

Selection of pre-school children's garments for various occasions

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ABSTRACT

The space of time between a child's second and sixth birthday seems to be relatively short but, it is a period in which changes take place in his personality. It is the period when child feels independent by dressing up, undressing and by keeping his belongings at proper place. The child is active so his clothes should be selected cautiously for different occasions. Majority of pre-school mothers preferred T-shirt for casual and formal wear and *Sada Kurta* for nightwear as upper garment for child and knicker with straps as casual and formal wear and night suit for night wear as lower garment as they are easy to maintain, durable and create no hindrance in the movement of child. Mothers encourage child's independence by keeping his clothes within his reach.

KEY WORDS : Pre-school children, Upper garments, Lower garments, Occasions

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Clothing, one of the basic needs of an individual, occupies an important role in human life. Clothing is an art of selecting or constructing garments for an individual and an expression of personality. Its main purpose is to create suitable and healthy balance between human body and the surrounding environment. Clothing of an individual not only influences activity, comfort and other attributes of his physical health but also profoundly modifies his emotional and social behaviour.

As an individual grows older, his clothing needs changes due to changes in his different body characteristics. Thus, at different stages of life, clothing needs are different. Clothing is particularly of vital significance in pre-schooler life. A pre-school child is 2 to 5 years old who is no longer toddling but is still not old enough to go to school. A pre-school child acquires definite likes and dislikes regarding garments. At this stage, the child starts showing interest in learning to dress themselves. They considered their clothes as their part and identify themselves with their clothes. Clothes give them the feeling of independence as they begin to learn dressing up, undressing and keeping their belongings like toys and clothes at proper place. Having a special place to keep his own clothes, motivate the child to have a sense of ownership.

At this stage of life, the child is very active. He keeps on running, jumping and playing so his clothes should be comfortable, protective, easy to maintain, economical, durable, and easy to wear and absorbent. Keeping all these points in mind, they should be selected properly for

different occasions like casual wear, formal wear and night wear. Mothers have to select their clothes very carefully as the clothes affect their physical, social and mental development. Therefore, the present investigation was planned to study the choice preferences of garments of pre-schoolers for various occasions.

RESEARCH METHODS

Sixty pre-school boys (age between 2-5 years) were selected randomly from five pre-nursery and nursery schools of Hisar city. Their mothers were contacted to study their choice preferences regarding their selection of pre-school garments for various occasions. The data were collected using a well framed closed ended questionnaire. Percentages were computed to interpret the data.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

It is clear from the observations of Table 1 that nearly forty five per cent pre-school children had 20-25 sets of garments in their wardrobes which was followed by 38.33 per cent children who were having 25-30 sets of garments in their wardrobes. Majority of the pre-schoolers accompanied their parents at the time of purchase of their garments. Most of the times, it was mother, father and child going together to buy children clothes (Yadav *et al.*, 2001).

As indicate the data of Table 2 a high percentage of mothers (85%) preferred to keep the pre-schooler's garments in wardrobe. Only 8.33 per cent mothers