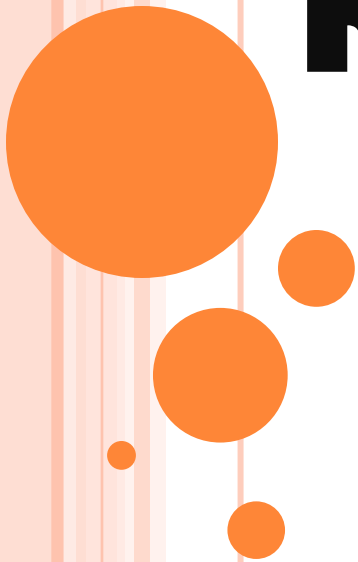


# **CULTURE & RELIGION**



○ **History** - throughout recorded history clothing, along with food & shelter has been recognized as one of the primary needs of the mankind. The average person however is apt to interpret the significance of clothing solely in terms of physical or utilitarian needs, such as the need for protection against the weather often we forget that everyone has a variety of social and emotional needs that also must be met in some way. Culture and society although they exist in the present drive from past.



# ○ Culture –

- The term culture refers to the religious beliefs, customs, traditions, language, and ceremonies, art, value and the way of life of the people. It differ in languages, religious costumes, dance, music, architecture, food and customs from place to place with the country.
- Traditional clothing in India greatly varies across different parts of the country and is influenced by local culture, geographic climate and rural/ urban settings. The choice of clothing is primarily governed with the society and the culture in which one lives, the influence of society may be formal such as by rules and regulations and may be informal such as by customs and the fashion. Culture changes with the change in time and the social situation.





# ○ Variation between culture-

- At any given moment in human history diverse pattern in dress serve to identify the cultural often the geographic affiliation of groups and individual. Customs of dress vary not only in their social context but in terms of their religious significances as well.
- It seems important to note here that dress as an expression of modesty is a cultural variations rather than being based in the universal laws of mankind.



# ○ Variation within culture-

- Culture itself is never completely static or uniform, each age, each generation, each year brings some modification of custom and accompanying clothing habits.
- Cultural changes is always more rapid and by same taken more obvious when enforced through political disorganization or social upheaval.
- Culture constantly is being modified by development in the technical, political, social & economic spheres of societies and such changes are reflected visibly in the clothing of the people. Man has found an infinite number of ways to satisfy his clothing needs. In different parts of the world and in different periods in history. Factors that influence the diversity of costume design include the effect of the natural environment the supply of raw materials, the technical skills of the people, moral standards and religious values as well as aesthetic and political ideals. As these cultural differences disappear dress styles also merge into more universal pattern.



# ○ Attitude towards children-

- In ages culture in which children have been ignored they have been dressed in few cloths or in cast off clothing, when children have been considered miniature adults and have been expected to behave as adults, their clothing has been designed in similar fashion. At the present time, with emphasis place upon children and their needs and with the attitude that children should be given freedom of expression their cloths have been created with children's activity and capacities in mind.





# ○ Attitude towards women-

- In early parts of the century the role of wife and mother was primarily that of housewife, her role was to take care of the materials wants of the family its foods, clothing and the house.
- Her costumes was a house dress and was worn at least in the morning by the vast majority of women, but now the role of the wife recently has been changing, with the technical advances with the help of that she can take care of her house & she can work outside of home too. So with the changing of the role we see corresponding changes in dress of the wife. The young homemaker instead wears sports or slacks or shirts, blouse and sweaters showing she is ready to be a companion to her children or ready for work outside of the house.





- **Clothing oneself according to the culture helps to-**
- **To maintain social relationship-** every person tries to cloth himself according to the culture and it helps to maintain and improve social relationship. It gives him a feeling of satisfaction and encouragement to be as a part of the group and prevent him from cultural tag.
- **Outlook of the individual-** the clothing pattern of the person as according to the culture influences his thinking and the outlook towards his life and others. The point of view coming from the previous generations and the rules regarding dos and don'ts of culture and carried on by the clothing.
- **To identify the needs-** the difference in clothing of people according to the culture helps one to realize the pros and cons of it. For this reason, people bring out the changes in their culture which are more useful and the change in clothing comes with it.
- **To signify social achievements-** the cloths make clear the differences between the position or the rank of the wearer in the society and signify his social achievements. Exp- stars on the shoulder of policemen dress.
- **To provide valuation-**the quality of the clothes worn by the wearer shows his value in the society and gives him satisfaction.

