ECO PRINTING OF SILK FABRIC USING COLOURANTS FROM NATURAL PLANTS

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Final Year Project Report Submitted in
Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Textile Technology
in the Faculty of Applied Sciences
Universiti Teknologi MARA

JULY 2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of this Final Year Project could not have been possible without the help from people around me. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to my supervisor, Prof. Madya Dr Khadijah binti Omar. Thank you so much for the invaluable guidance and advice throughout the semester which helped me a lot in completing this Final Year Project. She helped me to understand more about my project. Next, I would like to thank all lecturers for their valuable suggestions, motivation and support for the whole project. Moreover, thank you to all the staffs of Faculty of Applied Sciences for the help and information given. Lastly, my heartfelt thanks go to my family and all my friends for the moral support and immense love by encouraging me to keep up and complete this final year project.

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ABSTRACT

ECO PRINTING OF SILK FABRIC USING COLOURANTS FROM NATURAL PLANTS

In this study, eco printing via steaming method was done on silk using natural colourants from fresh petals and leaves of hibiscus, bougainvillea and red cabbage. The effect of tamarind seeds as mordant and the incubation times for eco printing were also investigated and evaluated based on the sharpness, shades and colourfastness properties of prints obtained. Based on the results, red cabbage produced dark purple colour while the bougainvillea's leaves produced light green each with quite distinctive pattern. Longer incubation times changed the colour of the prints to blue and brown respectively. For hibiscus, the colour changed from brown to blue. Unmordanted samples produced deeper shade compared to mordanted samples. However, colourfastness properties affect the printing effect obtained where there was changing in colour of the design. The colourfastness properties of the print showed that red cabbage have poor colourfastness to perspiration and washing while bougainvillea's leave have good colourfastness properties. For colourfastness to rubbing or crocking, all samples showed good colourfastness properties.