

Original Article

Warli Art and NEP 2020: A New Direction of Education

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Abstract

According to NEP 2020, Warli art can prove to be an effective educational tool, playing a significant role in the holistic development of students. Warli art not only imparts new knowledge from an artistic viewpoint but also enriches students culturally, socially, and ethically. Through this art form, students will gain a global perspective, an understanding of diversity and an awareness about the values of art. This will not only give new dimension education to education but also ensure education finds a prominent place in school life. Warli art serves as an excellent medium for developing creativity, imagination, and emotional expression in students. It gives opportunity to think interactively, foster creativity, and establish social and ethical connections. It will foster the development of students' personalities and enhance their intellectual abilities. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to examine the educational, cultural significance of Warli art. highlight how it can be used as a more effective enriching educational tool under NEP 2020. This research, seeks to understand the educational significance of Warli art and explain its position and importance in the context of NEP 2020, discusses how local culture, art can enrich the school curriculum, explores various methods of integrating Warli art into the school curriculum and suggests recommendations to improve education system in context of NEP 2020. This research emphasizing how this art form can help in building a strong, creative, and culturally enriched citizen with a strong cultural identity, capable of preserving and promoting their traditional culture.

Keywords: Warli Art, NEP 2020, Education, Creativity, Global Perspective, Citizen.

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INTRODUCTION

In order to bring about a change in the perspective, methods, and goals of the Indian education system, the Government of India announced the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The policy aims to bring about various revolutionary changes in the education sector, with a special focus on valuing traditional knowledge, skills, and cultural heritage. NEP 2020 highlights important objectives such as providing Indian students with a sense of recognition of their culture, fostering respect for it, and imparting life values through art and culture.

Traditional arts, crafts, and paintings from various regions of India are not only important as cultural heritage but also serve as effective tools for creating new ideas, creativity, and social awareness among students through education. One significant form of traditional art is Warli painting. This form of art developed from the traditional style of tribal people in Maharashtra and depicts various aspects of

life, nature, religion, and social life. According to the guidance of NEP 2020, Warli art can become an important medium in the education sector. Through this art, students can be introduced to their culture, enhance their creativity, and be taught to respect diversity in society. This highlights the significance of Warli art, and if it is included in school and college curricula, it will help foster unity, respect for diversity, and a global perspective among students.

Therefore, it is essential to incorporate local culture and art into school and college curricula. Through this, cultural enrichment, creativity, social awareness, recognition of one's culture, and the development of social and ethical values can be achieved. Additionally, students will gain greater knowledge and respect for both local and global art. Incorporating local culture and art into education will be an effective way to make school and college education more enriching and holistic

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This curriculum can create a program that provides cultural awareness, creativity, social inclusion, and environmental consciousness along with art education. Warli art thus becomes a powerful tool that connects students to their traditions and offers them a new perspective and a well-rounded personality.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on various secondary sources, including books, the internet, articles, and research papers. With their assistance, an in-depth study of the policy documents of NEP 2020, the latest changes in school art curricula, and the history of Warli art has been conducted to collect relevant information.

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the educational significance of Warli's art.
2. To explain the position and significance of Warli art in the context of NEP 2020.
3. To discuss how the school curriculum can be enriched through local culture and art.
4. To explore various methods of incorporating Warli art into the school curriculum.
5. To recommend improvements in the education system based on the principles of NEP 2020, regarding Warli art.

The purpose of this study is to examine the educational and cultural significance of Warli art and to highlight how it can be used as a more effective and enriching educational tool under NEP 2020.

EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WARLI ART:

Art holds a unique importance in education, and Warli art, as a form of art, can demonstrate its educational significance through the following points:

- **Dissemination of Cultural and Social Knowledge:** Warli art is a traditional art form of the Indian tribal community, reflecting their lifestyle, beliefs, relationship with nature, and social structure. Incorporating this art into school and college education provides students the opportunity to understand the rich heritage of local culture, traditions, and tribal societies. Students will get familiar with the communities and cultures around them, fostering social awareness, cultural tolerance, and a growing acceptance of diversity.
- **Encouragement of Creativity:** Warli art is a prime example of creativity. It involves simple lines, shapes, and nature-related imagery, which stimulate students' thinking and imagination, offering them a chance to express themselves creatively. The powerful style of Warli art inspires students to think confidently about other forms of art.
- **Inclusion of Moral and Life Values:** Warli art showcases various aspects of nature, human relationships, philosophy, and the traditional lifestyle of tribal societies. This enables students to understand moral values, mutual communication, and responsibility towards

nature, imparting lessons on simplicity, unity, collectivism, and environmental conservation.

