Design Resource

Khadi Weaving - Sandur, Karnataka

Traditional Craft

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Lija M. G.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/khadi-weaving-sandur-karnataka

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
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Introduction

Sanduru is located at the Bellary District of the Karnataka state of India which was once upon a time ruled by Ghorpade one of the Maratha's royal family. It lies at the south of Hospete or the Vijayanagar Metropolitan area. Sanduru is famously known for the Khadi Kendra that is located in this region which is said to be started at around the year 1984. This was mainly started to focus on the traditional craft and there by taking the initiative in improving the quality of life of craftsmen/ women in developing and encouraging their skills in various aspects with a regular income.

In India when khadi is been mentioned, it is not fair if the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi is not mentioned about. It is in the initiation of the Mahatma Gandhi the people choose to wear the khadi cloths to encourage the indigenous products during the freedom struggle of India. In the year 1921 Gandhji had launched the movement of "spin your own cloth and buy hand spun cloth" which is said to be the beginning of making the Khadi materials in India. The making of the Khadi materials was done in the villages and some of the remote regions in those days.

Nowadays it is few of the organizations and some of the people who even today stand along with the Khadi Gram Udyog for the continuous production of these materials. Khadi materials are normally made from the cotton, wool and silk. Nowadays it is even made with poly cotton in some cases. Khadi fabric gives a special look for the wearer with its uniqueness with its different raw materials. It is preferred by most of the people as it gives a special comfort and elegance. This material can be made for the various garments like kurta pyjama, shirts, dupattas, salwar kameez, sarees, saree blouses, jackets, vests etc. with a longevity.

Hand spun cotton yarn is the basic material of the Khadi fabric.

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Hand Spinning equipment specially found in the Khadi weaving at Sandur.

Craftsmen keenly observing the path of each yarn through the reed.

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This equipment supports from the roving stage to the hank form of the yarn.

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Single experienced weaver is sufficient in handling the Khadi weaving on the Frame loom.

The initial process of the dyeing.

Yarns coloured as per the required patterns.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Long years ago the making of the yarn from the fiber used to done with the hand, using different equipment to be made for various end uses. The following are the tools and raw materials required for the Khadi making at the Sandur region of Karnataka.

- **Hand Spinning Equipment:** It is used to spin the yarn after the roving stage on to the spindle.
- **Charaka:** It is an equipment used to wind the yarns on the pirns.
- **Shuttle:** It is used to insert the weft yarns on to the loom.
- **Creels:** They are frames used to hold the bobbins while warping.
- **Steel Vessel:** It is used to mix the color in the right proportions.
- **Boiling water:** It is used to dissolve the colour thoroughly.
- **Steel Tubs:** It is used to colour the yarns as per the requirement.
- **Water:** It is used to wash out the extra colored yarns.
- **Natural Dye Stuffs:** Natural dye stuffs like pomegranate peels (Anar chilka), Katha, Harda flower etc. are used for the natural colours.
- **Steel Rods:** It is used to immerse each hank of yarn into the dyeing solution.
- **Wooden Rods:** It is used to mix the hanks of yarn thoroughly in the dye solution.

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Coloured yarns are generally preferred for the borders.

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Hand spinning equipment is used for spinning the yarns.

Yarns from the creels are taken for warping process.

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Different natural materials such as flower, fruit and roots are preferred for dyeing of the fabrics.

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Yarns are wound on to the spindles.

Hanks are generally preferred for dyeing.

Bobbins wound are used for warping process.

Fly shuttle is refilled with wound pirns for the continuous weaving.

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Frame looms are generally preferred for weaving of the Khadi materials.

Hank of yarns are tied with threads tightly for the portions to be undyed.

Wood pieces are used for heating during the dyeing process.

Soap oil is used as an auxiliary for dyeing.

