

A STUDY ABOUT MOTIFS & YARNS USED IN ARTISTIC WEAVING OF KUTCH DISTRICT (GUJARAT)

*BEENA PATEL **HEMALATTA.J.PATEL ***NEETA.P.CHUDHARY

Probably the first source of wool in Vedic India was goat just as first worn where goat skin “Urana” primarily means “Hairy covering of any animal” thought it is also used to mean sheep wool. Reference of woolen thread “Urna sutra” is mentioned in the later Samhitas and the Satapatha Brahman. The age of the later Samhitas is put at 1000 BC by Redhakrishnan and 2500 BC by Tilak. There is little indication of divine or ritual sanctity of wool. The use of wool was not prehistoric and was almost entirely secular.

All the more direct reference to sheep farming seems to pertain to the North West frontier of media where it seems to have been staple industry and monopoly. The industry regions was “*suvasa Urnava*” (woolly) and produced fine clothing of goat bears hairs. The softest wool was that of the ewes also to of Gandhara region. Puruni was wholly and produced bleached or dyed woolen fabric. Purni wool is mentioned in early passages while Sindhu and Gandhara wool come later, since the people from east moved to the Punjab in gradual and well marketed stages, the paruni wool come to be known in the country before the further western Gandhara wool.

The ancient people were aware of woolen fibers. Spindles and spinning wheels are excavated at Mohenjo and

Harappa and according to Makai these spindles were probably suited for spinning of woolen or other soft material.

BHUI—Bhui the capital of former native state of Kutch, is now the head quarter of the Kutch district Bhui was chosen by Rao Khengarji I as his capital in 1549. The fast walls around the capital were built by Rao Deshaji in 1723. Bhui has been attacked six times, in two cases the defense was successful but times it failed The great quake in 1819 destroyed nearly 7000 houses and killed 1140 people. Bhui contain some old historic Building, Jamader fatehmohmad’s Tomb, the mohmed pannah mosque, Rao praymaljis palace, the shared Baugh Bharatiya Sanskruti Darshan (Folk Museum) the Aina mahal Rao lakhpatiji’s chhatri, Ramkund, the kalaneshwer temple, the old court, the Jain Derasers,Havelies, the jubilee Hospital and the elephant stable. The Desalser and Hamisor tanks beautiful the town.

Bhui is known for its nutcrackers penknives, embroidery, batik work and bandhni (Tie- Dye) its silver and enamel work known as “Kutch work” introduced by Ramsang Malam is well known even today.

MANDVI—Mandvi was established by Khengarji in 1585. At one time it was a very famous harbour. It was a very famous harbour. It was connected with South Africa, Zanzibar, Arabia, Malaysia, China and Japan; Navigators of Mandvi were famous all over the world. Two routes were open to the traveler to Kutch, a journey by sea all in way from Bombay to the ancient sea port of mandvi or a twelve hours railway trip on the broad gauge line to Ahmedabad, then a change in to the meter gauge for the slow jog-tart for another twelve hours through Kathiawad and then embark a launch ferry either at Bedi in NawaNagar state or at Navlakhi in Morvi state. The sea route is no longer in use for passenger travel.Kutchi merchants have long established themselves in every seaport of India. They are also to be found around the Red sea and the Persian Gulf, in the parts of the middle east and above all in the coastal towns of Zanzibar ana east and west Africa The fame of the kuttchi navigators, pilots, and seamen equals the reputation of the merchant adventurers whom the carried in their stout kuttchi crafts across the oceans of Asia and Africa. The sea going trading of the kuttchi people no doubt explains why it is that Kutch has no fewer then five ancient parts Mandvi, Mundra, Jakhau, Lakhpat and Koteswar. All have a long history of overseas trade which spans centuries. Mandvi is 60Km from Bhui and is situated south of Bhui on the sea share. It is famous for ship building and for its beach which is very clean with blue water. 8Km from Mandvi there is summer place called Vijay Villas Built in Rajasthan style for Maharalas Vijayrajji in 1929. Mandvi is famous for tie – dye – silver work and the teresting architecture.

