

EXAMINE THE VIEWPOINTS OF PRESCHOOL TEACHERS TOWARD MUSIC AS PEDAGOGICAL TOOLS

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Abstract: Music serves an educational and entertaining role in both play and learning experiences for kindergarten children. Engaging in Music activities is essential for enhancing language skills in preschoolers. These activities create valuable chances for children to interact and communicate not only with their peers but also with teachers, contributing to their readiness for upcoming linguistic challenges. Through the use of Music, children can broaden their vocabulary and cultivate vital conversational abilities, empowering them to articulate their thoughts and ideas effectively.

Objective - The research aims to explore educators' perspectives on using Music as instructional tools to enhance various aspects, including cognitive abilities, memory, creative thinking, imagination, self-control, emotional regulation, social interaction, focus, concentration, language and communication skills, as well as instilling spiritual and moral values.

Method - This qualitative investigation aimed to explore the advantages of incorporating Music activities into early childhood. Depth interviews were carried out with 25 kindergarten teachers.

Result - This research illustrates that engaging in Music activities enhances the acquisition of life skills, enhances educational experiences, and expands the knowledge base for preschoolers. The results imply that the incorporation of Music activities in early childhood education can foster the comprehensive development of children.

Keywords: Music, Advantages music in the educational setting

INTRODUCTION

Education involves a complex effort aimed at positively shaping students' behavior. This goal can be achieved by emphasizing simplicity, effectiveness, engagement, and the attainment of desired outcomes. There are various teaching methodologies and strategies available to enrich the instructional process, guaranteeing compelling and successful learning outcomes. [11]

"In the classroom, music is not just heard; it is felt, understood, and embraced as a powerful guide to learning."

In the tender stages of early childhood development, the power of music emerges as a transformative pedagogical tool, weaving a symphony of cognitive, emotional, and social benefits. Nursery education, the foundation of a child's learning journey, is uniquely suited to harness the potential of music to nurture holistic development. "This article delves into the profound impact of music as pedagogical tools in the nursery stage, illuminating how melodies and rhythms become the building blocks for a lifetime of learning".(Jain & Sharma, 2024)

"Music are magical tools that transform the ordinary into the extraordinary, making learning an enchanting adventure in the nursery classroom."

In the enchanting world of preschool education, where every discovery is an adventure and every lesson is an opportunity for growth, music emerges as an unsung hero. Beyond the conventional methods of instruction, the integration of music as a pedagogical tool brings a symphony of benefits to preschool teaching. This article explores the subtle yet profound impact of music on the

cognitive, emotional, and social development of young minds, unveiling the transformative role it plays in shaping the earliest stages of education. (Jain & Sharma, 2024)

ADVANTAGES OF INCORPORATING MUSIC IN THE EDUCATIONAL SETTING

The use of music as a pedagogical tool in nursery education offers a multitude of advantages that contribute to the holistic development of young children. Here are some key advantages:

1 COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Enhanced Memory Skills: Nursery rhymes and songs often have repetitive patterns, helping children develop and strengthen their memory skills.

Mathematical Foundation: Exposure to rhythmic patterns and beats in music aids in the development of early mathematical concepts, such as counting and sequencing.

2 LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Vocabulary Expansion: Nursery rhymes and songs introduce children to a diverse range of vocabulary, enhancing language acquisition in a fun and engaging manner.

Phonetic Awareness: The rhythmic and melodic elements of music help improve phonetic awareness, contributing to better pronunciation and language development.

3 EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Emotional Intelligence: Music provides a platform for children to express and understand emotions through melody, rhythm, and lyrics, fostering emotional intelligence from an early age.

Stress Reduction: Listening to calming music can create a soothing environment, helping children manage stress and anxiety.

4 MOTOR SKILLS AND COORDINATION

Gross Motor Skills: Movement and dance activities set to music enhance gross motor skills, coordination, and balance.

Fine Motor Skills: Playing musical instruments or engaging in activities like clapping or tapping promotes the development of fine motor skills.

5 SOCIAL SKILLS

Collaboration and Teamwork: Group singing, dancing, and playing musical games encourage collaboration and teamwork, fostering positive social interactions.

Communication Skills: Participating in musical activities within a group setting helps children develop communication skills and the ability to express themselves.

6 CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION

Stimulates Creativity: Musical activities, such as composing simple tunes or engaging in musical storytelling, unleash children's creativity and encourage them to think outside the box.

Imaginative Play: Music often serves as a backdrop for imaginative play, allowing children to create narratives and scenarios inspired by the sounds they hear.

7 CULTURAL AWARENESS

Introduction to Diversity: Music from various cultures exposes children to different traditions, fostering an early appreciation for diversity and global awareness.

8 JOYFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Positive Association with Learning: Music creates a positive and enjoyable learning environment, making the educational experience in nursery more engaging and memorable.