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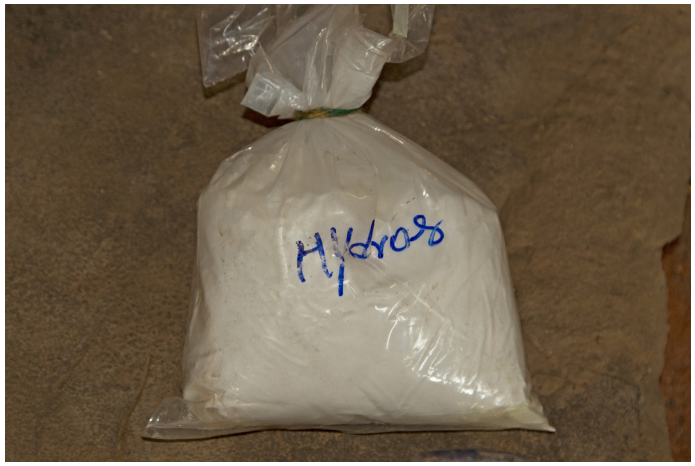

Hydro's chemical is generally used for assisting the dyeing process.

NaoH (caustic soda) available in the pellets or flakes form are preferred for dyeing.

Wooden rods are used for stirring thoroughly the yarns in the dye solution.

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Making Process

Khadi fabrics are generally those fabric which are specially hand spun to hand woven with the raw materials like cotton, silk, wool etc. Sandur Kushal Kendra supports the making of the Khadi material, from roving it is hand spun to yarns with the Hand Spinning equipment to the spindles. The yarns from the spindles are either wound to the bobbins or the pirns as per the requirement.

In case of the colored yarn, the yarn from the spindle are wound to hank form and then taken for dyeing. After drying completely it is taken for winding and weaving respectively as per the pattern of designs. Khadi materials is said to be the first that produced its indigenous produced goods at one time which used to concentrate itself with the naturally available materials. Even today some of the craftsmen still relies on the naturally made dye stuff for enhancing the outlook of the products.

Few cases the Synthetic dyes and dyestuffs are also preferred as per the time and the end product to be obtained. The yarns from the bobbins are taken for the warping process and placed on the looms. By the knotting process the loaded warp beams are loaded on to the looms. Generally the Pit looms or the Frame looms are preferred for the weaving of Khadi materials with the hand driven, foot pedals and the fly shuttle for weaving.

Flow chart of Making Process:

1. Raw cotton is spun to yarns on the Hand Spinning equipment.
2. Yarns are wound to the bobbins or pirns as per the requirements.
3. In case of coloured yarns, they are made into hanks and taken for dyeing.
4. Dyeing is generally done with direct dye and auxiliaries such as soap oil, caustic soda, hydros.
5. Some of craftsmen even today prefer the naturally made dye stuff for dyeing.
6. After the yarn is coloured it is winded and taken for the warping process.
7. Yarns are transferred by knotting process from the warp beams to looms.
8. Pit looms and Frame looms are preferred for weaving Khadi materials by hand driven, foot pedals and fly shuttles.

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Craftswomen takes special care in spinning the yarn on the Hand driven spinning equipment.

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Yarns are wound to the wrap reel on the same Hand driven spinning equipment.

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Empty bobbins are removed and loaded with the full bobbins to the creels.

Each yarn is passed through the reed for warping.

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Weaver observes the movement of each yarn through the Hand driven frame loom.

Minimum two to three craftsmen are required for the dyeing process.

Both the hands and legs of the weaver are on the parts of the loom during the weaving of the Khadi fabric.

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After the yarns are boiled, it is passed through the pipe water to remove the dust.

The yarns are washed thoroughly after boiling.

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Direct dyes are generally preferred for the Khadi fabrics of Sandur.

Dyes are mixed thoroughly in a small vessel.

Thoroughly mixed dye solution is poured to the steel tubs for dyeing.

Hank of yarns are put separately into the dye solution.

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Craftsmen takes special interest in dipping each hank into the dye solution.

During the dyeing process it is continuously stirred with the wooden stick.

After dyeing each hank is removed separately.

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Tied portions on the hank are removed.

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Yarns are spread from each other.

Hanks are washed to remove the extra colour.

Yarns are spread on the poles to dry completely.

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Products

The hand spun yarn generally used in the Khadi making with the raw materials like cotton, wool and silk to make the various end products like Kurta pieces, Shirt pieces, Towels, Outer Wear Vest, Khadi sarees, Upholstery, Dress materials, Shawls etc. After weaving of the fabric, the material is sent to the Khadi Gram Udyog that provides the raw materials and stands as a supporting body for the production and people that works to make them.

The typical hand woven Khadi material of Sandur.

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