

Research Paper :

## Effect of laundering on physical properties of school uniform fabric

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to find out the effect of launderings on physical properties of school uniform fabrics. The respondents of present study comprised of 80 mothers of school going children, randomly selected to collect the desired information through self-structured interview schedule. Frequency and percentages were used for analysis of data for present study. Major findings revealed that majority of respondents using various soaps were 'Rin' (37.5%), 'Wheel active' (31.2%) and 'Nirma' (11.2%). However, 'Super Nirma' detergent was used by 25 per cent, 'Tide' by 20 per cent respondents for laundering school uniform. Majority of respondents (61.2%) used particular soap/detergent to remove stains, whiten the fabric and washed with other household clothes (53.7%). Hand washing was done by 56.2 per cent of respondents and frequency of washing was daily as reported by 38.7% respondents. The data depicted that respondents observed changes in colorfastness (77.5%), pilling and lustre (63.7%), weight (55%) and crease recovery (52.5%) when asked about the effect of soaps and detergents on physical properties of school uniform fabric over repeated launderings.

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When a child starts going to school, he or she begins taking interest in clothing. Parents need to help their children in the appropriate selection of material with adequate safety and comfort features. A medium or light weight blend of good quality is an excellent choice of material for clothing as it can be easily laundered and comfortable to wear. The material for school uniform should be inexpensive, durable and easily washable with smooth texture and comfortable to the skin. Children want to run, climb, jump and squat without being aware of clothes hampering them.

The appropriateness of a costume, quality, style, neatness and cleanliness in clothing helps to build self-confidence and even sense of security. The purpose of laundering is to remove soiling matter from textile articles to refinish them to their shape and in good condition. The school dress is badly soiled and stained during children's activities in whole day. Therefore, housewives require those soaps and detergents, which can remove the soil and stains from the fabric efficiently with minimum destruction. As far the consumers, serviceability and durability are most important characteristics of the fabric used in school uniform due to occurrence of daily wear and tear during laundering process. Most of the women did not consider the type or nature of fabric before

selecting particular soap and detergent. Because housewives are unaware about the physical properties of school uniform fabric. The physical properties of the fabric give the knowledge about the fabric for their serviceability, extensibility, flexibility and porosity but individually play an important role in deciding about the suitability of the fabric for its specific end use. Hence, the present paper was an attempt to find out the effect of washing practices on physical properties of school uniform.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Udaipur city of Rajasthan. Two Senior Secondary schools were selected purposively for the study. From each school, 40 students comprised of housewives (mother) were randomly selected on their willingness to participate in the study. Thus, constituting the total number of 80 respondents. Keeping in mind the objective and sample of the study, self-structured interview schedule was developed to gain information regarding the effect of washing practices in school uniform. Frequency and percentages were used for analysis of data.

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data of Table 1 reveal that respondents were using