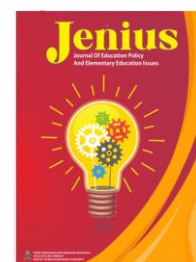




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Sharpening Creativity in Elementary Education through Simple Fine Arts: Literature Review

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Article History Received: 07 April Accepted: 24 May 2024 Published: 30 June 2024	Simple fine arts can be an effective and fun way to hone children's creativity at the elementary school level. By allowing children to express themselves artistically, schools can strengthen their learning experiences and prepare them for broader future challenges. This research aims to explore the influence of simple visual arts on increasing the creativity of elementary/MI children through a Systematic Literature Review with the steps: developing the research question (formulating research questions), developing the search strategy (searching for articles or literature that match the research theme), selection criteria (applying inclusion criteria to select articles), evaluation and analysis data (evaluating and analyzing data), and interpreting (reporting research findings). A total of 22 articles were found that met the inclusion criteria for analysis. The research results show that fine arts can stimulate imagination and self-expression, develop fine motor skills, strengthen observation and concentration abilities, increase self-confidence and intrinsic motivation, and use simple materials for creative activities. Therefore, simple fine arts can be an effective means of developing children's creativity at the elementary school level, so it is necessary to integrate art into the educational curriculum to improve children's creative abilities.
Keywords: Art; Creative thinking skills; Creativity	

INTRODUCTION

Fine arts are important in early childhood education, especially at the elementary level. Art is an expressive activity and a means of holistically developing children's creativity. Through fine arts, children can learn to observe, feel, and interpret the world uniquely and creatively (Zimmerman, 2010). Fine arts education in elementary education is not only about painting or drawing but also about the creative process that involves exploring various media, techniques, and visual concepts. Fine arts activities such as drawing, painting, making crafts, and simple

installations develop fine motor skills and teach children to think critically, collaborate, and express their ideas visually (McArdle & Wright, 2014).

Previous research shows that participation in fine arts activities can increase children's self-confidence, broaden their view of the world, and increase their ability to solve problems innovatively (Telaumbanua & Bu'ulolo, 2024). The structured and integrated fine arts programs into the educational curriculum can provide long-term benefits for children's cognitive, emotional, and social development (Komala & Nugraha, 2022).

Creativity in the fine arts is a dynamic and personal process that encourages individuals to explore their creative potential through visual media (Susilo et al., 2021). Creativity produces unique works of art and enriches personal experience and understanding of the world. A strong imagination often sparks creativity in the fine arts. It involves visualizing concepts or ideas in creative and engaging visual forms. Fine art provides a platform for deep self-expression. Creativity in the fine arts reflects the ability to convey emotions, views, and personal experiences through visual media. Creativity in the fine arts also includes the ability to master artistic techniques and media in innovative ways. This ability involves using color, composition, texture, and other methods to create interesting visual effects. Creativity in the fine arts also consists in finding solutions to challenges or problems that arise during the creative process. The finding solution activity includes experimenting with new ideas, adapting to change, and finding new ways to overcome obstacles (McArdle & Wright, 2014).

Fine arts enrich students' learning experiences and provide a strong foundation for developing creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving in their future lives. Therefore, integrating fine arts into the elementary education curriculum is crucial to support students' holistic development (Burton et al., 2020).

However, although the importance of fine arts in children's education has been recognized, more research is still needed to explore how fine arts education can be optimized to increase children's creativity at the elementary level. Therefore, this literature review aims to evaluate various recent research and findings regarding the influence of fine arts in honing children's creativity at an early age. Thus, it is hoped that this research can provide deeper insight into the importance of fine arts in children's education and its implications for curriculum development and teaching practices in elementary schools.

METHOD

The method used in this research is Systematic Literature Review (SLR), a systematic process for summarizing and synthesizing relevant primary research results on certain topics. This method aims to present comprehensive and balanced evidence about the research subject in a structured way. The steps in this SLR are developing the research question (formulating research questions), developing the search strategy (searching for articles or literature that match the research theme), selection criteria (applying inclusion criteria to select articles), evaluating and analyzing data (assessing and analyzing data) and interpreting (reporting research findings) (Thovawira et al., 2021).

Data was collected from articles contained in the Google Scholar database. The selected articles follow the research questions with the keyword “fine arts creativity” between 2016 and 2024, originating from national journals and proceedings. The next step is to select and evaluate articles that meet the inclusion criteria. Articles not meeting the inclusion criteria are not included in the next stage. Selected articles that met the inclusion criteria were then coded and sorted according to relevance to the theme for later analysis. The final step is to report the results of the research findings. In this step, a systematic and clear report on the research results is made.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This Systematic Literature Review aims to explore the influence of simple visual arts on increasing the creativity of elementary/MI children. Fine arts have a very important role in the development of children at the elementary school (SD) level. Fine arts encourage children to think creatively and innovatively. Children can explore their imagination through art activities, try various techniques and media, and produce original works. The creativity developed through this fine art can help them in multiple aspects of life, including problem-solving and decision-making. Based on the results of the systematic review, the data was grouped as follows:

Table 1. Systematic Literature Review of Fine Arts in Developing Creative Thinking Skills

Authors	Types of fine art	Grade
Yudhistira, dkk (2023)	Drawing and coloring	1st Elementary School
Kusumawati, dkk (2024)	Ecoprint batik	3rd Elementary School
Lubis (2022)	Imaginative drawing	Elementary School
Fauzi & Saktiani (2019)	Drawing and coloring	5th Elementary School
Zahra, dkk (2024)	Coloring	3rd Elementary School
Suryani (2023)	Painting using printing techniques and getting to know color mixing	1st Elementary School
Hasnawati (2016)	Mosaic from coconut shells	Elementary School

