ABSTRACT

India has a long tradition of dyeing textiles with dyes obtained from plant source. Ancient dyers extracted dye from leaves, fruits, flowers, berries, root and even barks of various local plant. Natural dyes had lost their importance since the advent of synthetic dyes but owing to environmental problems the art of natural dyes is being revived.

It is to this effect that the present study was undertaken as a small step to study locally available dyes: Majeetha, turmeric and onion peels. Six mordants namely aluminium potassium sulphate salt, aluminium acetate, cupric sulphate, lead acetate, stannous chloride and tannic acid were used. Cotton fabric was used for dyeing under two condition.

1. Pre-mordanting
   a. Mordanting for 30 minutes
   b. Mordanting for 8 hours

2. Mordanting and dyeing together.

Block printing was also done colourfastness test of washing, ironing and crocking were done.

It was concluded from the study that use of mordants is necessary to improve colour fastness with the use of different mordants a variety of colour shades were obtained. Majeetha has shown excellent to good result when mordanted with aluminium potassium sulphate salt, cupric sulphate and tannic acid. Turmeric when used as a dye, mordanting for 8 hours with aluminium potassium sulphate salt, aluminium acetate, cupric sulphate and tannic acid gave better result. Onion peels did not exhibit good colourfastness property in comparison to majeetha and turmeric. Block printing with dye extract from majeetha, turmeric and onion peels using commercially available binder gave excellent colourfastness result.