

Design Resource

## Cotton Sari - Pochampally

Tie and Dye Weaves

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/cotton-sari-pochampally>



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## Introduction

Pochampally, a cluster of 80 villages, is an interesting combination of tradition, history, heritage, and modernity is widely known for Pochampally Saree - the most typical weaving village in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh.

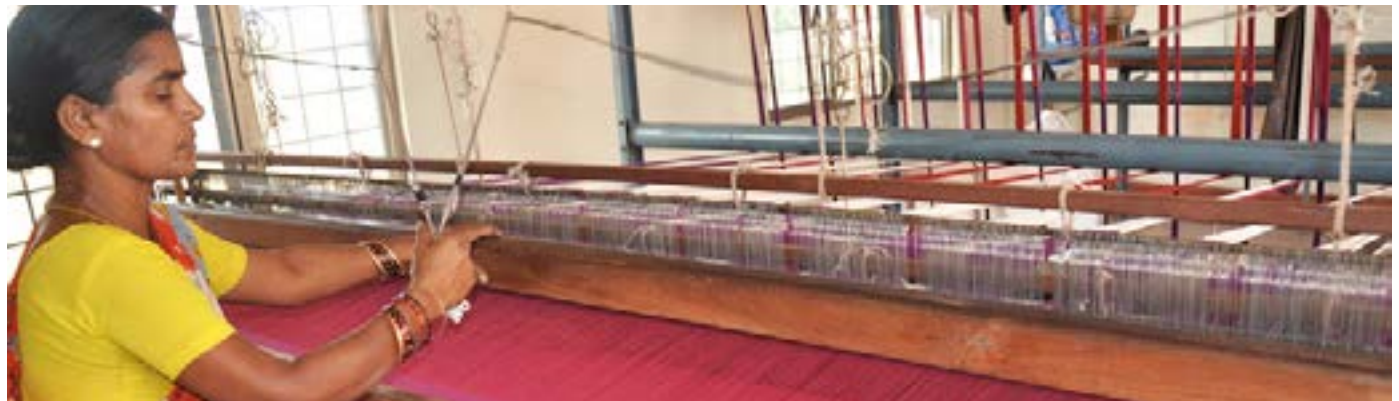
Pochampally, a cluster of 80 villages, is widely known for Pochampally Saree. The most typical weaving village is an interesting combination of tradition, history, heritage, and modernity is situated in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh.

The weaves of Pochampally are popularly known as Ikkat or tie and dye weaves. Where first design and colouring are transferred onto warp and weft threads and then the same are weaved together. The design of the traditional looms of Pochampally is more than a century old. Today, there are more than 10000 weaving families in 100 villages.

The interactions between consumer and weaver provide inputs for new designs. The weavers have adapted themselves according to the changing tastes of the consumers. The manufacturing history of Pochampally Ikat sarees dates back to 1950 and at that time, some village headmen of Pochampally decided to weave silk along with cotton to make a better living. Unlike Orissa's Ikat weaving tradition, the weaving of Pochampally sarees appears to be a modern development without strong indigenous roots.

**Place:**

This documenting is done in Pochampally Handloom Park Ltd situated in Pochampally. This is a government-based factory spread over 24 acres, which exports products all over India. Around 200 craft workers work in this factory. Only a few families carry out this weaving work at home and few go to the handloom factory.



Larger looms are used to weave bedspreads.

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Yarn is wrapped manually in a “to and fro” movement using warping frame Aasu.



The marked design on the warp is tied using rubber tubes.



Warp is dyed in vibrant colours.



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Cotton threads are dyed and kept for warping.

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Geometrical patterns created on silk saree.



Artisan checking for knots and breakages.



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Environment at warping and drying process.



Women involved in spinning process.



Dress material in geometrical pattern with Buttis in red colour.



Floral, animal and bird motifs are weaved on silk sarees.

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Shawls are weaved in different colours and designs.



Collection of silk and cotton products.