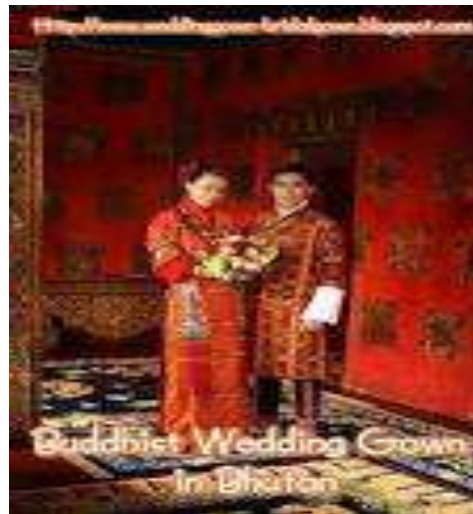


- The clothing is influenced by the culture in the following way-
- Bride dress- according to Indian culture, in North India, brides dress up in shades of red with a saree, lehnga or salwar kameez with a veil.
- In south India brides dress up in white saree with veil.
- In west India brides dress up in elaborate lehnga and ornaments worn on hand, arm, feet.
- In east India, the women dress up with stiff saree and cone on head.
- In English culture the brides dress up in a long white gown with a hat.
- Bride groom's dress-in India most of the bride grooms dress in white or off white. A Punjabi would dress up in achkan and churidar or kurta pajamas. a Bengali would be in dhoti and kurta. A Tamil would be in lungi and kurta in western culture, the bride groom would be in his best suit in blues and grays.
- Widows' dress- in Indian culture, the clothing of the widow is very different, she has to wear no colored cloths, she dresses up in white and all accessories are removed.
- In the eastern culture of India they had to shave off their heads and only wrap saree around their chest. But now the tradition is changed and the shaving is not compulsory for them.
- In the western culture, there is not much difference in the widow dress and those of married / non- widows.
- 
- With the advancement of the civilization, the basic Indian culture is changed and accordingly dress sense is changed. More outgoing, comfortable and easy to care type of costumes have been preferred.





Muslim , Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Tamil, Bengali, Buddhist, Gujarati bridal wear





## Dress of widow In our Indian culture



- The set of people in the society which perform different cultural roles such as those at high positions, at a post or a rank. Exp- policemen are directed by their culture to dress in their own way i.e. in a particular uniform which signify them.
- With a shift to western culture, the texture and color of the clothing are also affected. There is a trend to experiment new feminine colors and styles for men, more ones unisex garments have been introduced which can be worn by both men and women and has eliminated the distinction between the dresses of men and women.
- The people belonging to different culture such as the dacoits adopt different clothing patterns as compared to civil people.
- The dress sense in the particular culture gives a sense of superiority or inferiority and acts as a medium of self impression.



# CONCLUSION

- Here it is clear that culture influences a lot on the clothing of the person. Clothing is a tool by which a person expresses his individuality of culture and his social status in the society . it helps to make him believe that he “belongs” to a certain group and gives him a demarcation from the other culture.
- The dressing sense in the particular culture gives a sense of superiority or inferiority and acts as a medium of self expression.





RELIGION





○ **Religion**- Indian religions are a classification for religions that originated in the Indian subcontinent, namely Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. These religions are also classified as eastern religions. Although Indian religions are connected through the history of India, they constitute a wide range of religious communities and Indian religions are not confined to the Indian subcontinent. Traditional clothing in India greatly varied across different parts of the country and is influenced by local culture, geography, climate and rural/urban settings. Popular styles of dress include draped garments such as saree for women and dhoti or lungi for men. Stitched garments are also popular such as churidar or salwar kameez for women, with dupatta throw over shoulder completely the outfit. Salwar is often loose fitting while churidar is tight cut. For men stitched versions include kurta- pajamas and European style trousers and shirts for men. In urban centers people often be seen in jeans, trousers and shirts , suits, kurta and variety of other fashion.



