

Research Paper :

Clothing requirements of physically challenged college going boys and designing suitable garments

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out to design functional garments for physically challenged college going boys. Sixty respondents aged 15-30 years were purposively selected. Poliomyelitis was the main cause of disability among the respondents. Respondents were facing numerous problems in clothing while donning and doffing and due to assistive devices used. Based on the needs of the respondents, 20 designs (10 each for shirts and pants) were prepared by the investigator and subjected to evaluation by a panel of judges. The designs were made keeping in view the ease in dressing and undressing, ease in manipulating fasteners, fit of the garments, appropriateness of designs for the disability and appearance of the respondents. Total six designs (three each for shirt and pant) which scored highest were selected for construction of garment based on the standard measurements of the respondents. Among these six garments, G-7 Zipper Shirt and G-8 Two Piece Pant was given first rank by the respondents.

Key words : Physically challenged, Functional clothing, Clothing problems

The desire to decorate the human form existed since the stone age. Clothing which is one of the basic needs of human being, plays a significant role in an individual's life at all stages. Clothing can improve appearance, hide physical defects and give aesthetic pleasure to the wearer through its colours, design and special features in the dresses.

Clothing plays an important role in the growth and development of physically challenged persons. If a disabled person is able to manage to dress himself, it may help him to gain confidence and independence. Usually a person with physical limitations wears ordinary clothes which may hinder their movement produce discomfort and even build inferiority complex. Therefore, the task of dressing and undressing may become too long and laborious.

The era of scientific thought and development has revolutionized the traditional concept of disability. Thus, especially designed functional clothes with self-help features may help them to overcome clothing related problems. Therefore, the present study has been framed to help the physically challenged boys to cope up with their physical disability and at the same time to provide them with appropriate dress style.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology for Physically Handicapped, Kanpur as it is the only college for physically challenged students in

Kanpur district. As many as 60 physically challenged college going boys of age group of 15-30 years were selected through random sampling technique. An interview schedule was used to collect the data pertaining to clothing practices and clothing needs of the respondents. Based on the requirements of the respondents, 20 garments (10 each for shirts and pants) were sketched and shown to a panel of judges (respondents and teachers) for ranking. The 6 sketches (3 each for shirts and pants) given the highest rank were stitched and subjected to evaluation by the respondents and ranked on the basis of weighted score.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data pertaining to the study were tabulated and analyzed. This included data about the background information of the respondents, their special clothing needs, features of constructed garments and assessment of acceptability of the garments. The results have been furnished below-

Socio-personal profile of the respondents:

The findings related to the socio-personal profile of the respondents are presented in Table 1. It reveals that majority of the respondents (66.66%) were in the age group of 15-20 years. Sixty per cent of the respondents were educated up to intermediate and only 5.00 per cent were postgraduates. The findings reveal that 45.00 per cent of the respondent's family occupation was service