

Design Resource

Cotton Sari Weaving

Cotton Weaving of Namma Bhoomi NGO

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

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



1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Weaving Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details

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Introduction

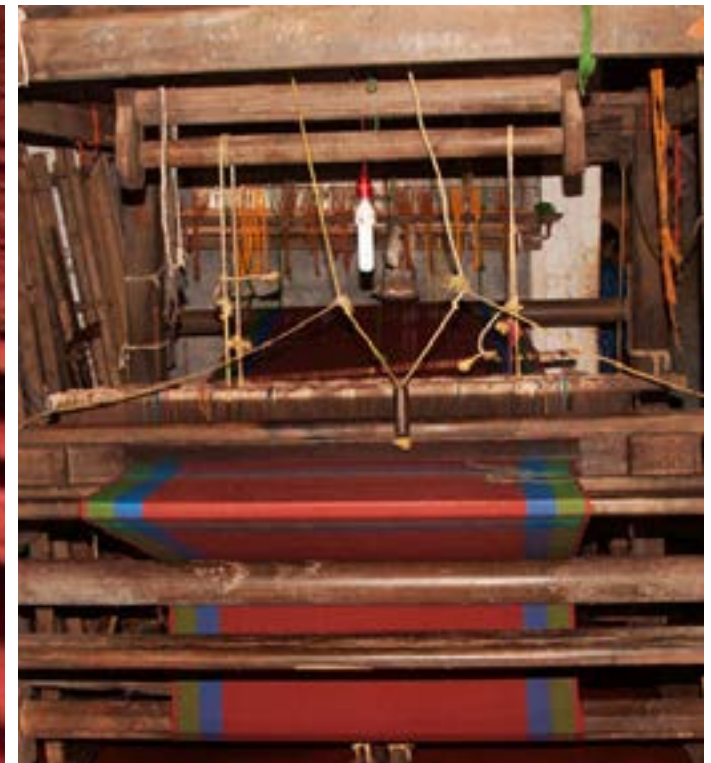
Namma Bhoomi is a Non- Government Organization (NGO) situated in Kundapur city of Udupi district. It is an association providing training namely sari weaving, tailoring, pottery making etc. to the underprivileged people so that they can be self-sufficient and can earn their living by themselves and lead a respectable life.

The artisans undergo training given by Namma Bhoomi Samsthe of Kundapur in order to come up with new design ideas. Cotton weaving of Namma Bhoomi is noted for its plain dark and vibrant coloured saris with elegant multi-coloured borders.

Namma Bhoomi also has a small unit here, which is involved in making dress materials and finished fashionable products for better marketing.



The warp with multi-coloured border threads. (Probably 2/40's, 2/60's, and 2/80's non mercerized cotton)



Traditional loom (Floor Looms with pedals) used for weaving cotton saris.

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2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Weaving Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details

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The finished products are kept for marketing.



Women artisans help in weaving and spinning activities.



Woven sari is wound on a take-up beam. The flat wooden plank is the seat for the weaver. The fly shuttle can be seen on the loom.

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Weaving Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details

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Experienced weaver engaged in weaving at Namma Bhoomi Samsthe.



Partly woven saree with Vibrant colour composition of brick red, blue and green colours.



Traditional wall paintings at Namma Bhoomi, depict village life in a primitive style of art. The art is very much influenced by the colours often used for sari weaving.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Weaving Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details

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Tools and Raw Materials

Different tools and raw materials used for the making process are as below:

- **Pure Cotton:** The basic raw material used.
- **Threads:** Cotton threads are used in the weaving process. Probably 2/40's, 2/60's and 2/80's count cotton threads are used for weaving the sarees.
- **Dying Colours:** The cotton threads are dyed as per the colour combinations and designs of the sari to be woven.
- **Floor Looms:** Traditional weaving machine is used for weaving the sari.
- **Fly-Shuttle:** This tool helps to carry the cotton threads, through the warp sheds (opening of the warp) which are interlocked in the spindle while weaving.
- **Warping Machine:** It is used to prepare a warp as per the requirement of the design. A warping machine generally has a cylindrical drum-type look.
- **Reeling Machine:** It helps in making threads into reels and or bobbins.

