Abstract

Towards a New Approach on Teaching Art Education in the Light of the Demands of the Present Information Technology

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The use of computers in the process of learning in the realm of art education has proven to be successful and a considerable number of educators and researchers in this field have called upon its use. Many of the decision-makers in Saudi Arabia have realized the importance of utilizing computers in the educational process by introducing Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Schools' Net Project (Watani). This project aims to "fully assimilate information and communication technology into the school system; to positively exploit information and communication technology in the educational process, to develop teachers' potentials and the cognitive level of students by enabling them to directly access sources of knowledge, and to upgrade the results of the educational process by graduating productive highly skilled future generations of students". In spite of all that, our curriculums- especially art education's curriculum- lacks a great deal of development and updating. Students are still forced to draw subject-matters that are previously chosen by the art education teachers using old fashion ways that have no modern techniques and no place for students' imagination and creativity. Consequently, this will have a negative impact on the students' creative and imaginative growth.

Therefore, this study aims to bring about better pedagogical approaches to teach art education in Saudi Arabia by using computers; and to keep up with the technological development. Accordingly, art education teachers will be able to join the developed countries through producing generations that will be able to coexist with the modern information technology and the Internet.

This study highlights the pros and cons of the use of computers that became a necessity in various art education fields. After reviewing related literature, the researcher has come up with some recommendations that might

help develop art education curriculum in Saudi Arabia. The more significant of these recommendations are: the need to develop art education curriculum from k-12, and the need to include computers in teachers' preparation programs and in-service teachers' training. This will develop the learning and teaching processes in order to face the challenges and demands of this age.