

## A study on the Indigo dyeing and its historical development

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In this study we investigate the indigo dyeing and its historical development. We restrict, however, the region that excludes the far eastern Asian countries of Korea, China, Japan. It is not because they are unimportant but a separate study is being planned and its results will be reported elsewhere.

Throughout the long history of human beings the color blue has been most liked and adored color. And indigo was used as synonymous word as color blue, especially early in history. Thus the indigo played very important role in many human activities such as high society ceremony, costume dyeing and economy. We look for the origin of indigo and evolution of its usage. Also studied are the trade between countries and economic contributions from indigo and indigo related articles.

In modern years with the rapid growth of the dye industry based on the chemical engineering development, the artificial indigo was chemically produced. We made research how and when this was attempted and finally succeeded, and also its effects on the great changes that followed in world dye market and industry. Because of its great advantage in price competition of artificial indigo. the natural indigo lost its ground in market very severely. However, even with such an economic disadvantage, there are several places in the world that remain with the usage and manufacture of the natural indigo

as their countries' historical traditions. And such their enthusiasm to their tradition as culture and their strong will to keep and develop this tradition attracted attention from the fashion world and it became as one of the central themes of the recent fashion activities.

To the people who work for the natural indigo, it is known that indigo is most difficult material to handle. With such complicated process only 2 kilograms of dye can be produced from 100 kilograms of the raw indigo material. We investigate variety of methods of producing the natural indigo and also of applying dye to the material.

In the past the natural indigo was one of the main national industry for the income for a few countries but nowadays it is most valued as the symbol of the maintaining and developing the humanly tradition. At the same time it is viewed as the most "natural" as opposed to the "artificial", and also environmentally "friendly". In this study we focus our attention to evaluate the historical value of the natural indigo which most people are fond of and would like to lay the ground work for the many future researches for this important and timely topic.