

Original Research Article

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Designing and Evaluation of Functional Modest Designs of Women Bath Wear

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ABSTRACT

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The present paper is an outcome of the research conducted to design modest bath wear outfits for women, based on their clothing needs identified in preliminary survey to make modest and comfortable dressing for them. The researcher creatively designed 30 different sketches of dresses giving functionality and modesty features prime importance. These designs were critically evaluated by expert panel on selected parameters using five-point continuum scale. Findings revealed that the developed functional designs of modest bath wear for women were found highly acceptable in terms of aesthetic, functional and constructional attributes by the panel members.

Introduction

Modesty dictates the proper way to cover the body for social acceptance. It is the covering of a person's body according to the code of decency according to societal norms. Standards of modesty differ among various cultures and situations, and they change over time. Standards of decency are molded by cultures and social systems. Each society has its own accepted standards of modesty.¹ Guarding against the temptations that are believed to result from improper dress, particularly of women, is a major motivation for rendering modesty one of the highest virtues in this tradition.²

In general Indian clothing is more than just a means to cover up their modesty. It is a part of their cultural and religious identity, social status, and personal style statement.³

Today, clothing has become mainly a "statement" of position, a way to allure, or an attempt to fit in. Clothing has two main purposes: to cover the shame of sin, and to glorify God. Those purposes are becoming lost the collective conscience even while retaining them has become increasingly more important in this age of immodesty and materialism. Modest clothing essentially relates to having a degree of awareness when it comes to covering up of the body. The

decision can be due to religio- ethnic fulfillment or to attain a certain aesthetic and level of ease because it is not just a trend that's tried to spirituality.⁴ Modest bath wear is the need of the hour for Indian women having religious mindset and fun-loving attitude of exploring nature. Modest bath wear outfits are produced for sustaining one's modesty.

Taking holy bath is one of the important ritual in Hindu culture, but at the same time wearing appropriate bath wear outfit is also a major concern among Indian females at communal places. Most of the pilgrims interviewed at the time of data collection reported lack of comfort in present outfit worn by them during taking holy bath. Problems related to material used in garment such as fibre content, texture, drape and compactness of weave, structural design of the dress and also with the constructional features were highlighted by the respondents.⁵

Based on the findings of the preliminary research conducted to identify the functional clothing need of women in taking holy bath at communal places, the present research work on "Designing and evaluation of functional modest designs of women bath wear" was conducted to with the objective to develop functional designs of modest bath wear for women and its evaluation.

Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out in the department of Textiles and Apparel Designing, College of Community and Applied Sciences, MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan. The study was based on experimental research design and involved developing functional modest bath wear clothing designs for women. The researcher also developed a proforma for evaluation of developed designs on selected parameters of aesthetic, functional and constructional

attributes based on five-point rating scale. The evaluation proforma was used by expert panel to judge the suitability of the modest bath wear designs. The responses derived were coded and presented in table 1.

Results and Discussion

Designing of functional bath wear outfits

The researcher developed designs of modest bath wear outfits keeping in mind required functional features and structural parameters of selected textiles with foremost focus to provide modesty in developed clothing designs. The designs of upper clothing were made which can be used with any routine wear lower garment like, ghagra/lehngra/salwar, etc. Loose fitting garments provide more modesty than garments that are worn close to the skin and also more comfortable to wear. Researcher made lots of effort to sketch thirty free hand designs of short kurtis on paper. The styling features were kept different for every design. Maximum body coverage was given prime importance in view of the need of modesty during bathing besides considerations of functionality, aesthetic and comfort features.

Evaluation of functional bath wear outfits

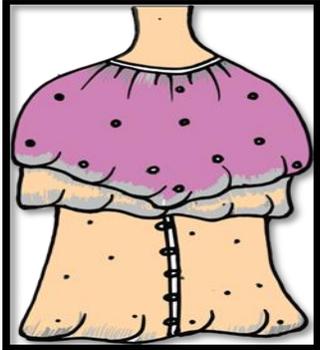
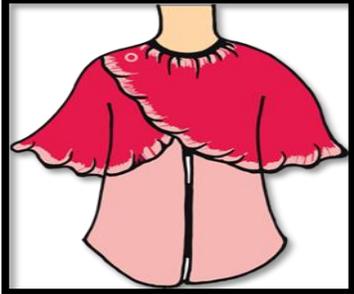
The developed thirty designs of modest bath wear outfits along with their specifications were shown to expert panel for evaluation using developed proforma having various parameters. The scores obtained were compiled and mean score was calculated to give ranks to all the developed designs.