Authors	Types of fine art	Grade
Sandi (2020)	Drawing and coloring	Elementary School
Mujiyono, dkk (2021)	Drawing and coloring	Elementary School
Nisa & Ain (2023)	Fine art from used goods	4th Elementary School
Hasta, dkk (2023)	Mosaic from plastic waste	4th Elementary School
Putri, dkk (2021)	Collage fine art	Elementary School
Maula & Nurasiah (2022)	Collage fine art	4th Elementary School
Maharani & Mayar, (2022)	Collage art, montage art, and mosaic art	3rd Elementary School
Marcelina & Mayar (2023)	Stick to fine arts	Elementary School
Putri (2019)	Two-Dimensional Mosaic Art	4th Elementary School
Rahman (2019)	Adiwiyata-based fine arts	Elementary School
Sindi & Nurmeta (2023).	Sukuraga Puppet Based Egg Shell	5th Elementary School
Yani (2023)	Two-Dimensional Imaginative Work by Making Stickers	5th Elementary School
Auliawati & Anggraini (2021).	Montage	4th Elementary School
Suryawan & Putra (2020).	Nagasepaha Glass Painting Art	Elementary School
Nisa (2023)	Two Dimensional Art (Lettering)	4-6th Elementary School

Based on the literature that has been analyzed, several key findings were found regarding the impact of simple fine art on elementary/MI students' creativity, including stimulating imagination and self-expression, developing fine motor skills, strengthening observation and concentration abilities, increasing self-confidence and intrinsic motivation, and using materials. -simple materials for creative activities (Hasnawati, 2016; Hasta, et al., 2023; Mujiyono, et al., 2021; Nisa & Ain 2023; Nisa, 2023; Suryawan & Putra, 2020; Zahra, et al., 2024).

Fine art plays a role in stimulating imagination and self-expression. Simple fine arts, such as drawing and collage-making, encourage children to use their imaginations freely. This activity allows students to express their ideas and emotions, which is an important basis for the development of creativity (Hasnawati, 2016; Maharani & Mayar, 2022; Nisa & Ain, 2023; Putri et al., 2021; Sandi, 2020; Suryawan & Putra, 2020). Studies show that arts activities help students develop divergent thinking skills, an important aspect of creativity (Sowden, 2015).

Developing fine motor skills through simple fine arts activities, such as cutting, sticking, and painting, helps develop children's fine motor skills (Auliawati & Anggraini, 2021; Fauzi & Saktiani, 2019; Marcelina & Mayar, 2023; Maula & Nurasiah, 2022; Lubis 2022; Suryani 2023; Yudhistira et al., 2023). Studies show that good motor skills increase children's ability to complete creative and academic tasks (Schmidt et al., 2017).

Fine arts teach children to focus on details and improve their observation and concentration skills. For example, when drawing objects from real life, students are invited to observe and reproduce details carefully (Rahman, 2019; Maharani & Mayar, 2022; Nisa, 2023; Yani, 2023). Studies show that these observation exercises help students develop analytical skills that support creative thinking processes (Forte-Celaya et al., 2021).

Engaging in fine arts activities can increase students' self-confidence and intrinsic motivation. When students see their work appreciated, they feel more confident and motivated to continue trying new things (Hasnawati, 2016; Kusumawati et al., 2024; Rahman, 2019). Studies show that success in fine arts can increase students' self-esteem and motivate them to perform better in other academic areas (Luftig, 2000).

Research shows that simple and inexpensive materials can stimulate student creativity. Literature studies show that using materials such as paper, rags, and natural materials in art activities can teach students to think creatively and innovatively in using existing resources (Kusumawati et al., 2024; Hasnawati, 2016; Hasta et al., 2023; Putri, 2019).

Fine arts encourages students to imagine and create something that has not existed before. This process stimulates imagination and creativity. Exploring various art techniques and media allows students to discover new ways to express ideas and concepts. In the fine arts, students often face technical and conceptual challenges that require creative solutions (Vygotsky, 2004). For example, how to use limited materials or convey a message through works of art. This process helps develop critical thinking skills and the ability to see problems from multiple points of view. Additionally, fine arts activities help students develop sensitivity to form, color, texture, and composition, which enriches their aesthetic perception and appreciation. This sensitivity also contributes to their ability to recognize and create new relationships between elements (Cho, 2021).

From the results of this literature review, there are several important implications for educational practice, namely that it is important to integrate simple fine arts in the basic education curriculum as part of a holistic approach to student development. Arts activities should be considered as important as other academic subjects. Teachers also need adequate training in using simple fine arts to hone students' creativity. This activity includes technical skills and an understanding of integrating the arts into everyday learning. Schools also need to provide sufficient resources for fine arts activities, including simple materials that can be used in various art projects. These activities are important so that all students have equal opportunities to engage in creative activities. Next, teachers must encourage students to explore and innovate with different art materials and techniques. Giving students creative freedom can help them find their style and method of expression. With good integration in the curriculum and the right teaching approach, fine arts can be a very effective tool for developing students' creative thinking skills, which will be beneficial not only in the arts but also in various aspects of their life and learning.

CONCLUSION

Simple fine arts have great potential to hone students' creativity in elementary education. Students can develop their imagination, motor skills, observation skills, and self-confidence through various art activities. By integrating fine arts into the curriculum and providing the necessary support, we can help students become more creative and innovative individuals, ready to face future challenges.

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