

Knowledge of rural women about general practices of care of clothing and its renovation

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ABSTRACT

Clothing is one of the basic needs of man along with food and shelter. A lot of resources are spent on clothing purchase and better upkeep to get its long life. If proper attention is given about appropriate clothing practices for care, renovation and garment construction, not only the life of garment will be increased but it will also help in economizing the family budget. Keeping in view this aspect the present investigation was carried out to assess the knowledge about General practices of care of clothing, renovation, garment designing and enrichment among rural women. It was found that women have inadequate knowledge about clothing practices and renovation techniques.

Key words : Clothing, Garments, Care, Knowledge, Renovation.

The present study was conducted in five adopted villages of All India Coordinated Research Project Home Science, Udaipur *i.e.* Palana khurd, Palana kalan, Nurda, Mahuda and Virdholiya of Mavli panchayat samiti of district Udaipur. Fifty respondents from each village were selected by simple random sampling. Thus total 250 farm women were selected for the study. A suitable research tool was prepared in light of the objectives of the study and data were collected by interview technique.

Distribution of respondents according to the age :

Table 1 shows the age distribution of respondents. Majority of the respondents were found in the age range of 21-30 years, followed by 28 per cent respondents between 31-40 years of age and 18% respondents were below 20 years. Only 12% respondents were in the age range of 41-50 years in age.

Table: 1 Distribution of respondents according to the age
 N=250

Sr. No.	Age	Number	Percentage (%)
1.	Below 20 years	45	18
2.	21- 30 years	105	42
3.	31-40 years	70	28
4.	41-50 years	30	12
5.	Senior citizens	-	-

Distribution of respondents according to educational level:

Distribution of respondents according to education

level has been depicted in Fig 1. It can be seen that 32 per cent respondents were illiterate and also 32% respondents educated up to middle class. Sixteen per cent of the respondents were educated up to intermediate. Few respondents educated up to high school and graduation and above.

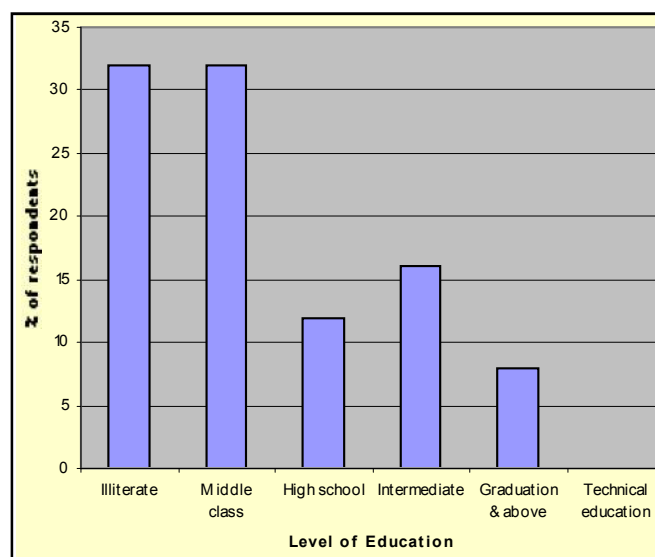


Fig. 1 : Education level of respondents

Distribution of respondents according to income levels:

Data about income level has been depicted in Fig 2. Half of the respondent's income level was in the lower middle income group *i.e.* between Rs.1500-2999/- followed

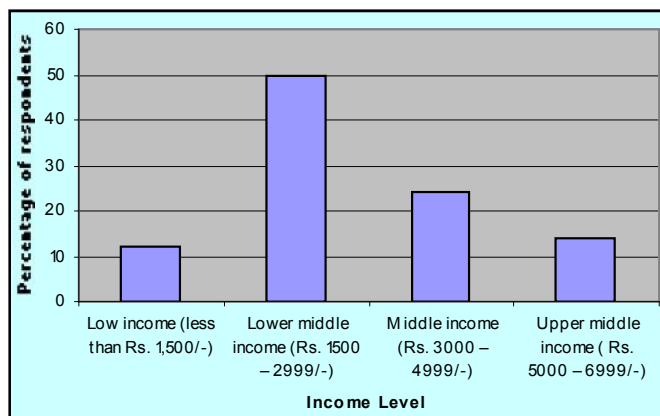


Fig. 2 : Income level of respondents

by 24 per cent respondents whose income level was middle income. Remaining respondents were in low income and upper middle income group as is clear from the Fig. 2.

