

Delhi Arts Curriculum

Summary of Findings from the Pilot

APRIL 2023

“ On the day of the art exhibition, there was a poster on the wall, other colors were also there, we were painting our hands and having a lot of fun, clay was also there, there was a drum, there was a guitar and xylophone, it was fun. ”

A student of class 4, SV Inderpuri

The Delhi Arts Curriculum is an initiative by the Delhi Government and NalandaWay Foundation to bring about curriculum reforms by including arts in the mainstream education system. A structured arts curriculum was developed to enable children aged 3 to 13 to gain:

- ▶ Specific art-based competencies across five art forms (visual arts, music, dance, theatre and media arts)
- ▶ Exposure to local and global art
- ▶ Development of social emotional skills

A nine month pilot of the curriculum was implemented in nine Delhi Government schools from July 2022 - March 2023 to test the scalability of five approaches to art education, with school students and teachers.



STUDENTS

3988
STUDENTS

1 Art Exhibition | Nursery - Class 5

Art exposure/training which culminated in an art exhibition open to all stakeholders.

2 Musical Poetry | Class 3-5

Learning of English and Hindi poems in the syllabus through music.

3 Musical Theatre | Class 8

An immersive interdisciplinary art experience was produced and staged by children.

TEACHERS

89
TEACHERS

4 Teacher Transformation

In addition to facilitation training towards the art sessions, school teachers directly experienced the joy and value of artistic work through hands-on art making.

SCHOOL

9
SARVODAYA
SCHOOLS

5 Artful School Transformation

Transformed the school into a visibly vibrant and artful space that enabled creative explorations for children and teachers.

Findings from the study

Students

The highest percentage of change has been noted for Musical Theatre approach (42.9%) followed by Art Exhibition approach (19.9%) and Musical Poetry approach (9.23%).

Increased engagement in arts

- Exploring different art forms like visual arts, music, theatre, dance and media arts
- Creating original artworks using their imagination
- Using arts to express personal experiences

Art appreciation

- Increased knowledge of specific art techniques and art elements (example: tempo and melody in music)
- Use of symbols and abstraction in art to express thoughts and feelings

Social emotional-learning and school-related behaviours

- Increased participation in class
- Confidence in expressing ideas and experiences in the classroom.
- Ability to recognise talents and strengths
- Increase in teamwork and interaction with peers
- Increased understanding of the consequences of negative behaviours, and reduced engagement in such behaviour
- Increased involvement in decision-making of their artistic creations



Teachers

- An increase of 13.62% is observed for teachers' art education skills, followed by an increase of 10.15% for art appreciation skills and an increase of 5.6% for social emotional learning facilitation skills
- An increase in participation of teachers in art sessions
- The development of a more nuanced understanding of the role of art in child development



School Transformation

The schools were transformed into joyful and inclusive artful spaces.

- Increased art engagement of students and teachers within the school ecosystem
 - Art exhibitions provided an opportunity for all students to showcase their talents
 - Students felt recognized and appreciated
- Participation of parents in the arts activities in school
- A shift in student-teacher relationships within the school ecosystem
- Sense of pride and belonging amongst students to the school
- Positive relationships of students with Teaching Artists



Recommendations

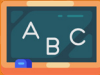
The following recommendations are proposed based on the findings of the pilot:

1. Introduction of structured arts curriculum through:



A. Art Exhibition (Nursery-Class 5)

Weekly art sessions for primary grade students with the objective of gaining art exposure and developing art-based competencies across five art forms, facilitated by a trained art educator appointed to every school.



B. Art-integrated Language Learning (Class 3-5)

A teacher-led language learning programme for primary grade students to learn poems in their syllabus through music tracks. A resource bank of art activities and audio visual resources will aid the teachers to integrate art into their language curriculum.



C. Musical Theatre (Class 6-8)

Weekly integrated art sessions for middle school students culminating in an annual musical theatre production involving all students of the class. It is recommended that the curriculum be facilitated by a trained art educator with the aim of exposing students to the nuances of putting up a theatrical performance while focusing on social-emotional development of students.

2. Art education training for teachers

An art education training programme for teachers focusing on attitudes, competencies and facilitation skills for art education is recommended.

3. Organising yearly art carnivals

A yearly art carnival event as a platform for exhibiting learnings from art sessions throughout the year, for students, teachers, parents and community members.

4. Ensure availability and accessibility of art resources, technological devices (computer, projector/KYAN, speakers) and adequate infrastructure in schools.

Testimonials

“Our whole class was involved in this and the whole class did it together. We never did it before. Some kids used to do it and some used to be in the audience. But in this, all of us performed together. So we felt good.”

Student from SKV Pusa

“Students look forward to art class. They prepare for it. Maximum students come for that day. Attendance has increased. Earlier 24-25 students would come. Now full strengths around 30-35 come to class.”

Primary teacher, SKV Moti Bagh

“After the arts curriculum has started in our school, the attendance of the children seems to have increased. I attended a conference on education in Cambridge organised by the DoE, where they spoke about the importance of arts in classrooms. I felt so proud to share that this is already happening in our school!”

Rekha Mudgal, HoS, SKV Motibagh - I

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Watch
a film about
the journey!

PHOTOS BY
Abhishek Anil

About NalandaWay Foundation

NalandaWay Foundation uses visual and performing arts to help children from underserved communities in India. Our endeavour is to improve learning abilities, reinforce positive behaviour and help children soar high by enabling them to be creative and express themselves through arts.

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