

Design Resource

## Dhoti Weaving

Traditional Attire of Wearing

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

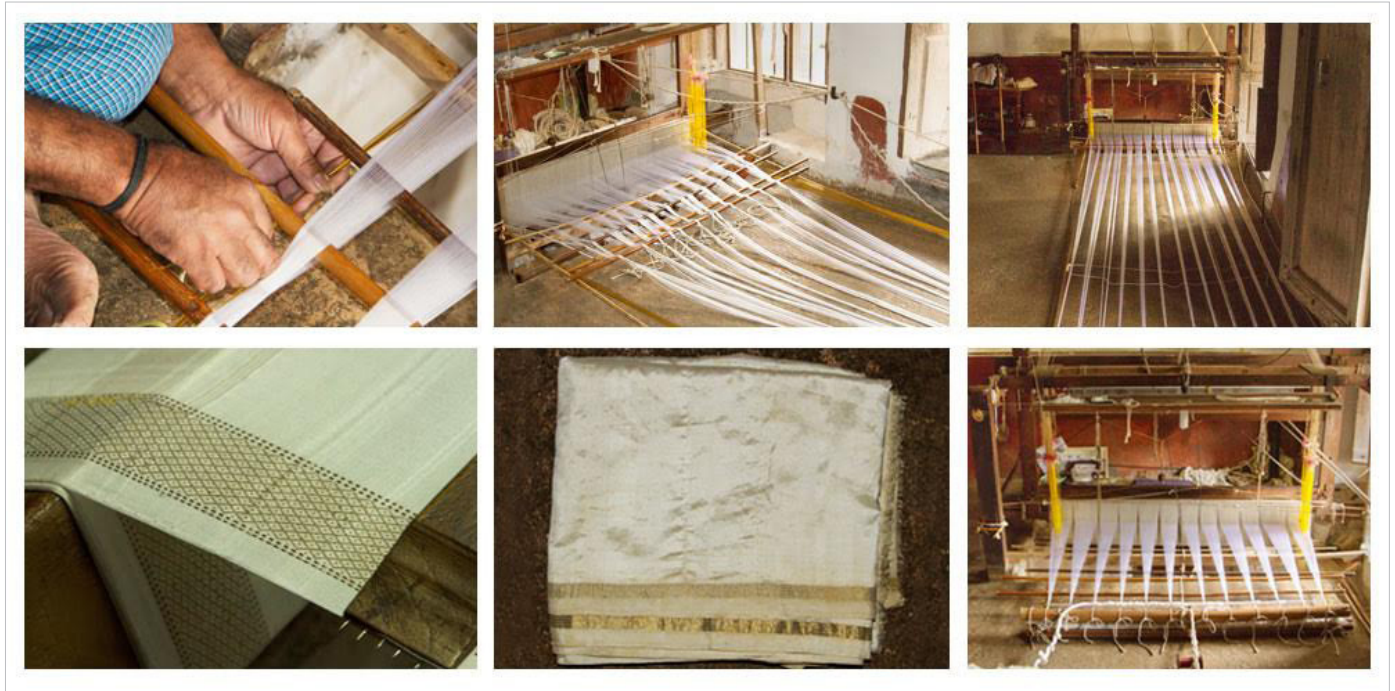
Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/dhoti-weaving>

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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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## Introduction

A dhoti is a rectangular piece of plain cloth which is usually of 4 to 6 meters long and it is worn around the waist, legs along with a knot to keep it secure on the waist, it slightly resembles a long skirt. It is also referred to as mundu, veshti or pancha which is generally worn with a shirt, kurta or top. Dhotis are commonly worn by men and even now they are considered as a formal wear in few parts of India.

In most of the parts of south India this garment is generally worn for traditional or cultural occasions. The wearing of Panchae or Dhoti differs from one state to another, in south India the garment is folded in half thereby revealing the legs from the knee downwards. In some places the garment folded half it is considered disrespectful to the elders, superiors or women. In other cases when men faces the huge crowd they loosen the pancha allowing it to cover the legs completely.

Different parts of India address this fabric in different ways such as panche in Karnataka, pancha in Andhra Pradesh, dhoti in Maharashtra and veshti in Tamilnadu. This garment is generally of off white, cream or white in colour worn on religious occasions and weddings. It is said that the Dhoti is completely worn along with the extra piece of cloth called angavastram or Shellya of generally 2 meters worn on the shoulders. The borders of the dhoti and sari generally has the different colours either with continuous or non- continuous weft created with balanced colour borders.

