

Development of innovative household articles reusing discarded garments.

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ABSTRACT

Innovation refers to a new way of doing something. Innovation is a dynamic art form changing constantly with many variables. It is not exclusive to high end market but can be applied very well to mass produce, low value textiles without any cost implications. Every people have different type and style of garment. When these are discarded and then reused for making a article, a unique design come up gives an identity to designer. Reuse is to use an item more than once. Reuse help to save time, money, energy, and resources. In broader economic terms, reuse offers quality products to people and organizations with limited means, while generating jobs and business activity that contribute to the economy. In present study, an attempt was made to create new articles from discarded garments. Some of the innovative household articles namely bed cover, saree storage kit, jewellery box, reversible jacket, skirt, wall pocket, laptop bag, decorative hanging and gift packing potli etc. were prepared reusing discarded garments. Various embellishment techniques were used to embellish the prepared articles. Reusing discarded garment can help women to become more confident, independent and can also be a source of direct or indirect income to empower them through adopting these practices as entrepreneurial activity.

Keywords : Innovation, Discarded, Reusing

Introduction:

The value of clothing in meeting certain human needs, physical protection and decoration has long been recognized. It is one of the most important factor in the development of one's personality and a wonderful tonic of self-esteem. People buy garments of good quality. Good quality garments do not easily torn but due to fashion change these become outdated and unusable. The management of outdated garments become a big problem for women as garments cannot be thrown away so the proper utilization of these garments can be done using creative innovations. Enrichment techniques like patch work, embroidery and appliqué work can be applied on the surface of waste material and enhance the beauty of the products (Thoudam, 2009).

Housewives mostly spent their spare time in watching TV or making gossips, the spare time can be utilized in productive way by preparing various articles from discarded garments. This will utilize their time in a creative and innovative way as well as release the stress. Innovation refers to a new way of doing something. Innovation is a dynamic art form changing constantly with many variables. Creativity never ends, it is a continuous process..... Through various creative ideas numerous article can be made depending on the material available as discarded clothing can be the perfect materials for recycled art and craft.

The old adage "a penny saved is a penny earned" aptly applies to reuse in the waste management system. The pennies are saved by avoiding disposal costs and the earnings are through increasing the life of our resources. Housewives have much time to show their skill and creativity by reusing the discarded garments in a useful way. The present study focuses on some ways by which one can reuse discarded garments in attractive decorative household articles.

METHODOLOGY :

To know the preferences of innovative articles from discarded garments an exhaustive list of thirty products such as bed cover, curtain, reversible jacket, *saree* storage kit, table cover, water bottle cover, jewellery box and many more which could be made out of the collected garments was prepared. 30 experts of home science faculty and students of home science were selected purposively. Collected discarded garments were shown to the experts along with the list of possible products may be made. Top ten articles which were preferred by the expert were designed.

Result and discussion:

Preferences for the innovative household articles by the experts

Data presented in table 1 represented the preferences of expert for the innovative household articles. From the listed 30 products experts gave their preferences for the innovative household articles could be made from the collected discarded garments. Bed cover was ranked highest with weighted mean score 2.96 followed by jewellery box (\bar{X}_w 2.88), curtain (\bar{X}_w 2.87), *saree* storage kit (\bar{X}_w 2.85), reversible jacket (\bar{X}_w 2.84), Laptop bag (\bar{X}_w 2.82), wall pocket (\bar{X}_w 2.81), gift packing *potli* (\bar{X}_w 2.79), skirt (\bar{X}_w 2.78) and decorative hanging (\bar{X}_w 2.76).

Claerr (2017) was of the opinion that old clothing can reduce the clutter in home, recovering wasted space and saving money at the same time. If one reduce, reuse and recycle, one can get some extra mileage out of one's old wardrobe, reduce consumption of new products and avoid adding to the size of landfills. Old clothes can be the perfect materials for recycled art and craft projects. Sleeves and pant legs from old clothing can be used to make puppets. Socks also make good puppets, and can be cut and sewn to make finger puppets, as well.

Thoudam (2009) under took a study on documentation of waste material and its diversification for household products depicting stylized shapes. Five household products that is curtain, cushion cover, tea cozy, table mat and multipurpose bags were developed. The products were evaluated for overall appearance, shape of product, suitability of motifs, colour combination, acceptability and marketing according to the preferences of experts.