Love for Learning: The inherent joy in musical activities helps instill a love for learning, setting a positive foundation for future academic pursuits.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

This study aimed to ascertain the advantages of incorporating music activities into pedagogical processes, play, and learning activities for children enrolled in early childhood programs.

LIMITATION OF THE RESEARCH

Due to constraints in resources, the researcher had to limit the scope of their study to Moradabad.

METHODOLOGY

The study on Music activities in early childhood programs utilized a qualitative research methodology, gathering data through in-depth interviews with twenty-five respondents. (Jain & Sharma, 2024) Thematic analysis was employed to examine the interview data, focusing on the benefits of Music activities in kindergartens. The researcher ensured that the identified themes align with the study's objectives and are relevant to its scope. In adherence to research ethics, confidentiality was maintained by keeping the names of the respondents undisclosed.

RESULT

In this section, the findings from the examination of the positive outcomes associated with incorporating Music activities into early childhood programs for children are presented and explained.

ADVANTAGES OF ENGAGING IN MUSIC ACTIVITIES WITHIN KINDERGARTEN SETTINGS

From discussions with kindergarten teachers, the identified themes related to the advantages of Music encompass.

- Innovative Thought Processes & Imagination.
- Enjoyable Learning Experience
- Encourages Emotional Expression
- Social interaction, and communication
- Spirituality and moral values.

1 INNOVATIVE THOUGHT PROCESSES & IMAGINATION

Children employ their imaginative abilities to generate novel ideas in Music engagements. Utilizing Music allows them to articulate creative concepts that might be challenging to communicate using alternative methods. (Jain & Sharma, 2024) When it comes to envisioning scenarios, children enthusiastically engage in music play, fostering exploration and the development of their imaginative faculties. The use of fantasy Music enables them to conjure ideas within their minds. The subsequent content comprises interview findings from participants:

Music cater to the natural inclinations of babies, infants, and toddlers who enjoy playtime. The actions of Music have the capacity to enhance both the play and educational environment. Engaging in music activities can spark imaginative ideas and stimulate the creative faculties of young children. Involvement in music-related art & craft activities provides children with the chance to express their creativity & indulge in a fantastical experience. (OR Overall Response)

2 ENJOYABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Engaging nursery students in music activities play offers a delightful and enriching learning experience. The social aspect of music play encourages collaboration and teamwork, fostering the development of essential social skills. The subsequent information comprises interview responses from a participant:

Music function as captivating instruments seamlessly combining entertainment with educational advantages. The intrinsic playfulness of Music captivates the interest of young learners, fostering a delightful and engaging environment in the nursery. Engaging in imaginative play with Music not only allows children to delve into creative storytelling but also enriches their language skills through interactions with these whimsical characters. (OR Overall Response)

3 ENCOURAGES EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Playing with Music offers a fun learning experience, teaching children to manage their actions, share, and handle emotions. It involves imitation of friends' actions rather than instinctual

responses, fostering decision-making skills. The use of Music allows children to choose their preferred music types and stories during play activities. The interview data from respondents highlight the multisensory nature of music play, incorporating hearing, enhancing the learning journey for young learners. In the nursery classroom, Music not only entertains but also promotes creativity, social interaction, and cognitive growth, creating a comprehensive and enjoyable learning experience.

Engaging in music activities establishes a lively environment and enhances children's emotional well-being, fostering their independence and decision-making, as noted by respondents.

Furthermore, highlights that through music, children can express emotions, manage their actions, navigate situations effectively, share, and regulate negative emotions. Music performances also empower them to make choices about music types and preferred stories. Overall, Music serves as a platform for emotional expression, providing a secure and imaginative outlet for nursery students to communicate feelings and thoughts. Beyond the enjoyment it brings, music play contributes to cognitive development by encouraging problem-solving and critical thinking. (OR Overall Response)

4 SOCIAL INTERACTION, AND COMMUNICATION

Participating in Music activities improves children's social skills and readies them for real-world interactions through the promotion of effective communication and interaction. These exercises also cultivate teamwork by encouraging discussion, understanding, and the practice of give-and-take among children. Actively engaging in Music enables children to focus and participate effectively, utilizing Music as a means to stimulate communication. Music, offer a practical tool for instructing language components like phonics, syllables, words, and sentences, playing a role in enhancing children's language development. The following information presents insights gathered from interviews with participants:

The utilization of Music in children's social development offers an avenue for collaborative work, allowing them to engage in paired or group activities. Children can partake in role-playing and story reading with both familiar and unfamiliar peers, fostering social interaction. In group settings, children use Music to play together, enhancing their social connections. Music serve as effective tools to engage children's minds, aiding in a more comprehensive understanding of learning activities, particularly in oral skills, comprehension, and interpersonal communication, as indicated by Respondents.

