

Designing of dresses for pre-school girls

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Received: 13.11.2014; Revised: 28.03.2015; Accepted: 13.04.2015

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■ **ABSTRACT :** The dressing pattern and selection of clothing for every age is an important issue of a family needs. One must be very careful in selection of appropriate dress for children's on the basis of their physiological as well as their psychological needs. All the clothes wear by children should be comfortable, delicate to the skin and it should be appropriate size and designs. Present investigation was carried out on designing of dresses for pre-school girls and the child and mothers preference on 10 ten constructed dresses were recorded. The result shows that colour of dress is the primary factor of their clothing preference.

■ **KEY WORDS:** Pre-school, Preference, Designing

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER :** Gogoi, Minti and Baruah, Bulbul (2015). Designing of dresses for pre-school girls. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, **10** (1) : 84-87.

In the changing world of fashion lots of attractive and designable dresses for pre-school children (between 2-6 years) are available in market. In the pre-school period the children develop more quickly and learn more activities through play. They like to run, jump, climb, carry, push and pull with ease and skill and they have need dresses according to those activities. Clothing serve in main a social purpose as food serve in the main a health purpose (Dickins, 1944). It is absolutely true for all growing children. Therefore, the designing of their dresses has constantly being very important part through the history of fashion and still remain the position of significant importance. Clothes for pre-school should be comfortable, well fitted, strong in construction, and with enough ease to allow free movement of the limbs during the age and it should be easy to care. The designing of dress for children is essential to fulfil the clothing need of children at the particular age and to break the monotony of dressing pattern. All of their design not only be attractive but sometimes should stress simplicity according

to its purpose. As designing new garments is the opportunity to the researcher and it allow to make design with colour and texture by using the creativity and imagination, the study was undertaken with the following objectives :

- To designing of dresses for pre-school girls.
- To construction of various designs of dress and fixed out the cost.
- To taking preference of mother and child for constructed dresses.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

Materials :

- Standard basic body's block available in the department (Hazarika, 1990).
- Cotton material (plain, printed and checked), accessories and fasteners of various colours suitable for pre-school girls were purchase from the local market.
- Designs of the dresses developed under the

work were used for the purpose.

- One four years old girl of standard body measurement was selected to wear the constructed garments.

Methodology :

For the proposed study, Design no. 1-10 were finalized out of 20 (twenty) number of different dress designs sketching by a panel of judges having knowledge about the apparel and textile designing. All the designs were adopted in brown paper by using the standard block considering self-help and other functional features. The dresses were drafted on graph paper, transferred to fabric and stitched.

The girl child and their mother's view were considered important for the study. The preference of (60) pre-school girls and their mothers were randomly collected from ten different districts of Assam, based on interview cum questionnaire method. The correlation ratio of girls and mothers preferences for constructed dresses were calculated using the following formula :

$$\text{Correlation } r = \frac{6 d_i^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

whereas, d_i = difference between the rank.
 n = number of observation.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The finding of the research were subjected to discussed under following heads :

Educational status, family type and economic status of the mothers :

The girls and their mothers covered under the study were mainly belong to the nuclear family. The educational qualification and their occupation has been recorded and show in the Table 1.

Construction of design :

All the design were stitched in various colour like red, light and dark blue, pink, brown both printed and plain materials (after examine the strength, colour fastness and soil release properties) by incorporating accessories and fasteners accordingly. During construction importance had been given on the self-help and growth features. All the constructed garments were shown in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1 : Various designs in different colours with accessories

Table 1 : Educational and economic status of the respondent mothers

Sr. No.	Parameters	Percentage (%)
1.	Educational status	
	HSLC passed	33.33
	HS passed	30
	Graduate	20
	Postgraduate:	
	M.Sc.	13.3
	Ph.D.	3.33
2.	Income group	
	Rs.1000-5000/month	10
	Rs. 5000-10,000/month	20
	Rs. 10,000-20,000/month	40
	Rs. 20,000 and above/month	30

Costing of dresses :

The cost of all the dresses was estimated with the help of economist. Special consideration was given on material and labour cost (Table 2).

Table 2 : Costing of constructed dresses

Sr. No.	Design no.	Total costs
1.	Design 1	280.00
2.	Design 2	266.00
3.	Design 3	260.00
4.	Design 4	365.00
5.	Design 5	430.00
6.	Design 6	255.00
7.	Design 7	255.00
8.	Design 8	375.50
9.	Design 9	300.00
10.	Design 10	350.00

Preference for the dresses :

The girls and mothers preference for the constructed dress designs were carefully recorded in rank order of

Table 3 : The rank order of mother and girls preference for dresses

Sr. No.	Design of the frocks	Ranks by mothers	Rank by girls
1.	Design 1	2	1
2.	Design 2	7	9
3.	Design 3	4	5
4.	Design 4	1	2
5.	Design 5	5	4
6.	Design 6	10	7
7.	Design 7	8	8
8.	Design 8	3	3
9.	Design 9	6	6
10.	Design 10	9	10

preference and shown in the Table 3.

The girls showed the highest preference for design no. 1 which is a red coloured dress of fine embroidery and mother preferred most design no. 4. The mother preferred most design no. 4 as well as the cost of the dress, self help feature and functional features. The design no. 4 has front opening system, a large fold on bottom (which could be open when required) both of them preferred red colour printed dress. The least preference of girls was the design no. 10 which is a brown coloured dress whereas mother preferred less design no. 6. While girls and mothers preference for self-help feature were recorded it shows that cent per cent of them preferred large arm hole, front and back easily distinguishable easy to manipulate fasteners and 84 per cent girls 34 per cent mothers preferred front opening and regarding growth features it shows that only the mothers of lowest income group preferred broad hem, wide seam and tucks which can be lengthen, broaden as the child grow.

In the study both mother and child preference was taken at the same time as little girls need some help from their mother as they are unable to make absolutely correct choice. If she insists, lay out two dresses that match and let her choose between them. The rank correlation coefficient value of girls and mothers preferences for the dresses was estimated and it was found highly and positively co-related for the whole samples irrespective of their income groups.

The mother should choose clothing that reflects her age and personality. Kids need to look neat and don't need to feel embarrassed about their clothing. Enjoy dressing her like a little girl at this age. Avoid clothing that makes her look like a teenager. With good grooming the children need to find who they are. Mother should resist the urge to purchase lots of dress as they grow very fast and at the same time fashion of the dress change very rapidly. There is a need of careful utilization of pre-school dress for comfort and physical wellbeing of child. Many of the educated mother prefer dress that is seasonably appropriate otherwise they don't think about matching of colour and design. Excessive styling and trim made the garment difficult to wash and iron.

A child can't be happy in tight waste that cause discomfort or a crotch that is too tight for sitting comfortably and tight neckline that may give the feeling of getting shock. Garment for pre-school should be sufficiently loose but not too large. It should be light

weight because heavy garments tend to tire them. Garment should be absorbent and free circulation of air. Cotton is the most suitable fabric for pre-school children clothes. Draw string at the neck or waist and long ties on hoods and caps are dangerous because these string may get tighten as they climb and play causing risks (Hurlock, 1970).

Conclusion :

It can be concluded that pre-school girls were primarily influenced by the colour of dress and to some extent they were depended on their mother's choice regarding selection of their dresses. The girls are happy to have their cloth similar to their peer group but equal importance had been given on comfort in wearing dress. It was also observed that the most of the mother were highly aware about the selection of dresses for their child and it had positive corelation with their monthly income.

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