MUNDRA—Mundra is a small coastal town 60Km from Bhui , once upon a time it was a harbour . It was established in the time of Rao Bhojrajji (1633-1645) by his minister Shri vardhaman Shah . Mundra is called “the paris of Kutch ” Mr . Kanji Malam who was from Mundra is said to have helped Vasco de Gama, Ladha, Dhamji of Zanzibar who belonged to Mundra was a advisor the sultan of Zanzibar. He built a beautiful

*VISITING LECT. ASPEE COLLEGE OF HOME SCIENCE S.D.A.U. SK NAGAR DANTIWADA GUJARAT
 **SR. LECT. IN HOME SCIENCE, SMT.A.S.CHUDHARY MAHILA ARTS & HOME SCIENCE COLLEGE.
 ***LECT. IN HOME SCIENCE, SMT.A.S.CHUDHARY MAHILA ARTS & HOME SCIENCE COLLEGE

residence in Mundra called Navlakho. There are also many famous warriors buried near the Mahadev temple. Mundra is chief town of the Mundra Taluka which lies to the east about half way along the coast to Anjar. Mundra looks impressive from the out side. Its high fortified stone wall was built early in the eighteenth century out of massive blocks taken from the vast ruins of the sacred Jain city of Bhadreswar not for a way . In Mundra there is a beautiful shah Bukhari mosque where Hindu and Muslim seamen pray before going out to sea. The main handicrafts of Mundra are tie- dye , block prints and Namda work by Mansoori people .

ANJAR—Anjar about 40 Km south east of Bhuj and about 10 Km from north east shore of Gulf of Kutch is by population the fourth in the district. Anjar was the trading centre Tuna and vavaniya were important ports. The chief of these was Tuna near the mouth of Nakticreek. Tuna vessels of 17 to 34 ton are traded not only on the Gulf but with Mumbai and other ports of the western India. According to the local History Anjar was founded by Ajepal , brother of the King Ajmer (Rajasthan) who become an ascetic in 806 , after being defeated by some Muslim invaders . Important fairs held At Anjar are Makern Dada fair, a local saints fair, Ajepal and Shitalamata and Jeshal Toral fair. Capt Mac Murdo's bungalow is known as the Deputy collector's office and it is famous for its wall painting in Kuttchi Kamangari style. The ancient Shiva Temple called Bhadreswar is very famous for its beautiful sculptures Every Monday there is market in Anjar , many Rabari , Ahir , Bharwad villages people get together here . It is very interesting to see the colourful costumes. Anjar is famous for nutcrackers , knives , swords , batik block print items , old silver , jewellery and Bandhani. A very interesting village called Mindiyala in habited by Rabari people is 20 Km from Anjar Ratanal inhabited by Ahir people is 15 Km from Anjar . (Jethi , 1998). The study focus on specific aim those were :

1) To study the earlier and present motifs and colour used in artistic weaving.

2) To study the variety of artistic weaving produced in Kutch.

METHODOLOGY —The study is based on the collected information from various weavers , retailers and the customers . For the study of the manufactures of the Dhabla , Ludki , (Covering for Rabari Ladies), Ghedva (a type of Blanket) Bagido (Medium weight blanket Kathi , shawl , Marina shawl , Tie & dye shawl , Jaripatta shawl , shetarajji , Galicha , Chadder cotton , Asaniya , Maflar weavers of a villages of Kutch district in 5 district Bhuj , Anjar , Bhchau , Madvi , Nakhatarana under this 5 district sharli , Bhujodi , Ningal , Adhoi , Jamthada , Nirona , Bhadli , in which Bhujodi

is largest village manufacturing above articles ..the Investigator selected marketing of the retailers of vankarvas area of Bhujodi. Bhujodi is the biggest and oldest village of all the villages in 5 district, The investigation collected the necessary information from the weavers shopkeeper and customers with the help of interview schedule, Information has also been collected from various museums and libraries and all Indian handicrafts of Bhuj, the questionnaire was formulated suitable to the study of Artistic cotton & wollen hand Weaving, its marketing and customers view Regarding it, To obtain information regarding aspects Like background of the weaving unit actual manufacturing process of the cotton & wollen hand weaving I.e, from yarn to fabric, its marketing and last but not the least the customer's feedback, interview schedule was employed by the investigator. For the collection of data investigator personal visited the places in the month of Feb-March 2002. The total number of interview taken 60 at the following places. Kutch district – 25 Weavers Bhuj, vankarvas in Bhujodi-10 retailers Bhuj, vankarvas in Bhujodi-10 consumers Dyer of Bhadli village-5 dyer Embroidery is done by Bhujodi women-5 women Kutch district has co-operative society-5 co-operative society Result and discussion the articles prepared by craftsman at, Kutch district. These craftsmen are using mill made blended yarns and marina woolen yarn which are much softer then Deshi and other woolen yarn. The products prepared by them are...

