

## CHAPTER : 8

### DREESSES

The dresses of the tribal of Gujarat have undergone great many changes. In the earlier days, they used to remain naked, kept long hair, and beards. The changes in seasonal cycles have taught them the need for covering their bodies to protect themselves against the sun, rain, wind, moisture, insects, animals etc. The covering was first made of leaves of barks of the trees or animals skin. Later on, when art of spinning and weaving discovered, lion cloth, shoulder spread and head gear came into use gradually. Since the tribes remained in the remotest of the areas, they did not come in contact with non tribal people as a result they have started wearing attire very late. They could purchase only cheap and coarse materials due to poverty. Youngsters, under influence of the people on the plains, started shaving their beards and getting their hair cut short. The lion cloth has now been replaced by dhotis, trousers and pants. The upper garments are jackets and shirts. The head is covered by both males and females and they wear colorful attires. (Photo) They used to go bare-foot, but have now started using slippers and shoes. A great deal of change is also found in the dresses of women. The breast used to be covered with heavy stones and necklaces of beads. (Photo) The lower part used to cover by long leaves, bark and skin. However, 'Choli' and blouse have become universal at present. (Photo) The sari, worn in a special style by each tribe, (Photo) is now getting into standard Gujarat style. The school going girls have started wearing frocks. Their children now wear clothes as per seasonal changes.

The dresses of the Rathwas, the Bhils, the Bhilalas, the Dhankas, the Naykas, etc. are almost the same. It is difficult to distinguish between these tribes. Men's dresses consist of a white or colored head scarf, lion cloth, a shirt or waist coat. The tribes of Sabarkantha, Panchmahal, Surat and Bharuch wear a short dhoti (lower garment) whereas the Rathwa wear a 'Langoti' (lion cloth). It is known as 'Kohto' or 'Kohti'. It may be red or white. The Rathwas in the northern parts of Chhotaudepur and the borders of hilly areas of Gujarat wear lion cloth, whereas those in the Southern Chhotaudepur, have started wearing shirt, dhoti and 'Faliyu' (head scarf) because they are in contact with the non-tribal people in the plains of the state.

The Rathwas tie a piece of cloth on their waist which is called 'Kahdo'. The cloth is using threads of woven four or five colors. The woven part is about four or five centimeters broad. The edges of the 'Kahdo' have colorful threads. The end of the threads has five to ten hollow brass or iron small rods (Bhungli). The whole thing is in the form of a tassel with small rattles (Ghughari) which make a musical sound when they walk. The lion cloth is worn with the help of a waist-belt or 'Kahado'. The cotton thread wrap in the waist, is known as 'Kandoro' and woven with colorful threads, is 0.6 meter in length. It reaches up to the knee toward left side

When a child starts walking, he/she is given a 'Langoti' (lion cloth) made up of red printed cloth to wear five to six centimeters in length, the lion cloth is used by teenagers. It is, made of, red, yellow and black printed material. Made up of green, red, and black printed cloth with size varying between 30 and 32.5 centimeters is used

by youngsters and adults. The central part of the 'Langoti' consists of a white woven cloth. The edges are printed and look very colorful. The colorful part is tied with the waist cloth (Kahado) and kept hanging in the front. The end of the lion cloth belt is embroidered with Velmidi design. The top of the lion cloth is tied with 'Kandoro' or 'Kandori'. This hanging cloth is called 'Laj'. The colourful lion cloth is made by Harijan weavers. They are known as 'Vankers'. The cloth is purchased from weekly market either through barter system or in currency. On the top of the lion cloth is worn another cloth which is known as 'Pachiyu'. Both the sides of Pachiya have a broad red belt, which is 2 cms. in breadth, the other part is white and the Pachiyu is also called 'Patado'. With the passage of time, the Rathwas adopted the wearing of 'Dhotiyu' instead of lion cloth. Half of the 'Dhotiyu' covers the lower part of the body and a part of it is used for keeping materials such as grain etc. when they buy materials of this kind from the periodical market. They tie the provisions and hang this on their shoulder at the back. It is also used to cover both the body and the head etc. when they sleep. The upper garment is a white sleeveless jacket, which is known as 'Bandi', or a shirt with collar and sleeves. The Rathwas of the north-eastern areas of Chhotaudepur generally wear green or blue printed shirt. Some Rathwas of southern areas of Chhotaudepur wear orange shirt and lion cloth. The buttons of shirt have a metal chain with a lobe or rattles. The shirt is called 'Aangarakhu'. It is made of Khadi. It may have half or full sleeves, and reaches up to the knees. The preferable color of shirt may be yellow and red. The shirt may have lines also. The collars and the bottom hem of the shirt may have a piping of different colors. They like to have shoulders straps like those in a police uniform with pockets having covers. (Photo)