Pochampally handloom factory.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

The materials and equipment are purchased from Gujarat for the handloom factory whereas local weavers purchase from Vijayawada.

### Raw Materials

- **Silk:** Silk is used rarely to produce silk saris.
- **Cotton:** Many products are weaved using cotton threads.
- **Dye Colours:** For cotton threads, fabric colours are used whereas for silk threads chemical colours are used.

### Tools

Equipment used in reeling, dyeing and weaving processes are as below:

- **Dyeing Machine:** It is used to dye the threads in large quantities at a time.
- **Weaving Loom:** Small loom is used for weaving saree and big looms are used to weave bedspreads and other fabrics.
- **Fly Shuttle:** It is used to insert into fly-shuttle while weaving.
- **Warping Wheel:** Cotton threads are reeled on warping wheel.
- **Reed:** Jointing process is done on reed.
- **Spinning Machine:** Spinning wheels are used to prepare spools and spindles.
- **Reeling Machine:** It is used to prepare spools.
- **Spools and Spindles:** Spools are used while warping and spindles are used while weaving.

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Processed Cotton thread.



Spools are connected to warping wheel.



Spindles are inserted in fly shuttle while weaving.

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Cotton thread is reeled on smaller warping frame.



Coloured silk.



Brass metal blade is used to apply gum on weaved sari.



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Automated dyeing machine to dye silk and cotton threads in large quantity.



Traditional method of spinning to make spindles.



Bigger wooden spool used to reel the cotton yarn.



Rubber strips are used to tie cotton threads while tie and dye process.

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Reeling Machine.



Pit Loom.



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## Spinning Process

### Reeling:

The cotton yarn after dyeing is brought for the spinning process. A bundle of yarn is placed on the spinning wheel machine. The cotton strand is reeled to spools and the wheel is operated. The workers simultaneously keep joining the broken strands for continuous reeling of the threads. These spools are then sent for the warping process.

### Making Spindles:

The yarn is placed on the Charka-spinning wheel and is transferred into spindles. These spindles are later used to insert into the fly shuttle, which is used in the weaving process.



Placing the yarn bundle on the reeling machine.



The bundle is placed and spread on the reeling wheel.



The end side of the thread is pulled out and connected to cone.



Thread is reeled on the cone.

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These spools or cones are again spun into spindles.



Traditional method of making spindle.



Modern method of making spindles.



Colourful cotton thread reeled on the spindle.



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## Tie and Dye Process

In Pochampally village, the ikat weaving is called as Chit-Ku. Required designs are marked on the prepared warp threads. According to the designs, rubber strips are tied on areas, which should not be dyed, and the exposed threads are dyed with colour. After one round of dyeing, those rubber strips are removed and tied to different areas, which should not be dyed again. This step is repeated until all the colours of the estimated design have been dyed on the thread. The dyeing process for the tie and dye process is done manually as different colours have to be dyed one by one on the yarn. Plain colour dyeing is done in the dyeing machine as only one colour is dyed for all the yarn.

The machine accepts exactly 50kg of yarn to be dyed at once, if less the chemical consumption will be heavy and casting will become more on the yarn. Part of the dyeing machine holds a hook in which sample thread is attached to keep checking the colour or shade of the dye. The sampling thread is checked at regular intervals until the required colour or shades have been obtained. This dyeing machine will run for 24 hours at a time for 50 kg yarn. After dyeing the yarn is dried at room temperature and then sent for the jointing process.

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Reference design.



A graph sheet is prepared with motif designs.

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Cotton threads are spun to prepare warp.



The design is marked on the warp threads with exact measurements.



Once the design is marked, it is first tied with cotton thread.



The design is tied with rubber strips.



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Minimum 2 or 3 artisans are involved in tying process.



Rubber strips are used because it holds the threads tightly.



Overview of the design tied warp.

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After tying, the warp is sent for the dyeing process.



The threads are allowed to boil in the color water to absorb the color.



