

Colour fastness properties of dyed mesta fibre

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Mesta is the name given to the fibres obtained from commercially cultivated species such as *Hibiscus cannabinus* and *Hibiscus sabdariffa*, which belongs to the family Malvaceae, harvested at 15 days prior to physiological maturity and physiological maturity stage. Stalks were treated with 2 per cent urea and steeped in horizontal and combination of vertical-horizontal. Fibre was scoured, bleached and dyed using naphthol dyes. Dyed fibre was studied for its fastness properties. Study revealed that scoured+bleached+dyed fibres extracted from stalks harvested at physiological maturity stage was good to excellent and poor for the fibres extracted from stalks harvested 15 days prior to maturity. Thus, scoured+bleached+dyed mesta fibres can be utilized in producing textiles and accessories that require minimum or no washing.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Mesta fibre, Harvesting stage, Urea treatment, Steeping method, Wash fastness, Light fastness

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