

Khadi: The Way to Remember Patriotism

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ABSTRACT:

The hand-spun and hand-woven fabric known as khadi has a long tradition in India as a representation of nationalism and independence. It became well-known during India's battle for independence because Mahatma Gandhi viewed it as a strategy to boycott British goods and provide rural communities economic clout. In order to commemorate and honour India's heritage of patriotism and freedom struggle, Khadi is still made and worn today. Khadi is a well-liked option for individuals who value eco-friendliness and ethical production practises due to its sustainable production process, which uses only natural fibres and traditional procedures. Khadi is still a significant component of India's cultural legacy, representing not only a material but also a way of life and a source of pride for the country.

Keywords: khadi, patriotism, sustainable, kVIC, manufacturing, charkha

I. INTRODUCTION

The hand-woven fabric khadi, commonly referred to as khaddar, is made of cotton, silk, or wool. It played a vital role in the war for Indian independence and is frequently linked to patriotism. The freedom warriors who battled against British colonial rule in India favoured the fabric khadi. Khadi has been widely recognised as a representation of the Indian freedom movement thanks to Mahatma Gandhi. This research paper will examine the origins and meaning of khadi as a patriotic symbol. The name "khadi" emerged in India during the liberation movement, when Mahatma Gandhi urged the use of locally created materials as a tactic to boycott British-made cloth. Khadi was viewed as a symbol of self-sufficiency and a means to encourage rural industry. On a spinning wheel known as a charkha, cotton, silk, or wool fibres are spun into yarn to create khadi. The fabric is then created by weaving the yarn together on a handloom, producing a strong, long-lasting fabric with a distinctive texture. Khadi's distinctive roughness and unevenness, which are prized by many for their natural beauty and authenticity, are

created by the hand-spinning and hand-weaving processes. The adaptability of Khadi is one of its main strengths. Shirts, dresses, jackets, saris, dhotis, bed covers, and towels are just a few examples of the clothing and home décor items that can be made from it because it can be woven into a variety of weights and textures. In addition to being absorbent and breathable, it is also perfect for use in hot and humid climates. Furthermore, Khadi is easily dyed, enabling a variety of colours and patterns to be incorporated into the fabric. Khadi has a coarse texture and is typically made in neutral colors such as white, beige, or brown, khadi continues to be an important part of Indian culture and is used in a variety of ways. It is often used to make clothing, such as sarees, kurtas, and shawls, as well as household items like bedspreads and tablecloths. . Khadi is also used to make bags, shoes, and other accessories. The production of khadi is overseen by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), which was established in 1956 to promote the development of khadi and other village industries.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is Exploratory in nature. For the present study, a detailed review of existing literature was carried out on the genesis of khadi, role of khadi in Swadeshi movement, Gandhiji's view on khadi, journey of khadi in fashion industry, preference of khadi in apparels and khadi as a sustainable fabric. Manufacturing and benefits of khadi. Papers published in the research articles, journals, newspaper articles, theses, reports, conference proceedings and various data and articles available in online search engines were reviewed.

III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Khadi as Patriotism :

Khadi is a textile created from cotton, silk, and other natural fibres that was popularised by Mahatma Gandhi during India's struggle for independence. It has a long history, having been used to make clothing in ancient India. During

India's colonial rule by the British, khadi became a symbol of resistance. Mahatma Gandhi believed that the resurgence of the textile industry would lead to job possibilities and economic independence. The British East India Company put high taxes on Indian cotton and textile products, leading to unemployment and poverty. Mahatma Gandhi advocated the Swadeshi Movement, which promoted the use of things created in India and the rejection of British goods. Khadi was a symbol of India's independence and self-reliance. He promoted Khadi as a form of economic empowerment for the underprivileged by encouraging people to spin and weave their own cloth. Khadi is still used to make clothing, accessories, and home decor today and is a significant component of India's cultural legacy. The Indian government still encourages the use of Khadi as a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to synthetic materials. Khadi is more than simply a cloth; it is a manifestation of nationalism and freedom as well as a symbol of India's struggle for independence. Khadi was pushed by Mahatma Gandhi as a strategy to increase rural employment and lessen India's reliance on imports. He urged people to use the charkha, a traditional spinning wheel, to spin and weave their own cloth. Wearing Khadi became a symbol of opposition to British-made textiles and support for India's independence cause. As a representation of India's cultural past and a reminder of the value of freedom and self-sufficiency, khadi is still used today.

Mahatma Gandhi and Khadi:

Khadi was strongly supported by Mahatma Gandhi, who saw it as a representation of independence and self-respect. Khadi, in his opinion, is a way of life as much as a type of fabric. Gandhi asked Indians to refrain from wearing clothing made abroad and stick to khadi instead because he thought this would help them achieve Swaraj, or self-rule. People began wearing khadi as a symbol of their opposition to British colonial rule, and khadi became a staple of the Indian liberation movement.

The significance of Khadi:

Khadi is incredibly important to Indian history and culture. It stands for independence, respect, and self-sufficiency. It stands for the effort and commitment put out by the weavers who create this cloth. Considering that khadi is made of natural fibres and is biodegradable, it is also environmentally friendly. Khadi is a significant component of India's economy and a part of its cultural heritage.

