

Concept of General Consideration of Clothing for Preschool Children (2-4 Years) Among Rural Mothers of Palampur Tehsil

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ABSTRACT The present study was conducted in Palampur tehsil of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. A random sampling method was used for the selection of the respondents that comprised of mothers of pre-school going children aged between 2-4 years. The study revealed that 72 per cent respondents preferred long opening while 20 percent preferred one piece garment. As regards safety features, most of the respondents were found to be little aware about it. Only 20% of the mothers considered texture of the fabric as a comfort feature. To say so, rural mothers used for study did show little awareness about the general consideration of clothing for their pre-school kids.

INTRODUCTION

Clothing plays an important role in childhood. Careful selection of clothes for a young child can satisfy some of his important needs, help get more attention from peer group and identification of sex. Clothing for a pre-school age child may become a major problem for the family because it is expensive and at the same time used only for short period of time. It should be selected to help better child development, self reliance, practice, increased social skills and interaction with peers. Garments should be flexible, comfortable, convenient for frequent toileting, adjustable to the rapidly growing body and attractive in design and fabric. Growth is fairly rapid during the pre-school years. Buying clothes that commensurate with growth features will enable a garment to be worn over a longer period of time. A self help garment is one which the child can put on and take off with little or no help of an adult. Many mishaps occur each year as result of burning of clothing. Some clothing are more fire prone than others, so concept about general consideration of clothing for children is a must for nursing mothers. Keeping this in view, the investigation was carried out on rural mothers of Palampur tehsil.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The investigation on concept of general consideration of clothing for the preschool children ranging from the age group of 2-4 years

was carried out among rural mothers of Palampur. Ten villages were chosen from the list of villages; from each village 10 respondents were selected randomly. The sample size was 100. A pre-structured close ended interview schedule was prepared. Respondents were personally interviewed to collect the authentic first hand data. The data were tabulated by using frequencies and percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The investigation on general clothing concept was conducted and it was found that in allowance for growth, deep hemming at the bottom was considered by most of the mothers (90 %) and further most of them considered tucks at the waist of the trousers (20%) and yokes with crosswise tucks (10%) (Table 1).

Self help feature has also been found important to child as to his mother elucidated in It was observed that 72 % of the respondent preferred long opening 20 % of them preferred one piece garment and none of them preferred large buttons. The experience of learning how to dress himself makes a child more independent and self confident (Table 2).

Regarding safety features majority of respondents (80%) had no concept about type of fabric whereas only 20 per cent of respondents had an idea about type of weave, as shown in Table 3. Gupta et al. (1995) in their studies found that open and loose weaves are more flammable than tightly woven fabric.

Table 1: Preference of respondents for allowance for growth (N=100)

Preferences	Yes (F%)	No (F%)
Deep hem at bottom	90	10
Tucks at the waist of the trousers	20	80
Yokes with crosswise tucks	10	90

Table 2: Preference of respondents for self help features (N=100)

Preferences	Yes (F%)	No (F%)
Long opening	72	28
Large buttons	0	100
One piece garment	20	80

Preference of consideration of comfort features are given in Table 4. Majority of the respondents considered that comfort features were garment size, garment not-too-tight, and seasonally appropriate clothing and shoes stockings of correct size. Very few of them considered texture of the garment that is not scratchy or itchy. Fabrics that are soft and absorbent contribute to comfort (Gupta et al., 1995). Some of the mothers had better idea about clothing concepts for the pre-school children than most others and they were still keen to learn more on this aspect. Reliability and validity of knowledge of mothers with regard to clothing of their pre-school children were found to be highly consistent (Prasad et al., 2000)

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that rural mothers were not much aware of general consideration of clothing

Table 3: Concept of respondent regarding safety features (N=100)

Safety features	Yes(F%)	No(F%)
Type of fabric	20	80
Type of eave	20	80

Table 4: Consideration of comfort features by respondents (N=100)

Comfort features	Yes(F%)	No(F%)
Garment size	70	30
Garments not too tight	70	30
Texture that are not scratchy or itchy	21	79
Seasonally appropriate clothing	62	38
Shoes and stocking are of correct size	72	28

for the preschool children which is very important for health, growth, adjustment, safety and for the development of the child. Thus there is a need to plan suitable mass and individual contact programmes for rural mothers regarding general considerations of clothing for the preschool children for better growth and development of the child.

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