

# TRADITIONAL CLOTHS OF RAJPUT COMMUNITY IN PARTS OF WESTERN RAJASTHAN, INDIA

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## ABSTRACT

Survey and study conducted revealed that 96.71% Rajput community wear their traditional cloths as per the geography and season in seven tehsils of Jodhpur district in Rajasthan. The impact of geographical area and seasons was recorded on make of the cloths (06.95%), fabrics of the cloths (17.86%), colour of the cloths (06.67%), make and colour of the cloths (21.67%) and on fabric and colour of the cloths (43.76%). The people belong to upper income class wear hundred per cent their apparels according to the area and season. While those of lower and middle income class wear 91.57 and 98.29 per cent cloths according to the areas and seasons, respectively.

**Key words :** Traditional cloths, Rajput community, Seasonal Cloths, Rajasthan

The dress and ornaments of the people present a vital clue to their mood and taste, their aesthetic temper, their art and skill to adjust their social and geographical environment, their resilience to various influences, in short to their way of living (Biswas, 1985). Traditional clothing of various castes and communities varies from state to state depending upon geography and climatic conditions in India (Raman *et al.*, 1992). Rajasthan, is famous as "Rangeela Rajasthan" because of its colourful and attractive cloths and beautiful ornaments of various designs (Dwivedi and Luniya, 2007). Though by nature, the western part of Rajasthan, consisting of Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts is a dry province having high temperature, low and erratic rainfall, high wind velocity and less greenery (Misra, 1967). The people of this part of state wear different types of cloths on various occasions either it may be social, religious or cultural. Rajput community also has its unique costume which distinguishes from other community (Raman *et al.* 1992; Bhandari, 2004 and Dwivedi and Luniya, 2007). Present study deals with the traditional geographical and seasonal cloths of Rajput community in Jodhpur district of western Rajasthan.

## METHODOLOGY

Study was undertaken during the year 2005 and 2006 in 168 different villages of seven tehsils (Bhopalgarh, 21; Bilara, 18; Jodhpur 28; Luni, 25; Osian, 25; Phalodi, 21

and Shergarh, 30) and city areas of Jodhpur district. Systematic random sampling method was followed. Fifty families belonging to lower, middle and upper income classes of Rajput community were interviewed from each tehsil and different colonies of Jodhpur city. Observations were recorded from men, women, unmarried girls and boys, old aged women and men and children. Data obtained were expressed in mean, frequency and percentage.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is observed in present study that Luni, Jodhpur, Osian, Phalodi and Shergarh tehsils fall under arid region while Bhopalgarh and Bilara tehsils belong to semi-arid region in Jodhpur district. During this study, it was recorded that 96.71 per cent of rajput community wear cloths as per the geography of the area and as per the season (Table 1).

Rest of the population of the community (3.43%) use to wear usual dresses. The people belonging to upper income class of the community wear hundred per cent their apparels according to the area and season. While people of lower and middle income class, who are resident of all the seven tehsils of Jodhpur district, wear 91.57 per cent and 98.29 per cent cloths according to the areas and seasons, respectively (Table 1).

On the basis of present study (Table 2) it was noticed that impact of geographical areas and seasons is on make of the cloth (6.95%), in fabric of cloths (17.86%), in colour of the cloths (9.67), on make and colour of the cloths (21.67%) and in the fabric and colour of the cloths

Table 1: Clothing according to area and season in Rajput community in Jodhpur district

S.No.	Name of Tehsil	Lower Class		Middle Class		Upper Class		Whole community	
		Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No <sup>49</sup> (%)
1.	Bhopalgarh	90.00	10.00	99.00	01.00	100.00	00.00	96.33	03.67
2.	Bilara	90.00	10.00	98.00	02.00	100.00	00.00	96.00	04.00
3.	Jodhpur	95.00	05.00	99.00	01.00	100.00	00.00	98.00	02.00
4.	Luni	90.00	10.00	98.00	02.00	100.00	00.00	96.00	04.00
5.	Osian	90.00	10.00	98.00	02.00	100.00	00.00	96.00	04.00
6.	Phalodi	95.00	05.00	98.00	02.00	100.00	00.00	97.67	02.33
7.	Shergarh	91.00	10.00	98.00	02.00	100.00	00.00	97.00	03.00
	Mean	91.57	08.43	98.29	01.71	100.00	00.00	96.71	03.29

