

# Digital Development of Contemporary Abaya Designs Using Corel-Draw and analyzes its acceptance

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## Abstract:

*Abaya is a Muslim woman's clothing that conveys the message of modesty to all. Currently, it is in demand all over the word, so young designers are also moving towards the designing of modest clothing. Abaya is available with various kinds of embellishments, so women are usually more curious for taking options in abaya in this researcher compared the abaya of the past and present and introduced 50 abaya designs. The designs were prepared in Corel draw using singe color (off white) and sent to the panel of judges for the final selection of designs. From the result, it is found that most of the women opted for the abaya, which is front open. Different styles of collared, pleated, and gathered abaya were the first choice of the panel of judges, so that it will be convenient for them to sit and walk during different activities like working and sitting, and doing other work.*

Keywords: Fashion, Clothing, Islam, Modesty, Abaya

## Introduction

Clothes convey significance through the relationship between the wearer and the viewer. Viewers interpret the choices that individual's layer (Coleridge, 1989). India has a rich cultural heritage with a wide variety of clothing styles in many colors. In earlier times, draped clothing styles were common, and today these styles are found worldwide. In India, it is compulsory for females to cover their heads.

The abaya, often worn with a hijab, can be draped over the head in different ways. Both Abayas and hijab are available in many colors and fabrics, meeting the demand for modest yet fashionable clothing (Nazia Begum, 2023). Muslim women's clothing is ideologically marked in the Western world. Female attire laws in Islamic societies may also contribute to this perception. Muslim dress restrictions have also influenced world haute fashion for decades (Coleridge, 1989).

Islamic design has changed over time and is now diverse throughout the world according to how Muslims in that particular region interpret and embrace "modesty." Numerous Islamic fashion styles that are embraced by Muslims in that region are also influenced by local culture. However, the fundamental tenet of Islam is that Muslims should uphold modesty as prescribed by the Quran and the Sunna (Brugnoni, 2014).

The Islamic apparel industry is becoming increasingly varied and inclusive, driven by a growing demand for modest clothing. As the Muslim population grows, there is a greater desire for both modest and attractive clothing (Faridah Hj Hassan, Puspa Melati Kasi, Nurul Alia Shaharuddin, Mohd Firdaus Awang Kechil, 2018).

## Types of Muslim women's clothes



Source of Picture- Free pik.com

Muslim women generally wear modest clothing, which is available in a variety of styles and colors that vary depending on the country they belong. For women's there is range of clothes, from hijab and abaya, is available along with salwar Kameez.

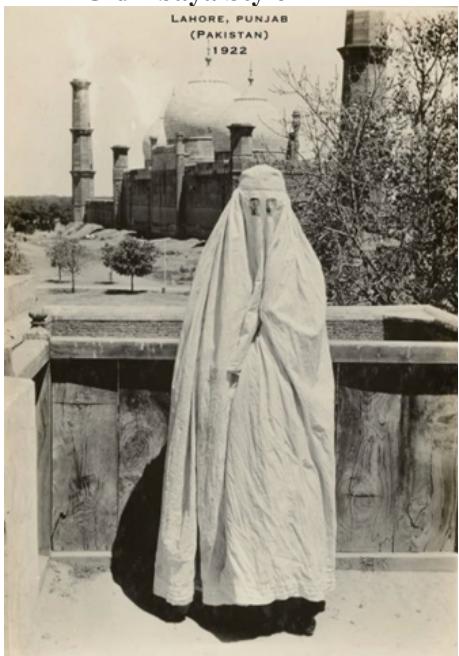
Some of the most common clothes are- **Hijab**- it is one of the modest dresses, which is a square or rectangular piece folded in different ways and placed over the head. **Khimar**- it is a kind of head or face veil. It is described as a scarf which draped over the top half of the women's body till the waist. **Abaya**- it is like a cloak which is commonly wore by Arab gulf women. Usually made of black fabric, decorated with embroidery or sequins, and usually closed in the front, and paired with a scarf. **Chador**- it is an enveloping cloak, worn by Muslim women's, it is from head to the ground. It is mainly worn in Iran without a face veil, and sometimes it is not tucked in the front as compared to the abaya. **Jilbab**- it is an over garment or cloak which is worn as an over garment, also mentioned in Quran verse 33:59. It is similar to the abaya but more fitted, available in various types of fabrics and colors, and looks like a coat. **Veil**- it hides the full body but leaves a slit for the eyes. **Niqab**- it is a face veil worn by some Muslim women, sometimes eyes covered. **Burqa**- it is a body covering veil or garment which conceals the body, including eyes, commonly used in Afghanistan and sometimes called a niqab or face veil. **Salwar Kameez**- worn by women primarily in India, with a long stole or dupatta (**Huda 2024, K. Zh. Monkebayeva, N. Zh. Baitenova, and A. A. Mustafayeva 2012**).

