

Research Paper :

Clothing practices of visually imparied children

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Received : January, 2011; Accepted : February, 2011

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ABSTRACT

Clothing is one of the most personal components of daily life. Physical disability affects the type of clothing that can be worn. For visually impaired, dressing is a very difficult and often impossible task. Thus, there is a great need to clothing design ideas for visually impaired. Respondents faced clothing problem *i.e.* Problem faced by mothers while training the children for clothing. Problem faced by wearing the lower and upper garments, donning and doffing of the garments, bringing garments from the wardrobe, problem with fasteners, cannot identify the garments, cannot identify the front and back of the garments and cannot identify the colour.

Babel, Sudha and Chittora, Bhawana (2011). Clothing practices of visually imparied children. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 6(1) : 39-42.

Key words : Clothing Practices, Visually Impaired

Clothing is one of the basic necessities of human life. Clothing has been recognized as a primary need of mankind throughout the world. It is one of the most personal components of daily life. Clothes render on individual identity.

As the nearest “environment” clothing affects a person’s physical, psychological and social comfort. Clothing can signify ones membership in a special group. Regardless of any disability one can from a variety of clothing styles and fabrics that contribute to physical, psychological and social comfort. (Brown, 2003)

The children with visually impaired, face a number of problems while performing their daily activities thus use support of crutches, guards, spints, calipers and requirements. Parents play an important role in rehabilitant these children. These clothing problems may be minimized by designing suitable garments for the needy to supplement their personality. The objectives are as follows: to study the clothing practices of visually impaired children and to find out the problems encountered by the mother of visually impaired children while training the child for dressing and undressing.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

The present study was conducted on visually impaired children at Rajkiya Pragya -Chakshu Blind School of Udaipur city. This research was based on

clothing practices of visually impaired children. Samples of 30 respondents were purposively selected for the present study for getting the complete and desired information using personal interview method. The collected data was pre-tested on 25 non-sample subjects. The collected data was analyzed for percentage and frequency.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The findings obtained from the present study are presented below:

General information of the respondents:

The respondents were studied for their age, religion, family type, family occupation (Table 1).

| Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by general information (n = 30) | | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------|----|--------|
| Sr. No. | Aspect | categories | F | % |
| 1. | Age | 6-8 | 16 | 53.33 |
| | | 8-10 | 14 | 46.67 |
| 2. | Religion | Hindu | 30 | 100.00 |
| 3. | Family type | Joint | 12 | 40.00 |
| | | Nuclear | 18 | 60.00 |
| 4. | Family occupation | Service | 14 | 46.67 |
| | | Business | 16 | 53.33 |

Age:

The data reveals that 53.33 per cent of the respondents were in the age group of 6-8 year and 46.67 per cent in the age group of 8-10 year (Fig. 1a).

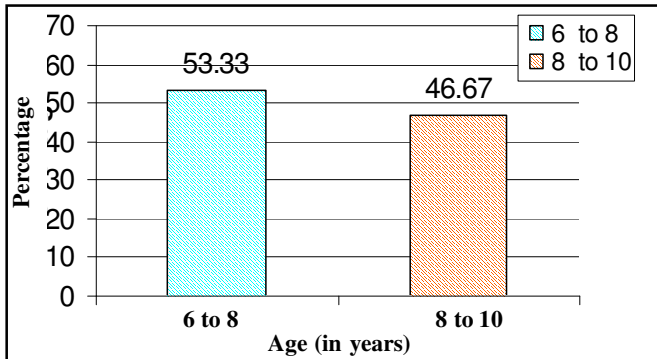


Fig. 1(a) : Percentage distribution of respondents by age

Religion:

It was surprising to note that all the respondents were Hindu (Fig. 1b).

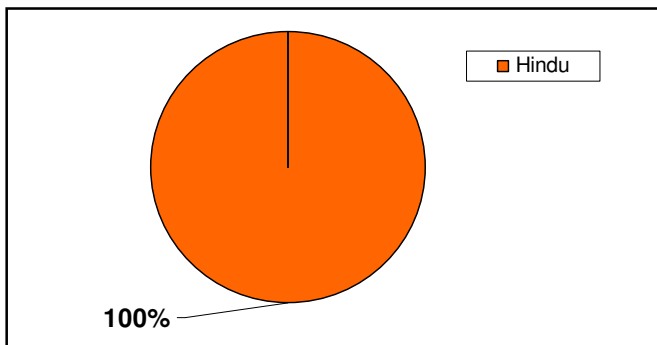


Fig. 1(b): Percentage distribution of respondents by caste

Family type:

The data reveals that 60 per cent of respondents belonged to nuclear family while remaining 40 per cent belonged to joint family. (Fig. 1c)

