



AN UNTOLD STORY OF INDIAN WOMEN COSTUMES - DRAPE TO PRE STITCHED SAREE

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Abstract –

Any country is identified by its geographical location, population, political system, ethnicity and cultural environment. Along with all these elements of identity, India is particularly known for its cultural identity on the world stage. In cultural identity, especially the costumes here have a different identity of their own. Most of the people in costume take pride in linking the saree with the Indian culture. Saree is a very special garment associated with Indian culture. In Asian countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, including India, there is a practice of wearing sari by women. The popularity of sarees has increased so much today that even big fashion designers are organizing saree special modeling events abroad.

Keywords - India traditional attire, saree, Drape garment, weaving cloth, unstitched garment

Introduction

Saree is the main garment of Indian women costume. Whether it is to be decorated on Karva Chauth, Teej or any other cultural festival, then without a sari, the makeup of women is not complete. It is a piece of unstitched cloth about 5 to 6 yards long, which is worn by draping over a blouse or choli and shadow. By wearing a sari, every girl is seen as a complete woman, in which respect for culture, devotion to duty and culture is reflected. Saree is mostly worn by women in marriages, pujas and other functions. Wearing a sari brings out a different look of every woman. If we look at the history of the saree, it is mentioned in the Vedas. The first mention of the word Sari is found in Yajurveda. At the same time, according to the code of Rigveda, it has been said that the wife has to wear a sari at the time of Yagya or Havan. Gradually it became a part of Indian tradition and even today the saree is India's own identity. From mythological times, this garment, showing respect for women, was so long that it was easily considered enough to completely cover the body of women and protect them. The history of sarees is very old and memorable. Since ancient times, sari has been considered a

part of Indian women's makeup and wearing sari on many special occasions is also considered auspicious. Saree is not only the dress of Indian women but also a symbol of Indian culture for them. The art of tying a saree is called draping. You must have seen women tying a saree in only one way, whereas there are more than 100 ways to tie a saree. The method of tying a saree generally adopted by women is called Nivi Drape. Saree is one such garment which does not require any kind of cutting and stitching. It is simply tied in different draping styles.

Origin of Saree

Some historians believe that the art of weaving cloth came to India from the Mesopotamian civilization during 2800-1800 BC. Although the contemporary Indus Valley Civilization was familiar with cotton fabrics and used nappies as textiles, some cotton remains have been found from Sindh during archaeological surveys, but the evidence of the art of weaving has not been found so far. When the Aryans arrived in India after 1500 BC, it was for the first time that they used the word cloth, which meant a piece of leather wearable for them (2). Over time, this style of wearing a length of cloth around the waist,

especially for women, and the cloth itself came to be known as nivi. Therefore, we can say that the simple nappy-like cloth worn by the women of the Indus Valley Civilization was an early precursor to the many luxurious saris of India (3). After that, there has been a change in the way of wearing sarees from Maurya to Sunga and then from Mughal period to British period, such as in Maurya and Sunga period, rectangular sari cloth was used which covered only the lower part of the body of women. was covering After that gradually the length of the garment increased; And then a revolutionary change took place in the Mughal period, such as the art of sewing this garment was perfected.(5).

Literary Evidence of Saree

This Indian dress (saree), prevalent from the mythological period to the present day, has survived various changes. This Indian dress, the longest, has been considered a symbol of self-defense of a woman since the time of the mythological text Mahabharata. In the Mahabharata period, when Duryodhana tried to rip off Draupadi in a gathering, Lord Krishna himself saved the honor of Draupadi's identity by making Draupadi's sari too long. Since that time, the sari has been considered a symbol of respect and protection of the woman. Some great man spent the agony of misery in Chir Haran in this way. According to Sanskrit, the literal meaning of sari is 'strip of cloth'. In the Buddhist literature called Jataka, women's clothing of ancient India has been described with the word 'Satika'. The development of the choli is derived from the ancient word 'stanapatta' which was used to refer to the female body (4). According to Rajatarangini composed by Kalhana, the choli was prevalent in the Deccan under the royal order of Kashmir. The Kadambari by Banabhatta and the ancient Tamil poem Silappadhikaram also describe women wearing saris.

Variety of Sarees and Wearing Methods

There are many ways of wearing a saree depending on the geographical location and traditional values and interests. Kanjeevaram sarees, Banarasi sarees,

Patola sarees and Hakoba sarees are prominent among the different styles of sarees.

