

Multi-Functional Muslim Prayer Attire (Telekung Solat) For Disabled Women

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Abstract

Prayer attire in the market is mostly designed for women with only one function and consists of two pieces' cloth, which is the headcover and bottom piece. Many brands sell prayer attire, but they do not sell prayer attire that has specific designs for disabled women because they think it is not profitable. Unsuitable design for the disabled user especially on prayer attire and the existing product in the market does not fit and fulfil the attributes needed in terms of fabric and durability. Some issues need to be answered, which attributes need to be considered in designing prayer attire that will fulfil the multi-functional purposes and what are the needs required in multi-functional Muslim prayer attire for a wheelchair user. This research is aimed to identify the design attributes and to analyse the need to be considered in designing a Muslim prayer attire for wheelchair users focusing on Spinal cord injury. This study contributes to enhancing the existing prayer attire specifically for disabled women through multifunctional design attributes such as functionality, aesthetics and technical. The observation, survey and interview were used to obtain additional unknown or reliable information, authoritative opinions, serious and professional assessments of the research topic. This research found that the enhancement of the characteristics of multifunctional prayer attire for disabled women would improve the functional features in the design. The final product met the donning/ doffing, versatility, practicality and durability with the design projected to achieve the objective and also to educate the public on the importance of having a proper or suitable attire for disabled women which is multifunctional and comfortable, especially when performing prayers during religious activity.

Keywords - Multifunctional, Prayer attire, Disabled women

1. Introduction

Prayer attire in the market is mostly designed for women with only one function and consists of two pieces' clothes, which are the headcover and bottom piece. However, lately, the demand for more practical prayer attire has increased. Many brands sell prayer attire, but they do not sell prayer attire that has specific designs for disabled women because they think it is not profitable. Certain disabled for example those wheelchair users with spinal cord injury (SCI) conditions still allow the individual to work and run normal activities as they are able to move with the help of a wheelchair or any device assistance. Disabled people need the convenience of performing these prayers as they are limited in movement and action. Praying attire also helps to facilitate their prayers. To ensure activity for disabled women runs smoothly, the appropriate praying attire is required. The prayer attire is not about fashion but women still want to look and feel good when they wear it. But, it will challenge disabled people because they need prayer attire that is more comfortable and practical with their condition. According to Kosinski (2019) people with physically different body shapes than a brand's "average" may not fit into the brand's clothes because the brand did not design the clothing to fit their body, especially

people living with physical disabilities.

Unsuitable clothing may not just impact a wheelchair user's comfort but also their health. Even though there has been an emphasis on the wearing of clothes in social situations in a more static sense, there is more work to be done on clothing and mobility (Wilkinson et al, (2019). Therefore, the objective of this paper is to identify design attributes of Muslim prayer attire for wheelchair users focusing on Spinal cord injury and to analyze the needs of multifunctional prayer attire. The existing product in the market does not fit and fulfil the attributes needed in terms of fabric and durability. Based on Saadiah Ismail (2017) interview with one of the participants of Fiesta Muslimah BH 2017 (FMBH'17), argued that women are usually less concerned with the fabric of the prayer attire. However, women with disabilities need special materials and fabrics to enhance their comfort as their mobility is restricted, garments should not only focus on functional needs, but also on aesthetics and expressive elements. An aesthetically pleasing garment allows wearers an opportunity to express themselves and break social barriers. Figure 1 showed one of the respondents had problems in using existing prayer attire.



Figure 1. Respondent shows a tutorial on wearing prayer attire on a wheelchair (Sources: Personal Collection)

1. 2. Literature Review

A literature review was conducted by the researcher as a step and process for this research paper to take a critical look at the past and current literature (facts and views) that already exists in this area. After that, the researcher conducts a critical analysis that shows an evaluation of the existing product and a relationship between the different works. It demonstrates the relevance of the research.

2.1. People with spinal cord injury

Spinal cord injuries lead to different types of impairment. However, most people with spinal cord injuries require a wheelchair for effective mobility and independence. Many individuals with a spinal cord injury (SCI) rely on their wheelchairs to complete daily mobility tasks. Unfortunately, the surrounding environment creates many mobility challenges for wheelchair users (Oyster et al, 2012). There are obstacles and challenges in their daily lives. This is creatively challenging especially in dressing for women with disabilities. Therefore, the approach is to redefine the design of new novels based on NHHdesign attributes such as functional, flexibility and comfort.

2.2. Prayer attire

The ethics and etiquette of wearing prayer attire is a garment that covers the genitals. Only in some Islamic countries including Malaysia prayer attire is in the form of prayer attire. Many types of praying attire are designed to enhance the quality and functionality of prayer attire for women. In addition, prayer attire is not

about fashion but women still want to look and feel good when they wear it. But, it will challenge disabled people because they need prayer attire that is more comfortable and practical with their condition. According to Kosinski (2019) people with physically different body shapes than a brand's "average" may not fit into the brand's clothes because the brand did not design the clothing to fit their body, especially people living with physical disabilities. However, this paper solves into praying attire that includes the needs of women with disabilities.