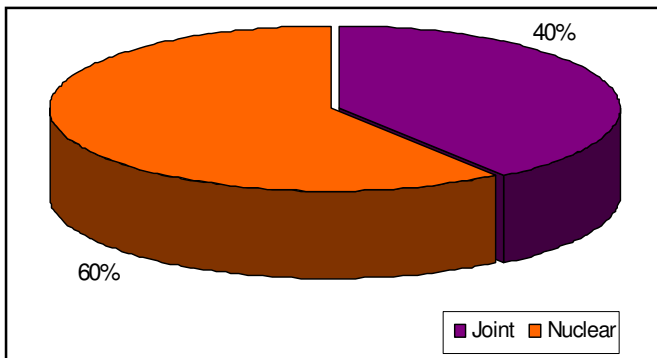


Fig. 1(c): Percentage distribution of respondents by family type

Family occupation:

The data reveals that family occupation of 46.67 percent of the respondent's family was service. Remaining 53.33 per cent of the respondents were from business class family (Fig. 1d).

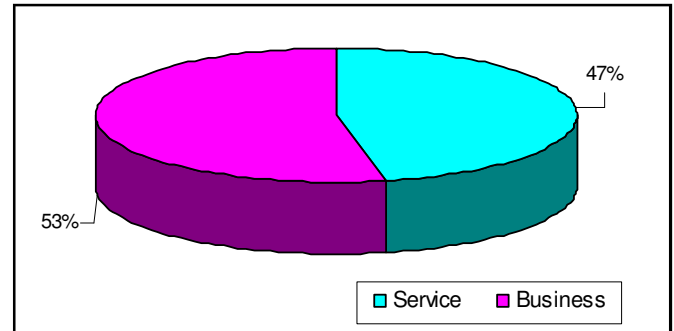


Fig. 1(d): Percentage distribution of respondents by family occupation

The data reveals that 56.67 per cent of the respondents were born blind and 36.66 per cent of the respondents were totally blind after birth because the children had diseases glaucoma, eye flue and fever. 6.67 per cent of the respondents were blind due to accident (Table 2 and Fig. 2).

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents by duration of disability (n = 30)

| Sr. No. | Duration of disability | F | % |
|---------|------------------------|----|-------|
| 1. | With birth | 17 | 56.67 |
| 2. | After birth | 11 | 36.66 |
| 3. | Accidental Case | 2 | 6.67 |

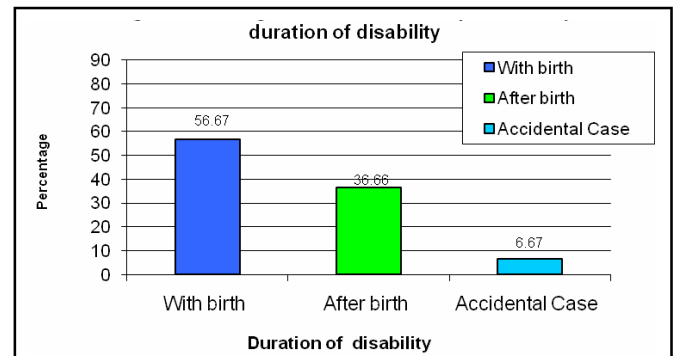


Fig. 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of respondents by duration of disability

Anonymous (2009):

Globally, the leading causes of blindness in order of frequency are:

- Cataract (a clouding of the lens of the eye that impedes the passage of light).
 - Uncorrected refractive errors (near-sightedness, far-sightedness or astigmatism).
 - Glaucoma (a group of diseases that result in damage of the optic nerve).
 - Age-related macular degeneration (which involves the loss of a person’s central field of vision).
- Other major causes include corneal opacities (eye diseases that scar the cornea), diabetic retinopathy (associated with diabetes), blinding trachoma, and eye conditions in children such as cataract, retinopathy of prematurity (an eye disorder of premature infants), and vitamin A deficiency.

Existing clothing practices of visually impaired children:

Multiple choice:

The data in Table 3 and Fig. 3 shows that all the respondents were having shirt and pant 83.33 per cent were having Bermuda and jacket, 66.67 per cent were having T-shirt, Capri, Jersey, Coat and 50 per cent were having Pajama and 33.33 were having of Cap.

It can be observed from the Table 4 that 66.67 per cent of the respondents preferred readymade garment

| Sr. No. | Type of garments | F | % |
|---------|------------------|----|-------|
| 1. | Home made | 1 | 3.33 |
| 2. | Tailor made | 9 | 30.00 |
| 3. | Readymade | 20 | 66.67 |

whereas tailor made and homemade were preferred by 30 per cent and 3.33 per cent, respectively.

The reason for preference of readymade garments as said by respondents were because of easy availability, fashionable and can be altered.

The reason for preference of tailor made garment were in budget, non availability of special fashionable garment.

The reasons for preference of homemade garments were low cost, according to body measurements and according to need or fit their disability. The result indicated that most of the respondents used readymade garments.

Clothing problems faced by the mother of visually impaired children:

The data in Table 5 and Fig. 5 shows that 23.33 per cent of the respondents faced problem for donning on the garment and ten per cent for doffing off the garment 16.67 per cent had the respondent’s problem with fasteners opening and 50 per cent of faced the problem of bringing garments from wardrobe. To perform all these tasks children required assistance.