The hijab has grown in popularity globally since the 1970s, and many Muslims regard it as an expression of humility and faith; it has also been worn for ornamentation (**Mohamed Nasir, 2022**). It is used with the abaya to make it complete and performs the function of modesty. It is the current need of the past and the present. Modest fashion is expanding rapidly worldwide. The abaya remains the preferred option for women prioritizing both design features and comfort. Designers are actively responding to the increasing consumer demand. Contemporary Abayas are chosen primarily for style, but comfort is also a significant factor. Abayas are available in a range of styles and silhouettes, allowing wearers to follow fashion trends while maintaining personal preference. (**Habib, H., Rana, M. T., Rasheed, K., & Younas, M. W., 2024**). The abaya is mainly an outer garment, which is available in black color that all Saudi women, particularly Muslims, must wear when they leave their houses. It is designed to cover the

Whole body. It can be worn from either the shoulder or the top of the head, revealing only the face, feet, and hands (**Tashkandi, Salwa 2015**). It is loose fitted and covers the full body, comes from the shoulder to the feet usually carried with a headscarf. It is a symbol of modesty and elegance. The abaya is originated from the Middle East, and is form of a simple cloak. It is an emblem of identity, tradition, and religious adherence (**ONYX Abaya**). It absorbs much of the warmth from

the sunshine. In a hot climate, because it is black, it makes the wearer quite uncomfortable. In addition, wearing many layers of clothing beneath the abaya increases heat stress, so the woven abaya is more comfortable as compared to the knitted one. (Tashkandi, Salwa, 2015).

**Old Abaya Style**



<https://in.pinterest.com/pin/84512930502359530/>

**Current abaya style**



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“Sex and the City 2”, an offensive movie, has a voluminous abaya which covers and conceals the physic of the woman who wears it. In early times abaya was plain, drab, and was only to conceal the body shape however the current abaya is more stylish, which is the choice of most of the women as they feels comfortable and enjoy wearing abaya(al-Mukhtar 37). Now the more stylish abaya has taken place, where the past abaya was plain, no embellishment, but voluminous and it was in black color which looks like a dress because of the black color, as time passes and technological advancement takes place new styles of abaya taken place, where the various cuts, variety of colors and fabrics available with various embellishment and decorations. Modern Abaya feature embellishments such as beads, glitter, mirror panels, crystals, appliqués, lace, and embroidery, as well as calligraphy, slogans, and logos.,

It has different necklines and can be divided into upper and lower segments, similar to a woman’s business suit. This versatile garment may be constructed from a variety of textiles, including fleece-lined winter wear, practical jersey, and acid-etched jacquard. It comes in a variety of colors, is cut asymmetrically, and is inspired by kimonos and sporty styles. Abaya design in Saudi Arabia appears lively and diversified (Forstenlechner and Rutledge, 2011). Abaya is modest clothing that is adopted by many Muslims all over the world. A variety of embellishments are there on an abaya like dyed, printed, sequin work, pearl work, crushed work, and embroidery. It is available in a wide variety of styles for the choice of the consumer, like batwing style, portrait style, full abaya, and front open, giving a choice to the consumer (Nazia Begum, 2023).

## Methodology

The process of data collection, gathering, and analyzing is called research methodology.

**Phase one-** In this phase, researcher explore and collect the relevant data using different tools.

**Phase two-** In this phase, designing of the abaya and evaluation were done, where Total of 50 designs were created digitally using Corel Draw, incorporating various design features and silhouette. Then all the designs were evaluated by the 10-panel of judges from various fields- medical,

architecture, engineering, including fashion design. 5 students and 5 academicians were selected from the age group of 18 to 45 from the Aligarh Muslim University. All the judges were from different age groups. All the judges have given ratings 1 to 5(Average to Excellent)

## Objectives

1. To know the abaya in the past and present.
2. To design the range of abaya designs.
3. To check the acceptability through a panel of judges.