2.3. Multifunctional

A variety of functional clothing products are available in the market such as protective clothing, medical clothing or sports clothing, even though little information is available regarding the principles employed in these products. The multifunctional garment arose to fill some wanted requirements in the new lifestyles and "many designers of super modern clothing have adopted a modular system of dressing in an attempt to simplify the complexities and unify the discontinuities of life (Morais, 2015). The design research has to attend with product multifunctional ability includes adjustable, mobility, donning and doffing, safety and flexibility. Functional considerations are concerned with a product's ability to perform the tasks required by the user. While functional clothes specially designed for people with disabilities can benefit other people too. For example, in figure 2, the existing brands which are making multifunctional Muslim prayer attire based on user's needs.



Figure 2. The versatile prayer attire for travel by Prayer Parka. (Sources: Internet)

II. 3. Methodology

In the research methodology chapter, the main approach, research designs and the choice of research data collection methods that were applied will be explained in detail. The main approach taken by the researcher is the qualitative method. Qualitative method is used to analyze the requirements that can be interpreted in order to develop a deeper knowledge of multifunctional Muslim prayer attire for disabled women. This incorporates using all the appropriate data collection methods that can be reliable to the research objectives. There is an understanding of the concept of adaptive clothing in prayer attire from respondents' point of view which is the obstacles during praying on the wheelchair and to identify the design attributes that need to be considered in designing a Muslim prayer attire for disabled women. The data will explain the information followed by the list of design exploration to be used as a step in making the final product.

3.1 Instruments

3.1 Observation

The researcher's approach in market survey is to get updated, observing and in order to do some product review with the existing product. It seems self-evident to say that the researcher needs to know, and communicate

clearly, the objectives of the survey. The observation has been conducted at selected brand such as Najjah, Siti Khadijah, Prayer Parka, Telekung transform Afdlin Shauki and EZ Premium

3.2. Actual survey

For the questionnaires, the researcher put technical as half percentage (Figure 3) due to from the preliminary study the responses from respondents are mostly on practicality enhancement of prayer attire. A part of half is usability and well balanced with aesthetic due to the aspect of concinnity.

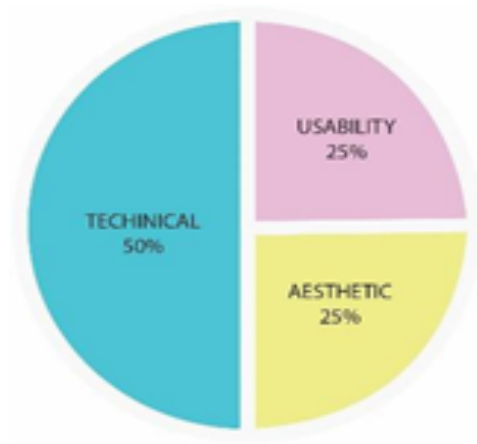


Figure 3. Three main criteria perspective in designing questionnaire

The actual survey was performed to determine the design attributes, need to be considered in designing Muslim prayer attire for disabled women. Survey is to identify if the answers can meet objectives number two of the study.

3.3. Interview

The Researcher interviewed five (5) people consisting of medical experts, designers and entrepreneurs through open-ended questions that allow them to express their views on the relevant issues as well as to evaluate the potential in designs of prayer attire for special needs. This type of research involves an open nature of questions that allows the expert to tell their point of view on the issue. A total of 3 questions were constructed and the questions were designed to meet the stated objectives.

III. 4. Project Outcomes

The researcher found that there are eight (8) elements of design attributes highlighted by interviewees through interview. The researcher also conducted a thematic analysis by themes in column charts as seen on Figure 4. Furthermore, the practicality, comfort, flexibility, and functionality. Movement, user friendly and donning and doffing which are vital design attributes. These elements need to be emphasized as these are required criteria in a design, especially to produce special products for the disabled.

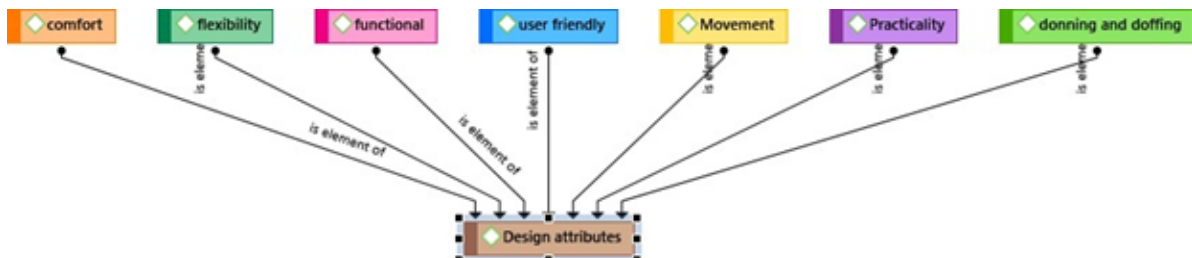


Figure 4. Column chart of thematic analysis by themes

IV. 5. Conclusion

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