A study of clothing satisfaction of wheelchair user with present wardrobe

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to know the satisfaction level of wheelchair bound users with present wardrobe. The study was conducted on 40-wheelchair users selected purposively. Study results reveals that respondents were found satisfied with material of garment and found less satisfied with constructional and functional detail in their clothing they possessed in their wardrobe. Major problem faced by them was in the fitting and length of garment, crotch length, fly and related to fastener.

Key words : Disability, Functional detail, Constructional detail, Clothing satisfaction

Each human being is a unique individual. Clothing satisfies functional, social and aesthetic need for all people, but the role of clothing differs in latter for a person. Health life style, self-esteem and experience all are factors to consider when selecting clothing for the disabled people. The individual requirements of disabled people regarding textile and clothing are very much more diverse than for people without disability. Clothing is very difficult task for them. Clothing for special need of people with disability are more functional than fashionable. Clothing for those individuals with disability varies based upon the unique need of person with disability.

The disabled first must consider protection and comfort in clothing selection. The disability may be temporary or permanent. The person may need the use of assistive devices such as a wheelchair, walker, crutches, prosthetic or a respirator.

All of these are considerations that must be accounted for when looking for clothing that will meet the need of the person with the challenge.

Wheelchair clothing is an area most people do not consider until they are either in the wheelchair or caring for a wheelchair user on some levels. When dressing the wheelchair user with any severity almost always has assistance of some form, as at least has limited mobility themselves. It is comfort that is the main thrust with particular type of clothing. Clothing with simple design and easy access to opening for wheelchair user are fairly well served with special garments. The objective of present study was to study the socio-personal characteristic and clothing satisfaction level of wheelchair

users.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted on wheelchair bound user's in Udaipur city of Rajasthan because two well known society Viklang Seva Samiti and Narayan Seva Samiti are working for the upliftment and employment of the disabled/physically challenged person. This research was based on a descriptive cum exploratory design, to obtain information on clothing practices and satisfaction level with present wardrobe and clothing problem faced by them. The purposively sampling method was used and sample sizes of 40 male respondents were selected. Pretested structured interview schedule were used to obtain complete and desired information. The collected data was analyzed for statistical treatment in the light of objective of study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following section contains the outcome of the major observations made during the study. Socio-personal characteristic such as age, education level, occupation, income and family type were studied.

Table 1 depicts that 42.5 per cent respondents were in the age group of 15-25 years. Nearly 30 per cent were of 25-35 years age group. Remaining percentage (27.5%) of the respondents were of the age group 5-15 years. One third of the total respondents (32.5%) studied up to primary level and (22.5%) of respondents studied up to middle level and 17.5 per cent respondents were illiterate and educated up to graduate level and only 10 per cent