

Khana: The blouse material of north Karnataka

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Khana is a unique blouse material produced in Guledgudd that is only one textile cluster of India to make blouse material. Traditional hand woven Khana material is the choli or blouse material with extra warp dobby figuring. This study revealed the details about the unique Khana material of north Karnataka. The primary data were collected through personal interview method from the weavers and secondary data were collected from magazines and from web.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Guledgudda, Khana blouse materials

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Karnataka is one of the southern states of India which is renowned for its exquisitely produced traditional cotton and silk *Sarees*. Even if today a large number of villages of Karnataka produce intricate *Sarees* and blouse materials, among them Khana is well known for its combination with Ilkal *Saree* as blouse. Khana is a unique material produced in Guledgudd that is only one textile cluster of India to make blouse material. Traditional hand woven Khana material is the choli or blouse material with extra warp dobby figuring. Earlier it was woven on pit loom having no warp beam. Wooden lattice dobby was used for producing the design on Khana with extra warp, dobby capacity depends on type of design; normally in Guledgudd Khana 515 lever cylinder type lattice dobby is used. Another type of dobby is grooved cylinder, *i.e.* according to design cylinder is grooved. According to the design, wherever groove is there, that particular lever is lifted; no need of lattice and pegs. This dobby is used for smaller design. Now-a-days these Khanas are also manufactured using power looms.

Weaving is supposed to have come to Ilkal around the 8th century AD and the sheer rustic look of the textile keeps it still popular. The traditional Guledgudd Khana (Choli or Blouse, elsewhere called Khana), which is only one traditional cluster making blouse fabric in India. It compliments to Ilkal saris as this combination is widely used, not only in the northern part of Karnataka but also in the Marathawada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra. Women in north Karnataka and some parts of Marathwada and Vidharbha regions in Maharashtra use this Guledagudd Khana as blouse material in combination with Ilkal *Saree*. The speciality of this material is unique design and the raw material used being silk and cotton. Silk being natural fibres possess special properties like high moisture absorption, good luster and comfort to wear. The extreme hot climatic conditions in these regions made these people wear this Khana. Because of the high cost of silk, the Khana materials were also produced in combination with cotton as weft. Later the man-made fibres like viscose rayon,

cuprammonium rayon and polyester fibres were also introduced. Now-a-days, Khana is utilised for different products with modifications.

Thus, the present study is conducted to know the details of the Khana material.

RESEARCH METHODS

The information about the Khana material were collected by personally interviewing thirty randomly selected Khana weavers of Guledgudda using self structured interview scheduled. The information like type of motif and its significance were collected from secondary source.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented under following heads :

Historical background of Guledgudda Khana :

The history of Guledgudda Khana states that, weaving of blouse piece to suit every Saree woven is not a new art but practiced since long. The Guledgudda originated as a town place. During 1580 second Ibrahim Adilshai of Bijapur built a fort on hill. After few centuries’ people migrated from top to plain ground next to hill hence it is called as Guledgudd. There are other stories which are popular. The people came from various places to

