

Traditional Costume Heritage of Bangladesh and How it is Connected to Our Culture

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Abstract

Bangladesh has mixed culture and there is a diversified influence of culture on our costume. The main purposes of this survey are to find the connection between culture & costumes. Commonly Bangladeshi women like to wear saree, Salwar kameez, men wear Panjabi, Pajama, Fatua, Lungi, Dhota, & Gumcha and modern Bangladeshi like to wear formal shirt, pant, polo shirt, T-shirt & suit. Purposes of the research are to represent our traditional costumes and how it is connected to our culture and traditional heritage.

Keywords: Culture; Traditional; Costume; Saree; Lungi; Dhota; Gamcha; Panjabi.

1. Introduction

The Civilization of Bangladesh is a hundred year old. Once upon a time in Bangla as the richest region of the Indian subcontinent, that time many countries, people came to the Bangla business purpose and some people were permanently staying in Bangla and marriage Bangla people. That time Bangla people influenced by different types of cultural day by day they absorb that culture after that, British east India Company start to come in the subcontinent near about seventy centuries 1947 East India company left the subcontinent but many European remaining in Bangla / subcontinent. Costumes represent cultures of a country. Due to mixed culture influence dress up of Bangladeshi has mixed flavors. If we follow our cultural, traditional, religious, and social festival we can see how culturally connected to our costumes.

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Wedding ceremony it is our social and religion festival most of the women like to wear (Lal Beararasi saree) for her wedding ceremonies , Gayee holude it is part of the wedding ceremony most of the women like wear yellow saree in wedding ceremony men wear Panjabi, pajama & Sherwani. Our cultural and traditional festival Pahala Boishakh women like to wear (white and red colour saree with traditional motifs (fish, kula , pakha, kolka, tree.), men like to wear (red and white Panjabi). Religion festival Eid most of the women like to buy the latest saree. Men wear pajama Panjabi also young generations like to wear saree as well as salwar kameez. Traditionally Bangladeshi women wear saree, young generations wear salwar kameez some younger generation to wear, Skirt, shirt, pant. Traditionally Men of Bangla wear lungi, dhoti, Panjabi, pajam, fatua , officially wears shirt & pant, Bangladeshi are very much colorful always they like to wear colorful outfit, like Green yellow, red, blue, black, orange and white. In this research will focus our past and present cultural and traditional costume heritage how it is connecting our daily life and why it is important our next upcoming generation [1,3,4,5,54].

2. Traditional Costume of Bangladesh:

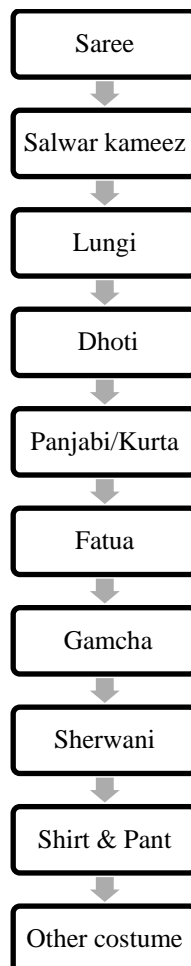


Figure 1

3. Description of traditional women & men costume and their connection with culture:

3.1 Saree

Saree is the main women traditional costume of Bangladesh. It is mainly used for women dress. Saree is five to six yards unstitch long cloths. Basically the draping method is applied to wearing saree. The saree has beautiful selvage ornamented with different type of motive, and end point of saree namely (Achol) very fine ornamented. Bangladesh women very like to wear saree especially traditional, religion, & social festivals purpose. Bangladeshi people celebrate different type of festivals. Some are the religion, some are the traditional and some are the social [3,6,7,54].

- **Religion festivals:**

Eid –ul- Fitar , Eid- ul Azha, Durga puza , Christmas day & Buddha Purnima [2].

- **Eid- ul –Fitar and Eid- ul Azha:**

It is a most common religion festival for Muslims. As per religion rules all Muslims wear new dresses, most of the women's in Bangladesh like to wear saree and men wear new Panjabi and pajama [2].

- **Durga Puza**

Basically, it is a Hindu religion festival; in this festival Hindu women mainly wear saree [2].



