

Promoting Arts and Culture in Education: Chhattisgarh initiative

One defining feature of the New Education Policy is its focus on promotion of Indian languages, arts and culture. Promotion of Indian Arts & Culture is a priority that will benefit not only the nation but also the individual. It is necessary to introduce students to their culture which will enable them to have a sense of belonging and identity and will also help them value their culture & traditions. The students must develop a strong sense of their own cultural history, languages, arts, and traditions which will also boost their self-esteem and benefit society as a whole.

Chhattisgarh being the tribal dominated state and having different tribal communities with different culture and languages, it is the prime responsibility of the state to provide culture-oriented education and efforts in this regard started long back but now after the introduction of NEP, state has much liberty to take some action towards integrating arts and culture in education. State translated the class one and two hindi textbooks into different tribal languages and initiated the process of teaching the young in their own mother-tongue. The first task taken in hand by State Samagra Shiksha Office is to form a group of teachers having interest, knowledge and awareness about their rich cultural heritage and traditions. A whatsapp and telegram groups was formed immediately to make such like-minded teachers join this group. Language-wise separate groups were also formed in which it was made mandatory to chat in their own local language and discuss about various aspects of their cultural heritage. The main objectives of forming such groups are:

- i. Enhancing the quality of cultural awareness among teachers
- ii. Introducing the learning and sharing of our traditional folk, classical and contemporary art forms
- iii. Helping teachers to appreciate the world of arts, music and literature

When teachers get the idea and enjoy this area, then its natural that they will start using this learning and experience during their classroom teaching and make their students aware about their rich cultural heritage and respect toward their traditions.

The second task offered by the state samagra shiksha is to make our teachers learn the language of their students especially teachers posted from other community and non-native speakers to learn the language of their students with the help of local language knowing teachers, i.e. teachers belonging to the same community, mid-day meal local self-help groups, parents as well as senior students belonging to the community. Different Professional Learning Communities were formed to make teachers learn the language and understand the culture.

The third and important task is to form a group of teachers interested to share their indigenous knowledge and culture using social media. Like-minded expert teachers were invited to participate and show their talents in the field of arts and culture. A local team was formed by state Pedagogy cell with the help of local official Ms. Vandana Sharma and Dr. Jaya Chandrakar from SCERT, both having background, taste and knowledge in this field. They were assigned the task of organizing different webinars for teachers. Till date, three webinars have been arranged with the following themes:

- i. Folk songs focussed on spring season- 19/02/2021



**बगरो वसंत छत्तीसगढ़ में ..
छत्तीसगढ़ी लोकगीत एवं
गायन का शैक्षिक संदर्भ**

दिनांक : 19/02/21
समय : 11 बजे से सुबह

<https://youtu.be/QUpE4tKDzNQ>

समग्र शिक्षा, छत्तीसगढ़

ii. Folk songs sung during Holi, festival of colours

शैक्षिक फाग गीत

होली के अवसर पर गाए जाने वाले
स्थानीय फाग गीतों का शैक्षिक
संदर्भ...

समग्र शिक्षा छत्तीसगढ़




<https://youtu.be/jsLxQzLpgu8>

दिनांक : 30 मार्च 2021
समय: दोपहर 2 बजे से




iii. Folk songs to welcome new year and Navratri




हमारा नववर्ष

चैत्र भारतीय नववर्ष एवं चैत्र
नवरात्री के अवसर पर गाये
जाने वाले लोक गीतों का
शैक्षिक संदर्भ

समग्र शिक्षा छत्तीसगढ़

दिनांक : 13 अप्रैल 2021
समय : 12 बजे से सुबह

<https://youtu.be/0IKRu5wWkxk>



Teachers with the above background and knowledge were identified and given specific areas/items for their presentation. It was also made sure by the organizing committee to cover different parts of the state, culture and language. All the above programs are made available in youtube for teachers to enjoy and use these learning in their classrooms while teaching.

Future Plans:

The team will organize the following programs with a team of teachers and community members having indigenous knowledge-

- i. Collection of folk songs and traditions being followed in different parts of Chhattisgarh right from the birth to death related occasions
- ii. Sharing of ideas on different traditions, customs, rituals and their scientific base to develop self-esteem of our students and an understanding of our indigenous knowledge
- iii. Establishment of museums in different locations to depict and learn the culture and traditions of different community with the help of local community
- iv. E-documentation of different aspects of tribal culture and rich cultural heritage
- v. Identifying a pool of human resources to act as guest faculties in schools to make children understand different arts form and culture
- vi. Booklet on different community depicting their origin, history, traditions, culture and beliefs, rituals, stories of some successful people from their community, aspirations of the community and learnings which could be used in classrooms