

## Coloration Process & Parameters for Knit Fabric Dyeing along with Different forms of Dyeing Faults & Correlated Remedies in Textile Dyeing Industries

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**Abstract:** Dyeing is one the most important part in the textiles manufacturing house. Various types of fabric coloration are performed in dyeing section based on the requirements & demand of the buyer. Lots of traditional dyeing processes are running industrially in different manufacturing unit to dye the fabric. Different dyeing factories perform different dyeing process. But all of the dyeing processes are not practically suitable for the coloration of the fabric to maintain the exactly required shade & quality of colored fabric. There's some criticism to perform the dyeing processes practically for getting the best output. For this purposes some of the industrially applicable & suitable dyeing processes are analyzed & discussed in this research paper. During & after coloration different types of dyeing faults arise. These types of problem arise due to the implementation of wrong dyeing procedure & also for lack of concentration by the responsible authority in the dyeing floor. To overcome such kind of problem root causes along with the remedies are also discussed in this research paper. The machine parameters setting like as proper process curve, Reel speed, Cycle time, temperature grading etc. are also extremely important to dye the fabric. Different types of knitted fabric like Single jersey, Rib, Lacoste, Interlock, Fleece requires different reel speed & cycle time to dye the fabric. Accordingly different types of color like turquoise, Anthracite, Khaki, Black, Navy, White, Jester red, Lemmon Yellow, Brown, Pale Blue, Ecru of different fabric like natural & synthetic also need different dyeing processes to get the required dyeing shade. Reactive dyes for cotton & synthetic dyes for polyester are widely used in coloration textile industry.

**Keywords:** Dyeing knit fabric, Machine, Shade, Dyes and Chemicals, Flow process, fastness

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### I. Introduction

Dyeing is a process of coloration of textile fabric by using some required dyes & chemical according to the specified shade, color & order. Dyeing is the aqueous application of dyes on textile substrate[1]. Dyes can be absorbed or adhere on to the substrate in solution form through covalent bond or complexes with salts or metals by chemical retention or physical adsorption. Dyes are of different types & applied to different fabrics like natural or synthetic in different methods[2]. Reactive dyes are most common for cotton fabric dyeing, disperse dyes are widely used for polyester fabric dyeing in the industry & pigments are also used for cotton & CVC fabric dyeing[3, 4].

Dyes are classified based on their physical & chemical structure. These types of structures are important for reaction or other dyeing mechanism with the fabric. Dyes exists chromophore group which are responsible for the coloration of the fabric[5, 6]. This chromophore contains different functional group like nitro, anthraquinone, azo, carbonyl, methane, aryl methane etc. Electron donating substituents intensify the color of chromophore is termed as auxochrome. Carboxyl, amine, sulphonate are some examples of the auxochrome[7].

More than 10,000 dyes & pigments have application for coloration in the manufacturing house. The production of synthetic dyes is more than  $7 \times 10^5$  tons annually all over the world per year[4, 8]. The processes used for the coloration of textiles depend on the types of fiber, yarn, Fabric structure & also on the quality requirements of dyed fabric. During dyeing the coloration process is most important for getting the proper shade & quality of the dyed fabric[9, 10].

Shade matching is the main task of dyeing section. Shade is the depth of color percentage. Shade is expressed in percentage of dye amount in unit weight of fabric[11]. Shade matching depends on the accuracy of the man's eye which is matched industrially in the light box. It is a visual process for this reason same shade may have difference comments from different person. So, dyeing expert or color expert is needed for this purpose[12]. Besides the manual shade matching system computer color matching system (CCMS) can help man to take decision about the shade of a specific sample[13, 14].

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## II. Experimental section

### 2.1. Materials

Knit Fabric (Various construction), Different Chemicals & dyes used by traditional dyeing industries.

### 2.2. Instruments

Color Matching Cabinet (Model 1: CAC 60, Brand Name: VeriVide, Origin: UK), DATACOLOR 650 (spectrometer and a photometer), Dyeing machines of Sclavos Brand (Microfiber group, Esquire group), Automation or dosing of dyes & chemicals, Light box etc.

### 2.3. Procedures

#### 2.3.1. Taking orders from marketing division

Firstly marketing division supplies Fabric Orders to the Planning and control division by a special format.

#### 2.3.2 Analyzing the orders

This section analyzes the orders according to buyers, Order Quantity, type of orders (i.e. type of fabric, color to be dyed etc.), delivery date etc. Then it selects which M/C. to use, no of M/C. to use, time required for production etc. This section plans for required quantity of fabric to be knitted (Order quantity + 6% of Order Quantity), knitting balance, fabric need to be dyed. Dyeing balance, RFD (Ready for delivery), RFD balance, delivered fabric and delivery balance.

#### 2.3.3. Planning for knitting

This section plans for knitting production. It selects machine for knit the fabric for specific type of fabric, type of yarn used, required GSM, width etc. It also gives delivery data for knitted fabric. It also places orders for buying of yarn from spinning mills by a specific schedule.

#### 2.3.4. Planning for dyeing the fabric

Production planning for dyeing is called 'Batch Plan'. According to the batch number and color, width, style and construction the batch plan is made. For easy understand this section gives some 'T.' cards. 'T' cards are serialized according to the priority of delivery. The batches and 'T' cards also serialized as to dye light shade at first and lastly the dark shades, since faulty shades can be converted to dark color later.

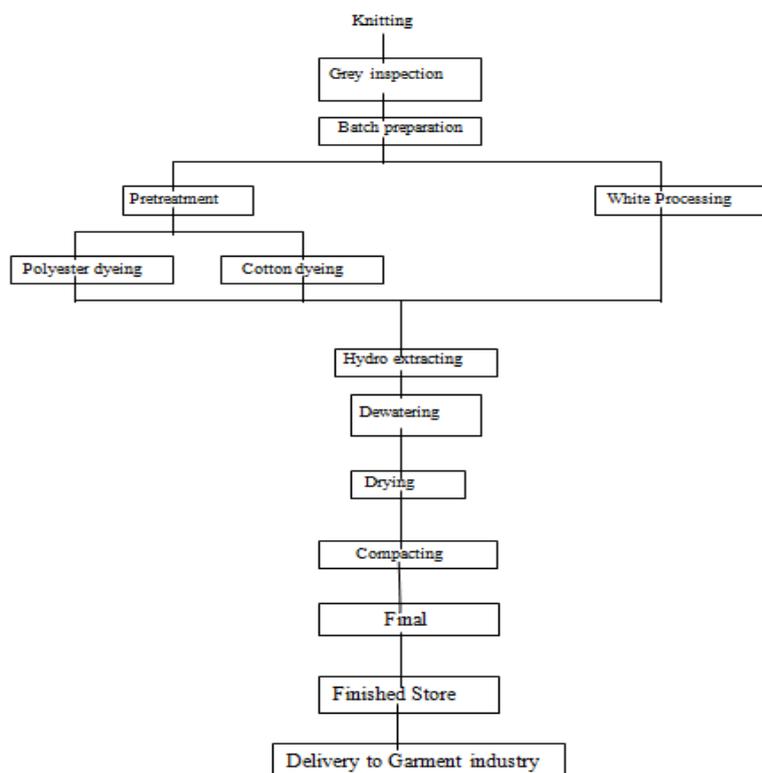
#### 2.3.4.5. Planning for finishing the fabric

Finishing schedule is same as the dyeing. After dyeing the material goes to the finishing section with the batch plan. Finished data is written to the batch card and is informed to the planning section.

#### 2.3.6. Preparation of dyed Sample

The sample preparation starts through receiving the fabric from knitting department. Then as per following sequence the sample proceeds [15, 16].

### 2.4. Sequence of operation for a textile manufacturing house



**Figure 1.** Sequence of operation for a textile manufacturing house

After taking the fabric from knitting department the dyeing section prepares the batch as per order given by buyer. Then dyeing of the fabric is performed in the designed machine according to the shades & fabric.

## 2.8 For starting dyeing, batch preparation is most important.

### 2.8.1. Batch preparation

Production planning for dyeing is called Batch Plan. According to the batch number, color, width, style and construction the batch plan is made. For easy understand, this section gives some 'T' cards. 'T' cards are serialized according to the priority of delivery. The batches and 'T' cards are also serialized as to dye light shade at first and lastly the dark shades, since faulty shade and can be converted to dark color later.