Distribution of respondents according to type and Size of the family:

According to type and size of the family, majority of the respondents belonged to joint family and their size of family was found large. Remaining respondents were belonging to medium size and nuclear family. A very few respondents were belonging to small size family (Table 2).

Number & percentage of respondents	Type of family		Size of the family		
	Nuclear	Joint	Small	Medium	Large
Number	90	160	30	95	125
Percentage	36	64	12	38	50

(a) Small -up to 4 members , (b) Medium -up to 6 members (c) Large -above 6 members

Distribution of respondents based on whether they are members of any organization:

The Fig.3 shows that majority of the respondents (78%) were not member of any organization. Only 22

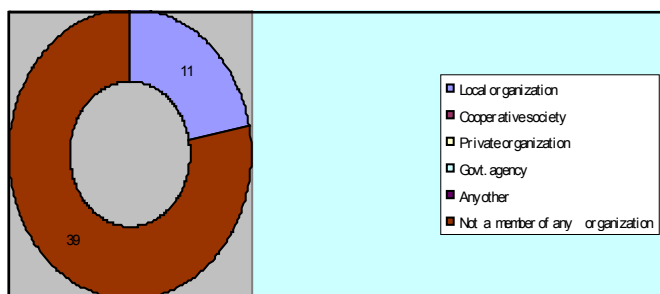


Fig. 3 : Distribution of respondents according to membership of any organization.

per cent of the respondents were members of local organization.

Distribution of respondents according to method of cultivation practiced by the respondents:

About method of cultivation practiced by the respondents, majority of the respondents (68%) practiced self cultivation method as their major practice, followed by 20 per cent of the respondents who gave the land on lease remaining 12% respondents did not possessed any land (Fig. 4).

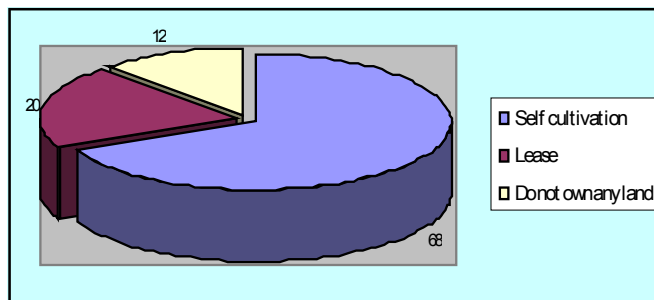


Fig. 4 : Method of cultivation practice by the respondents

Distribution according to the type of clothing worn by male respondents:

Distribution according to the type of clothing worn by the male respondents in winter revealed that 16 per

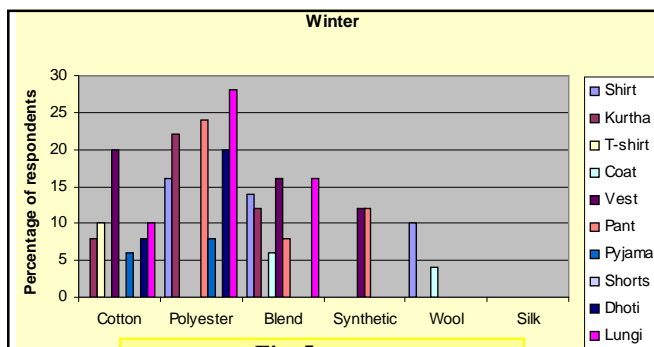


Fig. 5 a

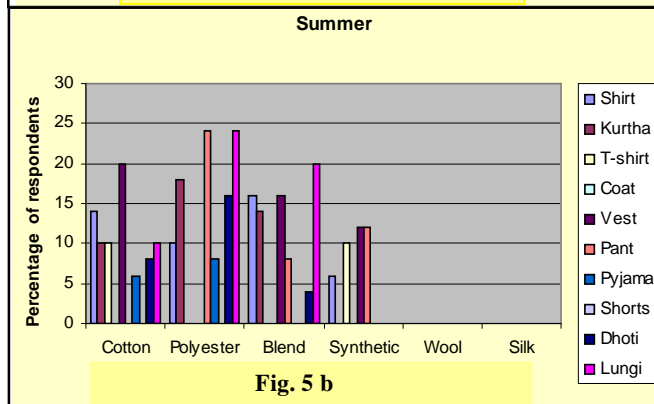


Fig. 5 b

Fig. 5 a & b : Type of fabric worn by the male respondents in winter and summer

cent respondents preferred polyester shirt, followed by blended shirt by 14 per cent of the respondents (Fig. 5a and 5 b). Very few respondents (10%) wore woolens shirt as depicted in the Table 8. Majority of the respondents preferred polyester fabric in Kurta, pant, pajama, dhoti and lungi, 16 per cent of respondents used to wear blended lungi, and 6-12 per cent of the respondents preferred blended Kurta, pant and coat in their outer wear. Only 4% respondents wear woolen coat in winters