Chanderi, Maheshwari, Madhubani printing of Madhya Pradesh, Coral silk of Assam, Bomkai of Orissa, Bandhej of Rajasthan, Gathoda, Patola of Gujarat, Tassar of Bihar, Katha, Chhattisgarhi Kosa silk, Silk sarees of Delhi, Jharkhandi Kosa silk, of Maharashtra Paithani, Kanjeevaram of Tamil Nadu, Banarasi sarees, Tanchi, Jamdani, Jamvar of Uttar Pradesh and Baluchari and Kantha Tangal of West Bengal are the famous sarees. This garment, worn in different ways in different states of India, presents a wonderful specimen of the traditional dress of India. According to the traditions prevailing in different parts of the country, the standard of living and the geographical location there, the sarees there also differ.

Let us know about the history of the saree, the way it is worn in different states and its manufacture.

Tamil Nadu-

South Indian sarees are famous for the heavy quality of their silks. At one time sarees were sold by weight. Though these are woven all over the state, the surces made in Kanjeevaram and Kalakshetra need a special mention. These sarees are woven in a small temple town of Kanchipuram near Mahabalipuram. These sarees are known over the world for exquisite quality of their silks, Kanjeevaram sarees luxur and the contrasting borders. Since the color borders and the pallus are different from the fields, these are usually woven separately and the interlocked together through weaving. It takes about 10-12 days to weave an ordinary sarce while 20 days may be taken to weave a little heavier sarees. The sarees may have overall patterns in gold and silver, woven with jacquard loom or dobby woven gold and silver border Very intricate designs of birds, human and animal figures may be woven. Other common motifs are sun, moon, peacocks, chariots, swans, lions, parrots, coins, mango, jasmine and trellised leaves. Most of the times, these sarees have a distinctly woven temple

design in its pallus. The colors used are very bright contrasts in red , maroon , blue , yellow , green , pink , purple , white and off white colors shot effect in the field may be produced by changing the color of the weft . These sarces have a great export market as well . Kalakshetra sarees : Kalakshetra sarees are similar to the Kanjeevaram sarees but these are made in silk as well as cotton. The saree have wide variation borders , ranging from 4 to half a yard , essentially , the sarees were made only in silk for making bharatnatayam



(Kanjeevaram & Kalastera saree)

dresses . The designs may be made in gold , silver or using cotton or silk yarns . The colors used are same as in Kanjeevaram sarees. However, these sarees may even have horizontal or vertical lines or checks in the field. Several other places in Tamil Nadu are also famous for making handloom sarees , the outstanding being Salem , Armi and Karaikuddi Sarees with contrasting borders are woven in all these places the difference being in count of yarns used and the fabric count.



Maharashtra- Paithani is the wedding saree used by certain communities of Maharashtra. The saree is woven in Paithan village near Aurangabad . It has a zari warp with different colors of weft which give a shot effect. Highly stylized designs and motifs inspired from mughal paintings are woven in the borders and elaborate the pallu of the saree . Peacocks , flower vases , swans parrots etc. are made in the pallu which are outlined with rosettes. The whole of the pallu is made in gold tissue with these designs . The borders have stylized trellised designs or

repeats of the same motifs as the ones used in pallu . The border and the pallu may be woven separately and attached to the saree later . Since the designs are very elaborate and difficult to weave the graphs of these are kept underneath the yarns while weaving saree. The process being laborious it takes 2-3 months to make a saree. The background of the saree is made in magenta , yellow , blue and turquoise while the borders may have magenta , pink , turquoise , sea green back ground with designs made in Indian pink , blue , orange , green etc.



(Paithani saree)

Madhya Pradesh-

Chanderi is the most famous saree of Madhya Pardesh, woven in Chanderi, very near to Gwalior. The saree is woven on a pit loom. Its outstanding feature is

the gauze like texture. Though made in cotton, the saree is transparent and gives the look of organza sarees.

Very fine cotton threads are used to weave the saree . The pallu of the saree

had simple lines but now panels of Kalka motifs can be seen in this . Use of gold and silver threads is also made for designing. The border was demarked by contrasting colors and might have had lines of zari .

The field usually has gold coin (madellion) motif known as ashara fi . Colors used are bright yellow and green , yellow and red , sea green and red etc ... but now all types of colors are being used . Sometimes the warp is in cotton and the weft is in silk . It is known as Garabhrashmi. Yardage fabrics are also woven. Maheshwarl - This is another famous saree of Madhya Pradesh that is woven is Maheshwar , situated on the banks of river Narmada . It is made in



(Chanderi & Maheshwari saree)

Karnataka –

Irkal is a famous saree of Karnataka . It originated in village Irkal. These saree purely made in cotton or may have cotton in the warp and silk weft . These days rayon and polyester are also being used.

