

History and Philosophy of Art and Design Education

# Teaching Manifesto

A Proposal for College and Undergraduate Level

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## Idea & Philosophy

Before starting off with my idea and philosophy regarding 'Teaching', I would like to explain a few terms. The interesting fact about those terms is that its definition varies from person to person. People perceive these terms as per their own understanding and define them differently.

Let's have look at my definition of those terms:

**Education** is learning about something unknown and developing one's thoughts (be it skills, values, morals, beliefs, habits, etc) through practical or virtual experience.

**Art** is the way of thinking. It is one's perspective of looking at things and expressing it through any material, be it virtual or real.

**Childhood** is the purest yet the most absorbing stage, where you learn and grasp things from everywhere. A time period of expressing and perceiving things without boundaries.

**Adulthood** is a partial reflection of a childhood. Whatever (belief, practices, morals, values, etc) is being sowed in one's childhood, has high probability to be evident in the later stages of adolescence and adulthood, provided the constant polishing and growth.

**Institutions** are the places used to impart the education/knowledge to the learners, and ideally should have a fruitful environment that gives social and physical benefits.

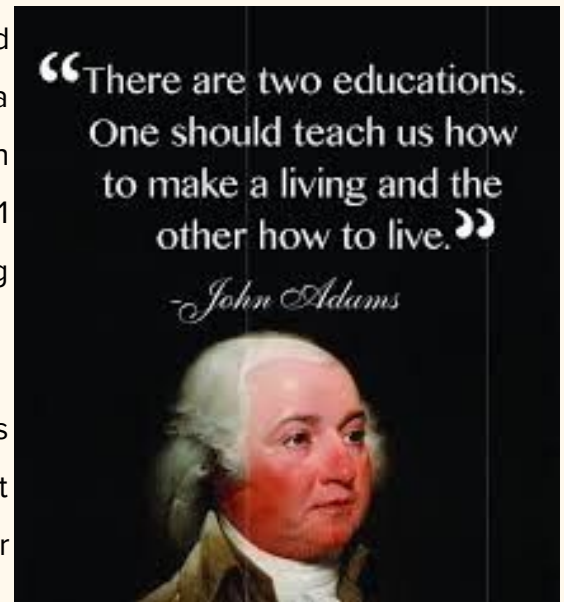
My idea and Philosophy of teaching is that learners should first focus and learn how to become a good human by being loyal to oneself, analyzing things, especially about oneself, 'CRITICALLY'. Always take into consideration the perspective of others and be EMPATHETIC. They also should be well aware of their surroundings and try giving fruitful results to the environment.

# Influences

## 1: John Adams

John Adams was the second President of the United States. He was also a statesman, an attorney and a writer. In one of his quotes, he defined education in very simple words that education is of 2 types; 1 basically teaches us how to earn money to make a living and other teaches us how to live.

In my opinion, both are important but the later one is something which is mandatory and if one gets that education, a way to make a living would become easier to comprehend.



**My Take Away:** Education should teach one 'how to live'. By living, one should be first empathetic towards others and cautious about his actions by being considerate towards the environment and its people in a positive way.

## 2. Holism

Holism is basically a philosophy, which states that our mind, body and spirit all work together with the environment and the surroundings. And they all work as a whole rather considering them separate parts or entities. Usually Holism is considered to be an idea where it points towards: 'whole is greater than the sum of its parts', that's where it is spelled as WHOLISM.

Jan Smuts and Ron Miller also supported the philosophy of Holism in their writings.

I consider that both are interlinked as Wholism encompasses Holism. If we will not accept wholism, the effect and benefits of holism can not be fully determined. Wholism is a combination

of individuals along with their environment/surroundings (environment as whole and individual as part of it). Individuals create the environment and effect it immensely, thus the environment is dependent on its individuals. If individuals get holistic development, it will end up facilitating and benefiting others and the environment.

