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## Analysis of Education and Arts as Indispensable Tools for Societal Growth and Development

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### ABSTRACT

*This study seeks to analyze the interdependence of art and education in our society. It is observed that education played a vital role in developing arts skills. The propose of this study is to show the value of art and education in the growth and development of our society. Education is the art of learning; it is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. An art just like education is something that stimulates an individual's thoughts, emotions, beliefs, interests and ideas through the utilization of the senses. It is wise enough to know that education helps an individual to acquire skills and knowledge while art helps in utilizing these skills and knowledge for the benefit of our society. The study therefore highlights several interdependencies of arts and education in fostering human growth and development. The study therefore recommended that the study of arts in schools should be encouraged by government to enable our youths develop their arts skills and techniques. Schools should employ professional arts educators to impart students with needed knowledge and skills.*

**KEYWORDS: Education and Arts, Societal Growth and Development**

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### Introduction

Education is one of the most important factors that distinguish man from animals. Ibia (2011), views that education could be seen as one of the principal outcomes of man's rationality. According to Umoren (2013), education is seen as a veritable tool to building up individuals who are knowledgeable and intelligent, capable of sustaining themselves meaningfully and at the same time, making conscious efforts to assist their environment and society to develop through the skills acquired from education. Education therefore is an instrument of value; otherwise, it would not be pursued. Mandela (2009) sees education as the most powerful weapon, which can be used to change the world.

However, there are various forms of education which include formal and informal education. Formal education is a body of knowledge acquired through organized study or instruction as occurs in schools and colleges. While informal education on the other hand, arises from day-to-day experiences or through relatively unplanned or undirected contacts with peoples and cultures most importantly apprenticeship in nature. In fact, education commerce from birth and ends when an individual is finally dead.

It is important to note that, art itself, in general terms means a way of life. It is the power of doing anything. Burton in his study of more than 2000 children, found that those in the art curriculum were far superior in creative thinking, self-concept, problem solving, self-expression,

risk taking, and cooperation than those who were not (Burton, 2010). Therefore, arts gave the capacity to engage everyone.

### **Conceptual Framework**

The concept of art and education is very difficult to pin down to a particular definition. The term is elusive and eclectic to define. Different authors, scholars and philosophers have defined the term art and education in different ways. Perhaps, the best way to approach the concept of art and education is to look at it from etymological perspective. That is the origin or history of art and education, which may be in Greek, Latin, French or German language. Therefore, the term 'education' comes from the Latin word "educō", "educare". This means to bring up or train.

The word "art" originated from a Latin word "ARTI" which means to do well. Art activities could be traced back to the early man who wrote, drew on a cave walls, and rock surfaces. Art had been defined as a vehicle for the expression or communication of emotions or ideals, as means for exploring and appreciating formal elements for their own sake, and as mimesis or representation. Art is a means of self-expression of inner feelings, ideas and skills and everything in general.

The importance of art through the ages, art had played a crucial role in life. Art is universal and because art is everywhere, we experience it on a daily basis. More so, from the houses we live in (architecture) to the movies we see (theatre) to the books that we read (literature).

The study of art increases one's power of observation; this enhances our sense of vision.

The arts promote the understanding and sharing of culture.

It promoted social skills that enhance the awareness and respect of others.

The fine arts enhance perceptual and cognitive skills.

Art is very important in society because it is an essential ingredient to empowering the hearts of people. It is also a remarkable mode of depicting culture from all over the world.

The arts, both performing and visual are part of our humanity. They are what make us human.

Different from the sciences, which are predictable and governed by laws of nature, the arts provide us a variety of ways to express ourselves. We express our feelings and opinions through the various arts. Arts can be seen as reflection of their society, rather than driven by their society.

According to Augustine (1990), the world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.

### ***Interdependence of Education and Arts in Human Growth and Development.***

Education in the arts is an integral part of the development of human beings. Frankly speaking, education helps an individual to differentiate between good and wrong and acceptable and unacceptable behaviours and characters in society.

Those who studied learning processes throughout the ages, beginning with philosophers like Plato emphasized the value of arts in the education process. Arts education referees to education

in the disciplines of music, dance, theatre, and visual arts. Study in the arts is an integral part of our society. They are a part of the cultural heritage of every society. The norms, values, growth and development of a people.

Arts are what makes us human, most complete as people. Arts cannot be learned through occasional or random exposure. Education in Fine Arts is an essential part of the school curriculum and an important component in the educational program of every student for his/ her growth and development.

Arts develop neural systems that produce a broad spectrum of benefits ranging from fine motor skills to be innovativity, creativity and improved emotional balance. It must be realized that these systems often take months and even years to fine-tune. In a study conducted by Columbia University research; evidenced that subjects such as mathematics, science and language require complex cognitive and creative capacities typical of arts learning (Burton, Horowitz, and Abeles, 2015). Arts enhance the process of learning. The systems that arts nourished including integrated sensory, intentional, motivator, cognitive, emotional and motor capacities, are in fact, the driving forces behind all other learning outcomes (Jenson, 2001).

In arts, Fine arts provide learners with non-academic benefits such as promoting self-esteem, motivation, aesthetic awareness, cultural exposure, creativity, innovativity, improved emotional expression as well as social harmony and appreciation of nature diversity. These are the very roots of the fabric known as culture. Findings, reported a study in champions of change Fiske (1999) asserted that the impact of the art in learning is enormous and should be noted by parents, teachers, and school administrators. The interdependency of education and arts in human development could be observed in the following areas. It changes the learning environment to one of discovery. (This often re-ignites the love of leaning in students tired of just being facts fed.)

Arts provide challenges to students of all ages and helping each student to find his or her own level. Students armed with arts skills learn to become sustained, and self-directed learners. These students do not just become an outlet for stored facts from direct instruction but seeks to extend their knowledge base to cover guided discovery and environmental explorers. The study of fine arts positively impacts the learning of students of lower socioeconomic status more than those of higher socioeconomic status. In fact, education is the art of leaning. Art itself is that activity which manifests beauty. It is a means of self-expression of inner feelings, ideas or skills and everything in general.

Education is essential for everyone. It is the level of education that helps people earn respect and recognition. It is an indispensable part of societal life both personally and socially. The importance of education is undeniable for every single person. It goes without saying that education has a positive effect on human life. Although people need to study, only with advent or education can people gain knowledge and enlarge their world view. For example, learning learning by watching TV or reading books expose people to a huge amount of information about anything they are interested in which include mathematics, current news, exchange rates, other countries' cultured and so forth. Apparently, people become more useful if better educated. In areas where residents are not able to receive appropriate education, life is not as thriving and prosperous as locations where there is a high standard of education.

Education plays such a rudimentary role on our society that we cannot even imagine a life without it. It is a determinant element for civilization of human society. Education has many benefits which has positive impact in our life. An educated person is an asset for any country.

### **Conclusions**

In this paper, the concept of art and education has been examined in terms of its different conceptualizations. It has been asserted that education is an important criterion of developing art skills. For art skills to develop relevant learning, some key factors have been found necessary to consider ranging from teacher factors to students. In fact, if art Education in our school system is to be improved as well as art students' achievement, then these factors must be given appropriate consideration by all stakeholders in formal schooling. The various aspects of art and education are described successfully. Emphasis is placed on importance of art and education to society because it is directly relevant to the focus of this seminar paper.

### **Recommendations**

1. The study of art in school should be encouraged by government to enable children develop their art skills and techniques.
2. Schools should also employ professional arts teachers so that they will impact knowledge and skills to the students.

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