

ART FOR PEACE

Outline

Avoid minor language mistakes

Keep practicing on different topics

1 Introduction: Art, in its various forms, has the immense potential to promote peace in all spheres of life including individual, state and global level

2 Art for Peace at individual level:

a) Personal discovery

i) Exploration of purpose

ii) Unveiling hidden thoughts

iii) Presence in the moment

Unclear argument

b) Self expression

i) Strengthens individuality

ii) Embraces differences

c) Trauma healing

i) Help in psychotherapy

ii) Distraction from trauma

d) Connection with the divine

i) Cater spiritual needs

ii) Religious symbolism

3. Art for Peace at state level:

a) National integration

i) National songs

ii) literature

b) Interfaith harmony

c) Non-violent protests

i) Mitigate violence

ii) Alternate way for protest

d) Unite nation against a cause

i) Case in point: ISPR songs

e) Image building of institutions

i) Through movies and dramas

f) Promotes tourism

i) Symbolic monuments

ii) local architecture

iii) Artifacts

4. Art for peace at global level:

a) Cultural diplomacy

i) Cross-border collaborations

(case in point: World Exp 2022, Dubai)

b) Awareness of global causes

i) social issues

ii) Terrorism

iii) Climate change

c) Universal language

5. Conclusion

Arguments should be more mature

In 2015, a youth organization based in Karachi initiated the 'Walls of Peace' project. This initiative aimed to transform walls, previously filled with hate-speech graffiti into vibrant murals. The young artist managed to paint over 2000 walls of the city with messages of peace and awareness of social issues. This initiative not only transformed the city's outlook but cultivated a social bond among various stakeholders of the community. This example stands as a practical manifestation of how hate can be mitigated through art and how art can lead to peaceful coexistence. Indeed, art, in its various forms, has immense potential to promote peace in all spheres of life including individual, state and global level. It is a cohesive force that helps in keeping society intact and preserves moral values of the community by constantly reminding humankind about the value of peace.

First of all, arts plays a profound role in cultivating peace at individual level by fostering sense of purpose and self-exploration. Individuals seeking deeper understanding of themselves often draw inspiration from various forms of literature. Such literature provides insights into the experiences of others who struggled with similar questions of existence, leading to a deeper understanding of self. Additionally, art poses power to raise questions and awaken hidden thoughts. Through this process of self discovery, individuals find peace in their existence by answering those questions. Furthermore, engaging in any form of art allows individuals to immerse themselves in present moment. It provides individuals an asylum from stress, depression, and the worries of life and preserves the mental peace.

Art also helps individuals in developing their self-expression by strengthening their individuality.

In arts, there is nothing wrong or right as it does not follow any formulas like mathematics. Art helps people to be at peace with their own unique self and interact with their unique traits to the society. It aids individuals to embrace being different from the rest of the world and accept the disparities of life. Moreover, self expression allows individuals to convey their thoughts with various art forms and influence the masses. It also helps others to see what constitutes an individual's personality by looking at their expressions in art. For instance, Zindagi Trust, an NGO run by an famous artist Shehzad Roy, launched an initiative called 'Wall of Secrets' in their school. Young girls submit their artworks in a secret box and later it is displayed on the wall of secrets. The counsellors by analyzing the artworks, interact with the girls and try to communicate the outcomes with their parents. This activity helps girls to fully

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express themselves without the fear of getting bullied by their classmates.

Another major way art promote inner peace is its application in psychotherapy. Art is used as a healing process after traumatic experiences. It enables the victims to restore senses by utilizing various forms of arts. For instance, arts involves use of physical, and cognitive abilities and engagement in any art form help victims in brain stimulation. Moreover, arts like painting, music, literature distracts persons from past traumas by utilizing their leisure time. Similarly, appreciation on their art help them gain self confidence to face the world again. Furthermore, art helps individuals to organize their thoughts by practicing art and overcome the recurring emotions related to traumatic experiences. All these contributions of the art push people to a peaceful and purposeful life post-trauma.

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Art also plays its role in presenting peace by creating an individual's connection with the divine. Since ancient times, humankind has addressed its spiritual needs through various art forms. For example, in ancient Egypt, humans crafted ziggurats and inscribed them with religious symbols and signs to please their gods. Similarly, Hinduism incorporated various art forms such as painting, sculpture and soulful musical instruments to cater the spiritual needs of the followers. In the contemporary world, Muslims use the art of calligraphy to establish a connection with the God on an individual level. Moreover, Islamic art and architecture serves as the symbols of peace and tranquility for Muslims around the world and Muslims find respite from the worldly things with the help of such spiritual arts. In this way art plays an important role in establishing communication with the divine being.

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Another application of art in promoting peace is at the state level. It holds powerful potential to foster peace by national integration. Throughout history, art forms like music and singing have strengthened national unity among heterogeneous ethnicities. For example, famous national song 'Sohni Dharti' sung by Shahnaz Begum, is a testament of nationalism. Such songs in the early years of Pakistan helped promote a sense of unity and tried to mitigate differences among different nationalities. Moreover, these songs of resilience kept morale of the nation high during difficult times in the history of Pakistan. Similarly, literature played its significant role in cementing the bond between all four provinces and placed the national identity above all other identities such as language, culture, caste or creed. This cohesion kept the nation from falling apart and preserved peace to a large extent.

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Additionally, art holds equal importance in maintaining peace by establishing interfaith harmony. Art and culture transcends religious boundaries, converging different faiths on a common medium. For instance, The Sketches, a local sufi music band from Sindh, organized a diwali event ~~concert~~ in Mithi, Tharparkar. This event was a manifestation of good gesture towards minorities of Sindh province. The event was attended by the people of all faiths and it helped in promoting interfaith harmony among masses. Similarly, literature from different countries and produced by people of different faiths, proliferate across borders, it serve as a window to see through a different ~~lense~~ view and identify commonalities based on human nature that exists regardless of ones beliefs.

