



DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF KNIT- BASED SCHOOL UNIFORM

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Abstract:

Knitwear currently occupies a distinctive position in the business sector. The pandemic situation has begun to threaten the knitwear business, as the epidemic has dealt a devastating blow to the famed textile industry. It's a fact that uniforms are necessary for a student's day-to-day activities at school. It is essential to have a uniform that is useful, comfortable, and long-lasting. So, in order to match the international market and give job possibilities in the knitting business, we decided to create school uniforms out of knits.

Keywords: Global standards, knitwear uniforms, functional silhouettes

Introduction:

Knit fabric is an elastic material, made by yarns initially formed into loops and then inter connected in order to produce a textile structure. The feature of knitwear is that are silk, linen, cotton, wool, viscose, rayon and more. Manufacturers add various Synthetic materials to achieve the best combination of quality and durability. Knitted fabrics have gained wide popularity due to their advantages, as well as attractive price and simple care requirements. Their pros are comfortable to wear, fabulous stretch, versatility and easy to care. That's why we decided to make school uniforms out of knits. In addition to that we determined to design various styles of knitwear silhouettes to harmonize with the global standards.

Background study:

The History of School Uniforms:

It is difficult to trace the origins of the uniform as there is no comprehensive written history, but rather a variety of known influences. School uniforms are believed to be a practice which dates to the 16th century in the United Kingdom. It is believed that the Christ Hospital School in London in 1552 was the first school to use a school uniform. The earliest documented proof of institutionalised use of a standard academic dress dates back to 1222 when the then Archbishop of Canterbury ordered the wearing of the cappa clausa. This monastic and academic practice evolved into collegiate uniforms in England, particularly in charity schools where uniform dress was often provided for poor children. Universities, primary schools and secondary schools used uniforms as a marker of class and status. Although school uniforms can often be considered conservative and old-fashioned, uniforms in recent years have changed as societal dress codes have changed.

School Uniforms in India:

Uniforms are compulsory in India in both public and private schools. The boy's uniforms are often made of a light-coloured shirt, long trousers usually blue, white or black, and those of the girls are often a shirt and a skirt. At the state level, the secondary schools are required to use a Shalwar Kameez. This is not compulsory but they do have certain specific dress code. Many schools require students to wear shoes ties and ID Cards that make them look smart and tidy, and comb their hair down and keep it clean and short. Long hair is tied in braids. Uniform is one of the most important components of school life and is taken very seriously in India.

Laws and Rulings:

As uniforms have become more normalised, there have also been an increasing number of lawsuits brought against school districts. According to David Brunsmas, one in four public elementary schools and one in eight public middle and high schools in the USA have policies dictating what a student wears to school. The school code within states' constitutions typically asserts that it allows the board of school directors to make reasonable rules and regulations as they see fit in managing the school's affairs. As of 2008, there are currently 23 states that allow school districts to mandate school uniforms. The constitutional objections usually brought upon school districts tend to fall into one of the following two categories:

- (1) a violation of the students' First Amendment right to free expression
- (2) a violation of parents' right to raise their children without government interference.

Although up until this point, The Supreme Court has not ruled on a case involving school uniforms directly, in the 1968 decision *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, the Court ruled that upon entering school, students do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech.

Internationally, there are differing views of school uniforms. In the Australian state of Queensland, Ombudsman Fred Albietz ruled in 1998 that state schools may not require uniforms. In the Philippines, the Department of Education abolished the requirement of school uniforms in public schools. In England and Wales, technically a state school may not permanently exclude students for "breaching school uniform policy", under a policy promulgated by the Department for Children, Schools and Families but students not wearing the correct uniform are asked to go home and change. In Scotland, some local councils (that have responsibility for delivering state education) do not insist on students wearing a uniform as a precondition to attending and taking part in curricular activities. Turkey abolished mandatory uniforms in 2010.

Perceptions of masculinity and femininity:

One of the criticisms of uniforms is that it imposes standards of masculinity and femininity from a young age. Uniforms are considered a form of discipline that schools use to control student behaviour and often promote conventional gendered dress. Boys often are required to wear trousers, belts, and closed-toe shoes and have their shirts tucked in at all times. They are also often required to have their hair cut short. Some critics allege that this uniform is associated with the dress of a professional business man, which, they claim, gives boys at a young age the impression that masculinity is gained through business success. For girls, some uniforms promote femininity by requiring girls to wear skirts. Skirts are seen by some critics as a symbol of femininity because they restrict movement and force certain ways of sitting and playing.