- **Diversity and Inclusivity:** Unlike other art forms, Warli art is based on the experiences of tribal communities, giving students the opportunity to compare and contrast various types of art, thereby broadening their perspective. By incorporating diverse cultures, Warli art can be a medium for studying "diversity" and "inclusivity."
- **Development of Positive Mindset and Confidence:** The importance of art education lies not only in skill development but also in the mental and emotional growth of students. By using simple lines in Warli art, students can explore new ways of expression, which boosts their self-confidence. The informal nature of success in art and creativity encourages students to think freely without the fear of failure.
- **Development of Fundamental Skills:** In the creation of Warli art, the role of lines, shapes, compositions, and balance is crucial. This helps students develop their creative perspective and visual understanding. Through this education, students improve their observation skills, logical reasoning, and ability to understand human emotions.
- **Exploration and Understanding of Art:** Warli art not only provides knowledge of both traditional and modern forms of art but also introduces a new artistic perspective, which is beneficial for their future artistic education. Warli art is an effective tool for teaching the fundamental principles of art, especially for school students, and can inspire an appreciation for artistic skills.

POSITION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF WARLI ART IN THE CONTEXT OF NEP 2020:

In the context of NEP 2020, Warli art holds a significant place in school education. Through this art form, students can develop an understanding of local culture, traditional art, moral values, and creativity. Warli art, being aligned with the objectives of NEP 2020, is an educational tool that plays an important role in the holistic development of students. By including this art in education, students' cultural knowledge, creativity, and social awareness can be enhanced, which are crucial for their overall progress.

- **Alignment with Cultural Education in NEP 2020:** NEP 2020 places a strong emphasis on the preservation and awareness of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. The policy prioritizes local art and culture, enabling students to connect with their own cultural heritage. Warli art, a tribal art form, teaches social, cultural, and ethical values. From the perspective of NEP 2020, Warli art fosters knowledge, respect, and love for various forms of art in students.
- **Encouragement of Creativity:** NEP 2020 emphasizes creativity as essential for the development of students' personalities. Warli art

is a simple yet powerful form of expression, enabling students to express their feelings, thoughts, and cultural identity. Through this art, students' creativity, imagination, and expression are nurtured. NEP 2020 recommends including art education in the school curriculum, and thus, Warli art can become an effective tool for inspiring students' creativity

- **Preservation and Promotion of Local Culture:** NEP 2020 stresses the importance of connecting Indian students with their traditional and local arts. Warli art, being a traditional art of the tribal community in Maharashtra, offers students in-depth knowledge of local art, culture, and lifestyles. It teaches them the importance of protecting and preserving these traditions. The policy's emphasis on cultural enrichment and embracing diversity can find a perfect example in Warli art.
- **Socially-Oriented and Ethical Education:** NEP 2020 includes the goal of imparting values like social justice, tolerance, equality, and environmental responsibility. Warli art conveys moral and social messages to students. It teaches the importance of nature, the environment, unity, and collective responsibility.
- **Development of Intrinsic Motivation and Self-Confidence:** NEP 2020 focuses on building self-confidence and strong personalities in students. Warli art promotes self-confidence by emphasizing creativity in expression. Through this art form, students are given the freedom to explore creativity, which strengthens their self-assurance and personal development.
- **Integration of Technology with Traditional Art:** NEP 2020 encourages the use of technology in school education. While Warli art represents traditional art, it can be integrated into modern educational methods with the help of technology. For example, showcasing Warli art through digital media, using videos, and exploring art styles through technologies like Artificial Intelligence can enhance learning. This will allow students to understand the relationship between technology and art.
- **National Unity and Embracing Diversity:** NEP 2020 emphasizes promoting national unity. Warli art can serve as a tool for both illustrating the diversity and unity of Indian society. Through Warli art, students learn about the lifestyles of various tribal communities, which teaches them the significance of the country's diversity. It offers students an opportunity to establish relationships with different cultures and respect them, playing an essential role in fostering national unity and acceptance of diversity.

ENHANCING THE ENRICHMENT OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM THROUGH LOCAL CULTURE AND ART:

Incorporating local culture and art into the school curriculum is crucial for the overall development of students. It allows students to increase their awareness of culture, the importance of art,

respect for diversity, and personal growth through artistic expression. This can be explained more clearly through the following points:

- ✚ **Creating Awareness and Respect for Local Art:** Including local art in the school curriculum helps students recognize the traditions, artistic sculptures, music, dance, and visual arts of their region. This creates respect and pride for local culture in the minds of students. For example, Warli art in Maharashtra connects students to their cultural heritage and teaches them the importance of preserving their cultural legacy.
- ✚ **Respect for Cultural Diversity:** India is a culturally diverse country, and educating students about this diversity can make them more sensitive and inclusive. Through local art, students can understand the cultures and traditions of various regions. This increases their awareness of different languages, customs, attire, and tribal traditions. Respecting and embracing cultural diversity is a key aspect of school education. Teaching through local art and culture enhances students' social perspectives and cultural awareness.
- ✚ **Promoting Creativity:** Teaching local art provides students with new ways to explore and express creativity. By including local forms of art like painting, handicrafts, or music, students can develop their own artistic style and expression. For example, through Warli, Madhubani, or Kalamkari styles, students can learn to use colors, compositions, and techniques, thereby enhancing their creativity, skills, and self-expression.
- ✚ **Incorporating Local Knowledge and Understanding:** Indian culture is rich in local knowledge, such as the connection between tribal communities and nature, their lifestyles, and how they protect the environment. For instance, Warli art depicts nature, plants, and animals in great detail, raising awareness about environmental issues. This can teach students about moral values, environmental responsibility, and societal relevance.
- ✚ **Developing a Global Perspective:** Learning about local art and culture also broadens students' global perspectives. While incorporating local art into the curriculum, international art examples can also be introduced. For instance, while studying traditional Indian art, students can also be exposed to global artistic styles. This helps them appreciate the value of both local culture and international art, fostering respect for the global art community.
- ✚ **Connecting Students with Society:** Studying local culture and art helps build a bond between students and society. Schools can invite local artists, organize exhibitions, and hold workshops to immerse students in the real-world artistic community. This interaction can improve students' social and cultural understanding and foster a connection with the local community.
- ✚ **Contemporary Relevance of Tradition:** While studying local art, students can be encouraged to

consider how traditional art holds relevance today. For example, how has the form of local art evolved in modern times? How can technology be integrated into local art? How can these art forms address contemporary societal issues? Teaching this helps students gain insight into how traditional art remains relevant in today's society.

- ✦ **Emotional and Mental Development through Culture and Art:** Art provides students with an effective means of emotional expression. Local art, such as painting, music, and dance, offers students a way to express their feelings and find peace through their creativity. Studying art enhances students' self-confidence, emotional expression, and self-discovery, helping them grow emotionally and mentally.

By including local culture and art in the school curriculum, educators can provide students with a rich, diverse, and meaningful learning experience that connects them to their roots while broadening their understanding of the world.

METHODS OF INTEGRATING WARLI ART INTO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM:

Warli art, a traditional tribal art form, offers valuable lessons to students about nature, lifestyle, and cultural exchanges. The following are various methods for incorporating Warli art into the school curriculum:

- ❖ **Inclusion of Warli Art in Art Education:** Warli art is a unique style that effectively portrays nature, animals, humans, and various events. By studying Warli art, students can explore the use of colors, shapes, and designs. This art form can help teach students the importance of local culture and nature. Warli art can be introduced as a standalone subject in the curriculum or integrated into other art-related topics.
- ❖ **Introduction of Basic Art Elements at the Primary School Level:** At the primary school level, it is important to introduce Warli art as a simple introduction to colors, shapes, line drawings, and patterns. Teachers can explain the basic elements of Warli art through colors and structures, which will foster creativity, a connection with nature, and respect for local culture in students.
- ❖ **Inclusion in Art Classes:** Warli art can be a significant component of regular art classes. In these sessions, students can learn about the art's traditional techniques, color schemes, drawing styles, and artistic methods. The inclusion of Warli art can inspire students with knowledge and creativity, allowing them to understand the art's deeper meanings.
- ❖ **Inclusion in Social Studies and History:** Warli art can also be included in subjects like Social Studies and History. For example, while studying tribal lifestyles, cultures, and traditions, teachers can use Warli art as a tool to teach students about the importance of indigenous communities and their artistic expressions. This approach can help

students understand the significance of tribal art in the broader historical and cultural context.