Data regarding summer wear clothing revealed that majority of respondents preferred polyester pant, lungi, Kurta, pyjama and Dhoti, 14-20 per cent of the respondents liked blended lungi, shirt and Kurta. About cotton preference, 6-14 respondents preferred cotton shirt, Kurta, lungi dhoti and pyjama. Few respondents were choosing synthetic fabric in their pant and t-shirts. When asked about their rainy wear clothing and fabric it was found same as in summer wear

Distribution according to the type of clothing worn by female respondents:

Data in Fig. 6 a depicts the distribution of female respondents according to the type of clothing worn in winter season. Majority of the respondents preferred polyester saree-blouse, followed by blended fabrics by 14-20 % respondents. Choices of other materials was

shown by 6-12 per cent of the respondents who preferred ghaghra of different fabric material such as synthetic, blended and polyester.

Respondents (4-10%) used to wear salwar kameez preferred polyester, blended and synthetic fabrics. Very few respondents preferred cotton blouse.

About summer wear fabrics, majority of respondents preferred polyester saree-blouse and ghaghra. Equally 8 per cent respondents preferred polyester salwar kameez. 20 per cent respondents wore cotton blouse in summer wear and 4-6 per cent of the respondents preferred cotton salwar kameez. Remaining respondents used synthetic fabrics in their salwar kameez, saree-blouse and ghaghra

Rainy wear clothing pattern of female respondent was found same as that of summer wear (Fig. 6 b).

Clothing care practices:

Distribution of the respondents according to the practices followed by them before washing has been depicted in Table 3 and Fig. 7. Majority of respondents (70%) used to sort out their garments according to dirt. 82 per cent of the respondents were sorting out fabric according to colour. All the respondents did mending of their clothes prior top washing. 90 per cent of the respondents did not practice about making of outline of woolens before and after washing. It was found that 80 per cent of the respondents soaked clothes in water during washing and 54 per cent respondents boiled clothes with washing soda

Distribution of respondents according to the type of cleansing agent used:

Majority of respondents (82%) used soap as cleansing agent in their clothes, followed by 62 per cent respondents who also used washing powder. Very few respondents (18%) used detergent powder in their clothes as shown in the Fig. 8.

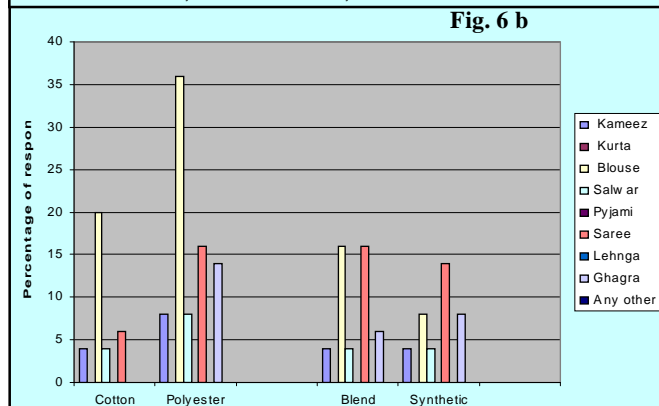
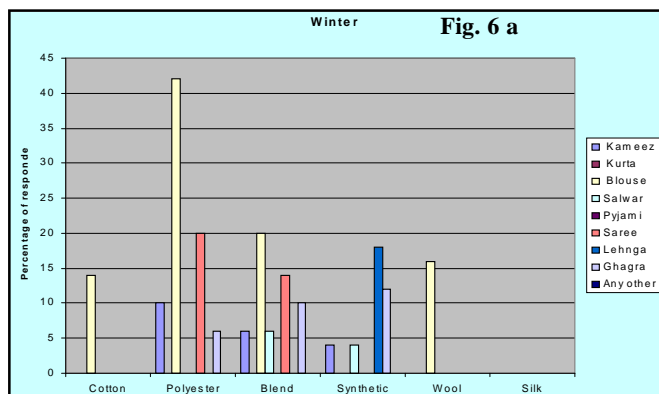


