ABSTRACT
Stiffening is the last finishing done by the housewives to their family clothes after washing them at home. Stiffening helps to restore body to the limp clothes. A survey was conducted among five hundred housewives of Parbhani town for studying different aspects of clothes stiffening practices who used to stiffen their family clothes at home. The findings revealed that cent per cent housewives stiffened cotton clothes followed by synthetic clothes and then silk clothes at home. Housewives mostly stiffened white and light coloured Sari, Punjabi suits, Duppatta, gent’s Kurta- Pajama and shirts using sago, commercial starches and aerosol stiffeners by adopting boiling and instant methods. Clothes were stiffened in summer, spring or whenever required and were worn for three to six times prior to next stiffening.

Key words: Stiffening, Housewives, Clothes