

SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR TRAINING: AN OCULAR OVERVIEW.

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Introduction:

The apparel industry is truly global in nature. The apparel sector is one of the fast evolving sectors, requiring a high level of skilled labour. To raise the quality of the performance that emerge from the physical effort and from information handling and outlines, the task of training in improving the job performance for the operators becomes an essential one.

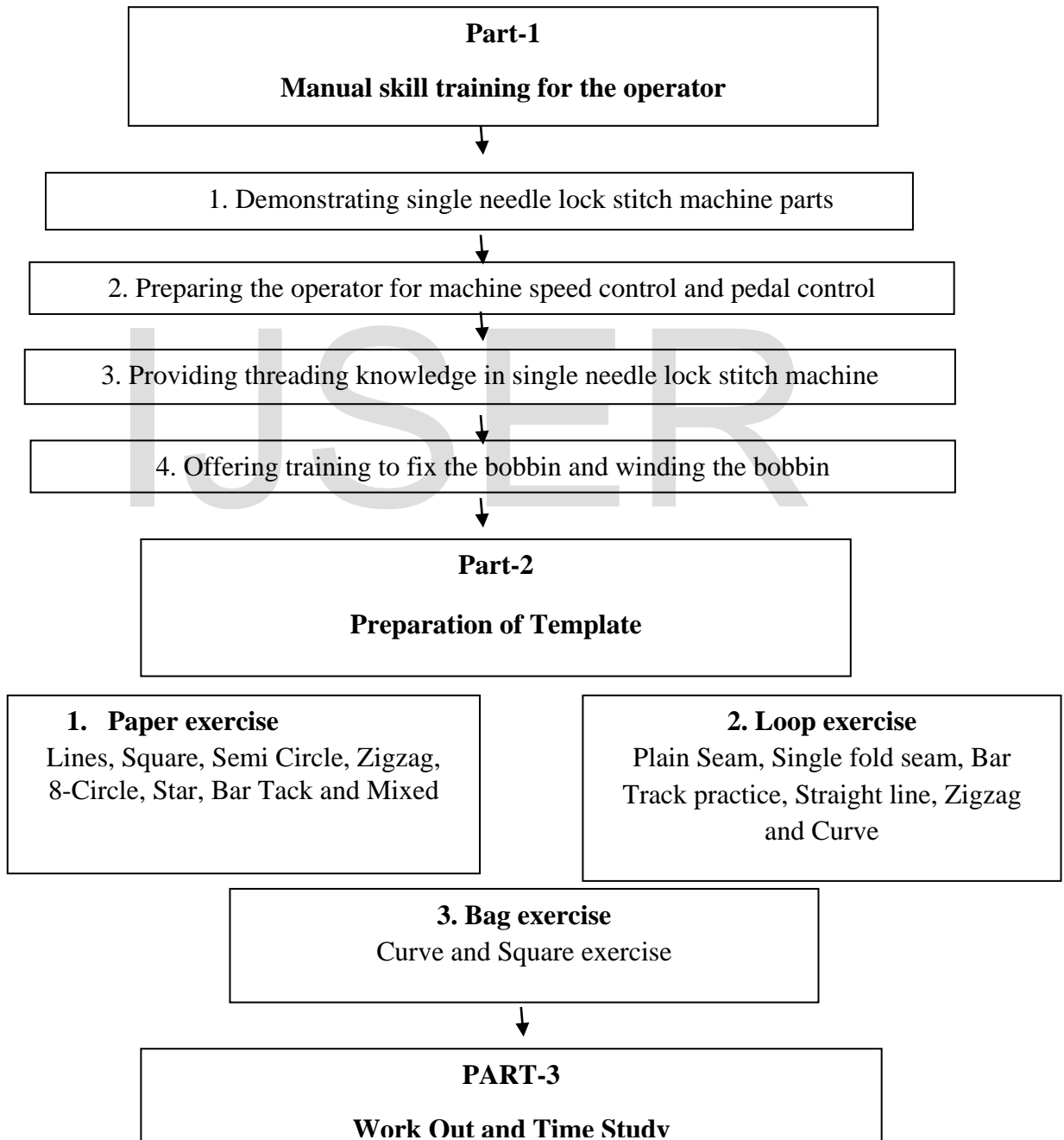
Sewing machine operators handle work on a large scale as they are required to operate and tend to industrial machineries. They mount attachments such as needles and pattern blades and adjust machines according to the specifications provided to them. Sewing machine operators also adjust machine controls and regulate stitching speeds for every sewing project that they work on. It is important for sewing machine operators to possess in depth knowledge of sewing machinery and the garments industry. They also need to have sound hand-eye coordination and be able to cope with moderate physical effort.

A proper operator training is given to the sewing machine operator which helps to convert the fabric into a stitched garment. During the training period the operator is trained to stitch sewing components without any defect. It should be the right manner of training from the first step to identify the defect on sewing components. This study discusses about training of an operator with an effective manner and to make skilled operators for the garment industry.

Classification of Sewing Operators:

Sewing operators are graded in different ways in the factories	
Grade-A, Grade-B & Grade-C	Unskilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled & Highly Skilled

Methodology:





Paper exercise, Loop exercise, Bag exercise

Preparing the Sewing Machine Operator:

i) Operating Machine Pedal

Every trainee or operator must know the operating machine pedal in a better manner to operate the machine. The pedal is used to control the machine speed; hence the use of both the feet becomes more important. While operating the machine, the left foot is used to accelerate the machine.

ii) Operating Knee Lifter

The knee lifter is used to lift the pressure foot; it should be used when the needle is not working. The right foot is used to push the knee lifter. When your knee contact is released with the lifter, the pressure foot comes down.

iii) Threading a SNLS Machine

A sewing operator must be aware of the procedure in threading the machine. This step takes the trainee to a more in-depth in the training program. This exercise will make the trainee to be aware of the threading a single needle machine.

iv) Winding the Bobbin Thread

The purpose of this application is to make the novice to be responsive with the procedure and methods of replacing the bobbin thread. By the end of this exercise the trainee will have been trained and will be able to replace the bobbin thread. It will help the trainee to become more familiar with the machine parts.

v) Setting Bobbin in the Bobbin Case

This element of training exercise involves the procedure of placing bobbin in the bobbin case. The bobbin should be placed in the bobbin case in the right direction otherwise it will be difficult to sew. This exercise will make the trainee conscious of the

procedure in placing the bobbin in the bobbin case.

vi) Checking Tension of the Bobbin Thread

This part of training speaks about the procedure of checking the tension of the Bobbin Thread. The bobbin thread tension should be right; neither should it be tight nor loose. Idle tension should be when the bobbin does not move or release the thread very slowly. This procedure comes after placing the Bobbin in its case.

vii) Tight and Loosen the Bobbin Thread Tension

When the screw is used to rotate in the clockwise direction, it tightens the tension and when the screw is rotated in the anticlockwise direction it loosens the thread tension.

viii) Attach Bobbin Case in the Bobbin Hook

This step comes after bobbin tension checking. This exercise elaborates on the steps to set the bobbin case in the machine hook. This hook can be seen by removing the side plate to the left.

CONCLUSION

The apparel segment is a labor intensive one where skill plays an important role in the production process and higher the skilled operator the higher will be his income than the unskilled operator. A proper operator training when given to the sewing machine operator on the above aspects of operation will help to convert the fabric into a stitched garment. To develop effective training methods, it should be realized that different types of errors exist and these should be overcome to become a skilled operator. The above study gives a methodology to train the operator in the apparel industry.

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