

Pot making

CBSE, EVS, Class - III, Unit - 15

Lesson objective : The lesson aims to develop understanding different soil types and clay as a type of soil, and knowing the possibilities of moulding. Discuss pottery its uses and processes.

Activities carried out :

Exploring Types of soil : Students were asked to bring soil from their houses and localities. Particle size (tiny, presence of small stones etc.), Color, Texture (smooth, lots of gravel, wet etc.) were aspects observed in the different soil students brought. I had brought potters' clay in addition to what students had brought to the class. Soils brought by students were compared to the potters' clay. They were mixed with water to check their binding consistency and it was observed that only potters' clay had good binding capability. Other soil types (black soil, red soil, sand) did not easily bind. The observations were consolidated and written on the board.

Points that were consolidated : Clay is a soil type; the binding ability of clay is useful when making pots or utensils.

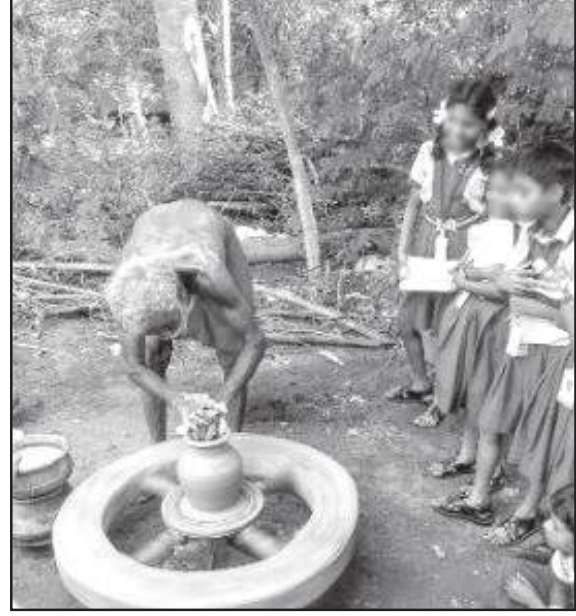
Hands on clay moulding : Clay was given to students and they were asked to make kitchen utensils. Students made different cups, plates, pan, spoons, ladles and pots. Questions asked during the activity - are these kind of clay vessels used in your houses? (Students replied: no, not very much, they are very fragile), can we use the vessels that you have made now e.g. can we pour water into the pot you have made? (Students: no, this is not baked so this will break). From where does a potter get clay? (Students: Don't know)

and finally we decided to go to a potter to see how pots are made.

Before going to the potter, we discussed some questions that he will be asked. How many years since the potter started making pots, from where does he get clay, what is baking process, how many days does the potter need to make pots: these were some questions that evolved out of the discussion.



Visiting a potter : Students were taken to a pottery where they observed how the potter made different vessels. He made: pots, cups, pans, jugs, flowerpots etc. Students were excited to see how the potter made different shapes, and by the strength he exerts while making these vessels, making vessels shine, using nails and small sticks used for making designs, how wheel is made to rotate, preparing clay etc. The potter explained- how he prepares clay, difficulties that he faces in preparation (removing glass pieces, sticks etc.), cost of the clay, process of pot making, drying, coloring, rotating mechanism of wheel etc.



I also tried to make something out of the clay. I found it very difficult to make a pot without practice, but I also felt happy at having tried making something. Students were not given the opportunity because handling the wheel is dangerous and could injure them.

After coming back to school we discussed on the visit, I asked if we were able to clarify our questions with the potter. I also asked them about the visit and how they felt. Students said, they enjoyed going to the potter and it was a new experience altogether. They were complaining that we could have brought back vessels he had made.

My thoughts :

What went well : Visit to the pottery was satisfying as it gave students a direct learning opportunity. Visit helped in experiencing which was better than classroom teaching. Students were able to understand the process of pottery.

What could have been done better : The whole school was taken to the potter, which made the

place crowded and grade three students did not get focused observation opportunities. I could have brought some clay from the potter to be made useful later. I feel I could have invited the potter to the school first for a general interaction followed by a visit. This way some of the person's background could be built up. It would have been good if I had also took students to the nearby market to show them how finished pots are sold. The focus was only on the pot making whereas, students making anything they would like to would have been more rewarding.

Closing remarks : Some incidents related to the try out were amusing, parents were asking why their wards were full of clay the other day, so I showed them material made by their kids and the parents felt happy seeing these. Cleaning the class after the activity was a hurdle but I managed it. I had to go many times to arrange the visit to the potter, the experience was exciting. At the end, the activities turned out to be fun and exciting for me as well as for my students.



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