1. Dhable (Blanket) : Plain, 2 Tara , 4 Tara , 2 Tara with design , 2 Tara with full designs , 3 Tara with less designs , 4 Tara with design and Dhabla with design , Jesal Mera , blanket Dhabla, 2 Ludki (Covering for Rabari Ladies), 3 Ghedva : (Type of blanket) 4 Bagido : (Medium weight blanket) 5 Dhable : Plain, 1 Tara (light weight blanket) 6 Khati : 1 Tara 7 Shawls : Plain , Jaripatta 8 Marina shawls : Marina shawls , marina full design , Marina Bandhani (Bagido , Bbadhni , navarng shawls) 9 Shetarajji : 10 Galicha (carpet) : 11 Chaddar (Cotton Bed Sheet) : 12 Asaniya : 13 Maflar : 14 Dress material : (1) Dhable (blanket) 8 varieties are prepared they are

1. Plain 2. Tara 3. Tara 4. Tara with design 5 Tara with full design 6 3 Tara with less designs 7 4 Tara with designs 8 Dhable with designs.

These articles are woven in Deshi wool , blended yarn , teriwool and polyester blended yarns. The design are interwoven during the weaving process . A few designs are woven by inserting the loose separate yarn (weft) through a separate shuttle or by hand size of Dhable plain Dhable with half designs and Dhable with full designs is 54"x 96" (2) Ludki This item is produced with black wool , the different

coloured yarns are used to weave the designs in it. The wool used is from 1 Kg. the size of 54" x 90"

(3) Ghedva Ghedva is prepared from using wool of 500gm to 1 Kg. The design are woven with different primary coloured yarns size of this item is 39" x 84"

(4) Bagido Bagido is woven with Desil wool only. The tabby is white and the different designs are inserted during the weaving process. The size is 34" x 84" (5) Dhabli Dhabli are woven in two types

1. Plain 2. 1 Tara This item is also woven with Desai wool. It is lighter in weight and mainly used by ladies. The size is 54" x 90" (6) Khati It is also produced in Deshi wool from 500 gm to 1 Kg. The colour of the tabby is white color red. The size this item is 54" x 90"

(7) Shawls plain These are produced with Deshi wool as well as blended woolen yarns. The plain ones are either white or in different plains colours. This item is prepared in 36" x 90"

(8) Marina shawls These are prepared with marina woolen yarn which is soft and superior in quality. This yarn is of high quality and is next to pashmina wool which is used by the craftsmen of Kashmir. thus, the shawls woven from this wool are soft and have goof finish the designs are woven in the entire tabby with diff. Colours. The border is or red, maroon and black colours The size of 34" x 84"

(9) Shetranji (Dari) The craftsmen have recently started weaving this item. These are woven by woolen and cotton yarn. These are produced in various designs, colours and sizes the small one has the size of 48" x 84" while big one has 58" x 90"

(10) Galicha (Carpet) This item is also recently started by the Craftmen of Bujodi, The geometrical pattern and floral designs are woven in various colours which cotton yarn is used as weft Galicha with border are prepared in two sizes (1) 48" x 90" & (2) 58" x 100"

(11) Chadder (Cotton bed sheets) The craftman of Bhujodi have started manufacturing item after studying the consumer's trend. These are prepared with cotton yarns of various colours different designs are woven in it. prepared in 48" x 84", 58" x 90" and 120" x 110" on try shuttle looms.

(12) Asaniya These items are woven in 24" x 24" size by using cotton and woolen yarn. These are broad different colours. There is a broad border on sides and designs in the centre.

(13) Maflar The craftsmen have recently started producing this item. These indicate that craftsmen have modified their production according to public demand. These are produced in different colours and designs. The size of this item is 8" x 10 " in width and about 3Ft in lenth.

(14) Dress Material These items are woven in 5/

12" x 11/ 2" size by using cotton and woolen yarn. This has a medium size border on both sides and designs (motifs) in the centre. A part from above articles, there are some articles which are made from the waste /defective / leftover pieces. They are :

1. Bag (small & big) 2. Purse (hand purse) 3. Jacket 4. Letter box 5. Pillow cover 6. Telephone mats 7. Cap 8. Belt 9. Border Patti

Raw material used

1. Deshi woolen yarn This is spun by mills it is blended with different variety of wool and is much smoother in quality and is in various colours.

2. Marina wool yarn The yarn is made from marina heep wool which is much more smooth and also fire in quality. This yarn is used by the craftsmen of Kutch district only.

3. Cotton yarn Mill spun cotton yarn is used in weaving designs and Khalvat work.

4. Jari thread This is prepared from metalised plastic in golden color and is purchsed from market. This is used for making the designs richer & alternative.

5. Pankandas These are white onion shaped tuberous roots, grown in the hilly area. It has bitter taste in Kutch dist. It is called as Dungras. These are grown in hilly area of Gir forest on Junagadh, Border hill, Jamnagar amd Rajkot and surendranagar District and this they are locally called as Dungras (Pankanda). These are boiled and think milky liquid is extracted from it which is used for sizing the yarn At times wheat flour is also used in preparing sizing fluid.

6. Dayes The colours mostly of primary shade is used for Dyeing the yarn which is used for forming different designs in the variety of item produced.

