When Art Meets Math, Magic Truly Happen

M. Subha
TGT (Mathematics), PM SHRI KV No.1 Jalahalli, Bengaluru

As a Math teacher, I have often heard my student's lament- "Maths is too hard, a nightmare, can't get it right, not my cup of tea and so on. " When this repeated over time, I wondered if I could change that mindset. Inspired by the transformative vision of NEP 2020, I began exploring art-integrated learning, an approach that makes math more joyful, inclusive, and rooted in our rich cultural heritage.

My goal was simple: to help students connect abstract mathematical concepts to real life through creative, hands-on experiences. That's how our journey of blending math with Indian art began.

We brought coordinate geometry to life by designing intricate patterns on the Cartesian plane. Spirals formed using square roots helped students visualise irrational numbers. Rangoli patterns introduced the idea of symmetry. Traditional Madhubani and Warli art showcased geometry's presence in cultural expressions. Even fractions found meaning through artistic designs, where parts of a whole became tangible and beautiful. We painted the class with mathematical shapes.

The transformation was remarkable. Students became more curious, confident, and engaged. They asked thoughtful questions, collaborated in teams, and began to see mathematics not just in textbooks, but all around them: in art, nature, and festivals.

What touched me the most was seeing the pride on their faces, not just for the artwork they created, but for the concepts they finally understood. There was less fear, more excitement, and a growing love for the subject.

This experience reminded me that mathematics is more than numbers and formulas. It is a language of patterns, logic, beauty, and creativity; when learning becomes meaningful, students don't just understand, they begin to enjoy.

We didn't just learn math. We felt it, created it, and celebrated it as something alive, expressive, and truly magical.