

Skill Based One-Day Workshop on Natural Dyeing and Block Printing

Date : 28.11.2018
Venue : Women's Studies Centre, Madurai Kamaraj University
No. of Beneficiaries : 25

Women's Studies Centre of Madurai Kamaraj University organized a One-Day Skill Based Workshop on 'Natural Dyeing and Block Printing' on 28th November 2018 with Mrs Charulatha, Ramyam Creations. Dr. R. Radhika Devi, Director i/c, Women's Studies Centre, Madurai Kamaraj University, welcomed the gathering. In her welcome she stressed the importance of natural dying to clothes. She further told that the centre would organize such skill based workshop frequently so that participants could learn skills to make their own earnings.

Twenty five students from various colleges like N.M.S. Sermathai Vasan College for Women, Lady Doak College and Fatima College were participated in the workshop and each student was given a painting kit separately. The kit consisted of paint with different colours; bowl, painting brush, tracing paper, hoop and a cloth. The participants were given instructions to wash the cloth material before painting.



The participants were first taught about what is natural dyeing. The word "natural dye" covers all the dyes derived from the natural sources like roots, stems, barks, leaves, fruits and seeds may contain colouring matter which can be extract through different method. Mrs.Charulatha pointed that there is something almost magical about using truly organic ingredients that sourced from the natural environment to make our own dyes. For example Hibiscus flowers, purple basil, and logwood can produce red to purple dyes. For natural dyeing, mince the plant or fruit in a pot with water (1plant:2water), bring to a boil, reduce heat, and let it simmer for about an hour. Strain the mixture through a mesh sieve and discard solids.

Next the participants were demonstrated with natural dye of Alum and Halda, the most commonly used natural dye ingredient was taught to the participants as an example. Alum (potassium aluminum sulfate) is the most common mordant. Alum does not affect color. It is usually used with cream of tartar, which helps evenness and brightens slightly. Halda natural dye powder with the same ratio was mixed and was demonstrated to the participants.



The participants were asked to do their own block printing using natural dyes. The participants were asked to bring out their creativity. The workshop ended with an discussion and feedback session.