Storytelling and music-based question-and-answer activities captivate children's attention, sustaining their enthusiasm for learning. Proficiency in language skills is notably improved

Respondents underscore the pivotal role of Music in developing and strengthening students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Music provide authentic experiences and enjoyable learning activities.

5 SPIRITUALITY AND MORAL VALUES

Music serve as engaging tools to enhance children's stories that impart valuable moral lessons. Through music performances, children are educated about virtues such as perseverance, patience, distinguishing between right and wrong, and cultivating qualities like love, patriotism, and a willingness to confront challenges in regular life with knowledge, wisdom, self-confidence, tolerance, & empathy. The subsequent content includes insights gathered from an interviewee:

Share a narrative through Music that instills positive values like wisdom, confidence, tolerance, & empathy in children. Utilize music performances to impart lessons about distinguishing between right and wrong, encouraging children to be self-assured, tolerant, and understanding towards their peers. This approach aims to nurture empathy and wisdom in children as they navigate their daily lives, as expressed by Respondents.

Thematic analysis indicates that incorporating Music activities into early childhood programs can lead to several benefits: (i) heightened intellect & memory; (ii) improved creative thinking & imagination; (iii) enhanced self-control & emotional management; (iv) promotion of social interaction; (v) opportunities for practicing focus, language, and communication; and (vi) establishment of connections to spirituality and moral values; embedded in Music activities that can be applied in their everyday lives.

DISCUSSION

The results of the research underscore the far-reaching effects of incorporating Music activities into early childhood programs. These activities include a range of forms such as music performances, storytelling, singing and movement, music art and craft, question and answer sessions, role-playing, and story reading. These diverse Music activities contribute significantly to the overall development of children in early childhood programs.

Based on the perspectives shared by the kindergarten teachers participating in the study, Music activities offer tangible advantages to children's growth, fostering an animated and captivating atmosphere conducive to both play and learning. The significance of music plays is underscored as an integral component of edutainment in early childhood care & education. This emphasizes the dual role of Music in fostering educational objectives while maintaining an entertaining and enjoyable experience for young learners.

Moreover, the article emphasizes the importance of advocating for the use of music plays in early childhood development. By actively promoting the incorporation of Music activities, these stakeholders can contribute to the holistic development of children, emphasizing the diverse benefits associated with music plays in early childhood programs.

Beyond the pedagogical application of Music, the paper suggests the incorporation of music performances in theaters as a means of aesthetic appreciation for children. This approach not only aligns with the educational objectives of appreciating the value of Music but also introduces children to the broader cultural and artistic dimensions associated with music performances.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The study examining the viewpoints of preschool teachers toward Music as pedagogical tools has several educational implications. Here are some key implications derived from the findings:

- Preschool teachers who view Music positively may find that incorporating Music into their teaching methods enhances student engagement and attention. This implies that Music can be an effective strategy to capture and maintain the interest of young learners, promoting a more focused and participatory classroom environment.
- If preschool teachers express favorable viewpoints toward music, it suggests that they recognize the potential of Music to facilitate language development in young children. Music encourages verbal interaction, storytelling, and role-playing, fostering language skills and vocabulary acquisition in an engaging and interactive manner.
- Positive viewpoints from preschool teachers may indicate an acknowledgment of Music's role in promoting social and emotional development. Music can serve as emotional conduits, helping children express feelings, develop empathy, and navigate social situations, contributing to a holistic approach to early childhood education.
- Preschool teachers who appreciate Music as a pedagogical tool likely recognize its contribution to fostering creativity and imagination in young minds.
- Teachers' positive viewpoints toward Music may indicate their openness to incorporating diverse teaching methods into their pedagogical approach. This suggests a level of adaptability and creativity in teaching strategies, which is essential for addressing the unique needs and learning styles of preschool children.
- A study revealing positive viewpoints among preschool teachers could underscore the importance of incorporating Music training into early childhood education professional development programs. This implies a potential need for workshops or courses to help educators effectively integrate Music into their teaching practices.
- The study may shed light on the potential for involving parents in music-related activities. Positive viewpoints from preschool teachers may encourage schools to organize events where parents can participate in music-based learning activities, fostering a connection between home and school.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study sheds light on the multifaceted advantages of incorporating Music activities into early childhood programs. The research findings affirm the positive impact on children's overall development, aligning with previous studies in the field. The advocacy for the use of music plays, not only as educational tools but also as forms of entertainment and aesthetic appreciation, emphasizes the holistic and enriching nature of Music in early childhood care and education. It is imperative for all relevant stakeholders to recognize and actively support the integration of Music activities to promote the well-rounded development of young learners.

The incorporation of music as a pedagogical tool in nursery education goes beyond entertainment; it serves as a dynamic and enriching medium that addresses various aspects of a child's development, creating a solid foundation for future learning and growth.

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