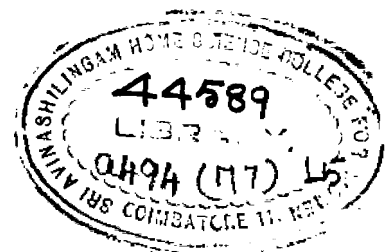


**IRONING AS A MEANS OF STRETCHING  
THE FAMILY INCOME**

**By  
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## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Clothing is one of the basic needs which is in existence, right from the beginning of mankind. Clothes can contribute to "that difficult to define quality", called charm or personal attractiveness. The origin of clothing may be traced to several different sources, the most obvious of which was the desire to protect the body from the frost and damp. The desire for distinction and recognition of accomplishment is very human and is expressed through clothing. According to Erwin and Kinchen (1969), clothes tend to expand and extend personality. A good deal of majesty, might, dominion, power and mystery depend upon a person's clothing.

Clothing often serves as a measure of an individual's financial status and monetary accomplishment. To derive maximum satisfaction from the money available for clothing, one must know the art of clothing selection, care and the maintenance of the items possessed. Success in clothing management depends on careful planning of the budget.

Craig and Rush (1954) are of the opinion that, a budget is a record of the past expenditures and an estimation of the future expenditure and an itemization of the current expenses. Clothing budget of any family is affected by factors like income, size and taste of the family and the social customs. On a

limited clothing budget, clothing should be selected to suit several occasions. There are means by which a family can stretch their clothing budget. They include, construction of garment, laundering at home and ironing.

Clothes give better service when cared for than when neglected. Clothes should not be allowed to remain dirty since it may lead to microbial growth that are harmful to the skin. Hence dirty clothes must be washed and ironed as frequently as possible. The process of laundering, as commonly used subjects fabrics to the action of water, temperature, friction and detergent, says Hess (1958).

Todd and McCallough (1952) opine that regular care does much to keep clothes neat and clean and help to maintain a well groomed look with a minimum effort. To gain a well groomed appearance and to bring out unity and variety in a limited wardrobe, washed clothes must be well pressed and ironed. Ironing is a process which gives a smooth surface free from wrinkles and is the last step in laundering.

To day, in most of the households, clothes after washing are given to dhobi for ironing. But when this can<sup>be</sup> done at home, the leisure time also could be utilized profitably especially by the homemakers. It saves money and also gives satisfaction. It is also possible to take better care of ones own clothes.

With the intension of finding out the amount saved by ironing at home, the investigator has taken up a study covering a sample of hundred and fifty families in Coimbatore city. An attempt is also made to prove experimentally that ironing can serve as a means of stretching the family income.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature collected for this study are reviewed under the following headings:

- A. History of ironing
- B. Role of ironing in laundering
- C. Irons and their various types
- D. Parts of an Electric Iron.

### A. History of Ironing:

Garments and household linens which are made smooth and free from wrinkles have long been the desired strand in many parts of the world. The Chinese stretched garments on bamboo poles and the Greeks folded garments in chests devised with weights. The Romans used wooden mallets for heating garments to smoothness and later devised a press to serve the purpose. The Scandinavians used large wooden rollers and the Scots employed a linen smoother of black glass. In the middle ages, it was discovered that cloth pressed while being steamed would hold the shape into, which it was modeled. Around 1900 an iron heated from the inside by an electric current was developed, says, Agan (1956).

### B. Role of ironing in laundering:

Laundering is one of the household practice. The two processes involved in laundering are (1) removing dirt

(2) finishing them so that they will obtain a new look feels, Deulkar, (1967). Justin and Rust (1953) opine that laundering is a necessary task of the home that must be done regularly. It may be done in the home or at the self-service laundry, or it may be sent away. Sending the laundry out is often expensive and unsatisfactory. For this reason a large number of families care for their laundry at home or at the self service place. Laundering is the operation involved in restoring soiled clothing or other household fabrics to clean usable condition says, AHEA, (1959).

The arrival of modern fabrics which are easily launderable, the availability of soapless detergents for various purposes and their suitability for hard and soft water, the new finishes in fabrics reducing the degree of soiling and the need for ironing and the availability of modern labour saving equipment for each stage of the work contribute towards making home laundry work lighter and more enjoyable, opines, Davidson, (1960).

The essential household equipment for laundering as outlined by Soundararaj (1963) includes sinks or tubs and buckets, spoons and containers, washing soaps, materials, for stain removal, scrubbing brushes, scrubbing boards, clothes line and racks, iron and ironing board.

Cockett and Hilton (1955) say that the process of cleaning which are used in a laundry are very little, different to those used in the preparation of bleaching of textiles. The provision of the best possible equipment for carrying out laundry work makes for maximum efficiency at a minimum cost of time and labour and in the long run, of money says, Lancaster (1962). In practice, the domestic laundry premises will rarely be ideal, if for no other reason that because they are used for other purposes as well as for laundry work, but orderly arrangement is always possible and improvements can often be effected in an existing building. Providing clean clothes for family members includes getting the clothes clean, drying them and ironing or pressing them say, Steidl and Bratton, (1968).