Since the charkha is the spinning wheel traditionally used to spin cotton into yarn for making Khadi fabric, Khadi and charkha are closely related terms. Here are some details about each:

Khadi:

Made from cotton, silk, and other natural fibres, khadi is a fabric that is hand-spun and hand-woven. Using a charkha to spin the cotton into yarn and a handloom to weave the yarn into cloth is how Khadi is made. To give the fabric a distinctive texture and finish, it is then cleaned and starched. In India, khadi has a long and illustrious history that dates back to the Stone Age, when people first began spinning cotton into yarn and weaving it into cloth. Khadi is still a well-liked fabric in India today, valued for its distinctive texture, toughness, and environmental friendliness.

Charkha:

Cotton has been spun into yarn on the charkha, a traditional spinning wheel, for millennia in India. No of their age or gender, everyone can operate this portable, hand-cranked device. The charkha was a representation of the poor's economic empowerment and self-reliance, and it was crucial to India's war for independence. Charkha use as a symbol of the Swadeshi Movement, which encouraged the use of Indian-made items and the boycott of British goods, was strongly supported by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi urged people to use the charkha to spin their own cotton yarn and weave their own Khadi cloth because he thought it was a crucial tool for promoting economic growth and reducing poverty. The charkha is still in use today, especially in rural areas of India where it serves as a significant source of income for numerous people.

KVIC:

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a governmental agency established in 1957 to promote and expand the Khadi and village industries in India's rural areas..

KVIC aims to develop Khadi and village industries as an important source of employment in rural areas, create a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to modern textile production methods, promote the use of Khadi and village industries products as economic empowerment, encourage entrepreneurship and self-employment, provide financial and technical support to Khadi and village industries, and preserve and promote traditional arts and crafts of rural India.

KVIC has a range of functions, such as providing financial support to the Khadi and village industries, training artisans and business owners, promoting and marketing goods through shows, fairs, and other gatherings, conducting research and development activities, and monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Khadi and village industries units.

Khadi as a sustainable fabric:

Khadi is frequently seen as a sustainable fabric due to the manner it is made. Here are a few explanations:

Khadi is produced using only natural fibres like cotton, silk, and wool and without the use of any equipment or chemicals, making it a sustainable and environmentally friendly technique. The cloth is made using a traditional charkha and handloom, which uses very little energy and produces no hazardous pollutants. It is hand-spun and hand-woven. Khadi has a low carbon footprint due to its use of natural fibres and the lack of machinery or chemicals. It also supports rural communities, encouraging people to stay in local communities rather than moving to urban regions. This contributes to sustainable rural development. Khadi cloth is renowned for its strength and long-lasting nature. It is hand-spun and hand-woven, giving it a distinctive texture and finish that cannot be found in mass-produced textiles. It is adaptable and ageless, and can be used to create a variety of clothes and accessories. Khadi clothing can be worn for a long time and handed down from generation to generation, as it is a timeless fabric that never goes out of style.

Manufacturing of khadi:

Khadi is a hand-spun and hand-woven fabric with a rich history in India. It requires a high degree of skill and craftsmanship to produce, with the first step being the selection of raw materials. Cotton fibers are selected, cleaned and carded, then spun into yarn using a traditional spinning wheel called a charkha. After the yarn is spun, it is wound onto bobbins and taken to the weaver, who sets up a traditional handloom with pedals and levers to control the warp and weft threads. The weaver weaves the fabric by passing the weft yarn through the warp threads and using pedals and levers to control the tension and pattern. The fabric is then cut and sewn into the desired garment or product, and washed and dried to remove any impurities and soften the fabric.

Benefits of khadi:

Khadi is an eco-friendly fabric made using traditional techniques and equipment with a low carbon footprint. It is also sustainable as it uses natural fibers like cotton, silk, and wool, making it biodegradable and renewable. Khadi is a breathable fabric that allows air to circulate and is lightweight, making it ideal for summer clothing. It is durable and resistant to wear and tear, making it a popular choice for designers and manufacturers. It can be used to make a variety of products, making it a popular choice for designers and manufacturers. Khadi is a symbol of patriotism and self-reliance, honoring and preserving India's traditional techniques and supporting rural communities.

IV. CONCLUSION

The study aimed to better understand the literature about khadi from before and after independence. It was initially created as a self-sustaining fabric, a tool to fight poverty, and a spark to fire the flame of liberation. Over time, it evolved into a fashion fabric, but still lacks the professionalism of the apparel industry. There is a wide range of empirical studies that can be done to determine why consumers don't accept khadi clothing, but none have been conducted in Gujarat. Khadi is a symbol of nationalism and resistance to colonial control in India. It was made popular by Mahatma Gandhi as a means of achieving Swaraj and economic independence. To ensure its sustainability, it should be encouraged and efforts should be made to revitalise the Indian textile sector. Khadi is a way of life, not just a type of fabric. KVIC has made a substantial contribution to the economic growth of rural areas in India by supporting the Khadi and village industries there. Additionally, it has greatly benefited India's cultural heritage by preserving and promoting the nation's traditional arts and crafts. As a result, Khadi is a durable, green, and adaptable fabric that offers numerous advantages to both the person and the environment. It is both a sustainable option for clothing and other products and a representation of India's cultural history.

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