

## Weaving, techniques for artistic punja durries of Haryana

■ NIRMAL YADAV AND NISHA ARYA

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See end of the paper for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

**NISHA ARYA**

Department of Textile and Apparel designing, College of Home Science, C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, HISAR (HARYANA) INDIA  
Email: nishasangwan@gmail.com

■ **ABSTRACT** : In Haryana, *durrie* making is undertaken in almost all the districts. The tradition of weaving *durries* is the exclusive preserve of women. A girl is taught to weave by older women of the household – her mother, grandmother, paternal aunt or sister, at a very young age. They continue practicing *durrie* weaving at home during their leisure time. It helps to generate income to some of them.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Durrie, Punja, Haryana, *Adda*, Buttie

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Weaving has been traditionally linked with the lives and colours of people and their environment. It is an age old practice and hand weaving is probably the oldest and certainly one of the most universally practiced crafts. Textile creation may almost be called an inherent urge in the human race. A *durrie* (also spelled *dari*, *dhurry* and *dhurrie*) is an indigenous Indian flat woven. It is a huge, coarse, thick, striped object and it is this inelegant image which most people (both in India and abroad) generally associate with the name. In Haryana, *durrie* making is undertaken in almost all the districts. The tradition of weaving *durries* is the exclusive preserve of women. A girl is taught to weave by older women of the household – her mother, grandmother, paternal aunt or sister, at a very young age. They continue practicing *durrie* weaving at home during their leisure time. It helps to generate income to some of them.

The study was undertaken in the northern and southern region of the western zone of Haryana state. The research was designed and conducted phase wise to achieve the formulated objectives. One hundred respondents *i.e.* rural women weavers practicing *durrie* weaving were selected randomly from different villages of Sirsa, Fatahabad, Hisar districts of Northern region and Bhiwani, Rewari, Mohindergarh districts of Southern region to study the existing *durrie* weaving techniques and designs. A well structured

schedule was prepared to collect the information. Along with the observations, discussion method was also used to collect the information.

More than fifty per cent of the respondents were in the age group of 25-50 years in both the regions. They were illiterate in the northern region and were primary pass and illiterate (equal percentage) in the southern region. Majority of these in the northern region belonged to schedule caste and backward class whereas, to high class in the southern region. Most of the respondents (85.3%) were married. Only 14.7 per cent were unmarried, living in both the family set up (nuclear and joint) having medium number of family members. Labor plus own work and small business was the family occupation of majority of the weavers in the northern region whereas in the southern region farming was the main family occupation. The majority of the respondents in the southern region had monthly income less than Rs. 2500/month (88%) whereas only 52 per cent of the respondents in the northern region fall in this category. Higher income group *i.e.* (above Rs. 2500 and Rs. 5000) were more in the northern region as compared to very few in the southern region.

All the respondents in both the regions used simple type of loom locally known as '*adda*' as it was found to be 'easily available', 'easy to make' *durrie* on it, was 'cheaper' and the weavers were generally 'ignorant about the other