

# Role of Creative Drama for the all-round Development of the Students

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**Abstract** - Today we are in the digital age where technology is developing by leaps and bounds. So also, the student's minds are in tune with the technology right from the beginning of their lives. Hence there should be a change in the teaching styles from traditional methods to modern methods. Teaching should not be bound to the classrooms but should be extended to the society, community and to the world around. Teaching and learning of English has been a challenge particularly to the second language learners. Though there are a variety of activities and techniques to enhance English communication skills, drama can also be used as a tool to improve not only language proficiency but also to develop knowledge of the society. Hence the present study aims at the creative use of drama for the all round development of the students.

**Index Terms** - Digital age, technology, modern methods, communication skills, creativity.

## INTRODUCTION

The learner's interest in an English language classroom depends on the teaching styles selected by the teacher. The main role of the teacher is to stimulate the learner and lead the students towards the learning process. As a point of fact, if the students are rightly motivated, they will be excited to participate and thereby language learning process goals could be effortlessly achieved. The use of drama in a classroom is said to be an effective tool in the present education context. The main reason drama being an important technique to enhance student's learning process is due to its ability to incorporate different aspects along with language development.

Strong, Silver & Perini(2001) states that verbal linguistic intelligence takes four categories.

1. Mastery (Knowing) 2. Inter-personal (social skills) 3. Understanding (discovery & reasoning) and 4. Self-expressive (creativity). Based on the four categories,

drama can be used as a tool in developing language ability. With structured plan drama covers all the four dimensions.

Student's language proficiency could be enhanced through drama as an activity conducted in the classroom. Drama is an action that allows you to take an active role and emphasises your mindset over the characters you create. Drama employs language to depict real people in real situations. Somers (2013) defines drama as a way of communication and also it is a main tool which takes us to reach our goals. McGregor (1976) (quoted by Ustundag 1997) is of the opinion that drama contributes a chance for the students to work together which lets them express efficiently. Use of drama and its techniques sustain learning in the classroom.

Chandra Sakaran Kalidas (2014) is of the opinion that drama in education context allows the group of students to play their roles within an imaginary context. Drama makes a class to be more interesting. It helps students to express ideas and opinions. It is proved to be a powerful mode of learning which gives learners a chance to work collectively with a good coordination.

## FEATURES OF DRAMA

Drama includes

- Kinesic features (gestures, movements, facial expressions).
- Self expressiveness.
- Creativity and imagination.
- Spontaneity.
- Social and cultural awareness.
- Prosodic features (pronunciation, intonation, pitch, pace, tone of voice and volume).

Drama projects all the societal issues when performed in the classrooms, offer children to involve in fictional character play. It leads towards insight, understanding

and involvement. It promotes the collective and creative growth of the children. It needs the encouragement of the teachers as well the learners to ideate and perform creatively. It provides an opportunity to engage and exhibit the real and imaginary world. As Neelands (2011) opines that drama being a creative activity needs the involvement of both teachers and learners, enabling imaginative and react creatively and at times spontaneously responding to the different situations. Drama is considered to have a motivating function. It can be used as a tool to motivate the children and also used to trigger children's involvement and learning by performing different roles.

#### CLASSROOM DRAMA

Classroom drama improves student's creative thinking in the form of performing and script writing. Drama offers the children in imaginatively making the script, sharing and responding to others views in a playful way. Furthermore, it can be used as a tool in language learning. Drama sessions which are conducted within the classroom enable children in independent learning and writing.

Mc William (2007) points out that teachers who encourage creativity are no more "Sage on the stage or guide by the side but more a meddlers in the middle." Hence teacher's role is so prominent in nurturing and improving learning abilities of the students.

#### LEARNING THROUGH DRAMA

Dramas help the children to build positive relations, communication, to improve confidence, develop self respect and project ethical and personal values. It gives rich and rewarding experience by exploring different lives, gaining insights from the story they are enacting. This type of learning is referred to as a "vivid method of learning" by Chan (2009:201) (quoted by Cremin 2014). Where there is a chance for children to gain knowledge about society. Not only do they perform, but it also allows them to engage, explore, and express themselves.

