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Wool Weaving - Almora Wool Weaving of Khadigram NGO

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Tushar Barman, Aruna Kumari Y. and Ankana Sen NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

http://www.dsource.in/resource/wool-weaving-almora

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- 2. Location Map
- 3. Tools and Raw Materials
- 4. Carding and Spinning
- 5. Dyeing
- 6. Twisting
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Wool Weaving - Almora

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Introduction

Khadigram in Almora is a Non-Government Organizations (NGO) which Provides opportunity to many wool-weaving artisans to come up with new innovative products made of wool. The weavers of Khadigram produce many varieties of wool using different weaving techniques such as weaving on loom, knitting, felting and braiding. In Uttarakhand, production of wool products starts especially in winter. Artisans extract wool from sheep in winter and start production process such as cleaning, carding, dyeing, twisting, weaving and stitching. The traditional wool manufacturing process is still in practice. However, now a-days, NGO and many self-help groups are giving many ideas and training to introduce new changes in the process of wool products. Wool is procured and cleaned manually in traditional method. The cleaned wool is spun onto spools to make threads and colored as per the requirement. Colored wool is again twisted to make spools and spindles for further weaving. Weaving is practiced in traditional looms. The woven wool cloth is sent to tailoring department to create products like sweaters, winter coats, blazer, blankets and praying mats.



Artisans coloring the processed wool.

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Colorful printed woolen blankets.



Khadigram office in Almora.



Senior artisan rolling the processed wool for making thread.

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Supervisor of Khadigram NGO.



Wool colored in bright yellow.



Artisan displaying woolen shawl.

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Woolen blazer and coats of different styles.

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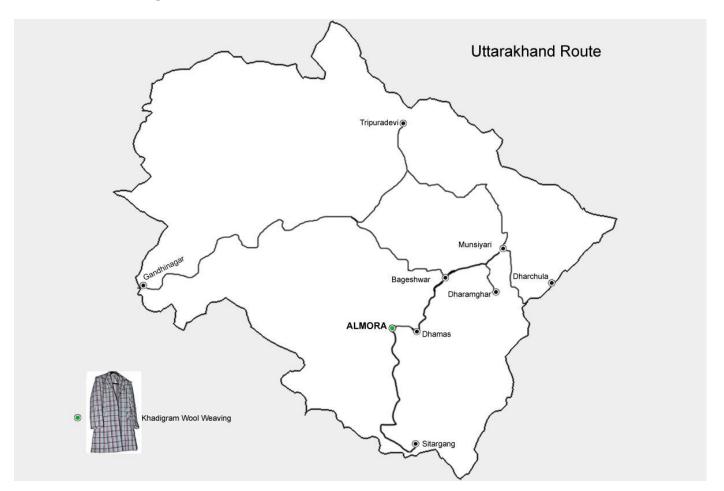
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Location Map



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Tools and Raw Materials

Wool weaving is a traditional craft in Uttarakhand. Wool is extracted from different animals like sheep, goat and rabbit. Handloom, Flying-shuttle, charkha, traditional furnace and pit-loom are used as the tools to weave products. The wool is cleaned and washed by hand to make the yarn for weaving process.

List of Tools and Raw Material:

- · Wool- it is the foremost raw material used.
- Weighing machine-it is used to check weight of wool before dying process.
- Flying shuttle-this helps in making different types of designs.
- Pit looms-helps in weaving.
- Charkha-it is used to make the yarn into spools.
- Carding machine-used to clean and clear entangle in wool.



Bundles of the yarn stored.

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Grey colored yarn before spinning.



Flying shuttle.



Wool is measured before the process to begin.

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Different colors of spools.



The natural wool after extracted is kept for drying.



Different colors of wool extracted from goats and sheep's.



Close up view of goat wool.

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The spin wool is ready and sent for weaving process.



A permanent arrangement for wool cleaning process.



Spool making machine.

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Automated spinning machine to fasten the process.



Traditional loom.



Warp making machine.

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Wool carding machine.

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Carding and Spinning

The process of carding starts once the trimming of wool is done. Trimming (cutting wool from sheep) is done once in a year during summer seasons. The procured wool is sorted and divided as per the quality grade and color of the wool. During this process, any impurities and poor quality wool is sorted out and fine quality wool is sent for carding process.

Carding Process: During this process, the quality wool is cleaned using detergents and dried under sunlight. Then the cleaned wool is passed through the rollers of carding machine. The rollers have thin metal wire called teeth in technical words. These teeth helps in removing entangles.

Carding process has three steps:

In first step, using the carding machine called the **Willow Carding** machine the raw wool is opened and separated which removes the entanglements and dust particles.

In the second step, in the carding machine called the **Beaker Carding machine**, the wool passes through roller with small thin teeth, which separates the fiber and arranges them parallel to each other. This process converts the wool into a sheet of wool.

In third step, machine called the **Final carding** machine converts the wool sheet into much thin sheet, and a worker twists and rolls it into woolen balls.

These woolen balls are fixed to a spinning machine called Ambarsar. The wool are processed into thin woolen thread and spun on spindles. The thread is again spun into woolen yarn from the spindles. These yarns are weighed and sent for coloring process.



Raw wool is passed through willow carding machine.

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First stage of rolling removes entangles.



Carding process done using three carding machines.



Cleaned wool after first stage of carding.