(43.76%) The people of rajput community who are residing in these tehsils of Jodhpur district wear garments with change in the making and the colour as per geographical areas and seasons. It is clear from the data presented in Table 2 that persons belonging to upper income class show more change in wearing cloths as per the geographical areas and seasons.

Almost all the rajput men put “Fenta” or “Potiya” or

“Safa” on their head (the turban) in these seven tehsils of Jodhpur district. Seventy per cent of them put turban in round shape while thirty per cent of Rajputs occasionally change the pattern of tying of it. It was observed that some of rajputs of Shergarh tehsil follow the turban style of rajputs of Barmer and Jaisalmer. They change the colour of turban according to the season. In all 94.09 per cent of rajput community change the colour

Table 2: Difference in costumes according to area and season in Rajput community of Jodhpur district

S.No.	Tehsils	Lower Class					Middle Class				
		A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
1.	Bhopalgarh	05.00	20.00	5.00	10.00	60.00	07.00	20.00	10.00	11.00	52.00
2.	Bilara	05.00	20	7	10.00	58.00	07.00	22.00	10.00	12.00	49.00
3.	Jodhpur	10	25	10	20	35.00	15.00	27.00	12.00	25.00	21.00
4.	Luni	07	15	3	29.00	46.00	09.00	17.00	05.00	25.00	44.00
5.	Osian	02	10	7	25.00	56.00	04.00	13.00	10.00	27.00	46.00
6.	Phalodi	02	10	7	24.00	57.00	03.00	12.00	10.00	27.00	47.00
7.	Shergarh	02	10	7	24.00	57.00	03.00	10.00	10.00	25.00	52.00
	Mean	04.71	15.71	06.57	20.29	52.71	06.86	17.29	09.57	21.71	44.43

A: In Make; B: In cloth; C: In Colour; D: In make and colour of cloths E: In cloth and colour.

Contd.....

Table 2 Contd.

S.No.	Tehsils	Upper class					Community				
		A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E
1.	Bhopalgarh	10.00	25.00	13.00	15.00	37.00	07.33	21.67	9.33	12.00	49.67
2.	Bilara	10.00	26.00	15.00	15.00	34.00	07.33	22.67	10.67	11.67	47.66
3.	Jodhpur	15.00	28.00	15.00	26.00	16.00	13.00	26.67	12.33	23.67	24.00
4.	Luni	09.00	20.00	10.00	25.00	36.00	8.33	17.33	06.00	26.33	42.00
5.	Osian	07.00	16.00	12.00	28.00	37.00	4.33	13.00	9.67	26.67	46.33
6.	Phalodi	07.00	16.00	12.00	28.00	37.00	4.00	12.67	9.67	26.33	46.67
7.	Shergarh	07.00	13.00	12.00	26.00	42.00	4.00	11.00	10.00	25.00	50.00
	Mean	09.29	20.57	12.71	23.29	34.14	06.95	17.86	09.67	21.67	43.76

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Table 3 : Change of turban colour according to the season in Rajput community of Jodhpur district.

