

ABSTRACT

Evolution of Theatre as a means of Social Development

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Abstract: Theatre is a fusion of various art forms that produce dramatic actions. Theatre arts greatly influence the society's view of the world outside. Everything in society whether its history, philosophy, way of thinking, rituals, taboos all are linked to theatre as theatre throws light on all these sensitive issues through form of theatre arts like dance and drama. Arts and education engage and inspire individuals and communities to make healthy choices and here comes the role of theatre as medium of spreading awareness. Theatre can break down the social barriers and fear of talking about something that cannot be expressed in the public individually. Theatre is about bringing a group of people together to share a story; it gives a common understanding and theatre has always been an excellent way of provoking discussion and asking questions. Participatory theatre is a process in which views and opinions can be exchanged. Actors and actresses first enact the situation and then a facilitator helps the audience explore new solutions through improvisation. Forum theatre is an effective participatory theatre practiced in different parts of the world. The goal of forum theatre is not to discover the optimum solution but to produce a variety of options. This technique can be used very effectively to aware women about their rights and different legal aspects. The most effective form of forum theatre for empowering women seems to involve allowing the spectators to act directly rather than to direct the actors. Theatre is a social tool that can function as a means of entertainment, instruction, education, development, persuasion etc. Forum theatre is a powerful tool to bring social change among people to confront reality of their situation of powerlessness and suggest measures for improvement. Different works carried by various organizations shows that theatre as a tool has a potential of bringing social development and should be tapped and used for larger growth and wider and effective dissemination of message.

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