Melukote is one of the consecrated places located at the Mandya district of Karnataka which is built on the stony hills commonly called as Yadugiri. It is about 51 kms away from Mysore and about 133 kms away from Bangalore.

Dhotis are the short piece of cloth fastened around the waist which is been carried tightly between the two legs to the back of the body and tucked onto the waist. Lungis or dhotis gained their attractiveness when sewed with a balanced border generally using the traditional motifs. Off-white dhotis or lungis were commonly found in the 1916 with contrast borders of rudraksha and floral motifs woven on them with the help of a throw shuttle pit loom. It is also called Ambasi phadiki dhadi panje due to the place at which it is woven at the village of Lakkundi with the Throw shuttle pit looms called in Kannada as the kuni maga.

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The silk dhoti is being weaved by an artisan at Melukote.



The weaver is inserting the fly shuttle inside the loom to get the golden zari as the border in the silk dhoti.



The silk dhoti is fixed to the wooden beam to tighten the weaving area.

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Silk dhoti with golden border weaved for festive occasions.



Craftsman is ensuring the golden zari thread.



Artisan is weaving the silk dhoti at Melukote.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials used for the Dhoti making at Melukote. They commonly use Throw Shuttle Pit looms for weaving the Dhoti in the Melukote region of Pandavapura taluk of Mandya district of Karnataka.

- **Silk Yarns:** Generally used for the making of the Melukote dhotis.
- **Plastic Pirns:** It is used for winding the yarns for weaving.
- **Phirki (bamboo swift):** It generally used to wind the silk yarns.
- **Throw Shuttle:** It is used to insert weft yarns for weaving.
- **Measuring Tape:** To measure the length of the design to be woven.
- **Rods:** It is used to be placed in the holes for easy movement of the yarns.
- **Long Stick:** It is use to roll the yarn on the stick.
- **Hooks on the Roof Tops:** It is used to hold the yarns during spreading of the yarns.
- **Thick Rope:** It is used to control the movement of the parts of the loom.
- **Water:** It is applied on the yarn surface to straighten / strengthen.
- **Cloth Piece:** To keep the yarn surface clean it is rolled on to them.
- **Twine:** Twine to tie the cloth firmly to the off white yarns.
- **Cut Twine with Equal Lengths:** Tied to the sticks by passing through the length of yarns.
- **Bamboo Piece:** It is used as the warp beam in case of Dhoti weaving.

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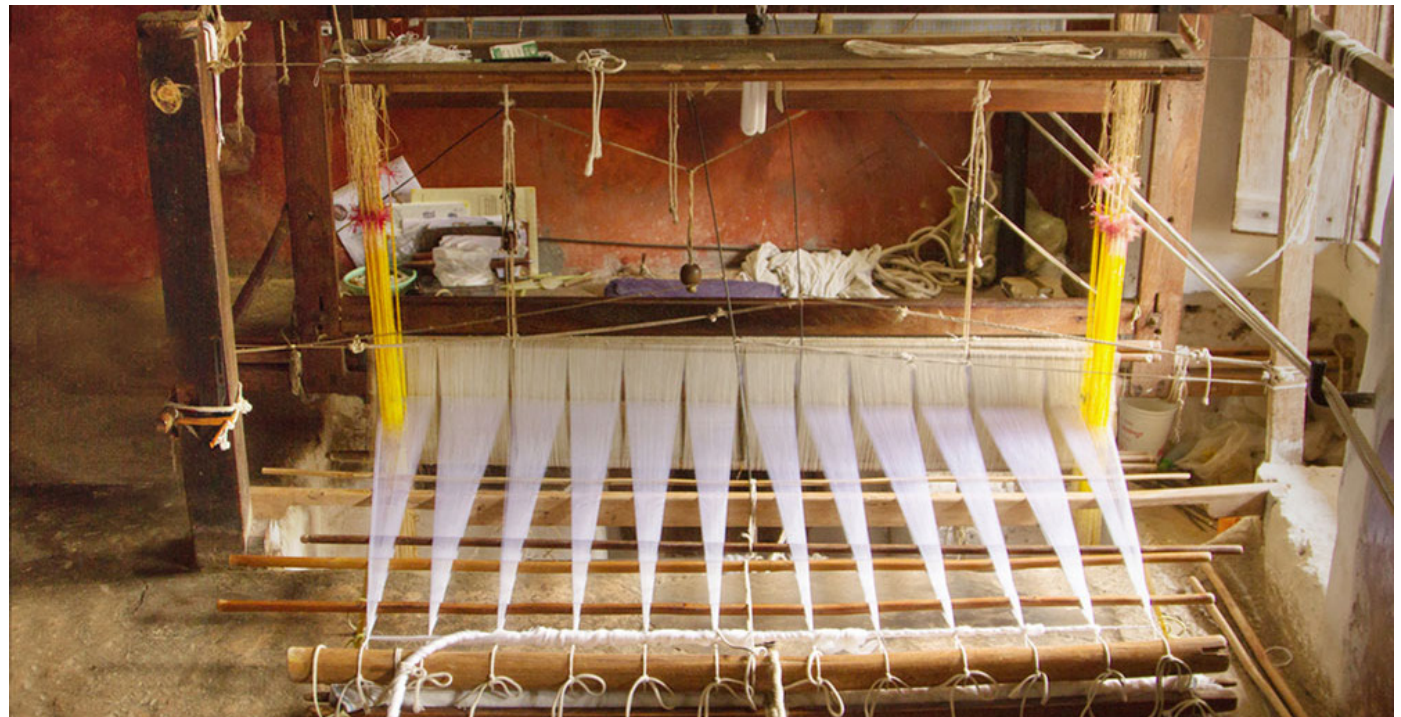