- In public and religious places, Indian dress etiquette discourages exposure of skin and wearing transparent or tight cloths. Most Indian cloths are made from cotton which is ideal for the regions hot weather. Since India's weather is mostly hot and rainy, majority of Indian wear sandals.
- Indian clothing styles have continuously evolved over the course of the country's history Ancient Vedic texts mention cloths made from bark and leaves. The 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Rig Veda mentions dyed and embroidered garments and thus highlights the development of sophisticated garment manufacturing techniques during the Vedic age. In 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Greek historian Herodotus describes the richness of the quality of Indian cotton clothes. By 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D., Muslims manufactured in southern India were imported by the Roman Empire and silk cloth was one of the major exports of ancient India along with Indian spices. Stitched clothing in India was developed before 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and was further popularized in 15<sup>th</sup> century by Muslim empires in India. Draped clothing styles remained popular with India's Hindu population with the Muslims increasingly adopted tailored garment.



- Clothing according to Indian religion-
- **Hindu (women)-**
- **Sari-** a sari or saree is a female garment in the Indian subcontinent. A sari is a strip of unstitched cloth, ranging from four to nine meters in length that is draped over the body in various styles. The sari is worn over petticoat and at the upper part of the body is covered with blouse.
- **Ghagra choli-** a ghagra choli or lehenga choli is the traditional clothing of women in Rajasthan and Gujarat, Punjabi also wear them and they are used in some of their folk dances. It is a combination of lehnga a tight choli and a odhani. A lehenga is form of long skirt which is pleated or gathered at the waist and tied over the waist. A choli is a blouse shell garment, which is cut to fit to the body, sleeve length vary.
- **Salwar kameez-** the salwar kameez is the traditional wear of women in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir and has become the most popular dress for female. It consists of loose trousers(salwar) narrow at the ankle, topped by tunic top (kameez). Women generally wear it with dupattas or odhani.
- **Churidar-** churidar is a version of salwar which is loose up to knees and fits the calf below. Usually a long kurta which goes below the knees is worn with the churidar.





sari



Salwar  
kameez



Churidaar



Ghagra  
choli



## ○ Men-

- Dhoti- a dhoti is a six feet long white strip of cotton. This traditional attire is mainly worn by men in villages. It is held in place with the help of a belt, ornamental and embroidered or a flat and simple one around the waist.
- Lungi- a lungi also known as sarong is a traditional garment of India. It is either tucked in over the waist up to knee length or is allowed to lay over and reach up to the ankle. Lungi is generally of two types the open lungi and the stitched lungi. The open lungi is plain sheet of cotton or silk, whereas the stithed one has both of its open end and stitched together to form a tube like structure.
- Serwani- a serwani is a long coat boss jacket fastened with buttons. It comes to just below the knees, somewhere high on the calf. The jacket has a Nehru collar, which is a collar that stands up. The serwani is worn with tighter fitting pants or trousers called churidar. Churidar are trousers that are loose around the hip and thighs, but are tight and gathered around the ankle. A scarf is sometimes added to the serwani.







Dhoti  
kurta



Lungi  
kurta



Serwani  
churidaar



- **Muslim-** Adherents of Islam are concerned with clothing in two contexts. Clothing for everyday wears inside and outside of the house, and clothing required in specifically religious contexts.
- They say Allah is well acquainted with all that they do, and say that the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what appear thereof that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husband and very close blood relatives.
- Among the Muslim population in India, the burqua is common for them, the obligation of a woman to wear a burqua is dependent on her age, young unmarried women or young married women in their 1<sup>st</sup> year of marriage are required to wear the burqua. However after this the husband usually decides if his wife should continue to wear a burqua . some women also wear saree and salwaar kameez or churidar but with dupatta.







Women wear



Men wear



- Sikh –
- Bana-the Sikh code of conduct specifies the wearing of kachhera and a turban for all Sikh males, giving Sikh females the option of wearing a head scarf to cover hair. The name for such traditional spiritual attire is bana . bana is the word for the traditional spiritual attire of a worship programs and ritual ceremonies at the gurudwara or during holidays and festivals, very devout Sikhs may wear traditional bana daily.
- Chola- sikh warrior attire-A chola is the name of a particular style of bana worn traditionally by sikh warrior. It is a kind of dress robe which has a wide flared skirt made with a panels to allow for freedom of movement. A famous story tells how Guru Har Rai snagged his chola on a rose bush and the lesson of itself mastery is entailed.
- Kakar-require articles of sikh faith-
- The karar are the five articles of faith-
- Kachhera- loose undergarment.
- Kangha- wooden comb.
- Kara- iron bangle.
- Kesh- unshorn hair.
- Kirpan- ceremonial short sword.
- Khanda- embellishment of Sikh emblem- the khanda is an emblem representing the crest, or Sikh coat of arms. It consists of a double edge sword in the center a circlet and two swords. A khanda embellishment may be appliquéd or embroidered on ceremonial Sikh clothing or worn as a turban pin.



