

## CONCEPT OF CLOTHES

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Since the humans came to existence on the earth, they have been continuously striving to live a happy, healthy and peaceful life as an individual and society as well. Before discussing about the clothes let's have a look at the how the humans appear on the earth. In short, Science says, our mother Earth got a shape at 4.5 billion years ago or in other words 450 crore years ago. Then with time, water or in other words hydrosphere formed on the surface of earth followed by single celled organism e.g. blue green algae and atmospheric oxygen etc. As the evolution process went on, different varieties of plants and animals came into existence both in land as well as water. Charles Darwin famous for his 'Theory of Evolution' has explained the diversity of life on the process of evolution. Accordingly, at a certain stage of evolution humans appeared on the surface of earth to play the most vital role till date. Scientific evidences say first modern human species i. e. Homo sapiens appeared on earth about 2 Lakh years ago in Africa.

From that time humans are continuing to live on earth as the most powerful animal with the help of its mind. This is a brief introduction of humans' appearance on earth. Now let us come to the actual context of the article.

With the nature of its brain (Homo sapiens) it acted accordingly and probably due to different activities viz. hunting prey in group, sharing food, care to infant and kids etc may lead the humans to stay in groups and subsequent building of social life. Then they would have tried to find out a way of communication as a result, initially body postures and gestures followed by symbols and finally language would have been evolved. Then they started agricultural practices for a stable living at a single locality nearby river. Availability of water was a must fulfill criteria for their selection of settlement area as evidenced by all the ancient civilizations viz. Mesopotamia, Indus etc were found near to the water resources (river).

As the civilization grows with time humans have tried to make clothes from various raw materials such as vegetation and animal skins. No data is available for the exact period from which humans started wearing clothes but anthropologists and archaeologists believe in the

fact that early humans must adapted clothes covering their body to protect from cold, heat, rain and climate variation etc. Clothing and textiles have been an important feature in the human history and also it implies the kind of material available to a civilization and the technology they were used to make clothes. It is also believed that clothes indicated the social status of the various members of the society. Evidences say humans begun wearing clothes more than one lakh year ago and during Bronze Age i. e. about 5000BC, cotton was used for clothing by the inhabitants of Indus valley civilization. During different age's viz. Copper Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Medieval Period etc clothes and textiles got more and more diversified and become more comfortable and luxurious. Textiles trading have been a common trade throughout the human history. In the Modern era, textiles industry is getting revolutionised with the invention of textile machinery and synthetic fibres such nylon etc. Now it has become a study branch in many Engineering institutions. Today we can get huge varieties of clothes just with a click on any online business app viz. Flipkart, Amazon etc installed in any mobile phone or by other means.

Though at the very early period clothes were not meant to be used in a culture but afterwards it became an integral part of several cultures/religion. As the humans grow more with their brain functioned more, they might have felt a need of attire to be covered the body properly. There would have been a gradual development of shy and/or offense feeling in every individual living in a society. As a result, society would have made the way to practice different clothing styles for male and female and different classes of people living in the society.

If we take the myth of Mahabharata which is considered to be the largest myth ever recorded in the human history, we find their clothing sense and more importantly about their attitude towards clothing. For example, when Duhshasan was trying to strip the clothes of Draupadi in the august assembly of Kaurav at Hastinapur and Draupadi requested him not to do so followed by requesting all the mighty warriors present in the assembly including Pitamaha Vishma, Dronacharya and Krupacharya in eyes filled with water but got nothing. Finally she requested Lord Krishna to save her dignity after which plenty of clothes came to her from somewhere and her dignity was saved i. e. She was saved from disrespect in a dirty act where she would have been lost her respect and shyness by the evil minded people.

So in a nutshell we can say clothes have been expressing individuals' lifestyle and attitude as well as the social status and dignity one living in.

Now let's discuss the most important part of the topic which is focused on present day clothes and lifestyle. A few months back I read many posts on Facebook related to a female Bollywood actress and a celebrity. Numerous articles were posted on Facebook and displaying the clothes she worn. Facebook users posted their comments in comment section including both support as well as against her. After knowing the people's reactions on her dressing, she came up with a bang and dressed herself exposing her body more. In fact a big debate was going on in a national news channel regarding that bikini dress issue of that celebrity. The anchor of that news channel was showing her favour to that celebrity whereas one person from the news debate room was against the celebrity's dressing sense. They had a lot of arguments over there on that issue. However we are not going to discuss what happened there. Then in sequences several such posts came on social media and electronic news channel describing and displaying dressing style of celebrities from various fields such as cricket etc. Another viral incident was about a lady's bridal day dressing and dancing style the video of which was posted on social media.

