

Discussion On

Comprehensive Education – Ethics, Physical Education, Arts & Crafts, Life Skills

Education is concerned with all-round development of the child (physical, socioemotional along with cognitive), all aspects need to be assessed rather than only academic achievement. As part of the Twelfth Plan initiatives, now there is a system-wide focus on holistic development of children by improving learning outcomes and other non-scholastic areas. Our students need to have a holistic development which cannot be achieved only through information and instruction. Physical education, games and sports should be made an integral part of the curriculum and daily routine in schools for the holistic development of children. The Schedule to the RTE Act mandates that all schools shall be provided play material, games and sports equipment. Since many urban schools have inadequate facilities of sports on their own, other neighborhood schools with such facilities in the public and private sectors and also municipal parks and public play fields should be opened up for children of such schools during school hours on nominal maintenance costs. Building on innovative approaches already undertaken, teachers must also be trained to lead quality and inclusive physical education sessions as part of both their pre-service and in-service training. Visual and performing arts are a critical part of school education and also provide space for children with different abilities. Arts are a powerful tool in the teaching learning process. It enables children to express ideas, emotions and thoughts freely, to

comprehend and build perspectives. Children experience joy, sense of freedom in the process of learning when they have the opportunity to explore, to imagine, visualise, observe through their senses, to participate and communicate. It enhances interest as children connect arts with all subjects and with their daily lives. Art also has a cognitive component; it makes us think, reflect, hypothesise, perceive, comprehend and create. Renowned art Institutions and Central academies can contribute significantly to the inclusion of arts in the school curriculum and its implementation. Knowledge needs sensitization to values, ethics, appreciating arts, physical education, sports and life skills.

- What are the suggestions for concrete methods and tools for integration of sports, physical education, arts and crafts, functional skills for livelihood and value education in school curriculum?
- What are the experiences so far and how can we build on these in a constructive way?
- How can we explore the way forward so that Ethical education can become mandatory?
- What is the Role of NCC in promoting comprehensive education?