

The Language of Art: Examining Emotional Expression in Drawings of Internally Displaced Persons and Town Students Amid Conflict

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Abstract : This research delves into how students from two different backgrounds in a conflict-affected area, one group being internally displaced (IDP) and the other residing in permanent homes, express their emotions through art. Two experiments were conducted involving guided drawing to understand their emotional experiences. In the first experiment, where no specific instructions were given, both groups mostly used dark and dull colors, which suggests feelings of sadness and anxiety. Positive emotions were rarely depicted. In the second experiment, students were asked to express their emotions and provide reasons for their drawings. Here, we observed distinct variations: IDP students leaned towards vibrant colors, reflecting resilience, while town students tended to use monochromatic shades, likely due to their experiences with conflict. This abstract highlights the differing emotional expressions of these groups and the influence of instructions on their artwork.

Keywords : art therapy, conflict-affected areas, education in conflict zones, children's drawings

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