Figure 1: [30-31]

- **Traditional**

Pohela Boishakh , Pahela Falgun ,

- **Pahala Boishakh**

Bangla new year called Pahala Boishakh . Hindu, Muslim, Buddha, Christen all religions, people of Bangladesh

celebrate Pahala Boishakh . It is a traditional festival for Bangladeshi .Most of the women and girls like to wear saree. Pahala Boishakh saree has special colour and motive, white and red combination's saree very preferable for this festival. Symbolic traditional motive is used in saree like fish, pakha (hand fan), kula, daki , kolshe, flower, tree, etc. Pahala Boishakhe is mainly represented our Bengali tradition [2].

- ***Pahala Falgun***

1st day of spring called Pahala Falgun. Bengali people are celebrating this day very colourfully. It is a traditional festival of Bangladesh. Women and girls are basically like to wear saree. Pahala Falgun saree has special colour basonti (yellowish) saree with red and decorative Selvage [2].



Figure 2: [32-34]

- ***Social Festival:***

Marriage ceremony, & Gaya holude ceremony

Bangladeshi traditional Gayee holude:

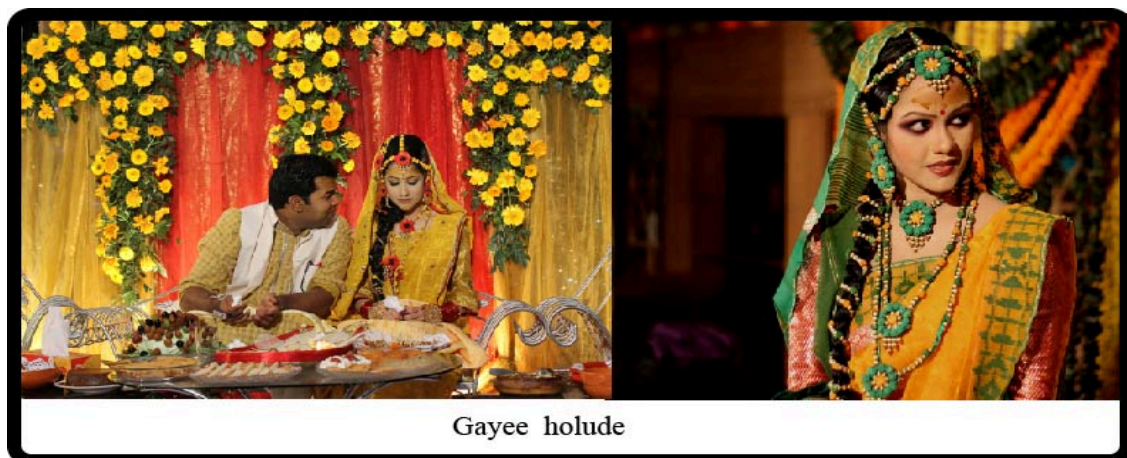


Figure 3: [35-36]

It is a major part of a traditional wedding. During the ceremony, the bride is wear yellowish colour saree and the bridegroom wear yellowish colour Panjabi. Mainly turmeric paste is touch all over the bride and bridegroom skin for increase beauty, softness and brightness [2].

Wedding ceremony:

It's a main part of the wedding. Mainly bride is wear traditional saree Lal Beanarasi (red Beanarosi saree) very much popular for wedding ceremony make with metallic golden sliver threads, decorative motive border and achol(End part of the saree). Now a day's fashion has been changed, some bride wears different category's saree with different colours [2].



Figure 4: [37-38]

3.2 Categories of Bangladesh traditional saree

- **Jamdani :**

Jamdani is one of the traditional textile heritages of Bangladesh. Basically, it is one kind of saree. The Jamdani word comes from Persia. Its means jam is (flower) Dani means (vase) [8]. Jamdani make with handloom use fine cotton yarn 200 to 250 counts. Now a day's chemical uses dyes instead of herbal dyes. Basically geometric design and motif use for Jamdani, depending on modern demand different types of design motif use for Jamdani like lotus, jasmine rose , bunches of bananas, gingine, embroidery, Jamdani saree categories depending the types of motif and region . Jamdani saree focus one of the oldest weaving foam which is originated in the Bangla. Pure Jamdani saree makes with 100% cotton yarn. Weaving procedure of Jamdani is very soft & light. Depending of modern concepts of the Jamdani it is also made with woven, blend cotton and silk sometimes pure silk. Bright colour added with golden and sliver coloured yarns use to make fashionable designs. Jamdani saree is fine finish wear all over women of Bangladesh & India to make a traditional statement for Jamdani [9,10, 11].

