'Ikebana' -its Stagnant Situation and the Facts : Study 3
A Tentative Proposal for Reactivating Ikebana

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While Ikebana has been in decline, despite being a traditional Japanese cultural activity, the number of Japanese learning "Flower Design" (European or American forms of flower arrangement) has been increasing recently. The main purposes of this paper are to evaluate why interest in Flower Design is increasing, and to make proposals for the reactivation of ikebana.

1) To Place Flower Design in Ikebana History
Flower Design has been accepted in Japan because it is considered to be a new aspect of Ikebana, and is now established in Ikebana history as a 'new style of Ikebana.'

2) Proposal for reactivating Ikebana

(1) Ikebana’s Healing Effects in Modern Society
People living in this stressed society will find some healing effects through Ikebana because each flower has its own characteristics for healing, such as colors, scents and shapes. According to physical or mental fatigue, people can select and arrange certain flower materials for healing.

(2) Ikebana’s Role for the Aging Society
Ikebana practice will be helpful for cerebral activity of human being, especially preventing aged people from becoming senile. By participating in flower exhibitions, aged people losing their roles in the society (role-losing) may find a new role for themselves (role-taking) with expectations and joy.

(3) Re-structure of Ikebana Schools
Ikebana schools have adopted the Iemoto system, where only learners of each school have a chance to study and practice its unique and original skills to obtain a diploma for years. Because of the exclusive, closed nature of Ikebana schools, only few people may have an opportunity to enter a school and thus Ikebana schools are gradually declining in their activities. Many different Ikebana schools are jumbled up together, as well. These facts have led the Japanese culture of Ikebana into a difficult situation. In order to reactivate Ikebana, re-structure of these schools, such as an amalgamation, should be done.

(4) A Proposal for Credit Transferring System among Ikebana Schools
Based on the Iemoto system, Ikebana skills of each school are carried on in a closed society, so that credits obtained from other schools are not transferable for certification, though other schools' skills are found to be different, attractive, and appealing.