- ❖ **Workshops and Practical Sessions on Traditional Art:** Organizing workshops and practical sessions is an essential method of teaching Warli art in schools. These sessions provide students the opportunity to express themselves through colors, styles, and creative thinking. Teachers can guide students through hands-on experiences, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of this traditional art form.
- ❖ **Use of Internet and Digital Tools:** In today's digital age, the use of the internet and digital tools can facilitate the learning of Warli art. Teachers can organize online tutorials, video lectures, and digital art lessons that introduce students to Warli art in an interactive manner. Computer labs can be used for practical lessons, where students can learn to create digital representations of Warli art.
- ❖ **Cultural Exchange Programs:** Organizing cultural exchange programs within the school can provide students with the opportunity to experience local art and culture firsthand. Such programs can include Warli art exhibitions, workshops, and interactive sessions, encouraging students to engage with the art and learn through experience. These events promote cultural dialogue and enrich students' understanding of indigenous art forms.
- ❖ **Involvement of Local Artists:** To effectively integrate Warli art into the school curriculum, the participation of local artists is crucial. Local artists can visit schools to demonstrate Warli techniques and work directly with students. This hands-on experience helps students develop a deeper understanding of the art, and fosters an appreciation for preserving and promoting local cultural heritage.
- ❖ **Integrating Literature and Art Education:** Warli art can be incorporated into literature and storytelling activities. For example, students can learn about the stories or poetry related to the images depicted in Warli art. This approach helps students develop a literary perspective alongside their artistic expression, allowing them to explore cultural narratives through both art and storytelling.
- ❖ **Linking Warli Art with Environmental Education:** Since Warli art is closely tied to nature, it can be effectively integrated into environmental education. The natural imagery in Warli paintings can be used to raise awareness about environmental issues, sustainability, and the importance of preserving nature. By studying these works, students will gain an understanding of environmental responsibility and the role of art in conveying ecological messages.

By integrating Warli art into various aspects of the school curriculum, students will not only learn about a traditional art form but also develop a deeper

connection to nature, culture, and history, fostering creativity and respect for diversity.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN CONTEXT OF WARLI ART AND NEP 2020:

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 presents a significant vision for reforming India's education system, emphasizing comprehensive improvements in both school and higher education sectors. In alignment with the policy, the following recommendations can be made at the government level for incorporating Warli art into the educational framework:

1. **Incorporation of Art, Culture, Language, and Local Traditions in the Curriculum:** to the holistic and all-round development of students, the government should include art, culture, language, and local traditions in the school curriculum. This would allow students to connect with their tradition and understand the importance of preserving cultural heritage, including indigenous arts like Warli.
2. **Focus on Creativity and Protection and Promotion of Local Culture and Tribal Knowledge :** Warli art, with its deep connection to nature and tribal traditions, can be a powerful tool for preserving these aspects while enhancing the creativity of students.
3. **Inclusion of Local Cultures and Arts in the Curriculum, Such as Warli Art:** As per NEP 2020, inclusion of local cultures and arts in the curriculum is vital. Warli art, which represents the cultural richness of tribal communities, should be incorporated into the school curriculum to help students appreciate and understand the diverse cultural landscape of India.
4. **Introduction of Warli Art as an Art Subject in Schools and Colleges:** The government should consider including Warli Art as a subject in both school and higher education curricula. This would provide students with a structured way to learn and appreciate this indigenous art form, contributing to their overall cultural education and personal development.
5. **Development of an Appropriate Curriculum for Warli Art:** To facilitate the integration of Warli art into the education system, the government should develop a specialized curriculum that focuses on the essential aspects of Warli art. This curriculum should cover its history, significance, techniques, and cultural context.
6. **Project-Based Learning Focused on Warli Art:** To help students understand the fundamental principles of Warli art, the government should encourage project-based learning. Schools and colleges can assign projects that involve students creating Warli-inspired artwork or researching its cultural and environmental significance. This hands-on approach would foster creativity and deep learning.

7. **Organization of Warli Art Workshops at School and College Levels:** Organizing workshops and practical sessions on Warli art at schools and colleges would provide students with an opportunity to engage directly with the art form. These workshops, guided by experienced artists, can help students learn the techniques and traditions involved in Warli painting, promoting hands-on learning.
8. **Special Programs to Introduce Tribal Communities and Their Arts:** Schools and colleges should organize special programs that introduce students to the local tribal communities and their traditional arts, including Warli. These programs can include guest lectures, exhibitions, and interactions with tribal artists, fostering a sense of respect and admiration for tribal culture.
9. **Preservation and Promotion of Local Culture and Tribal Knowledge Through Various Programs:** The government should promote various programs and initiatives on local culture and tribal knowledge. These programs could involve cultural festivals, exhibitions, and community outreach activities that enable the student to understand the significance of art forms like Warli and their role in society.

By adopting these recommendations, aligned with NEP 2020, the educational system can play a crucial role in preserving, promoting, and integrating Indigenous arts like Warli, contributing to holistic development of students and the recognition of India's diverse cultural heritage.

CONCLUSION:

Integrating Warli Art within the NEP 2020 gives a unique opportunity to revitalize and diversify Indian education. By incorporating this art form like Warli, the new education policy fosters creativity, cultural preservation, and experiential learning, promoting critical thinking and emotional expression. This approach aligns with NEP 2020's emphasis on holistic development, ensuring that students excel academically and remain connected to their cultural roots. Ultimately, Warli Art can be a powerful tool to bridge tradition and modernity, enriching the educational experience and nurturing well-rounded individuals.

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Conflicts of interest

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