

## MUSIC INTEGRATION: INNOVATIVE TEACHING-LEARNING CLASSROOM

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### Abstract

NEP-2020 suggests multicultural education, artistic curriculum, music education, and yoga education, have now been included in our school education. So now the question is, how can the teacher effectively transect the recommended teaching learning material to the students? Then we focus on the child-centered approach, which includes these methods learning by doing, learning by playing, learning through traveling, learning through entertainment, and learning through music and arts, and still we are trying to explore a new variety of teaching methodologies that make the teaching-learning process more interesting, easy and more understandable for students. Meaningful learning happens most effectively when student's high-interest levels, are ready to learn, and strong emotional connection to the material and teaching method. These changing times suggest a need to rethink the teaching and learning process and how to make it more effective. Effective teaching is developmental and dynamic. In this paper researcher discussed, that using music to enhance the process of learning, especially when the music itself integrates the underlying complicated concepts, makes sense for teachers expecting to keep their students engaged and learning, and the advantages and challenges encountered in integrating music with teaching-learning process at the foundational level of school.

**Keywords-** music integration, effective teaching, teaching- learning process, disciplinary approach, engaged classroom

### INTRODUCTION

“Literature, music, and the arts  
all are necessary for the  
development and flowering of a student  
to form an integrated total personality”

-Rabindranath Tagore

The teaching-learning process is the most powerful tool of education to bring about desired changes in the behavior of students. This process occurs in all classrooms whether it is the school education system or higher education system, where different Teaching strategies and techniques are used. Teaching is a process of interacting, the process of engaging students in activities that will enable them to acquire knowledge, skills as well as worthwhile values and attitudes. There are three significant components to the entire teaching-learning process- the teacher, student, and curriculum.

As the teaching-learning process has the above three components, and all three components are significant in their way, and each has to play a crucial role to make the teaching-learning process successful.

## TEACHER

“Great teachers emanate out of knowledge, passion, and compassion”

-A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

NEP 2020 emphasized how teachers must be more skill-full, techno-friendly, and passionate in teaching and interacting with students. Teachers should be growing continuously as they construct new knowledge and change their beliefs and levels of comprehension. Teachers expand their extensive disciplinary expertise and instructional abilities as they connect new information with what they already know. ‘Learning can be considered as change that is permanent in nature because change is brought into students by a teacher through techniques like developing specific skills, changing some attitudes, or understanding specific scientific law operating behind a learning environment’ (Sequeira, 2012).

## STUDENT

“The destiny of India is being shaped in her classroom”

-Kothari commission

As we all know that children are the future of society. If we talk about the entire education system, so it's always the students at the center of it. Whatever reforms or schemes come into the education arena, all are considered, keeping the student in the mind. **UNICEF’s State of the World Children 1999** emphasized that the convention on the rights of the child guides us toward a more child-centered model of teaching and learning, one in which students participate actively, thinking and solving problems for themselves, and in this way developing the self-esteem that is essential for learning and decision-making throughout life.

## CURRICULUM TRANSACTION

When we talk about the child-centered model of teaching and learning then we have emphasized the third component of the teaching-learning process which is the curriculum. NEP-2020 suggests multicultural education, artistic curriculum, music education, and yoga education, have now been included in our school education. So now the question is, how can the teacher effectively transect the recommended teaching learning material to the students? Then we focus on the child-centered approach, which includes these methods learning by doing, learning by playing, learning through traveling, learning through entertainment, and learning through music and arts, and still we are trying to explore a new variety of teaching methodologies that make the teaching-learning process more interesting, easy and more understandable for students. Meaningful learning happens most effectively

when student's high-interest levels, are ready to learn, and strong emotional connection to the material and teaching method. These changing times suggest a need to rethink the teaching and learning process and how to make it more effective. Effective teaching is developmental and dynamic.

Several studies recommended art integrated teaching approach has positive properties for children's engagement with learning. 'Art activities are the most effective medium, which allows creative expression for children to express themselves and experience joy in doing so' (**Prasad Devi, 2006**). A conducive learning environment should be created by motivating situations such as using drama, singing, etc. Singing can be used the practice language skills. Music can convert classrooms into enjoyable and positive learning environments in which children flourish emotionally, socially, and academically. Childhood exposure to music may help the child to learn the language, arithmetic, and all the concerning subjects effortlessly. The teacher should create a joyous environment to learn effectively and create interest among students. In this view integration of music may play a crucial role in effective learning. It has been said in all the policies that have come in India that the teaching-learning process should be made effective and enjoyable. Despite this, in all the government schools in our country, the work of the teaching profession is done only in the form of a feast. Hence revolutionary changes are very essential to reforming the teaching-learning process in our schools.