Fig. 6 a & b : Type of fabric worn by the female respondents in winter and summer

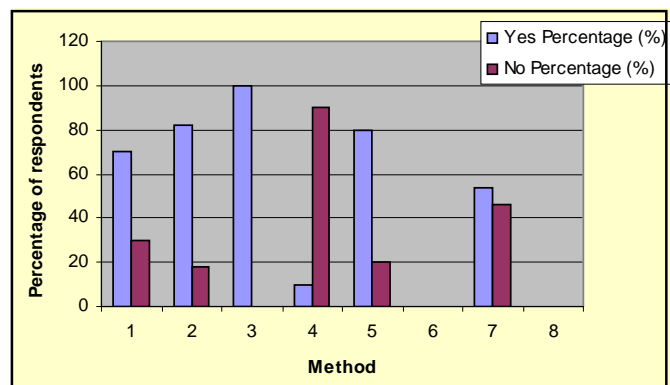


Fig. 7 : Practices followed before washing

Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to practices followed before washing		N=250			
Sr. No.	Method	Number and percentage of respondents (%)			
		Yes		No	
		Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
1.	Sort out according to dirt (light/medium/heavy)	175	70	75	30
2.	Sort out according to colour (light/medium)	205	82	45	18
3.	Mending	250	100		
4.	Making outlines of woollens	25	10	225	90
5.	Soaking in water	200	80	50	20
6.	Soaking in salt water	-			
7.	Boiling with washing soda	135	54	115	46
8.	Bleaching				

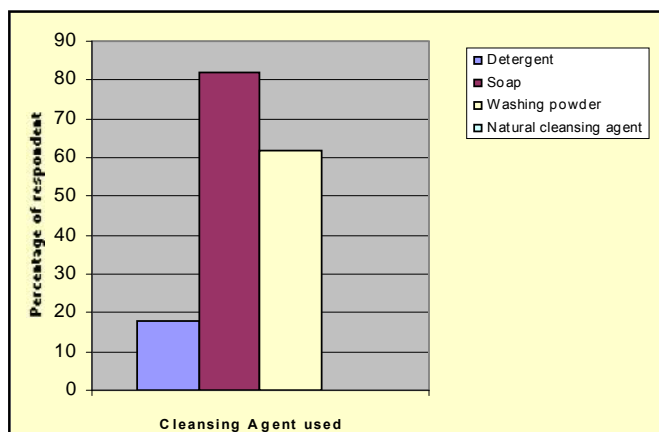


Fig. 8 : Type of cleansing agent used by the respondents

Distribution of respondents according to the method of using cleansing agent:

Data about distribution of respondents according to method of using cleansing agent has been depicted in Fig. 9. Cent per cent respondents rub the soap against clothes. 62 per cent of the respondents soaked their clothes in solution of washing powder and water.

Distribution of respondents according to the method of washing:

Data in Fig. 10 revealed that all the respondents used

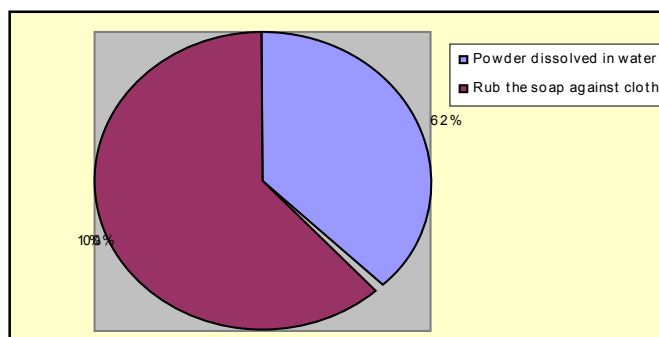


Fig. 9 : Method of using cleansing agent

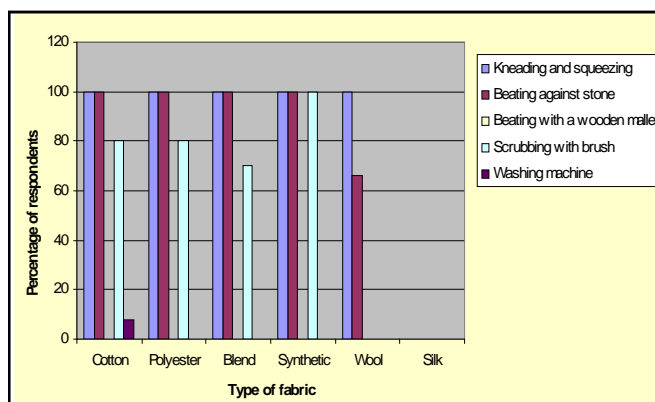


Fig. 10 : Distribution of respondents according to the method of washing

kneading and squeezing method for washing all types of clothes. Cent per cent respondents used to follow beating against stone method for all types of fabric except woollen fabrics. More than 80 % respondents preferred method of scrubbing with brush for cotton, polyester and synthetic fabrics. Very few respondents used washing machine for washing their clothes.