Table 1 : Preferences for the innovative household articles by the experts

(n= 30)

Sr. No.	Name of the household articles	WMS	Rank
1.	Bed cover	2.96	I
2	Jewellery box	2.88	II
3	Curtain	2.87	III
4	Saree storage kit	2.85	IV
5	Reversible Jacket	2.84	V
6	Laptop bag	2.82	VI
7	Wall pocket	2.81	VII
8	Gift packing(Potli)	2.79	VIII
9	Skirt	2.78	IX
10	Decorative hanging	2.76	X
11	Multi purpose bag	2.75	XI
12	Bed sheet	2.73	XII
13	Mobile cover	2.72	XIII
14	Sun glass cover	2.70	XIV
15	Oven cover	2.68	XV
16	Cooler cover	2.67	XVI
17	Washing Machine cover	2.66	XVII
18	Blouse cover	2.65	XVIII
19	Petticoat storage kit	2.63	XIX
20	File cover	2.58	XX
21	Quilt cover	2.57	XXI
22	Apron	2.56	XXII
23	Lunch box cover	2.54	XXIII
24	Freeze cover	2.52	XXIV
25	Computer cover	2.51	XXV
26	Table cover	2.49	XXVI
27	Table mat	2.46	XXVII
28	Water bottle cover	2.43	XXVIII
29	Napkin	2.41	XXIX
30	Shoe bag	2.35	XXX

Preparation of products





















Top ten articles of preferred design were prepared using discarded garments, designing techniques and embellishment materials

Discarded garments, designing techniques and embellishment materials used in preparing products

Table 2 presented the discarded garments, designing techniques and embellishment materials used in preparing products. For **bed covers** saree and lengha were reused with patchwork as designing technique. Satin ribbon was used as embellishment material. For **partition curtains** saree was used. Flower strings were used to enhance the beauty of curtain. **Saree storage kit** was made with using saree and suit. Quilting was done for serviceability of it. For **jewellery box** suit material was used. Quilting and plastic were

used to add support to it. **Wall pocket** was made with reusing frock and suit using patchwork technique. **Reversible jacket** and **decorative hanging** were made reusing *kameez-salwar*. For **laptop bag** jeans were reused. Thick foam was used for the serviceability of it. **Gift packing (potli)** was made *kameez* material with multicolour thread embroidery.

Table 2 : Discarded garments, designing techniques and embellishment materials used in preparing products

Article	Discarded/ unused garments	Discarded garment materials	Designing techniques	Embellishment/ supporting materials	Product
Bed cover	<i>Saree, lengha</i>		Patchwork	Satin ribbon	
Partition Curtain	<i>Saree</i>		Patchwork	Lace, satin ribbon, flower, pipes, beads	
<i>Saree</i> storage kit	<i>Saree, suit</i>		Appliqué work, quilting	Saree border	
Jewellery box	<i>Kameez</i>		Quilting	Lace, plastic sheet	
Decorative hanging	<i>Kameez-salwar</i>		Patchwork, fabric painting	Mirror work, fumens/latkan	
Wall pocket	<i>Frock, kameez</i>		Patchwork	Foam, elephant eyes	
Reversible jacket	<i>Kameez-salwar</i>		Quilting	Decorative buttons	
Laptop bag	Jeans		Quilting	Machine embroidery, foam	
Gift packing (potlies)	<i>Kameez</i>		Embroidery	Multi coloured thread, lace, dori, beads	
Skirt	Gown		Pleats	Buttons	

Saini (2008) conducted a study on diversified use of *durrie* material. The top ranked design of each article that is belt, wall pocket, shopping bag, cushion cover and multipurpose bag were prepared using three embellishment techniques that is machine embroidery, hand embroidery and fabric painting. The preferences of the experts were taken for the type of embellishment materials that is ribbon, *gota*, lace, piping, bead, sequin and stone to enhance the beauty of the products.

Conclusion:

New innovative articles preferred by experts such as saree storage kit, jewellery box, bed cover, gift packing potlietc were designed and prepared. Various embellishment techniques were used to decorate the prepared articles. The reusing of discarded garment can help women to become more confident, independent and can also be a source of direct or indirect income to empower them through adopting these practices as entrepreneurial activity.

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