We all know how great music affects our feelings and energy levels without even thinking about it, we use music to create desired moods– to make us happy, to enjoy movement and dance, to energize, to bring back powerful memories, to help us relax and focus. The intentional use of music in the classroom will set the scene and learning atmosphere to enhance our teaching and learning activities and using music for learning makes the process much more fun and interesting. There are many areas of teaching where integrating music can be highly effective. Music can be used to help in active learning experiences music creates a soundtrack for a learning activity. The soundtrack increases interest and activates the information mentally, physically, and emotionally. Music can also create highly focused learning. Background music is used to provide a welcoming atmosphere and help prepare and motivate students for learning tasks. Music can energize lagging attention levels or soothe and calm when necessary. Simply playing music as students enter the classroom or as they leave for recess or lunch changes the atmosphere.

## **ADVANTAGES OF MUSIC INTEGRATION IN THE CLASSROOM**

Music integrated teaching is promoting an effective learning environment for the students. This method incorporates providing opportunities for active learning and more joyful experiences. Some of the following advantages are below, which are as follows-

### **ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO ACTIVE LEARNING**

Active learning refers to a larger range of child-centered, teaching strategies to engage students as active participants in their learning process. It explores how we can get more effective learning experiences, by giving the students opportunities to apply, analyze and synthesize their prior knowledge. Active learning leads to the holistic development of students, which includes cognitive, psychomotor, and affective development. Research has shown that 'active learning, student-centered approaches to teaching physiology work, and they work better than more passive learning' (Joel Michael, 2006). So in this context, encourages students' active participation through music integration in the classroom.

### **ENCOURAGES READINESS TO LEARN**

The learning readiness of the students is the prerequisite condition for an effective learning process. According to Thorndike (1989), the law of readiness is the first primary law of learning which means that learning takes place when any action trend is aroused through interest and curiosity. Researches show the 'high level of influence in educational achievement due to learning readiness among school students' (R. Dongal, M. Shrestha, 2019). Researches show that music has the potential to prepare students' readiness to learn activities.

### **MOTIVATES STUDENTS TO LEARN**

Learning is a continuous process that needs to be purposefully guided and motivated to achieve desired outcomes for the students. Learning must be affected by motivation so that the students are engaged with the learning process and progress in their education. Motivation works like oxygen to enhance learning. Students were more motivated and eager to participate in the activities when songs were used in their classes. The perceptions of the students and teachers were similar (Şener, S. & Erkan, D, 2018).

### **STIMULATES STUDENTS TO LEARN NEW CONCEPTS**

If we think about a boring classroom in which any student is not interested in classroom activities. But instead of this, in a stimulated classroom students quickly

engaged with the new concepts. That's why; music helps children learn new concepts and ideas.

### **STUDENTS STAY ENGAGED IN THE CLASSROOM**

Children's attention does not fix on one task, they are diverted and fickle. An effective teaching approach plays a significant role in this situation. That's why music integrated teaching's importance increases because it keeps the children engaged in the learning process.

### **STUDENTS CAN LEARN TEAMWORK AND COORDINATION**

Man is a social animal and education is a tool that guided man on how to live in society, so in this way, the process of socialization of the children starts in a classroom. Teamwork and coordination can be easily taught to children in a joyful and engaged classroom. Students easily learn teamwork and coordination through musical activities.

### **INCULCATE SOCIAL VALUES**

Being a mother, I am also experiencing that children learn easily manners and discipline through exposure to music. Music integration with the teaching-learning process in the kindergarten will help social values such as love-tolerance, respect, responsibility, cooperation-helping, and courtesy **Öztürk, E., & Can A, A., (2020)**.

### **IMPROVE STUDENTS' MEMORY AND ATTENTION**

In the above points, we saw that effective learning of children requires a certain level of memory power and attention. When we teach effectively than students automatically pay attention and enhance their memory. Music encourages multisensory learning; According to NCF-2009 art integrated teaching approach is most effective rather than the disciplinary method of teaching. Research shows music can enhance memory and attention, according to **B. Shivakumar, 2013** exposure to classical Carnatic instrumental music has significantly enhanced scholastic achievement, memory, and attention of students.

### **RELEASE TENSION AND STRESS**

We all know very well, that when we suffer stress then started listening to music, and then the magic happens. A stress-free mind will always enhance learning capacity. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that children's and adolescents' mental health is profoundly affected by their surroundings and circumstances – their experiences with parents and caregivers, their friendships, and how they play, learn and grow (**UNICEF's the state of the world's children 2021**).

