

KASHMIRI EMBROIDERY

SKILL MANUAL

Class - VIII



**CENTRAL BOARD OF
SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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Class VIII Kashmiri Embroidery

Chapter wise Learning Objectives and Learning Outcomes

S.NO	Name of the Unit	TOPICS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	PAGE NO.
1	Introduction and History of Kashmiri Embroidery	1a) Meaning b) History c) Types of Kashmiri embroidery d) Process e) Patterns	a) To enable the students to recognize the meaning and history of Kashmiri embroidery. b) Learners will explore types of Kashmiri embroidery, its processes & patterns.	a) Learners will be able to appreciate the concept of Kashmiri embroidery relating its history with Silk Route and initiation of its trade with the other countries. b) Learners will be able to study types, uses, processes & patterns of Kashmiri embroidery. c) Manage and reduces anxiety	3
2	Crewel Embroidery	a. Introduction b. Explanation c. Uses of Crewel embroidery	The learners will be introduced with crewel embroidery and its use crewel in Kashmiri embroidery	Learners will be acquainted with how to use crewel in Kashmiri embroidery.	13
3	Sozni Embroidery	a. Introduction b. Explanation c. Uses of Sozni embroidery	The learners will be introduced with crewel embroidery and its use Sozni in Kashmiri embroidery	Learners will be able to learn and practice Sozni embroidery	18
4	Tilla Embroidery	a. Introduction b. Explanation c. Uses of Tilla embroidery	The learners will be introduced with crewel embroidery and its use Tilla in Kashmiri embroidery	Learners will be able to acquainted with the technicalities of Tilla embroidery.	21
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FOREWORD

‘The Skill Development Manual- Kashmiri Embroidery’ for Class VI is an endeavor towards implementing the recommendations of NEP 2020 which emphasis on bringing Vocational education into main stream education. We have chosen Kashmiri embroidery as a skill to expose the students to the necessary hands on training along with creating linkages with the best pedagogy.

The Kashmiri Embroidery or the Kashida is one of the oldest forms of embroidery in India. The history of embroidery in Kashmir can be traced back tom as early as the 15th century. However, it was during the Mughal Rule (around 16th Century) that the Textile Industry in Kashmir saw a major surge. The Mughal emperors are known to have patronized it.

The skill integrated here focuses on creativity, sensory and motor skills, critical thinking and problem solving through an emphasis on experiential learning to create a future consistent with India’s rich history and heritage.

All activities confirm to a general format wherein the Aim, learning Objectives, Skills developed and other details have been furnished. Each unit ends with a few questions which are meant to access and evaluate the learner’s skills developed in the process.

This Manual aims at enabling the students to amalgamate their creativity with the acquired vocational skills, thereby ensuring wholesome learning and development.

UNIT-1

Introduction and History of Kashmiri Embroidery

Jammu & Kashmir is a newly created Union Territory in India consisting of two divisions: Jammu Division & Kashmir Division, both of which are administered by the Central Government of India. It is located to the north of Himachal Pradesh & Punjab and to the west of Ladakh. Jammu is known as the City of Temples & offers plentiful sightseeing opportunities with its gardens, palaces, forts & religious attractions, the most famous of which is Mata Vaishno Devi in Katra. Kashmir Valley is famous for its meadows, lakes, high altitude passes, hill stations, Mughal Gardens, Dal Lake, **Shikara** Ride & ancient religious sites.

Kashmiris make different types of handicraft products with simple items and materials traditionally. Some notable areas are textiles, carpets and rugs, crewel embroidery, phool kari, silverware, woodwork and papier-mâché, etc. Handicraft is a source of living for many **artisans** in Kashmir.

The Kashmiri embroidery has been highlighted in this context.

History of Kashmiri Embroidery

Embroidery, in its initial form, was **introduced in Kashmir by traders traveling along the Silk Road in the 13 century** and encouraged subsequently by the various rulers that followed. Skilled craftsmen came from Persia and Central Asia and over time taught this art form to the local population.

(1.1)



(<https://www.utsavpedia.com/motifs-embroideries/kasida-embroidery/>)

Kashida is one of the oldest forms of embroidery in India. It is a centuries' old art. The history of embroidery in Kashmir can be traced back to as early as the 15th century. However, it was during the Mughal rule (around 16th century) that the textile industry in Kashmir saw a major surge.

