

## Practical 11

# IDENTIFICATION OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

### EXERCISE

11.1 : Learn about flower arrangements such as bouquets, *rangoli*, garland and *ikebana*

### OBJECTIVES

- To learn about identification of flower arrangements
- To attempt making of some flower arrangements

**Delivery schedule:** 03 periods

### Student expectations/learning objectives

- To know different floral arrangements
- To learn making of rangoli, ikebana or garlands

**Pre-learning required:** Some basic knowledge about cut flowers, their vase life and importance of flower arrangements in our daily life

**Handouts/material/equipment's & tools required:** Paper sheet and pen to note down different cut flowers and material required for floral arrangements

### INTRODUCTION

Flower arrangement is a kind of art. Although, a successful flower arranger is a born artist, however, one can become reasonably conversant about this art with proper training, a lot of patience and perseverance. It has different styles and leading artists in the field are likely to prefer one style or the other. Basically, there are two styles of flower arrangement :

1. **Western / English Style:** These are mass arrangements. They are often elaborate, with attractive containers. Usually these arrangements have some kind of symmetry.



Western or English style of flower arrangements

2. **Japanese / Ikebana Style:** This is a simple, sober arrangement highlighting line, rhythm and mood. These arrangements frequently have a religious symbolism that dates back to the origins of this art. There are various types of *ikebana* such as *moribana*, *nageire*, *jiyubana*, *zeneika*, *zeneibana* and *morimono*.



Japanese style of flower arrangements

## Some other types of flower arrangement

### Floral garlands

Floral garland is one of the oldest methods of using flowers for decoration. Sweet scented flowers are more preferred than others for making garlands. The most popular flowers for garland making are jasmine and tuberose. Although, other flowers such as marigold, chrysanthemum, and rose are also used for garland making. Garlands are made up of either only one type of flower or combination of different flowers. The flowers are held together with the help of cotton, nylon, or a

silk thread, inserted in it with the help of a needle. For heavy garlands, fine wire strings are used. To make the garlands more gorgeous, in between the flowers threads of jari are also inserted. Decorative foliage of some ornamental plants such as ferns is also used in the garland to improve its look. Garlands often have a pendant or locket, which is also made of flowers such as lotus, roses, etc., and is generally given a heart shape.

### **Rangoli**

It is the drawing of pattern with the help of dry colours or a coloured paste on the floor. It is a common practice especially among the Hindus in India. Rangoli with flowers is also a common practice in India, especially in South. Generally, the petals of different flowers are taken out and are arranged in various patterns. Intact flowers of small flowered chrysanthemums and other flowers can also be used for this purpose. Though the rangoli of flowers may look quite attractive but it is for a short duration as the flowers or flowering petals are devoid of any water supply and petals wither in no time.



Floral garlands made from loose flowers

### **Floral bouquets**

It is a usual practice to present a nice floral bouquet on the occasion of birthdays, marriages or to welcome important dignitaries. Bouquets may be of many types and shapes. The usual shapes are the flat and the round types, but arranging bouquets in decorative baskets is also considered as of high taste and beauty. The bouquets may be flat or round shaped.



A view of floral rangoli made from different flowers

#### **a. Flat shaped bouquets**

- For making a flat bouquet, a hard poster paper in white or any other pleasing colours matching with the flowers is used, having the length of 45-75 cm.
- It is given a conical shape by folding the base or cutting the paper in that shape.
- Over this poster paper, aluminium foil (white or coloured) may be laid to make the bouquet colourful.
- The spikes are laid flat over this paper, with the end having flowers placed on broader end, and the bare stems converging on the narrower side.



- The stems may be held in position with the help of cellotape stuck in 2-3 places against the paper backing.
- Sometimes, ornamental foliage such as *Thuja* and *Polyalthia longifolia* are also spread over the paper before arranging the flower stems.

#### *For teachers*

- Take the students to a market where you find some arrangements of flowers. *Rangoli* is seen only in certain occasions but garland making, flat and round type of bouquets are common in Indian markets.
- Ask the students to observe, how a flower arranger makes garland or bouquets
- Purchase some basic materials required for making garlands and bouquets and ask the students to make these in the laboratory.
- Make 4-5 groups of students, and ask them to prepare *rangoli* in school premises on some important Indian festival. Arrange it in a way so that students compete for it.

- Flowers such as gladiolus can be arranged in one plane since the numerous florets can cover the whole spread of the paper. Flowers such as roses should be arranged in layers on different planes so that a lot of blank space is not left uncovered. Jari threads can also be spread over the flowers.
- Once the flowers are arranged, they are covered with a cellophane paper, which is fixed with the backing poster paper at several places on the top and side with the help of staples, as this arrangement will prevent the flowers from withering quickly as well as enhance the beauty and prevent damage.
- The cut end of the flower stems at the narrow end of the bouquet should preferably be wrapped with wet moss and the moss camouflaged with the help of some aluminium foil, which also prevent leakage of water.
- The stems converging at the base of the bouquet are tied tightly with twine/thread to prevent displacement. The twine is covered by wrapping around a nice silken ribbon, which is patterned into a floral motif.



A flat type bouquet



A round-shaped bouquet

- A card may be attached near the ribbon announcing the name of the well-wisher along with the message of goodwill.

### **b. Round shaped bouquets**

- In this type of bouquet, the flowers are arranged in whorl, which takes the shape of a cone, the stem end becoming tapering while the flower end comes in a round whorl.
- Once the flowers are arranged, on the outer whorl some ornamental foliage is backed up to make the bouquet firm as well as decorative. The foliage commonly used for this purpose is fronds of ferns, *Thuja*, *Polyalthia longifolia*, *Nandina domestica* and crotons.
- The base of the bouquet is tied firmly with gunny twine, which is then camouflaged with a silk ribbon. The ribbon should be tied artistically.

## **STUDENT'S ACTIVITIES/EXERCISES**

- Go to market. Identify the type of flower arrangements available in the market. Make a list of material required for making different flower arrangements.
- Students should make garlands of different loose flowers at home. Take help of your parents for better and attractive arrangement. Show to your teacher and teacher should give grades on the basis of arrangement students have made.
- Go to a flower market where flower bouquets are sold. Note down the differences between round type and flat type bouquet. Make both type of bouquets at home and show to your teachers for grading.
- Divide amongst yourself in 4-5 groups. Purchase some loose flowers on some important occasion and make rangoli at entry of the school building. Ask you teacher to rate rangolies prepared by different groups on the basis of colour and quality.

## **RESOURCE MATERIAL**

- Aaronson, M. (1983). The art of flower arranging. Grower Books, London, UK.
- Blacklock, J. (2006). The Judith blacklock encyclopedia of flower design. The Flower Press Ltd., Bournemouth, UK.
- Curtis, Christina D. (2004). Contemporary floral design. The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, London, UK. .
- Randhawa G. S. and Mukhopadhyay, A. (2007). Floriculture in India. Allied publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.







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