

CHAPTER - III  
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Textiles vary in their properties and utility. Their characteristics and properties that go in costumes or garments (unstitched or stitched) depend upon how the material will drape around the body and form graceful folds or ripples.

In the case of unstitched costumes like saree, there are various ways of wearing a saree as per taste and customs of people and these provide natural folds, pleats etc. The graceful appearance of saree is further influenced by the soft or crisp texture, colour, design etc. In men's wear dhoti and its way of wearing also produces a variety of drapes and appearance.

In the case of upper stitched garments, blouse and its variations have received different attention in research studies. Being an upper garment, it beautifies the physical form of the wearer, it provides scope to introduce linear and non-linear effects. These researches leading to design effects have been noted (17). In the case of lower stitched garment, such as, skirt and its variations, however, the attention so far has been towards getting flare, fullness etc. The limitations could be due to the fact that skirt is worn at waistline and drapes over the hipline which naturally would demand proper fitting at waist and looseness at hip for freedom of body movements.

The variations are thus aimed at providing fullness giving flare for hipline using a variety of techniques like gathers, pleats etc.

Taking inspiration from developments in fabrics of today, one can say that modern clothing has freshness in designs. It expresses several things like personality, its suitability for use in various seasons, its comfort-to-wear and easy-to-care aspects etc. Several fabrics now available in market are multi-fiber in nature and have various structures and designs. It is common to use different materials for different clothing styles, as fabrics behave differently with varied cut-and-style of garments.

The style is a major factor, that brings changes in clothing. In designing and constructing a new style, the final effect of the drape of a garment in a particular fabric and in a particular style is difficult to know to begin with. The quantity and quality of a fabric, at a specific place, such as lower hemline in skirts, can be effective in increasing or decreasing drape effect. To know relationships between the drape of materials and the drape of garments is useful in creating new styles. A beautiful effect can be created with the help of fabric influencing its final use, such as, a soft or limp fabric falls closer to the body, whereas a stiff fabric drapes away from the body. The texture of sheer fabrics, like voile and crepe, need fold-lines, that hang straight and form

voluminous ripples or folds and the plenty of fullness avoids a skimpy look. Stiff fabrics like moire and damask, look very nice in straight-but-full bouffant skirt. Along with the stiffness of the fabric, its thickness is also important. The style of the garment depends on the thickness too, hence soft but bulky fabrics require folds rather than straight edges, while a few seams and some gores are required to avoid waistline bulk.

New textiles so also clothing styles are factors, that being frequent changes in clothing. Recently with the manmade fibers (specially synthetics) coming in more and more use, a trend is being observed to have these aspects of gathers, pleats etc. at some selected places instead of all around. Even their positions have been lowered. One would thus see into the skirt as a dress to get a new look for younger generations.

Review of related literature on drape and its related properties has been limited to the fabric drape. In research reported by Cusick et al (10), different stiff fabrics were draped in a form of a half skirts, the ranks were then calculated and related with fabric properties. The results were quite encouraging. Another study conducted in U.S.A. by Mitchell and Wilbume (33) has reported that the women's and girls' liking was for ways of good wearable designs, which look and fit well and at the same time allow for easy movement. The preference was for the variety in both fabric and design. The

design features have thus to be functional as well as decorative.

Trend in fashion changes from time to time. The present trend is thus to get an isolated decorative drape effect. It is common to use the same texture material for the same texture garment, so the effect is not much enhanced due to the similar fabrics. It is thus important to find out possible styles with combinations of different fabrics, and also interesting and challenging to study the combinations of two or more different fabrics in a new clothing style. To obtain changes in styles, the interchangeability of fabrics in combinations is tried out. The use of such interchangeable panels to produce various designs in skirts are attempted.

Interchangeable aspect can introduce a varied use for the same skirt, the wearer indirectly having a feeling of more skirts, which fit well and at the same time allow ease, decoration etc. Moreover as the design feature can be made functional as well as decorative with the use of different colours, different fabrics, by varying godet angles, textures, and the textural feel of the same. Thus ways of good wearable designs in skirts can be produced by simply interchanging the godets, as per taste or fashion.

The fullness produced by the godet depends upon the fabric used and upon the length of the skirt itself. Godets

are decorative and/or functional. When two different materials are used one for skirt and other for godets, it can provide decoration as well as fullness, for example, use of a limp fabric for the godets will provide draping in the form of ripples (without disturbing the remaining part of the skirt), and will add special decoration effect due to vicinity of two different textures. So they could be varied at will in their drape behaviour in skirts. The investigator therefore took up the study of these drape properties of fabrics and garments in detail.

Thus in this study, the researcher's interest is to study these isolated decorative aspects in skirts. Fabric and garment drape properties were observed for possible relationships; new dress designs were attempted and aesthetic appeal for them was studied. How the interchangeability aspect would help to create new designs was also an interesting aspect of the work.

The specific objectives of the study were as follows:

- (a) To study drape and related characteristics in different fabrics.
- (b) To observe and analyse a variety of draped garments, and the drape therein.
- (c) To determine and analyse drape as drape ratio of garments and <sup>drape</sup>coefficient of fabrics.
- (d) To determine the relationship between subjective and objective assessment of above garments.

- (e) To prepare a new skirt style (in godets) with a combination of fabrics and to study the design effects therein.
- (f) To study the aesthetic appeal for the new style in general.