Clothing needs special care or cleaning in addition to daily care, possibly laundering is needed more frequently than any of the others, states Rathbone et al, (1955).

Pellard et al (1964) interprets the term ironing as different from pressing. Clothes that have been washed, dried and dampened are ironed, clothes that are wrinkled from packing or wearing are pressed to restore the original texture of the fabric and to improve their shape.

Taylor (1972) says that the behaviour of a fabric in ironing depends on the amount of moisture present, since the water may plasticise the fibre or possibly reduce its melting

point. Pressing is a molding and shaping process accomplished by lifting the iron and putting it down, with little or no back and forth movement say, Chambers and Moulton, (1961).

According to Johnston (1965) ironing is one laundry activities which often has no permanent location. In ironing an attempt is made to give to the clothes a smooth lustrous appearance which is free from wrinkles say Baxter and Latske, (1949). Ironing or pressing is the last step in laundering. Skillful ironing is born of practice says, Humprey, (1950).

Proper ironing is done to restore fabrics to its original appearance. According to King (1961) the finished results is produced by a carefully controlled combination of temperature, pressure and moisture. A choice of suitable appliances for finishing processes calls for careful thought, especially when space is limited. Much of the drudgery is gone from ironing too, now that so many "dip-dry", no-iron fabrics are in use.

Todd and McCullough (1952) opine, to do good ironing and pressing five things are needed: where to place the board, how to use the iron, how to treat different textiles, a convenient order of work; and the method to use for each part of the garment. Any article of clothing that needs to be ironed should be removed from the drier while it is slightly damp state, Lewis et al, (1960).

### C. Irons and its various types:

White (1958), states that irons should be selected to fit the ironing job. Various types of irons are now available, heated by charcoal, gas or Electricity.

Henny and Byett (1959) say that the ironing apparatus that is required will depend upon the type of finishing that has to be done, the initial cost and the running cost. They classified the irons into Flat iron, Polishing iron, Millinery iron, Goffering iron, Egg iron and Punching irons. All these irons are heated by a source of heat.

Dantyagi (1964) opines, some of the irons in general use, are the following:

1. charcoal iron
2. Flat iron
3. Small iron and polishing iron (curved faced).

All these irons are heated by source of heat external to the iron.

The Electric irons are of different type and they are (1) Plain irons (2) Thermostatically controlled irons (3) Flexless irons (4) steam Electric irons and Electric ironers, says, Dantyagi (1964).

### Electric Irons:

Electric irons were invented in the early 1900's, did eliminate the need for walking from the ironing board to the

to the range to heat the iron. Johnston (1965) says that the electric irons were much heavier and operated on a lower voltage than their modern counter parts. As quoted by Jackman and Rogers (1954), Electric irons are very popular for domestic work owing to their convenience, cleanliness and low cost of running. They usually consume about half unit/hour. The first electric iron had been made in California, a few years before by a pioneer of another famous firm, the Hot point Electrical Appliance Ltd says, Corley, (1966).

Electric irons are available in various weights and designs. They have nickel or chromium surfaces which are rustless, hence need no cleaning. Some electric irons are provided with a thermostatic control or heat regulator by means of which the current switches on again as the iron cools.

Vanzante (1964) points out that most irons today are automatically controlled and are either dry or more commonly a combination of dry and steam irons.

Barraclough et al ( ) view that electric irons are basically electric fires in miniature, employing heating elements which operate at a lower temperature than an electric fire.

Lancaster (1962) interprets that Flexless irons have the same advantage as tubeless gas irons, but they are expensive to buy. Dantyagi (1964) opines, buying an electric iron for finishing garments is undoubtedly a wise choice, (1969)

To avoid this constant attention, Electric irons are now thermostatically controlled; the regulator is set at a definite temperature <sup>when it</sup> is attained, the automatic device switches off the current, when the temperature falls the current is switched on again. This control is most helpful in avoiding injury to delicate fabrics by using too hot iron. A thermostatically controlled iron <sup>take</sup> a minute or so to drop from a high temperature to a low one or to heat up, so ironing should always be sorted so that items which need a low temperature are dealt with first and should work up to cottons and linens which need a really hot iron, says Davis (1960).

#### D. Parts of an Electric Iron:

When electric current is available, the use of an electric iron for finishing garments is undoubtedly <sup>a</sup> a wise choice. Holt (1960) says that electric irons are very generally used except in districts where there is no current available. The electric iron consists of so many parts such as sole plate, element, press plate, cord and the handle.

The handle is made of non-conducting material and usually has a thermostat, the use of which helps in giving pressure during ironing. The sole plate is made of polished sheet. The surface is highly polished and so the iron glides easily over material. The bright surface reduces loss of radiation and hence it is pleasanter to use. The electric iron is heated by an electric element of resistance wire, placed between two pieces

of mica which act as insulators. These are inserted in between the soleplate and the pressure plate. The soleplate is of bright metal, such as chromium plate and the pressure plate of iron.