Pros of school uniforms:

Advocates of uniforms have proposed multiple reasons supporting their implementation and claiming their success in schools. A variety of these claims have no research supporting them. Some of these pros include the following: Advocates believe that uniforms affect student safety by:

- Lowering student victimization
- Decrease gang activity and fights
- Differentiating strangers from students in school buildings

For example, in the first year of the mandatory uniform policy in Long Beach, California, officials reported that fighting in schools decreased by more than 50%, assault and battery by 34%, sex offenses by 74%, and robbery by 66%. Advocates also believe that uniforms increase student learning and positive attitudes toward school through:

- Enhanced learning environments
- Heightened school pride
- Increased student achievement
- High levels of preparedness
- Conformity to organizational goals
- Increased chance of staying in school
- Increased commitment to learning

Wearing uniforms leads to decreased behaviour problems by increasing attendance rates, lowering suspension rates, and decreasing substance use among the student body. Proponents also attribute positive psychological outcomes like increased self-esteem, increased spirit, and reinforced feelings of oneness among students to wearing uniforms. Additional proponent arguments include that school uniforms:

- Encourage discipline
- Help students resist peer pressure to buy trendy clothes
- Diminish economic and social barriers between students

Currently pros of school uniforms centre around how uniforms impact schools' environments. Proponents have found a significant positive impact on school climate, safety, and students' self-perception from the implementation of uniforms.

Objectives of the study:

- To supply schools with uniforms that adhere to international standards.
- To display the designed uniforms as part of the advertising.
- To gather surveys from entrepreneurs and school administrators, who are our project's intended consumers.

Fashion merchandising:

Fashion show is one of the most important parts of development and promotion of fashion industry. Along with selling products, textile companies and bands organize fashion shows to increase the recognition and popularity of their bands. Usually through this, designers give their ideas to companies about upcoming fashion apparel. Besides, it plays an important role in increasing the popularity of clothes. The role of fashion shows is immense in the development of clothing and textile industry.

Research Methodology:

To guarantee that the school uniforms meet global standards, we choose to customise silhouettes from our design collection to fit different age categories and prioritise creating functional garments that are both aesthetically pleasing and easy to wear. For instance, a palazzo trouser design, which resembles a pleated skirt with detachable bows and ties, uses press buttons rather than plastic ones to enhance safety. We use maintenance-free fabrics to ensure the uniforms are durable and comfortable for the wearer.

In our research process, we conducted a comparative study between Indian schools and those in other countries regarding their uniform colours, silhouettes, and applications. Since we specialise in providing basic silhouettes like T-shirts, trousers, and tracks, our goal is to design and develop various silhouettes of uniforms that can replicate woven uniforms while ensuring comfort for children.

To promote our concept to schools, we organised a fashion event named the "*Fashion Parade*". During the show, we showcased **25 pairs of uniforms** designed by us, which were modelled by children on the ramp in front of entrepreneurs and members of school management from various institutions. As a final step in our research study, we collected surveys from manufacturers and school management members from

various institutions. These surveys were conducted separately to gather their responses regarding our project.

Suggestions:

- Selection of fabric should be done with care, as we mainly focused on the design development and sample creation of school uniforms with various silhouettes and attractive colour combinations.
- Need to use special needle, walking foot and specific machines and stitches for sewing knits to avoid pilling of fabrics and puckering of threads.

Conclusion:

As a result, we delegated the other aspects of uniform creation, such as fabric selection and dyeing methodologies, to our technical department to ensure that the uniforms provided to children adhere to Indian uniform norms and are of good quality. The role of fashion shows is immense. Through this new class of buyers can easily enter the fashion world. As a result, the demand for new designs increases easily. New companies also take ideas from fashion shows and bring their products to the market. Fabric collection, yarn, colour, raw material etc. are involved in fashion show. Survey from entrepreneurs and school administrators, who are our project's intended consumers commented that these new ideas can be engrossed in the market to promote the standard of schools to step up one's game as a consequence of the fashion show staged.

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