### Calculation of Winch Speed

Let,

Fabric weight = 1000kg

Per nozzle fabric weight =250kg

Fabric Diameter (open) = 56 inch

Cycle time or Dwell time = 2.5-3.0 m per minute

G.S.M =180

We know, GSM = gram / meter<sup>2</sup>

= gram / (Length × Diameter)

Or, Length = gram / (GSM × Diameter)

= (250×1000×100) / (56×2.54×180)

= 976 meters

$$\frac{\text{Fabric Length}}{\text{nozzle}} = \frac{\text{Fabric weight(kg)} \times 1000 \times 100}{\text{Fabric GSM} \times \text{Fabric diameter(")} \times 2.54(\text{cm}) \times \text{numberof nozzle}}$$

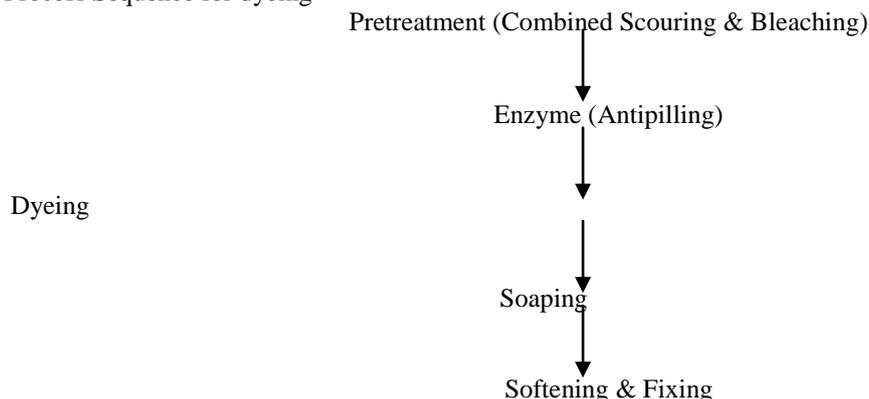
So, Winch or Reel Speed = per nozzle Fabric length / Cycle time  
= 976 / 3 meter/minute = 325 meter/minute [12].

### 2.8.2.Process sequence of batch preparation

- Receive batch card from Grey-In-Charge.
- Make the priority as per dyeing.
- Take one specific batch card.
- Check the availability of the fabric.
- Take required quantity of body fabric from ware-house.
- Make required no-rope maintaining equal length.
- Take collar/cuff as per size, keep the total weight.
- Distribute collar/cuff/rib in each rope equally ensure equal length.
- Stitch the fabric.
- Write down the weight against roll number in the back side of batch card.
- Write the total weight in batch card.
- Put signature and date.
- Fill up the production report form.

## 2.9. Coloration Process

Process Sequence for dyeing

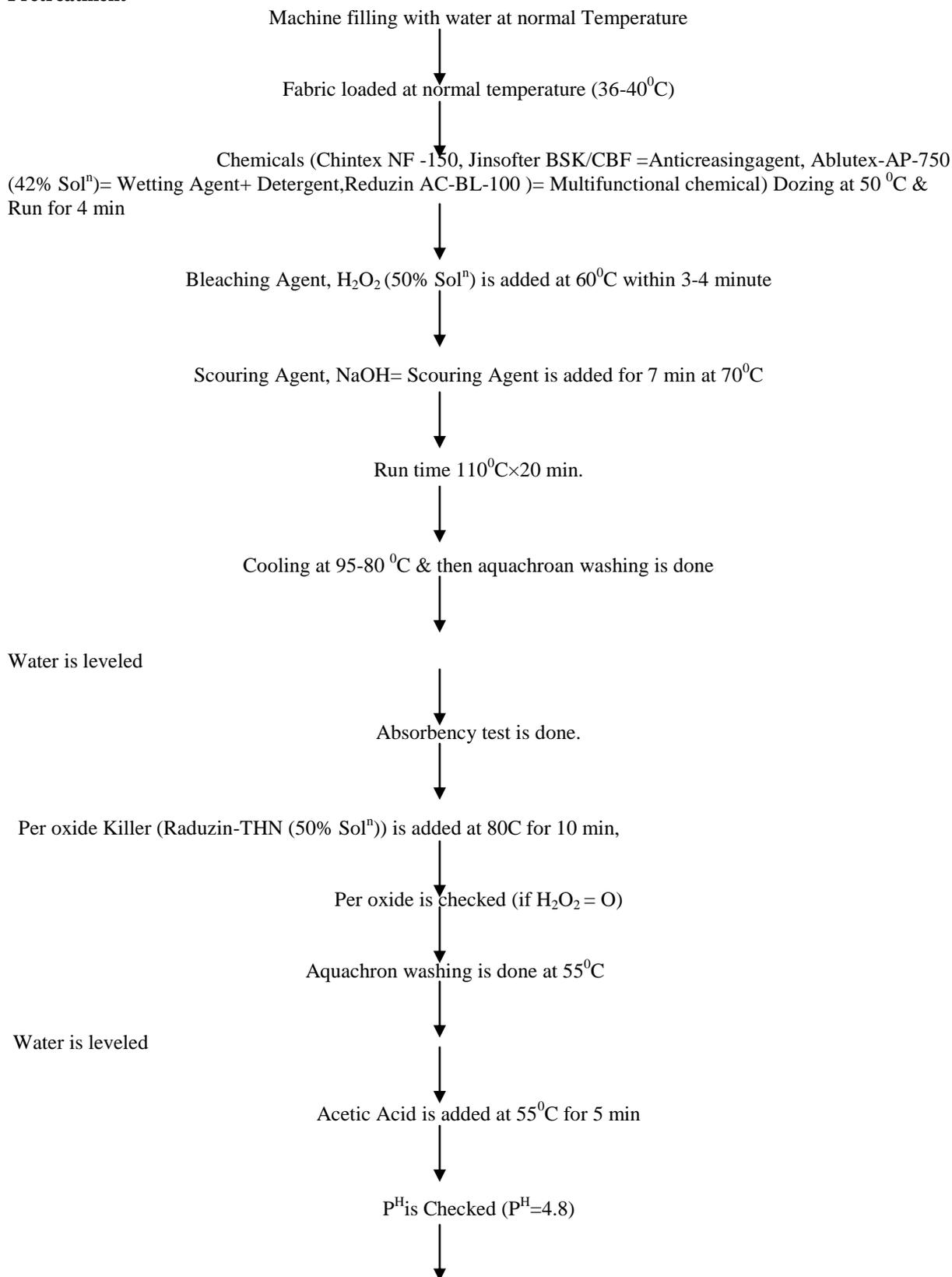


## 2.10. Isothermal dyeing Process

It's one of the most common & widely used dyeing processes at 60°C temperature.

### 2.10.1. Isothermaldyeing Process flow chart

#### Pretreatment



**Antipilling**

Washing Agent (Flock-BM /SQ-117) is added at 55<sup>0</sup>C & run for 10 min

P<sup>H</sup> is Checked (P<sup>H</sup>=4.8)

Enzyme (Retrocell PLX-TRA) at 55<sup>0</sup>C runs for 45 min

Drain out

Soda ash + Flock-BM is added at 80<sup>0</sup>C & run for 10 min to deactivate the action of enzyme

Aquachron washing is done

Acetic Acid is added at 60<sup>0</sup>C and run for 3-5 min

**Isothermal Dyeing**

Leveling agent (Jinlev-CL/RL) is added at 60<sup>0</sup>C and run for 10 min

P<sup>H</sup> is Checked (P<sup>H</sup>= 6-6.5 )

Dyes are mixed up by 20min added at 60<sup>0</sup> run for 10 min.