The data given in Table 6 and Fig. 6 reveals that

| Sr. No. | Present clothing items | F | % |
|---------|------------------------|----|--------|
| 1. | Shirt | 30 | 100.00 |
| 2. | T-Shirt | 20 | 66.67 |
| 3. | Pant | 30 | 100.00 |
| 4. | Pajama | 15 | 50.00 |
| 5. | Bermuda | 25 | 83.33 |
| 6. | Capri | 20 | 66.67 |
| 7. | Cap | 10 | 33.33 |
| 8. | Jersey | 20 | 66.67 |
| 9. | Jacket | 25 | 83.33 |
| 10. | Coat | 20 | 66.67 |

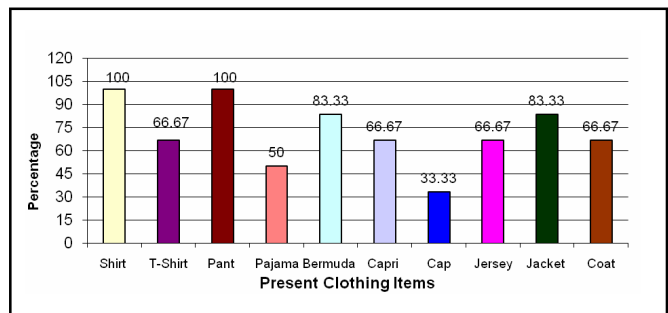


Fig. 3: Present clothing items in the wardrobe

| Sr. No. | Problem faced while training the child | F | % |
|---------|--|----|-------|
| 1. | Donning on the garment | 7 | 23.33 |
| 2. | Doffing off the garment | 3 | 10.00 |
| 3. | Problem with fasteners opening | 5 | 16.67 |
| 4. | Bringing garments from the wardrobe | 15 | 50.00 |

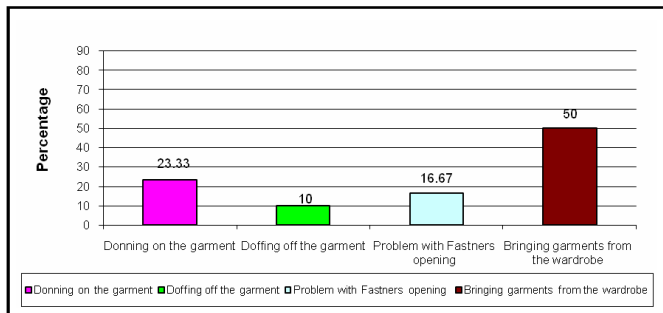


Fig. 5: Problem faced while training the child

Table 6: Frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents by how mothers train the children to identify the garments (n = 30)

| Sr. No. | Mothers train the children to identify the garments | F | % |
|---------|---|----|-------|
| 1. | Feel | 25 | 83.33 |
| 2. | Different buttons or snaps | 20 | 66.67 |
| 3. | Different texture | 15 | 50.00 |
| 4. | Size of neck | 4 | 13.33 |
| 5. | Collar opening | 3 | 10.00 |
| 6. | Cartoon and tattoos | 5 | 16.67 |

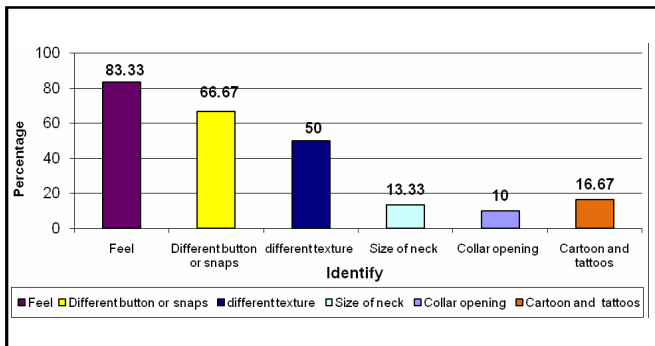


Fig. 6: Percentage distribution of the respondents by how mothers train the children to identify the garments

majority of the respondents 83.33 per cent said that feel also help the child to identify the front and back of the garments. 66.66 per cent of the respondents identify the garments by different buttons or snaps and 50 per cent of the respondents identify the garments by texture. 13.33 per cent of the respondents identify by size of neck and 10 per cent of the respondents identify the front and back by collar opening and 16.66 per cent of the respondents identify the garments by cartoon and tattoos.

Conclusion:

The present study was conducted on clothing practices of visually impaired children. General information of the respondents and duration of disability. Respondents and mother were less satisfied with existing clothing in their wardrobe and preferred of the type of garments. Problems were faced while training the child and mother to identify the garments.

Acknowledgement:

Author are thankful to the Rajkiya Pragya -Chakshu Blind School for provide co-operation during this study.

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