The Mughal emperors are known to have **patronized** it. It was during this time that Kashmiri shawls and other Kashmiri garments started becoming popular around the world. Similarly, the Kashmiri embroidery too started shaping up and became an important part of various Kashmiri textiles. And since then, its demand has grown multi folds.

Five basic Embroideries of Kashmir

The Aari or Crewel Embroidery

Even though its origin is unknown, it can be traced back to as early as the medieval period. This kind of embroidery is locally known as *Zalakdozi*. It is a very old technique but also very popular. The crewel embroidery makes use of a pointed crochet or an 'aari' as the needle.

This form of embroidery can be done on cotton, wool, silk, velvet as well as other fabrics. This embroidery can be commonly seen on curtains, drapes and other upholstery, bedding, dress materials etc. Woolen or art silk thread is used for this particular embroidery. Mostly, the chain stitch is used for the crewel embroidery. Popular designs for this embroidery include flowers, blossoms, leaves, creepers etc.

The Sozni Embroidery

This form of embroidery is quite different from the aari embroidery. A needle is used in sozni embroidery. The Sozni embroidery can commonly be found on shawls, jackets, dress materials etc. The work that goes into this embroidery is very intricate.

Popular motifs for this embroidery are abstract geometric designs, paisley patterns. The Sozni embroidery is exclusive only to Kashmir and cannot be found anywhere else. The satin-stitch is used for making this type of embroidery.

The Tilla Embroidery

Another type of Kashmiri embroidery is the 'Tilla embroidery'. This kind of embroidery is done with golden or silver threads. It is mostly done on the Kashmiri traditional garment called Phiran. But now, it can also be commonly seen on shawls and sarees. The beautiful tilla embroidery **adorns** ethnic wear and gives it a royal touch.



(1.2)

<https://twitter.com/kashmirbox/status/1083388042029813764>

This classic type of embroidery is a true epitome of grace and class. Initially, real gold and silver were used for the embroidery. Only the rich could afford this luxury back in the day; making it super popular among the royals. However, now, just gold and silver-colored threads are used.

PAPIER MACHE EMBROIDERY

Papier Mache or Paper Mache embroidery is a form of embroidery which might be considered as a bolder variant of Sozni. It consists of breathtaking motifs which are worked in a bright coloured satin thread. Motifs are outlined in black to give a **protruding** effect.

Paper Mache uses thicker needle and thread for a more appealing visual effect.

When a motif is completed, it is outlined with another thread so as to make it appear more prominent.

KALAMKARI EMBROIDERY

Kalamkari designs aren't embroidery as such. But later, over the hand painted motifs, sozni embroidery is done.

This handmade piece of Kashmiri Pashmina gets hand painted in the Kalamkari art spanning in breath-taking shades of pastel colours.

Kalamkari comes from two words, 'kalam' meaning 'pen' and 'kari' meaning 'work'. Hence Kalamkari means the work of a pen. Pens used in Kalamkari are made from Bamboo. The colours used are natural dyes.

Importance of Kashmiri Embroidery

Kashmiri embroidery foresees a **profitable future** in the long run. As this artwork is famously executed on shawls, which has captured majority of the garment markets globally, there will come a time when this artwork will be considered as 'the' selling trend of the fashion industry.

1. Embroidery skills learned and practiced actually help society.

Children learn respect for the time and labor that went into projects by learning these skills that embroidery teaches. A child learns discipline, endurance, patience, and time management from accomplishing an embroidery project. Learning those skills for themselves also transfers over to gaining empathy towards others that have taken the time to take pride in the things they own.

2. Skills learned from embroidery also nurtures creativity and ingenuity.

It gives children the ability to have the resources to tackle D.I.Y. projects. Dreaming and anticipating about having a room decorated in their favorite character can be transferred into reality as embroidery gives a child control by allowing them to create their own world by embroidering those characters on pillow cases, curtains, dresser scarves and framed works that can be made and placed in their room.

Embroidery is an inexpensive craft to learn and maintain. All that is required to begin is an embroidery hoop, embroidery needle, embroidery floss and a pair of scissors. Children take pride in the appearance of their room because of the time spent decorating it with their embroidery projects that also adds unique decor and things that reflected their own personality.