Initially, lighter colours are dyed and then darker colours are dyed on them.



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The exposed area, which has been dyed, is then tied.

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The previously tied area is removed and exposed to dye in another colour.



The coloured threads are allowed to dry in shade.



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Tie and dye process is repeated until the required design is coloured.

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## Warping

After spinning, the cotton yarn is rolled on the warping wheel from multi-ply spools. The yarn is wrapped manually in a “to and fro” movement aka Aasu. The accuracy of this tying process eventually determines the quality of the design produced. After warping the yarn is twisted and folded and sent for the weft process. The weft process is done twice, one's before dyeing and another time after dyeing.

**Weft is prepared in two types:**

This weft step entails the preparation of yarn for resisting dye. The weft yarn is spread out horizontally from a reel onto a special frame, going to and fro between a bigger iron peg on one side and around smaller ones arranged in a semi-circle on the other side. The distance between the big and small pegs corresponds to the width of the finished fabric. This tool for grouping the weft is used typically in the Pochampally area, and not anywhere else. This process is one for dupatta, shawl and scarfs.

In another way, the yarn is stretched and tied on either side. This process is done usually for saree, bedsheets and dress materials. After weft designs are drawn on weft thread and sent for tie and dye process. Yarn is dyed in the required colour and dried at room temperature and then again sent for another round of weft process. This time threads are stretched and untangled and rolled and sent for the jointing process.



Threads from multiple spools are taken and connected to the warping wheel.

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The warping wheel is rotated to prepare a minimum length 18 to 20 meters of yarn.



Broken threads are joined together and continued reeling.



Cotton thread is laced to divide the warp in segments.



Prepared warp is sent for tie and dye process.

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A different method of warping for smaller products like stoles and shawls.



Dyed threads are again brought for another level of warping.



Warp is stretched and tied between two poles.



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The warp threads are inspected for breakages and cleared.



Warp threads are aligned as per the design.



Warped threads are bundled and sent for jointing process.

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## Jointing Process

The weft yarn is brought for the jointing process. The yarn is passed through a reed and then attached to the handloom for weaving. After the weaving is completed a small amount of yarn is left in the reed and the weaved fabric is cut. The yarn is then tied to leftover thread in the reed for the next weaving process. Each yarn is knotted one by one with the remaining threads in the reed. This process is known as the Jointing process.

Ash powder is used for a better grip of threads. This process is done manually and takes 1 to 2 days for one set of the weft. After the jointing process, the reed is fixed in the handloom and the weaving process is started.



Artisan engaged in jointing process.



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The warp threads are joined to the reed threads.



Ash power is used for better grip while joining.



Each single thread is tied carefully.



Overview of environment where jointing process is practiced.

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Threads are connected and reed is loaded into weaving loom.



Warp thread are attached to reed.



After tying, the amount threads are tied with cotton thread to avoid breakages.



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## Weaving

The prepared reed is fixed to the weaving loom and weaving process is started. The weaver interlaces the cotton threads of warp. The shuttle passes through the threads to interlock the threads of warp. Artisans use different colours of contrasting threads while weaving to create designs. The proton of woven cloth is wound to the wooden beam, which is located in front of the weaver. After weaving 6 yards of fabric, the portion of the unwoven warp is intentionally left before and after the sari weaving, which is later knotted for fringe.

It takes nearly 2 to 3 days to complete one sari. The length of the 3 saris warp is loaded into the loom at a time. For bed sheet weaving big handlooms are used. Thus the weaving is completed and a sari is folded in the traditional manner for the market.



The prepared warp with reed is stretched and connected to loom.

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Stretched warp is tightly pulled and connected to weavers beam.



Side view of raised loom.



Weaver sits in front of weavers beam to work with raised loom.



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The bigger loom in handloom factory is setup to weave wider products.

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Spindle is inserted in the fly shuttle for weaving.



After every single weave, the strand is pulled on sides to tighten the weave.