Moreover, art help in mitigating social tensions that arises from protests and civil disobedience. Art provides an alternate of protest to condemn the oppression or

to demand rights. Indirect and subtle critique on system or status-quo help governments to realize the concerns of the masses without having to deal with the unrest and chaos. For example, when Zia-ul-Haq imposed ban on women to wear saree and appear on television, Iqbal Bano appeared in a gathering of women, wearing a black saree and sang famous song 'Hum Dhekenge'. It was a strong gesture of protest without resorting to violent means. Similarly, poetry of Faiz Ahmed Faiz, served as a critique of system and elites in a non-violent way. A contemporary example for this is the artwork of renowned Pakistani fine artist 'Imran Qureshi'. He uses strokes of red colors in his paintings and art installations to condemn brutality across the globe. His art is a subtle critique of harsh and ruthless realities of the human nature and its implication on the society.

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Art has a promising impact in uniting nations against a common cause, as evidenced throughout history. For instance, in 2014, following the APS attack, the government initiated the National Action Plan to curb terrorism. To gain public support and prevent despair among the masses, the ISPR released a song in solidarity with the martyrs of the incident. This song had a profound impact on public morale, and united people against terrorism in the country. Furthermore, on the tenth anniversary of the APS attack, a memorial was inaugurated. Designed by the renowned architect Hayat Ali Dada, the memorial depicts the flight of birds as an analogy for the young souls who ascended to heaven. Such artistic expression not only boosts morale but also serves as a reminder for people to remain vigilant in preserving peace at all cost.

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Similarly, art is also an important tool for governments and institutions to build their image, promote goodwill, and mitigate tensions between the public and authorities. For example, ISPR funded drama, 'Ehd-e-Wafa', portrayed four friends: a politician, bureaucrat, soldier and journalist. Through these crucial characters, insight of harsh realities faced by these professionals for the love of country, was highlighted. Similarly, another drama 'Thok Sarkar', portrayed a story of an ESS topper, who got allocation in the PSP group. From his character, difficulties faced by police officers were presented before the audience. Such art forms create a sense of appreciation among public for the institution and inspire people from such stories. Hence, promoting peace by answering the dissatisfaction of the common people and encourages people to cooperate with the institutions.

Equally important is the role of art in promoting peace by attracting foreign tourists to the country's arts, indigenous culture, and architecture.

For instance, Faisal Mosque, with its symbolic monumental value in the heart of the capital, attracts both local and foreign tourists. Similarly, heritage and architecture possess a magnetic pull that draws tourists and researchers across borders. For example, Makli Necropolis in Thatta, declared a UNESCO heritage site, serves as a focal point for foreign and local ~~interest~~ interaction. The site offers a visual retreat with its unique architecture and intricate stone-carving art. Likewise, indigenous artifacts holds souvenir value for foreign tourists. Consequently, this attraction of human flux promotes goodwill, fosters a peaceful global image, and boosts the local economy, which indirectly serves as a source of peace among locals by improving their conditions.

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Another key significant significance of art in holding peace is at the global level. Cultural diplomacy is considered an important doctrine by the states in promoting their peaceful image on global sphere. Cultural exchanges like collaborations between artists from different countries help in building good relations among nations. For instance, the Jamg Group initiated Indo-Pak Peace Project named 'Aman Ki Asha'. This initiative through various art form brought celebrities from countries closer. Another example is 'World Expo 2022' which was held in Dubai, housed various pavillions exhibited by different countries. Pakistan pavillion designed by Rashid Rana, was listed among top three most visited pavillions due to its unique and engaging design. Thus, elevating Pakistan's image in global community and promoting peace through art.

Similarly, art plays a crucial role in the recognition of global causes and promote peace by raising awareness.

For example, Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's documentary on acid attacks got global recognition. Such documentaries resonates with the masses of the other countries facing similar issues and promote awareness of such social causes. Since recognizing the problem is the first step in eliminating it, this awareness leads to global collaborations aimed at preventing social issues from arising. Another example is the emergence of Islamophobia post-9/11, which marked a difficult period for Muslims residing in Western countries, especially Pakistanis. To promote a peaceful image and show the other side of Muslims, renowned Pakistani writer, Shoaib Mansoor wrote the movie 'Khuda K Liye'. The film depicted that not all Muslims are terrorists and that ~~not all~~ ~~Muslims~~ the U.S. should not view all Muslims residing in their country with suspicion. It portrayed a balanced view of Muslims to the global community.

Last but not the least, art is a universal language with potential to transcend borders. It ~~seem~~ serve as a self-explanatory medium for global community. Global community recognizes nations through their art. For instance, Pakistani truck art is famous globally. Truck artist 'Hyder Ali' is globally recognized for his truck art fusion with social messages. He has conducted various workshops across borders, promoting a good gesture globally and attracting foreigners to know more about the culture of Pakistan. His efforts has successfully elevated Pakistan's image through vibrant colors of his art niche. Similarly, music, in this global edge attract foreign audience. Pakistan's Coke Studio is ~~an~~ a testament to this claim. Ali Sethi with his song 'Pasoori' attracted global attentions, even from the adversaries. Thus, art is a language that does not need to be understood and is felt from inner core.

In conclusion, art is a powerful tool for spreading the message of peace at all levels of human existence, from an individual's inner self to collective state unity and even to the global level. It transcends cultural, social, and political barriers, fostering connections across diverse spheres of life. By countering rage and confrontational tendencies, art inspires individuals and communities to embrace peaceful coexistence. In doing so, it lays the foundation for enduring, harmonious peace on a global scale.

Concluding paragraph should be more comprehensive