

Report

Workshop On 'Curative and Preventive Conservation of Textiles' on 20th -21st September 2019

A two-day national workshop on “Curative and Preventive Conservation of Textiles” was organized by the ‘Textiles and Clothing Research Centre’, (TCRC) New Delhi, in collaboration with the ‘Department of Fashion and Textiles, IIS University’, Jaipur; on 20th to 21st September 2019. The experience of this hands-on workshop was overwhelming. It was attended by more than fifty participants that included students, teaching faculty from various institutions and art enthusiasts.

Curative and Preventive Conservation of Textiles is one of the upcoming subjects in the country, which has a long tradition of textiles. From the royal, elite's wardrobe to the common man and from religious to folk style, everywhere the textile has a lot of stories to tell, memories to preserve so that same memory, story, the history behind it can be passed on to the next generations.

The resource persons for the workshop were from TCRC founding member team; Dr Anamika Pathak, Dr Simmi Bhagat and Ms Smita Singh. It was conducted interactively with the combination of lectures, practical sessions and panel discussion. This workshop had helped the participants in understanding the importance of valuable textile heritage, handling the museum artefacts and basic curative conservation methods in a more scientific manner.

The Inaugural session on day 1 on 20th September 2019 began with a welcome address by Dr Ashok Gupta, Vice-Chancellor, IIS University, Jaipur. He welcomed all the resource persons and participants of the workshop. He expressed the importance of this unique subject of preservation of textiles, which is the combination of science, art, and culture. The efforts of IIS University and Rajasthan government in preserving the heritage was also emphasized. TCRC Founder members were felicitated by Dr Ashok Gupta.

Dr Anamika Pathak, Chairperson of TCRC enlightened the audience with the progress and contribution of TCRC in conservation, preservation, and promotion of textile crafts and histories. This workshop is one such effort in achieving the goals. She thanked IIS University, Jaipur for collaborating with TCRC in organizing the workshop. Such collaborations will create links with many communities across the country, as this has to be taken at a higher level.

The workshop session began with the introduction on “Importance and Exploration of Textile Heritage” by Dr Anamika Pathak. She presented the background of the present workshop and presented a glimpse of Indian textile heritage while highlighting its importance in the Indian context. The next session was on “Introduction to Conservation and textile conservation.” by Dr Simmi Bhagat. She introduced the

session by providing details on need and constituents of Conservation. She introduced Preventive and Curative conservation in the session.

Then post tea, Dr Simmi Bhagat took a lecture on "Factors of Deterioration". She explained various natural and man-made factors that can damage organic material (textiles) and how to prevent their deterioration. This was followed by a session by Ms Smita Singh on Documentation of Textiles. In this, she discussed condition reporting, graphic and photographic documentation in details. This was followed by practical session, participants were divided into groups and were asked to examine the textile pieces, documentation writing, understanding the damages in the object, etc. which were very interactive and informative for the participants.

In the last session of the day-1, presentation was made by Dr Anamika Pathak on "Handling and Movement of Textiles Objects". Here the thrust was to make participants aware of handling museum pieces. This was followed by hands-on exercise where all the participants worked in groups.

On day-2, 21st September 2019, the focus was on curative conservation of textile and the practical exercises specially designed for the participants. The first session was a lecture continuing from the by Ms Smita Singh, and which was titled as "Documentation of Textiles Part II: Analysis and Testing Methods for Textiles like weave analysis, stitch analysis, digital methods etc.". It was followed by another session by Ms Smita Singh on "Overview of Curative Treatment of Textiles and Mechanical Cleaning", Participants worked in groups to understand mechanical cleaning methods. Then post lunch, a lecture session was conducted by Dr Simmi Bhagat on "Stabilization of textiles through Conservation Stitches". This was followed by a practical session to practice various conservation stitches. All participants made samples of stitches used in conservation.

The workshop came to an end with participants sharing their experiences and feedback. All the participants were presented with certificates for attending the workshop.