Salt is added at 60<sup>0</sup>C through transfer dosing for 24min and run for 20 min

Specific gravity of salt is checked

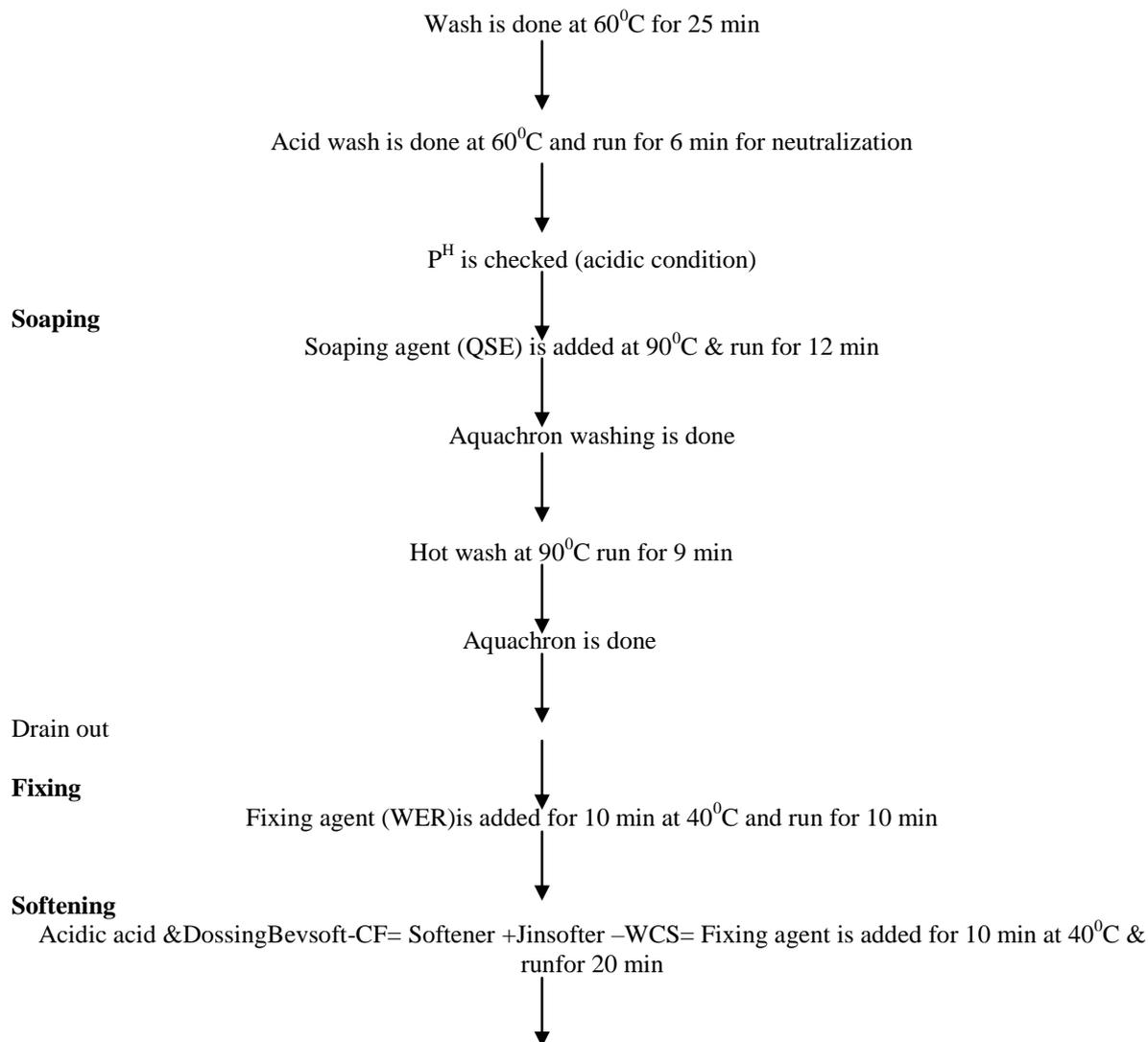
Soda is added at 60<sup>0</sup>C for 24 min and run for 5 min

P<sup>H</sup> is Checked (P<sup>H</sup>= 10-11.5 )

After 5 min shade is checked

If shade is not "OK" then it's checked after every 15 min until matching

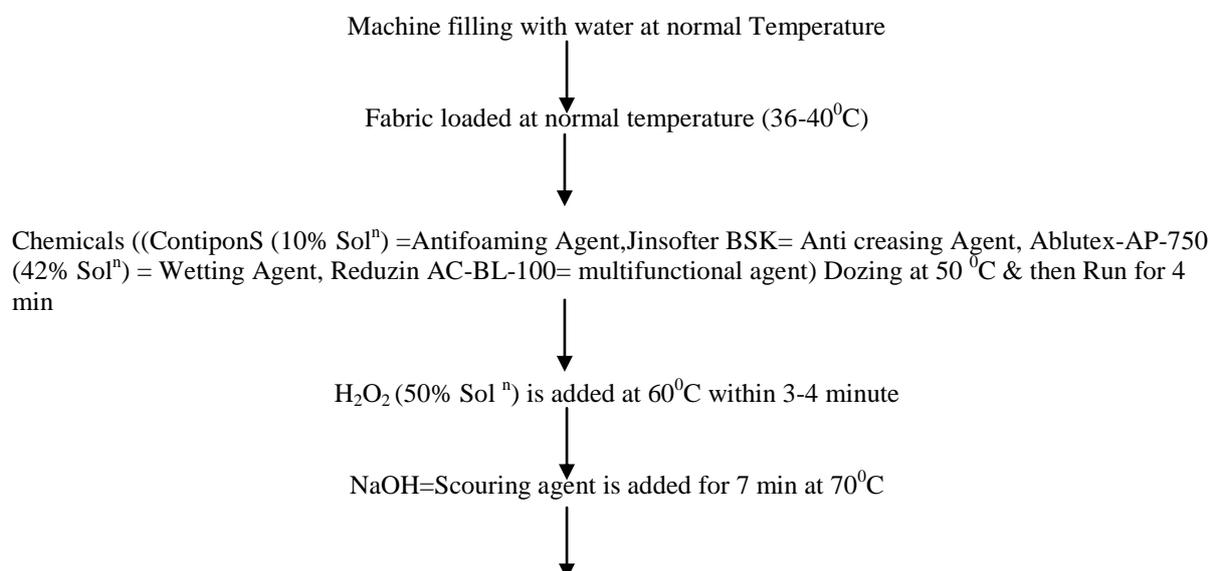
If shade is "OK"

