

Design Resource

Kandanghi Saree - Chettinad

Traditional Wear Worn by the Women in India

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S.,

Lija M. G. and Smitha S.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kandanghi-saree-chettinad>



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Introduction

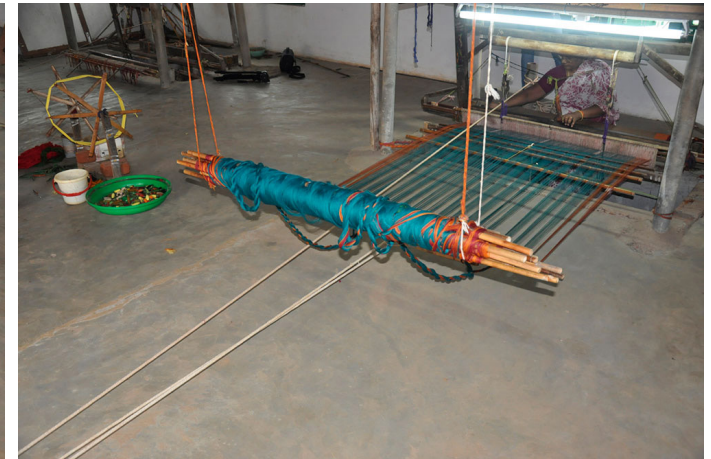
Saree is a traditional wear worn by the women in India from centuries. Their attire was simple but was worn with many variations in style of drape, depending on the region and occasion. The richness of colors, the exquisite weaving skills of diverse communities and the styles of draping has made the nine-yard piece of cloth the epitome of womanhood in India. The Cotton saree weavers migrated from Salem region to Chettinad area in Tamilnadu long years ago. Chettiar community hails from the Chola Kingdom (Kaveripoompattinam), who was considered as Nagarathas (Advisor). The saree pattern was made as per the choice of Chettiar community, later called as Kandanghi (Cotton) saree. Earlier days the weight of the Kandanghi saree was heavy and made of pure cotton. The width of the saree is only 91cm as compared to the regular saree width of approx. 120cm. Where the saree is draped over the wearer it reaches only till the calves there by the anklets worn by women could be seen. Nowadays the saree is woven to the standard width of 120 cms. Raw cotton is processed to yarn through various machines and methods in Coimbatore. Usually cotton threads of 60's Ne (count of yarn) and 80's Ne are used for producing these sarees.

Colors include madder, golden yellow, deep green and black. Aesthetics includes Narrow borders with an inter-mixture of ground colour are done by single shuttle, while broader borders in contrasting colour are woven in the three shuttle technique. The variation in pattern is achieved by tie and dyeing of the warp so that the center of each square in the checked pattern has a small dash. Frame loom and Pit loom are two types of looms used in for the production of these sarees.

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Charaka equipment is used to wind the cotton yarns from hank to the pirn.



Weaver sits in pit loom to weave the saree.

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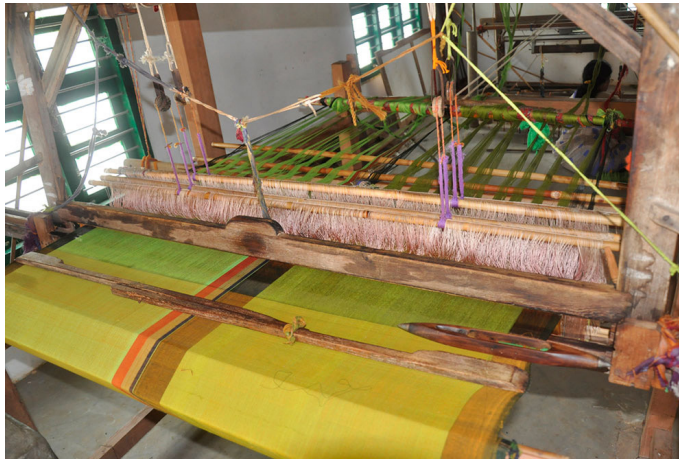
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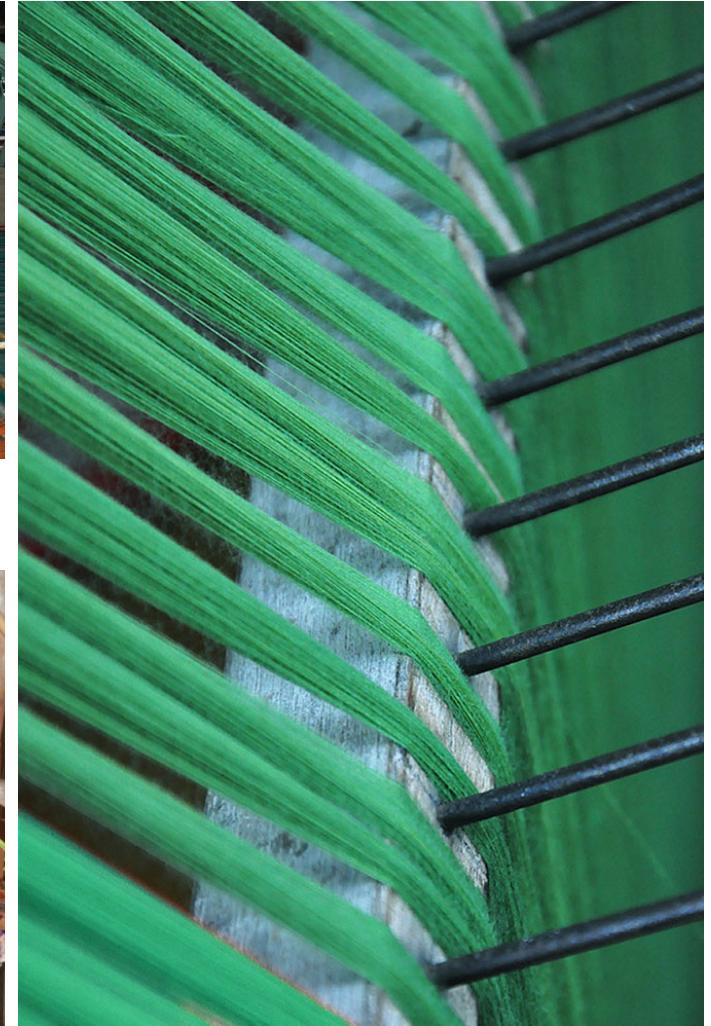
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In Kandangi saree weaving different color yarns are segregated to obtain the strips and checks patterns.