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Weaving Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details



Basic floor loom made of wooden frames and bamboo poles. Weaver is busy in mending some broken warp thread.



The warp is prepared and threads are passed through the healds. These threads are then connected to the take up beam.

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1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Weaving Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details



Fly-shuttle loaded with spindle.



Weaver inserting the spindle / spool to the fly shuttle, before putting to the fly bar.

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The back view of the loom where the warp threads are passed through the healds and reeds and finally comes out in the form of a woven saree and wrapped on the take up beam. The pedals are connected to the healds bar via two shafts which helps in lifting one set of warp threads at a time to have the shed opening for the fly shuttle insertion.



Colourful yarns are wound onto the spindles/ spools, ready to be loaded in the shuttle.

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Weaving Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details

Design Resource

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1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Weaving Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details

Weaving Process

Pure cotton which is the basic raw material used, is coloured by boiling the cotton threads in a very high-temperature dye bath. The coloured cotton is sized and loaded into a loom for weaving cotton saris. The detailed process of weaving cotton sari is given below:

Dying:

The cotton threads are put into the boiling dye bath for a few minutes for absorbing the dye colour. A longer boiling process helps the colour fixing proper and stays longer and doesn't fade. Later, the coloured threads are washed in cold/normal water and kept out to dry at room temperature. The coloured cotton is then sent for spinning and warping processes.

Spinning:

The cotton threads from the rolls or bobbins are spun into the spindle. Spindles are prepared according to the contrasting colours of threads, according to the design and patterns of the sari to be woven. Later these spindles are interlocked in the flying shuttle. Then a handmade spinning wheel helps the artisans to spin the threads and make it easy for weaving without any breakages in the threads. The spinning process is done with the help of the Charka-Spinning wheel.

Warping:

After the spinning process is completed, warping is done to support in stretching of threads. The cotton threads are reeled into the circular shaped wooden machine for the warping. The threads are stretched and tied at the opposites. Then cotton threads are checked to make sure there are no damages. After examining the warp, it is spun to warp beam and sent to weaving.

Weaving:

The saris are woven on handloom weaving. The warp threads are loaded into the warp beam and weaving is done with the help of heddles and a foot pedal. The flying shuttle is passed through the warp shed to progress the weaving. The weavers use different types or multi-colours of spindles according to the designs and texture of the saris. For multi-coloured borders, the coloured threads are included in the selvages/borders along with the main warp.