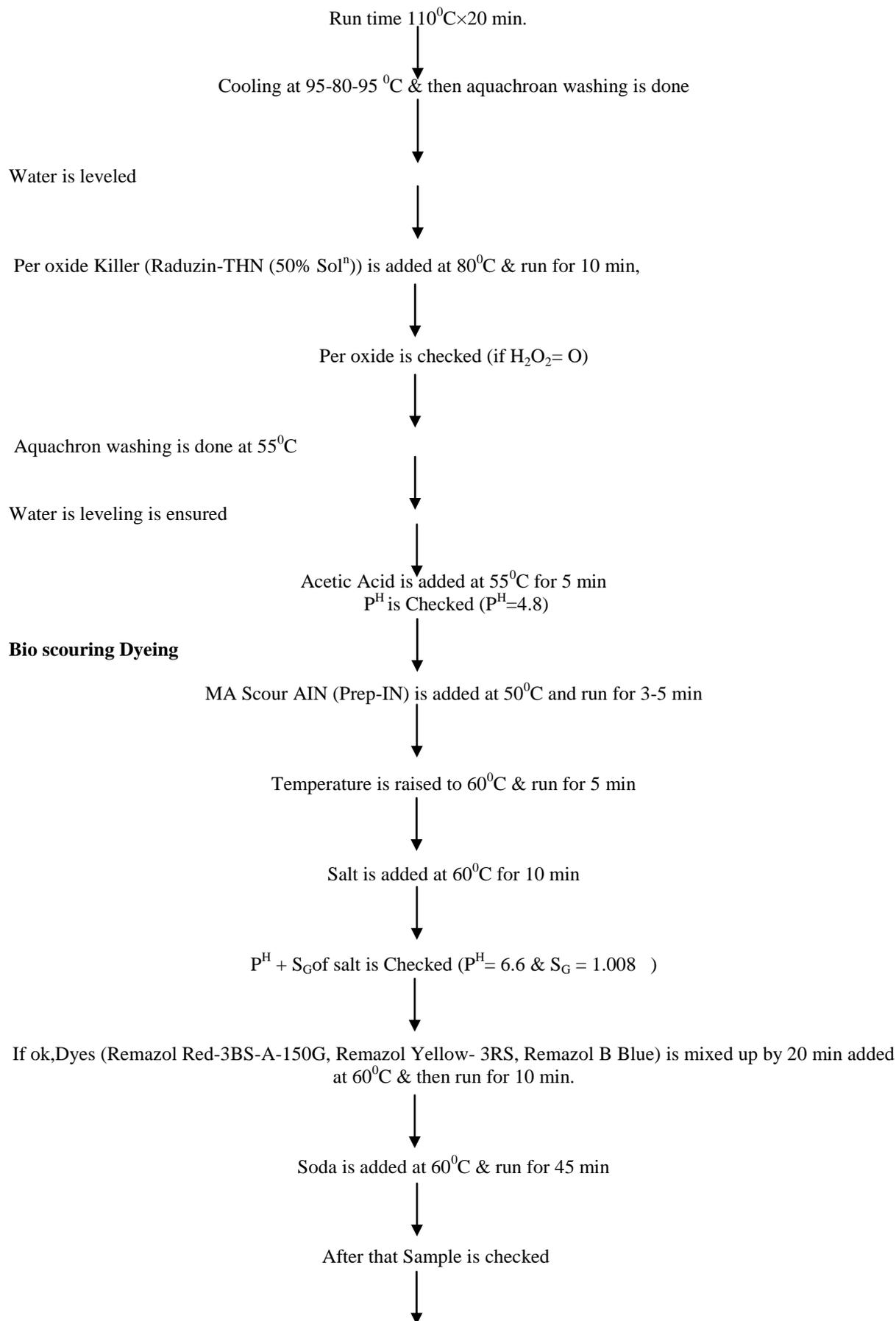


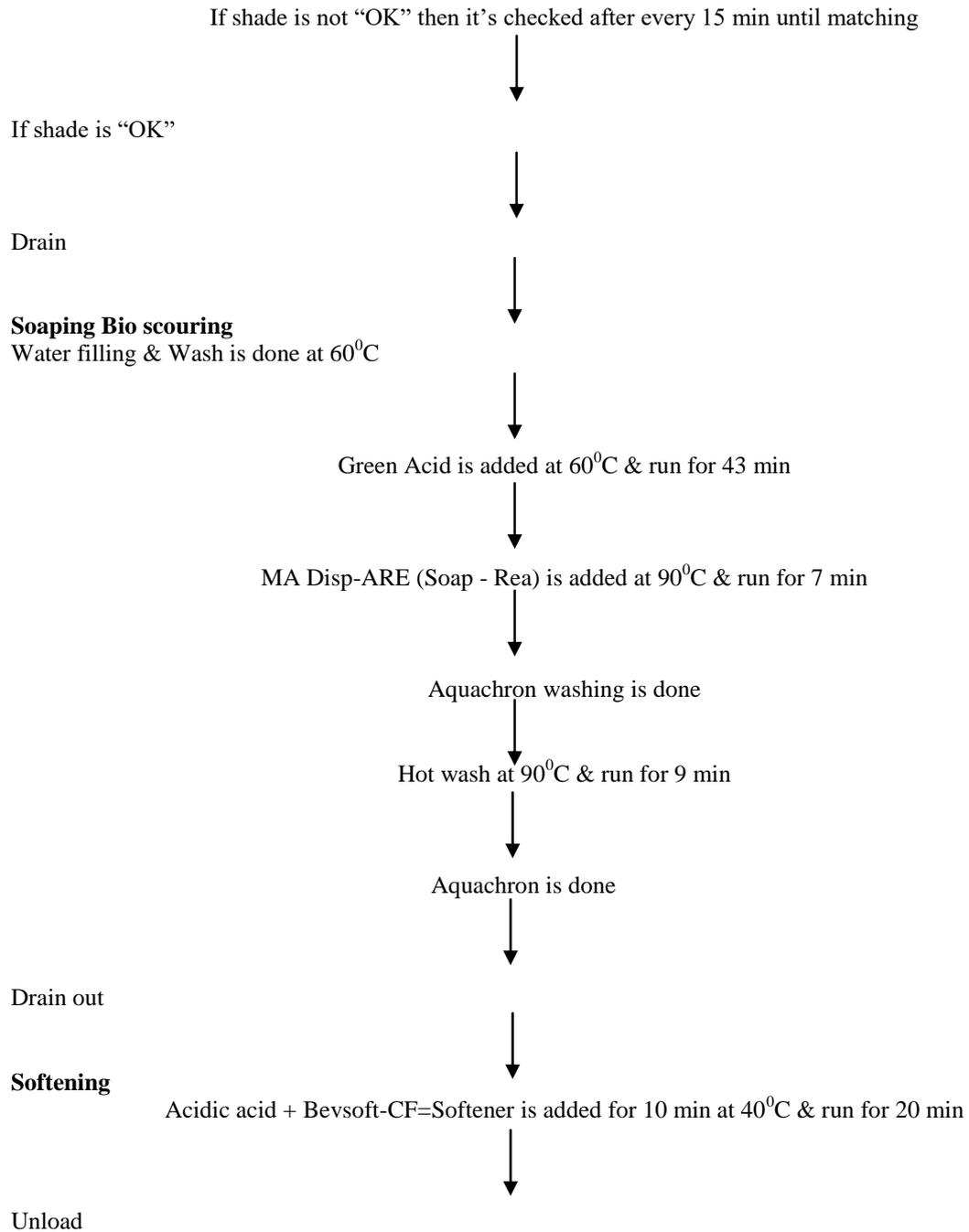
Unload

## 2.11. Bio scouring dyeing process

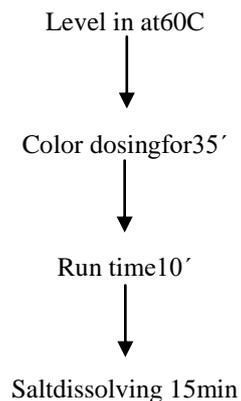
### 2.11.1. Bioscouring dyeing process flow chart

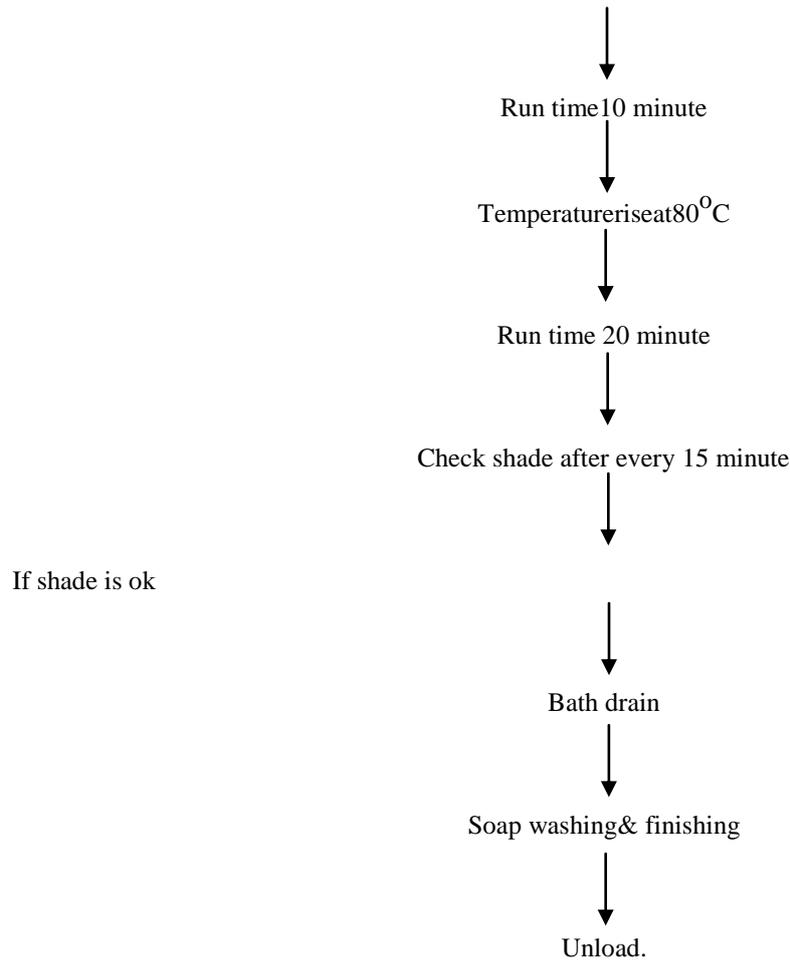




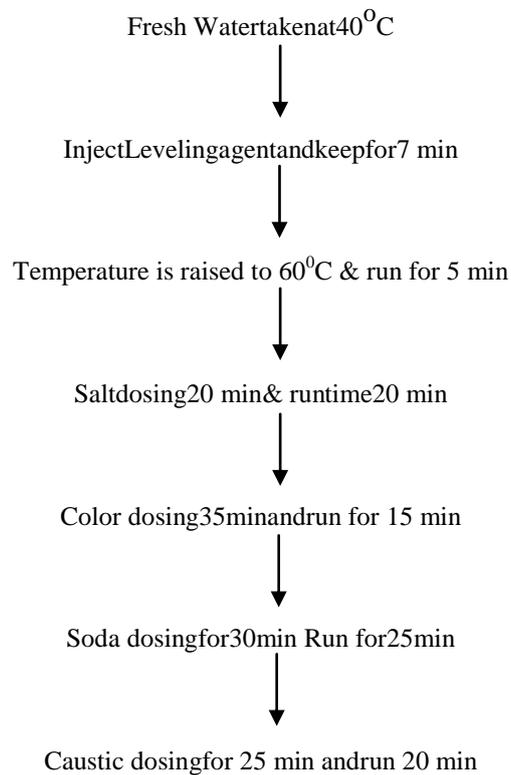


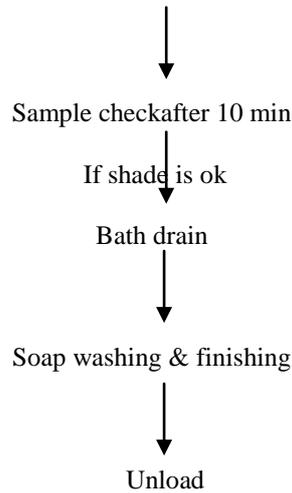
**2.12. Migration dyeing process flow chart**