Johnston (1965) says that the ironing surface or soleplate, found on different models varies slightly in size and shape. The edge of the soleplate is beveled. Most soleplates are now made of aluminium alloys.

The element is the most important part for, here the heat is generated. The element consists of two mica plates with a wire made of substance called nichrome, running between them. It is further insulated either side by sheets of mica. A press plate which covers the element and adds weight to the iron. Some types have a sheet of asbestos between the element and the press plate. Most of the newer irons have a fixed rest so that an iron stand is not necessary, Dantyagi (1964).

Johnston (1965) says, some irons have the cord attached at the center back, equally good, supposedly, for right or left, handed users. The cord should never be allowed to touch the hot metal of the iron.

#### Accessories used for ironing:

##### Ironing boards:

White (1958) says that it may be more important for a homemaker to have an ironing board which allows her to sit while ironing than it is for the student during class to be sitting

while ironing. There are many models of adjustable ironing boards. Peet and Thye (1961) state that the ironing board may be of wood or steel, solid in construction or of ventilated wire mesh. A well padded ironing board is <sup>a</sup>necessity says, Lamm, (1961). When pressing, lift the iron and set it down gently, from one spot to another, rubbing slightly.

Adams (1953) states that a sleeve board is an invaluable assistant in doing a good pressing job. It's a good idea to have a plastic cover to keep the board clean when it's not in use.

Peet (1967) opines that the ironing board should be adjustable in height, so the homemaker may sit or stand. Newer boards are made of wire mesh or perforated stainless metal which allows the moisture given off from the clothing to escape. Baxter and Latske (1949) state that an ironing board that is well padded and smoothly covered is necessary.

#### Chairs or stools:

A comfortable chair or stool for sitting to iron or to sort articles to be washed should be basic equipment for a home laundry. The chair or stool chosen should give back support and allow the workers feet to rest on the floor or on a foot rest.

#### Rubber mats:

A resilient floor mat will save the feet when the worker stands to iron. Mats may be used in front of a tub or other work area, says White (1958).

### Ironing Techniques:

Ironing is often considered to be <sup>a</sup> tiresome task as stated by Starr, (1956). But it is possible to make this process an easier one by following suitable techniques.

According to Humphrey (1950) the following steps will serve as a guide in making ironing unpleasant work. (1) Fabrics must be ironed thoroughly until they dry. Presence of moisture will lead to puckering and wrinkling. (2) The hangers must be near the ironing board so that the ironed garments could be hung up immediately. (3) While ironing, garments must be moved as little as possible. Ironed parts must be moved away from the worker.

Adams (1953) opines that both the hands must be used while ironing as far as possible. To simplify ironing, Starr (1956) gives the following hints.

1. The timing for ironing must be planned well in advance.
2. Unnecessary interruptions must be avoided.
3. Ironing schedule must be a flexible one.
4. The ironing center must be attractive, comfortable and convenient with good ventilation.
5. The electric outlet must be chosen conveniently.

Mills (1970) feels that sitting posture is good for ironing. A comfortable chair with a back must be chosen. He further suggests that seams must be ironed on the wrong side with limited number and type of motions.

As regards the handling of the iron Erwin and Kinchen (1969) are of the opinion that the iron cord should not be allowed to drag over the work. When not in use, the iron must be tilted back on its heel or the iron stand must be used. The ironing board cover should not be allowed to get scorched. If starch or sizing is struck to the iron, it should be allowed to cool and cleaned with soap and baking soda.

### **III. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE**

The experimental procedure for the study consists of the following steps:

#### **A. Conducting Survey**

- 1. Selection of the sample**
- 2. Selection of the method**
- 3. Formulation of the Interview schedule**
- 4. Conducting survey**
- 5. Analysis of Data.**

#### **B. Experiment**

- 1. Selection of the Sample**
- 2. Ironing Procedure**
- 3. Evaluation.**

#### **A. Conducting Survey:**

##### **1. Selection of the Sample:**

Hundred and fifty families were selected at random from areas like Saibaba Colony, R.S.Puram and Gandhipuram of Coimbatore city. They formed the sample for the study.

##### **2. Selection of the Method:**

Rangaswami (1959) says that interview method is considered as the best method of obtaining information since it allows the interviewer to go behind mere outward behaviour and help him in studying motivations, emotional responses and social progress. It helps to develop a face to face relationship between the interviewer and interviewee. Hence the investigator selected the interview method.

### **3. Formulation of the Interview Schedule:**

For evolving an interview schedule for the final study, a pilot study was conducted in 30 families in each of the three income levels namely low, middle and high. On the basis of the information obtained in the pilot study, the interview schedule was modified. The following aspects were included in the interview schedule and the same is given in appendix I.