Regional Jamdani varieties:

Dhakai Jamdani (Bangladesh)

Tangail Jamdani (Bangladesh) –

Shantipur Jamdani (India) –

Dhaniakhali Jamdani (India) –

- **Tangail saree:**



Figure 4: [39-40]

Tangail is the district name once upon time some are the weavers' community started to make saree here. After that, this area famous for saree and that's the way these saree names are Tangail saree. Now a day it is renowned not only nationally but also internationally. Tangail saree exceptional quality and design to weave every portion of saree make with 100 % hand work. Special type design, colour unique weaving styles different from other saree. Special categories yarn use for Tangail saree that's why Tangail saree very much soft, lightweight and comfortable. Basically yarn compositions use cotton, half silk, silk. For example Baluchori, Kotki , kumkum, Devdas silk, Tangail B.T, Jaripar, Hajarabuti, Sutipar, Swarnachura, Ikkat, Anarkali, Sananda, Nilambari, Moyurakanthi and ordinary Saree [12]. Have some exceptional characteristics of Tangail saree like (selvage) both sides of saree achol (edge) decorated with metallic threads exclusive handmade design saree, style, fabrication, easily touch all Bengali women's heart. Tangail saree is one the ancient heritage of the Bangla. As per the travel history of Ibn Battuta and Huen Sam's Culture and heritage of this saree a thousand years old [13].

Beanarasi :

Beanarasi Saree had an ancient history, beginning from the Mughal Empire in the 16th century. It is known that it originated from Beanarasi, a northern city of India. Beanarasi Saree found its way to Bangladesh, when the Muslims migrated from Beanaras into Bangladesh. It was these migrants that started the practice of making Beanarasi saree at Mohammadpur and Mirpur in Dhaka [29]. In Bangladesh Beanarasi saree very popular for wedding ceremony most of the Bangladeshi women love to wear Beanarasi saree for her wedding ceremony. Beanarasi saree looks like very gorgeous. Mainly use silk Jori threads for and motif design. Depending of

quality of Benarasi saree it can be heavy and light weight. As per price and quality of fabric and design thread are many categories of benarasi saree such as pure silk (katan) georgette. Vaskat , cutwork , tissue etc , Benarasi, boti katan, jute net, jute silk, jute katan, muslin, cosmos silk,etc [14].

- ***Rajshahi silk:***

Rajshahi is a famous place of Bangladesh because Silk Research Institute many silk industries build up around the Rajshahi city. Basically, most are the silk industry here that's why this silk name is Rajshahi silk. Rajshahi silk is famous for saree in our country. Rajshahi silk made from the cocoon that way this silk fiber very soft and luxuries. There are three types of Rajshahi silk.

- Mulberry silk
- Eri silk (Endi silk) and
- Tassar silk [15].

Rajshahi silk is a very common type fabric of our country and has available colour and pattern Rajshahi silk not only use for saree it is also used to for make another product like. Panjabi, Scurf, Salwar Kameez and Fotua .

- ***Tant saree:***

This saree basically makes by the handloom. It is traditional saree of Bangladesh and India. It is very comfortable selvage (Border) of saree wider and decorative achol (end part of the saree) floral geometric motives available colour and design. It is very reasonable daily uses cotton saree [16].



Figure 5: [41-43]

4. Salwar Kameez

Both are worn together. Basically, young generation is wearing this costume .This costume is 2nd traditional costume than saree. Now days it is a very popular costume of Bangladesh. Woman and girls are like to wear this costume because it is very comfortable, easy to wear. Kameez wear upper part of the body depending on design& fashion length and fitting can be changed. This is an adopted costume from Arabic and Persian culture

mainly Islamic influence became a big factor to wear this type of costume [28,17,18].

5. Salwar

One kind of loss pant with the modified version locally called pajama. A common type of salwar has two pair, fitted or loose angle level. Fullness at hip line gathers and pleat use for creating fullness lose fitted at hip. Waist line basically loose fitted for attaching waist use elastic, drawstring. Ribbon also waist line little bit fullness. It is a unisex costume [18].

