry deaths.

Globally, the victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly girl child, and girl child tend to experience more severe forms of violence. There is evidence that there exists a direct and



significant correlation between a country's level of gender equality and actual rates of domestic violence. Domestic violence is among the most underreported crimes worldwide for both male and female child. A boy child faces additional gender-related barriers in reporting, due to social stigmas regarding male victimization, and an increased likelihood of being overlooked by healthcare providers.

Dysfunctional family and childhood problems

Dysfunctional family can have disastrous impact on a child's life. During the childhood phase, it is important for a family to provide love, care, and kindness to the child failure to provide of which, can result in destructive psychological effects on children. Many a times, parents who fail to provide a safe and secure environment to the child, do so because of the unpleasant memories of their own childhood. The family environment plays a major role in determining how an infant will be raised and whether it will be a well adjusted child, teenager and finally, a responsible adult. A child's personality and development is adversely affected because of neglect, long term deprivation and insensitive parenting roles. The worst effect transpires in adoption of these negative behaviors by the child when he grows to become an adult and start running his own family.

The effects of a dysfunctional family are very likely to prevail into the next generation.

A child's psychology is completely battered and bruised with distorted attitudes of his family members. With the regular occurrence of such behavior, unhealthy relationships become a norm in child's life.

Affected children show different behavioral traits such as:-

- Unable to express their feelings
- Constant feeling of loneliness
- Prone to hatred, frustration, depression and anger
- Being too hard on oneself
- Indecisive and unable to respond properly
- Too difficult for them to enjoy anything
- Bitterness towards one and all
- Unable to establish intimate relationships
- Espousing themselves to abusive relations
- Exhibition of drug or alcohol addiction and substance abuse
- Study problems



A dysfunctional family can destroy a child's future. A child must be saved from the effects of such families with the help of law, social organizations, other family members and society.

Effects of Child Labor

Childhood is perhaps the most blessed stage in a human life. It is that phase of life where, children are not really aware of any form of worldly responsibilities, they are free from all the tensions and they can learn a whole lot of new things. No wonder, people keep having this wistful desire of going back to their childhood and relive all those beautiful memories. But there is other side to this phase and in that, many children are forced to work in inhumane conditions. This phase is also known by “child labor” where a child is full of tensions and burdens and he has to perform the tough job of being primary earning member of the family. Such children lose their innocence to satisfy the needs and wants of their family. The problem of child labor is huge and is faced by many countries in the world.

Child labor is not a recent phenomenon. Throughout human history, children have been made to work under hazardous and unhealthy conditions. In other words, child exploitation has remained an integral part of our culture and despite the advances made by us in last few centuries; we haven't been able to eradicate this menace. Children are made to work in factories, mining, and agriculture, on streets and as domestic helps. Child labor is an attack on basic rights of the children. Leave alone lack of educational opportunities to them, most of these children are malnourished and treated like animals. Child labor practices causes damage to a child's physical and mental health apart from depriving him of his basic rights to education, development, and freedom. Unfortunately, the number of underage children working in unfavorable working conditions has kept on increasing.

India has one of the largest populations of child laborers. These children work in unsafe environments where there is a constant danger of fatal accidents. Children employed as laborers spend most of their waking hours working. They are condemned to a life of poverty, illiteracy, and prolonged misery with no end in sight. They are required to perform grueling and physically demanding tasks and in return receive only meager wages. Poor working conditions cause severe health problems to such children. As children are sensitive to influences of toxics, chemicals, noise, pollution, heat and accidents, as a result of which many children develop lifelong health complications in worst cases, even lose their lives. A large number of child laborers are employed in mining, manufacturing, transportation and construction sectors where chances of fatal injuries are quite high. Because of the environmental influence, underage children suffer from permanent psychological scars. They do not possess confidence or self esteem. It is hard to imagine, how we as a country are going to prosper when a significant population of the nation suffers from such huge problems. It is not just duty of the government to take appropriate measures to rectify the situation but it is also the responsibility of the Indian citizens to contribute their bit in getting rid of barbaric practice of child labour.



Editorial:

Children can express their feelings through art and music. Every child is different and we cannot use one technique in every child. Therefore we need to understand each and every child. The approach can be of anything but the intention should be for the betterment of the child. Children are very good in expressing their view through art and music. While dealing with children we can use some innovative ideas.

Engaging in intensive classes on music, dance and visual arts may help lower the stress levels of children from economically disadvantaged families, a new study has found. Research has shown that poverty can harm kid's educational, socio-economical and physical health, in part by damaging the bodily systems that responds to the chronically high levels of stress that children in poverty are more likely to experience. The arts classes are used not only to develop children's artistic skills but also to promote learning in core early childhood domains like language, literacy and maths.

Gender based violence is seen everywhere in the society. Gender equality is achieved when women and men enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economic participation and decision-making, and when the different behaviors, aspirations and needs of women and men are equally valued and favoured.

Childhood is the most crucial period for the overall development & well-being of the child. We need to create a friendly atmosphere for the child so that he or she is able to express their feelings in an effective way.



Training of Trainers on Child Protection in Emergencies organized by State Child Protection Society, Assam supported by UNICEF which was held on from 29th November to 2nd December 2016.



The District Social Welfare, Kamrup (M) in collaboration with State Child Protection Society, Assam is organizing an Awareness Rally on Juvenile Justice System and Child Right to Protection on 25th November, 2016 starting from Gauhati High Court in view of the upcoming a two (2) Day Third Round Table Conference of North Eastern States and Sikkim on Implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 with a Special focus on Rehabilitation Services and Linkages with POCSO Act, 2012 on 26th & 27th November 2016.

A street play was also performed by a group of drama school on POCSO in front of Gauhati High Court.





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Justice Mr. Madan B Lokur, Hon'ble Judge, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi will be the Chief Guest of the programme. Hon'ble Mr. Ajit Singh, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court and Hon'ble Judges of Gauhati, Sikkim, Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya High Courts, District & Session Judges Chairpersons of State Legal Services Authorities, Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Boards and Judges dealing with POCSO Cases, Chairpersons State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Chief of field office, UNICEF, Assam, Police Officials and a host of dignitaries were present in the two day Round Table Conference.

"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today".
Stacia Tauscher

"A child can ask questions that a wise man cannot answer ".

Author Unknown

"Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it".

Harold Hulbert

“Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man”.

Rabindranath Tagore

“While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about”.

Angela Schwindt

“Creative play is like a spring that bubbles up from deep within a child”.

Joan Almon