

Importance of Toy Based Pedagogy at Primary School Level

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ABSTRACT

In the twenty-first century, play-based learning, also referred to as Toy-Based Pedagogy, has been acknowledged as an effective teaching strategy. Because it effectively engages young learners and fosters holistic development, it plays a critical role at the foundational phases of education. The Greek philosopher Aristotle placed a strong emphasis on the value of toys in fostering young brains and directing their development. One admirable tactic that gives pupils plenty of time and opportunity to comprehend the ideas and facts on their own is Toy Based Learning. With its emphasis on play-centric learning in the foundational and preparatory years and use of games, puzzles, and toys as teaching tools, the National Education Policy (NEP2020) of 2020 marks a significant change. Toy Based Pedagogy blends theory with holistic knowledge to provide pupils with a well-rounded education that include chances for play, creativity, imagination, observation, engagement, and discovery.

Keywords: *Toy Based Pedagogy, NEP 2020, holistic development*

Toy-based education allows students to have a larger and more distinct understanding of concepts and realities. Toy collaboration in the teaching learning process benefits students in a variety of ways, including improved attendance, elevated organization and discipline, improved decision-making ability, heightened spatial awareness, formation of virtues such as honesty, sportsmanship, and patience, and the teaching of the importance of hygiene.

Toy-Based Pedagogy (TBP) combines theory and holistic learning to provide youngsters with a comprehensive educational experience that includes opportunities for play, imagination, innovation, observation, engaging, and exploring.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Toy provides a significant impact on a child's cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioral development, particularly in early childhood. Children learn, grow, and gain self-assurance via play. They learn how to explore, be creative, occupy themselves, and interact with others (Amrey, 2009).

Play teaches children how to regulate their conduct, interact with others, and explore the world (Levin and Rosenquert, 2001).

Toys are commonly used to facilitate children's play. They are products that encourage children's creativity, imagination, curiosity, building, learning, and role-playing in a variety of settings (Axline, 1974; Peretti & Sydney, 1984).

Playing with toys is important in a child's life since it encourages learning, growth, and development (Butterworth & Harris, 1994).

Conceptual Background of Toys:

Traditional Toys: A toy is just something to play with. Toys are more than simply imaginative playthings. They may be used as a source of learning and building blocks, a source of entertainment during boring hours, and much more. For young children, they can be an eye-catching diversion, while older children frequently use them as miniature models of the adult world. Toys are valuable historical artifacts for fans and collectors.

Traditional toys are those that are made in the local cultural setting using accessible resources, knowledge, and contextualization, have cultural, environmental, geographical, and educational significance, and are native to the country. Playing with locally made toys is helpful for children's health since they are made of safe materials, frequently recycled waste, which also promotes the environment's health. Unlike synthetic, plastic toys, which have serious negative

health consequences, they have no adverse effects on their users (Rangaswamy et al. 2018). Toys vary depending on the cultures of the various states and regions. These can serve as a forum for thought exchange and provide a richness of cultural diversity and variation, making them incredibly informative and valuable resources. Furthermore, it can provide the area a sense of worthwhile also opening up opportunities for jobs and the economy. Traditional toys are classified by the materials they are built of, which include metal, wood, clay, paper, bamboo, paper, cloth, rags, and other materials. These materials are inexpensive, easily accessible, and safe for children to play.

These materials are affordable, readily accessible, safe for children to play with, and eco-friendly. Toys can also be classified according to the state or region they originate from (NCERT, 2022). There are many different sorts of toys, including rattles (like dug-dugi), dolls (such as wooden and soft dolls), small culinary utensils Outdoor games include Gilli-danda and Appa-rapi, spinning toys like Lattoo and Firki, dynamic toys like gravity and percussion toys, walking toys, and puppets. Toys can be used throughout schooling, from preschool to upper secondary. Toys suitable for primary school-aged children include rattles, spinning toys, puppets, and plush animals. Toys suitable for older children include board games and full circuits. NEP 2020 recommends using indigenous toys in teaching to improve students' physical abilities, including balance, hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, coordination of movements, fine and gross motor skills, and general body control. Toys can be used to educate various subjects in labs and classrooms, Online learning environments for social sciences, psychology, philosophy, political science, economics, and mathematics. Language, entrepreneurship, science, and so on. For example: Students can learn about farming techniques. Using a small wooden cart, demonstrate geography and physics concepts.

Building a sailboat can be used to demonstrate scientific topics covered include ideas, measurements, and literature. Every toy brings certain simulations, and the accompanying.

The use of Traditional toys in education

Traditional toys are cultural treasures that have been passed down through centuries, serving as more than just toys. These artifacts represent our forebears' creativity, craftsmanship, and

resourcefulness, offering valuable insights into our traditions and values. Indigenous toys are often disregarded in favor of mass-produced options, despite their inherent value. It is time to revise the storyline. Recognize the usefulness of indigenous toys in education. Supporting the usage of indigenous toys in schools opens up new opportunities. We create pride and identity in our students by providing authentic links to their roots. We pique their curiosity and encourage them to explore our diverse culture. However, the goal is to empower, not just preserve. Indigenous toys not only serve as historical objects, but also inspire innovation and creativity. They inspire innovative learning approaches.

Toy Based Pedagogy and its Importance

Toy-based pedagogy is categorized as play-based pedagogy. Play refers to any activity involving things like toys or field games. Children enjoy and learn via play. Play is commonly used in education to enhance children's learning, as it is a natural activity for them. While toys and puppets are commonly associated with play-based learning, the phrase encompasses a wide range of activities. NCERT (2022) describes a flexible process that includes role play, art-integrated learning, and experiential learning. Toy-based pedagogies aid students in grades 1–6 by improving conceptual comprehension, holistic development, creativity, imagination, and emotional intelligence (Wadhawan, 2022).