The prepared silk yarn is used for the weaving of Dhoti.



The plastic pirns which are used in spinning the silk yarn.

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The loom which is used for weaving silk dhoti.

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The fly-shuttle, fully loaded pirn and the sharp edged tool which is used to cut the thread.



The special zari used for borders in weaving silk dhoti.



Phirikis, used in spinning the silk yarn and zaris.

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## Making Process

Melukote previously weaved more of cotton Dhotis, nowadays they have undertaken the weaving of silk dhoti which is mostly provided by the Priyadarshini Organization. As per the pattern the Silk yarns are taken for the warping and the weft purpose.

The yarns are generally provided with required designs as per the length and width of the dhoti. Weaver is responsible for the wastes more than 100 gm and has to give an account to yarn material as it is very costly. Generally zari threads are spread on the borders and off white yarns of silk or cotton on the body part of the Dhotis. Throw shuttle pit looms are generally preferred in Melukote for the weaving of silk Dhotis. As Dhotis of the Melukote region are usually made white or off white in colour, so the length of yarns are kept of 4 meters and are spread out, the remaining yarns is rolled and tied with a cloth material and tightly twined such that it doesn't get dirty it is locally called as Kunti (cloth beam). The warp yarns are passed through the Dobby mechanism for the border designs.

Weaver takes a lot of effort from the pre process to the weaving to ensure the right patterned Dhotis are woven. After it has been neatly spread out the weaver controls each part with the rope that moves from one end to the other end. Two pedals are pressed repeatedly by the foot of the weaver and the regular insertion of the throw shuttle, the yarns are inserted for weaving to take place. Borders are generally with the border design of the zari work with diamond and designs allotted to them.

This weaving follows the old tradition of the Dobby Mechanism with the punching cards along with wooden pegs. The wooden phiriki is used for winding the silk yarn to the pirns which is inserted in the throw shuttle for weaving. Warp yarns are divided into 6-8 sections and tied to the bamboo piece that becomes the warp beam.



The hank of silk yarn.

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The silk yarn is put around the three wooden rods to start the initial process of weaving.



The wooden Phirki is being used for winding the silk yarn.



The pirn is being spun of silk yarn from the wooden Phirki.

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The close-up of the pirn getting spun.



The loaded pirn is being inserted into the throw shuttle to insert the yarns while weaving.



Warp yarns are divided and tied to the bamboo sticks so that they become warp beam.

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The golden zari is being spread at both the ends, till the required length.



The remaining zari is tied firmly with the white cloth, so that it doesn't get dirty.

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The silk yarn is equally spread out in the middle of the zari threads.



The close-up of the silk yarn and the golden zari threads spread out from the heddle shaft.



The excess of white silk yarn is rolled and tied with the cloth to avoid the yarn from getting dirty.

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The excess of white silk yarn is rolled and tied up.



The process of tying the silk yarns to the wooden beam is begun.

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Weaver tying the silk yarns firmly to the wooden beam which are spread out from the heddle shaft.



The excess of silk yarn is again twined and tied with the cloth and kept at the end.

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The silk yarns are wiped with the wet cloth to avoid the silk threads getting knotted at the time of weaving.

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The loom is set completely with the silk yarns and zari threads for the further weaving.



The weaver traditionally weaves the dhoti of white silk with the golden zari border at Melukote.