1. Income of the family
2. Expenditure on clothing
3. Ironing at home
4. Type and brand name of irons used
5. Money saved by ironing.

### **4. Conducting survey:**

For collecting data, the investigator visited the selected houses personally and interviewed the homemakers at their convenience.

### **5. Analysis of data:**

The collected data was consolidated and analysed. It is presented in Chapter IV.

### **B. Experiment:**

#### **1. Selection of the sample**

The consolidation of the survey revealed the fact that majority of the families were using electric iron. Among them, 15 families were selected for the experimental study.

### **2. Ironing Procedure:**

The homemakers of the selected 15 houses were asked to iron for one hour per day with an Automatic iron for sixty days. Garments selected for ironing were Saries, Blouses, Shirts and Pants. Before starting the experiment, the meter reading was noted. After one hour, the final meter reading and the number of garments ironed were noted. The difference between the final and initial meter reading gave the amount of current consumption. Care was taken to see that no other electrical appliance was operated during this one hour.

### **3. Evaluation:**

The number of garments ironed in the time specified and the current consumption were noted for each homemaker. On the basis of dhobi charge for ironing, the money saved by ironing at home was calculated, excluding the electricity charge. A comparison of the same served as a measure for evaluation.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study conducted, are discussed in the undermentioned points:

##### A. Findings of the Survey

1. Income of the family
2. Expenditure on clothing
3. Ironing at home
4. Type of irons used
5. Brand name of the irons
6. Money saved by ironing

##### B. Results of the experiment.

##### A. Findings of the Survey:

##### 1. Income of Family:

The income of the selected families is given in Table I.

TABLE I

INCOME LEVEL OF THE SELECTED FAMILIES

S.No.	Range of the income/month in Rs.	Percentage of families
1.	100 - 200	4
2.	201 - 500	29
3.	501 - 1000	54
4.	1001 - 1500	9
5.	1501 - 2000	3
6.	Above 2000	1

From Table I it is evident that 54 per cent of the families surveyed had an income ranging from Rs.501-1000. Twenty nine per cent had Rs.201 to 500, nine per cent had Rs.1001 to 1500 *four* per cent had Rs.100 to 200 and very few families had an income above Rs.2000.

### 2. Expenditure on clothing:

The expenditure of the families on clothing are given in Table II and Figure 1.

TABLE II

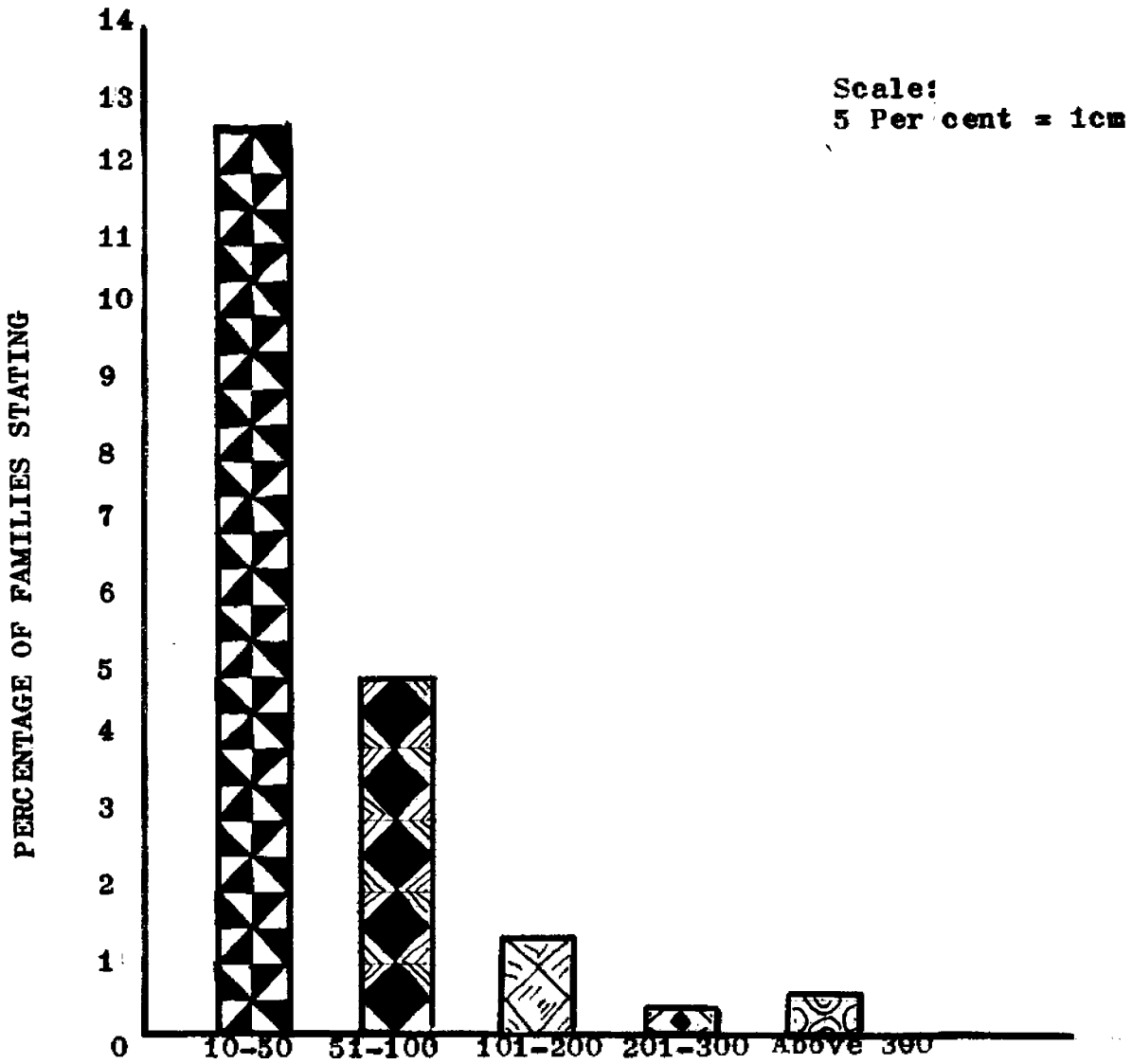
EXPENDITURE ON CLOTHING OF THE SELECTED FAMILIES