- Men wear- kurta pajamas is sikh men's wear, a kurta is a kind of long tailored shirt with a side slits up to the pocket. A kurta may have a finished or straight hem. The pajama is a loose pant often made of fabric to match the kurta. The very devout wear simple style is solid colors to express humility.
- Women wear- salwar kameez is sikh women's wear. Salwar are a baggy loose fitting pant with an ankle cuff called a ponche. The salwar is worn beneath a dress top of as many styles as there is imagination and color sometimes embroidered. The color of the salwar and kameez may match or contrast and is worn with a color combination matching or contrasting chunni. The very devout tend to wear simple prints or solid colors with little embroidery as an expression of humility.
- Turban- head wear of Sikh- the Sikh turban worn in a variety of styles. Required wear for a Sikh man, a turban is optional for a sikh women who may choose instead to wear a scarf alone or over a turban.
- Turban styles-
  - Domall- double length of turban of 10 or more yards (meter).
  - Pagri- double width turban of 5 to 6 yards.
  - Dastar- a single turban of 4 to 6 yards.
  - Keski- a short turban of 2 to 3 yards.
  - Fifty- a half yard worn beneath turban.
  - Patka- a square of half to one yard, tied over the jooira & head.
  - Scarf-
    - Chunni- a sheer light weight veil of up to two and half yards.
    - Dupatta- a double wide fabric veil of up to two and half yards.
    - Rumal- square or triangular head cover.
    -





Sikh women wear

## Sikh Dress Code

**Kesh | Keskey** - uncut hair and beard, as given by God, to sustain him or her in higher consciousness; and a turban the crown of spirituality.

**Kara** - a steel circle, worn on the wrist, signifying bondage to Truth and freedom from every other entanglement.

**Katchera** - specially made cotton underwear as a reminder of the commitment to purity.

**Turban** - The crown of spirituality.

**Kangha** - a wooden comb to properly groom the hair as a symbol of cleanliness.

**Gatra** - A strap to hold the Kirpan (Small sword).

**Kirpan** - the sword, with which the Khalsa is committed to righteously defend the fine line of the Truth.

[SikhPride.com](http://SikhPride.com) | [SikhSangat.com](http://SikhSangat.com)

Vicky Singh



Sikh men wear





## ○ Buddhism-

- An early representation of the Buddha wearing Kasaya robes, in Hellenistic style.
- Buddhist Kasaya are said to have originated in India as set of robes for the devotees of Gautama Buddha. A notable variant has a pattern reminiscent of an Asian rice field. Original kasaya were constructed of discarded fabric. These were stitched together to form three rectangular pieces of cloth, which were then fit over the body in specific manner. The three main pieces of cloth are antravasa and uttarasanga and samghati. Together they form the triple robe or tricivara. The trivivara is described more fully in Theravada vinaya.
- Antarvasa- the antarvasa is the inner robe covering the lower body. It is the undergarment that flows underneath the other layers of clothing. It has a large neck, and almost entirely covers the torso. In representations of the Buddha, the bottom of the antarvasa usually protrudes, and appears in the rough shape of a triangle.
- Uttarasanga- a robe covering the upper body. It comes over the undergarment or antarvasa. In representations of Buddha, the uttarasanga rarely appears as the uppermost garment, since it is often covered by the outer robe or samghati.
- Samghati- the samghati is an outer robe used for various occasions. It comes over the upper robe and the undergarment. In representations of the Buddha the samghati is usually the most visible garment, with the undergarment or uttarasanga protruding at the bottom. It is quite similar in shape to the greek himation, and its shape and folds have been treated in Greek himation, and its shape and folds have been treated in Greek style in the Greco- Buddhist art of Gandhara.

