



## Khadi: The Trendsetting Fabric

Richa Chauhan & Amisha Jaiswal  
JD Birla Institute, Kolkata

### Abstract:

*Khadi holds an important position in the Textile Sector. Any handloom woven cloth from cotton, silk or woollen yarn in India may be defined as Khadi. The main objectives of the study is to raise the awareness of this versatile fabric –Khadi. The study of its origin and history takes us back to the era of National Movement and to the Unity of India. Over the years the textiles of India happened to be more refined with natural dyes and broader prints. Khadi was introduced as the fabric by the Father of the Nation – Mahatma Gandhi, who saw its potential as a means to being self-reliant, independent and bringing villages back to life. Khadi was brought up with the intention of boycotting foreign goods, and thus it became the National Movement. In 1925, All India Spinners Association was launched with the intention of the production/ manufacture and selling of Khadi.*

**Keywords:** Khadi ,Spinners Association, National Movement

### INTRODUCTION

The term khadi originally known as Khaddar refers to a hand spun fabric. Khadi fabric is a hand spun or hand woven fabric made out of cotton fibre. Greek historians brought into lime light the soothing texture of Indian fabric as they wore Indian cotton cloths during Alexander's invasion, which were more comfortable during summer climate. In Chanakya's "ArthaShastra" he wrote about "Sulradhyaksha" which indicates a person who is adept in manufacturing yarn spun out of wool, hemp and bark fibre. In the Ajanta caves, people witnessed the images of the procedure of separation of cotton fibre from the seed, along with the spinning of cotton yarns. The material and texture of khadi fabric has its uniqueness because of which it is preferred by the people.

Khadi – the livery of India's freedom, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century evokes spontaneously, for

Indians the sensation of robust, the image is home spun cotton fabric. Khadi fabric is cool, porous and also absorbent so as to be suitable to be worn in the scorching India's summer climate. Surprisingly Khadi fabric becomes insular for the chilly winters of India. Khadi is now gradually fading impression of Mahatma Gandhi clothing with sheer vision, a struggle for national independence. Even after more than 50 years later wearing of khadi clothes is the awareness that the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi as a potent symbol civil service. Khadi reminds us of the civic responsibility invested by the state of a democratic thede.

Khadi's value for Indians today has become the last over live vestige which was once the world's finest cotton weaving and spinning doctrine. Significantly perhaps absolutely unsung is the aid that the khadi production has provided to millions of artisans,an



estimation of 80% of whom are women. Khadi has provided more roles and meaning to one's life than any other fabric whether acknowledged as a materialistic product, a culture glyph or as an economical support. All these distinctiveness has been derived from just one textile process - handspinning. But for many of its characteristic khadi may be poised to usurp yet another prestige in the new millennium. Even at the time precision and replicability, the wholly hand spun and hand patterned fabric, khadi epitomizes its ultimate uniqueness and luxury.

Khadi has been evolved as the latest trend in fashion since 1990 in India. Khadi appeared in the limelight as a pure hand woven native fabric during the Swadeshi Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. Hand spinning and hand weaving has been around for thousands of years, thus making the craft of khadi ancient. Alexander the Great discovered printed cotton fabrics during his invasion. He and his successors established the trade routes which announced cotton to Asia and ultimately to Europe.

Over the years the textiles of India happened to be more refined with natural dyes and broader prints. Khadi was introduced as the fabric by the Father of the Nation - Mahatma Gandhi, who saw its potential as a means to being self-reliant, independent and bringing villages back to life. Khadi was brought up with the intention of boycotting foreign goods, and thus it became the National Movement. In 1925, All India Spinners Association was launched with the intention of the production/ manufacture and selling of Khadi.

### **Manufacturing of Khadi**

As we all know, Khadi is a hand spun and hand woven fabric. The manufacturing of khadi can be classified under many stages:

- Spinning- the spinning of the fabric is done on the wheel called Charkha. The fibre is also twisted at this time to make it stronger and durable.
- Yarn preparation- in this stage the yarn is wound around the bobbin which makes it easier to transport it to the weaving stage.
- Weaving - in this stage the fibres are interwoven in a way that provides a route for the air into the cloth.
- Dyeing- the fabric is dyed with natural as well as artificial dyes.
- Strengthening of the fibre- once the fabric is dyed, it is made stronger under various processes.

### **Varieties of Khadi**

Khadi is generally made out of cotton. Other than cotton, silk, wool etc., are also used in the manufacturing of khadi. There are varieties of khadi available, namely-

- Khadi Cotton fabric - made out of pure cotton yarn.
- Khadi Silk fabric- there are two types of khadi silk: pure khadi and the other one is the blend of several yarns.
- Woollen Khadi fabric- khadi fabric woven from wool.

### **CONCLUSION**

Over the years, Khadi has evolved to a fashion garment from a freedom fighter's selfhood. Khadi is much more than cotton in today's world. For the production of khadi the technologies involved varies



from one region to another, similarly does the techniques used for its embellishment (dyeing, printing, embroidery, etc.). Despite of millions of workers all over the nation involved in spinning, there is still deficiency in meeting the demand from the khadi market. The material with its ingrained defects that is the elegance of khadi. Khadi connoisseur craves at all time is the exclusivity of it.

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