In fact innumerable such examples we will encounter in our day to day life which are not coming on social media or not hit the electronic media may be due to low profile personality or anything else.

I believe we are now living in a world with a very rapidly changing environment and life style. If we look at the Indian scenario, girls are getting maximum freedom for their life and decision making. Numbers of rules are made and implemented for their safety and development. Like any other field, girls have got their right to choose clothes and wear it as per their interest. I specifically mentioned girls because for boys it was nearly the same set up continues long ago where as girls have got a wide scope to live a life according to their choice. They can study what boys study; they can play what boys play and so in fashion also.

As I have already mentioned a rapid change in every aspect and so in cloth and textile industry. A new world of fashion industry evolved as a result of advancement in textile industry. Plenty of clothes with huge varieties are available today to wear. Competition among companies is at pace with the rapid development of textile industry. Even if, plenty and varieties of clothes are

available to wear, what we wear? Let's discuss the issue related to wearing clothes with the following questions.

Why one should wear clothes? The first reason that comes to my mind is to feel comfortable in home as well as society where one lives in. Secondly, clothes save us from extreme weather conditions and also protect us from dust etc. Thirdly different styles of clothes are associated with various religions. So according to religion also people wear clothes though by choice or by force i. e. someone may not be interested to wear particular type of clothes but being belonged to a certain religion he/she has to wear those clothes. Fourthly, clothes vary from Organisations to Organisations. Some organizations have their set of dress codes to be followed inside their campus and if someone joins in that Organisation he/she has to wear that type of clothes inside the Organisation. Different government and private organizations have set their dress codes and one must follow the dress codes as a code of conduct. This is to keep a feeling of working environment and create a harmony among the staffs. The above mentioned facts are the some of the realistic reasons for wearing clothes.

Let's discuss now about the first point that I mentioned above with the present scenario.

We are dressed differently in home and out of home. As per the physical shape of male and female, different types of dress have been made for male and female so that there would be a maximum balance between them. Now a day's fashion is growing (?) unexpectedly rapidly. I have put a question mark with growing because I am unsure about it i. e. whether it is really growing or going downward. In one way textile industry generates huge varieties of clothes for the humans to wear but also it creates dresses which are so appealing that if worn, is enough to trigger the lust emotions of others. Film and modeling industry are the first to set the new fashion trend by wearing different types of clothes and applying different styles which are released to the markets first time. Movies and celebrities plays great role in setting new trends of fashion. In the fashion and model industry, they are showing their body and skin as much as possible. In fact in some movie scenes they are practically naked and in model industry hardly anything is there that covers the body. 90% of the body skin is visible. A lot of controversies come to news these days regarding the dressing sense of celebrities. Some people claim that this short dressing is the reason for increasing rape cases in the society which will be discussed in another article. As long as someone stays inside home there is nothing to say about the

clothes he/she wears but once someone is in public, there must be a mentality of every individual to dress up properly so that it will provide comfortable to that individual as well as not hamper beholders mind and feelings. In a similar way one should not use electronic media or any other ways to propagate her photos/videos with improper dress for publicity. This is a minimum requirement for every individual living in a society and it seems we have completely forgotten it.

Now a day's there is a very little gap between cities and villages due to the advancement of electronic technology. After seeing such dresses and styles of the celebrities, their followers start wearing such type of clothes. Even dresses/clothes are selling in the market and people are wearing which completely covers the body of a male/female but it's colour and fabric material is such that one will be confused about her clothes which will create a imaginary naked image of that person and also it can able to ignite a normal person's lust emotions. What is the meaning of wearing such dresses!

