

## CHAPTER - I

### INTRODUCTION

Kings and Royal people have worn "long skirts" hanging from over the waistline alongwith other dresslike 'mantles' from shoulders. This long skirt had long become the women's skirt throughout the world. The changing length of the skirt has played a vital part for the changes in styles so much that it is said, the length of skirt dates the garment (24).

The patterns and styles used in a garment have changed and developed from time to time. The developments in textiles along with the changes in fashion have contributed, through aesthetic aspects, to the creation of styles in garments. New textiles and their designs need new styles and the study herein is an attempt to see the relationship between textile drape and its exposition into a garment drape. These are presented in following parts :

- 1.1 Origin and development of drape in dress
- 1.2 Importance of drape and its assessment
- 1.3 Creation of new styles using drape and modifications.

#### 1.1 Origin and development of drape in dress

As the origin of the costume indicates its hanging from the shoulder or from the waist, the drape aspects of fabrics have received a major attention of designers for enhancing the

aesthetic beauty from the beginning itself without being aware of any technical aspects behind it. This has been seen in studies carried out for clothing aspects. A few studies were however conducted to see the influence of textile properties, such as, stiffness, flexural rigidity, drapeability of the fabric on each other. These have become increasingly important with recent textiles.

Modern clothing expresses personality, besides being comfortable to wear and easy to care. The present textiles have multifiber characteristics and have various structures and designs, therefore, they behave differently with cut and style of the garment.

A lively interest in fashion, and related events and their contributions to developments in dress at different historical periods provide an enthusiasm and an inspiration to study the intriguing differences in cut, the essence of modern dress design (15). The costume designs used in the recent days, however vary from those of the earlier days. The early draped dresses are rarely seen except in plays or fashion shows. The draped effect is now obtained by the general use of pleats or gathers in the already existing patterns of the garments. These changes are due to the changing demands of the consumers, changing trend in fashion that go along with developments in the textiles. It is thus important to study styles and their drape aspects in relation to fabrics.

The textile fabrics are subject to a wide range of complex deformation. Among these include drape or drapeability, handling, wrinkling, creasing and other characteristics of fabrics. But when any new garment is designed from any fabric, the mechanics of these complex deformation needs to be understood thoroughly.

The early technique for getting graceful drape in a garment was by trial-and-error method. When stitched garments were introduced later, the garments were made out of triangles, rectangles, squares of fabrics and fastened with the pins or slash. They were first draped for the desired drape effect and then fastened. Subsequently designers were aware of the effect of textile properties. Stiff fabric drapes away from the body, i.e. outside drapeline, while limp fabric drapes closer to the body i.e. inside the drapeline. Recently for creating newness of coloured pattern effect in stitched garments, designers have started using the combinations of different fabrics (41, 44). By knowing the relationships between the fabric properties and the garment properties, interesting effects can be obtained with minimum of trial-and-error.

### 1.2 Importance of drape and its assessment

Drape allows a fabric or a garment to orient itself into graceful folds or into flowing lines. The orientation also depends upon the type of weave, weight of the material, stiffness of the fabric, flexural rigidity and drape coefficient

values. The drape to be seen in a style and a pattern of a garment is considered in its designing. So also one design would not look the same in different fabrics, it depends on the grainline and cut of the fabric as well.

An importance has been increasingly given to the drape of a garment. It has been the device of special decoration in costumes. The drape relieves monotony and enhances the beauty of the garment as well as its appreciation so 'drape' is qualitative and can be measured by subjective assessment as well. The subjective assessment is done by evaluating the garment for its appearance and for its aesthetic value by subjects.

Drape of a fabric depends on the physical properties of textiles, and the effects of these properties are studied by objective assessment. The objective assessment is done with an instrument. The physical properties will also influence the subjective assessment as these properties are the part of the garment characteristics as well.

### 1.3 Creation of new styles using drape and modifications

The subjective assessment done by the human senses, changes with time as the human senses for determining the subjective appeal for a fabric and for a garment also change. People prefer the features for their aesthetic characteristics which are in vogue (i.e. of that period). For example, at

present women prefer skirts having a good drape effect, as that obtained with a limp fabric, such as isolated pleats, tucks, gathers for their decorative aspects. These are in vogue. So for such styles, if interchangeable panels are used, then it would help in creating more styles, as compared to using the same garment.

Along with new fabrics, the fashion also changes. So a relationship can be known and used to create new styles as per the trend in fashion. The drape of a garment has a specific interest for designing and decoration created by designers and tailors. The investigator was keen to see where these relationships between garment drape property and fabric drape property can be used for obtaining good new designs.

The study first presents the existing styles and information about their decorative features, cut styles and fitting aspects. The drape of the garments with specific aspects like panels has been presented later in the work.

The objective of this research was thus to study and modify the techniques of draping for decoration with the use of different materials, angles, positions and also to see interchangeability aspects for its utility. In this work, the techniques and the ways of using the decorative aspects are modified and applied differently, i.e. the uses of different fabric panels of different angles (godets) and of different colours with the use of fitted skirts are presented.