#### AREAS OF LEARNING COVERED IN DRAMA

Imagination, social and personal issues, communication, creative thinking, content of the

drama are some of the areas. Cremin (2014) says that "Learning in drama arises out of the experience alongside the children's personal and social reflection upon it. Creative dramas are similar to role-plays where the children learn about themselves. They learn in making decisions and also strengthen their communication skills by developing relationship with others. Drama helps in various skill developments using right body language, exploring their own and others emotions. Creative drama also provides an environment where there is a possibility of social growth and academic development. It helps in enhancing vocabulary and individual thinking.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS THROUGH DRAMA

Drama is an effective tool to develop soft skills and emotional intelligence of the students. The skills which are not gained through the traditional education are made possible with the help of drama. Drama covers various daily issues likes social, moral, ethical through body, gestures, dialogues etc. It helps an individual to develop their communication skills, creative thinking skills. Students can improve their creativity and can actively involve in the learning process. Drama assists students to think innovatively and can reflect their own views. Drama develops communication skills, team work, dialogue framing, it develops imagination and creativity. It gives an insight to understand human behaviour and understanding etc.

##### 1. DRAMA DEVELOPS CONFIDENCE

Drama builds confidence, self-respect and self-esteem. Children learn to express themselves independently. It assists them to overcome their personal barriers and makes them courageous.

##### 2. HELPS TO DEAL LIFE'S PROBLEMS

Drama provides the children with an opportunity to analyse and explore every day problems and gives them an opportunity to react to the life's problems.

##### 3. DEVELOPS COMMUNICATION AND PRESENTATION SKILLS

Drama helps in the development of communication skills where they can easily share their feelings; emotions through different facial expressions suitable to the contexts thereby enable them to be effective communicators.

##### 4. PROMOTES CREATIVITY

Drama helps in producing new ideas and is able to view problems from a different perspective. Creativity being an important life skill, helps them to be innovative in their thinking and imagination.

#### 5. ENCOURAGES CRITICAL THINKING DEVELOPS PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION MAKING

Drama teaches problem solving skills. It helps in motivating the students in making decisions, analyse a situation and extend possible solutions

#### 6. FOSTER TEAMWORK AND COOPERATION

In performing the drama, students learn to work with one another. Besides, they learn to work with a group, they learn how to support, respect and motivate one another. It also helps to be aware of the world around them and furthermore drama is a fun activity which helps them to relieve themselves from the boredom of traditional education system. It is a kind of fun way of learning new skills and explores different issues.

#### 7. DEVELOPMENT OF SOFT SKILLS

Drama provides an awareness of soft skills. It helps them to acquire gestures, responding and reacting to various situations and how to deal with feelings. In a way it teaches us how to behave in a society.

Schneider (2000) says that “Drama is a tool for instruction and learning that supports literacy development while also fostering children’s inclination to imagine.” It elevates student’s imaginative power. Rosenblatt (1978) conveys that a drama gives a chance for exhibiting student’s real experiences. The students involve in a great deal of writing. They try to manipulate their views in connection to their imagination. Wagner (1994) affirms that it is a powerful tool which provides a context where students not only write for practical use but also functional use.

Drama assists them to see the world from various perspectives. Imagination plays a vital role while participating in drama. As Berthoff (1981) expresses that imagination is not only a child’s play but it is the core skill which can be used in thinking and writing. Encouraging students towards imagination moreover through learning process is possible through dramas. Sylvia (2000) recognised that drama provided opportunities for the students to develop opinions, ideas, develop relationship which is essential in learning process. It gives an offer to take the students out of classroom atmosphere as they feel that they are

placed in imaginary, playful and enthusiastic, encouraging kind of environment.

### SOME CREATIVE DRAMA ACTIVITIES

Creative drama encourages creativity and their creative thinking. Drama oriented activities benefits the students by liberating the students from the bounds of conventional teaching. It paves the way towards active and encouraging environment further develops student’s language learning ability.

#### I.ROLE PLAY

Role plays often gives a chance to be someone else. It may include characters, dialogues, action, body language and language. It involves students taking the roles of imaginary people in imaginary situations.

#### II. IMPROVISATION

In the field of drama, improvisation is another kind of live theatre in which there is a plot, characters, dialogue, scene, story etc. The main thing of this activity is its spontaneity.

#### III. PANTOMIME

Pantomimes are non-verbal prompts. They are like guessing games where they practice thinking creatively.

#### IV. PUPPET SHOW

Puppet are created and shown to tell stories or dialogues. Children are excited to participate and write their own script from a story or incident.

#### V. SKIT

Skits are short dramas conducted based on some topic or situation or story. Skits often include humorous dialogues. Through skits students display pleasure and enthusiasm while acting.

### CONCLUSION

To conclude, drama is regarded as a good teaching tool which can be adopted and adapted in teaching methodology. Drama moulds a person to develop as an individual and as emotionally responsible person in the society. The uniqueness of drama as stated by Verriour (1994) attempts to establish a real-life situation which leads towards self- discovery. Hence drama could be effectively implemented in classroom to create a student friendly environment by which students can easily come out of their shell of fear and can be good communicators.

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