## 4. Result and Discussion

Design No.	Panel of Judges										Grand Total Grand Total	Rank
	Rating 1 to 5 (Average to Excellent)											
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	50	50
D-1	5	4	5	4	4	5	3	2	2	4	38.00	23
D-2	4	3	5	5	5	5	3	4	3	4	41.00	9
D-3	1	5	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	35.00	38
D-4	1	4	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	33.00	45
D-5	1	5	3	5	2	3	3	3	4	4	33.00	46
D-6	3	5	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	35.00	39
D-7	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	5	4	3	43.00	2
D-8	1	4	3	4	5	5	4	5	5	3	39.00	17
D-9	3	3	4	3	3	3	5	3	4	3	34.00	44
D-10	5	4	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	36.00	31
D-11	5	5	3	4	4	5	3	4	4	5	42.00	7
D-12	1	3	3	5	4	4	3	3	5	5	36.00	32
D-13	5	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	41.00	10
D-14	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	4	4	46.00	1
D-15	3	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	37.00	28
D-16	2	4	4	5	4	3	3	3	3	5	36.00	33
D-17	2	3	3	4	4	2	3	3	3	4	31.00	48
D-18	5	5	4	5	4	2	3	5	5	5	43.00	3
D-19	1	5	5	5	5	2	3	5	5	5	41.00	11
D-20	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	36.00	34
D-21	2	5	5	3	4	2	3	5	5	5	39.00	18
D-22	4	5	5	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	42.00	8
D-23	1	5	5	5	4	3	4	4	5	4	40.00	13
D-24	5	5	4	5	3	3	5	2	3	4	39.00	19
D-25	3	4	3	4	4	3	3	2	4	5	35.00	40
D-26	1	4	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	3	29.00	50
D-27	5	3	1	5	5	5	3	4	3	3	37.00	29
D-28	4	5	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	5	38.00	24
D-29	1	4	2	3	4	4	4	3	2	4	31.00	49
D-30	3	4	4	4	5	3	5	4	4	4	40.00	14
D-31	1	5	3	5	4	5	3	3	2	5	36.00	35
D-32	3	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	3	4	39.00	20
D-33	3	5	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	5	37.00	30
D-34	2	4	4	5	5	5	3	3	3	5	39.00	21
D-35	4	5	2	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	38.00	25
D-36	3	4	2	3	5	3	4	4	2	5	35.00	41
D-37	3	4	4	3	5	3	2	4	3	4	35.00	42

D-38	2	4	2	4	4	4	3	5	3	5	36.00	36
D-39	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	5	36.00	37
D-40	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	2	5	39.00	22
D-41	3	5	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	5	38.00	26
D-42	4	5	3	4	5	4	3	3	4	5	40.00	15
D-43	5	3	5	5	5	3	4	4	4	5	43.00	4
D-44	1	5	3	3	4	3	5	3	3	5	35.00	43
D-45	3	5	3	3	5	5	3	5	3	5	40.00	16
D-46	5	5	4	5	5	4	3	2	3	5	41.00	12
D-47	4	5	3	3	5	4	5	3	2	4	38.00	27
D-48	4	5	2	3	4	3	4	2	2	4	33.00	47
D-49	5	5	5	4	5	3	4	5	3	4	43.00	5
D-50	5	4	3	5	5	3	5	4	4	5	43.00	6

