

TECHNOLOGICAL ADAPTATION IN TRADITIONAL FABRIC DISCHARGE PRINTING IN GHANA

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ABSTRACT

Fabric discharge printing involves the process of colour removal over a previously dyed fabric to produce a white or a lighter coloured design fabric. Though its effect is one of the most adaptable print techniques used for fabric decoration, its dependency on exports thickeners, how the discharging agent is used, from the mixing to its production to finishing, posed a major problem that resulted in weak and shorter life span of fabric used. The discharging powder was mixed with only water and applied on dischargeable cotton fabric, using the drawing or pouring method to produce a selectively discharged pattern that created an undesirable bleeding print effect. However, in this project, a locally produced discharge paste consisting of the discharging powder and a stable prepared local starch as a thickener was used instead, to create a precise, definite design-edge print effect on the dischargeable fabric via the hand screen printing method. The methodologies used was the action, the experimental and the descriptive methods under the qualitative research approach. The effect achieved, was as a result of adhering to the right print paste preparation and consistency, and the temperature of the prepared starch applied in the mixture. The end result proved successful under pH 7.5 at 60°C of discharge print paste consistency, used within 60 min of printing time. The conclusion drawn was that the new methodology adapted was able to resolve the earlier problems of discharge printing that enhanced the work of the discharge printers. The methodology used has now become an integral part of the traditional printing practices, in the local printing industry for the past ten years.

Keywords: Discharge, definite design, print, dischargeable cotton fabric, locally prepared print paste, Hand-Screen printing, starch.