S.No.	Tehsil	Lower Class		Middle Class		Upper Class		Community	
		Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)
1	Bhopalgarh	85.00	15.00	95.00	05.00	98.00	02.00	92.67	07.33
2.	Bilara	90.00	10.00	95.00	05.00	98.00	02.00	94.33	05.67
3	Jodhpur	90.00	10.00	95.00	05.00	98.00	02.00	94.33	05.67
4	Luni	90.00	10.00	95.00	05.00	98.00	02.00	94.33	05.67
5	Osian	90.00	10.00	95.00	05.00	98.00	02.00	94.33	05.67
6	Phalodi	90.00	10.00	95.00	05.00	98.00	02.00	94.33	05.67
7	Shergarh	90.00	10.00	95.00	05.00	98.00	02.00	94.33	05.67
	Mean	89.29	10.71	95.00	05.00	98.00	02.00	94.09	05.91

of turban according to the season (Table 3). The tendency of changing of colour of "Safa" is almost similar in all the tehsils of the district in total. But income group wise the change of colour of turban is 3.06 and 8.89 per cent higher in upper class over that of middle and lower class, respectively. It was also recorded that change in colour of "Safa" according to the season was less (1.76%) in Bhopalgarh tehsil than that in rest of the tehsils (Table 3).

It was also recorded that there is 88.90 per cent change in the colour of "Odhana" according to the change of the season (Table 4). The change in colour of "Odhana" according to the season is highest (95.00%) in Shergarh tehsil and lowest (83.33 %) in Jodhpur tehsil and also 04.20 and 05.90 per cent higher in higher income class than that of middle and lower income class, respectively (Table 4) study.

It was observed that rajputs of this district wear different coloured turban in different months.

It was recorded that the colour of "Potiya" or "Safa" is pink, blue (Jawai), Phool gulabi, Sky coloured, Leheria, Keshariya, Malyagiri, red, Sinduriya, Moliya, Toruphula (yellow), Saffrony and Fagunia in Chaitra, Vaishakh, Jyeshtha, Aasad, Sawan, Bhadrpad, Aashwin, Kartik, Margshi eersh, Paus, Magh and Falgun months, respectively. Nagar (2003) has also supported the same in his book.

In winter season the rajputs of Jodhpur district wear

"Morgardani turban". This turban has dark blue colour as colour of neck of a peacock. The turban of this colour is with the design of raw mango. Another colour is "Malyagiri". It is a tobacco colour and just like the colour of chocolate. This coloured turban is worn by old aged and upper income class rajputs in winter. This colour is prepared with the mixture of "Mehandi," "Panri.," "Kapoor", "Chhablebila", "Nagarmotha", scrape of sandel and nagarbel, betel leaf etc. The turbans dyed in this colour are called 'Malyagiri turbans'.

In summer season old aged rajputs wear generally round and white coloured turban in most of the rural areas of Jodhpur district which reflects simplicity in life. Young and middle aged rajputs like to tie five coloured [red, green, white, saffron and Bhagva turban which is called as "Moliya turban".

In the rainy season "Samand Lehariya" turbans are worn by the male of the community. This kind of turban may have either three, five or seven colours of printed in sea wave style. It has the seven colours of rainbow. It is clear that rainbow colours and sea waves style relate to the rainy season.

In was also recorded that in spring season the male rajput community wears "Basantiya" coloured "turbans". "Basantiya" colour is a light yellow colour just like the colour of the skin of lemon. It is also known as "Toruphula" colour. This colour is prepared by the flowers of "Kesula".

Table 4 : Change of "Odhana" colour according to the season in Rajput community of Jodhpur district.

S.No.	Tehsil	Lower Class		Middle Class		Upper Class		Community	
		Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)
1	Bhopalgarh	84.00	16.00	85.00	15.00	90.00	10.00	86.33	13.67
2.	Bilara	83.00	17.00	85.00	15.00	91.00	09.00	86.33	13.67
3	Jodhpur	80.00	20.00	81.00	19.00	89.00	11.00	83.33	16.67
4	Luni	85.00	15.00	86.00	14.00	90.00	10.00	87.00	13.00
5	Osian	90.00	10.00	93.00	07.00	93.00	07.00	92.00	08.00
6	Phalodi	91.00	09.00	92.00	08.00	94.00	06.00	92.33	07.67
7	Shergarh	93.00	07.00	95.00	05.00	97.00	03.00	95.00	05.00
	Mean	86.57	13.43	88.14	11.86	92.00	08.00	88.90	11.10

The turbans of this colour are worn on “Basant Panchami” festival. “Basantiya” colour represents the blooming of flowers specially of Basanti colour. The headgears of this colour create a charming environment.

