

Fabric Feel Tester developed at 100 times less cost with DST support

Researcher from Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi (IITD) has developed a Fabric Feel Tester at a cost which is 100 times less than the one available in the market presently with the support of Department of Science & Technology's (DST) Technology Development and Transfer Division.

The unique feature of the instrument developed by Dr. Apurba Das and his team is that it measures the subjective fabric feel perception and expresses it by an objective numerical value. The existing Kawabata Evaluation System of Fabrics (KESF) system used in the clothing industry is very complex and requires 4 different modules. The system developed by IIT Delhi has simplified the complex system thereby reducing the cost.

The cost of the new fabric feel tester is Rs. 1.75 lakhs as compared to the cost of the complete KESF equipment which is more than Rs. 1.5 crore. The instrument serves the purpose to measure fabric softness as well as feel directly and select the optimum fabric finish treatment by comparing the feel. It checks change in fabric feel after chemical or mechanical treatment and thus helps in developing newer fabrics/finishings with better feel.

Fabric feel is a generic term for the textile sensations associated with fabrics, and it markedly influences the consumer preferences of textile products. The device finds its usage broadly in dyeing & finishing in textile and apparel industries, weaving industries, garment manufacturing industries, testing laboratories and academic and research institutions. It is very helpful to the industries who are dealing with the production, evaluation and application of textile fabrics for process, quality and quick decision making.

The patent for the technology has been filed and Technology has been transferred to M/s Texlab Industries Ltd., Ahmedabad, and the product is commercially available.