6. Orna: (long 2.5 yards long, Scurf)



Figure 6: [44]

Orna is a common part of the salwar kameez .Without orna salwar kameez is an incomplete costume for Bangali. Basically, orna hanging with shoulder and neck cover Kameez upper part [18].

7. Lungi

The Lungi is a most common & traditional costume of Bangladesh [19]. It is a common costume not only Bangladesh but also India, Pakistan, Nepal, Barma, & Sri Lanka. Lungi is commonly using as a men's costume in our country. Length of common adult Lungi approximately 200cm height 115cm longer tubular shape, Lungi adjusts with a waist line by the secure knot. It is very comfortable, easy to wear costume. Normally Urban people are using Lungi as a casual costume at home. Ruler area people are commonly using Lungi as a daily wearable costume .There are various types, colour, quality & design of lungi available in our country such as stripe Lungi, check Lungi, Solid colour Lungi, Batik Lungi .Cotton Lungi is very popular for daily use, also silk types Lungi very popular in our country normally, this type of the Lungi use for weddings and occasional purpose [20,54].

8. Dhoti

One of the common uses men's costume of Bangladesh. Hindu religion people are mainly worn dhoti [22]. Sometimes muslin religion people are wearing dhoti as occasional purpose. Dhoti is the traditional costume of India, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka. It is normally 6 yards long unstitch cloths, can be worn different styles depending on country and area wearing style can be changed. Commonly dhoti adjusts at the waist line with a knot, then wrapped around the waist and between the legs. This is normally white colour costume. Now a day's fashion has been changed some young people use colourful dhoti [21,54].



Figure 7 : [45-46]

9. Kurta/ Panjabi

Panjabi looks like a long loose shirt. It is a very comfortable unisex costume of Bangladesh [23]. Panjabi/ Kurta is also very much popular our neighbour country India, Pakistan. Bengali people like to wear Panjabi cultural festival, religion festival also social festival like Eid , Pahala Boishakh , Pahala Fulgun, & wedding ceremony, etc. Since the long time Panjabi very closely connected with our culture .That's why we can say it is our traditional costume. Available colour and fabrication & motif are using for Panjabi such as cotton, silk, khadi., batik . Check, stripe, printed fabric, solid colour. Depending on fashion & festival Panjabi length, design, fit can be changed [24,54].

10. Fatua

It is a short version of Panjabi. It is unisex costume men and women both can be worn Fatua . Commonly it is used for casual wear. Bangladeshi people love to wear this costume on summer season .It is a very comfortable and economical costume.

11. Men Sherwani

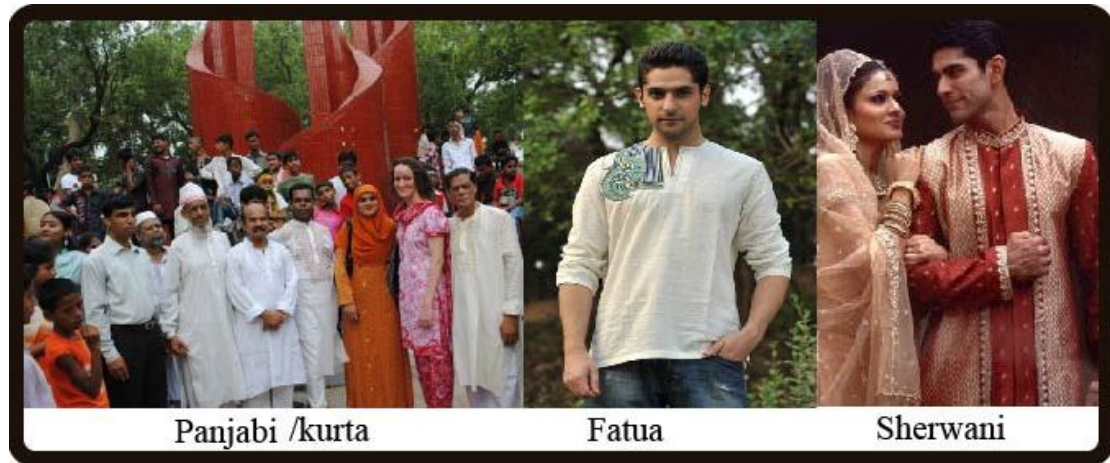


Figure 8 : [47-49]

It looks like a long loose coat, In front is attached with decorative button, very luxury well surface decoration with embroidery& karchupy. It is a very expensive costume basically, worn as wedding and occasional purpose. Bangladeshi men people like to wear Sherwani for their wedding ceremony. It is also popular costume India& Pakistan [25].

