

VALUE ENHANCEMENT OF WOOLLEN *KHADI* DRESS MATERIALS THROUGH SURFACE EMBELLISHMENT TECHNIQUES

Dr. Gayatri

Assistant Professor, Department of Textiles and Apparel Designing,
College of Community Science, Dr.RPCAU, Pusa, Bihar

Abstract: Woollen *khadi* dress materials available in *Shri Gandhi Aashram* are suits, shawls, tweed (used for making west coats and Nehru coats, gowns and coats for males and females), stales, mufflers and topi (headwear). These available products have low or without any surface embellishment, also have very less variety within each category. So, new and young consumers are not attracted towards these products. There are different kinds of surface enhancement techniques such as embroidery, printing, dyeing, crotchets etc. available to enhance the appearance and value of the woollen *khadi* dress materials according to consumer needs and market demand. As fashion is a cyclic process and it changes after a certain period. People preferred clothing according to the trend in fashion. Nowadays garments with surface embellishments are preferred more by the consumer rather than plain dress materials. Therefore, surface embellishment techniques for textiles can be used to create variety in the very same woollen *khadi* dress materials. The value enhancement techniques for woollen *khadi* dress materials are embroidery, applique, fabric flower, printing, and dyeing etc., each of these methods has its applications and value for adding beauty to woollen *khadi* dress materials.

Therefore, surface embellishment is an important component for the value enhancement of woollen *khadi* dress materials. It is the way through which designer show their creativity, put their mark on woollen *khadi* dress material and enhance their beauty. After value addition, *khadi* products may be more suitable for diversified uses. Value enhancement will also help in creating variation and uniqueness in the very same *khadi* materials.

Therefore, surface embellishment is an important component for value enhancement of woollen *khadi* dress materials. It is the way through which designer show their creativity, put their own mark on woollen *khadi* dress material and enhance their beauty. After value addition, *khadi* products may be more suitable for diversified uses. Value enhancement will also help in creating the variation and uniqueness in the very same *khadi* materials.

Keywords: Value enhancement, *Khadi* materials, Surface embellishment, Woollen *khadi*, surface enhancement techniques

INTRODUCTION

According to Collins dictionary (2018), bedecking · festooning · emblazoning

An embellishment is a decoration added to something to make it seem more attractive or interesting. In another word, we can say that surface embellishment is technique used for beauty and value enhancement of the uppermost layer for *khadi* dress materials. During the pre-independence era, *Khadi* was introduced in India by Gandhi during their "swadeshi movement" and *khadi* become more popular and accepted by Indian people. *Khadi* is a hand-spun and hand-woven fabric. *Khadi* fabrics are mainly made up of cotton, silk and woollen yarns or from the mixture of any two or more such yarns; however polykhadi, which is a combination of natural and polyester fibers also made. Woollen *khadi* made from local i.e., desi wool and imported merino wool. These merino wool fibers are imported from Australia or New Zealand. Local desi wool gives a coarser yarn whereas a finer yarn can be obtained from merino wool.

Besides this, in previous times *khadi* was spun from "traditional charkha" resulted a coarse and uneven fabric and was considered as the fabric for the poor rural workers, farmers and political leaders. The main product made from *khadi* was only Kurta. After independence, many inventions take place in the field of textiles like new improved weaving looms and new synthetic fibers, due to this, textile products were available in large amounts at low prices with variety. So people are attracted to it. Thus, *khadi* demand started to decline. But now due to the introduction of "Amber charkha", well-carded wool fibers are used to give the required twisting to get yarn of appropriate thickness and count which is suitable for producing different types of dress materials and garments. Even still many people are not aware of the variety and quality of *khadi* fabric. Thus, many efforts were done by the government and designers to the promotion of the *khadi* in the national and international markets.

