

The Editor
Daily Dawn

Hindu Gymkhana: Art College

I have a suggestion for Mr. Nagori. Waste no tears on art college or art education in the country because there are not many who will notice it. I know for some expressions like “wasting a fine building over a fine arts college “ are like falling from a great height but then it don't hurt no more. It is not the question as to which building should an art college be housed in but should there be another art college at all?

Some people simply do not understand the significance of art and its appreciation for a growing society. Lack of the fine art and performing arts results in cultural stagnation. People do not appreciate that art is not just painting or sculpture. It also has an inherent relationship with all the crafts. The great artists and sculptors of yesteryears were also the greatest architects and designers, and that the fine art have laid the very foundations of engineering and technology. Lack of art also takes away the sensitivity, wit and understanding in a developing society. For some the development in the arts and crafts in a society is like a barometer of civilization.

While the developed world is reaping the harvest of a “Design Culture” that results from a literate and an educated society and also which flourishes with inventions and innovations, offering research and solutions to problems in every walk of life, but we, after half a century of programs are still limping with the most illiterate nations of the world.

Do we really need art education on a priority, when we do not even have proper primary education? Who's got the time when majority of us are running around trying to make ends meet with perpetual promises of Roti, Kapra aur Makan.

Do we have the very essential health facilities; do we have the essential transport facilities? The list is very long, but do we really have our basic rights? Give me one person who can say that he/she received justice (cheap and when it was needed). Can a life lived with fear of law enforcement agencies and governmental agencies be termed as peaceful. Will we ever have “Law and Order” or “Rule of Law”. Our crime calendar is absolutely sickening and the irony of irony is that we cannot do a thing about it. A lot of us take everything for granted.

Perhaps the deprivation of finer elements in life makes us callous and intolerant. One of the finer elements is definitely the arts!

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