The Rathwas wear turbans. It is called 'Phento' or 'Faliyu' or 'Hajuriyo'. It is about 4 meters in length. It may be white, yellow, orange, saffron and red in color. When a boy is seven years old, he starts wearing a turban for the first time. The head cloth edge is decorated with piping of blue, green and orange color. The central part of the head is not covered with 'Faliyu'. The turban is tied in a circular shape. It is decorated with a black woven belt with thread hanging. In ancient days, this belt was made of their hair. They used to prepare this from their hair and it took them six months to complete though they worked on it every day. The thread belt is about 6 ft. long. Now a day, it is available in the weekly markets. Youngsters buy red shining handkerchiefs from periodical market and tie it on the turban. Also rows of beads hand from it. Formerly, adults among the tribals, used to wear their turbans daily. However, very few of them wear 'Hajuriyo' now. Generally, old people wear it. The 'Faliyu' has now been replaced by white cap made of Khadi. It is cheaper than the head cloth. Nevertheless, it is not easy for them to keep clean.

The men folk used to wear a button less and a sleeveless jacket. But now they wear jackets either with or without sleeves, buttons, and collars. The buttons are of either of silver or of any other metal but with chains and rattles hanging. Generally, the jacket is of blue and black colour and sometimes red with white line cloth. It is embroidered in white thread all over with fine machine work. Colourful threads are used in modern times. Pockets are also to be seen, and these are usually coarse material. Therefore, they are cheaper in price. The Dohad and Limkheda tailors are known for their workmanship. Triangular, flowery, circle and chain designs are

embroidered on the jackets. The stitching is done in chain stitch dots are made in between. This design is called as 'Velmidibhat', the triangular shape is known as 'Singoda', the row of designs in semi-circles is known as 'Hansdi Patta'.

### **Womens' Dresses:**

The Rathwa women wear 'choli' or blouse. It is called 'Kapdu' or 'Kabjo'. It is the attire worn to cover the upper part of the body. The dress for the lower part is a petticoat or 'Chaniyo'. The upper and lower parts of the body are covered with the mini sari. It is known as 'Odhni'. The 'Choli' and 'Chaniyo' are made from a cloth known as 'Nadada'. A length of cloth, roughly 31 centimeters, is taken for making the petticoat. A petticoat is colorful. It is of green, black, red and yellow color with mango and flowery prints on it. The other tribal women such as the Bhils, the Naykas, the Dhankas, the Bhilalas, etc also use similar types of dresses and prints. Hawkers from Malwa come to Gujarat to sell 'Nadada' cloth. Since of them have migrated to Gujarat from that region, they may have some attraction for this cloth. Now they have started using other materials bought from the weekly market. Some of the mills of Ahmedabad manufacture a special quality of cloth for the tribals. The material for sari manufactured for them is known as 'Govan'.

The skirt or petticoat is stitched in round shape, and the two sides are kept open. The top fold of the skirt is made from a different cloth, with a string in the fold to tie on the waist. The cloth for fold is woven by the Harijan weavers (Vankers). While the males use strings for their 'Kahdo', the same is used by women for their

petticoats. The strings of the skirt are kept hanging towards left. The Bhil women of the Panchmahal also wear similar style of petticoats. One part of the skirt is taken from the front to the back between the legs and tucked at the back. The other side of the 'Ghagharo' is wrapped over at thigh and the thigh and tightened at the back. The petticoat covers the legs right beneath the knees. Generally, a black mango pattern 'Ghagharo' (skirt) is worn in the Panchmahal. It is known as 'Bilkiyo Ghagharo'. The rich women wear one which is about 14 meters in circumstances and poor women 9 meters. These days, the length of the petticoat has decreased. In the Kwant area of Chhota Udepur, the skirt may have a red colored waist, portion the rest part is black. When they tuck the front part of this skirt the back by taking it from in between the legs, it appears like a balloon. The Bhil women of the Panchmahal also wear 'bilkiyo ghagharo'.

Unmarried and young married women wear blouses, as the top garment. They call it 'Kabjo' or 'Choli'. "Kabjo" is low right up to the waist and Choli is worn high. It is open on the front. 'Kabjo' may or may not have a collar. The buttons and chains are made of metal with rattles. The color of the 'Choli' or the 'Kabjo' is blue, green, yellow, black etc. Clothing materials in colored print is also used for it. Old and aged women wear a 'Bodice' known as 'Kapadu'. The Rathwa women also wear a backless blouse known as 'Kanchdi'. It is decorated with lace, fluff or jingle bells. It may have green, yellow and red flowery designs.

