

Design Resource

## Dhurrie Weaving - Nagpur, Maharashtra

Floor Coverings

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/dhurrie-weaving-nagpur-maharashtra>



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

A Dhurrie is a thin woven rug similar to carpets, widely used as floor coverings. Their application can also be found in the bottom linings of bed covers and packaging items. This weaving technique is believed to have been brought to India by artisans from the Mughal Empire. Later it marked its place at London's Crystal Palace in 1851 and also at an International Exhibition held at Delhi in 1905. As a result, the Maharaja of Jaipur Swami Ram Singh II, impressed by the simple yet attractive work, introduced Dhurrie weaving as a part-time job for the prisoners in the local jails. With technological advancement in weaving techniques, Dhurrie also evolved and grew with mechanized processes, giving intricate designs and colours. During 1947, when the partition took place, artisans from Jhang and Multan relocated to Panipat areas, taking the ancestral craft along with them. This led to heightened awareness about the craft and hence significant developments. Now each region houses its distinctive Dhurrie creations with varied patterns and colour combinations. For example, Dhurries of Darjeeling largely hold Tibetan designs featuring dragons and cloud motifs. Dhurries are fashioned in vibrant hues in the south, while the most elegant variety is from Navalgund, a small town of Karnataka. It is also manufactured in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Mr. Abdul Ansari is having a manufacturing unit of Dhurrie weaving. These Dhurries are mostly woven in cotton fibers, which makes the product more absorbent, soft and enables easy dyeing. The Dhurries are divided into four types: Panja Dhurrie, Handloom Dhurrie, Chindi Dhurrie, and Designer Dhurrie.

### Panja Dhurrie:

It is a traditional form of Dhurries, mostly woven by women from the villages of Rajasthan. These Dhurries are created with the help of a metal fork named "Panja" that has many prongs or claws attached. Here a skilled artisan takes a certain set of threads on the warp and interlaces the thread strands to form a weft, pushing this firmly into right knots using the Panja. These types of Dhurries are made of wool or cotton, or sometimes a combination of both.

### Handloom Dhurrie:

Here handloom machine is used for the Dhurrie weaving, hence its name. Compared to other forms, this type holds bolder designs and is thicker in size. During the making, the weaver coils the threads of the weft on a shuttle and then slides this through the warp to make the indented fabric. Cotton and wool fiber is usually used for Handloom Dhurrie, though jute fibers are also incorporated at times.

### Chindi Dhurrie:

This is the relatively latest type of Dhurrie, made out of small strips of scrap cotton or silk fabrics. These cloth strips act as wefts during the weaving process. Here the horizontal looms used comprises wooden beams on which the warp threads are tied for the right kind of interlocking. Also known as rag rugs, the Chindi Dhurries are commonly used for home décor, especially in the prayer rooms.

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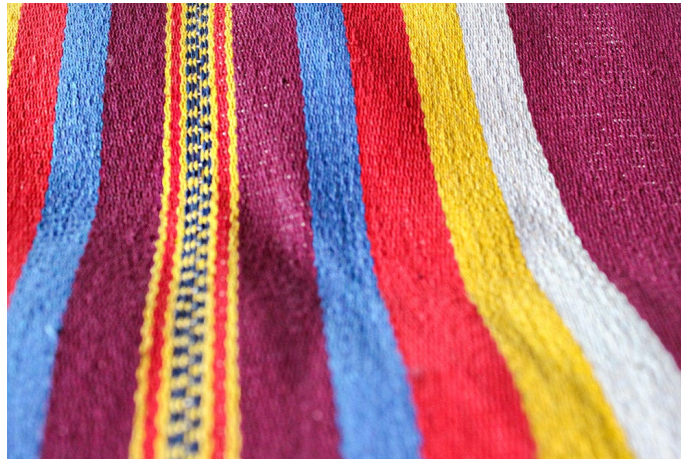
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### Designer Dhurrie:

Designer Dhurries are modern style Dhurries, beautifully fashioned out of cotton, wool, or silk. The type is much cheaper than carpets, yet lightweight and versatile, hence they are mainly used for interior decorations and home decors. The most distinctive feature of designer Dhurrie is that they are durable, washable, and most importantly reversible, i.e., two in one pattern that enables both side usage.