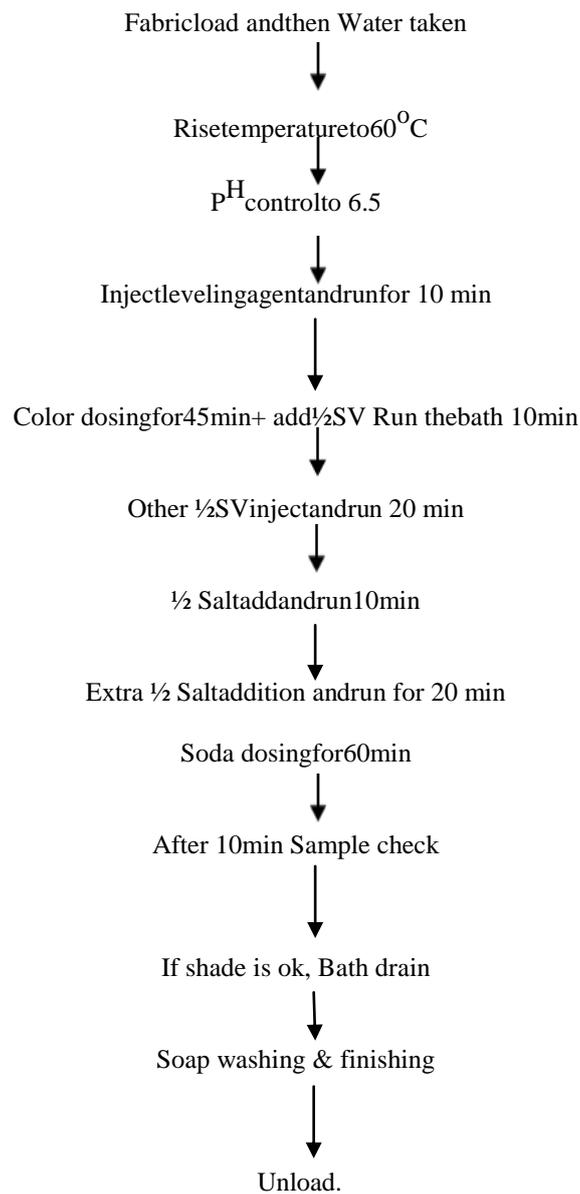


**2.13. Dyeing Process Flow Chart for Dark or Black Shade**

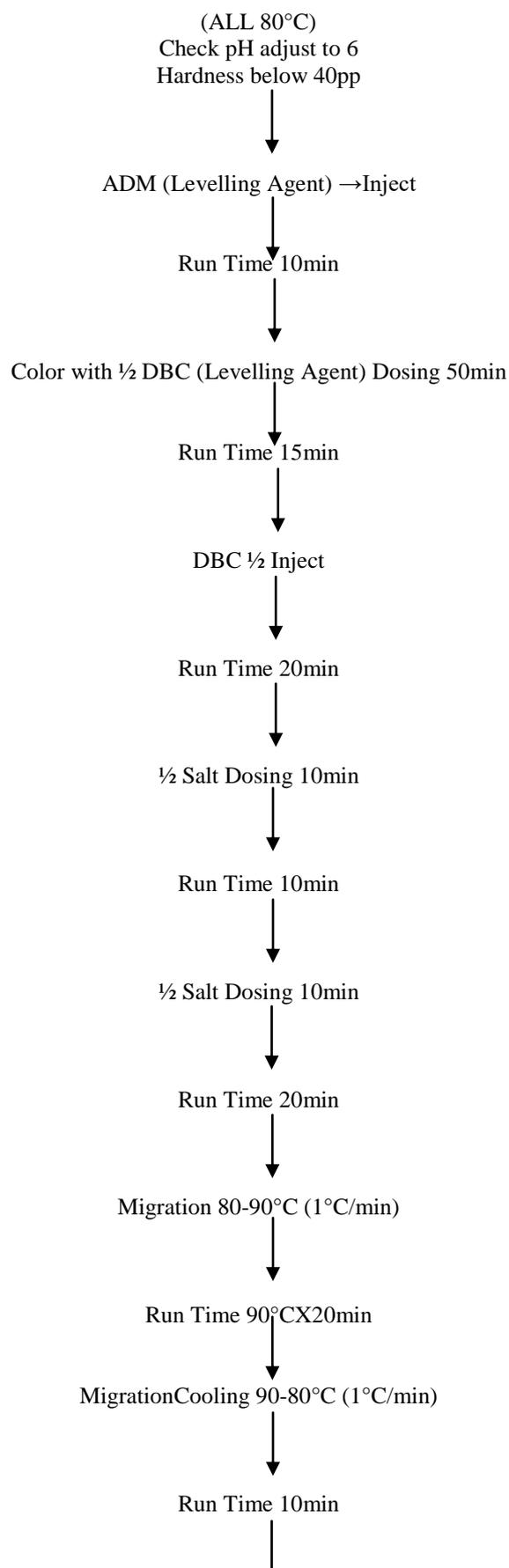


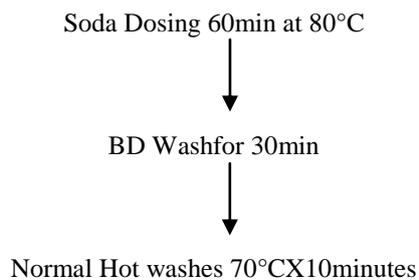


**2.14. Dyeing procedure for Light/Medium Shade**

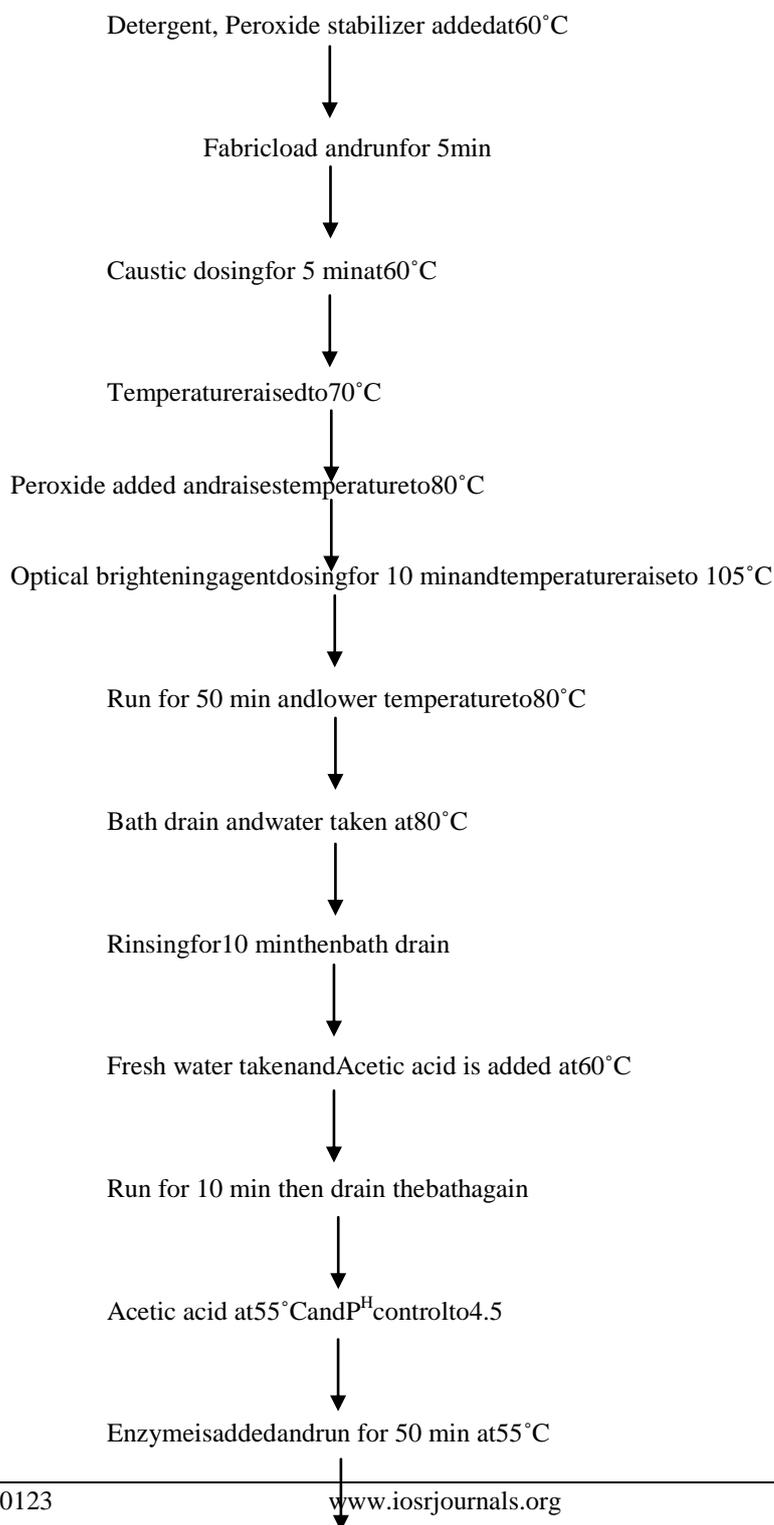


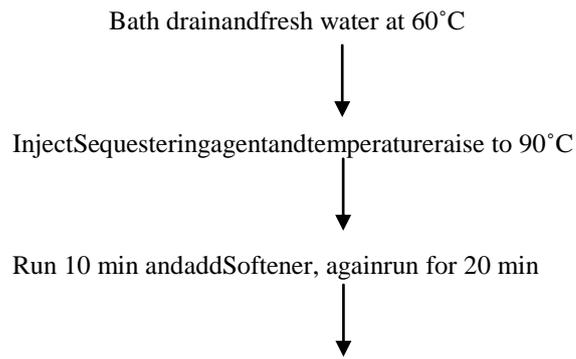
