

AUGUST 11, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Art is defined as a creative skill, an application or an expression of the imagination. This is displayed in the form of a painting, sculpture or carving and drawing, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.

For Fiji National University's School of Education's in-service programme, primary school teachers already teaching in the field had to undertake a unit learning about indigenous art. As part of their practical assessment these students enrolled in the in-service programme from around the western division had to put their creative and imaginative skills to the test when covering an art unit EDU675: Indigenous Art: Practice and Appreciation under the in-service programme.

Art Education Principal Lecturer Neelam Singh said the students showcased their talents through carving, pottery making, weaving, and fruit art, demonstration of indigenous myths or legends and print making. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the work carried out by the students in organizing an art exhibition to display their work displayed at the Fiji National University (FNU) Lautoka Campus.

She said the EDU675 course examined the historical and philosophical foundations of indigenous art education. This course was 100percent coursework.

She said unit involved aspects of indigenous art and students were involved in these activities- creative craft making, carving, weaving, pottery making, print making, cultural and literacy aspects, teaching indigenous art, organizing an exhibition

Discussions and lectures were held on art education history in the pacific followed through with analysis and discussion from selected readings of the appropriate text. Students doing these units were also handed out selected additional readings, oral and written presentations of articles from the history of art education in the pacific.

"I was extremely overwhelmed at the display the in-service students carried out at the exhibition. It has set a benchmark for future students who are thinking of taking up this unit," she said.

"One develops aesthetic sensibility and sensitivity to a better understanding of people belonging to other cultures. We can build a harmonious society, a productive nation or world itself with a deep sense of appreciation for each other's uniqueness and creativity."

Ms Singh said aside from individual expressions, the course provided an opportunity to study and appreciate the indigenous art contributions made in the past and present. Adding that the arts were a rich and integral part of Indigenous culture. Adding students learnt about Indigenous culture through the arts.

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