

Where does this circle become a point? - Making learning a thoughtful, fun and lifelong journey

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Social and economic intervention of arts education: 2.10 Life-long learning and arts education

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Designers play an important role in the area of education. However, educational design as a field is still growing and the need for training designers to think in the field of education and educators to think in the field of design is still grossly underestimated. Some of the key challenges of working in the area of educational design in a country like India are to keep in mind the diversity, the economic challenges of creating products and low literacy levels. However, education provides a space to work with the next generation in areas of human values, leadership, globalization, environment, self-awareness and culture. Hence it becomes essential for designers to innovate and create learning materials, educational products, curriculum/ learning designs that will provide learners with challenging, inspirational and meaningful learning experiences. This paper/presentation looks at the role of content and design in making learning a thoughtful, fun and lifelong journey and approaches the role of the designer as an educational activist. It also questions and unravels the relationships between artist, designer and teacher and the cognitive nature of thinking each of them brings to the field of education. Further building on the interactions between the abstract nature of thinking, and the more concrete nature of products, this paper looks at using arts in educational design as a means to evoke different states of consciousness that engage a student in a personal journey that is rewarding, meaningful and reflective.

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