S.No.	Expenditure on clothing/ month ranged	Percentage of families stated
1.	10 - 50	63
2.	51 - 100	25
3.	101 - 200	7
4.	201 - 300	2
5.	Above 300	3

From Table II it is evident that 63 per cent of the families spent Rs.10 to 50 per month on clothing. Twenty five per cent spent Rs.51 to 100 and the rest above Rs.100.

### 3. Ironing at home:

The reasons for ironing garments at home are presented in Table III.



EXPENDITURE ON CLOTHING IN RUPEE

FIGURE 1

EXPENDITURE ON CLOTHING FOR SELECTED FAMILIES

**TABLE III**  
**REASONS FOR IRONING AT HOME**

S.No.	Reasons	Percentage of members stating
1.	As a means of saving money	51
2.	Presence of Iron box at home	29
3.	To make use of the leisure time	19
4.	For self satisfaction	17
5.	To be hygienic	17
6.	Being not satisfied with outside service	15

From the above table, it is understood that 51 per cent of the members surveyed ironed at home to save money. Twenty nine per cent ironed at home since they possessed electric iron. With the idea of using the leisure time profitably, 19 per cent ironed at home. While 17 per cent ironed for Self-satisfaction, another 17 per cent ironed at home for hygienic reasons. Since clothes ironed by outside service were not satisfactory, 15 per cent ironed their clothes at home.

The frequency of ironing, as stated by the members is shown in Table IV.

**TABLE IV**  
**FREQUENCY OF IRONING**

S.No.	Frequency of ironing	Percentage of families stating
1.	Once in a week	32
2.	Alternate days	17
3.	Daily	13
4.	Twice a week	11
5.	Twice a month	9
6.	Thrice a week	7
7.	Monthly	1

The above table reveals that 32 per cent of the families iron<sup>ed</sup> their clothes once in a week. Seventeen, 13 and 11 per cent ironed on alternate days, daily and twice a week respectively. Less than 10 per cent ironed, twice a month, thrice a week and monthly.

The garments ironed by the families are depicted in Table V.

**TABLE V**  
**GARMENTS IRONED BY THE FAMILIES**

S.No.	Items ironed	Percentage of families stating
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Gent's Garments</u></b>	
	Shirts	83
<b>2.</b>	Pants	73
<b>3.</b>	Dhoti	49
<b>4.</b>	Lungi	39
<b>5.</b>	Undergarments	27
	<b><u>Lady's Garments</u></b>	
<b>6.</b>	Sari	90
<b>7.</b>	Blouse	90
<b>8.</b>	Half saree	35
<b>9.</b>	Full skirt	24
<b>10.</b>	Undergarments	19
	<b><u>Children's Garments</u></b>	
<b>11.</b>	Half skirt	39
<b>12.</b>	Full skirt	38
<b>13.</b>	Shorts	37
<b>14.</b>	Lungi	35
<b>15.</b>	Pyjama	35
<b>16.</b>	Frock	34
<b>17.</b>	Uniforms	31
<b>18.</b>	Shirt	31
<b>19.</b>	Bellbottom	19
<b>20.</b>	Undergarments	16

From Table V it is evident that among gent's garments shirts, pants and dhethi were ironed by 83, 73 and 49 per cent of the families respectively. While 39 per cent ironed lungi at home, only 27 per cent ironed their under garments.

As regards lady's garments, both sari and blouse ironed by 90 per cent families. Thirty five per cent ironed half sarees and full skirts were ironed by 24 per cent of the families, only 19 per cent ironed undergarments.

