



# *Pregnancy Time: Dress for Teachers*

## National Vision and Social Responsibility

A study conducted by the Ministry of Education and Fashion Design & Product Development Degree Course, Department of Textile & Clothing Technology of Moratuwa University, estimates that out of the approximately 236,000 teachers within the school system, 172,00 are female teachers. Among them approximately 10,000 female teachers request maternity leave annually. Even during their pregnancies, female teachers continue to wear the saree in order to maintain the dignity and respect of the profession. Considering the physical difficulties that pregnant women face towards the last few months of pregnancy, the Ministry of Education has introduced a collection of maternity wear for the teachers. The National Project was carried out with the consultation of a panel appointed by the Ministry of Education that included the Secretary of Education, Directors of the Education Ministry, Gynecologists, Consultant Family Medicine Officer of the Ministry of Education, Principals of National Schools of Colombo, the Provincial Educational Directors and two senior academics of Fashion Design & Product Development Degree Course at the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology, University of Moratuwa. The research, concept development, and product development of the maternity wear collection were carried out by Dr. Virajini Medagedara Karunaratne and Dr. Gayathri Ranathunga.

“ Even during their pregnancies, female teachers continue to wear the saree in order to maintain the dignity and respect of the profession. ”

## Challenges: design and product development

Among the various demands that a clothing for pregnant women must meet,

1. Achieving dimensional correspondence with the body.
2. Comfort in dressing and undressing
3. The use of appropriate materials and procedures for fitting and adjustment in response to changes in conformation in body

After identifying these characteristics, the challenge becomes identifying body conformation alterations and ensuring optimal comfort while developing a product range for this category. Because pregnancy is a continual metamorphosis, maternity wear must be created to be comfortable and versatile, guaranteeing that the garments are usable and practical for a long period of time. The study included in-person interviews and a study of morphologic indicators of pregnant women, the alterations observed, and their application in pattern creation. Based on the principles of maternity wear, researched in terms of comfort, style, and dignity. Participants were between 20 and 36 weeks of pregnancy, 28 to 34 years old in the government schools located Western Province. The

research was carried out within one and half years from 2017 to April 2018.

Fabric was supplied by the Ministry of Education. Subject experts rendered their expertise in view of disseminate knowledge as considering the national responsibility without any monetary gain.

The dress collection was unveiled at the State Ceremony held on 24th May 2018 at the Ministry of Education, Isurupaya, Battaramulla patronized by the Hon. Minister of Education. Dr. Virajini Medagedara Karunaratne, delivered the national oration at the State Ceremony. This was a revolutionary project and a turning point in the history of the Sri Lankan education system. This national project was able to create a contemporary social discourse covering live radio and television programs, daily print media in trilingual, interviews, articles, cartoons, and by well-known women's magazines and design magazines in the country.

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## Development of a National Concept: "Tradition into Modernity" Inspirational sources



Queens of Kotte with "manthe" frilled Jacket

Elite females of 18th Century, Gangaramaya Kandy

King's "manthe" jacket, Degaldoruwa, temple, Kandy

Manthe Jacket, National Museum, Colombo, Reg. No 35-175-190

## Process of Design Development



Fripped details inspired of creating TEXTURE on design by using pin tucks



Traditional hand embroidery work on fripped collar Manthe Jacket, National Museum, Colombo, Reg. No 35-175-190

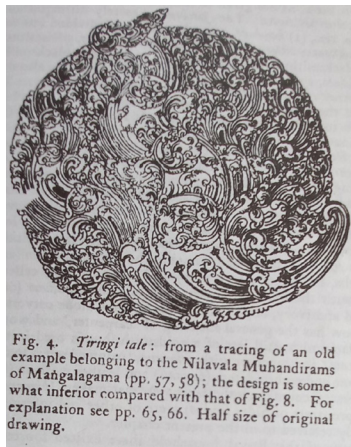
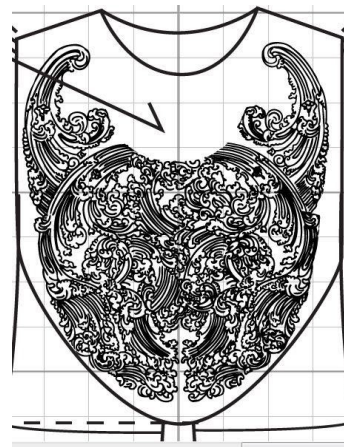


Fig. 4. *Thirigithale*: from a tracing of an old example belonging to the Nilavala Muhandiramams of Mahgalagama (pp. 57, 58); the design is somewhat inferior compared with that of Fig. 8. For explanation see pp. 65, 66. Half size of original drawing.



Traditional design motif "Thirigithale" inspiration for embroidery of the collar



Inverted pleat developed by inspiring horizontal down pleats of the royal and elite female costumes



The vertical fold of the center drapes at two layers downwards creates a ramification of delicate, flowing and rippling thus dynamic design element of dress. This vertical fold emphasizes apparent height of the wearer and also provides ease of movement.

### Process of Design Development

**MATERNITY WEAR PROJECT FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS 2017**  
**STYLE - MW01**

**SHELL FABRIC UTILIZATION**  
Required Length - 2.87m  
Fabric width - 1.57m  
Consumption Avg. - 70.6%  
Fabric Usage - Cotton

**LINING FABRIC UTILIZATION**  
Required Length - 2.81m  
Fabric width - 1.57m  
Consumption Avg. - 35.5%  
Fabric Usage - Cotton

**COLOR PALETTE FOR MATERNITY WEAR**

POFFERON PALETTE	CREAM YELLOW
MINT BLUE	DAFFODIL PALETTE
SALICORN GREEN	ROSE PINK PALETTE
DOLLAR BILL PALETTE	CREAM PINK
BLESH PEACH	LAVENDER PURPLE
IVORY PALETTE	PERSEPOLIS PALETTE

Colour palette

### Proto Typing – Toile Development



Frequent observation of measurements of the pregnant teachers at the school premises Bomiriya Madya Maha Vidyalaya, Kaduwela, 2018



Introducing proto types of maternity wear: Ministry of Education Isurupaya Battaramulla, April 2018

## Final range of six maternity wear



## Publicizing the Project: Print Media



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