

A study of clothing satisfaction of wheelchair user with present wardrobe

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to know the satisfaction level of wheelchair bound users with present wardrobe. The study was conducted on 40-wheelchair users selected purposively. Study results reveals that respondents were found satisfied with material of garment and found less satisfied with constructional and functional detail in their clothing they possessed in their wardrobe. Major problem faced by them was in the fitting and length of garment, crotch length, fly and related to fastener.

Key words : Disability, Functional detail, Constructional detail, Clothing satisfaction

Each human being is a unique individual. Clothing satisfies functional, social and aesthetic need for all people, but the role of clothing differs in latter for a person. Health life style, self-esteem and experience all are factors to consider when selecting clothing for the disabled people. The individual requirements of disabled people regarding textile and clothing are very much more diverse than for people without disability. Clothing is very difficult task for them. Clothing for special need of people with disability are more functional than fashionable. Clothing for those individuals with disability varies based upon the unique need of person with disability.

The disabled first must consider protection and comfort in clothing selection. The disability may be temporary or permanent. The person may need the use of assistive devices such as a wheelchair, walker, crutches, prosthetic or a respirator.

All of these are considerations that must be accounted for when looking for clothing that will meet the need of the person with the challenge.

Wheelchair clothing is an area most people do not consider until they are either in the wheelchair or caring for a wheelchair user on some levels. When dressing the wheelchair user with any severity almost always has assistance of some form, as at least has limited mobility themselves. It is comfort that is the main thrust with particular type of clothing. Clothing with simple design and easy access to opening for wheelchair user are fairly well served with special garments. The objective of present study was to study the socio-personal characteristic and clothing satisfaction level of wheelchair

users.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted on wheelchair bound user's in Udaipur city of Rajasthan because two well known society Viklang Seva Samiti and Narayan Seva Samiti are working for the upliftment and employment of the disabled/physically challenged person. This research was based on a descriptive cum exploratory design, to obtain information on clothing practices and satisfaction level with present wardrobe and clothing problem faced by them. The purposively sampling method was used and sample sizes of 40 male respondents were selected. Pretested structured interview schedule were used to obtain complete and desired information. The collected data was analyzed for statistical treatment in the light of objective of study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following section contains the outcome of the major observations made during the study. Socio-personal characteristic such as age, education level, occupation, income and family type were studied.

Table 1 depicts that 42.5 per cent respondents were in the age group of 15-25 years. Nearly 30 per cent were of 25-35 years age group. Remaining percentage (27.5%) of the respondents were of the age group 5-15 years. One third of the total respondents (32.5%) studied up to primary level and (22.5%) of respondents studied up to middle level and 17.5 per cent respondents were illiterate and educated up to graduate level and only 10 per cent

Table 1 : Frequency and percentage distribution of socio personal characteristic of the respondents (N=40)

Sr. No.	Socio-personal characteristics of the respondents	F	%
1.	Age in years		
	5-15	11	27.5
	15-25	17	42.5
	25-35	12	30
2.	Educational level		
	Illiterate	7	17.5
	Upto primary	13	32.5
	Middle level	9	22.5
	High School	4	10
	Graduate	7	17.5
3.	Occupation		
	Business	24	60
	Service	16	40
4.	Income per month (Rs.)		
	5,000-10,000	19	47.5
	10,001-15,000	16	40
	15,001-20,000	5	12.5
5.	Family type		
	Nuclear	36	90
	Joint	4	10

respondents were studied up to High School level. 60 per cent respondents family had own business and remaining percentage of respondents (40%) were from service class.

The family income of 47.5 per cent respondents was Rs. 5,000-10,000 per month, 40 per cent respondents family income ranged between Rs.10,000-15,000 per month. Income was Rs. 15,000-20,000 per month for the 12.5 per cent of the respondents. Majority of the respondents (90%) belonged to nuclear family, while remaining 10 per cent were from joint family.

Clothing satisfaction:

Clothing satisfaction level of the respondents was determined on the basis of satisfaction with material of garments and constructional and functional detail of the garment on three point rating scale *i.e.* satisfied, less satisfied and not satisfied. Table 2 gives the bird eye view of the responses obtained.