Among children's garments half skirt, fullskirt and shorts were ironed by 39, 38 and 37 per cent families respectively. Lungi and pyjama were ironed by 35 per cent. While 34 per cent ironed frocks, both uniforms and skirts were ironed by 31 per cent of the families. Less than 20 per cent ironed bell bottoms and undergarments of children.

Hankerchieves as stated by 43 per cent were the main accessories ironed by the families selected. Less than 15 per cent ironed accessories like ties, ribbons, towels and aprons.

The items of home furnishings ironed by the selected families are given in Table VI.

**TABLE VI**  
**HOME FURNISHINGS IRONED**

S.No.	Items	Percentage of families stating
1.	Table cloth	21
2.	Pillow cover	17
3.	Cushion cover	14
4.	Bed spread	9
5.	Blanket	8
6.	Window and door curtains	8

As presented in Table VI very few families ironed furnishing items at home. The most common ones were table cloth as stated by 21 per cent, pillow covers 17 per cent cushion covers 14 per cent. Bed spreads blankets and window and door curtains were ironed by less than 10 per cent of the families.

The survey revealed the fact that all items except undergarments, accessories, like ribbons and furnishings were starched before ironing by all the families.

Fifty seven per cent of the families starched their clothes with the idea that it will add to the well groomed appearance. Thirty one per cent starched to their clothes to make them stiff. Thirty per cent felt that a starched cloth when ironed would retain its shape for days together.

Since furnishing items were difficult to iron after starching, all the families preferred to iron them without starching. Lack of time was the reason for five per cent of the families <sup>for</sup> not starching their furnishing items.

The steps followed in ironing included dampening the material by sprinkling water, folding several times for uniformity in dampening, stretching the material to get the correct size and ironing with the temperature set in the iron to suit the material as stated by 99, 97, 93 and 90 per cent of the samples respectively.

#### 4. Type of irons used:

The types of iron used by the homemakers included coal, automatic and non-automatic iron as stated by 10, 65 and 25 per cent respectively.

#### 5. Brandname of the irons:

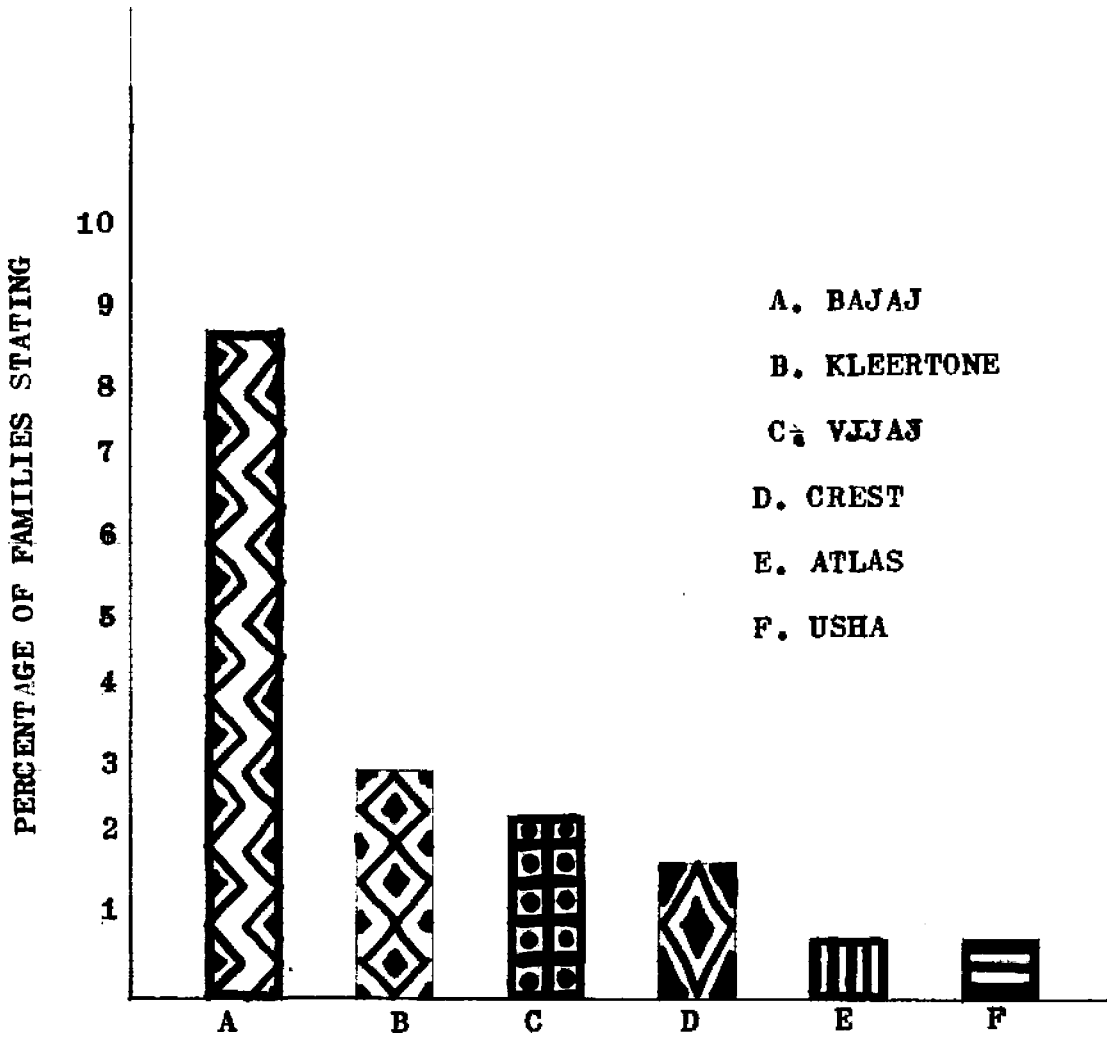
The brand name of the irons used by the families are given in Table VII and figure 2.

