

Selection of pre-school children's garments for various occasions

■ NIDHI KALRA AND NIRMAL YADAV

See end of the paper for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

NIRMALYADAV

Department of Textile and Apparel Designing, College of Home Science, C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, HISAR (HARYANA) INDIA
nirmal404@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The space of time between a child's second and sixth birthday seems to be relatively short but, it is a period in which changes take place in his personality. It is the period when child feels independent by dressing up, undressing and by keeping his belongings at proper place. The child is active so his clothes should be selected cautiously for different occasions. Majority of pre-school mothers preferred T-shirt for casual and formal wear and *Sada Kurta* for nightwear as upper garment for child and knicker with straps as casual and formal wear and night suit for night wear as lower garment as they are easy to maintain, durable and create no hindrance in the movement of child. Mothers encourage child's independence by keeping his clothes within his reach.

KEY WORDS : Pre-school children, Upper garments, Lower garments, Occasions

How to cite this paper: Kalra, Nidhi and Yadav, Nirmal (2011). Selection of pre-school children's garments for various occasions. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 6 (2) : 140-142.

Article chronicle: Received: 06.05.2011; **Revised:** 09.09.2011; **Accepted:** 15.10.2011

Clothing, one of the basic needs of an individual, occupies an important role in human life. Clothing is an art of selecting or constructing garments for an individual and an expression of personality. Its main purpose is to create suitable and healthy balance between human body and the surrounding environment. Clothing of an individual not only influences activity, comfort and other attributes of his physical health but also profoundly modifies his emotional and social behaviour.

As an individual grows older, his clothing needs changes due to changes in his different body characteristics. Thus, at different stages of life, clothing needs are different. Clothing is particularly of vital significance in pre-schooler life. A pre-school child is 2 to 5 years old who is no longer toddling but is still not old enough to go to school. A pre-school child acquires definite likes and dislikes regarding garments. At this stage, the child starts showing interest in learning to dress themselves. They considered their clothes as their part and identify themselves with their clothes. Clothes give them the feeling of independence as they begin to learn dressing up, undressing and keeping their belongings like toys and clothes at proper place. Having a special place to keep his own clothes, motivate the child to have a sense of ownership.

At this stage of life, the child is very active. He keeps on running, jumping and playing so his clothes should be comfortable, protective, easy to maintain, economical, durable, and easy to wear and absorbent. Keeping all these points in mind, they should be selected properly for

different occasions like casual wear, formal wear and night wear. Mothers have to select their clothes very carefully as the clothes affect their physical, social and mental development. Therefore, the present investigation was planned to study the choice preferences of garments of pre-schoolers for various occasions.

RESEARCH METHODS

Sixty pre-school boys (age between 2-5 years) were selected randomly from five pre-nursery and nursery schools of Hisar city. Their mothers were contacted to study their choice preferences regarding their selection of pre-school garments for various occasions. The data were collected using a well framed closed ended questionnaire. Percentages were computed to interpret the data.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

It is clear from the observations of Table 1 that nearly forty five per cent pre-school children had 20-25 sets of garments in their wardrobes which was followed by 38.33 per cent children who were having 25-30 sets of garments in their wardrobes. Majority of the pre-schoolers accompanied their parents at the time of purchase of their garments. Most of the times, it was mother, father and child going together to buy children clothes (Yadav *et al.*, 2001).

As indicate the data of Table 2 a high percentage of mothers (85%) preferred to keep the pre-schooler's garments in wardrobe. Only 8.33 per cent mothers

Table 1 : Number of garments in pre- school childrens' wardrobe (n=60)

Category of number of garments	Frequency/Percentage
15-20	10 (16.66)
20-25	27 (45.00)
25-30	23 (38.33)

Figures in parenthesis are percentages

preferred suitcase. Three-fourth (75%) mothers were in favour of place for keeping the garments within child's reach and the rest 25 per cent mothers were not practicing the place for keeping the garments within child's reach.

Table 2: Mothers' preference for place of keeping the garments of preschoolers (n=60)

Particulars	Frequency/Percentage
Place	
Wardrobe	51 (85.00)
Box	4 (6.66)
Suit case	5 (8.33)
Basket	---
Place within reach of child	
Yes	45 (75.00)
No	15 (25.00)

Figures in parenthesis are percentages

Place of keeping garments was selected so as to give the child the feeling of independence as well as feeling of belongingness to their own clothing articles. Convenience of child was a major factor behind the selection of the place for keeping garments.