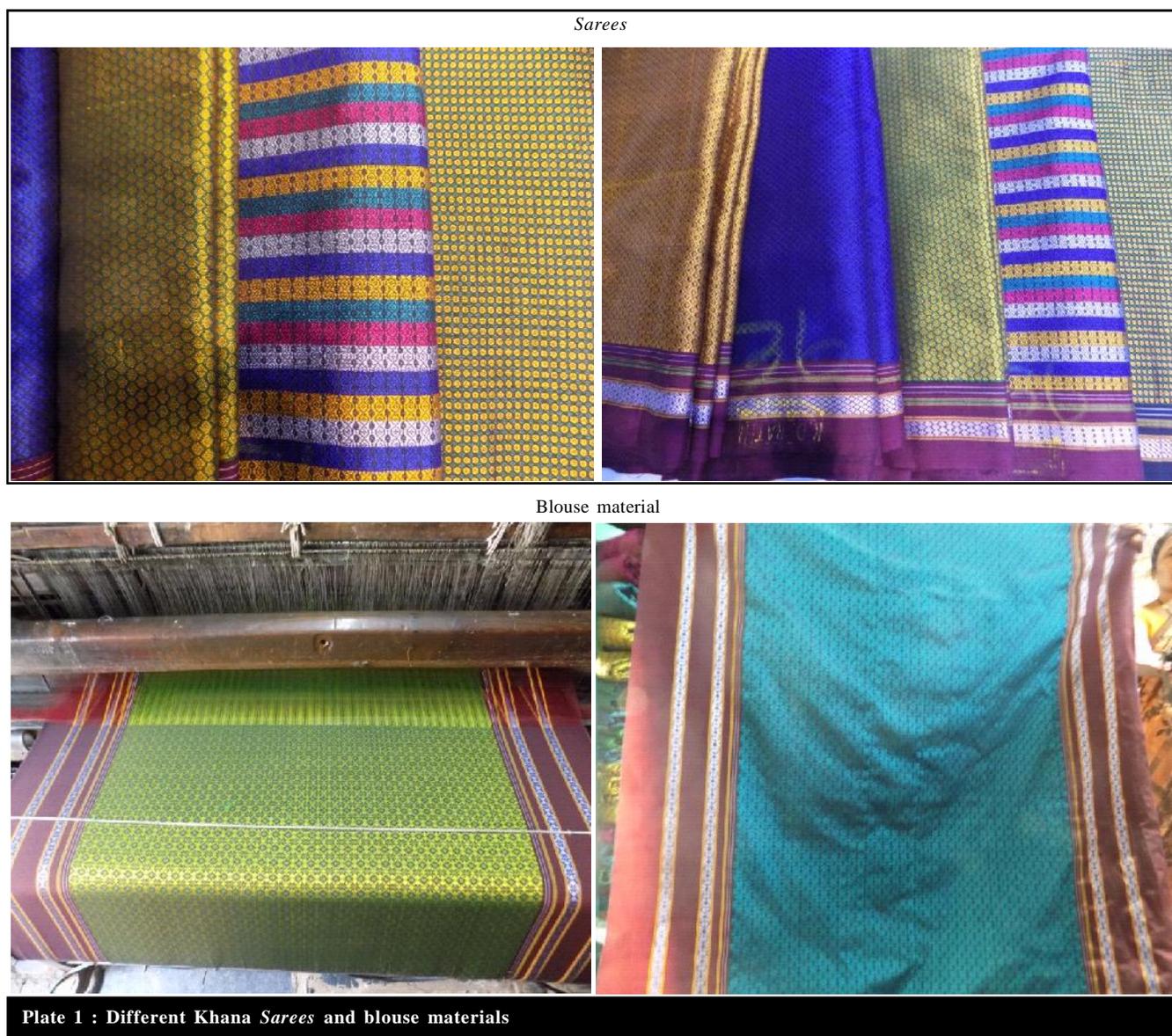


Plate 1 : Different Khana Sarees and blouse materials

Guledgudd were of different castes like devangas, pattasalias, kuruvinshtetty, muslims etc. They started weaving a typical type of cloths for blouse material. And these blouse pieces were then named as Khanas. Whenever any pooja is performed in the villages of north Karnataka, they use to worship the god by keeping a sari with a blouse material over the *Saree*. It is always folded in a typical triangular shape. Folding of blouse piece in the said typical triangular shape was traditionally called as Khanas. These blouse material is always produced by keeping definite width and length *i.e.* 32 inch x 20 inch. From each piece of Khana a blouse could be stitched for ladies. The scale for measuring of this definite length of blouse piece is also traditionally called as Khana. There is no definite historical evidence as to when the handloom weaving industry started at Ilkal and Guledgudda. But according to the popular belief and circumstances, it might have started in the 8th century when the Chalukya Dynasty was in full swing in this region. Some of the pictures of different Khana saeers and blouse material are given in Plate 1.

Khana manufacturing process :

The production of Khana Fabric involves various operations. The Khana has woven border on both sides ranging from 6 inches to 9 inches in width, with two to three stripes of extra warp figuring all along its length.

The body is fully covered with extra warp along with ground figuring with dobbie shedding mechanism *i.e.* addition of extra warp beam takes place as shown in Plate 2. The ground warp may be cotton, mercerized cotton, rayon or silk. Whereas weft is always cotton, single spun yarn with Z or S twist direction or mercerized cotton. However, the rich, lustrous and glossy appearance of extra warp is produced by either viscose rayon or by using pure silk yarns. The cotton yarn is dyed with vat or naphthol and silk is by acid dyes locally. Wooden lattice dobbie used for producing the design on Khana with extra warp, dobbie capacity depends on type of design; normally in Guledgudd Khana 515 lever cylinder type lattice dobbie is used. Another type of dobbie is grooved cylinder, *i.e.* according to design cylinder is grooved. According to the design, wherever groove is there, that particular lever is lifted; no need of lattice and pegs. This dobbie is used for smaller design (The detailed of the manufacturing process is given in Plate 3). Now-a-days these Khanas are also manufactured using power looms.