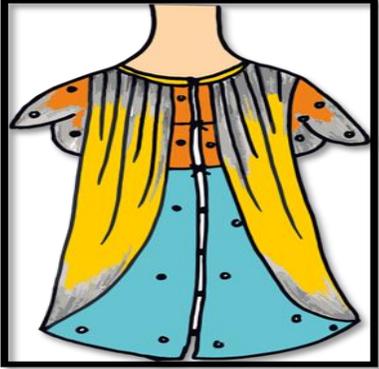
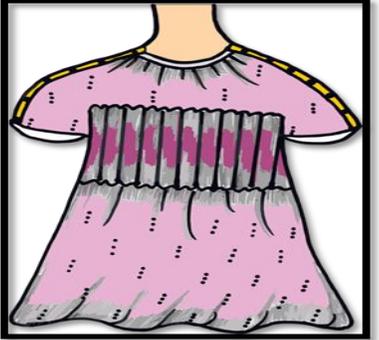
Plate-1 depicts the top ten functional designs of modest bath wear outfits for women along with their specifications. Design code 1, 2, 4, 10, 13, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 30 were found most appealing, modest and good functionality by the judges.

Table.1 Mean score and ranking of the developed functional modest bath wear outfit design

Design code number	Parameters (mean)			Mean score	Rank
	Aesthetic	Functional	Constructional		
1.	4.3	4.7	4.3	13.3	II
2.	4.7	4.1	4.4	13.2	III
3.	3.2	4.3	4.2	11.7	XVI
4.	3.9	4.5	4	12.4	X
5.	3.4	4.2	4.1	11.7	XVI
6.	3.9	4.3	4	12.2	XII
7.	3.1	3.3	4.1	10.5	XXV
8.	4.1	4.1	3	11.2	XIX
9.	3.4	3.4	3.3	10.1	XXVIII
10.	4.8	4.9	4.7	14.4	I
11.	3.2	4.2	3.3	10.7	XXIV
12.	4	4.3	4	12.3	XI
13.	4.5	4.5	3.9	12.9	VI
14.	3.6	4.1	4.1	11.8	XV
15.	3	4.1	4.1	11.2	XIX
16.	4	3.1	3.2	10.3	XVII
17.	4.5	3.9	4.4	12.8	VII
18.	4	4	3	11	XXII
19.	4.3	4.6	4.1	13	V
20.	3.8	4.5	4.2	12.5	IX
21.	4.3	4.7	4.1	13.1	IV
22.	3.7	4.3	3.9	11.9	XIV
23.	3.4	3.3	3.4	10.1	XXVIII
24.	3.2	3.1	4.2	10.5	XXV
25.	3.2	4.2	4.1	11.5	XVIII
26.	3.4	3.3	3.4	10.1	XXVIII
27.	3.3	4.2	3.4	10.9	XXIII
28.	4	4	3.1	11.1	XXI
29.	3.8	4.3	4.1	12.2	XII
30.	4.4	4.5	4	12.7	VIII

Plate.1 Specification sheet of top ten functional modest bath wear outfit design

S.No	Designs	Descriptions
1.		<p>Design number 1 is a modified double layer poncho with boat neckline. It has elasticated arm holes to make it easy to wear besides retaining it in place when worn. It has to be used with an 'Inner clothing', which also has boat neck and half sized raglan sleeves to increase modesty as well as comfort to prevent hindrance in body movements. Inner clothing is having front opening with large sized loops and buttons so that it will be easy to open in wet condition.</p>
2.		<p>Design number 2 is having a sleeveless jacket to give modesty to the garment by appropriately covering the chest area with its loose-fitting design. It has opening on both shoulders and fastens with one large sized button on both sides so that it will be easy to put on and takeoff. Inner has a short round neck three fourth flared sleeves.</p>
4.		<p>Design number 4 is having one layered upper fabric which is attached around neck edge and it is full of gathers for giving fullness on upper body area therefore it will be appear modest. Inner portion having kimono sleeves and front opening with big size press buttons to facilitate trouble-free change of clothing in wet condition.</p>
10.		<p>Design number 10 is a kind of wrap around which overlaps and is tied to the left waist side of the garment. The design has fine knife pleats on both the shoulders at neckline for functionality purpose. Lower part of the garment is a bias cut skirt for creating flared effect so that it will not cling to the body. It has kimono sleeves. Because of wrap around pattern, it is very comfortable to change after use.</p>