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Wool sheet is placed in the tray of beaker carding machine.



This process is done to separate the wool individually and arrange in parallel.



Processed woolen sheets are kept ready.

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Wool after final carding is rolled into balls.



Women engaged in spinning process.



Carding process makes wool lighter in weight and tangle free.

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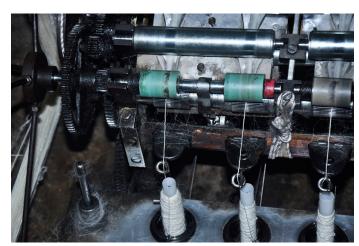
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Full view of spinning machine- Ambarsar.



View of wool being spun into spindles.



Spun wool is next sent for dyeing and weaving process.

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Dyeing

Dyeing process is done to give the wool a colour. The yarn is dyed with chemical colors. Different types of colors are used according to the products to be weaved. Colour powder is purchased from Amritsar in Punjab. The process begins with heating water at the temperature of 60 degree. Due to abundant availability of wood, it is used as fuel. Powder is mixed with water and acidic acid is poured into the boiling water. Then the yarn is dipped into the dying solution and soaked for few minutes to absorb color at the same temperature. Later the yarn is taken out and kept for drying at room temperature to avoid fade.



The off-white wool yarn is dipped in the boiling water.

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Vibrant colors are used for dyeing which is easily available in local markets.



Acidic acid is added to the color water.



Color powder is mixed with water.

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The color solution is poured to the boiling water.



Yarn is then dipped into the color solution.



The threads are soaked for few minutes to absorb the color.

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Wood is used as fuel for heating.



Dyeing water is heated at temperature of 60 degree.



The dyed yarn kept for drying in shade to avoid fades.

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Twisting

Dried yarn is spun on charkha to make spindles and spools. The threads are connected to weaving loom and weaved into required fabric. Weaver uses four-pedalled loom to weave the fabric. Spindles are inserted in the fly shuttle and used while weaving, which interlocks the thread. Spinning is done manually using spinning wheels. Colored and uncolored wool is spun seperately. The spun yarn is sent for warp making and weft weaving processes.



Manual spinning of wool with charka (spinning wheel).

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Strand from the wool bundle is taken and connected to spool.



Colored wool is twsited seperately.



Wool from bundle is being reeled onto spindle.

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A different type of spinning machine operated by peddling.

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Stitching

Woven wool cloth is further taken to stitching process. Expert tailors stitch varieties of winter coats, woolen Jackets, sweaters. Other products like caps, socks, hand gloves are manually knitted. For stitching a blazer, measurements are properly drawn on the woven cloth. Different pieces of suit are cut separately with accurate measurements and stitched. Patterns like small checks and larger checks of mild colors (light grey, light pink, off white and lighter and shades of black) are chosen to prepare blazer and coat for elegant appeal.



Canvas cloth used to stiffen the color.

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Measurements are drawn and cut.



Closer view of stitching.



Experienced tailor in Khadigram engaged in stitching.

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Buttons are stitched manually using needle.

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Weaving

Woven wool cloth is further taken to stitching process. Expert tailors stitch varieties of winter coats, woolen Weaving is a method of interlacing two threads, i.e. warp threads and weft threads. The process of weaving is done in traditional pit looms. The looms are very basic and contain no jacquard attachment. Fly-shuttle with spindle travels through the opens of warp shed and interlocks. The woven cloth is wound onto weavers beam. Weaver cuts the woven cloth by leaving warp threads of 1 to 2 inch length for creating fringe at the edge. After weaving, wool cloth is sent to stitching department for stitching suits, coats and sweaters.



Colors of wool threads are arranged in warp.

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Closer view of woven wool cloth.

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Traditional loom used in weaving process.



Woven cloth is wound onto weavers beam, which is near pedals.

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Check patterns obtained when warp and weft threads are in different colors.

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Products

The woolen products have high demand in India during the winter season. The work is basically done by women. Khadigram provides labor for the married women's to do work at home. The materials and wages are paid by khadigram on the quantity of work done. Most of designs weaved have stripes or checks as the main design language. Some of the sweaters are hand knitted using knitting needles. Weaved fabrics is stitched into coats, jackets, shall and many more woolen wears are stitched by the tailor. The fabric materials and the readymade dresses are also marketed to different part of India.

List of Products:

- 1. Sweaters
- 2. Shawls
- 3. Coats
- 4. Mufflers
- 5. jackets
- 6. Bed sheets and blankets



Different colors of sweaters.

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Light colored sweater made for gents.



Handmade printed bed sheets.



Different sizes of sweaters in dark colors.

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Blankets with vibrant colors.



Shawls designed with swastika and floral patterns.



Coat with checks patterns.

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Wool Weaving - Almora Wool Weaving of Khadigram NGO

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Tushar Barman, Aruna Kumari Y. and Ankana Sen NID Campus, Bengaluru



http://www.dsource.in/resource/wool-weaving-almora/products

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Location Map
- 3. Tools and Raw Materials
- 4. Carding and Spinning
- 5. Dyeing
- 6. Twisting
- 7. Stitching
- 8. Weaving
- 9. Products
- 10. Contact Details







Geometrical patterns designed on the bed sheets.



Stripes patterns coat.

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This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Tushar Barman, Aruna Kumari Y. and Ankana Sen at NID Campus, Bengaluru.

You can get in touch with

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