Woollen *khadi* dress materials are available in *Shri Gandhi Aashram* are suit, shawl, tweed (used for making west coat and Nehru coat, gown and coat for male and female), stales, muffler and topi (head wear). These available products have low or without any surface embellishment, also have very less variety within the each category. So, new consumers are not attracted towards these products. There are different kinds of surface enhancement techniques such as embroidery, printing, dyeing, crotchets etc. available to enhance the appearance and value of the woollen *khadi* dress materials according the consumer need and market demand. As fashion is a cyclic process and it changes after a certain period. People preferred clothing according to the trend in fashion. Nowadays garments with surface embellishments are preferred more by the consumer rather than plain dress materials. Therefore, surface embellishment techniques for *khadi* textiles can be used to create variety in the very same woollen *khadi* dress materials.

TECHNIQUES FOR SURFACE EMBELLISHMENT OF *KHADI* DRESS MATERIALS

Surface embellishment techniques used on woollen *khadi* for value addition are embroidery, dyeing, printing etc. The details of these techniques are as follows-

EMBROIDERY

Embroidery is a handicraft for decorating fabric. Embroidery is considered as needlework with the help of cotton, silk, wool and synthetic yarns to produce three-dimensional designs on the surface of *khadi* textile materials. Embroidery may be done by hand as well as by machine. Hand embroidery has evolved from a customized hand-sewing process. Famous hand embroiderers of India are Kantha, Kasuthi, Phulkari, Chikankari, Kashida and Smocking etc., each embroidery famous for its workmanship and uniqueness due to the use of different stitches. These stitches are running stitch, chain stitch, chenille stitch, looping stitch, buttonhole or blanket stitch, satin stitch, cross stitch, wide stitch, french stitch, stem stitch, rope stitch, roumanian stitch, couching stitch, lyman, french knot, rambler rose stitch, outline, catch, blanket, feather, knot, cretan, braid, double chain, open chain, twisted chain, self-padding, fishbone, van dyke, flat stitch, interlacing band, rosette chain, pekinese, guilloche, vertical herringbone, bullion knot, double feather. These stitches are the fundamental techniques of hand embroidery and a single stitch can be used to make entire design or a combination of different stitches used to make a design.

Besides the used of stitches, the value addition of woollen *khadi* dress materials through embroidery depends on the selection of motifs, patterns, colour combinations. Embroidery also can be incorporated with other decorative materials such as metal strips, pearls, beads, lace, ribbon and sequins. As embroidery is an intricate process, use to add texture, beauty and value to the fashion fabric. So, the selection of other decorative materials should be according to the fashion trend, customer's specifications and market demands.

APPLIQUE

Applique is a technique of surface embellishment in which cut-out motifs of fabric in different shapes and figures are sewn or fused on top of woollen *khadi* dress materials. The material used for appliqués is selected based on their sewability and compatibility with textile materials used for garments preparation. Appliques are also used with embroidery to fill the area of design.

FABRIC FLOWER



Fabric flowers are made from single, plaid and multi-toned woollen fabrics. The first fabric is cut according to the shape of the flower's petals and sewn from all three sides leaving one side for stuffing. Now turn out the right side up of the petals and then stuff it with wool fibers or lightweight wire sewing around the edges of the petals. Now, join all prepared petals together to give a shape of a flower. Pearl or crystal beads are used in the centers of the prepared flowers to enhance their beauty and for finishing. These flowers are prepared in different sizes according to need. Then it is attached to woollen *khadi* dress material where required. These self-fabric flowers are suitable for embellishing the woollen *khadi* dress materials.

CROCHET

Crochet is a needlework technique for decorating fabric. Crochet is performed by using a crochet hook plus fiber, yarn or other similar material such as stripe of fabric, wire, twine or other innovative material. Design is made through this technique by manipulation of a single loop in different ways.

TIE AND DYE

Previously *khadi* was dyed in earthy color tones and the entire dress material had the same colour. But now, different colors are used to dye woollen *khadi* dress materials. Tie and dye is a type of resist-dyeing technique. The tie and dye, dyeing process consists of many steps such as pleating, folding, twisting, stitching or crumpling of fabric or a garment and binding it with string. Strings are tied on the fabric where the dye is to be resisted and the followed by application of dye. When the fabric is dry, the strings are removed and it gives an interesting design appearance. Fabric may be tied and dyed more than one time to get a multi-coloured design effect. Multi-colour pattern flow from light to dark colour.