Dhurrie, a thick flat-woven carpet is traditionally used in India.



Mr. Abdul Rab Ansari, proprietor of the Nagpur based dhurrie weaving center.



An image of the dhurrie-manufacturing center.



A glimpse of the weaving area at the center.



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Expert artisan involved in handloom weaving.



Dyeing unit of the center.



Dhurries are arranged in the packing unit for exporting purposes.



Pits are made for the preparation of dye.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials used for Dhurrie Weaving:

- **Flying Shuttle:** A shuttle is a tool, which compactly stores a holder that carries the spindle of the weft yarn while weaving with a loom.
- **Spindles:** Spindles are wound with yarns, which are loaded in a flying shuttle.
- **Weighing Machine:** It is used to check the weight of the yarn and Dhurrie.
- **Handloom Machine:** It is the machine used to weave the Dhurries.
- **Yarns:** Yarns are used for making Dhurries.
- **Bamboo Sticks:** During the dyeing process, bamboo sticks are used to hold the yarn.
- **Warping Wheel:** Yarns are wound around the warping wheel for the warping process.
- **Charka:** It is used to make threads out of cotton fibers. And it is also used to spin the yarn to the spindles after the warping process.



A flying shuttle is used for the wafting process of fabric.



Spindles are wound with yarns, which are loaded in a flying shuttle.

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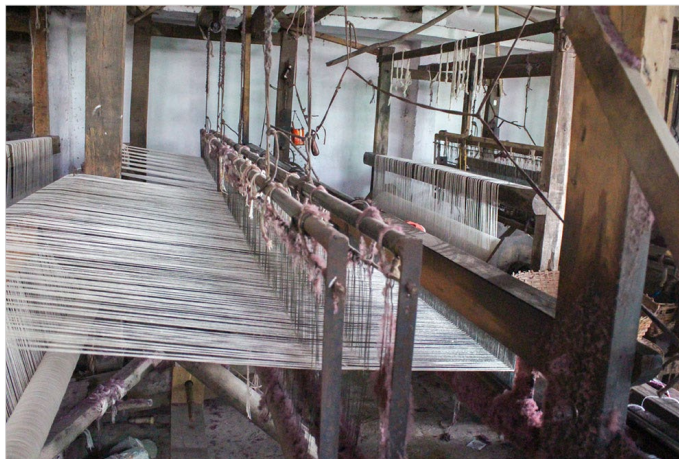
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A weighing machine is used to check the weight of the yarn and dhurrie.



Bamboo sticks are used to hold the yarn during the dyeing process.



Dhurries are woven using a handloom machine.



Differently coloured yarns are used for making Dhurries.



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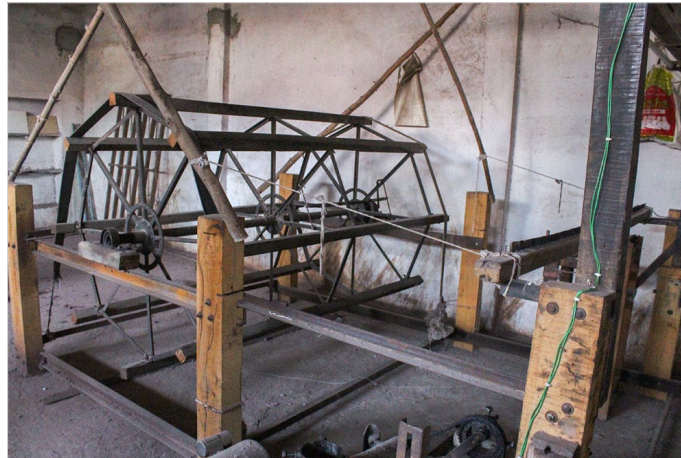
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Dyes of varied colours are mixed, as per the requirement.