**2.15. Process flowchart for Turquoise color**





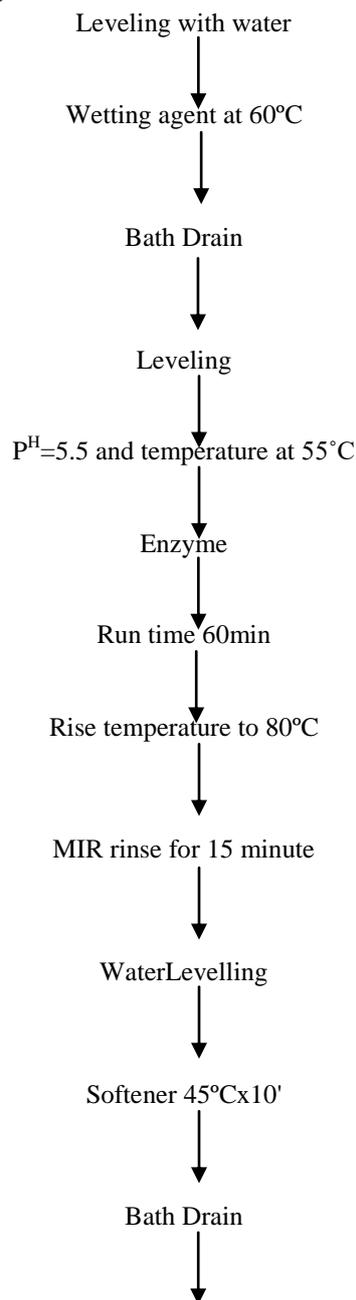
### **2.16. Dyeing Process flowchart for white shade**





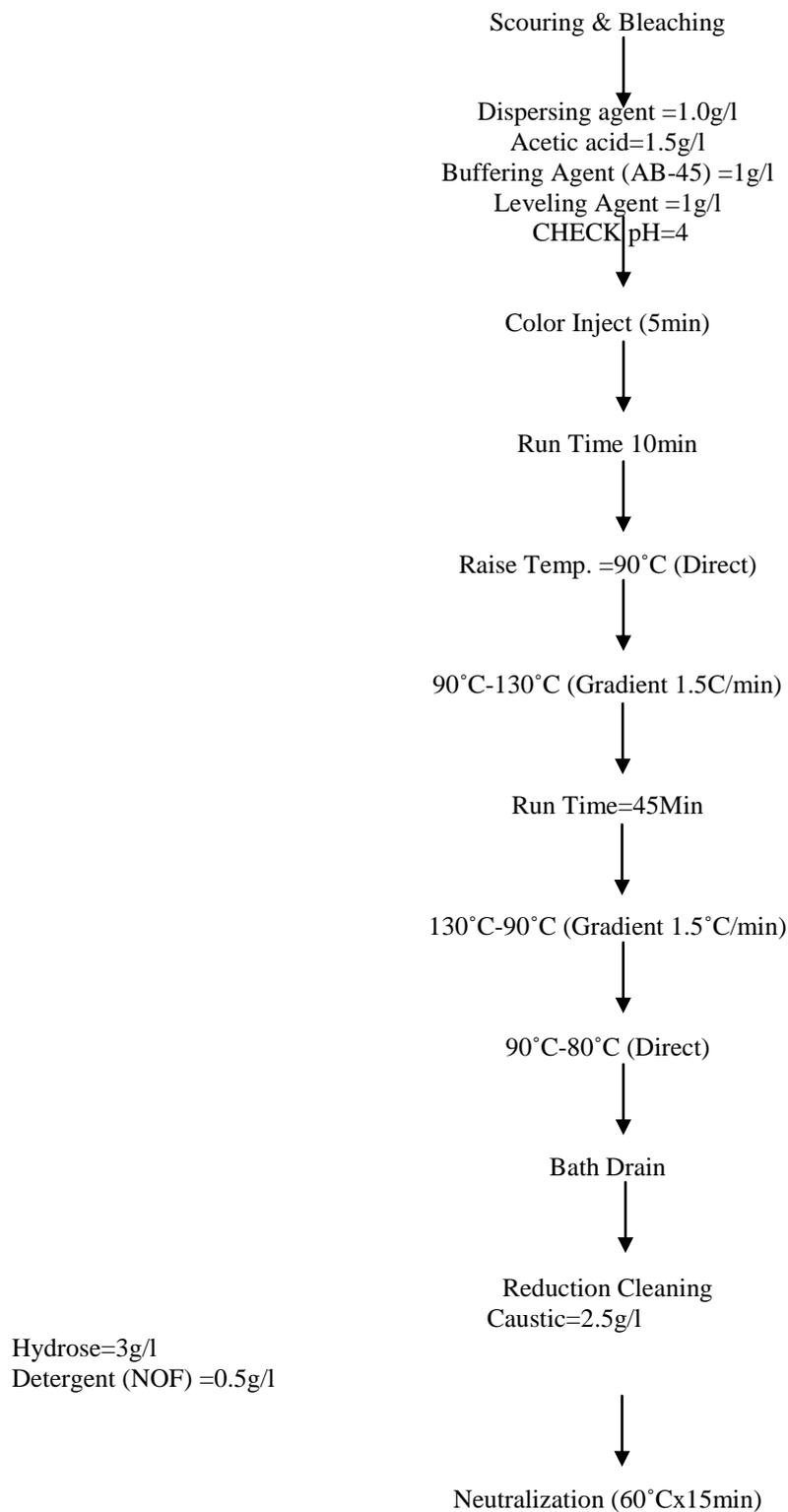
Fabric unload

**2.17. Washing of grey mélangé fabric**



Cold rinse  
↓  
After treatment

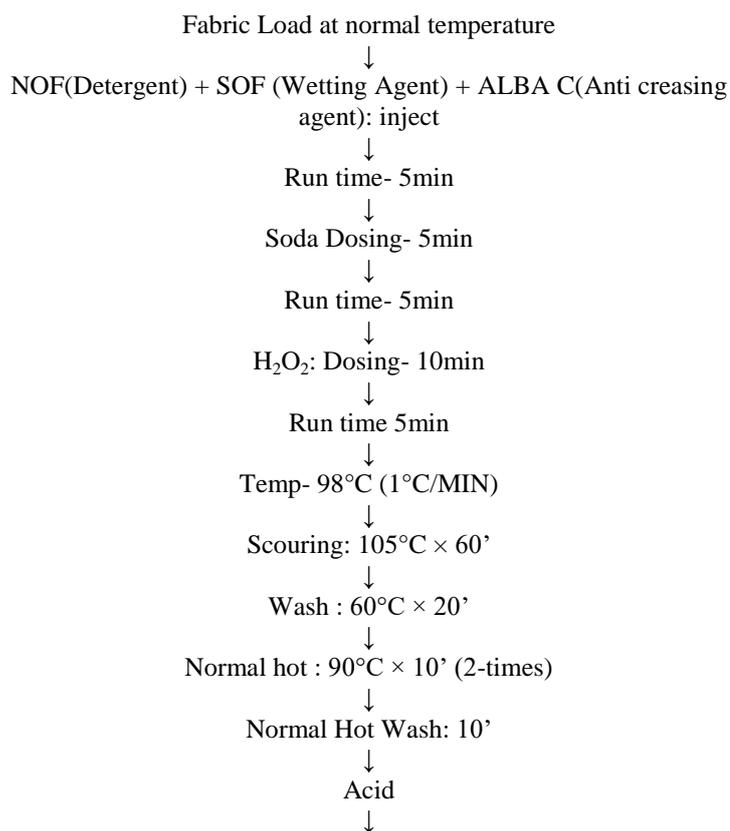
**2.18. Polyester dyeing process for CVC fleece, Single Jersey, Rib&Pk fabric**