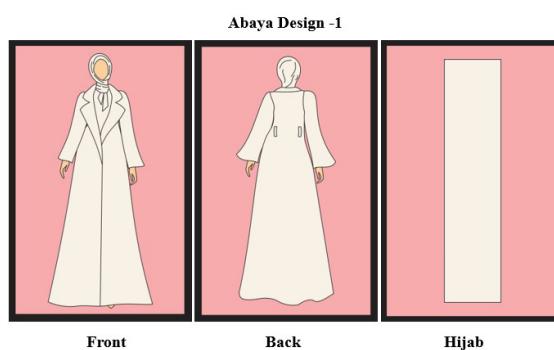
Table with Abaya design rank

The above table shows the detailed evaluation of fifty designs of abaya samples from D-1 to D-50, which is assessed by ten panel of judges, which is identified as A to J, using the 5-point rating scale, where 1(Average) and 5(Excellent). All design was scored independently by each judge, and the combined ratings provide an in-depth summary of the study's evaluation rigour. The central section of the table shows the individual ratings awarded by each judge, which demonstrate both consistency and variety in expert assessments. Following the judges' scores, the "Grand Total" column displays the cumulative score associated with every design, reflecting its overall performance among all assessors. These totals serve as the foundation for the final ranking of the designs, which is shown in the last column. Higher-ranked designs reflect a higher acceptance among judges, with D-14 achieving the highest total score of 50, followed by D-7, D-18, and others that demonstrate superior acceptability in top three. The table thus serves as a systematic and quantitative way for establishing design preference and quality, providing a clear foundation for future analysis, interpretation, and validation in the research.

## Design Description

In this research total of 50 designs have been digitally illustrated, using Corel Draw software, and then all the designs were sent to the panel of judges through the Google form. The judges were young females, both working and studying in various fields of specialization, including fashion, or those who follow the fashion trend. The rating of all the designs score has 1 to 5(Average to Excellent) were recorded and analyzed. The highest-scoring abaya designs, D-14, D-7, and D-18, are discussed below.

### Abaya Design -1



This front open abaya style has a long, flowing silhouette that spans from the shoulders to the ankles, giving it a modest and elegant appeal. The garment has a structured, coat-style top bodice with a prominent lapel collar, giving it a modern and elegant appearance. The sleeves are full-length and gently flared, allowing for comfortable movement. The abaya is paired with a matching headscarf (hijab), which is elegantly draped around the head and neck. The design stresses minimalism and refinement by using soft, light color.

The back view of the abaya shows a smooth, continuous A-line form that runs beautifully from the shoulders to the hem. The design retains its basic elegance, with clean, long vertical lines emphasizing modesty and fluidity. The sleeves are gently flared, reflecting the style viewed from the front. Two small, rectangular tab-like belt loops are positioned symmetrically in the mid-back area, serving as a modest structural feature that can be utilized as a belt. The rear neckline is collared, preserving the overall sophisticated and contemporary look. The overall style combines traditional modest attire with modern tailoring, making it appropriate for formal or semi-formal settings.

The hijab is represented as a component of the abaya set, depicted as a long, rectangular fabric panel. It appears to be a simple, plain scarf constructed from a single piece of fabric. The shape is a clean, straight rectangle with clearly defined edges, implying that it is meant to be wrapped or draped about the head and neck in a variety of modest designs.

The basic design suggests versatility—this hijab can be fashioned in a variety of ways to complement the structure of the abaya. Its simple appearance also suggests that it functions as a traditional, unobtrusive accessory, allowing the overall look to remain elegant and coherent.

Rating(Score)	Design -14 (Abaya Rating)
Fair(1)	0%
Average(2)	0%
Good(3)	10%
Very Good(4)	20%
Excellent(5)	70%

Table- 1

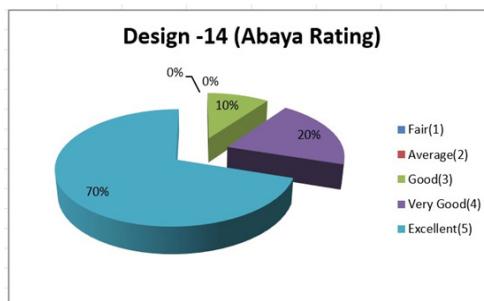
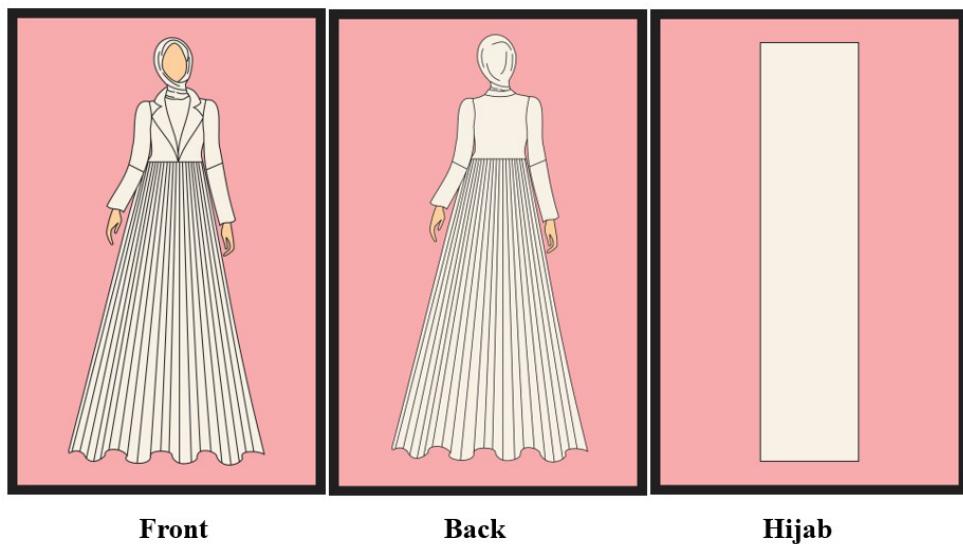