The sarees have contrasting borders and pallus . The border supports two or three rows of zari motifs- rudraksh being the most popular motif . Dobby

weave is used for making the borders. The saree has mainly three types -

Shot - warps in black and weft in some other color to give a shot effect. Rasta - The field of the saree has straight lines symbolizing a path way. Chokta - Small squares about 1/ 2 " x 1/2 " are woven in the field of the saree .

The contrasts in the saree are stark such as red and blue , yellow and blue ; red and green and red and yellow etc usually worn with khan blouse having dooby designs



(Irkal saree)

Bengal- Jamdhani is the famous Dacca saree of Bengal, which is made in tapestry weave. The base fabric is fine muslin on which designs are made in specific areas with the help of small shuttles fitted with colored or gold / silver extra weft slightly thicker than the warp and the weft. This gives a slightly raised effect to the design. Designs are floral in nature with the borders made up of trellised bells. Field is filled with butties which may be repeated in the pallu. Jamdhani sarees are given different names according to the placement of designs mainly Buttidar - floral sprays scattered all over the surface Beldar - having trellised design ; floral motifs form a regular network ; Jamavar - overall , elaborate pattern . Initially , the sarees were made on a white off white or grey , light blue and fawn backgrounds with blue , red , maroon , multicoloured designs . Now many types of colors are used but red and green remain the

favourite. The sarees are heavily priced. These days apart from West Bengal, Jamdhani are also woven in Tanda in UP. Baluchar saree -it named after the village Baluchar in Murishidabad district of West Bengal These sarees are well known for their outstanding pallus . The field of the saree has a plain weave. The borders and pallus are made by using extra weft yarns . The field may have butties. The background colors may be dark and rich - maroon or red , purple or chocolate brown , the only exception being off white . Designs on these are made using golden yellow or silver white silk which gives the effect of a golden or silver zari thread . However, zari threads are never used for balucharis. The most outstanding feature of the saree is its 2¹ - 3 wide pallu, which has a paneled design. The pallu is subdivided into rectangles, one inside the other.



(Baluchari saree)

Banarasi saree - The beautiful silk saree prepared by weaving in Banaras silk sarees by mixing zari designs with weaving is called Banarasi silk saree. This traditional work has been going on for centuries and is world famous. Once pure gold zari was used in it, but in view of the rising price, the work of fake shiny zari is also in full swing. Many types of samples are made in these. These are called 'motifs'. Many types of motifs have been practiced, but some of the major traditional motifs which are still maintaining their Banarasi identity, such as Buti, Buta, Koniya, Bel, Jal and Jangala, Jhalar etc. Banaras is the main center of Banarasi sarees. Banarasi
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sarees are also made in Mubarakpur, Mau, Khairabad. It can be assumed that this textile art came to India only with the arrival of the Mughal emperors. This art was used for making Patka, Sherwani, Turban, Safa, Dupatta, Bed-sheet, Masand etc. Since sarees were more prevalent in India, different types of designs were put in the sarees such as Bel, Booti, Aanchal and Koniya etc. by handloom artisans from Iran, Iraq, Bukhara Sharif etc. In those days silk and zari threads were used. Cotton was used in the warp and weft in the weft, as a result of which the cloth became very soft and fuzzy. In the past, saris were made from the map, the net. After that Dabi

and Jaccard were used, which can be considered as a departure from tradition and now it can be considered as developed in the form of power-loom. Most of the artisans who make Banarasi sarees are Muslim-Ansari. Poet Kabir was also a weaver. The buyers of this saree are Gujaratis, Marwaris, Rajputs and people

from responsible families. Banarasi sarees were used since ancient times especially by brides and newly married women in marriage ceremonies and this tradition continues till date. In 2017, The Banarasi saree was worn by Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma at her wedding reception



(Banaras saree)

Gujarat -Patola of Gujarat Patola is the most renowned of the sarees made in this technique. Patan village in Gujarat was well known for weaving Patolas though only a few weavers families now practice this , craft . It was customary for well off Gujaraties to present a Patola saree in their daughter's trousseau. But now a

days these sarees have become extremely expansive and are rare to come by. Patola are made using silk weft and warp. The weaving of patola saree is very slow and labourious taking 4 to 6months to weave one saree. It also increase the cost of the saree



(Patola saree)

Ikkats of Orissa - The sarees made in Orissa by using resist dyed yarn are known as ikkats. These are made both in cotton as well as silk . The main motifs used in ikkat include deer , fish , elephant temple top , conch shell , ducks , and petalled flower. The use of zari threads is not made in ikkat at all The colors used are red maroon yellow green white black

and purple. These sarees usually have contrasting borders The most popular design placement and color combination is red border attached to an off white (tussar) saree having a plain field Though woven all over Orissa , Cuttack , Pun , Balasore and Sambalpur are especially well known for ikkat saree.