It was further recorded that the women of Rajput community wear “Lehariya Odhna”(green coloured) or “Mothra Odhna” (green) in “Savan” (rainy season), “Chundari” (Red, yellow coloured) in “Kartik” month, “Fagunia Odhana” (traditional white base red borders and red central design) in “Falgun” month and “Khamka Bhand Odhna” (red with yellow dots and a dark palla) or “Kapasi” (light yellow) or “Javai” (light peach) or “Motiya” (Pear pink) and light coloured plain odhna in “Asad” month.

It indicates that there is not much change in wearing of traditional coloured turbans and “Odhnas” by men and women in different seasons., Panwar (2003) and Bhandari (2004) also supported that Rajasthani men and women put some particular coloured turbans and “Odhnas” or “Chunaries”, respectively which indicate the seasons and months. The seasonal cloths recorded during the study for different age groups are as under :

**Summer season :**

Usual thin cotton garments for men (“Kurta”, “Kanej”, “Bandi”, “Dhoti”, “Safa”); women (“Kurti-Kanchli”, “Ghaghra”, “Odhana”); unmarried boys (“Kurta”, “Dhoti”, “Safa”, “Chola”, “Payjama”, “Shirts”, “Pants etc); unmarried girls (“Puthia”, “Jangdi”, “Jompher”, “Sunthla”, “Suthanki”, “Kurti”, “Ghaghra”, “Odhna”, “Frock”, “Chaddi”, “Kurta”, “Salwar”) and children (“Chola”, “Payjama”, “Kurta”, “Jangia”, “Nekar”, “Jhabla”, “Potadiya”) were recorded in this district. In summer season mostly half sleeved cloths are worn in the district. The old aged men wear mostly thin soft and loose garments.

**Winter season:**

It has been recorded that the residents of Rajput community in different tehsils of Jodhpur district wear usual traditional cloths in winter season. The garments are generally made up of thick cotton and woolen cloths.

Men- “Woolen Angarkhi”, “Bardi”, “Dagali”, “Sadari”, “Pattu”, “Kambal”, “Khesala”, “Jacket”, “Coat” (including woolen Jodhpur coat) “Sawl”, “Thick Dhoti”, “Gulband”, “Muffler”, etc. Women- Thick garments, “Bardi” “Jersi”, “Pattu”, “Sawl”, “Khes”, “Kamli”, Sweater etc. Children : In olden days “Ghughhi” – a dress from head to the ankle, covering the whole body was used to cover children in winter season. “Thick garments”, “Jersi”, Sweater; “Full sleeved chola”,

“Pyajama” “Full sleeved Jangia, “Kantopa”, etc. are also used. Wearing of “Ghughhi” was also reported by Singh (1979). It was recorded that in winter season people wear thick woolen and full sleeved garments. 51

**Rainy season :**

**Men :**

“Gogi” (woolen raincoat). Now a days “Barsati” (modern raincoat) is used.

**Women :**

“Gogi” (woolen raincoat). Now a days modern raincoat is used.

**Children :**

“Gogi” (woolen raincoat). In modern time raincoats are worn by the children.

It was recorded in the present study that in winter season traditionally widow women wear thick cloths which are made of “Reja” – hand spun, hand woven, thick cloth with a rough texture, in rural areas of Jodhpur district (Luniya and Dwivedi, 2008). They wear full sleeved upper garments in the winter. They use maroon, black or green coloured Sweaters, Sawls and Kambals (90.00%) in winter season through out the rural areas of Jodhpur district. While in urban areas and in upper income class families, widow wear (10.00%) traditional coloured garments in winter season. It was further recorded that 87.00 per cent of widower wear dull (“Khaki”, Tobacco” “Gray”) and black coloured winter cloths in Jodhpur tehsil while it was found that 13.00 per cent widower can wear winter garments of any colour.

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