Assessment of utilization of old clothes among working ladies

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∎**ABSTRACT :** There has also been an increasing interest in environmental sustainability in terms of reusing, recycling and repairing rather than throwing things away. This paper describes the awareness about the utilization of clothing amongst working women and to find out the ways to utilize the old clothing. The present study was done to assess the utilization of old clothes among working ladies. The present study was conducted on 30 women working in Government schools, colleges as lecturers and in private sector of Udaipur district. Interview method was used for data collection. Regarding awareness about utilization of old clothes, 80 per cent respondents were very well known. Cent per cent of the respondents gave various reasons to worn out the old clothing *viz.,* clothing when not in fashion, fading of colour of the clothing, got bore by wearing, burning / tearing, damaged design / motif / pattern, not suitable for figure etc. All the respondents tried to suggest that old clothing can be used in making other apparels. Cent per cent respondents confessed by making any new product from the old clothing.

∎ **KEY WORDS :** Old clothes, Working ladies

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Fabric is a great resource and used fabric in clothing has so many possibilities for being reused again. By saving old clothes and turning them into something else, logos and images can be treasured, resources can be saved, fantastic new things one need can be made and how to make everything can be learnt further. Taking old clothes and making them into new pieces is a way to save money during difficult economic times. For example, instead of throwing away torn jeans, try cutting them into a jean skirt and pairing them with leggings for a stylish new look. There are many ways to turn old, raggedy clothes into trendy new garments.

Older generations remember looking at their mothers' newest braided rugs and recognizing their siblings' old clothing patterns woven into the rugs. Don't forget to recycle your odds and ends from your clothing. If one would like to make recycled crafts, then there's no limit once recycled the basic supplies. A pile to keep, a pile to donate and a pile that seems to have no place to go but the landfill. Some people can never bear to throw clothes away, no matter what shape they are in. Old jeans and t-shirts make great outdoor get messy work outfits, though you don't need a closet full of those. Old t-shirts and towels make great rags, but there is a point when you have too many rags. Donating the barely used clothing to the Salvation Army and Goodwill is always a good idea. But, don't think old worn out clothes or blankets don't have a place. The really worn unusable items are sent off to the textile industry. They become rags or shredded up to use as installation in the automobile and other industries. Most old sweaters can be unraveled and turned back into a ball of yarn. The yarn can be used to turn old sweater into a new pair of socks, mittens or favourite pattern.

'Vintage clothing' is a generic term for old or second hand garments originating from a previous era. The phrase is also used in connection with a retail outlet, e.g. "vintage clothing store." Generally speaking, clothing which was produced before the 1920s is referred to as antique clothing and clothing from the 1920s to 1960s is considered vintage. Retro, short for retrospective, or "vintage style" usually refers to clothing that imitates the style of a previous era. Reproduction, or repro, clothing is a newly-made but faithful copy of an older garment. Clothing produced more recently is usually called modern or contemporary fashion.

Most vintage clothing has been previously worn, but a small percentage of pieces have not. These are often old warehouse stock, and more valuable than those that has been worn, especially if they have their original tags. Referred to as dead stock or New Old Stock (NOS), they nevertheless sometimes have flaws.

Objective of the study :

–To assess the awareness about the utilization of clothing amongst working women.

–To find out the ways to utilize the old clothing.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The present survey was undertaken to study the assessment of utilization of old clothes among working ladies. This chapter contains a description of the sample, the measures used and the steps taken in conducting survey. The various steps followed under the following sections :

Locale of the study :

The present study was conducted on women working in Government schools, colleges as lecturers and in private sectors of Udaipur district.

Sample size and its selection :

The samples consisted of 30 randomly selected respondents for the present study.

Development of the tool :

In view of the survey and the subjects included in the sample, interview method was used for data collection. This technique facilitates to have face to face discussion with the respondents and help in clarifying doubts. Interview schedule was developed by the investigators on the basis of review of available literature. It was consisted of 30 questions.

Administration of the tool :

It was administrated on the 30 respondents. The interview schedule was adopted to get the information from respondents.

Data collection :

Investigator themselves took interview and in getting the responses from the respondents, no difficulty was faced by investigators.

Analysis of data :

When the data were completely collected, dependent and independent variables were categorized and measured. This was done in order to make coding simpler. The qualitative data were quantified by calculating and expressed in frequency. Data were tabulated according to the frequency and converted into percentage.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in following heads:

Educational status, samily type and occupation of respondents :

Regarding education, 30 per cent respondents were graduate, 50 per cent were post- graduate and rest 20 per cent were doctorate in different subjects. 70 per cent working women were related to nuclear families whereas 30 per cent respondents were managing joint families. Families of working ladies were composed of 2-8 family members. Going through the details of occupation, researchers came to know that about 60 per cent working women in the Government job, while 40 per cent were in the private jobs (Table 1).