It was found that cent per cent respondents were using optical brighteners/ bluing agents for cotton, polyester and blended fabric. Only 16 per cent respondents applied starch on their clothes after washing and drying as is clear from the above Table 4.

When asked about type of starch used for stiffening by them , it was revealed that 30 per cent of respondents used commercial starch on cotton and polyester fabric and 70 per cent respondents were using home made starch i.e. rice starch in their clothes. It was observed that the respondents were not using starch o blended, synthetic, woollen and silk material.(Table 5)

Perusal of data in Table 4 shows the distribution of respondents according to method of starch preparation. It was observed that only 16 per cent respondents were using starch on their clothes and the method of starch

Table : 4 Distribution of respondents according to finishing methods N=250

Sr. No.	Type of finishing given	Number and percentage of respondents											
		Cotton		Polyester		Blend		Synthetic		Wool		Silk	
		No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
1.	Optical brighteners/Blueing agents	250	100	250	100	250	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Starches	40	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Other special finishing agents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table : 5 Distribution of respondents according to type of starch used for stiffening different clothes N=40

Sr. No.	Type of starch	Type of fabric (% of respondents)					
		C	P	B	SY	W	S
1.	Rice starch	70	70	-	-	-	-
2.	Sago starch	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Commercial starch	30	30	-	-	-	-
4.	Any other	-	-	-	-	-	-

preparation was directly dissolving the starch in cold water for starch preparation. None of then respondent followed correct method of making starch *i.e.* dissolving starch in cold water and boiling it which prevents lump formation

Regarding, preparation of blueing agents, majority of respondents (74%) used blueing agent by dissolving in little water and add to the bucket of water (Table 7). Remaining percentage of respondents used method of dissolve drops / powder directly in water. None of the respondent used tying method of blueing which prevents streaks and grains formation in clothes after bluing in water.

Table 6 : Distribution of respondents according to method of starch preparation N=40

Sr. No.	Method of starch preparation	Number and percentage of respondents	
		Number	Percentage (%)
1.	Dissolving in cold water and boiling	-	-
2.	Directly dissolve in cold water	40	100

Distribution of respondents according to method of removing excess water from clothes-

Distribution of respondents according to method of removing excess water from clothes as shown in Fig. 11 depicts that more than 70 per cent respondents used wringing method for cotton, polyester, blended and woolens clothes. Less than 30 per cent respondents were using dripping on the clothes line method for cotton, polyester and blended fabric.

70 per cent respondents were using dripping on the

Table 7 : Preparation of bluing agents N=250

Sr. No.	Preparation method	Number and percentage of respondents	
		Number	Percentage (%)
1.	Dissolve in little water and add to the bucket of water	185	74
2.	Tie in small piece of cloth and shake in water	-	-
3.	Dissolve drops / powder directly in water	65	26

clothes line method for synthetic fabric, followed by 30 per cent respondents who used wringing method. Very few respondents (8%) used squeezing with hands method for woolens fabric

The above Table 8 shows that all the respondents preferred sun drying for all types of clothes. Only 10 per

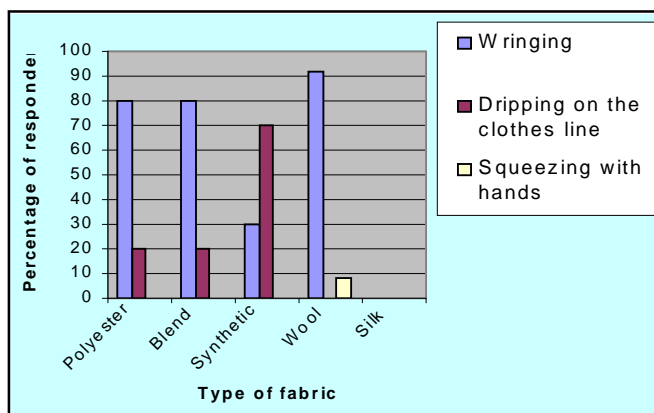


Fig. 11 : Distribution of respondents according to method of removing excess water from clothes

