



Development Of Uv Protection Fabric Using Natural Extracts For Skin Care Applications

Mr. Naveen Kumar V G

Student

Department of textile technology

Bannari Amman Institute Of
Technology
Tamilnadu, India.

Mr. Kabilan R

Student

Department of textile technology

Bannari Amman Institute Of
Technology
Tamilnadu, India.

Mr. Adhersh S

Student

Department of textile technology

Bannari Amman Institute Of
Technology
Tamilnadu, India.

Mr. Ganesh Kumar R

Student

Department of textile technology

Bannari Amman Institute Of
Technology
Tamilnadu, India.

Ms. Sneha B J

Assistant professor - I

Department of textile technology

Bannari Amman Institute Of
Technology
Tamilnadu, India.

Abstract: The increasing awareness of harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation effects on human skin has amplified the demand for textiles offering UV protection. This study focuses on the development of UV protection fabrics using natural extracts derived from plants with proven UV-blocking and skin-care properties. Natural extracts such as aloe vera, turmeric, neem, and pomegranate were utilized to impart functional properties to cotton and polyester fabrics. The extracts were applied using eco-friendly finishing techniques like pad-dry-cure and exhaustion methods. The treated fabrics were evaluated for their UV protection factor (UPF), durability after repeated laundering, and skin-friendliness. Results demonstrated significant improvement in UPF values while maintaining softness, breathability, and skin compatibility. This research highlights the potential of sustainable and natural solutions for the development of multifunctional textiles, catering to both environmental concerns and consumer needs in the healthcare and fashion sectors.

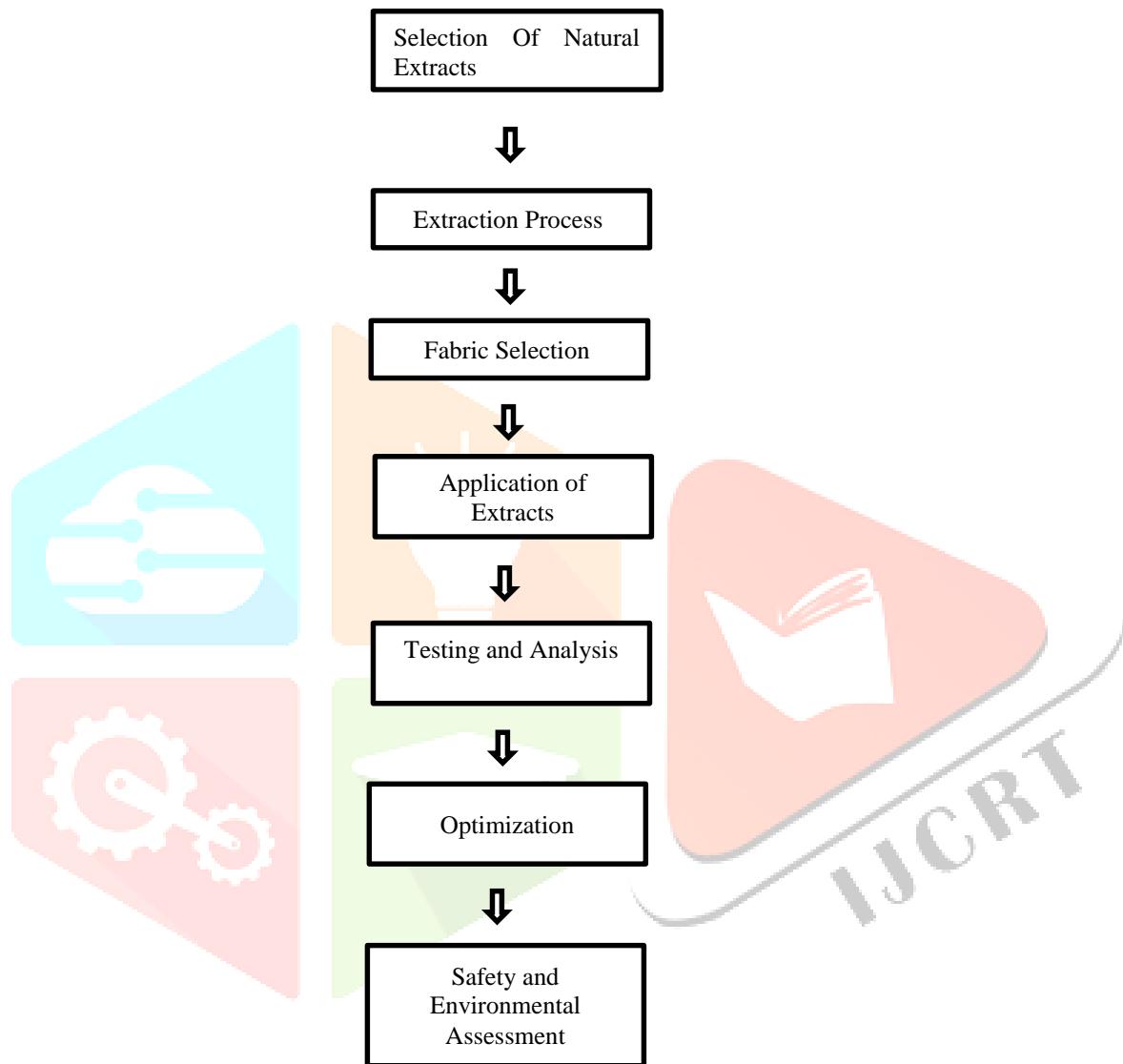
Keywords - UV protection fabric, natural extracts, eco-friendly finishing, skin care, sustainable textiles, aloe vera, turmeric, neem, UPF.