<p>13.</p>		<p>Design number 13 has a glass shaped quilted yoke which provide thickness for modesty. Yoke is made of little different and thick fabric so that it will fulfill the purpose of the garment. It has kimono sleeves and left side full opening with press buttons so that wearer will feel comfortable in wearing and changing during bathing. This outfit has round neck for comfort and curved at bottom hem line.</p>
<p>17.</p>		<p>Design number 17 has two pieces, one is outer piece and other is inner. Outer piece is a halter neck which is having structural design of diagonal lines of pin tucks to give it required thickness and weight along with good aesthetic appeal. it can be used as over garment on any inner garment to add modesty. It is tied at the back side of the neck with extended straps of the garment. It has an asymmetrical hem which is cut longer on one side than the other. Inner piece of the garment has round neck and both side shoulder opening with press buttons. It has kimono sleeves so that will give comfort to the wearer.</p>
<p>19.</p>		<p>Design number 19 has a round neck and a jacket with knife pleats at front neckline to give more modest look. It has front opening with two pairs of cords as fasteners. Jacket has round neck and without sleeves. Inner has a square shaped quilted yoke and petal sleeves. It has front opening with button and buttonholes. Bottom hemline is slightly round at bottom.</p>
<p>20.</p>		<p>Design number 20 has round neck and both side wider shoulder opening to make it comfortable while changing. The dress has design part at torso area, which is made with thicker tightly woven fabric as compared to entire garment fabric to accomplish the purpose of designing modest outfit and it has vertical pin tucks to make it more appealing aesthetically.</p>

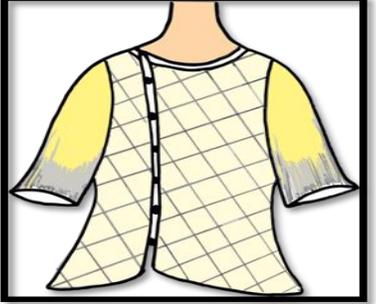
<p>21.</p>		<p>Design number 21 has boat neck and on the outer layer, it has a cowl shaped fabric attachment which can be detachable with the help of Velcro and can be worn with any garment for enhancing modesty feature in a garment. Inner garment have short sleeves and both side shoulder opening with press buttons.</p>
<p>30.</p>		<p>Design number 30 has a round neck and right side opening with loops and buttons. This garment has structural feature of criss crossed lines of pin tucks to add charm and make it slight thicker to avoid clinging to the body in wet state. It has three fourth sleeves.</p>

Table-1 presents the mean scores of all the thirty designs on different parameters along with their respective ranks.

Data in table-1 portrays clearly that the developed thirty designs by the researcher were reported to have a mean score in the range of 10.1 to 14.4. All the designs were found very innovative, creative and functionally appropriate as depicted from the mean scores obtained.

It can be seen that design number 10 got I rank with the mean score of 14.4, design code number 1 got II rank with the 13.3 mean score, design number 2 stand for rank III and its mean score is 13.2, design number 21 got rank IV by the 31.1 mean score, design number 19 got V rank with the mean score 13, design number 13 got VI rank by the 12.9 mean score, design number 17 got VII rank with the 12.8 mean score, design number 30 got VIII rank and its mean score 12.7, design number 20 got IX rank with the 12.5 mean score, design number 4 got X rank with the 12.4 mean score.

In conclusion the guiding principle behind modest clothing among various religions and cultures is to wear clothing that projects a humbleness and humility about a person.⁶Finding revealed that all the developed thirty designs of functional outfit having modesty features coupled with comfort, and convenience to make dressing and undressing easier for women were found highly appropriate in terms of unique functional attributes making them modest to wear in public. The developed designs can be used to implement the concept of modesty favorable to the women bath wear outfits.

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