The mini sari is known as 'Odhni' or 'Lugdu'. It is roughly 3.5 meter long. One edge of this 'lugdu' is tied in the front part of the skirt; the second one is taken over the chest and then used to cover the head. The remaining part is allowed to hang at the back. They have lace on it. The sari also has a 'Pallav' (pattern end on cross border) with different colors with stripes, with flowery and mango designs on it. It is called 'Leherio', 'Jurvariyo' etc. (Photo) In areas of Rangpur, Sadhli and Devhar, when man goes in for remarriage, he takes this type of sari for draping the woman. She comes to her in-laws, wearing this sari.

The women of Kwant, Rangpur, Chhotaudepur, Sadhli, etc. wear 'Odhni' in different styles. They tuck it on the left side after draping the left shoulder or keep the end hanging.

The Rathwa women used to put on red, blue, yellow colored Bandhanis (tie and die) mini sarees. They wear colorful petticoats and blouses. Though they put on various types of dresses at present, some of them are still found moving around in old traditional dresses.

The Rathwa women comb their hair in different styles. The hair is either drawn back and tied behind the ears or gathered behind in a roll or knot. The hair is also plaited in three tresses. When the hair is plaited, the side tresses are allowed to drop over the eyebrows, and then drawn behind the ears. The back tress, hangs straight like a pig tail with a hollow brass ball at the end. They use half a dozen hair

pins. A small mirror kept in the hand while combing hair. They buy hair pins, ribbons and the cosmetic materials from the weekly market.



## DRESS



Male and female dressing style



Men turben Style





Choli

Blouse Style







Blouse style



Sari style





Unmarried, Young and Married Wearing Style







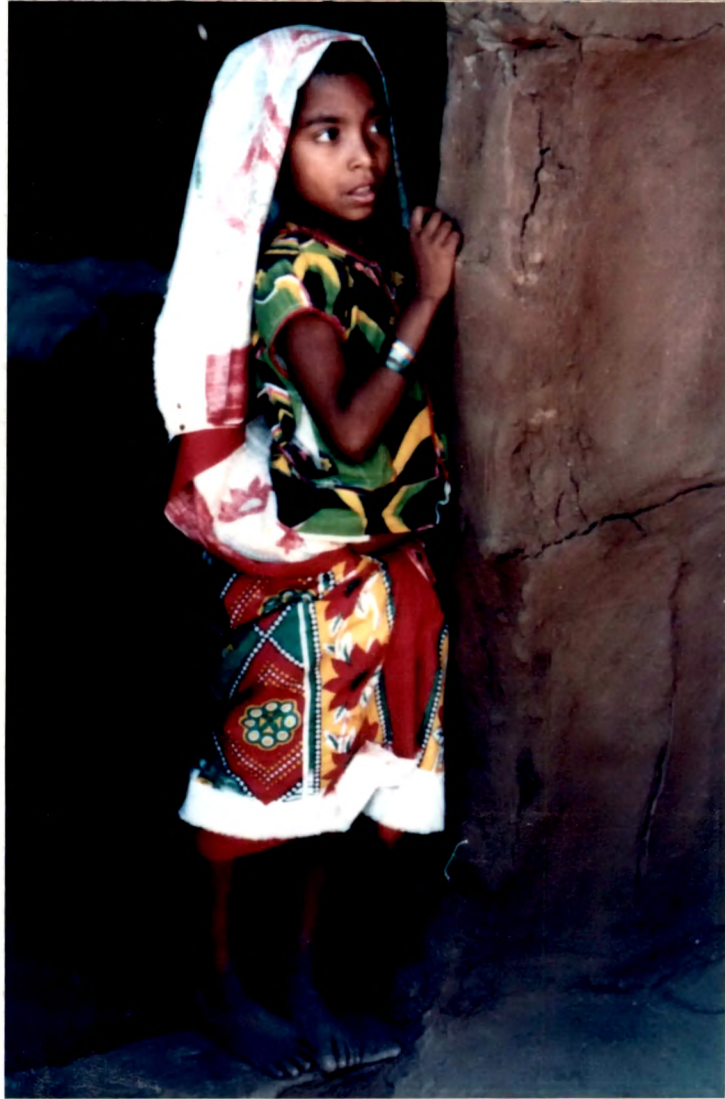
Sari style





Sari style





Sari Style



Shirt Style – Police Uniform