

Balaramapuram Dhoti

Back ground:

Balaramapuram is a small town 15 km away from Thiruvanthapuram in Kerala. The major items manufactured in Balaramapuram are Grey Saree, Dhoti (also known as Veshti or Mundu) and Set Mundu (Pudava&Kavani or MumдумNeriyathum). These traditional products are woven with kora white cotton yarn (grey or unbleached or non-dyed yarn) of finer counts like 80s, 100s etc. The combination of Dhoti and shirt is the traditional outerwear of the adult male in Kerala. The traditional outerwear of the women folk is called Set mundu, a combination of Dhoti for covering the lower part of the body and Blouse and Kavani (or Neriyathu) to wrap around the upper portion of the body like dupatta. Pudava and Kavani is the traditional wedding dress of the brides in the southern part of the state. The Set Mundu has now taken a new form as BalaramapuramSaree.

Material used:

The materials used for their weaving are cotton and Kasavu (or Zari). Kasavu is the Malayalam name of "Zari"; a silk thread twisted with a thin silver wire and electroplated in gold. Cotton of count 80-100's is used in both warp and weft.

Technique applied:

The weavers use a primitive type of throw-shuttle pit looms for the production of exclusively cotton fabrics with pure zari. They do not use any type of improved appliances such as Dobby, Jacquard, Jala, etc. for the production of dhoti.

How to distinguish genuine Balaramapuram dhoti

- Design appears very prominently on the dhoti because of rib weave.
- Design appears identical on both sides of the dhoti. There is no rough or unfinished-like appearance on the back side of the fabric.
- Basic texture i.e., thread density of the fabric is higher.
- Less starchy finish in the dhoti makes it softer to touch.