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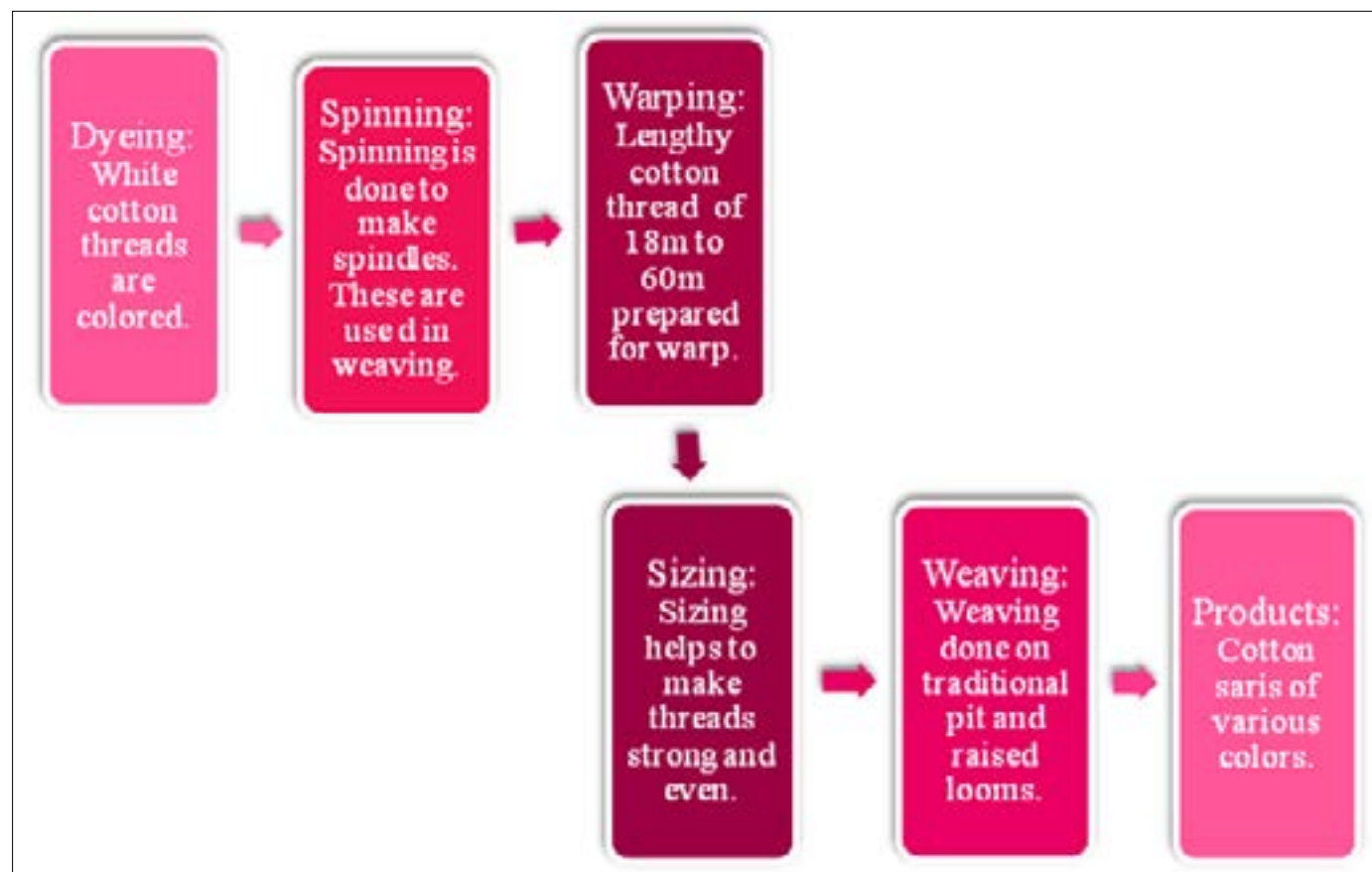
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Flowchart:



1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Weaving Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details

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1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Weaving Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details



The warp threads are loaded into the loom to start weaving process and are separated with lease bars to keep them safe from entangling.



To keep the warp lifted up the lease bar is tied up with a heavy load and hanged from the loom frame with a pulley.

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Pedaling helps in opening and closing of warp shed (two sets of healds bar) to facilitate weaving.



Simple looms have no jacquard attachments. Whereas some of them are attached to tappet facilities.



When the loom is not functional it is covered with polythene sheets to save the woven portion from dirt, dust, water and flies.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Weaving Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

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Products

The collection of cotton saris is seen in dark and contrast borders. These simple saris are ideal for daily use. The typical cotton sari has small check patterns in the body and two-line patterns over a plain border. These saris are traditional wear for local women in Udupi. The border and Pallu are plain, wherein the body of the sari can be seen in checks throughout. Plain, small checks are the most popular designs included in the products.

Dark green, maroon, yellow (mustard), dark blue, indigo, and purple are the main colours used in the weaving process. Zari-golden thread is used for very few traditional saris, especially in borders. The remaining collection of saris is woven only in pure cotton yarn of varying colours.



Traditional cotton saris.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Weaving Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details

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Ready saris kept for selling.



Saris weaved with multi-colour combinations.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Weaving Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details

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Contact Details

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

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1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Weaving Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details