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Investigate the Culture Through Interactive Art Education

This paper is a report on the findings of a study conducted on an elementary level investigate the culture through interactive art education. Experimental design is used to examine the resulting viewpoints of learners. The project is aimed for the primary school children at the age of 10-12. It is considered three components while designing the project: 1) developmental importance of the cultural approaches in art education for the students' imaginations, 2) make student explore the past art themes of their own cultures, (3) teach a method that includes the technological interactivities through the student's cultural viewpoints. This is an ongoing study and the result will be shared with the audience.

The project is aimed for the primary school children at the age of 10-13 at The Primary School of Cagdas in Turkey and WHD Elementary School in Canada. It is considered three components while designing the project:
1) developmental importance of the cultural approaches in art education for the students' imaginations,
2) make student explore the past art themes of their own cultures,
3) teach a method that includes the technological interactivities through the students' cultural viewpoints.

At the first part a workshop created for the project called “Turkish Culture” that encourages students to teach and explore the past and future themes of their own cultures. Firstly teachers tell about “Turkish Cultural Themes”. Later ask students to go through the internet and to gather pictures of the Turkish Cultural Themes. After looking at the internet that shows the cultural themes, teachers encourage students to ask each other about what themes they choose, what does the pictures, photos and writings tell about the culture, and what was the importance of this cultural theme in the past and etc. Than teachers wanted students to choose a story from these cultural themes and tell the most interesting character of the story. Through the discussions, students fill out worksheets. The same period is being apply to the students at WHD Elementary School in Canada. They choose, subjects from Canadian culture and their teacher encourage them to research on their subject.

It’s aimed all the students in Turkey and Canada to enjoy discussing past and future cultural themes, stories and painting by this method. These discussions give the idea of constructing a cultural approach between two culture on the world.

At the end of first session students in Turkey and Canada;
1. View the ideas about paintings and cultures of each country
2. Select the subject that they want to draw about their culture
3. Draw paintings to tell about their culture by an effective method.
4. Discuss their viewpoint on each others artworks an cultures.
At the second part of the project the students’ opinions/interests are determined regarding their artworks. Through these determination it’s decided to create an interactive CD includes the childrens’ drawings, interest and opinions that tell ‘Cultural Investigation”.

At the third part after finished the CD, students plan to present this CD and themes that is created by themselves with a video conferencing system to W.H. Day Elementary School/Canada and Cagdas Primary School in Turkey. The aim of the third session is to teach a perspective of Turkish and Canadian culture. At the end of the project it’s planned to apply a survey which aims to get the students’ views regarding the cultural approaches in education.

It’s planned to determine the opinions through the questions below?
What are the students’ opinions regarding…

- the duration of the workshop on “Cultural Investigation”?
- the opportunities given to students to learn about their own culture?
- the content of the workshop and lesson by video conferencing system?