7. Colours Pink, Yellow, Red, Maroon, Magrnta, Blue, Green and Black.

8. Chemicals Acid are used for fixing the colours in making the dye fast.

9. Polyster yarn terriwool yarn This yarn is blended with woolen and Polyester yarn as terylone and woolen yarn

Weaving of Designs The design are inserted with the help of pick-up –stick known as patiya or salaka, during the weaving process according to the draft of the designs the threads of the warps are calculated and the pick-up –sticks is inserted between the upper and lower thread. this is done to separate the thread according to the formation of the designs. the colour thread is passed throoth the open shared beater is moved to and fro to tight up the weft. The different designs are making slight. Modification and change according to the draft of the designs to be incorporated in each item of production.

SR NO	Item	Design	New Design	Used since
1	Dhabla	Satmani , Dhungalia, Hatadi , Dabal , Pupati , Vankia , Macchav , Bhukli , Chhodari , Palta , Leria , Patta , Dungari , Popata	Popat Dholki	21 to 25 Years
2	Shawl Deshi and Marina Shawl	Satkhani , Dhulki , Latha , Machchar Dhungla , Laharia , Chhadari, Hodki , Dhari , Chomkha , Vankia	Pankh Satkhani	21 to 25 Years
3	Bagido	Latha , Satmani , Dhungla , Vankia Chomukh	Chomukh	21 to 25 Years
4	Dhabli	Latchormukh , Solakhani , Sukadi , Dhungla , Dholkia , Vankia , Dhari , Handki , Fult popati ,	Paruchi Dhugli	21 to 25 Years
5	Carpet (Cotton)	Satikhani , Vankia, Machhar , Chomukh , Dhungla , chomukh Patta , Dhungli		21 to 25 Years
6	Carpet (Woolen)	Satikhani , Vankia, Chomukh , , Machhar , Palta		21 to 25 Years
7	Khati	Popati		21 to 25 Years
8	Ludki	Chomukh , Machhar , Dhongla , Dhinghi , Satkhani , Lariya, Chhadari Fulsuddi , Chokhala		21 to 25 Years

After the weaving of Dhabla , Blanket, Shawls etc. is completed it is removed from the looms . the ends (chheda) of Dhabla are tied down with beautiful designs .They call this process as “chhedabandhawa” . This is done with different coloured woolen thread with the help of card and strings . This adds good look to the finished product and does not allow the weft to loose out dyeing the use.

The craftsmen are weaving formed dyeing the weaving process. This consumes less time and gives good finish to the final product.

Craftsmen , use of motifs are also seen in the blanket which is specially prepared . Most of the designs are done by dyeing the weaving product like patta and other geometrical forms .

Craftsmen are using the ready made yarn brought from Barmer and other places . They are using Merino wool which is slightly loose but is much more smooth and of time count which give the finished product a good and bright look . Yarns Articles were woven with cotton and woolen yarns . When weaving was started pure woolen yarns were used but it was more expensive , so customers do not purchase easily weavers used cotton and woolen yarn which they dye themselves , but the customers used complain about colour fading , so these days they have started using “ Acrylic yarn ” They also used Merino wool yarn with this yarn they made articles which are very attractive . Merino wool is made from hair of Merino sheep weavers of Kutch district do not dye & bleach this yarn ,

but directly purchase coloured yarn from Punjab (Ludhiyana) Bhuj – Bazaar . Different colour yarn is available in the market.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION: The aim of study was to enlighten the history & weaving Technique employed in making of the elegant traditional artistic weaving of Kutch.

Artistic weaving famous rural based handicrafts in Gujarat for its traditional intricate design & use of primary color combination. The weaving of cotton & woolen is also well known at the national level. The craftsmen had also earned their name on the map of India. They were honored with National Awards for their outstanding contribution in uplifting in pulling such rural based handicrafts. Releasing these bare facts the study was aimed to explore resources, valuable information were collected by the existing resources, valuable information were collected by the investigator using an interview schedule, and to the best of knowledge being incorporated in this thesis. During the course of the study, the web between the weavers, retailers, consumer dyer, co-operative societies & embroider become prominent. Thus the finding suggest that due to the non availability of the consumer, the relation are unable to provide the weavers the sufficient amount that a weaver should have earned, vice versa, the weavers can't provide the retailer the product below threshold prices. As an alternative from the art of weaving. Resultantly the glamour of the has demand is now existing as a shadow of the past.

REFERENCE:

PATEL.B 2002. “A STUDY OF ARTISTIC COTTON AND WOOLEN AND WOOLEN HAND WEAVING” UNPUBLISHED DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO PG DEPARTMENT OF HOME SCIENCE SARDAR PATEL UNIVERSITY, GUJARAT