



Waximum Creativity

Besides being a leisurely creative pursuit, candle making can also be a great business opportunity

The world has moved from candles to electric bulbs but the charm of candles has not yet blown away. Candle making is mostly looked at as a business but the fact is that it is as good as any other art which needs creativity

and thought. "You can design a candle in many ways like shaping it in moulds or moulding it with your own hand in different shapes when the wax is semi solid. You can also design it by embossing it with items like glitters, pictures,

tattoos and even aroma, colour pattern. It's completely on you, how creative you want to get," says Mrs. Neeta Saneja, who has been teaching candle making for the last nine years.

"Designer candle is an item that can be gifted on any occasion, be it someone's birthday, or marriage anniversary or promotion. Candles are also used in aroma therapy which cures different ailments. This new relevance has resulted in candles slowly gaining demand and more and more people are getting into this business" says Mrs. Saneja.

"This business is easy to start, as it does not require more investment and great deal of manpower in the beginning, as all the raw materials are available in the market from wax to wicks and from moulds to colours. The main thing that makes your product unique is your creativity and uniqueness and that's what you charge for. So there is good money in the business. Gradually as your business hits you might need more investment for higher production," explains 26 year old Zahida Sayyed who is into this business for last five years.

There are people who also learn candle making to know a new art and add to the list of their

extracurricular activities. "I put a stall at Perfect Health Mela that is held in Delhi every year around October and whatever I earn from it I donate it to some cause. So this time I am learning candle making to put a candle stall. I am finding it quite interesting and I will definitely continue it as a hobby," says 19 year old Niharika a third year B Com student who has attended some workshops on candle making. "This looks complicated but is very easy and interesting. It can be done in any kitchen and not in laboratories, as I thought before. I am looking forward to make a career in it. I am planning to do the diploma course for it by so that I get to learn more things that will be helpful in my career" explains 20-year-old Ruchika Saxena, an arts student.

So with the festive season on unfurl your creative side in preparing beautiful candles. You might as well as surprise your friends with your artistic approach towards candle making. This can even be turned into a money-making venture for those who like to break the mould and start something new. So let there be light...

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STEP UP...!



Dancing is no longer restricted, all you need is the right mood and high spirits. Iona Chatterjee finds more on this popular culture of self expression



Hookah's and night out's, pubs and discotheques, the urban elite culture defines an individuals expression of leisure and relaxation. Be it the Arabic culture, Moulin rouge influence or perhaps the traditional Indian representation, dance forms an ethereal part of our lifestyle. So, the obvious question is whether you are trained in salsa, ballet, or perhaps a master in classical Indian dance forms? If not, our traditional and modern culture gives you the much desired opportunity of social dancing. The good news is that this dance form requires no professional dance training sessions and the scope of individual expression

is unlimited.

Why do we love to hang out in discotheques? Why are we ready to shell out an unimaginable amount for an entry to the city's most popular hangouts? The answer to these, surely hits the bulls' eye. "I work at a stretch for almost 12 hours a day, with almost no time for any kind of leisure throughout the week, I am bound to visit such places during weekends," says Shreyoshi, a journalist. "Dancing makes me forget the week that passed and gives me positive energy," she adds. Social dancing is rather co-operative than competitive, it requires no

synchronisation and has no defined step.

A high spirited dance form, which has been prevalent in traditional Indian participatory celebrations, has now strengthened its hold over the pub culture. "Social dancing is the art of setting your body free and following the beats. There are no restrictions, no fear of being watched but a simple way to self-satisfaction," believes Puneet Gidwani, event co-ordinator, 'Poison'. "No standards, no rules and no hierarchies; all you need to do is dance. We tend to restrict ourselves due to fear of being judged and facing criticism; I once had a patient who wanted counselling because she felt that she could never dance like her friends do," says psychologist, Monila Sapre. "There are no set rules for dancing at such places, still people feel left out," she adds. Perhaps it is the lack of confidence that restricts many from participating. "I know I cannot dance, so I often stand in a corner and watch others dance" says Negar Shakeel, sales executive.

"Such dances are a form of entertainment and they can never be taught," says Puneet. No structures, no co-ordination, all you need is spontaneity. So whether it is a family function or a discotheque set your confidence high and dance. Put on your dancing shoes; forget the rhythm and just follow your heart.

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