Yarns are winded in a big warping wheel for the warping process.



The dye is heated in a drum on a customized stove.

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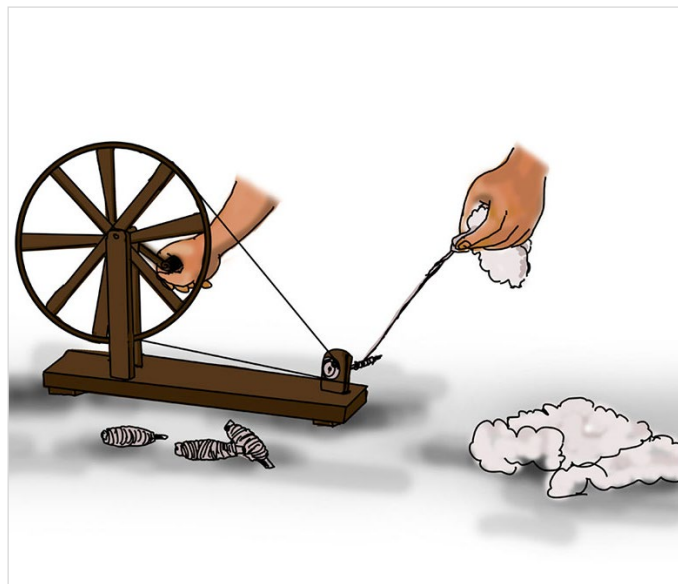
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## Making Process

Yarns are made out of cotton fibers using charka or automated machines. After obtaining the yarn, they are warped for strength and appropriate thickness. Once it is ready, they are subjected to the bleaching process for the long life of the dye. Here cotton oxidative bleaching is done, where bleaching agents like sodium hypochlorite, sodium chlorite, or sulfuric acid are used. The yarns are dipped into the bleach solution, and the excess liquid matter is squeezed out. Now dyeing is carried out over these bleached yarns to obtain the desired colours and are dried in sunlight for one whole day. After the dyeing, the yarns are twisted around small spindles supported by a flying shuttle. The yarns also cover the large-sized iron rod installed in the handloom machine, before starting the weaving process. The base yarn is vertically arranged and the flying shuttle moves to and fro horizontally carrying the dyed yarn accordingly. Here the weaving pattern works similar to that of a sari making. The steps are repeated until the desired size and design for the Dhurrie are attained.



Threads are made from cotton fibers using a charkha.



Threads are bundled for further steps.



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Yarns are initially bleached for the long life of the applied dye.



Yarn is twisted to remove the excess bleach water.



Yarns are continuously soaked in the bleaching solution until the entire bundle is rightly bleached.



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After bleaching, yarn is dipped into the intended colour dye.



The yarn is twisted to remove the excess dye.



Yarn is continuously soaked into the dye until it attains the right shade of colour.



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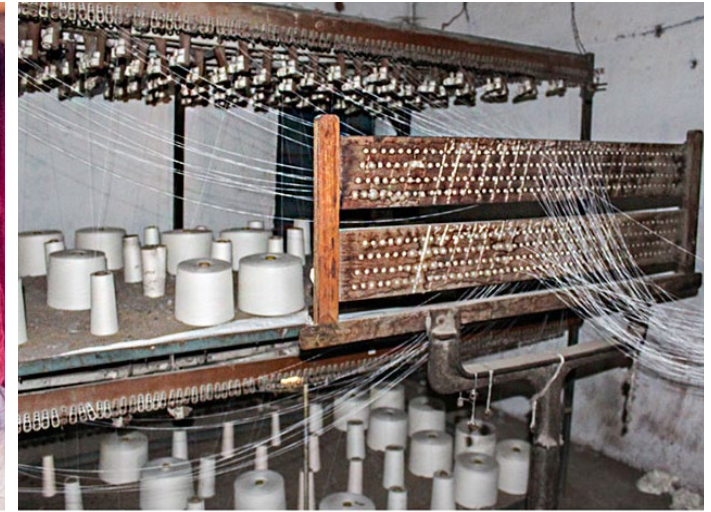
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Yarn is hung on bamboo sticks for drying under sunlight.