Traditional looms are operated with the help of the foot pedals.



Warp yarns are segregated to insert to the loom.

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The border along with appealing color combination is striking.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The Tools used are:

1. Winding Machine: to wind the yarn to the spindle.
2. Warping Machine: to stretch the yarn on the roller.
3. Loom: to interlace the warp and weft yarns.
4. Shuttle: to insert the weft thread into the loom.
5. Dyeing Equipment: to apply the color on the cotton yarn.

Raw Material:

1. Kondhupassai (Gum arabic).
2. Plastic weft winding pirn used for weft preparation.
3. The cotton yarn of 60's and 80's count of yarn.
4. Starch is applied on the fabric to increase the strength.
5. Chemical dyes and natural dyes for coloring the yarn or fabric.



Flying shuttle is used for the insertion of the yarns while weaving.

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Unbleached cotton yarns.



Vertical wooden loom used for weaving.



Reed is part of a loom which separates the yarns and keeps them in their positions.

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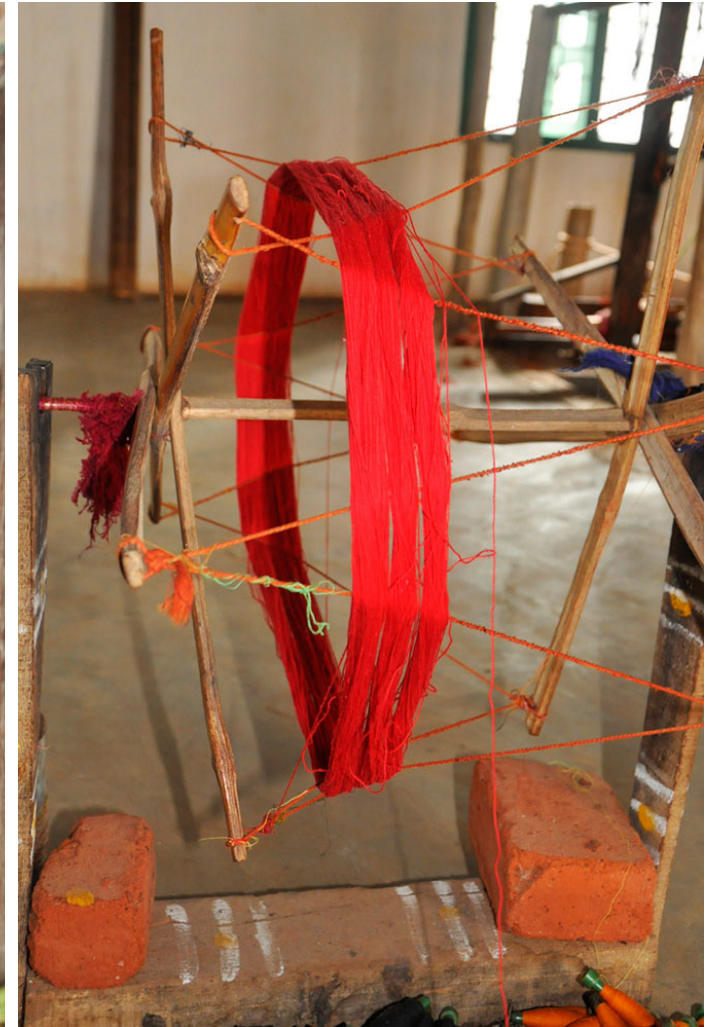
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Pulleys and heddles of the loom help in the easier weaving of these saree.



