

Art-Integrated Learning (AIL): An Effective Learning Approach for 21st-Century Learners

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Abstract: Learners can construct and demonstrate their understanding through an artistic medium using the Art-Integrated Learning Approach. AIL Approach can be used as a pedagogical tool & this approach aims for the active participation of learners in the teaching-learning process. In the present era, children and adolescent's must-have 21st-century skills to be empowered to deal with challenges and concerns when it comes to the workplace. These skills can bring positive psychological and behavioral changes in the students. The primary goal of AIL Approach is to develop skills among the learners because NEP 2020 put light on skill-based teaching & competency-based teaching. This research paper includes how AIL is important for 21st-century learners, characteristics of 21st-century learners, in this era why it is needed to integrate art with learning, how AIL & socio-emotional learning is related to each other and what are the strategies for the implementation of AIL in the classroom. The mindful inclusion of AIL in teaching practice will result in the eradication of the rote-learning habit of learners

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Need for Effective Learning (at the School Level)

21st-Century learners are facing psychological stress related to their studies, their careers after schooling, and how they effectively work at their workplace after schooling, and for this Art-Integrated Learning can become an effective and innovative teaching-learning process for 21st-century learners. It is a cross-curricular approach in which different art forms are integrated with the school subjects to meet the outcomes of the subject, objectives of education, objectives of the learner, objectives of the society, & objectives of the nation. This innovative approach also helps in developing a conceptual understanding of different subjects. Mohalik, R., & Basu, M. conducted a study to check the effectiveness of Art-Integrated Learning in developing an understanding of the concepts in geography, especially at the middle stage. They found that Art-Integrated Learning significantly develops the conceptual understanding of geography at VII standard. This shows that Art-Integrated Learning is more effective than the traditional method of teaching.

1.2 Learning Need of the 21st-Century Learners

A teacher must adopt the method through which creativity enhances among the learners. Learners must have their own choices that enhance their creativity that nurture their soul instead of killing it. For this, we have to look at Finland's education system which is at 1st position in the world in 2019 for their education. For this, they give a lot of freedom to the teachers to adopt any teaching method to teach the students and they adopt generally innovative teaching methods for the students and have the freedom to choose their way to connect with students. We ought to be freeing educators and learners from the constraints of burdensome subject standards. Learning "how to learn" and organizing information is a more effective method of empowering learners. These skills would allow students to explore their interests and with the help of this motivation enhances vastly. Students wouldn't have to be "shoved" with content by teachers. Teachers only facilitate them to move in the proper direction or in a positive direction. This is the basic need of 21st-century learners that plays a crucial role in everyone's life so that they become responsible citizens of society, and nation.

In 2020, the United Kingdom was at the 1st position in its education system with a quality index of 78.2. At the age of 5 years, the kids are sent to school. In the U.K., primary education is having two key stages. In the first key stage, two years are mainly associated with pre-primary education, and in the second key stage when the learner reached 11 years the education is associated with junior school education. In the U.K. each country is having their own curriculum like England, Scotland, etc. The primary school curriculum includes subjects like arts, cultural studies, social studies, science, linguistics, religious education, moral education, and technology-related education. This helps their personal development, and enhances mutual understanding, being creative, etc. For secondary education, some advanced subjects were included in their curriculum like ICT, Modern foreign languages, sex and relationship education in some cases, design and technology, citizenship, & physical education with the main subjects.

In 2021, the United States was at the 1st position in its education system. In the U.S. there is a tutoring system that totally involves parents to plan their kids' schooling accordingly. There is more diversity in the U.S. The U.S. educational system offers a wide range of programs that draw students from throughout the globe. More importance is given to sports and extracurricular activities. They use the latest technological method in their teaching-learning process.

In the light of above data, this can be concluded that in the present time, education needs the proper involvement of parents for their children's schooling in India, learners have the flexibility to choose their subjects accordingly, and techno-pedagogical teaching-learning must be involved in the classroom, teachers must have facilities to choose the way they want to interact with their learners, make the conducive environment & always adopt innovative teaching practices in the classroom. These are the major things that must be included in India's education system & also for the benefit of 21st-century learners.