One beautiful narration about today's fashion from Oscar Wilde is coming to my mind i. e. fashion is that kind of ugliness which is to be changed every few months. Some thinkers believe that it is the bad mentality of the people and society who finger towards the short dressing style of others. As I mentioned earlier about that celebrity showing her highly exposed body skin on social media shamelessly/egoistically and those support her and claiming that the people going against her have sick mentality. I was surprised to see the photos of that celebrity who worn such clothes and photographed it and then posted on social media. I was really interested to know the mentality of that celebrity who can do such acts. What his/her followers learn from. What teaching he/she will give to the society. In the Bhagavat Gita, Krishna tells 'Oh Arjuna, you are a great person and what you will do the society will follow you. So be careful about your decisions and deeds'.

So being a celebrity one has a greater responsibility towards the society than others. We should understand wearing clothes which seem as if nothing is worn or wearing clothes that expose the body skin may create lust emotions in the beholders minds that are seeing him/her. Because sexual desires of lust emotions come out by different senses viz. watching, touching, listening, etc. One cannot demand that I will watch a porn movie without having any lust emotions in mind. Similarly, if we humans see an accident, our eyes fill with water and sad emotions and



sympathy come automatically. We don't put any force on it to cry. Nature has made the humans like this so that it's process will go on and purpose will be fulfilled. One can't deny this fact. Even if someone deny for self satisfaction, it doesn't matter for Nature. It will take its course of moving ahead.

Another important aspect that comes to my mind is that if ladies can show their belly and thigh and back in public, and if my vision is not wrong, then the day is not far when they would come up with a dress which will expose the complete breast and genitals and cover the other parts of the body. When they will be asked why they have worn such dresses in public, answer will be come my life, my choice who are you to question us about our clothes. Nevertheless, there will be a chance of claim that we have been bored with showing our legs, belly, and back; so we thought we will go for a worth expose of breast and genitals to the public.

Few days ago, one worthy video clip I was watching in which one saint (name forgotten) was speaking to a public with a power point presentation about an apparel store in Mumbai where latest fashion clothes are available for selling. That company spends huge monthly rent in crores of rupees for its single storey showroom. The clothes displayed there are enough to expose the body parts in a different style when worn. That fashion store once got highlighted when one celebrity from Bollywood visited to that outlet and tweeted with a tag line 'buy two get one begging bowl free'. That saint (spiritual person) was showing his concern about present trend of fashion and the direction where we (humans) are moving.

Today's dressing style is completely tilted towards the competition of skin exposure among individuals as well as groups. If someone doesn't know or doesn't willing to know his/her responsibility and duty, what else society can expect from them. We are getting so much obsessed with ourselves that we are forgetting the impacts on society due to our own act. Even if we differentiate the good and bad still we go for the bad just to satisfy our egoistic mind. We are living in a period of wrong mindedness which needs to be overcome as early as possible for a more better and healthy human society. Instead of developing harmony we are busy in adding more complexity to the already complicated world. One has the right to dress that doesn't mean he/she can wear anything in a similar way right to freedom doesn't means one can do anything. When we all have the feeling of empathy then we would have a better harmony in our society than the present scenario because before someone wears something he/she will

think of others as well as society. We should also remember that the clothing style should not cross its limit or else government will be forced to make laws on strict ban of short clothes in public places like ban of smoking in public places which has already happened in schools and colleges by applying mandatory uniforms. Because people are addicted with rules and laws. Unless there is a strong law comes out for something people will continuously do the things to satisfy themselves. So this will be the last option for government authorities to make people act accordingly.

Finally let me conclude with the fact that every individual should think about the clothes he/she wears and what impact it will create on the society where he/she lives. One should not dress just to stay in the front position of attracting others among his/ her friend circle or to follow what others doing etc. But to feel social and makes other comfortable in a society. Every individual should wear dress which will make her dignified inside or outside not just to hear the word game of sexy, hot, bold and so on from others. Exposing body skins intentionally indicates the ill mentality of a person which should be always rejected and improved for a happy, healthy and higher mind society. We are not living in Copper Age, where we couldn't cover our body in public due to lack of clothes. We are in twenty first century with vast varieties of clothes to wear. So let's bring harmony among us by wearing suitable clothes in public and as necessary. One thing let me clear that by saying these things I am not demoralizing talents related to some games. The mother once answered to a question related to clothes stating that one should wear clothes according to his/her body structure and one should look beautiful not to impress others but to feel an inner joy and stay healthy.

So let's bring harmony among us and develop a society where good thoughts prevail. 'Live and let's live' will be fulfilled more efficiently in this manner.