

Research Paper :

## Hand embroidered and *Jamdani* patterned Dharwad Sarees: A comparative study

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### ABSTRACT

Kutch situated in the border region of Gujarat state is a drought-prone area which is famous across the world for its exclusive hand embroidery done by the native women. Embroidery of various kinds is part of their traditional dresses, turbans, shawls, sarees and other accessories. In the present study, an attempt has been made to develop selected Gujarat (Kutch) embroidery motifs woven as *Jamdani* patterns on Dharwad sarees. The designs were incorporated in the body and pallav of Dharwad polycot sarees using jacquard shedding mechanism. Further, the cost aspects of these trendy *Jamdani* Dharwad sarees was calculated by comparing with the hand embroidered saree.

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Indian culture and its rich heritage of tradition are reflected in many ways – the art, music, sculpture, folklore, traditional costumes and embroideries of various region of the country. Art is a means of communication in all societies. People express their emotions and feelings through various media, their emotions and visual expressions, are termed as art.

From time immemorial, man felt an urge to decorate the fabrics by various techniques – painting, printing, dyeing, weaving, stamping, embroidery, appliqué and many more. However, creating woven patterns on handlooms was perhaps the earliest method of fabric embellishment, a means of self designing.

Handloom weaving is the oldest known form of producing cloth manually. Though the handloom textiles are matchless and differ from monotony of mill-made textiles, they need to be encouraged to uplift the weaver's communities (Barua and Gogoi, 1997). Many innovations were made in handloom to overcome the laborious and time consuming activity. Dobby shedding mechanism is such an invention where small designs were woven using a pattern chain – a link of series of lattice. With passage of time, Joseph Marie Jacquard invented Jacquard shedding technology in 1801, through which it was possible to produce large and intricate designs and was adopted for producing self designs on textile made-ups, home textiles, floor coverings etc.

*Jamdani* is fine hand woven cotton muslin of Bengali origin, with coloured stripes and patterns. Though mostly used as sarees, *Jamdani* technique is also adopted for scarves, stoles, turbans and handkerchiefs. The word *Jamdani* is of Persian origin, where 'Jam' means flower and 'Dani' means a vase or a container. The earliest mention of *Jamdani* and its development as an industry is found in *Kautikaya* (about 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC), which indicated its use in Bengal. The *Jamdani* (swivel) weaving technique used to produce small floral motifs, dots, circles and other figures on the fabric surface, while weaving is in progress. It is an extra weft figuring produced with an aid of tiny shuttle/s known as 'swivel'. Each swivel carries a small bobbin of extra weft, colours may be at times different, one for each pattern because each swivel shuttle works independently and is responsible to weave a single motif.

Karnataka, one of the Southern states of India, is famous for the distinctly produced cotton, silk and synthetic sarees. Among them, Dharwad sarees are quite popular that have demand in international market too. These sarees are woven using harmonious combinations of body, border and pallav. Presently, the polycotton sarees are produced on powerloom in vivid colours, suitable for all seasons, functions, age groups of both rural and urban folk. The use of polyester as weft makes the saree light in weight, adds sheen and improves the resiliency as well