

The Clothing Culture and Tradition of Apatani Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, India

Carolin Baby* & S.Kavitha

Abstract

The tribal people express their cultural identity and distinctiveness through their clothing, rituals, festivals, language, art and craft. India has a rich culture and tradition of tribal textiles and clothing. The distinctive elegant ethnic handlooms of the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh have striking designs and use indigenous organic materials for weaving various aboriginal apparels for different occasions. Their clothes are considered culturally prestigious and are attached with belief and spiritual aspects too. Traditional weaving is not merely about making an apparel or a dress. It involves an elaborate process from the cultivation of natural material to the final weaving process. Traditionally, the loin loom has economic importance and is a significant part of the socio-culture of tribal societies. But unfortunately, over the years, traditional spinning, natural dyeing and loin loom weaving have been slowly disappearing. The influence of globalization and industrialization in the early 1960s' has severely affected the old traditions and practices to a large extent. The researcher focuses on the ethnographic exploration to understand the traditional clothing culture, influence of globalization and industrialization in the traditional practices.

Keywords: Arunachal Pradesh, Apatani, tribe, Ziro, Culture, tradition, weaving

*The author is Research Scholar, Department of Home Science - Textiles and Clothing, Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal, Tamilnadu, India.