Yarn in hank form is placed on the charakas.

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Charkha wheels are used to wind the yarns to pirns.

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Draw bars fixed to the stand helps in the winding of the yarn to pirns.



Safety pins are used to pull out the wrong yarns insertion out.



Plastic pirns are used to wind the cotton yarns in the Kandangi saree.

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Pit loom is the most popular handloom used for making of the Kandhingi saree.

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Making Process

The traditional saree from Chettinad is made of pure cotton. The yarn procured from Coimbatore sent for cleaning process (locally called), where starch is applied to increase the strength followed by coloring process, washed in normal water and dried in room temperature. The colored yarn is wound to the pirn for the weft, where the yarns are dipped into the vessel containing water for the color check, strength and then wound. Simultaneously the yarns are stretched, opened, looped by using stout bamboo rods and dried outside (street) for the warping process. The newly prepared warp is attached to the corresponding thread of the previous saree, where the process of weaving (for next saree) continue by attaching the corresponding threads.

Fresh knotted warp is drawn forward through the heald wires and reed, and rolled on the metal cylinder called as the warp beam. With the help of heddles and foot pedal weaving is continued using fly shuttle, passed through the warp shed.

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Cotton yarns are starched before coloring for strength purpose.



Dye is mixed with hydro sulphate and caustic soda.



Color solutions are mixed well for even coloration to the yarn.

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Cotton yarns are soaked in the dye solution heated to high temperature.

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The yarns are immersed till the colors are evenly applied on the yarns.



For removal of extra colors on the yarn it is washed under running water.



Dyed yarns are washed for several times, excess water is squeeze manually.

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The dyed cotton yarns are dried under sunlight.

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Yarns are wound to the pirns with the help of charkha.



Yarns are wound on a plastic pirn evenly to avoid the breakages while weaving.



The wound pirns are soaked in water for minimum of 30 minutes before weft insertion.

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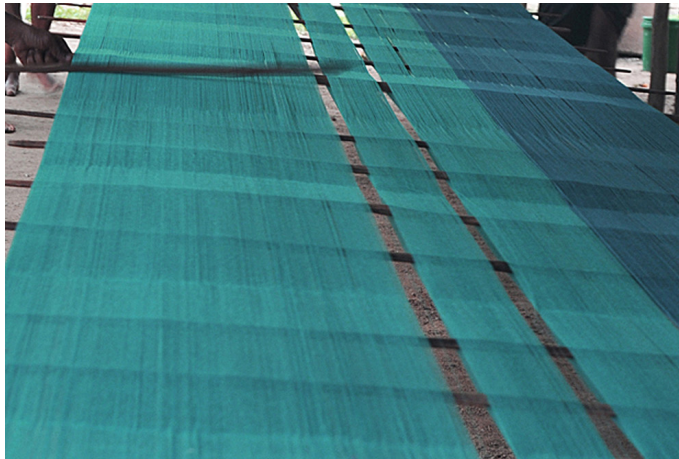
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Bamboo sticks is placed in between the cotton yarns to segregate each yarn.



As per the pattern to be obtained warp yarns are segregated.



The segregated cotton yarns with bamboo poles are ready for weaving.

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The warp threads are knotted to the heddle yarns separately.



After each knotting the yarns are stretched for firm fixing.



The loaded heddles are attached to the pulley to fix it firmly.



Well illuminated loom is used for the making of the Kandanghi saree.

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Saree is woven to the regular width of 120 cm.



Fly shuttle with wound pirns are loaded to the sley of the loom for the weft insertion.



The typical Kandanghi saree with check and strip pattern.

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Products

The products are of colors like madder, golden yellow, blue, black, deep green and mustered. Popular designs of these products are of border brick, birds, animals, leaf, mango, nayapaisa, sovereign etc. The colors of the sarees are pleasing and encourage consumer demand.

Some of the popular designs worked into the saree are:

1. Where the stripes run along the length of the saree.
2. KOTTADI or CHECK PATTERN: With squares or rectangle of various dimensions where the stripes run both the lengthwise and breadth wise.



A set of glass bottles painted with warli art.

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These saree usually reaches till the calves thereby allowing a graceful flaunt of the wearer's anklets.



Kandanghi sarees are famous for their stripes and checks pattern design.

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The sarees are characterized by huge contrast borders with proper use of color.

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This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S., Lija M. G. and Smitha S. at **NID Campus, Bengaluru**.

You can get in touch with

- Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
R & D Campus
National Institute of Design
#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road
Bengaluru 560 022
India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054

Fax: +91 80 23373086

Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

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