12. Gamcha

Gamcha is one of the cultural clothing heritages of Bangladesh. Basically cotton towel is used for dry body after bathing. It make by the local handloom, near about 2 to 2.5 yards length and height 2.5 yards (approximately) very colourful various types of check print and colour uses for . In Bangladesh Gamcha not only use for towel also some people of Bangladesh, especially lower class peoples, like the worker, labours farm worker uses Gamcha as scurf. Now a day's Gamcha is used as a, saree, blouse, Fatua , Panjabi, & ornaments, also it got popularity not only in our country but also in aboard [26].



Figure 9: [50-51]

13. Shirt & pant

This is not our cultural costume, but from the long time it is connected to our culture. This costume comes from diversified culture. After British colonies established this subcontinent .People gradually connected to British culture and costume. Shirt & pant are very commonly used costume worldwide. In Bangladesh shirt and pant basically wear as a formal costume. It is very comfortable, secure unisex costume .Now a day's people wear shirt & pant as a daily used purpose [27,54].

14. Other costume of Bangladesh

Bangladesh people have mixed cultural influence due to blessing of modern technology, internet, & seta light channels people also easily connected to other culture and costume. It's to be mentioned that since 80s era gradually Bangladesh started to export garment to other countries. Day by day Bangladesh explore their business worldwide, now a day's Bangladesh is very famous for RMG sector .In this reason Bangladeshi people know very well about other countries costumes .In this way Bangladeshi people are also familiar with different type of costumes especially Coat, blazer . T- Shirt, polo shirt, skirt, trouser& Tang top etc .Some people of Bangladesh love to wear this type costumes because it is available in our fashion [27].



Figure 10: [52-53]

15. Objective

- Day by day, the world is changing. Technology updates and updates our lifestyle a due to blessing of technology; we easily adopt another culture and costume. This study will help to understand .What is our original root.
- This study will help to know about cultural costume. What is our own traditional costume? What else we got from another culture.
- It will be helpful for future research.
- It will increase our awareness of cultural costume heritage.
- This research will help the coming generation to know about their own costume.
- It will help fashion designer as design inspiration for own country.
- This study will represent our cultural costume heritage to other countries.

16. Limitation

Some limitations which I found during the research process are -

- Lack of available data journal /research work related to this topic.
- Lack of authentic source for data.
- Lack of internet data about this related topic.

17. Methodology

This research has done by primary and secondary survey.

17.1 Primary survey

Discuss with fashion designers, textile designers. Collect information from our cultural, traditional and religious festivals.

17.2 Secondary survey data

Collect from Bangladeshi movies, drama and Jatra . Social media, internet, books & related journals.

18. Discuss and result

- The Results of this survey to focus on our traditional & cultural costume.
- This survey increases our cultural value, traditions, and roots of this culture.
- World is changing day by day, but culture and tradition never changed have to keep it always with our soul. We don't want to lose it.
- This survey can be an authentic documentation about cultural costume of Bangladesh. Which will help our present generation, and also future generation?

19. Conclusions

Due to upgrading technology systems everything's are changing in the world .Day by day all things will be upgraded. For this reason cultural, traditions, & costumes, fashion will change continuously. This research will help to know about our root of culture and costume. Changing is, common rules of the world we cannot stop it .sometimes development is good for culture. We cannot forget about our roots.

According to the research here, focus about our cultural costume heritage which is our main identity of the nation. Now a day's of mixed culture influence young generation diverted from their cultural and traditional aspect. It is harmful in our nation. This research influences our young generation and upcoming generation.

Acknowledgement

I would like to my deepest gratitude towards my colleagues, BGMEA University of fashion & technology. Dhaka, Bangladesh .I am highly acknowledging to (Head of the Department .Asst. professor Sanjib Burujha) for consistent support and Guide dance in the correct direction.

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