Table 1 : Educational status, family type and occupation of respondents (n=30)		
Parameters	Number of respondents	Percentage
Educational status		
Graduate	9	30%
Post graduate	15	50%
Doctorate	6	20%
Family type		
Nuclear	21	70%
Joint	9	30%
Occupation		
Government job	18	60%
Private job	12	40%

The observation regarding the utilization of old clothings preferred by the respondents have been presented in Table 2.

Regarding awareness about utilization of old clothes, 80 per cent respondents were very well known. Cent per cent women subjects were very much interested to use their old clothing but 70 per cent of the families of respondents wanted to use old clothing while 30 per cent did not want the same. Cent per cent of the respondents gave various reasons to worn out the old clothing; amongst them few important were as below:

– Clothing when not in fashion,

– Fading of colour of the clothing,

– Got bore by wearing

– Burning / Tearing

– Damaged design / motif / pattern

– Not suitable for figure

80 per cent of the respondents distributed their old clothing to the needy person while rest of the subjects distributed amongst their own relatives. 50 per cent working

Table 2 : Parameters related to utilization of old clothing preferred by respondents (n=30)

Parameters	Number of respondents	Percentage
Various reasons to worn out the clothes		
Out of fashioned	30	100%
Tearing	30	100%
Burning	30	100%
Bored	30	100%
Colour fading	30	100%
Not suitable for figure	30	100%
Damaged design/ motif/ pattern	30	100%
Distribution of old clothes		
Needy persons	24	80%
Relatives	6	20%
Old high priced/expensive and old fashioned clothing		
Keep them into almirah only	15	50%
Transferring the heavy work	12	40%
Give them to any other person	3	10%
Selling of old clothes		
Do not sell	18	60%
Sell to the utensil seller	6	20%
Sell to the related shops	6	20%
Option to utilize old clothing		
Apparel	30	100%
Furnishing	30	100%
Any other product	30	100%
Technique for making new products from old cloths		
Stitching	15	50%
Patching (work transfer)	15	50%
Mending	15	50%
Dyeing	15	50%
Embroidery	15	50%
Painting	15	50%

women keetp their high priced / expensive and old fashioned clothing into their cupboards only, thinking that the fashion come back soon or they did not want to distribute such expensive clothing to anyone. 40 per cent respondents suggested that the old clothing may be utilized by transferring the heavy work, border, lace, embroidery, patch into some other way. Rest of the respondents only 10 per cent distributed to anyone they wanted to give. Most of the respondents (60%) did not sell the old clothing to anyone. 20 per cent working women sold the old clothing to utensil seller and same number of respondents (20%) sold to the related shops. All the respondents tried to suggest that old clothing can be used in making other apparels like saree, salwar suit, capri, shorts, frocks, half pant, shirt, infant garments-diapers, bib etc. furnishing products like cushion covers, musson covers, sofa covers, pillow covers, door mats, table mate, sofa back,rajai and decorative products like designers bags, wall hanging, saree covers, churi covers, bottle covers, tiffin covers etc.Cent per cent respondents confessed that by making any new product from the old clothing, money can be saved instead of buying new clothes as well as it provides mental satisfaction and praised by utilization of their own creativity, by this they can make their own identity into family and society. 50 per cent respondents suggested that new products can be made by stitching, patch work and embroidery techniques from old clothing whereas 50 per cent respondents suggested that new products can be made by dyeing, mending and painting techniques from old clothing .

On the other hand 60 per cent respondents used go to markets to make new products from old clothing due to lack of time in their working life. On the other hand, 40 per cent respondents made new things on their own to utilize their creativity. All the respondents (100%) answered on asking they have seen new items made by old clothing in market like cushion cover, saree covers, bottle covers, all types of designer bags, bangle covers, door mats, wall hanging, work transfer saree and rajai etc.

Conclusion :

Thus, it can be concluded that most of the working women subjects wanted to reuse the old clothing but they don't have enough time. They want to utilize heavy worked and expensive clothes especially on priority to save money. They reuse the heavy work by transferring them in new clothing, by this the new look can be given to out of fashion, faded clothes. Likewise, they become happy to maintain their wardrobe. Conclusively from the study, it can be said that today's working women want to utilize old clothing into apparels furnishing and decorative articles which they can use into their house interior. For this, they surely go to shopee and boutique to the ultimate utilization of old clothing.

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