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# PROCEDURE OF CANDLE MAKING AND FLOWER MAKING FROM CORN HUSK: THE GLIMPSES OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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## ABSTRACT :

Vocational training is a boon to generate self-employment among the youngsters of the nation. Today India is striving for universalization of education which leads to a higher rate of unemployment among the educated youths. The country is aiming at providing education to all while it is believed that the next aim would be to generate a maximum percentage of employment. Till the phase of fulfilling this objective, it is important to direct the youths towards vocational training particularly those getting no job in the government or the private sectors. Unemployment generates conditions of unrest among educated youths. By keeping in view this possible problem the particular work has been undertaken aiming at educating the unemployed youths and students on the art of making candles and crafting decorative artificial flowers from corn husks. The specific aim of the study was to demonstrate the candle-making process and flower-making process by using corn husks and to encourage craft-centric education among the youth of the country. The study has followed the unique methods of understanding the process and displaying the process of candle making and flower making. All the investigators first learned the processes by observation and hands-on experience and later displayed the process in detail. The classroom demonstration was organized at the Government Secondary School, Rani, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh. The procedure of candle making involves seven steps measuring and melting the wax, adding fragrance oil, attaching the wick, pouring the wax, securing the wick, and adding more wax. The procedure of flower making involved boiling and drying corn husks, cutting the corn husk, placing petals on the stick tying them with thread, and wrapping them with floral tape.

**Keywords:** Procedure; Candle –making; Flower-making; Corn husk; Vocational training.

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## Introduction :

One of the best examples of a skill-based program enabling an individual to obtain knowledge, training, and practical skills in a specific trade is vocational education. Due to having properties of developing skills in a particular discipline, it is often referred to as technical and career education. Focusing on application-based training rather than theoretical knowledge, it has a diverse job function from various sectors, such as skilled trades, healthcare, food and beverages, computer networking, cosmetology, tourism, banking and finance, and so on.

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## Importance of vocational Training

Vocational training is not only important to an individual family but to the nation at large. Some of the points on its importance are mentioned below:

- **Job-ready:** The vocational training prepares an individual for a specific job. One can expect to get a job either in the government or private sector immediately after completing the courses and training in a specific field. It works by providing people with certain sets of skills.
- **Cost-Effective:** NEP 2020 has put an emphasis on the importance of vocational education. Even prior to the NEP 2020, India has strived to impart vocational training to the students in government schools. It is therefore evident that these trainings are cost-effective. Regardless of the opportunity to have vocational training in schools, one can easily afford to pay for courses, they are quite economical. Moreover, these are easy alternatives for individuals who do not wish to opt for a 3-year degree programme.
- **Career advancement:** Having a duration of short periods, it can also be the best alternative for people who are already working in government or private sectors but want to acquire new skills.
- It helps professionals to improve the prospects of their careers. Besides, it provides opportunities for the dropout students who are less interested in academic areas to pursue another goal in the areas of their interest.

## Candle-Making and Flower-Making

Candles have had a place of importance in the world since time immemorial. It is not only a product of beauty but also of its usage in lighting a place. We have the most popularly used phrase called “Candle–Light Dinner” indicating a special dinner revealing the importance of the candle. Besides, candles are used as a decorative item kept at home and given as a gift to friends and family.

Artificial flowers are other sources of happiness that are kept at home or office for their beauty. Making flowers out of corn husks is a part of creativity and at large a part of vocational education. An individual who is creative and interested can make a living by pursuing flower-making as a career. It is cost-effective and interesting.

The paper has taken a turn to display the process of both candle making and flower making which has its own demands for ages.

## Review of Related Literature

*Kleeck (1913)* in her book explained the significance of artificial flower making and goes on to claim that New York produces three-fourths of all the artificial flowers made in the United States. The work of *Hammerly (1954)* showed the process of making dipped candles. In this study, he claimed that the average candle takes 25 to 30 dippings. Besides he drew attention to the variety of molded candles such as round candles, square candles, short and stubby candles, fat candles, snow candles, and heart candles. In an interesting study by *Slaa, Cevaal & Sommeijer (1998)* it was revealed that when the artificial flower differs in color and odor, most bees prefer one of the two flower types. Constancy on odor was not generally overruled by constancy on color or vice versa. Yet in another study *Stalin, Naresh, Vamsi, Harivarma, Rao, & Nagarjuna (2022)* proved that nanoparticles significantly help in enhancing the thermal properties of Candle making wax. The nano-CuO particles were perfectly attached to the candle-making wax matrix and enriched the thermal conductivity up to 42.4%.