Table 8 : Distribution of respondents according to drying practices

Sr. No.	Method	Type of fabric											
		Cotton		Polyester		Blend		Synthetic		Wool		Silk	
		No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
1.	Under shade												
2.	Sun drying	250	100	250	100	250	100	250	100				
3.	Drip drying												
4.	On river/canal beds												
5.	On grass									25	10		

Table 9 : Distribution of respondents according to ironing methods followed

Type of fabric	Number & percentage of respondents	Done by		Type of iron used		Stage of fabric ironing		Ironing temperature		
		Self	Dhobi	charcoal	Electric	Semi dry	Dried and dampened	Low	Medium	High
Cotton	Number	190	60	90	100	-	190	-	40	60
	Percentage	76	24	36	40	-	76	-	16	24
Polyester	Number	200	50	90	110	-	200	-	35	75
	Percentage	80	20	36	44	-	80	--	14	30
Blends	Number	200	50	90	110	-	200	-	200	-
	Percentage	80	20	36	44	-	80	-	80	-
Synthetics	Number	200	50	90	110	--	200	35	165	-
	Percentage	80	20	36	44	--	80	14	66	-
Wool	Number	200	--	90	110	-	200	200	-	-
	Percentage	80	-	36	44	-	80	80	-	-
Silk	Number	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Percentage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 10 : Distribution of respondents according to storage and disinfection of clothes

Number & percentage of respondents	Use of repellents in storage		Disinfection during special conditions					
	Yes	No	Ill-health		Children		After long storage	
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Number	250	-	-	-	-	--	250	-
Percentage	100	-	-	-	-	-	100	-

cent of the respondents dried their woollens clothes on grass.

Data in Table 9 depicts the distribution of respondents according to ironing method, more than 76 per cent of the respondents did self ironing on all type of clothes and remaining respondent's ironing was done by Dhobi. Equally 44 per cent of the respondents used electric iron for all type of fabric. Remaining respondents preferred charcoal iron. It was observed that all the respondents dried and dampened their clothes before fabric ironing.

About ironing temperature, 24 -30 per cent respondents iron cotton and polyester at high temperature. Woollen clothes were ironed at low temperature by 80 per cent respondents. More than 70 per cent respondents preferred medium temperature for blended and synthetic fabrics.

It was interesting to note that all the respondents were giving exposure to sunlight after long storage of the clothes. All the respondents used leaves of neem and naphthalene balls as repellents in storage for disinfection of clothes (Table 10).

Data about the old and unused garments and awareness about renovation revealed that majority of the respondents (60%) did renovation and reuse their old garments. 32 per cent of the respondents used to give their clothes to relatives and 8% respondents were giving their old clothes in exchange. Majority of respondents (86 %) were aware about quilting technique, followed by hand darning, patch work and machine darning (Table 11).

Majority of the respondents were doing quilting on their clothes for renovation. Less than 26 per cent

Table 11 : Distribution of respondents according to utilization of the old & unused garments and awareness about renovation

Sr. No.	Old/unused garments & awareness of renovation	Yes	
		Number	Percentage
Utilization of old garments			
1.	Give them to relatives	80	32
2.	Give them for charity	-	-
3.	Give them in exchange	20	8
4.	Renovate and reuse	150	60
Awareness of renovation methods			
1.	Patch work	60	24
2.	Hand darning	65	26
3.	Machine darning	55	22
4.	Whipping	-	-
5.	Quilting	215	86

Table 12 : Distribution of respondents according to renovation methods and existing levels of skill

Sr. No.	Method	Level of skill			
		Basic skill		Good skill	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1.	Patch work	60	24	50	20
2.	Hand darning	15	6	20	8
3.	Machine darning	35	14	-	-
4.	Whipping	-	-	-	-
5.	Quilting	140	56	75	30

respondents were aware about hand darning, patch work and machine darning. Distribution of respondents according to level of skill revealed that (56%) having basic skills in quilting, followed by 24 per cent respondents

who were having basic skills in patch work. 20-30 per cent respondents were having good skills in hand darning and quilting (Table 12).

Conclusion:

The present study concludes that the rural women have insufficient knowledge about Clothing care practices and renovation techniques and there is dire need to carry out suitable intervention programme to improve their livelihood.

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