Chart- 1

The pie chart titled “Design-14 (Abaya Rating)” shows how respondents evaluated this abaya design across five rating categories. The results are highly positive, with 70% of participants rating the design as Excellent (5), indicating a strong preference and high satisfaction. Furthermore, 20% of respondents rated it Very Good (4), while 10% rated it Good (3), indicating a constant positive perception overall. Notably, the figure shows 0% scores for both Fair (1) and Average (2), indicating that none of the respondents disliked the design. Overall, the findings show that Design-14 received an extremely positive response, with the vast majority of participants expressing remarkable appreciation for its visual and design quality.

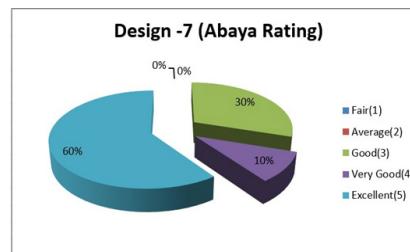
**Design- 2**
**Abaya Design -2**

**Front**
**Back**
**Hijab**

This abaya design features a refined, contemporary silhouette that blends modesty with structured elegance. The upper bodice is styled like a tailored blazer, with a pointed lapel collar and a defined V-shaped neckline panel that adds sophistication and formality. The sleeves are long and well-fitted, giving a sleek and streamlined look. The abaya features a structured bodice and a fully pleated skirt that flows all the way to the hem. Vertical pleats add movement and elongation to the garment, resulting in an elegant, floor-length drape. The design also contains a matching headscarf, which is portrayed in a basic, smooth style that matches the whole appearance.

The back view of this abaya design reveals a clean, beautiful, and continuous silhouette with a focus on smooth structure and flowing movement. The upper back features a basic, fitting bodice that continues from the shoulders to the waistline, resulting in a minimalist style with no apparent seams, embellishments, or fastenings. The long sleeves maintain the same structural simplicity, softly flaring at the cuffs for a balanced, beautiful look.

Below the waist, the design changes into a wide, fully pleated skirt that falls to the floor. The pleats are evenly distributed over the back, resulting in stunning vertical lines that highlight the garment's length and fluidity. The hem has gentle, natural curves that contribute to the overall feminine flow of the item. Overall, this abaya merges classic tailoring with fluid pleating, creating a modern, elegant, and modest ensemble suitable for both formal and semi-formal occasions.

Rating(Score)	Design -7 (Abaya Rating)
Fair(1)	0%
Average(2)	0%
Good(3)	30%
Very Good(4)	10%
Excellent(5)	60%

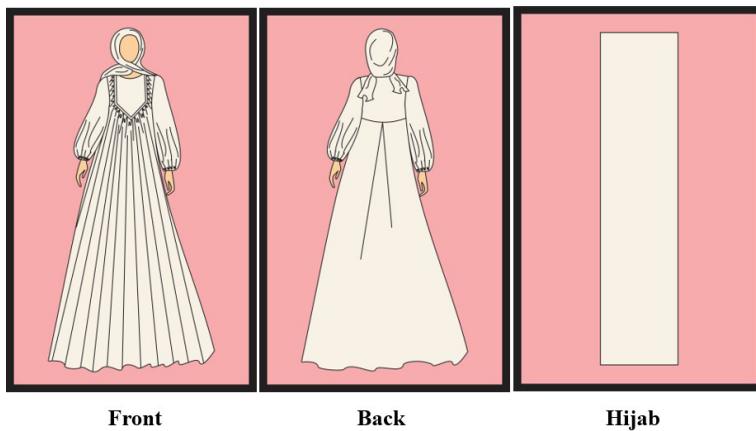
**Table- 2**

**Chart- 2**

The pie chart titled "Design-7 (Abaya Rating)" depicts how respondents evaluated this abaya design across five rating categories. The design received an average rating of Excellent (5) from 60% of participants, indicating excellent approval and satisfaction. A considerable proportion, 30%, rated