TABLE VII

BRAND NAMES OF THE IRON USED

S.No.	Brand name <sup>s</sup>	percentage of families stating
1.	Bajaj	44
2.	Kleertone	15
3.	Vijay	12
4.	Crest	9
5.	Alpha an Atlas	4
6.	Usha	4

Scale: 5 per cent = 1cm



BRAND NAMES OF THE IRON

FIGURES - 2  
BRAND NAMES OF THE IRON USED

From Table VII it is evident that 44 per cent of the families used Bajaj. Fifteen and 12 per cent used Kleertone and Vijay respectively. Less than 10 per cent used irons like Atlas, Usha and Crest.

**6. Money saved by ironing:**

The amount of money saved by the families is shown in Table VIII and figure 3.

**TABLE VIII**  
**MONEY SAVED BY IRONING**

S.No.	Money saved in range (in rupees)	Percentage of families stating
1.	1 - 10	49
2.	11 - 20	11
3.	21 - 30	2
4.	31 - 40	1
5.	41 - 50	1

From the above Table it is understood that 49 per cent of the families saved Rs. 1 - 10 by ironing. While 11 per cent saved Rs.11-20, less than five per cent saved above Rs.20.

The amount of money spent on the maintenance of iron ranged from Rs.1 to 10, 11 to 20 and Rs.21 to 30 in 47, 11 and 4 per cent of the families respectively.