Table 2 shows that majority of respondents were found satisfied with material of garment and 30 per cent respondents were less satisfied.

Regarding the constructional details, it was found that all respondents (100%) were found satisfied with direction of grain line in the garment. 60 per cent respondents were less satisfied with length of garment, 25 per cent respondents were not satisfied and only 15 per cent respondents were found satisfied with length of garment. Majority of respondents (80%) were found less satisfied with garment fitting and 20 per cent respondents were not satisfied with garment fitting, as all said that

Table 2 : Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by satisfaction with material, constructional and functional details of garment (N=40)

Sr. No.	Aspect	Satisfied		Less satisfied		Not satisfied		Weighted mean score
		F	%	F	%	F	%	
1.	Material of garment	28	70	12	30			2.7***
2.	Constructional details							
	Direction of grain	40	100					3***
	Length of garment	6	15	24	60	10	25	2.5***
	Garment fitting			32	80	8	20	1.8**
	Length of sleeve	20	50	13	32.5	7	17.5	2.35**
	Fitting of sleeve	18	45	22	55			1.95**
	Neckline shape	20	50	20	50			2.5***
	Size of neck	20	50	20	50			2.5***
	Finishing of neckline	20	50	20	50			2.5***
	Collar (size and type)	30	75	10	25			2.75***
	Waist belt of lower garment			10	25	30	75	1.25*
	Crotch length of garment			8	20	32	80	1.2*
3.	Functional details							
	Type of fastener used			9	22.5	31	77.5	1.22*
	Size of pocket	16	40	16	40	8	20	2.2**
	Type of pocket	20	50	20	50			2.5***
	Opening in the lower garment			40	100			2**

* **Satisfied =2.53- 3

**Less satisfied =1.67-2.35

* Not satisfied =1-1.67

they wanted loose or medium fitting in garment. Half of respondents (50%) were found satisfied length of sleeve, 32.5 per cent respondents were less satisfied and 17.5 per cent respondents were not satisfied with length of sleeve. 55 per cent respondents were less satisfied fitting of sleeve and 45 per cent respondent were found satisfied.

Equal per cent of the respondents (50%) were found satisfied and less satisfied with size of neck, finishing of neckline and neckline finish. 75 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with size and type of collar and 25 per cent were less satisfied. Majority of respondents (75 per cent) were not satisfied with waist belt of lower garment and only 25 per cent respondents were less satisfied. 80 per cent respondents were not satisfied with crotch length of the lower garment and 20 per cent respondents were less satisfied.

Data related to functional details showed that majority of respondents (77.5) per cent were not satisfied with type of fasteners used and remaining 22.5 per cent respondents were less satisfied. Equal per cent of respondents (40%) were found satisfied and less satisfied with size of pocket and only 20 per cent respondents were not satisfied and the reason behind less satisfaction was that the respondents want big size of pocket in their garment. Equal per cent of respondents (50%) were satisfied and less satisfied with type of pocket. Cent per cent respondents were found less satisfied with opening in the lower garment.

Overall satisfaction level:

It was calculated on the basis of sum of score obtained in each parameter related to material, functional and constructional details of the garment of each respondent divided by maximum obtainable score of all the respondents multiplied by hundred.

Table 3 shows that over all 37.20 per cent respondents were satisfied with material of garment, constructional and functional details, 43.12 per cent respondents were less satisfied and only 19.68 per cent respondents were not satisfied. Hence, need arises to train and educate the wheelchair users for the proper selection of the garment based on their requirements to gain maximum satisfaction obtain with the wardrobe.

Table 3 : Overall satisfaction with present wardrobe

Sr. No.	Aspect	%
1.	Satisfied	37.20
2.	Less satisfied	43.12
3.	Not satisfied	19.68

Conclusion:

It was observed that respondents were less satisfied with present wardrobe. Major problem faced by them were in the constructional and functional aspects of the ready-made dresses. Loose or medium fitting clothes with front opening and ample ease in shoulder and neckline area, big size pocket etc. were in their preference in clothes.

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