1.3 Characteristics of the 21st-Century Learner

There is a huge difference in the characteristics of a traditional learner and a learner living in this digital age that is a 21st-century learner. These students are renowned for having many imaginative ideas and embracing a collaborative and communicative culture. They employ a wide variety of brainstorming strategies to reach their objectives. They may have

huge, radical ideas as well as useful ones. They think there are countless options.

A teacher should do for their 21st-century learners: Develop proficiency and skills in using technology-based tools which will help them to work better at their academia and at their workplaces. With this, they are able to choose the appropriate tool that will help in addressing their needs.

Develop cross-cultural connections with one another because while working collaboratively the work can be done effectively. And it's crucial for students in the twenty-first century to comprehend how connections enhance learning and to be purposeful when forming connections and networks.

Create materials that can be shared, interpreted, and distributed that can be for a variety of purposes.

Students in the twenty-first century must be able to access information from various sources, in a number of different formats, and in various languages.

21st-century learners have the knowledge of ethical responsibilities to deal with ethical practices and accordingly create information and use resources.

These are the characteristics of 21st-century learners, as a teacher we have to develop these skills among the students with the help of Art-Integrated learning.

2 WHAT IS AIL & HOW IT HELPS IN ENHANCING LEARNING?

Arts integration is a method of academic instruction in which an arts area is linked to a content area to increase student engagement, acquire knowledge, and ability to reflect (Anderson, 2012; Loughlin & Anderson, 2015).

Art-Integrated Learning helps in enhancing interest & curiosity to know something. Also, Kisida et al. undertook a study in 2020 and the result of the study revealed that arts integration using drama art form was successful in history lessons for third to the fifth standard also demonstration creates accurate academic knowledge, encouragement for history, interpersonal functioning, and curiosity in the arts.

Rinne et al. conducted a study on the retention of vocabulary knowledge in 2011 and discovered that explicitly teaching academic vocabulary within multiple sensory arts integration enhanced vocabulary retention among students from three to fifth standard students.

The method is novel since the artworks enhance the history, philosophy, and sociology of the scientific curriculum by equipping learners with motivation

(Vazquez-Manassero et al., 2021). The integration of science and art history may also play a significant role in increasing instructors' and students' interest and motivation for teaching and learning science (Vazquez-Manassero et al., 2021).

2.1 Why Do We Need to Integrate Art with Learning?

Learners in arts-integration classroom settings work "with" & "through" different art forms to achieve educational, interpersonal, and internal objectives said Cornett in 2007. In this study, arts integration is considered as a strategy for linking the advancement of skills and concepts with skills and concepts from other aspects of learning through different modalities of interaction in classrooms. Somehow, Art-Integrated Learning promotes physical & psychological well-being. With the help of Art-Integrated Learning learners can build creative habits among themselves like they can generate artistic ideas, organize ideas in a different manner, & deepens their understanding. It can be used as a tool for motivation, and thinking, and for better academic achievement.

- Students will comprehend their fundamental abilities and be able to communicate their ideas more effectively.
- It can instill creativity, intelligence, compassion, & respect in the young mind.
- They develop and grow in confidence in their capacity to learn and perform tasks.
- It can make our learner better communicators.
- Art is the medium in which kids are instructed to pursue their own learning and academic interests is art.
- Develops the ability to gain more insight from their mistakes & in this way they become better at every day.
- Learning becomes more holistic, joyful, & more experiential.
- The students learned more effectively and more enjoyable through active learning methods, and their self-esteem also grew.

2.2 AIL & Socio-Emotional Learning

Art-Integrated Learning helps in enhancing the learners' socio-emotional aspects (Casciano et al., 2019). It promotes engagement, interpersonal skills, self-control & leadership skills among the learners as results showed by Casciano in his study. The data shows the impact of art integration on student's socio-

emotional aspect in two ways such as implementing easy and simple activities that brings growth in learners' social-emotional competencies and providing a methodology to the teacher which encourages learners' engagement, which brings a positive change in learners' social-emotional growth. This study shows that art integration can be adopted and implemented and positively affect the classroom. In this approach, students are also free to explore tasks and resources at their own pace.

2.3 Different Approaches of AIL

Bjorklund & Ahlskog found that there is an approach that can be used in the integration of art and mathematics i.e., the Process-Oriented Approach with this a learner can do a good illustration of mathematizing, as Freudenthal defines the process of acquiring mathematical knowledge. Children are urged to examine mathematical links and ideas openly in these projects. This also supports the learning process of the learners which they are going to learn. The integration seemed to provide additional support that made it easier to build aesthetic skills (Bjorklund & Ahlskog-Bjorkman, 2017).