Unload fabric/ Start cotton part dyeing

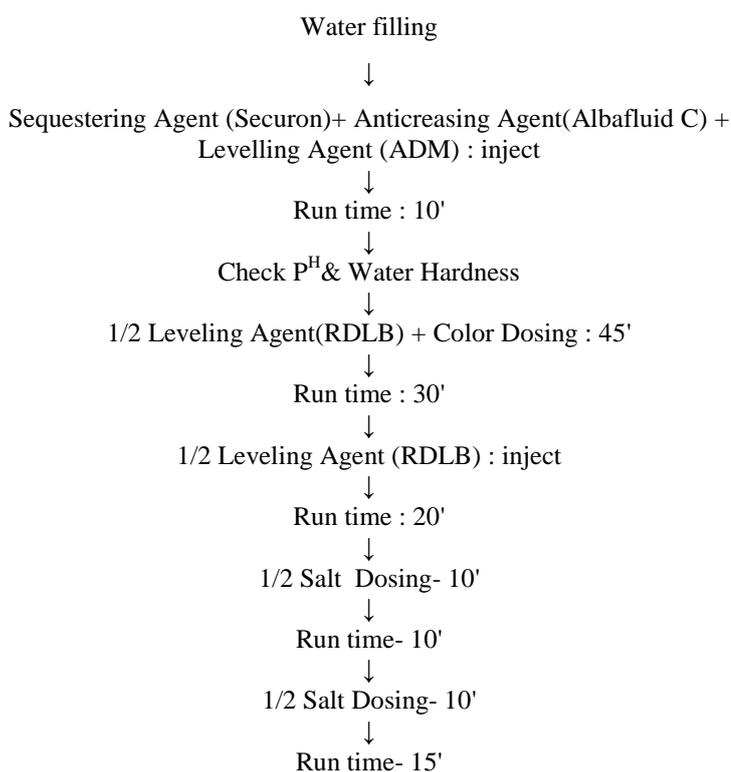
**2.19.Process flow chart for viscose dyeing**

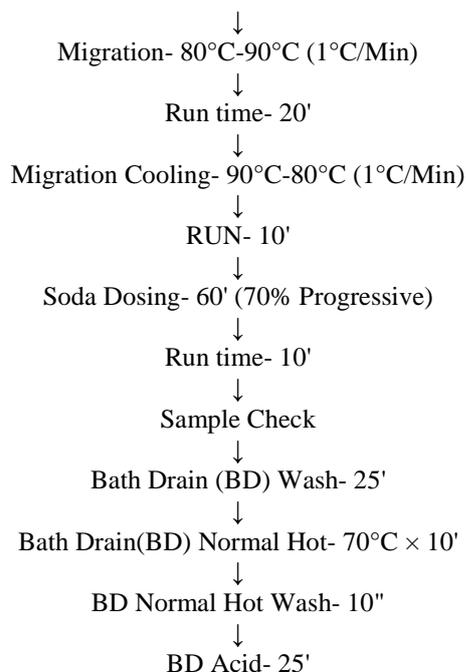
**Pretreatment**



Check Absorbency

**Dyeing**  
(Temp 80°C)  
(Migration 90°C)





### 2.20. Order of Color and Salt dissolving/dosing

- In case of 0-1.0 % (light) shade color is dosed first then salt dissolving is performed.
- In case of 1-2.5% (medium) shade salt is dissolved at first then color is dosed.
- In case of 3 & above % (dark) shade salt is dissolved at first then color is dosed.

### 2.21. Process parameters

#### 2.21.1. pH

- Scouring pH: 11-12
- During H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> bleaching pH : 10.5-11
- Enzyme pH: 4.5-4.8
- During reactive dyeing pH : 10.5-11.5
- During polyester dyeing pH: 4.5-5.5
- Before dyeing (Leveling) pH: ~ 6.5
- During disperse dyeing pH: 4.5-5.5
- Salt pH : 7-8
- Softener pH: 6.5

#### 2.21.2 Temperature

- For cotton scouring: 90-120 °C
- During NaOH addition 65 °C
- During H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> addition 70 °C
- Peroxide killing at 80 °C
- Polyester dyeing: 100<sup>o</sup> – 135 °C
- Bio Polishing = 55 – 63 °C
- For Cotton Dyeing :
  - Cold Brand = 45 °C
  - Medium Brand = 60 °C
  - Hot Brand = 80 °C

- Migration for turquoise color at  $80/90^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Optical brightening agent (OBA) at  $80^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Polyester dyeing: Around  $135^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Polyester Stripping: Around  $130^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Reduction Cleaning: Around  $80/90^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Softener at: Around  $55^{\circ}\text{C}$

### **2.21.3. Approximate required time for dyeing**

- For white fabric: 3-5hrs
- For 100% cotton: 8-10hrs
- For 100% polyester: 3.5- 5hrs
- CVC 2 parts: 13-14hrs.

### **2.21.4. M: L Ratio**

- For reactive dyeing M: L ratio maintained between = 1:6
- For Turquoise dyeing M: L ratio maintained between = 1:8
- For Viscose dyeing M: L ratio maintained between = 1:10
- For Fluorescent dyeing M: L ratio maintained between 1:20
- For critical shade dyeing M: L ratio maintained between 1:6/1:8

### **2.21.5. Types of dosing**

- Linear Dosing      - Progressive Dosing      - Decreasing Dosing

## **2.22. Common Dyeing faults with their Causes & Remedies**

### **■ Uneven dyeing in a rope**

#### **➤ Causes**

- Very rapid addition of dyes and chemicals
- Improper pre-treatments (Scouring & bleaching)
- Lack of control of dyeing machine like-
  - m/c speed
  - Temperature
  - Dosing time
  - Circulation pump and reel speed
  - Plaiting device
  - M:L ratio

#### **➤ Remedies**

- ✓ Addition of dyes & chemicals in dosing
- ✓ Proper pre-treatments
- ✓ Proper control of dyeing machine

### **■ Rope to rope uneven shade**

#### **➤ Causes**

- Due to not equal rope length in each nozzle
- Due to not equal fabric flow speed in each nozzle

#### **➤ Remedies**

- ✓ Rope length in each nozzle should be same or as near as possible
- ✓ Check and make sure that fabric flow speed in each nozzle should be same

### **■ Dye spot or Color spot**

#### **➤ Causes**

- Not correctly mixing & thoroughly dissolving the dye stuff in right amount of water
- Dye bath hardness
- No agitation of dye stuff

#### **➤ Remedies**

- ✓ Proper mixing & thoroughly dissolving of dye stuff in the right amount of water
- ✓ Use adequate amount of sequestering agent to lower bath hardness
- ✓ Proper agitation

■ **Batch to batch shade variation**

➤ **Causes**

- The fabric has the dye affinity and if pre-treatment e.g. Scouring, Bleaching has taken place in different machine
- Liquor ratio changed
- Yarn lot variation
- Process variation
- Parameters variation
- Temperature and added bulk chemicals changed
- Low quality water specially Hardness, P<sup>H</sup> etc.

