Enhancing Critical Thinking and Engagement in History Education Through Theatre Games

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This study explores the impact of theatre games on enhancing critical thinking in history education for grade 10 students. In this research, five theatre games were developed based on Sri Lankan folk traditions and tailored to specific history lessons. Two workshop sessions were conducted with six history teachers, six grade 10 students, and six theatre practitioners. Data were collected through focus group discussions and a structured questionnaire. The results of the focus group discussions and the questionnaire indicated that the created theatre games significantly improved students' comprehension of historical content more effectively than traditional teaching methods. This method enhanced critical thinking and promoted self-expression. The integration of Theatre in Education (TIE) with edutainment emerged as an effective pedagogical approach to teaching history. The students gained a deeper understanding of history through embodied knowledge obtained from the theatre games, leading to enhanced critical thinking and self-expression. The study suggests that theatre games can be adapted for various educational contexts, highlighting their potential to enhance knowledge retention and student engagement. This research underscores the value of combining traditional educational content with interactive and engaging theatre activities to create a more dynamic and effective learning environment.

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