The perusal of Table 3 reveals that all the respondents (100%) preferred T-shirt followed by 93.33 per cent mothers who preferred shirt for the casual wears of pre-schoolers. Majority of mothers preferred

Table 3: Preferences of upper garments by mothers of pre-school children for different occasions (n=60)

Type of garments	Occasions		
	Casual wear	Formal wear	Night wear
Upper garment			
T-shirt	60 (100.00)	53 (88.33)	---
Shirt	56 (93.33)	49 (81.66)	---
Bushirt	54 (90.00)	18 (30.00)	---
Sada Kurta	---	---	46 (76.66)
Jacket	---	46 (76.66)	---
Under shirts	4 (6.66)	---	16 (26.66)

Figures in parenthesis are percentages

T-shirt (88.33%) followed by shirt (81.66%) as formal wear for pre-schoolers. Nearly three-fourth (76.66%) of mothers preferred Sada-kurta and 26.66 per cent mothers preferred under shirts as nightwear for their children.

Majority of mothers preferred knicker with straps (91.66%) followed by the mothers who preferred knicker with bib and straps (90.00%) as casual wear for their children. Majority of mothers preferred knicker with bib and straps (95.00%). It is followed by 81.66 per cent mothers who preferred knicker with straps as formal wear for their children (Table 4). Kaur (1985) found that casual wear top and knicker sets were preferred by three to six year old children. The night-suit, Pyjama and briefs were preferred as night wear for their children by 95 and 80 per cent mothers.

Table 4: Preferences of lower garments by mothers of pre-school children for different occasions (n=60)

Type of garments	Occasions		
	Casual wear	Formal wear	Night wear
Lower garments			
Simple pant	29 (48.33)	17 (28.33)	---
Simple knicker	53 (88.33)	20 (33.33)	---
Knicker with straps	55 (91.66)	49 (81.66)	---
Knicker with bib and straps	54 (90.00)	57 (95.00)	---
Jeans	50 (83.33)	34 (56.66)	---
Pyjama	---	---	48 (80.00)
Brief	---	---	23 (38.33)
One piece garment	39 (65.00)	35 (58.33)	---
Night-suit	---	---	57 (95.00)
Dangri	14 (23.33)	17 (28.33)	---

Figures in parenthesis are percentages

The reasons for preferring the respective dresses for casual wear were that these were easy to wear (98.33%), were durable and created no hindrance in activities (93.33%) as indicated in Table 5.

The majority of the mothers preferred the respective garments for formal wear because these had unique designs (100%) and were according to fashion (100%). The mothers preferred the respective garments for nightwear because these were easy to wear (88.33%), easy to care (86.66%) and created no hindrance in activities (75%) for night purpose. Durability, price, fitness, comfort to wear, ease of laundering, colours were the

Table 5: Reasons for preferring a garment for different occasions (n=60)

Reasons	Occasions		
	Casual wear	Formal wear	Night wear
Comfortable	55 (91.66)	19 (31.66)	42 (70.00)
Easy to wear	59 (98.33)	8 (13.33)	53 (88.33)
According to child's choice	53 (88.33)	53 (88.33)	17 (28.33)
According to peer group	32 (53.33)	41 (68.33)	5 (8.33)
Easy to care	53 (88.33)	14 (23.33)	52 (86.66)
Durable	56 (93.33)	7 (11.66)	48 (80.00)
Creates no hindrance	56 (93.33)	46 (76.66)	45 (75.00)
Unique designs	9 (15.00)	60 (100.00)	3 (5.00)
Different from others	14 (23.33)	54 (90.00)	---
More appealing colors	34 (56.56)	39 (65.00)	11 (18.33)
Material used is more absorbent	35 (58.33)	13 (21.66)	32 (58.33)
More costly	3 (5.00)	39 (65.00)	---
According to fashion	29 (48.33)	60 (100.00)	---

Figures in parenthesis are percentages

factors considered by mothers in this order of importance (Blake *et al.*, 1953).

Conclusion:

Pre-school age is one of the most important parts of an individual's life. The young child begins to show interest in learning to dress himself and they start to identify themselves with their clothes and look upon them as their part. Majority of mothers preferred to keep the pre-school garments in the wardrobe as they were in child's reach. For upper garments, T-shirt as casual and formal wear and *Sada kurta* as nightwear were preferred by mothers for pre-schoolers. Knicker with straps as casual wear and formal wear and night suit were preferred as night wear for lower garments. Easy to wear, durable and creating no hindrance were the reasons for their preference.

Authors' affiliations:

NIDHI KALRA, Department of Textile and Apparel Designing, College of Home Science, C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, HISAR (HARYANA) INDIA

REFERENCES

- Blake, E.**, Glisson, O. and Tate, M. (1953). A study of the pre-school child's clothing in 100 families of Red Ford, Virginia, *Home Economics*, **45**:179-186.
- Kaur, H.** (1985). A market survey of the readymade garments for three to six years old children as available in Chandigarh. Master's Thesis, Punjab University, Chandigarh, pp. 486-488.
- Yadav, N.**, Kalra, N. and Jain, A. (2001). Participation of pre-schoolers in selecting their own clothing. *J. Family Ecology*, **3**(2): 118-120.

*** ***** **