(Ikkats saree)

Andhra Pradesh- Yarn dyed resist is also produced in village Pochampalli near Hyderabad. The quality of the work produced and colour combination used in this make it quiet from the ikat and the patola. Though the motives used here include diamonds and several other geometrical shapes , these can be easily distinguished from ikkat because of their large and elongated sizes. The colors used

in Pochampalli sarees are very bright - yellow , purple , royal blue , magenta , red, green, black and white Pochampallis are woven both in silk and cotton. In silk , these have rows of dobby woven with zari in the border while the pallu may have several rows of plain woven zari Cotton sarees may have border designs outlined with rows of threads woven in plain weave.



(Pochampalli saree)

Rajasthan - Rajasthan is the largest producer of silk, kota, cotton, woolen cloth sarees in India. That's why Kota sarees are made the most here. You will easily find many types of Kota sarees in the markets of Rajasthan. But it would be better if you buy only sarees made of Kota cotton. You can try a variety of designer sarees in Kota Cotton. Let us tell you that Kota cotton cloth is a bit light and shiny. You will feel light after wearing it. Lahariya & Bandhani sarees are also very popular in Rajasthan, but in these traditional sarees, sarees with Lahariya print are also very much liked by women. Especially during the Teej festival season, all women like to wear Lahariya and bandhani Saree. That's why this saree is found in almost every woman's wardrobe. The best part is that the fashion of these both sarees is never out-dated.

Power Dress - sometimes, Saree is not only drape garment for anyone. It is also
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superlative ultimate powerful dress for women in politics in India . It is dress code and Symbol for political women leaders. From Indira Gandhi the First female prime minister, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Jayalalitha former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, India's Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani's etc everyone's favourite outfit is saree. Later there choices are tuned into current fashion conversations.

Revolution of Indian saree draping style;

Saree is such an outfit, which is worn in almost all the states of our country and the way of wearing saree is different in every state. This is the reason why you can get different looks by wearing a saree in many ways. Nowadays many new trends of wearing saree are in fashion.

1. **Pant Style:** This style of saree is very much liked by girls. In this style too, you

can use jeans, shorts, cigarette pants or jeggings instead of petticoats. To wear it, hold the corner of the sari and tuck it into pleats. Put a pin afterwards. In this style, vertical plates of the pallu have to

be made. This type of draping of saree not only gives you a modern look, but you also feel quite comfortable in it. Bollywood actress Rekha is seen in a pant style saree at Sonam Kapoor's reception



(Pant style saree)

2. **Cut Shoulder Draping:** This style of saree gives a very elegant look. If you want to go to a party then you can carry this style. For this, first tie the saree in a simple way. Then bring the pallu from behind and take it directly on the shoulder. After this set the pallu with the help of a Saree is one such garment which

does not require any kind of cutting and stitching. It is simply tied in different draping styles. big belt. This style gives a very beautiful look. Actress Kareena Kapoor & Shilpa Shetty is seen in a cut shoulder style saree at Kapil Sharma show



(Cut shoulder draping saree)

3. **Bengali style:** To wear a Bengali sari, first tuck one edge of the sari on the right side. Then make big pleats and set them well. Now make pleats of pallu and pin up the pallu on the left shoulder. Then bring the corner of the pallu forward and pin it

on the right shoulder. You can wear a Bengali saree in many ways, such as instead of pinning the pallu on the right shoulder, leave it like this. Actress Jacqueline Fernandez is seen in a Bengali saree in Genda, Phool Song.



(Bengali style saree)

4. **Lehenga style saree :** To wear this lehenga saree, first tuck one edge of the saree on the right side. Then make pleats of the sari around the waist, so that the
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sari looks like lehenga. Now make pleats of pallu and pin up the pallu on the left shoulder. Actress Sonakshi Sinha draped a lehenga style saree in Dabangg movie

5. .



(Lehenga style Saree)

6. **Bollywood Style** - If you want to wear Bollywood style saree, do not keep the pleats of the saree too wide. You will also look stylish in thin pleats and this will also make your figure high light. Yes,

women with heavy body should not wear Bollywood style saree. Actress and model Mouni Roy and other Bollywood actresses have been seen many times in saree style.



(Bollywood style Saree)

7. **Rajasthani Style** – Rajasthani saree is mostly heavy and more net. It is like a Gujarati saree by the way. The pallu of a Rajasthani style saree is taken straight towards the hand, due to which it is also

called straight palla saree. Nita Ambani mostly wears Rajasthan style saris. Even in the TV serial Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai, all actresses like Hina Khan, Lataa Saberwal wear Rajasthan style saris.



