



# CITY AS AN ART PEDAGOGICAL TOOL:

*A City Square and Critical Thinking in Middle School Students*

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Research Methods and Professional Practice MA AE711

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# ● Background to the study

## ○ ME AND MY CITY:

Growing up, I spent a lot of time at our **family house in a pre-partition neighbourhood** of Lahore. An affinity with the physical fabric that surrounded me developed and the consequence of the physical environment on the people, their interactions, the community life and traditions became evident.

Some of my most visited memories from my schooldays are from the **field trips** that we used to go on. These trips became souvenirs of the school life, as these were the few times that were spent outside the walls of the school, in new places, interacting with the city and people, gaining new experiences and memories.

As a **student of Architecture**, my bond with the city grew stronger as I looked at it through different lenses: in design studio, as a context, as a subject, as a case study, in theory and in history. I was captivated, not only with studying the nature of architecture through the issue of design but also in the larger context of the physical environment as one of our most effectual.

# ● The Gap and the Purpose of Study

## GAP:

Middle School Art education and the concept of the city.

Embracing the city, as context, with its diversity of environments, history

## Purpose Statement:

The purpose of this study is to move **teaching and learning to outside of the confines of a classroom** and into the **city as a place for learning**. The physical context is very relevant to us and it is important that the numerous opportunities that the city, the context, offers are explored and encouraged. Where **the informal can support formal learning** and a reciprocal relationship with the city and its people can be built