Develop student's creativity and imagination:

Toy-based education can enhance students' creativity and imagination, promoting holistic development. This broadens one's perspective on the world. Helping youngsters develop creative thinking skills is vital. Toys like blocks, dolls, animal toys, balls, mini-cars, and pretend play encourage children to dream and create stories, boosting their creativity.

Promotes transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary learning:

Children often acquire information from their surroundings. Toys can help children learn science, technology, math, arts, and engineering concepts. Toys, regardless of size or complexity, teach children valuable lessons. When a youngster builds a tower out of blocks and then sees it collapse, they may experience feelings of loss. The child learns physics (e.g. gravity)

and analyzes how to keep the tower from tumbling. Children's brains are stimulated and guided in studying patterns.

Toys help children develop motor skills and improve hand-eye coordination.

This promotes their physical growth. Toys that challenge youngsters to push, pull, grab, squeeze, turn, or use their hands can improve their motor abilities. Toys promote the development of sensory-motor skills, mental agility, social skills, and emotional well-being. Toys that encourage manipulation, coordination, and sensory stimulation can help children develop fine and gross motor abilities, as well as spatial awareness.

Promotes social and emotional development:

Children often associate affection, attention, and happiness with their toys. As a result, children show affection for their toys. Children see emotional links with their parents or friends, as well as the objects they play with. Discussing expected social and emotional behaviors with parents during play can teach children essential life lessons such as tolerance, patience, and teamwork. Toys can help children express their fears and worries. Playing with toys for hours can create happy and healthy childhood memories for children to cherish. Children who have fully experienced childhood may find it easier to adjust to adulthood. Psychologists acknowledge that play fosters social connection and emotional management. Toy-based pedagogy promotes collaboration, cooperation, and conflict resolution through pretend play, cooperative games, and group activities.

Enhances Active learning:

Psychologists emphasize the significance of active learning in children's cognitive development. Toys promote hands-on exploration and discovery, helping youngsters build their understanding of the world around them.

Encourages individualized learning:

Each child has unique interests, skills, and learning styles. Toy-based pedagogy enables personalized learning experiences by allowing children to select toys and activities that match

their preferences and skills. This encourages autonomy, self-directed learning, and intrinsic drive.

Reduction of anxiety and tension:

Play can alleviate anxiety and tension in children by allowing for healthy self-expression and emotional release. Psychologists highlight the therapeutic benefits of play in fostering emotional well-being and resilience, especially during transitions or hardship.

Academic achievement:

Toy-based pedagogy helps children acquire core skills for academic achievement, including problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork. NEP 2020 highlights the importance of establishing a firm foundation in these skills from elementary school to promote later academic progress.

The Teacher's Role in Implementing Toy-Based Pedagogy

Toys in Curriculum:

Teachers can use native games and toys that connect with subject themes to enhance student learning outcomes in subjects such as social science, math, and science.

Resource Selection:

Teachers select developmentally appropriate toys and materials to support learning goals and student needs. They chose toys that promote creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and exploration.

Interaction and team work:

Toy-based activities foster social interaction and teamwork among students. These activities foster social-emotional development and interpersonal skills through opportunities for cooperation, dialogue, sharing, as well as negotiating. Toy-based activities enhance social

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Observation and Assessment:

Teachers monitor students during play to assess their comprehension, talents, and academic development. They use informal approaches such as conversations, observations, and demonstrations to examine and change instruction based on learning results.

Feedback and Reflection:

During reflection sessions led by teachers, students discuss their findings, insights, and conclusions from toy-based learning activities. They provide comments, support, and guidance to assist kids grasp the content more deeply and make connections between play and academic subjects.

Parents involvement:

Teachers educate parents and other caregivers about the benefits of toy-based pedagogy and how they can support learning through play at home. This is known as parent involvement. They include resources and ideas for selecting and interacting with toys, as well as a message about the importance of play in a child's development.

Children's learning, creativity, problem-solving skills, personality development, mental health, cultural awareness, and moral development are all enhanced when they play with toys. Toys and play are also not distinct activities or products that are only used at particular stages of childhood. In order to reflect the importance put on formal education, it is imperative that children be given time to play and interact with toys. Unquestionably, these initiatives are crucial in tackling today's issues, which include pervasive digital addiction, declining values, and strained social ties. Accordingly, integrating play and toys into kids' daily routines could significantly aid in addressing these societal issues (Mustafa, 2018). The value of active learning for kids' cognitive development is also emphasized by psychologists. Children can explore and experiment with toys through hands-on activities. Toys give kids the chance to actively connect

with ideas and build their awareness of the world around them by facilitating hands-on experimentation and exploration. At the foundational levels of education, several commissions and committees suggested the value of toy-based pedagogy. The idea that play is a fundamental avenue for learning and growth rather than merely amusement is the foundation for using toys as pedagogical instruments in preschool. Preschoolers naturally engage in play, which allows them to engage in practical experiences that foster their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Teachers can establish rich environments where students not only gain academic knowledge but also develop the fundamental abilities required for success in life by utilizing play-based learning experiences. Learning experiences can be scaffolded with toys, enabling kids to progress gradually from easy to challenging assignments. By designing tasks that progressively increase in complexity, teachers can help students build on their existing knowledge and abilities. Toy-based education encourages children's curiosity and creativity by providing them with seemingly endless possibilities. Children are able to freely explore and express their creativity, which fosters the growth of their creative thinking abilities and their overall development by addressing a variety of areas, including their physical, mental, social, and emotional growth.

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