## Objectives

1. To demonstrate the candle making process.
2. To demonstrate the flower making process by using corn husk.

## Methods

The study has followed the unique methods of understanding the process by observation and exhibiting the process of candle making and flower making by hand-on activities. The classroom demonstration was organised at the Government Secondary School, Rani, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh during the academic year 2022-2023.

### Demonstration of Candle-making Process

In this study the process of candle making has been explained in eight steps. The following are the steps of the candle making.

#### Step 1: Measure the wax

Fig. 1 Measuring the wax

Before starting the candle-making process, one has to choose a clean and flat surface to work on. The first step is to measure how much wax one would need to fill a selected container, then it has to be doubled.



After measuring the wax, it has to be poured into a double boiler. Allow it to melt by boiling it for about 10 to 15 minutes. Stir frequently.

#### wax



**Step 3: Add fragrance oil**

When the wax is melted, it's time to add fragrance oil. Follow the instructions on the wax package for how much to add. Then it has to be poured into the melted wax and stirred for a few seconds. While this step is optional, it is recommended for a lovely floral smell.

**3 Adding the fragrance oil****Step 4: Attach the wick**

The wick needs to be attached to the bottom of the selected container before pouring the wax. One can attach the wick by dipping it in the melting wax and then quickly sticking it to the bottom of the container. Keep the wax for five minutes to make it hard. Alternatively, one can superglue it.

**Fig.4. Attaching the wick****Step 5: Pour the wax**

The next step is to pour the wax into the container gently.

**Fig. 5. Pouring the wax****Step 6: Secure the wick**

To prevent the wick from swaying in the melted wax, it has to be secured in place. Lay two chopsticks across the top of the container. Sandwich the wick in between so that it stays centered while the wax hardens. Finally, allow the wax to set by keeping it for four hours at room temperature.

**Fig. 6 Securing the wick**

**Step 7: Add more wax if required**

If the candle is hardened with an unsightly top with cracks or holes, it has to be simply reheated and the remaining wax has to be added. Let it dry to harden.

**Fig.7. Adding more wax****Step 8: Cut the wick.**

The candle wick should be less than half an inch long. If, when lit, the candle flickers or has a tall flame, trim the wick.

**Fig. 8. Cutting the wick**

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**Demonstration of Flower making Process from the Corn Husk.**

The process of flower making with the use of corn husk takes about five steps. It is very simple and interesting which anyone can make. There are a lot more to make flowers from the corn husk but the present study is concentrated on demonstrating a single type.

**Step 1:Boil the cornhusk**

The first step to flower making with the corn husk is to boil the corn husk for about 2-3 minutes.

**Fig. 9 Boiled cornhusks**

**Step 2:** The second step is to dry the cornhusks. Let the boiled corn husks be dried under natural conditions.

**Fig.10. Drying the corn husk**

**Step 3:** After drying the corn husks, it has to be given a shape. One may select a particular shape and size and cut the corn husks into the selected shape and size.

**Fig.11. Cut the horn husk**

**Step 4:** The fourth step is to place the petal of the flower on the stick. Now, all the petals have to be picked one by one and individually attached to the stick. After which these are to be tied with the help of the thread.

**Fig.12. Placing the petal on the stick**

**Step 5:** Finally, the flower making is completed with wrapping of the flower with the help of the floral tape. Such floral tapes are like cellar tapes found in the book stalls in the market which generally comes in green and brown colours.

**Fig.13. Wrapping the flower with the floral tap and the finished product.****CONCLUSION :**

Vocational education has been incorporated into the school curriculum of the secondary stage in India. It should rather be included in the curriculum of the primary stage so that a child can have a happy learning and have a hand-on-experience in the learning process since childhood. At this stage, children are at the peak of their learning. They should be provided with diverse experiences which they may continue at the secondary stage completely based on the area of their interest. Vocationally trained individuals are more likely to be employed. The best thing about vocational education is that an individual with such training can start their own business or choose to be self-employed.

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