it Good (3), indicating a generally good view. Meanwhile, 10% of respondents rated the design Very Good (4), contributing to the overall positive feedback. Notably, the chart shows 0% scores for both Fair (1) and Average (2), implying that none of the respondents disliked the design. Overall, the data show that Design-7 received highly positive feedback, with the majority of respondents expressing great appreciation for its style and features.

Design- 3

Abaya Design-3



This abaya style has a delicate and modest profile, with soft elegance and flowing structure. The garment has a wide, floor-length flare formed by many vertical pleats, which lend movement and refinement to the overall design. The bodice features a characteristic V-shaped yoke adorned with a braided or stitched border, creating a gorgeous yet discreet focal point on the front. The sleeves are wide and gathered at the wrists, with fitting cuffs, giving the abaya a typical balloon-sleeve impression that fits its breezy elegance. Paired with a simple, neatly wrapped hijab, the overall ensemble combines traditional modest clothing with contemporary design features, providing both comfort and understated sophistication.

The back of this abaya has a simple, beautiful, and flowing form that exudes modesty and elegance. It has a long, A-line silhouette that flows gracefully to the floor, resulting in a delicate and polished fall. A center box pleat stretches from the top back to the hem, offering structure and mild volume while maintaining the design's simplicity. The sleeves are full and gathered at the wrists, with fitting cuffs that complement the soft, billowy effect from the front. The hijab is elegantly wrapped, with loose ends resting on the top back, adding to the abaya's overall modest and fluid look. The back has a minimal design that emphasizes the elegance of pure lines and a classic, timeless style.

Rating(Score)	Design -18 (Abaya Rating)
Fair(1)	0%
Average(2)	10%
Good(3)	10%
Very Good(4)	20%
Excellent(5)	60%

Table- 3

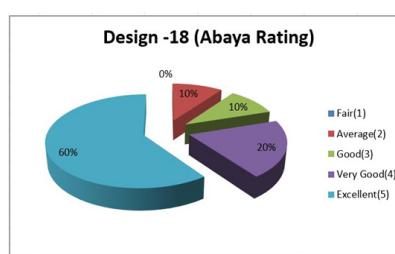


Chart- 3

The pie chart titled “Design-18 (Abaya Rating)” shows how respondents rated this abaya design in five categories. The majority of participants (60%) rated the design as Excellent (5), indicating considerable appreciation and pleasure. Another 20% of respondents gave it a Very Good (4) rating, further highlighting the positive reception. Furthermore, 10% evaluated the design as Good

(3) and the remaining 10% as Average (2), showing a small segment that viewed the design more cautiously. Notably, none of the respondents rated the design as Fair (1), as evidenced by the 0% score. Overall, the findings indicate that Design-18 received overwhelmingly good responses, with a clear preference for the highest grade.

## Conclusion

The fashion industry is growing very fast and focusing on competitiveness through creating products of high value. Currently, modest fashion is the choice of most of the consumers, young women, especially Muslims, as there is an increase in the choice of clothing the famous and young designer's starts creating modest dresses especially abaya. All over the world, there are various styles of abaya is available, which vary according to country to country, including India. In India abaya is the first choice of Muslims, along with the suit, salwar, and other styles of modest clothing. Old abaya were having many layers, but current abaya are also designed with layers but many types of embellishments like embroidery, printing, tie & dye, sequin work etc, it is also available in many fabrics and colors, but in early times, it was limited to black color only.

In this research the researcher tried to follow the trend of the abaya and designed the collection of abaya according to the choice of the wearer. The abaya designing was strictly followed the choice of the young women's. There were various design features and silhouettes created according to the young generation. It is found that the choice of consumer looks for the elegant design in a comfortable fabric. Mostly front open designs are chosen by the expert, and the designs have more volume or added layers. It is the demand of the religion and the choice of the consumer where layered, pleated, front open and layered designs worked as the modest wear as well as the fashionable clothing.

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