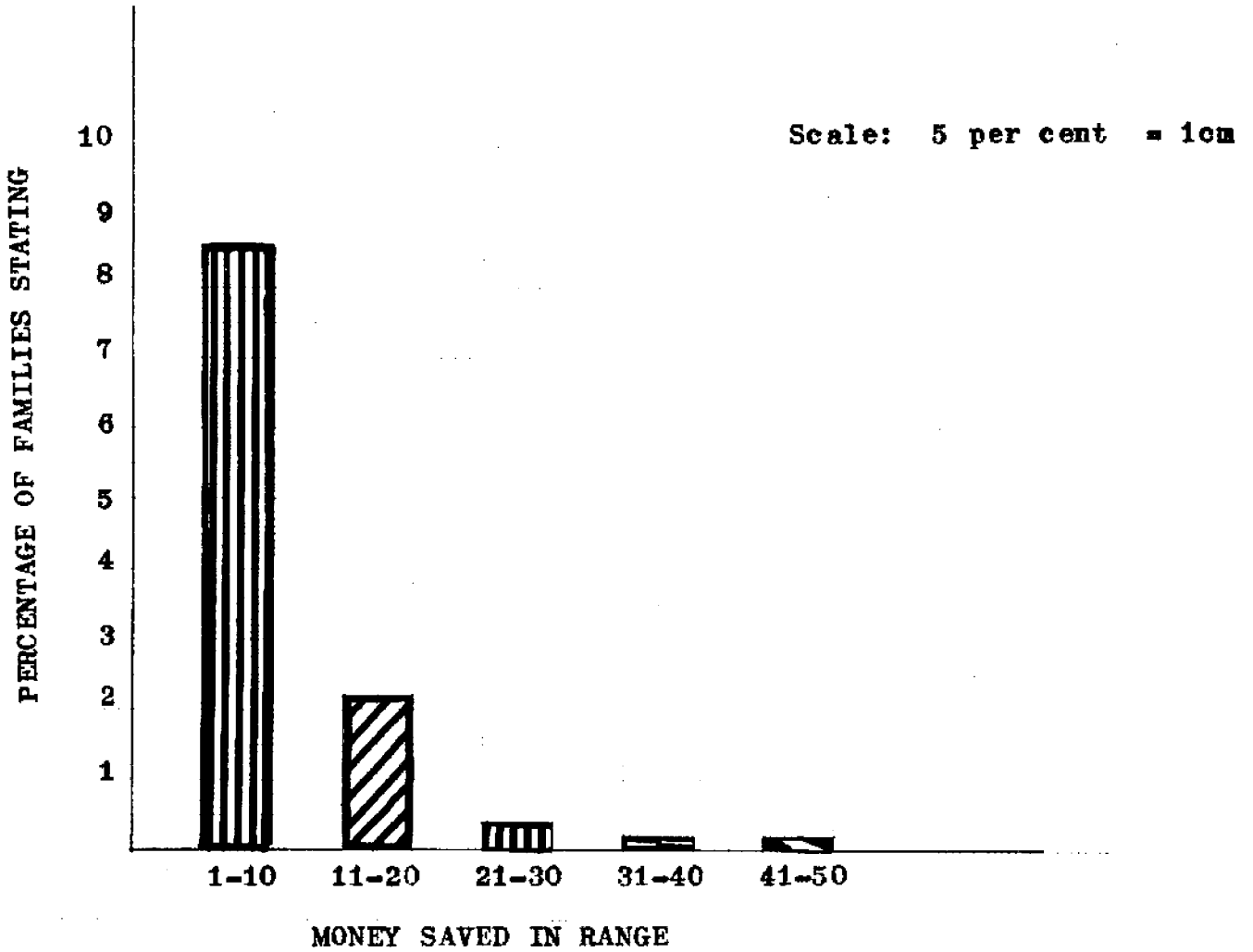


FIGURE - 3  
MONEY SAVED BY IRONING

**B. Results of the experiment:**

The amount of current consumed for sixty hours of ironing is presented in Table IX.

TABLE IX

## AMOUNT OF CURRENT CONSUMED FOR SIXTY HOURS OF IRONING

S.No.	Current consumption in units	Number of families stating
1.	10 - 11	3
2.	11 - 12	10
3.	12 - 13	2

From Table IX it is clear that in ten households the current consumption ranged between 11 - 12 units, while the current consumption in three houses were 10-11 units, in two houses it was found to be 12-13 units.

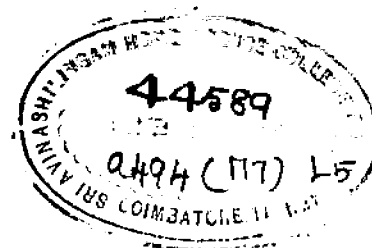
On the basis of dhobi charge, the money saved by ironing was found out and the same excluding current charge is given in Table X.

**TABLE X**  
**MONEY SAVED BY IRONING**

S.No.	Money saved in Rupees. (range) Excluding current charge	Number of families stating
1.	35 - 40	3
2.	40 - 45	6
3.	45 - 50	4
4.	Above 50	2

From the above Table it is understood that six families saved Rs.40-45 by ironing at home. Four families saved Rupees 45 - 50, while three families saved Rs.35-40, the remaining two were able to save more than Rs.50 by ironing at home in the given period.

Hence ironing at home can be considered as means of stretching the family income, which could be used for other expenses.



## V SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The findings of the study 'Ironing as a means of stretching the family income', are summarised below:

### A. Survey:

1. The majority of the families interviewed had an income ranging from Rs.501-1000.
2. Sixty three per cent of the family spent Rs.10-50 per month on clothing.
3. Majority of the families surveyed were found to possess an automatic iron.
4. Garments were ironed mostly once in a week due to lack of time.
5. Items ironed included mainly gent's, ladie's and children's garments. Accessories and furnishing items were ironed by very few families.
6. The money saved by most of the homemakers by ironing ranged from Rs.1-10.

### B. Experiment:

1. The amount of current consumption in most of the houses ranged from 11-12 units.
2. Money saved by the homemakers excluding current charge ranged from Rs.35 to 50.

When the results of the experiment are compared with that of the survey, it is clear that homemakers are able to save more money than what they guess.

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**APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX I**

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE TO ELICIT INFORMATION REGARDING IRONING**

**1. Name of the Investigator:**

**2. Name of the Homemaker:**

**3. Address:**

**4. Total income of the family:**

**Number of family members:**

**5. How much do you spend on clothing?**

**6. Do you iron clothes at home?**

**Reasons for ironing at home:**

**7. How often do you iron clothes at home?**

**8. List the items that are ironed at home?**

**a. Gent's Garments:**

**b. Ladies Garments:**

**c. Children's Garments:**

**d. Accessories:**

**e. Home Furnishings:**

9. a. Do you iron the starched clothes at home?

b. Reasons:

10. List the steps that you follow in ironing?

11. What type of iron do you use at home?

Coal:

Electric: a. Automatic

b. Non-automatic

Brand Names:

Cost of the iron:

12. a. Are you able to stretch your family income by ironing?

b. If yes how much money do you save by ironing?

13. a. Do you have any problem in ironing clothes?

b. If yes, state the problems and the methods you adopt to overcome?

14. How much do you spend for the maintenance of the iron?

APPENDIX II

PROFORMA TO EVALUATE THE ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION DUE TO IRONING

S.No.	Name of the Garment	Number of garments to be ironed	Time taken for ironing the garments	Electricity Consumption	
				Initial	Final
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