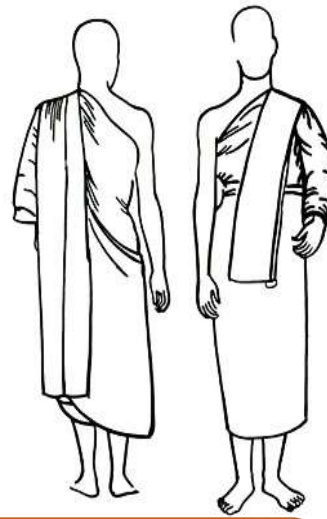




antravasa



uttarasanga



samghati



Buddhist religious costume



- Other item-
- A waist cloth, the kushalaka.
- A buckled belt, the samakaksika.
- Buddhist tradition- traditional robes, worn by monks both within and without Buddhist temples, appear in a variety of configurations. In parts of southeast Asia, the robes consists of a saffron colored mantel over a red undergarment.



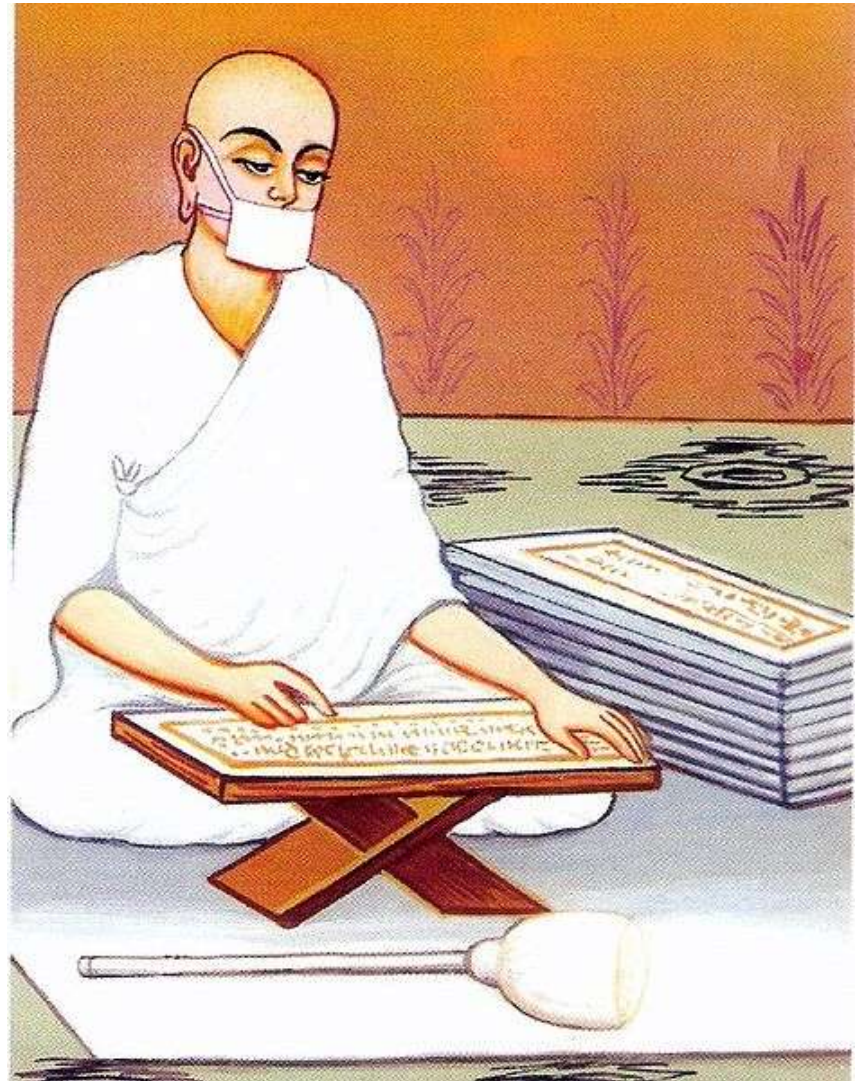


○ **Jainism**-in jain culture, jain monk wears unstitched garments, the chest is bare with a white cloth on the mouth, hair are shaven and they remain bare foot.





Jain women



Jain monk

○ **Christian-** in Christian religion, they wears clean cut clothes with hats and the priest or father wears robe in white or gray with a cross mark.





Christian nun  
And father



priest



# CONCLUSION

- Clothing act as a tool to identify one's religion and the impact of religion as an informal means of clothing , which can be proved by the fact that though some religious clothing patterns are not so comfortable and acceptable yet, they have been going on for ages and people follow them generation to the generation.



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**thank**

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