

The Importance of Practical Training in the Performing Arts and Ways to Enhance It in Colleges of Education in Ghana

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ABSTRACT: The article discusses the importance of practical training in performing arts education in colleges of education in Ghana. Practical training is essential as it allows students to develop their skills and talents, provides them with hands-on experience, and prepares them for real-world scenarios. However, many colleges of education in Ghana lack the resources and facilities to provide adequate practical training in the performing arts. Therefore, the article suggests offering more opportunities for students to engage in practical activities, including workshops, master classes, and residencies led by experienced professionals in the field. Investing in necessary resources and facilities such as rehearsal spaces, performance venues, and equipment is another way to enhance practical training in performing arts. By doing so, students can develop their skills and creativity in a professional and supportive environment, simulating real-world experiences.

I. INTRODUCTION

Performing arts have always been an integral part of Ghanaian culture and traditions. It is a form of artistic expression that has been passed down from generation to generation, and it is important that this tradition is kept alive. However, there is a need to enhance the practical aspects of performing arts in colleges of education in Ghana. In this article, we will explore the importance of practical training in the performing arts and some ways that it can be enhanced in colleges of education in Ghana.

Practical training is an essential component of performing arts education. It enables students to develop their skills and talents, and it provides them with hands-on experience in their chosen field. However, many colleges of education in Ghana lack the resources and facilities to provide adequate practical training in the performing arts. This can limit the potential of students and may lead to a lack of interest in pursuing careers in the arts.

One way to enhance the practical aspects of performing arts in colleges of education in Ghana is to provide more opportunities for students to engage in practical activities. This can be achieved by offering workshops, master classes, and residencies led by experienced professionals in the field. Such programs can provide students with valuable insights and techniques that they can apply to their own practice.

Offering workshops, master classes, and residencies led by experienced professionals in the field is an effective way to enhance the practical aspects of performing arts in colleges of education in Ghana for several reasons. Firstly, practical activities allow students to develop their skills in a hands-on environment, which is essential for them to become proficient in their chosen field. This type of learning enables students to apply theoretical concepts in real-world scenarios, which can enhance their creativity and critical thinking abilities.

Secondly, workshops, master classes, and residencies led by experienced professionals provide students with exposure to different teaching styles and techniques. This exposure can broaden their knowledge and perspective on their chosen field, and also give them an opportunity to learn from industry leaders. Additionally, students can network with professionals, which can lead to job opportunities and potential collaborations in the future.

These programs can expose students to different teaching styles and techniques, which can help them to develop their own teaching style. This can also broaden their knowledge and perspective on their chosen field, which is particularly valuable in the rapidly-evolving world of performing arts and students can learn from industry leaders who have experience in the field. They can gain insights into the current state of the industry and learn

about emerging trends and opportunities. This can help them to stay up-to-date and relevant in their field of study.

Thirdly, students can network with professionals, which can lead to job opportunities and potential collaborations in the future. This is particularly valuable in the performing arts, where networking and connections can play a significant role in career development.

In the performing arts industry, it is often said that "whom you know" is just as important as "what you know." Building a strong network of professional contacts can provide students with access to job opportunities, potential collaborators, and valuable resources. Attending workshops, masterclasses, and residencies led by experienced professionals allows students to meet and interact with individuals who are actively working in the field. These professionals may be able to provide recommendations, offer insight into the industry, or even offer job opportunities.

Furthermore, students may have the opportunity to collaborate with professionals they meet through these programs. Collaborating with professionals can provide students with exposure to new techniques, approaches, and ideas that they may not have otherwise encountered. It can also provide them with the opportunity to showcase their skills and gain recognition in the industry. Such collaborations can lead to new career opportunities, as well as the development of long-term professional relationships.

Fourthly, practical activities can be used to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry standards. This is particularly important in performing arts, where industry standards can vary significantly from what is taught in classrooms. By exposing students to industry standards through practical activities, they can develop a better understanding of what is expected of them when they enter the workforce.

Performing arts is an industry where industry standards can be constantly changing and evolving, making it crucial for students to have an understanding of the latest trends and expectations in the field. Classroom learning can only provide a limited perspective on the industry, and practical activities can help bridge this gap by exposing students to real-world situations and industry practices.

For example, a student studying dance in a college of education may learn about the technical aspects of different dance styles in the classroom, but may not have a chance to apply this knowledge to a performance context. By participating in practical activities such as workshops or residencies led by professional dancers, they can gain insight into the performance expectations, such as stage presence, choreography, and interpretation of music, and apply their technical knowledge in a real-world setting.

Additionally, practical activities can help students understand the nuances and expectations of different performance genres. For instance, a student who has only studied classical music in the classroom may have limited exposure to jazz or contemporary music. Participating in workshops or residencies led by experienced professionals in these genres can expose them to new techniques and styles, and help them understand the nuances of performance in these genres.

Another way to enhance practical training in performing arts is to invest in the necessary resources and facilities. This can include providing students with access to rehearsal spaces, performance venues, and equipment such as instruments, costumes, and lighting. With these resources in place, students can develop their skills in a professional and supportive environment.

Investing in necessary resources and facilities is essential for providing a comprehensive practical training experience in performing arts. Having access to rehearsal spaces, performance venues, and equipment can help students develop their skills and creativity in a professional environment, simulating real-world experiences.

Rehearsal spaces provide students with a dedicated area to practice and refine their techniques, as well as work collaboratively with their peers. This environment fosters a sense of community and encourages students to share ideas, receive feedback and learn from one another. Additionally, access to a performance venue provides an opportunity for students to showcase their skills and gain experience performing in front of an audience. This not only helps students develop their stage presence, but it also teaches them the importance of preparing for performances, managing stage fright, and improvising on stage.

Having the necessary equipment such as instruments, costumes, and lighting can also help students develop their practical skills. By learning how to operate these tools, students can apply their knowledge to create unique and professional performances. It also allows them to experiment with different techniques and methods to create their style.

In addition to practical training, students need to have opportunities to showcase their talents and receive feedback on their performances. Colleges of education can organize events such as showcases, festivals, and competitions to give students the chance to perform in front of an audience and receive constructive criticism from industry professionals. These events can help to build confidence, foster a sense of community, and provide networking opportunities.

Finally, it is important to recognize the value of partnerships and collaborations in enhancing the practical aspects of performing arts in colleges of education in Ghana. By partnering with other institutions, organizations, and industry professionals, colleges of education can provide students with a range of experiences and opportunities. For example, partnerships with local theatres and performance groups can provide students with opportunities to perform in professional productions and gain exposure to industry standards.

In conclusion, enhancing the practical aspects of performing arts in colleges of education in Ghana is essential for the growth and development of the arts in the country. By providing students with the resources, facilities, and opportunities they need to develop their skills and showcase their talents, colleges of education can help to build a stronger and more vibrant arts community. We hope that this article will inspire colleges of education in Ghana to invest in practical training in the performing arts and contribute to the continued development of Ghana's rich artistic heritage.