

Assamese hand-woven motifs and development of the center panel designs for *Kurti*

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Assam has a glorious cultural tradition in textiles and handloom weaving. The traditional handloom fabrics of Assam unfold the creative genius of the local weavers. The colours, patterns and designs signify artistic property and social significance. It has been observed that traditional costumes are often decorated with motifs depicting various kinds of plants and animals or their parts, inanimate objects and in some cases abstract art. However, these items are generally found limited to the traditional items. This study was an attempt to popularize the Assamese woven motifs used by the weavers in their textile craft to create Center panel designs for *Kurti*.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Motifs, Center panel, Handloom weaving, *Kurti*

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The designs in Assam are symbolic of the tradition of different tribal fabrics of Assam unfold the creative genius of the local weavers. With the change in this form of textile, women still have woven it for economic gains. However, these items are generally found limited to the traditional items. In view of the present market demand need for product diversification has become an important issue of consideration.

Throughout the world indigenous cultures are under threat from the forces of modernization and globalization. Textile weaving craft of Assam is also facing the same problem. Knowledge of incorporating traditionally used motifs and designs are fast disappearing; even weaving in back-strap loom is confined to only a few elderly women (Teron and

Borthakur, 2012). The rich motifs and designs of the existing arts and crafts could occupy a good place in field of textile designing due to the changes in fashion trends and increasing demand of the consumers for the ethnic motifs and designs in textile items and product (Sangama and Rani, 2012).

Considering the declining trend in textile tradition of Assam, it was felt necessary to take measure for preserving the traditional Assamese motifs. In this study an attempt has been made to popularize the Assamese woven motifs with the following objectives :

- Documentation of traditional motifs of Assam.
- Development of center panel designs for *Kurtis* using selected traditional motifs.

RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in the year 2018 at Jorhat district of Assam. The research was started with the collection of Assamese hand woven motifs from various sources. Motifs were collected from both primary as well as secondary sources. Internet, magazines, sanekis, and books were used for the study and through personal visit, information's were collected from weavers of Assam. Thirty designs for center panels were developed with some suitable motifs by using reach tex software. From the developed thirty center panel designs, seven center panel designs were selected randomly in consultation with the members of advisory committee.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

Collection of motifs:

Assamese motifs were collected from various primary and secondary sources such as internet, magazines, sanekis, books and through personal visit to

collect information's from weavers of Assam.

Selection of motifs:

The textile motifs of Assam are more stylized than naturalistic (Mazumdar, 2013). From the collected motifs only nine motifs were selected for construction of center panel designs and shown as Fig. 1.

Development and selection of center panel design for Kurti:

The selected Assamese motifs were used to develop developed thirty center panel designs for *Kurtis* using REACH Tex Software. A Performa was used to select seven center panel designs out of 30 designs of center panel. The selected center panel designs were shown in Fig. 2.

Development of woven fabric for Kurti:

The woven fabrics were developed for the selected seven *Kurtis* with center panel designs. The center panel designs were woven horizontally on the loom along with the *Kurti* material. Plain weave was used to construct the fabric and extra weft yarns were used for the

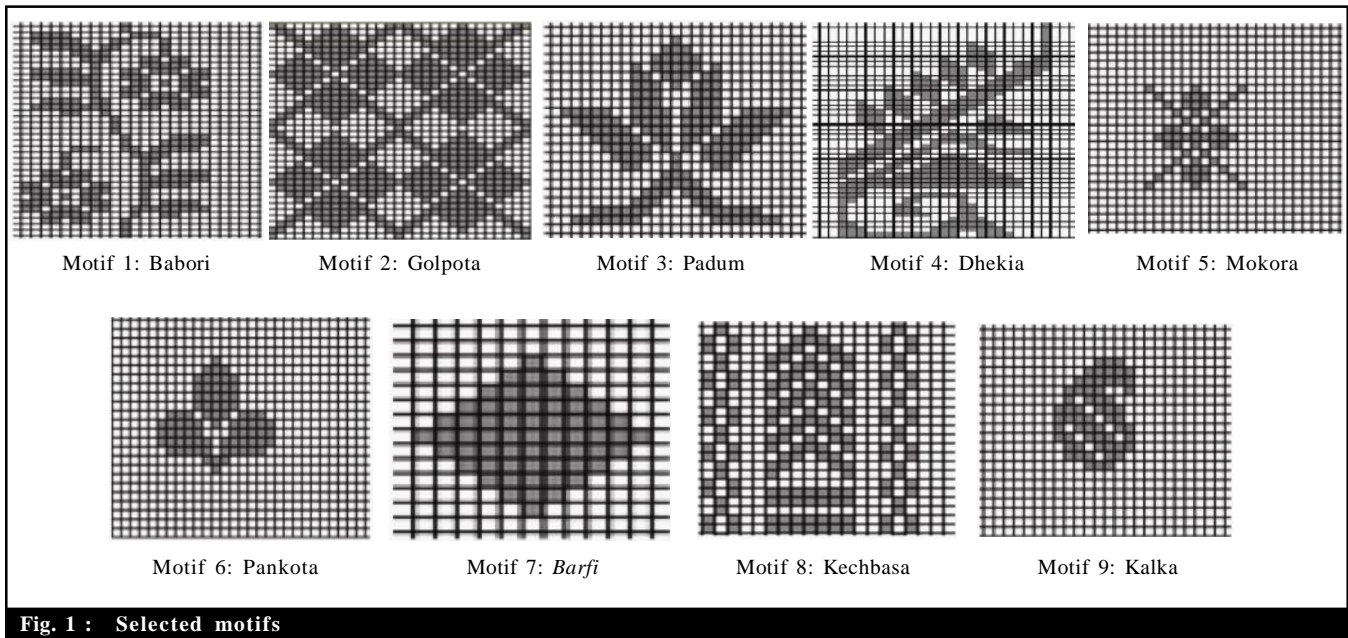


Fig. 1 : Selected motifs

Table 1 : Details of the woven fabric were shown in Table 1

Yarns	Yarn count	Weave	Types of loom	Reed no.	Cloth width
Padmini (Polyester yarn)	60/2	Plain weave	Fly-shuttle	48	48 inch

