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**Development of a natural decoration system for ceramic ware**

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Ceramic is an ancient craft which has developed in several ways over the past few years, such as introducing new technology identifying new body and glazing mixtures, new designs and design variations. Glaze is an important element in the ceramic body. Ceramic can be divided as glazed ware and non glazed ware. Glaze application depends on the firing temperature and body composition.

Glazing adds advantages to the clay body. It helps to give non-porosity, strengthens the body, permits different types of colours, textures, provides a good finish and a clean surface. Different types of colours, textures and a variety of effects can be obtained by glaze application. It can be decorated by different types of methods and effects. The ceramic body is like a canvas for the artist, which can be played with in different ways, but has many more limitations.

Most of the ceramic products are decorated with pigments and stains. Colours can result from chemical reactions. Hand painting and Decal printing are the main decoration methods in ceramic products. Decoration is one of the main aspects of the ceramic body; it helps to enhance the shape and form and quality of the product. In this research, I have used natural materials to decorate the clay body. Natural plant leaves are one of the best materials which can be used to decorate the ceramic clay body. It can be used as an under glaze decoration method. It is difficult to repeat the same design, however, and each design used becomes unique. The designs differ from one to another and are very elegant in appearance. Its manufacturing cost is low, but the products can be sold at a high price in the market. It is a new decoration method that can be used in the Sri Lankan ceramic sector.