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Try to follow identical pre-treatment operation
- ✓ Maintain the same M:L ratio
- ✓ Adjusting the bath volume according to the material weight
- ✓ Control temperature and addition of bulk chemicals
- ✓ Check water supply daily specially the P<sup>H</sup> and Hardness

■ **Running shade or Meter to meter**

➤ **Causes**

- Uneven scouring and bleaching
- Improper scouring wash and acid
- Low liquor ratio
- Bad dyes combination
- Rapid dosing of dyes and chemicals
- Improper dyeing method
- Improper cycle time

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Proper scouring and bleaching
- ✓ Proper scouring wash and acid
- ✓ Correct liquor ratio
- ✓ Good dye combination
- ✓ Dosing should be proper
- ✓ Proper cycle time
- ✓ Proper dyeing method

■ **Crease mark**

➤ **Causes**

- Faulty plaiting device
- Variation of heating and cooling rate
- Rapid steam up without gradient
- Improper fabric movement

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Anti-creasing agents should be used to avoid crease mark
- ✓ Heating and cooling should be done slowly with grade

■ **Soda spot**

➤ **Causes**

- Improper acid after bath drain
- Short time acid treatment
- Improper agitation of soda ash

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Proper acid after bath drain
- ✓ Proper time acid treatment
- ✓ Proper agitation of soda ash

■ **Chemical spot**

➤ **Causes**

- Improper amount of chemical is used
- Low quality chemical is used
- Improper wash

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Proper amount of chemical should be used
- ✓ Good quality chemical should be used
- ✓ Proper wash

■ **Line mark**

➤ **Causes**

- Improper wash after dye bath drain
- High bath draining temperature
- Incorrect process procedures

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Proper wash after dye bath drain
- ✓ Bath drain in cooling temperature
- ✓ Correct process procedure

■ **Pin hole**

➤ **Causes**

- Caustic soda dosing at high temperature
- More caustic soda is used
- Plaiting device not worked
- Injection of caustic soda

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Caustic soda dosing at 60°C temperature
- ✓ Right amount of caustic soda should be used
- ✓ Plaiting device should be checked

■ **Strength loss**

➤ **Causes**

- Caustic soda dosing at high temperature
- Enzyme treatment for long time
- Excess H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is used
- Excess NaOH is used
- More topping and stripping

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Caustic soda dosing at 60°C temperature
- ✓ Right time enzyme treatment
- ✓ Right amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and NaOH

■ **Softener spot**

➤ **Causes**

- Low quality softener
- Softener P<sup>H</sup>
- Improper mixing of softener

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Good quality softener
- ✓ Softener P<sup>H</sup> should be 6
- ✓ Proper mixing of softener

■ **Specky dyeing**

➤ **Causes**

- Excess foam formation
- Insufficient after-treatment

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Anti-foaming agent should be used
- ✓ Sufficient after-treatment

■ **Fly color**

➤ **Causes**

- Insecure movement of dye stuff
- Flying of one color to another dyed fabric or white fabric

➤ **Remedies**

- ✓ Dye stuff movement should be secured
- ✓ After unloading a batch it should be covered with polyethylene bag

**III. Results & discussion**

Through using these dyeing processes different types of dyeing shades could be found for both natural & synthetic fabric. By using isothermal dyeing process all types of normal shade could be found, by using migration the critical shades could be dyed, by using turquoise dyeing process turquoise color could be dyed. For Polyester fabric coloration synthetic dyes is used in the above dyeing process. For white & grey mélange fabric the special dyeing processes are used given in the flow process. Some unique shades found through these dyeing processes are as follows:



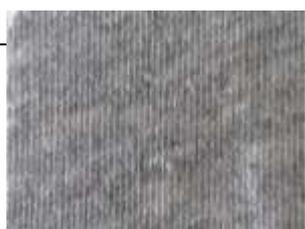
Pink (Isothermal)



Black (Bio Scouring)



Marl Grey (Migration)





**Figure 2.** Different dyeing Shades obtained from different dyeing processes

The dyeing processes discussed in this article are applied in the dyeing floor of textile composite mills & after several time trials the final procedure is obtained. The fastness obtained after these dyeing processes are also excellent. If the processes could be used effectively in the dyeing floor the fastness & quality both would become very good.

The  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  values of fabric dyed with different dyeing processes are shown in the table. The  $L^*$  indicates lightness or darkness in CIELAB color space. The  $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$  indicates three different axes in the CIELAB system. The  $L^*$  represent from 0(Black) to 100(White) [13]. The lower the  $L^*$  value the darker the color. The  $a^*$  value indicates red if it becomes Positive (+) integer but becomes green if it becomes negative (-) integer. The  $b^*$  value indicates Yellow if it becomes Positive (+) integer but becomes Blue if it becomes negative (-) integer [17, 18].

### 3.1. CIELAB Analysis

**Table 1.** CIE LAB ( $L^*$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $b^*$ ) values of different color obtained from different dyeing processes

Dyeing Process	$L^*$	$a^*$	$b^*$
Dark coloration process	71.02	17.33	16.90
Medium coloration process	67.24	20.55	17.69
Light coloration process	84.12	-2.44	16.98
Turquoise coloration process	84.45	-2.17	17.90
Migration Coloration process	81.07	-0.66	30.32
CVC coloration Process	85.67	-3.43	30.77
Black coloration process	89.56	18.79	17.78

### 3.2. Light fastness

## Coloration process & parameters for knit fabric dyeing along with different forms of dyeing faults &..

Light fastness test for different dyeing processes are shown in the table. The minimum range for Light fastness is 5 & maximum range is 6. The light fastness is very good excellent for differently colored fabric. It is observed that the black & turquoise color have lower color fastness to Light than compared to medium, light & turquoise colored fabric.

**Table 2.** Light fastness of different color obtained from different dyeing processes

Dyeing Process	Light fastness
Dark coloration process	6
Medium coloration process	6
Light coloration process	5-6
Turquoise coloration process	5
Migration Coloration process	5-6
CVC coloration Process	6
Black coloration process	5-6

### 3.3. Wash fastness

Wash fastness test for different dyeing processes are shown in the table. The minimum range for Wash fastness is 3 & maximum range is 5. It is observed that the black & turquoise color have lower color fastness to wash than compared to medium & light & turquoise colored fabric.

**Table 3.** Wash fastness of different color obtained from different dyeing processes

Dyeing Process	Change in color(Grey Scale)	Staining(Grey scale)
Dark coloration process	3-4	3
Medium coloration process	4-5	4
Light coloration process	3-4	3
Turquoise coloration process	3-4	3
Migration Coloration process	4-5	4
CVC coloration Process	4-5	3-4
Black coloration process	3-4	3

### 3.4. Rubbing fastness

Rubbing fastness is performed both in dry & wet conditions. The higher the ratings of crocking color fastness indicate the higher color depth & strength onto the fabric.. Rubbing fastness test for different dyeing processes are shown in the table. The minimum range for rubbing fastness is 3 & maximum range is 5. It is observed that the black & turquoise color have lower color fastness than compared to medium & light & turquoise colored fabric.

**Table 4.** Rubbing fastness of different color obtained from different dyeing processes

Dyeing Process	Dry Rubbing	Wet Rubbing
Dark coloration process	4-5	4
Medium coloration process	4-5	5
Light coloration process	4-5	5
Turquoise coloration process	4	3-4
Migration Coloration process	4-5	5
CVC coloration Process	4-5	4
Black coloration process	4	3-4

### 3.5. Perspiration fastness

Perspiration fastness test for different dyeing processes are shown in the table. The Perspiration color fastness indicates the stability of color to perspirations on different conditions of dyed fabric. The minimum range for Perspiration color fastness is 3 & maximum range is 5. It is observed that the black & turquoise color have lower color fastness than compared to medium & light & turquoise colored fabric.

**Table 5.** Perspiration fastness of different color obtained from different dyeing processes

Dyeing Process	Change in color(Grey Scale)	Staining(Grey scale)
Dark coloration process	3-4	3
Medium coloration process	4	4
Light coloration process	4-5	4
Turquoise coloration process	3-4	3
Migration Coloration process	3-4	4
CVC coloration Process	3-4	4
Black coloration process	4	3-4

#### IV. Conclusion

Dyeing of textile fabric has significant effect in manufacturing the garments. Among all other sections like spinning, Fabric (weaving or knitting), garments dyeing is most important sector. To dye the fabric properly by ensuring proper shade along with best quality is a most challenging task. Through this research it is tried carefully to find out some traditional effective dyeing processes along with some important dyeing parameters which will be extremely helpful for industrial application. If those dyeing processes are applied to the dyeing industry it would be possible to minimize the dyeing faults to a greater extent. The reprocesses, rectification & re dyeing of the fabric to overcome the dyeing faults would also be minimized so the company will be extremely benefitted economically along with saving time of manufacturing the garments.

The dyeing parameters & processes which are provided in this research work are find out through performing different trial in the dyeing machine owned by different dyeing industries. So it is thought that those processes would be highly effective for quality oriented coloration of fabric. Almost all the colors of cotton & Polyester fabric could be obtained through these dyeing processes.

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