Different colours of motifs are obtained by adding external weft threads through spindles.



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Pulley helps to operate fly-shuttle.



Pedal movement helps to handle warp allowing fly-shuttle to operate.



Finished sari is rolled on weavers beam.

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Zari threads are used to create motif designs.



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Mixture of cotton and zari sari with colourful flower motifs.



Skilled artisans are expert in folding the sari systematically.



Colorful silk and cotton saris in geometrical motifs.

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## Products

Pochampally weaving cluster is mainly concentrated on producing cotton products. Silk saris are produced based on customer orders. The unique Pochampally weaving stands out for its intricate patterns created by colouring onto warp and weft threads first and then weaving them together in Ikat style.

Spectacular designs are beautifully composed with a combination of vibrant colours and a rich count of threads. The range of products includes silk and cotton sari, scarves, stoles, bags, pouches, sari bags, and women's dress materials. Men's wear includes shirts, kurtas, and pants. Others include bed sheets, Divan sets and curtains.



The prepared warp with reed is stretched and connected to loom.

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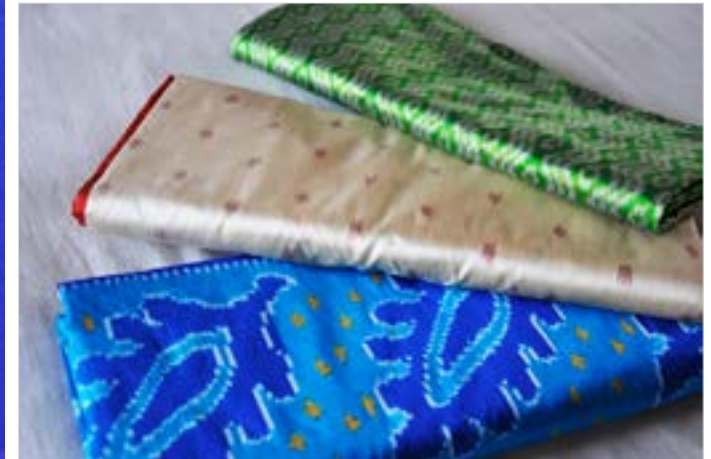
1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
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Finished sari is rolled on weavers beam.



Pulley helps to operate fly-shuttle.



Pedal movement helps to handle warp allowing fly-shuttle to operate.

Design Resource

## Cotton Sari - Pochampally

Tie and Dye Weaves

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral

NID, Bengaluru

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The bigger loom in handloom factory is setup to weave wider products.



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Reeling Machine.



Pit Loom.

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The warp threads are joined to the reed threads.



Ash power is used for better grip while joining.



Each single thread is tied carefully.



Overview of environment where joining process is practiced.



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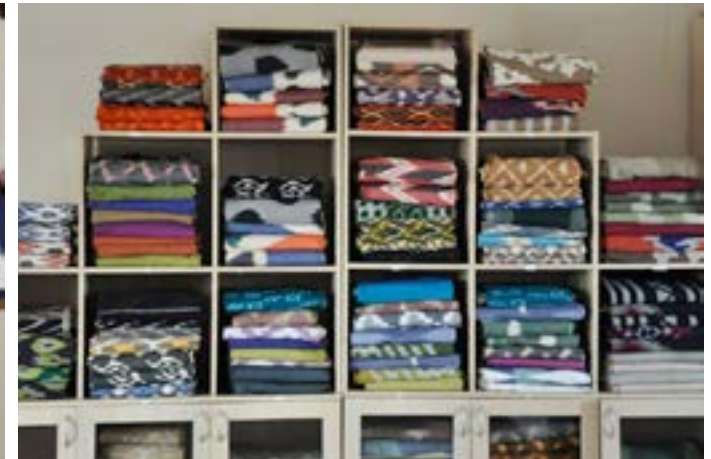
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Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/cotton-sari-pochampally/contact-details>

## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

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