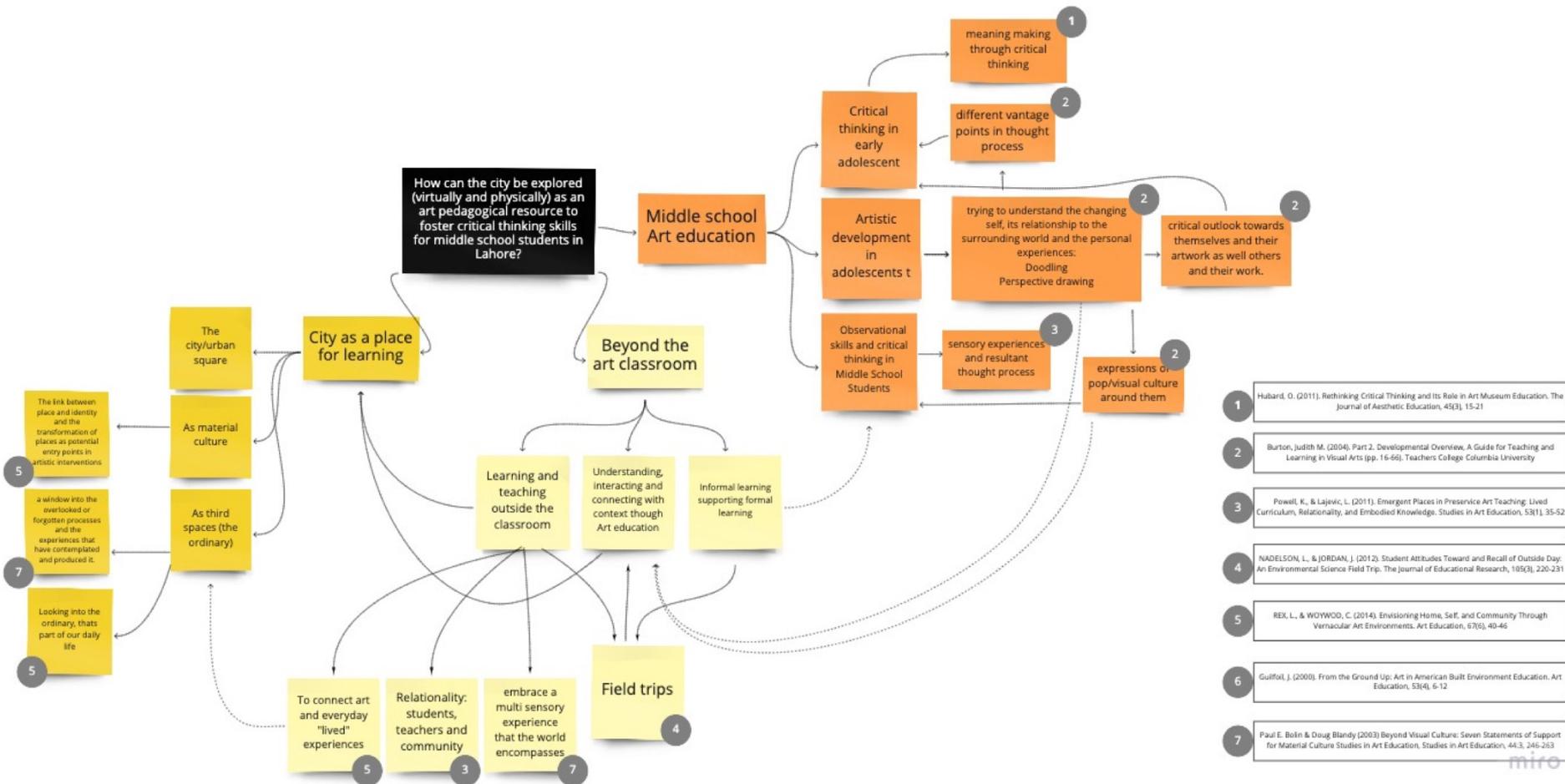


How can the city be explored (virtually and physically) as an art pedagogical resource to foster critical thinking skills for middle school students in Lahore?



## Theoretical Frameworks

- Middle School Art Education
  - Artistic development in adolescents
  - Critical thinking in early adolescents
  - Honing observation skills in early adolescents
- Beyond the Art Classroom
  - Learning and teaching outside the Classroom
  - Understanding, interacting and connecting with the context through art education
  - Informal learning supporting formal learning
- City as a place of learning
  - The city/urban square
  - As material culture
  - As the ordinary, lived experience
  - <https://miro.com/welcomeonboard/vXMiHvJVcORNewbK1ako1kmy50ZiP3R0N MkFBCKjsEhGjUHMFzBcQP9QAfiXGjl>



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## ● Research Design

### ○ Basic Qualitative Research:

Series of two **researcher led workshops**, on two consecutive weeks.

- preliminary site visit : develop activity/doodle booklets, probes and prompts
- The workshop will be carried out in two parts:
  - 1. Initial discussion, prior knowledge
  - 2. Site visit and bringing it all together
- Setting: 1. Zoom meetings  
2. Charing Cross or the Faysal Square on Lahore Mall Rd
- Rubric will be developed to assess learning and critical thinking

## ● Research Design

### ○ Sample selection:

- Convenient Sampling...further snowball sampling will be employed
- 5-7 participants each workshop,
- 12-14 years of age, early adolescent
- Both Genders
- From preferably one educational system

## Data Collection

- Observation:
  - Participant Observation
  - Journal/field notes of the researcher observer
  - Video documentation of the site visit
  - Recording of zoom meetings
- Document Analysis
  - Participant work produced
  - Booklets/worksheets of prompts and probe
- Interviews, and questionnaires
  - Questionnaires to participants after workshop
  - interview, semi structured with one participant from each workshop

## ● Validity of the Study and Ethical Concerns/limitations/challenges

- Adopting multiple methods of data collection and analysis
- Employing two perspectives : researchers and participants
- Attaching in Appendices:
  - Documentation of any work that is produced and is being discussed
  - Transcripts of interviews with participants
  - Copies of any questionnaires that are being filled in by participants
- Consent forms filled in by Parents/Guardians of participants for participation in virtual meetings, field trips, any recording or video documentation, interviews
- Special consideration for parents concerns as the participants are underage
- Virtual trip will be curated in case of increased severity of Covid situation, where a physical trip might not be possible.

## ● Implications and Significance of the Study

- Could lead to development of an activity/ doodle book that is probes adolescents to observe and to think about their surroundings, and their context.
- It could lay ground for further workshops:
  - In collaboration with other parts, sites in Lahore such as the Walled city authority, museums etc
  - In collaboration with schools can be organized to blur the domain of formal and informal learning.

## References

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