**My Take Away:** Holistic Development of a learner is mandatory throughout the learning period. Holistic Development encompasses all the aspects of PSHE (physical, social, health and economic development) as well.



### 3. Confucius

Confucius was a Chinese philosopher and a politician as well. His philosophy of education is also known as **Confucianism**, which states that human beings are the ends not the means, and the ultimate end of learning is to understand and realize the true nature of human beings – thus **becoming a full human**.

He stressed on the refinement of personal qualities such as benevolence, reciprocity, and filial piety. He believed that authoritarians and leaders should reflect virtue and cultivate discipline and moral authority in themselves first. He also emphasized personal and governmental morality, correctness of social relationships, justice, kindness and sincerity.

**My Take Away:** Humanity, which is being instilled at early levels, should get developed and polished.



## Proposal



Being a teacher at BeaconHouse School System at Early years level, I encountered a new area of experience that is **PSHE**. P for Personal, S is for Social, H is for Health and E is for Economic Development.

At later stages after early years, it transforms into Social Studies. But after school, this is not a part of curriculum, be it an Art or Science institute at College and University level.

In Art Institutes, facilitators do touch these topics and discuss them among the students during delivering their lessons, but the way it should be implemented and impacted the life of a student by solving/addressing the problems, is still missing.

I want to propose a policy where this education of **HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT**, incorporating **PSHE** aspects, should be a part of curriculum in art colleges and universities.



## Reason and Objective

In this era of competition, mostly students get overwhelmed with the studies and its grading system. It might be a result of the family pressure, the pampering brought up, the unlimited fulfilment of desires, availability of the gadgets and other facilities without much or no struggle at all, etc. Due to these reasons (apart from the natural once), our youth faces depression or looks up to flee in the form of suicide.

Learners spend almost half of a day in the institutions, and apart from studies, there are other matters which they, at times, are unable to tackle or feel comfortable in discussing with family or even peers. For the constant counselling and listening to the unheard matters, there should be

a platform where learners can participate or even if they do not, they may seek the solution of their problems.

By inculcating the Holistic Development and PSHE aspects into learners, whatever field they choose for education or as a profession for living, they would self groom and analyze themselves to that extent that they will be beneficial for themselves and others, including the environment.

## Strategies and Policies

Since at college and university level, due to the tight schedule and timetable, it would get difficult to incorporate PSHE as a proper subject. Hence, I proposed a strategy of conducting the following activities of 30 mins duration within the prescribed time span of college and university. This ought to be a graded activity so that learners attend it regularly and to make them captivating, they will be organized once a week and would be interactive and engaging.

- Seminars and Discussion platforms
  - Conducted by some influential personality or organization
  - Any experienced person, any common man or even the facilitators of the institute can be called upon.
- Workshops
- Screening in the departments
  - Followed by a discussion among peers or facilitators
- Role plays
  - Dramatic society of the institute or anyone can perform a short play.

A topic will be chosen for the whole month (4 sessions per month - 1/week). Learners will be informed about the topic prior so they may think on the same line to participate. This can only be implemented properly if it's a part of the curriculum and a requirement from HEC.

## Benefits for Arts Learners

PSHE and Holistic Development is beneficial for all areas of learning as it is going to benefact the individual personally and morally.

If the instilled values and beliefs of a learner are pure and benevolent, he is going to be **sensitive** and **empathetic** towards others, be it other individuals or the environment, and that is going to reflect in this work.

A learner can give the best output when he is satisfied, mentally and physically healthy and critically analytic about himself. When a person does self analysis GENUINELY, only then he can understand his actions and their reflections on others.

Art is a very sensitive field and the artist ought to be sensitive and should possess information on a deep level, see more connections and perspectives and care and relate to others in a profound way. But most of all, he should be a full human by considering the fact that what harms him may harm others.





- <https://www.tes.com/news/compulsory-pshe-line-public-mood> (PSHE Hands)
- <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/370913719310024175/> (holistic development)