A comprehensive view of learning objectives, especially for learning mathematics, helps in developing conceptual understanding and reasoning abilities, as represented in the developmental-oriented approach. Conceptual learning appears to be primarily made possible by real integration with the art (Bjorklund & Ahlskog-Bjorkman, 2017).

2.4 Benefits of Art-Integrated Learning

Art-Integrated Learning (AIL) is beneficial for the learners to gain or enhances skills like creating something new with the help of existing knowledge. Art-Integrated Learning helps in developing 21st-century skills among 21st-century learners. These 21st-century skills can be broadly categorized into three domains: learning skills, Literacy skills, & life skills.

- Learning skills include 4C's which implies: Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, & Creativity.
- Literacy skills include IMT which implies: Information Literacy, Media Literacy, & Technology Literacy.
- Life skills include FLIPS which implies: Flexibility, Leadership, Initiative, Productivity, & Social skills.

Art-Integrated learning helps to develop a deep insight into the concepts because when students share their experiences and work in a group then they learn several things. Incorporating artists and the arts into this programme emphasized social contact engaged various senses and encouraged participants to think imaginatively (Jacobson et al., 2016). The integration of arts with the content of different subjects also helps in retention. The content remains in their mind for a long time. Hardiman et al., 2014 found in the study that there was better retention in Art Integrated condition when compared with the traditional teaching method. This shows that the Art-Integrated condition is having a positive effect on students' retention power. The flexibility of art history in the K–12 art curriculum, both historically and currently, can offer distinctive and potentially illuminating insights to discussions about the subject's waning importance in higher education and possible strategies for its survival (Madeline Rislowa and Kipton D. Smilie 2020). Students were able to communicate their learning visually because art integration boosted engagement and understanding (Hunkins, 2019). The use of different music pedagogies helps in building a positive change in the aspect of 21st-century skills and also in academic achievement (Vasil, 2020).

3 STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AIL IN THE CLASSROOM

Teachers and students can depict and communicate concepts in a variety of multimodal ways using visual, performance or dramatic, musical, and dance or movement art genres (Anderson & Valero, 2020). In order to meet the multifaceted demands of today's students, arts integration and 21st-century skills are becoming more and more important in education (Corbisiero-Drakos et al., 2021). They discovered that through arts integration strategy, there was a positive influence on learners' academic achievement and the development of 21st-century skills. Students gain valuable life skills while using their knowledge of math, physics, computer science, and the arts (Howe & Ruberg, 2019). The result found by Howe & Ruberg in the study is that learners believe DigiPen had a big influence on their job and higher education decisions. This study found that Art-Integrated Instructions in science showed a better result when it comes to the conventional method of teaching & also

helps in increasing the long-term memory of learners (Hardiman, 2017).

- Students are encouraged to participate in role-playing activities.
- Allow learners to use drawing and labeling to articulate their feelings, ideas, and emotions.
- Make art a part of other subjects.
- Motivate the learners to use vocabulary related to the arts.

According to Pepler et al., 2014; Robinson, 2013; Scripps & Paradis, 2014, they found that the involvement of arts with the content has a strong correlation between them. Art-Integration is a creative process, that can help in personal development, helps in becoming a responsible citizen, enhances 21st-century skills, helps in interpersonal development, and helps in professional development.

4 CONCLUSION

With the help of different art forms like performing art, visual art, role-play, etc in the classroom can easily enhance 21st-century skills. Learners and instructors may be capable of adjusting cultural systems to satisfy a more equal and fair range of human needs if they are allowed to reflect critically on their progress and strong points. While middle school is an important time for all children to develop their STEM careers (Maltese & Tai, 2009). The study shows that there was a positive impact on learners' career planning. This study was limited to female students only (Mark, Ph.D. et al., 2021). Blended mode enhances the soft skills & hard skills among the learners, GPA of the learners also increased additionally (Universitas Jambi, Indonesia et al., 2021). Integration of the arts enables contextualization and relationships, both actual and imagined, that may enhance systems thinking (Grace et al., 2021). There is a need to shift the education system towards 21st-century education. It is suggested that AIL be implemented in all elementary schools to make teaching more enjoyable and effective.

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