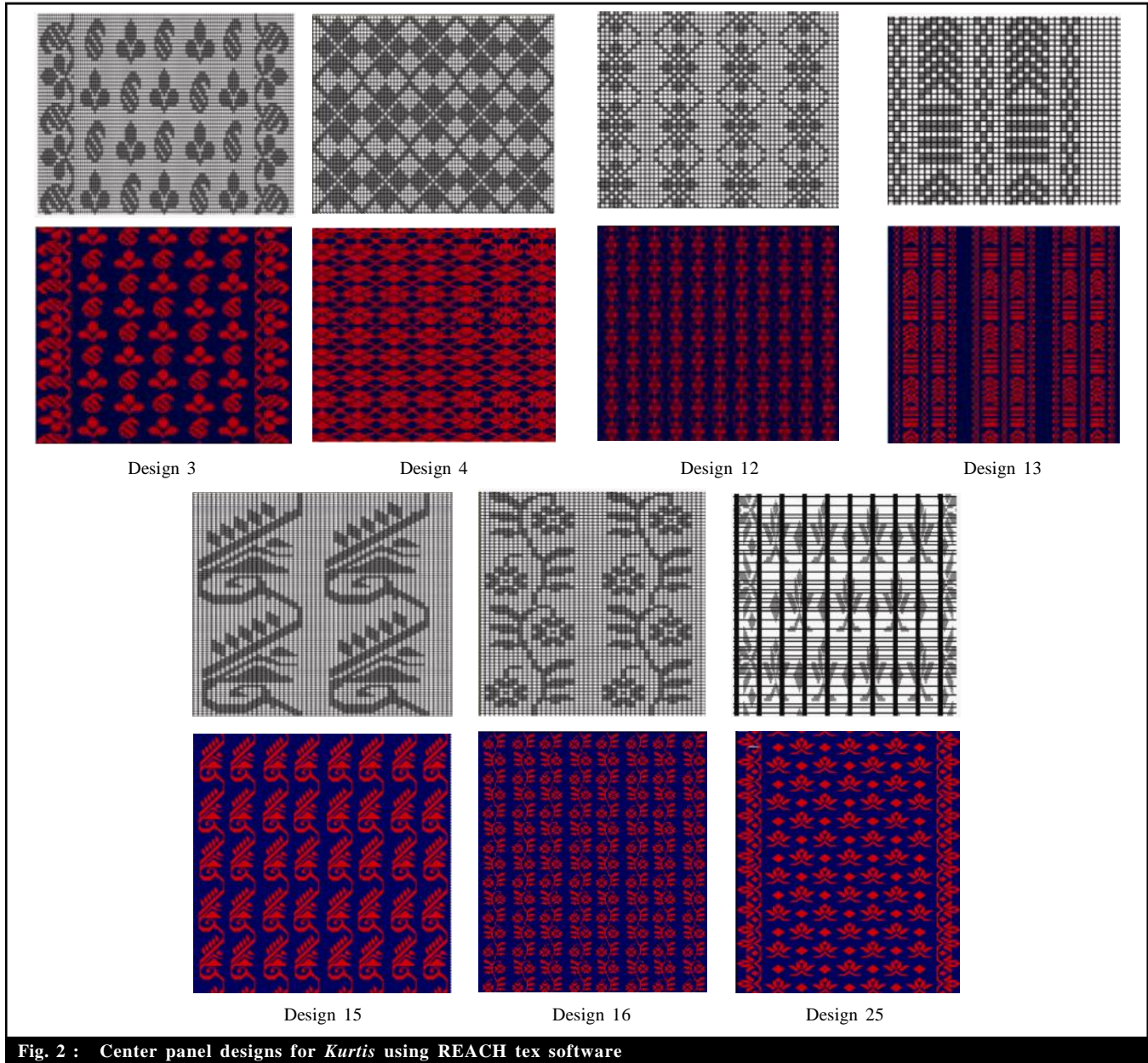


Fig. 2 : Center panel designs for Kurtis using REACH tex software

construction of the center panel design and width of the center panel is six inches which is constant for all the kurtis. Construction details of woven fabrics were shown as Table 1. Similar work related to the present investigation was also carried out by Dutta (1991); Gogoi (1985); Kalita (1998); Mazumdar (2013); Sharma (1989) and Teron and Borthakur (2012).

Conclusion:

The findings of the study idealize that traditional textile motifs of Assam are not for mere display but are

emotionally associated with their social, cultural and religious life. This type of study will also helps in exploring the traditional textile motifs of Assam and also helps to preserve the traditional art form and also diversify the designs in different forms and prevent them from going into extinction.

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