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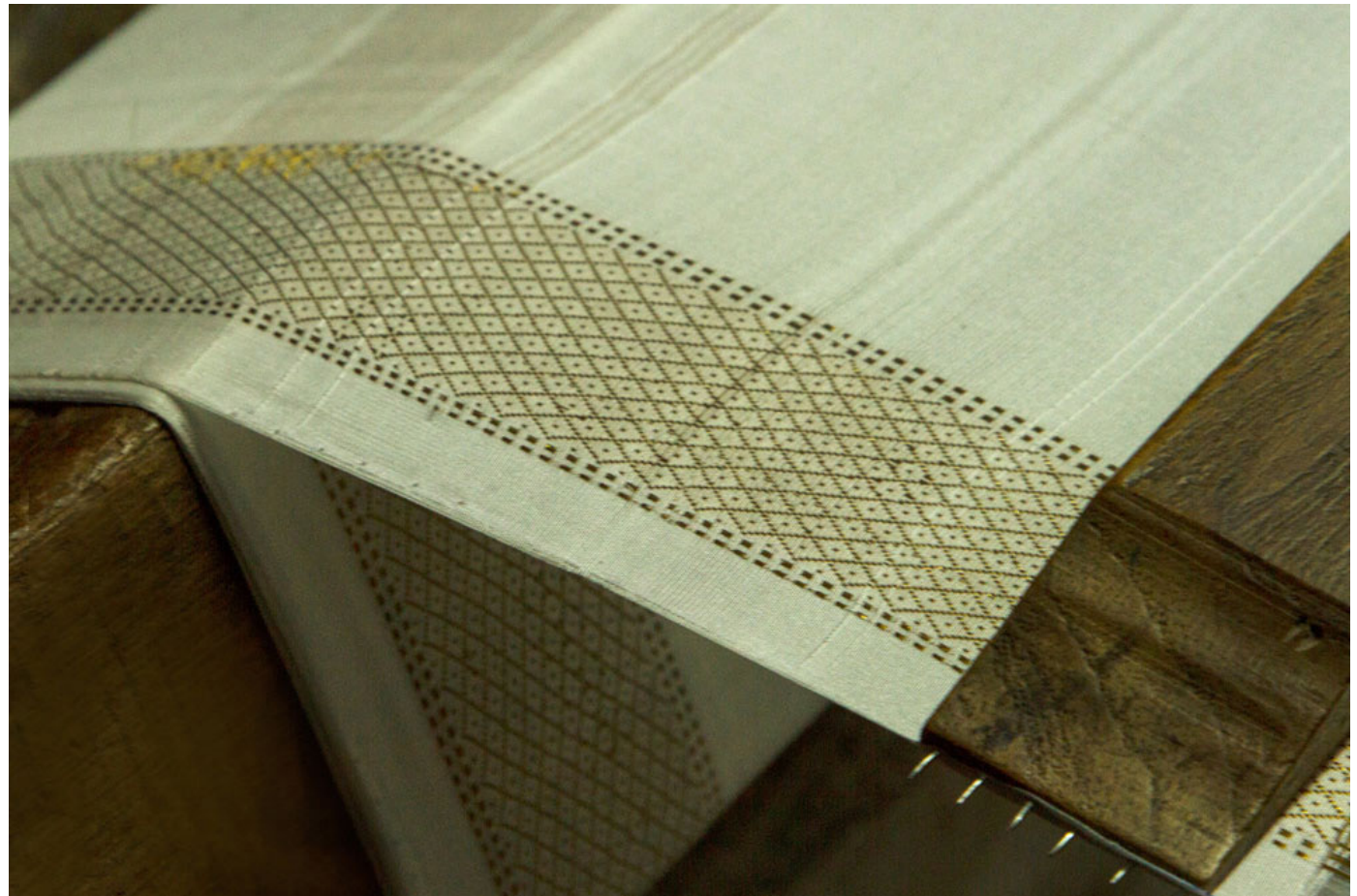
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## Products

Melukote is a place with varieties, People here generally prefer to keep the traditional attire with them of wearing. Earlier borders with thicker designs were preferred by the Melukote people, nowadays thinner bordered Dhotis, Lungi are mostly preferred by the people. The borders are completed with rich design patterns of diamond shaped and other patterns are mostly done on the silk and the cotton dhotis. Silks are usually provided by the Priyadarshani Organization for which the weavers make the specified pattern taking only the wages of the work, as the woven material will be given back to the dealers or the outlets wherever specified. Dhotis are generally of four meters in length with the angavastram set (shell) of two meters.



Dhoti is a traditional wear usually worn by south Indians.

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The silk dhoti is intricately designed with the golden border is ready to use.

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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Lija M. G. 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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