### **AUXILIARY FOR INCLUSIVE CLASS**

The therapeutic value of music itself becomes crucial for children with special needs. Recent studies reported that music therapy has a positive impact on students with required special instructional attention and guidance. Music therapy contributes to cognitive, psychosocial, and academic development. It provided practical guidelines to use music to accommodate children with disabilities (**Susan Sze & Sanna Yu**)

### **IMPROVE LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES**

Language is essential for communication. The development of language is rapid during the early development of the child. Several studies have suggested that intensive musical training enhance children's linguistic skill. Music has the potential to enhance phonemic awareness, reading abilities, and language skills (**Benz S, Sellaro R, Hommel B & Colzato LS,2016**)

### **MAKE IT EASY TO LEARN MATH AND SCIENCE**

Many researchers have reported the potential relation between music and mathematical skill and scientific concepts. We also see around us how children easily learn scientific and mathematical skills through rhymes and kids' songs. Separate musical training helps children learn math and science (**Hua Yang, Weiyi Ma, Diankun Gonz, Jiehui Hu, & Dezhong Ya,2014**).

### **CHALLENGES OF MUSIC INTEGRATION IN THE CLASSROOM**

Any type of integration in the teaching-learning process is better rather than the disciplinary method of teaching. As we know the music integrated teaching promotes child psychology, individual differences of the students, a joyful learning environment, cooperative learning, child-centered learning, and a stress-free learning climate. Nevertheless, there are some challenges faced in the integration of music effectively in the classroom. The considerable challenges are outlined below-

#### **LACK OF RESOURCES**

For any institution to run successfully, it's mandatory to have resources such as funds, human resources, infrastructure, etc. According to **World Bank, on 28 June 2022**, present time countries prioritized health and social security spending over education at the outset of the pandemic and now additional aid is being directed towards mitigating the consequences of the war in Ukraine and other crises. Approximately 41 percent of lower-income countries reduced their spending on education after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with an average decline in spending of 13.5 percent. In this view, we can say resources are the major obstacles in the path of researching and implementing any innovative ideas.

### **LACK OF AWARENESS AMONG TEACHERS & PARENTS**

Due to the lack of awareness, even in the present time, new teaching approaches are not used at all the schools in remote areas in developing countries. Even in the present times, education in such developing countries is seen as a mere quorum.

### **THE RIGIDNESS OF TEACHERS & PARENTS**

If the above challenge is tackled but teachers' and parents' attitude is not ready to accept any changes then this type of innovative teaching idea is of no use. Sometimes schools lead to bring such a change but it's not possible because of the resistance attitude of teachers and parents.

### **LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN SCHOOL MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE BODY**

For any educational implementation, there must be coordination between school management and executive bodies. Even stakeholders have to implement such a new approaches of teaching, then the school management does not reconcile with them so that's the big challenge to the any type of integration and innovation.

### **LACK OF MUSIC INTEGRATED TEACHING PROGRAM**

Music integrated teaching program stands on learning with fun, and students' engagement with the learning process. Even though the national curriculum framework-2009 has suggested art-integrated teaching which emphasizes learning through real-life examples, musical activity, and drama. In this context, it becomes important to integrate music with teaching approaches.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

We should try to minimize some of the challenges of this; we need to pay attention to the following-

- To increase the educational budget and provide proper resources to educational organizations.
- To motivate and aware the working teachers and parents for using music integrated teaching.
- To organize multiple workshops, seminars, awareness programs, and discussion forums to integrate art and music with teaching methodology.
- To promote music-integrated teaching during the period of internship of prospective teachers. So that, they will be comfortable using it.
- To encourage working teachers for conducting action research on the new approaches of teaching methodology.

- To motivate executive bodies to improve their coordinating skill with the management.
- To encourage and promote research in the field of teaching methodology.
- To encourage teacher educators, policymakers, and prospective teachers that they should adopt new teaching methodologies from international countries.

## CONCLUSION

This paper focuses on music integrating with teaching practices in the classroom by giving the students a new way to educate their skills. Encouraging teachers to adopt a new method of teaching in the classroom and use music to enhance their transaction of learning content and modify their teaching skills. In this changing era, we talk loudly about child-centered teaching, so now there is a need to use such new and innovative teaching methods without any hesitation. It has the responsibility to aware the prospective teacher, policymakers, and teacher educators of the benefits of music-integrated teaching. Such teaching approaches have the potential to create a learning environment in which students feel more comfortable, more creative, motivated, and more interested to learn new equations of knowledge in a new way. Despite as above challenges, it has become a necessity and an effective method for promoting innovative teaching methodology for the development of education.

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