Threads being extracted from various spindles and wound on the warping wheel.



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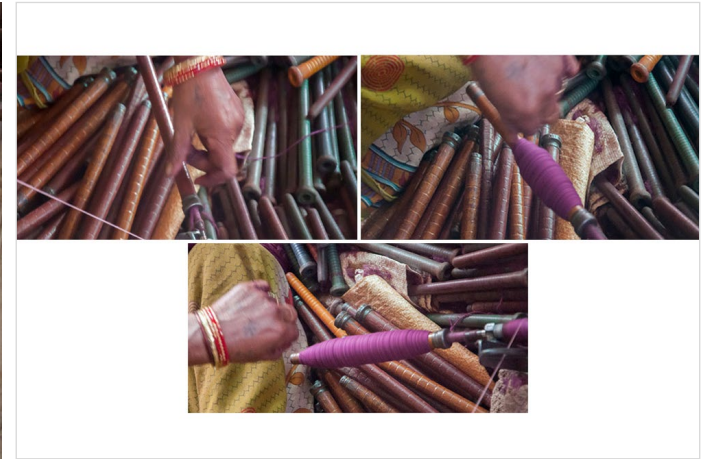
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The yarn wound on the warping wheel is reeled over the iron rod for the warping process.



Threads are wound on a spindle for the wafting process.



Yarn winded on the iron rod is fixed to handloom and threads are fixed.



The commencement of the weaving process.



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A flying shuttle is passed in between two threads to make a dhurrie.



Completed dhurrie being folded and stacked for exporting.



Different colour threads are used as per the intended design of the Dhurrie.



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## Products

As stated earlier, Dhurries are mainly found in Indian households as floor covers, followed by bed covers, packing covers, etc. Hence vibrant colours are used in the making to achieve the authentic traditional look. As these products come in different sizes, their prices also vary. The size of Dhurries goes from 3/6 ft. up to 12/15 ft. Hence the price from INR 50 to INR 800.



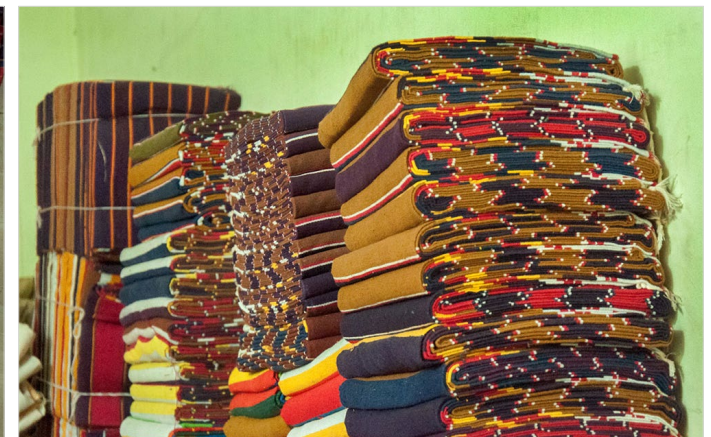
Different types of dhurries are stacked as per their design.



Dhurries are finished in vibrant colours.



Stripe patterned eco-friendly dhurries.



Dhurries are kept ready for exporting purposes.



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## Contact Details

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

You can get in touch with him at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

You can write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

### Key Contacts:

Mr. Abdul Rab Ansari

Textile Exports, M. A. K. Azad, Bunkar Colony,

Ashok Nagar, Nagpur-440017 M. S. India

Phone: +91-712-2645151

Mobile: +91-9373041241 / 9890154141

### 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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