

**A STRATEGY DESIGNED TO ENRICH THE DRAWING ABILITY
FOR FOUNDATION COURSE STUDENTS**

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Statement of problem: The problem faced by many Art Institutions in Malaysia is that students studying art have difficulties expressing their ideas and developing interests in drawing at Foundation Course. They also have a poor understanding of drawing techniques and theories. The purpose of this study is not only to examine the significance of drawing but also to introduce a new method of teaching drawing using **Discipline-Based Art Education (DBAE)**. DBAE refers to an approach that instructs and enables learning art based on four foundation disciplines which are: (a) **Art History** (b) **Aesthetic** (c) **Art Criticism** (d) **Art Production**. Therefore the research is intended to provide a ready program that can be adapted and adopted by Art Institutions. It also provides learning activities for students as well as giving them ideas in acquiring skills their area of specialisation after completing the Foundation Course. The finding could also serve as a model in Art Institutions to develop effectiveness on their teaching method as well as to increase students' understanding, creativity and innovative forms of expression.

Procedures: This study gathered information from the **Experimental Teaching Program** on drawing based on Discipline-Based Art Education in which 50 students were involved. The students were divided into two groups in which 25 students were in the Control Group while another 25 students were in the Experimental Group. The study was carried out at the Foundation Course of School of Art and Design in Mara Institute of Technology, Shah Alam, Selangor. The Pre-Test and Post-Test were conducted to obtain the performance of students. Pre - test was conducted at the beginning of semester while the Post-Test at the end of semester.

Findings: Analysis of the Experimental Teaching Program in both groups found that the hypotheses was accepted at 0.01 level. There were the neglect of theoretical aspects of drawing, unstructured approaches used in teaching drawing in the curriculum, lack of exposure to adult artists' artwork and the environmental distraction which affect the success of this study. However, the improvement of students' result can also be seen from the result of the control group during the Pre-Test and Post-Test. In fact, although the Experimental Group had shown ineffective result during the Post-Test, the quality of artwork produced could prove that the students were able to understand art concept in formal art education. There were 2 students who obtained A grades and it showed that those students not only could produce artworks but were also able to critic artworks of their colleagues and defend their artwork based on the Historical and Aesthetic context. Besides that, a major advantage could be seen in students of Experimental Group. Although they obtained D grade during Post-Test in Art production but they managed to score good result if they scored well in Art History, Art Criticism and Aesthetic. Therefore, these had opened the administrators minds on the concept that art should be taught not only in the practical context but also theoretical context with discussion. Thus, the quality of students produced by

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1. Introduction

1.1 General Introduction

The School of Art and Design at Mara Institute in Shah Alam is mainly opened to the Bumiputra students who are interested to learn formal **Art Education**. The objective of the school is to produce high quality graduate students through proper training, excellent teaching method and the right exposure to **Art and Design Course**.

The school has seven departments for the students to acquire skills and knowledge in art. The seven department are **Fine Art, Fine Metal, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Ceramic, Textile** and **Fashion Design**. The seven departments are at the main campus of the School of Art and Design in Shah Alam. The Foundation Course which is compulsory for first and second semester students is conducted at the third floor of the Shopping Complex of Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor (PKNS), Shah Alam.

The Foundation Course is the first stage of students' training. It provides them with the first exposure to art and design. After the students have completed their Foundation Course, they will acquire skills in their area of specialization by joining one of the seven departments. At present there are about four hundred and fifteen students in the Foundation Course. However the number may vary from semester to semester. The number of students per intake depends on