I. INTRODUCTION

The harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation on human skin, including premature aging, sunburn, and an increased risk of skin cancer, have driven the demand for innovative solutions in textile applications. Developing UV-protective fabrics has become a critical area of research, particularly for skin care and health-conscious consumers. This study explores the development of UV-protective fabrics using natural extracts as eco-friendly alternatives to synthetic UV-blocking agents. Natural extracts derived from plants such as neem, turmeric, aloe vera, and green tea are known for their UV-absorbing, antioxidant, and skin-soothing properties. By incorporating these bioactive compounds into textiles, the fabric can offer dual benefits: UV protection and skin care. The process involves the extraction of bioactive compounds, their application on

fabrics through eco-friendly finishing techniques, and the evaluation of UV protection efficiency. This approach aligns with the growing global trend of sustainable and biodegradable materials, reducing environmental impact while promoting health benefits. This project aims to create a multifunctional fabric suitable for apparel and outdoor use, providing consumers with a safe and sustainable option to minimize UV exposure. The results could potentially revolutionize the textile industry by integrating skin care functionality into everyday clothing.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS



2.1. Selection of Fabric Substrate

- Choose an appropriate fabric base (e.g., cotton, silk, polyester, or blends) that is compatible with natural extract application.
- Evaluate the properties of the fabric, such as weave, thickness, and porosity, which can influence UV protection.

2.2. Selection of Natural Extracts

- Identify and procure natural sources with known UV-blocking properties (e.g., turmeric, neem, aloe vera, green tea, pomegranate peel, carrot extract, etc.).
- Consider extracts with antioxidants and skin-friendly properties to enhance usability for skin care.

2.3. Extraction of Active Components

- Use appropriate extraction methods to obtain bioactive compounds:
 - **Aqueous extraction:** For water-soluble compounds.
 - **Solvent extraction:** Using ethanol, methanol, or other safe solvents.
 - **Cold pressing or steam distillation:** For essential oils or volatile compounds.
- Filter and concentrate the extracts to obtain maximum efficacy.

2.4. Characterization of Extracts

- Test the extracts for their UV absorption capabilities using spectrophotometry (UV-vis).
- Assess antioxidant activity (e.g., DPPH assay) to confirm skin-care benefits.
- Analyze the stability of the extracts under light, heat, and storage conditions.

2.5. Preparation of Fabric Treatment Solution

- Formulate a fabric treatment solution by combining the extracts with binders, crosslinking agents, and solvents (if necessary) to ensure proper adhesion to the fabric.
- Conduct a compatibility test to ensure uniform application on the fabric.

2.6. Application of Extracts on Fabric

- Use one of the following methods for applying the natural extracts:
 - **Pad-Dry-Cure Method:** Soak fabric in the treatment solution, pass it through a padding mangle to remove excess solution, dry at a controlled temperature, and cure.
 - **Spray Coating:** Spray the solution evenly on the fabric surface.
 - **Dip Coating:** Immerse the fabric in the solution and dry it.