SCREEN PRINTING

Screen printing is a technique of applying coloured design on the surface of woollen dress materials that is applied either by hand or by automated machine process. The printing screen is prepared by stretching silk or nylon mesh fabric or metal mesh over wooden frame. Then design is traced on mesh then the base of the design is covered with enamel or paint to block the hole

presented in the mesh to resist the printing paste passing through it. Today screen is also produced through the photochemical method with very fine design details.

Woollen *khadi* fabric is stretched out on a padded table. Prepared screen and put over fabric according to the design arrangement or pattern. Over it, the screen printing paste is pressed through a squeeze to transfer the printing paste from the surface of the screen to the fabric according to the design on the screen. In screen printing, if the design is of one colour then one screen will be required and if a design has more than one colour then according to the numbers of colours present in a design, the number of the screen will vary according to it.

BLOCK PRINTING

Block printing is similar to stamping. A wooden block is prepared as a relief pattern, which means the design is transfer or drawn on a flat surface of wooden block. The base and design on wooden block are colour or mark differently like black and white respectively. Now, it is carved by cutting away space for the base (black colour). Thus, leaving the design in the raised position. Block deep in the dyestuff and make a stamp on the fabric according to the design arrangement pattern. At one time only one colour will be applied on the surface of the fabric. Multiple blocks are used for multiple coloured patterns or designs. Hand block printing gives more possibilities for manipulation. Thus, through block printing, designers can produce a greater variety of designs and colour effects.

CONCLUSION

Earlier *Khadi* was known as fabric for rural people and politicians but nowadays, over the years, *khadi* fabric moved towards fashion and is known as the fashion fabric. Surface embellishment techniques made ordinary dress materials special. The amount and type of particular surface embellishment techniques change and are required according to the trend of fashion and end use of fabric. The value-addition techniques for woollen *khadi* dress materials are embroidery, applique, fabric flower, printing, and dyeing etc., and each of these methods has its applications and value for adding beauty to woollen *khadi* dress materials.

Therefore, surface embellishment is an important component for the value addition of woollen *khadi* dress materials. It is the way through which designer show their creativity, put their mark on woollen *khadi* dress material and enhance their beauty according to the fashion trend, consumer needs and as per market demand. After value addition, *khadi* products may be more suitable for diversified uses. Value addition will also help in creating variation and uniqueness in the very same *khadi* material and increase the marketability of produced products due to their distinct feature with enhanced beauty.

REFERENCES

1. Bhalla, G. and Sharma, A. 2017, *Khadi* fabric: journey from freedom to fashion. *Textile Trends*. 59(12): 32- 35
2. Glock, R. E. and Kunz, G. I. 2005. Apparel manufacturing sewn product analysis. 4th ed. Pearson Education, Inc. UK. Pp 571- 594
3. <https://in.pinterest.com/michellepattern/surface-embellishment-fabric/?lp=true> Retrieved on 26 February 2018
4. <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/embellishment> Retrieved on 25 February 2018
5. <https://www.thespruce.com/crochet-definition-what-is-crochet-978572> Retrieved on 1 march 2018
6. Khadi-the pride of India. Retrieved on 4 September 2017 from <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/industry-article/959/khadi-the-pride-of-india?page=1>
7. Lewis V. S. 1976. Comparative clothing construction techniques. Burgess publishing company, USA. Pp 191-225
8. Wingate, I. B. 1976. Textile fabrics and their selection. 7th ed. Prentice-Hall, Englewood cliffs, New Jersey. Pp 182-189
9. Gayatri, Goel, A. and Sakshi. 2021. Awareness about *khadi* among youth. *The Pharma Innovation Journal*. Sp- 10(7): 585-589.
10. Gayatri, Goel, A. and Sakshi. 2022. Preference of *khadi* among youth. *The Pharma Innovation Journal*. Sp- 11(10): 1535-1538.