

Best Practice No. 2 (2021-2022)

1) Title of the Practices :	Field Survey for Folk craft
2) The context that required the initiation of the practice (100 – 200 words) :	The students of Bengali department of the college went to Panchmura village of Bankura district for field study for terracotta Folk craft . Total number of students participated in this field study is 55. On last 3 rd April, 2022 they went to Panchmura village and talked to the terracotta artists and learned the technique of by hand. One such effort is taken by the college to ensure that the ancient traditional art of terracotta does not become extinct. The professors of the Bengali department were the supervisors of this field survey. The students collected samples of terracotta art that day and learned about terracotta art.
3) Objectives of the practice (50 – 60 words) :	<u>Basic objectives of the practice :</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To save the Folk Craft from extinction in near future.2) To enquire about the fundamental problems of the artists associated with this craft.3) To enquire about any assistance given to the artists from Govt. / NGO in respect of commercial import / export of their products.4) To enquire about all sorts of commercial impact upon this art craft.5) To acquaint the students with the art and techniques practically related to this art form.
4) The Practice (250 – 300 words) :	<p>Panchmura is a village, which is located at a distance about 40 km from Bishnupuri, which is a town under Bankura district(West Bengal). It is known for its Traditional Terracotta Horse and Mansha chali (the Snake Goddess), and other Handicrafts. Bishanupur becomes the principle centre of culture and art during the patronage of Malla king Veer Hambir and his successors Raja Raghunath Singha and Veer Singha. Most of the exquisite terracotta temples for which this town is famous were built during this period. Originally Horses, elephants, Manasi Chali (the Snake Goddess) and Shashti (the guardian deity of children) were produced for ritualistic purpose. People offered Horses and elephants as a token of their devotion to Dharma Thakur, Manasa chali and numerous other village deities. Local people promise to dedicate terracotta horses and elephants to the serpent deity on the fulfillment of a wish. Manasa Chali is the terracotta facade of a shrine. The snake deity Manasa is worshipped for protection from snakebites.</p> <p>One of the beliefs is that, these horse and elephants are considered as the carriers of village ancestral spirits. They believe that the ancestral spirits ride on the horses and elephants which are offered at the village shrine, to drive away the evil spirits from the village. The Basic Raw Materials needed for making the Bankura horse and other similar crafts is mainly the TERRACOTTA clay, which is generally available in the region; otherwise the “Kumbhkars” (potters) get the clay from the other neighboring region of Bishnupur. The clay which they get is mostly impure and the potters make the clay fit for the craft production by removing the dust- stones from it. The clay is generally ordered in bulk, and is kept outside of the house, and covered if there is any rain. The other Raw Materials which are mixed with CLAY are SAND, HAY and WATER. Generally the water they use either from the tube well or from the local pond. Sand and Grass are used to hold the clay together as a binder. From mid April to mid June they stop their production due to extreme summer weather, which makes cracks on products. Before starting the production they worship lord shiva by making shivling on the wheel from the clay which they</p>

	collect in bulk for the rest of year production.
5) Obstacles faced if any strategies adopted to overcome them (150 – 200 words) :	Obstacles faced : 1) Shortage of adequate fund for undertaking such a field trip. 2) Distance of the project area from the institution. 3) Lack of technical gadgets to cover the entire project area.
6) Impact of the Practice (100 - 120) :	<u>The impact as follows :</u> 1. The students gain practical knowledge regarding the art form. 2. The students submit the project report to the examiners and have published their reports in local magazines / journals. 3. The field trip gives some suggestive ways to earn financially in future for the students. 4. Especially the girl students have acquired the knowledge on how to decorate their households with TERACOTTA art of Panchmura. 5. The students and the teachers get a scope to come in contact with an internationally acclaimed heritage village.
7) Resources required :	Dedicated faculty members and students, adequate funds, involvement of local authorities, financial support from college, proper vehicles to reach the areas.
8) About the Institution :	
i) Name of the Institution	i. Egra Sarada Shashi Bhusan College.
ii) Year of Re-Accreditation	ii) 2015
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