(Rajasthani style saree)

8. **Fish Cut Style** – Fish Cut Style Saree is mostly for those who are thin. Her figure is perfect fit and slim in this saree which looks very attractive. This style saree is thin at the top and spread slightly from the bottom. It is very easy to wear this saree is mostly worn in the party. First

this Style Brahmachari Movie 1968, Song Aaj Kal Tere Mere Pyaar Ke Charchain was worn and seen by actress Mumtaz. Secondly Priyanka Chopra has worn this sari style in Teri meri kahani, apart from this, this style has been shown from Naagin movie to TV Seral

9. .



(Fish cut style saree)

10. Dhoti style -To drape a dhoti style saree, wear tights or leggings instead of a petticoat. Now hold the saree from behind and leave 2 meters on your left and the rest on your right. Make the left pin over the right, overlapping both ends in the center. Then bring the right side of the saree from behind and make pleats from the pallu. Now place the pallu on your left shoulder and secure it with a pin and then take the plates towards your waist and pin it in the middle. Take the remaining 2 meters of fabric from inside the loop.

Then make plates using the ends and release them back after securing them with a safety pin. Grab these plates and bring them between your legs and tuck the plates back in the middle. Then make pleats using the remaining fabric in the front and tuck them into the center front. You will look very stylish in this saree giving a modern look. prinyka chopra & Deepika Padukone wore dhoti style sari in Bajirao Mastani movie song "pinga" and sonam Kapoor wore dhoti style sari in award function.



(Dhoti style saree)

11. Front Pallu Style This is the Gujarati style of wrapping your saree. Here instead of wearing the pallu from front to back, bring it on your right shoulder from back to front. This is a very ethnic way to wear your saree. You can wear your saree

in this style in traditional events. From Indian politician Smriti Irani, Nita Ambani to Actress Aishwarya Rai, many big celebrities were seen in a front pallu style saree.



(Front pallu style saree)

Times of Pre stitched saree

It also known as ready to wear saree. It was started by Indian famous designer Anamika Khanna in the 2000s, she had many foreign customers who had a lot of interest towards Indian clothes and they loved wearing sarees very much but they found it difficult to tie sarees, hence

people's problems the designers made pre-stitched sari styles to solve.

Advantages of Pre stitched saree

1. This saree is not worn traditionally. This saree comes ready in the form of a skirt. The plates also come pre-stitched. It is very easy to wear this saree. You just have to set the pallet according to your

choice. There is also a time saving, women are feeling very comfortable in wearing this saree. Till now the most time taken to set the plates and pallas was the wearing of any traditional saree. Both these problems are solved by this ready-to-wear.

2. Saree comes in many fabrics This saree is more preferred in fabrics like georgette, chiffon and satin. The price is decided according to the design and fabric.
3. Boutique also prepares, Some women even get their ready-to-wear sarees ready from the boutique. Buying clothes of her choice, giving designs and getting them ready by the designer. In this way, the saree is prepared at a lower price than the market.
4. There are many benefits of this saree, it is very less comfortable for those women who do not know how to tie or drape the saree properly.
5. This saree is very useful for all those women whose culture or surrounding saree is not worn much.
6. By wearing this type of saree, today's young girls keep themselves attached to Indian culture and traditions.

Disadvantage - This type of disadvantage is that once it is stitched in the style, then you will not be able to open it and tie it in any other saree style .

Conclusion –

Saree, Indian traditional dress that is now famous around the globe with the advent of the latest breed of fashion designers, bollywood celebrities, movies , music , Internet and textile world. It is sign of Indian heritage, this garment is being liked by women since ancient times. Saree is considered a symbol of simplicity, respect and coolness of Indian woman. Changes in fashion keep happening but saree is one such garment in India which is best for every season, every occasion. There are varied changes in the design and style of sarees but the craze of wearing sarees among women has not diminished. You can adopt a stylish and fashionable look in saree. Saree gives competition to the fashion of the world. Even after being in the oldest outfit, the trades of sarees undergo changes from time to time. Nowadays people carry

sarees with a modern touch. Whether there is a puja recitation at home or a party in the office, a wedding occasion or a meeting, women everywhere can wear the saree according to the occasion and get the most effective look. Even though gowns, skirts and lehengas are increasing the pride of parties today, it cannot be ignored that the saree is a very special garment. Women wearing it in the party are more noticed. The special moments associated with them are also remembered by the people for a long time.

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