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Short Note

A study of flower arrangement practices prevalent in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract

Flowers have now become an integral part of almost all the social and cultural events. A study on flower arrangement practices was undertaken with the objective to study the flower arrangement practices. To conduct the field survey, a sample consisting of 30 respondents was taken; out of which 15 were randomly selected teachers and remaining 15 were students from Palampur and its surrounding areas who were doing flower arrangements. It was found that respondents gave maximum importance to the factor of ease in availability with an overall mean rank score of 3.36 and was ranked 1st. Whereas for the type of flower arrangements, the 1st rank was given to the mass arrangement by respondents from both groups with mean rank score 2.33. This was followed by combination of line plus mass arrangement with mean rank score of 3.03 and was given 2nd rank. While cutting of fresh flowers, cent per cent respondents kept the flowers under shade and 96.67 per cent of the respondent's cut flowers early in the morning. Majority of respondents i.e. 83.33 per cent avoided selecting 'fully bloomed' flowers for making flower arrangements.

Key words; Flower arrangements, practices.

The importance of flowers has been realized throughout the world and flower cultivation has become an intensive form of commercial agriculture. Flowers have now become an integral part of almost all the social and cultural events. In India, flowers are classified into two broad groups viz: loose flowers and cut flowers (Madhu *et al*., 2008). Loose flowers are mostly used for religious purposes, making of garlands, floral ornaments and various kinds of decorations and arrangements at home and public places; apart from the extraction of essential oils, pigments and dyes (Choudhary, 2007). The cut flowers are kept indoors in vases for interior decorations of homes, especially drawing rooms, offices, hotels, reception, counters and also for making attractive bouquets for presentation and using them in various kinds of flower arrangements. It becomes imperative to study the selection factors of flowers, and technique of making flower arrangements. Hence, the present study was conducted with the objective to study the flower arrangement practices.

Descriptive type of survey design was selected for this study. The field survey was conducted to find out the flower arrangement practices followed by the respondents that is, teachers, students of college of Home Science and teachers from St. Paul's Sen. Sec. School Palampur city. A sample of 30 respondents comprising 15 teachers and 15 students were purposively selected, who were already doing flower arrangements. The data collected were tabulated for the precise and systematic analysis. The simple percentage and mean scores ranks were worked out. The qualitative responses were quantified with the help of proper statistical scoring techniques. The respondents had given ranks to various types of flower arrangements, factors for selection of cut flowers technique and doing flower arrangements was applied to various ranks given to a factor. The total score pertaining to each factor was computed by summation of scores given to it by the respondents. Mean rank score was calculated by dividing the total by total number of respondents. Therefore, the total scores pertaining to each factor were computed by summation of scores given to it by the respondents. The mean scores were then calculated by using the following formula.

$$\text{Mean score} = \frac{\text{Total score earned by individual factor}}{\text{Total No. of respondents}}$$

$$= \sum x_i/n$$

Where X_i = Scores given by i^{th} respondent to a factor.

n = Total number of respondents.

The results depicted in Table1 showed that mean rank scores were given to various factors considered by respondents while selecting the

flowers for making flower arrangements. It may be observed that respondents gave maximum importance to the factor of ease in availability with an overall mean rank score of 3.36 and was ranked 1st. Vase life was given 2nd rank by the respondents with an overall mean rank score of 4.03. Ease in maintenance was given 3rd rank by the respondents with an overall mean rank score of 4.26.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according selection factors of flowers for doing arrangements

Factors	Teachers (N=15)		Students (N=15)		Total (N=30)	
	Mean rank scores	Ranks	Mean scores	rank Ranks	Mean rank scores	Ranks
Cost	6.06	7	4.06	3	5.06	7
Vase life	4.66	5	3.40	2	4.03	2
Appearance	3.53	2	6.20	8	4.86	6
Fragrance	6.26	8	5.53	7	5.89	8
Colour	4.73	6	4.2	4	4.46	5
Ease in Maintenance	3.86	3	4.66	6	4.26	3
Ease in arrangement	4.26	4	4.28	5	4.27	4
Ease in availability	3.46	1	3.26	1	3.36	1

The respondents were asked to rank the flower arrangements which they were making according to their preferences. It can be seen from Table 2 that 1st rank was given to the mass arrangements by respondents from both groups with mean rank score 2.33. This was followed by combination of line plus mass arrangement with mean rank score of 3.03 and was given 2nd rank. Line arrangements were given 3rd rank with a mean rank score of 4.09 followed by miniature arrangements with average rank of 4.53. The least preferred styles in flower arrangements were for all round arrangements with average mean rank score of 6.06. The reason for giving maximum importance to the mass arrangements may be because it is easy to arrange.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents for various types of flower arrangements

Types of flower Arrangements	Teachers (N=15)		Students (N=15)		Total (N=30)	
	Mean rank scores	Ranks	Mean scores	rank Ranks	Mean rank scores	Ranks
Mass arrangement	1.93	1	2.73	1	2.33	1
Line arrangement	3.66	3	4.53	5	4.09	3
Combination of line plus mass arrangement	3.13	2	2.93	2	3.03	2
Miniature arrangement	4.80	4	4.26	3	4.53	4
Japanese flower arrangement	5.46	6	5.93	8	5.69	7
Horizontal arrangement	5.53	7	4.73	6	5.13	6
Triangle arrangement	5.20	5	4.40	4	4.80	5
All around arrangements	6.46	8	5.66	7	6.06	8

Multiple responses

From perusal of Table 3 it is observed that, cent per cent respondents kept the flowers under shade and 96.67 per cent of the respondent's cut flowers early in the morning. Majority of respondents that is 83.33 per cent avoided selecting 'fully bloomed' flowers for making flower arrangements. Eight per cent of the respondents reported that it was important to give 'sharp cut to stem' and to 'remove the thorns'. It

was important to remove the leaves from under the water level in the vase as water may cause rotting of leaves, which may give birth to microorganisms in vase water, which is harmful for the vase life of flowers. The least important practice was to carry flowers in newspaper, cellophanes paper as reported by 53.33 per cent respondents.

Hence, it is concluded that the ease in availability of flowers was ranked first by the respondents for making flower arrangements. Mass arrangement was given the first rank since it was the easiest of all the arrangements, while majority of the respondents kept flowers under shade.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to practices followed for cutting of fresh flowers

Factors	Teachers (N=15)		Students (N=15)		Total (N=30)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Give sharp cut to stem	15	100.00	9	60.00	24	80.00
Cut flowers early in the morning	15	100.00	14	93.33	29	96.67
Avoid fully bloomed flowers	15	100.00	10	66.67	25	83.33
Remove thorns	15	100.00	9	60.00	24	80.00
Keep cut flowers in the shade	15	100.00	15	100.00	30	100.00
Remove leaves from lower parts of stem	14	93.33	11	73.33	25	83.33
Carry flowers in newspaper	6	40.00	10	66.67	16	53.33
Carry flowers in cellophanes paper	4	26.67	12	80.00	16	53.33

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