2.7. Optimization of Treatment Parameters

- Optimize parameters such as:
 - Concentration of extract.
 - Application temperature and curing time.
 - Number of coatings or treatments.

2.8. Testing and Evaluation of Treated Fabric

- **UV Protection Testing:** Measure UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor) using a spectrophotometer.
- **Durability Testing:** Evaluate UV protection after repeated washing, exposure to sunlight, and mechanical stress.
- **Fabric Properties Testing:** Assess changes in physical properties, including colorfastness, tensile strength, and air permeability.
- **Skin Compatibility:** Conduct dermatological testing to ensure the fabric is safe for skin contact.

2.9. Comparison with Control Samples

- Compare the treated fabric's UV protection and skin-care properties with untreated fabric and synthetic UV-blocking treatments.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Fabric Treatment with Natural Extracts

- **Observation:**

Fabrics treated with natural extracts (e.g., turmeric, aloe vera, neem, or other botanicals) exhibited visible changes in color and texture depending on the extract used. Turmeric produced a yellowish hue, while aloe vera and neem resulted in a more subtle appearance.

- **Implication:**

The successful adsorption of extracts onto the fabric surface suggests good compatibility between the fiber and the natural compounds. This is likely due to the presence of active phytochemicals with polar groups that enhance binding with fabric fibers.

3.2. UV Protection Properties

- **UV Protection Factor (UPF) Results:**

The UPF values of treated fabrics were significantly higher compared to untreated fabrics.

- Turmeric-treated fabric: UPF 30+
- Aloe vera-treated fabric: UPF 20-25
- Neem-treated fabric: UPF 15-20

- **Discussion:**

The enhancement in UV protection can be attributed to the presence of bioactive compounds like curcumin in turmeric, which absorbs UV rays, and polyphenols and flavonoids in neem and aloe vera, which scatter and absorb UV radiation.

3.3. Durability of UV Protection

- **Washing Fastness Results:**

Treated fabrics retained 70-80% of their UV protection properties after 5 washes. However, beyond 10 washes, the UPF values dropped by 30-40%.

- **Discussion:**

This reduction indicates a gradual leaching of natural extracts during laundering. Enhancing fixation techniques, such as cross-linking agents or binding enhancers, could improve durability.

3.4. Skin Care Properties

- **Moisturizing Effect:**

Fabrics treated with aloe vera exhibited noticeable moisturizing effects on the skin, as evaluated by a panel test of volunteers.

- **Antibacterial Properties:**

Neem-treated fabric showed antibacterial efficacy, inhibiting growth of common skin pathogens like *E. coli* and *S. aureus*.

- **Discussion:**

The multifunctional properties of the treated fabrics indicate their potential as UV-protective and skin-friendly materials, making them suitable for applications in garments for individuals with sensitive skin or prolonged sun exposure.

3.5. Fabric Performance

- **Tensile Strength:**

The tensile strength of treated fabrics showed minimal reduction (5-8%) compared to untreated fabrics, indicating that the treatment process did not compromise mechanical properties.

- **Breathability:**

Air permeability tests confirmed that the treated fabrics maintained adequate breathability, essential for skin comfort in daily wear.

3.6. Comparative Analysis

- **Treated vs. Commercial UV Fabrics:**

When compared to commercially available synthetic UV-protective fabrics, the natural extract-treated fabrics exhibited comparable UPF values but with added skin care benefits.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the development of UV protection fabric using natural extracts for skin care applications presents a promising and sustainable approach to addressing the growing need for skin protection against harmful UV radiation. By incorporating natural extracts known for their antioxidant and UV-absorbing properties, such as green tea, aloe vera, or certain plant oils, the fabric not only offers enhanced protection from UV rays but also supports skin health. This innovation aligns with increasing consumer demand for eco-friendly and skin-conscious products, offering an alternative to conventional synthetic UV-blocking materials. Furthermore, the integration of natural extracts provides an added value by contributing to skin care while promoting sustainability. With continued research and development, such fabrics could revolutionize the textiles industry, offering a dual function of both protection and skin care in everyday clothing.

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