Motifs or designed used in Khana materials :

The unique designs produced by using dyed yarns represent the traditions followed by people of some regions of Karnataka and Maharashtra states. The motifs used for the designs are extracted from nature, ancient



Plate 2 : Extra warp beam attachment

Silk and Art silk (Viscose) (Purchased from market)	Cotton process	Weft preparation for Khana
Winding	Winding	É
É	É	Cotton in bank form
Twisting and steaming	Dyeing	É
É	É	Dyeing
Winding	Winding	É
É	É	Winding
Dyeing	Ball warp preparation	É
É	É	Gumming (natural gum)
Winding	Gumming (natural gum)	É
É	É	Pirn preparation for weft
Ball warp preparation	Piecing or drawing and denting	
É	É	
Gumming (natural gum)	Weaving	
É	É	
Piecing or drawing and denting	Folding	
É	É	
Weaving	Marketing	
É		
Folding and marketing		

Plate 3 : Manufacturing process of khana material

stone sculptures of Badami and the Hindu Mythology. These designs are well accepted by the people in this region and they have a strong belief in them. In whole ten traditional motifs are there like Theru, Suryanaran, Tulsi pan etc. Each motif is having its own signifies meaning and all of the motifs are having mythological meaning. Most of the designs of the Guledgudda Khana are replicates of Suryanarayana: the face of Sun God, Siddeswar Mukuta: the face of Siddeswar God, Theru: the Chariot, Ane Hejje: the footsteps of elephant, Tulsi Pan: the Tulsi leaf and Sooji Mallige: a fragrance giving flowers etc. These Khana materials are so popular that, except these traditional designs no other designs are accepted by the users of Khana. The design names, their meanings and motif is explained in the below Table 1.

Fabric information :

In the clusters of Guledgudda most of the weavers are manufacturing blouse materials and very less are manufacturing *Sarees*. The woven material has border on both sides ranging from 15 to 23 cm in width, with two strips of extra warp figuring all along its length. The Khana materials were woven on handloom using silk warp and cotton weft and each of these Khana piece will be of about 80cm widths and 50cm lengths. The detail of the fabric is given in Table 2.

Table 1 : Types of motifs used in Khana material and its significance

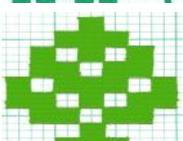
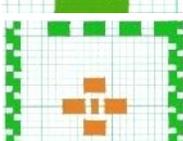
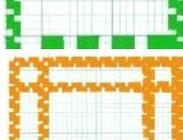
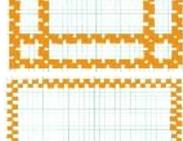
Sr. No.	Motifs name	Meaning	Motifs/Designs
1.	Chitramala	Garland of beautiful drawing	
2.	Theru	Traditional chariot used for annual car festival to carry God/ Goddess in it in a procession. The design shape resembles the chariot	
3.	Suryanarayana	The design resembles sun God	
4.	Ane Hejje	Elephants step design resembles step of elephant used in the traditional processions	
5.	Tulsi Pan	The leaf of Tulsi plant, a goddess worshiped by Hindu. The design resembles the tulsi leaf	
6.	Tiruki Kavale Hoovu	A type of flower used for worshiping of God	
7.	Double Hardy	Two fold design	
8.	Single Hardi	Single fold design	
9.	Sooji Mallige	A flower with very narrow petals and give mild fragrance similar to Mallige (highly scented with sweet fragrance)	
10.	Siddeshwar Mukuta	Siddeshwara is the name of a popular God worshipped by people in Karnataka and Maharashtra. The design resembles the face of God Siddeshwara	

Table 2 : Fabric information of Khana textiles

Sr. No.	Material type	Threads/inch		Length of material (m)	Length of the			Total width (m)	Width of the			Total weight (g)
		Ends	Picks		Body (m)	Pallav (m)	Border (m)		Body (m)	Pallav (m)	Border (m)	
1.	Saree	48	32	5.2	4.0	1.2	5.2	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.63	800
2.	Choli	48	32	1.2	1.2	-	1.2	0.8	-	-	0.63	250

Conclusion :

The traditional Guledgudda Khana (Choli or Blouse, elsewhere called Khana), which is only one traditional cluster making blouse fabric in India. Khana are the choli or blouse materials with extra warp dobby figures, which are the traditional products of northern Karnataka. Earlier it was woven on pit loom having no warp beam using silk warp and cotton weft. Now-a-day due the existence of powerloom most of the weavers are using it but dimension of the material remains same. The body is fully covered with extra warp figuring with dobby shedding mechanism and each Khana piece will be about 80cm width and 50cm length. Earlier only ten motifs were used producing different Khana materials but due to change in trend, peoples want variety and want to be fashionable so for fulfilling this requirement other motifs were also included for production.

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