3. Those early D.I.Y. projects easily transfer over to life skills for adulthood.

Embroidery skills easily transmit over to hand sewing skills which are very much needed for sustainable living and outdoor enthusiasts. Hand sewing is versatile as needles and thread are easily packed as necessary tools and used in the following ways:

1. Tent and canvas repairs
2. Clothing repair in home or out in the field.

Skills are learned that transfer over to other areas of the life of a child regardless of gender.

Eye-hand coordination, color theory, design and planning skills are all developed by embroidery.

4. Entrepreneurs are easily grown from those that learn embroidery.

Embroidery can even teach a child money management. Projects can not only be given as gifts which allows for saving money that would have been needed to purchase a gift but also allows the individual to spend it on other things while still giving a thoughtful unique gift handmade instead of purchased in the store.

The art form of embroidery can even launch a child into their own small business by selling their made items to friends. Copy right laws should be taught so the child learns consideration for others hard work and designs but this knowledge also encourages uniqueness, originality and the ability to protect their own work and designs.

Embroidery is a great way to reduce stress and anxiety as it is not only relaxing and therapeutic due to the repetition and rhythms, but it can actively reduce our cortisol levels. Cortisol is a hormone in our bodies responsible for the stress signal.

Thus, it can be said that Kashmiri embroidery is an art that requires utmost dedication, patience and precision. Initially, only men are involved in the embroidery process in Kashmir. A son inherited this art from his father. But now, since the last few years, women have started participating too.

Many different stitches are used in Kashmiri embroidery which will be discussed in the next chapter.

Glossary:

Shikara: a light, flat bottomed boat

Artisans: a person who make things skillfully especially with hands

Silk Road: an ancient trade route that linked the Western world with the Middle East and Asia

Patronized: to be a regular customer of a shop

Intricate: having many small parts or details put together in a complicated way

Adorns: to add something in order to make it more beautiful

Protruding: to cause to project, to thrust forward

D.I.Y. Do it yourself

Ingenuity: skill or cleverness in devising or combining

Hoop: a large metal or plastic ring

Entrepreneurs: a person who makes money by starting or running business

Learning Outcomes:

- a) Learners will be able to appreciate the concept of Kashmiri embroidery relating its history with Silk Route and initiation of its trade with the other countries.**
- b) Learners will be able to study types, uses, processes & patterns of Kashmiri embroidery.**
- c) Manage and reduces anxiety.**

Material Required:

Silk thread

Cotton thread

Zari thread

Needles

Cloth

Embroidery frame

Pre-requisite Knowledge:

- The students should have previous knowledge about its History and Heritage.**
- The study also includes gathering knowledge about embroidery.**

Time duration: 2 hours

Mode of Activity: Individual

Skills developed

Motor Skill

Kinesthetic Skill

Aesthetic Skill

Creative Skill

Fill up:

1. Jammu & Kashmir is a newly created _____ in India.
2. Jammu is known as the _____.
3. The two division of Union Territory are _____ and _____.
4. Kashmir Valley is famous for its _____
5. _____ is the source of living for many _____ in Kashmir.
6. Kashmiri embroidery was initially introduced by traders travelling along _____
7. The Mughal Emperors are known to have _____ the Kashmiri embroidery.

Q2. Question and Answers:

1. What is the history of Kashmiri embroidery?
2. How many basic types of Kashmiri embroideries are there?
3. Describe the five basic embroideries of Kashmir?
4. What are the psychological effects of learning embroidery?

Unit-2

Crewel Embroidery

Crewel embroidery is a hand embroidery technique done in Kashmir. It uses a hook (aari) and mostly woolen yarn in single or multi colour shades.

It's origin is unknown, it can be traced back to as early as the medieval period. This kind of embroidery is locally known as *Zalakdozi*.

It is a very old technique but also very popular. The crewel embroidery makes use of a pointed crochet or an 'aari' as the needle.



Crewel embroidery is of two types:

- 1) One-Ply Crewel Embroidery**
- 2) Two-Ply Crewel Embroidery**

One-Ply Crewel Embroidery

Ply is a woolen thread used in Kashmiri embroidery. In this type of embroidery a single-ply woolen yarn is used. The lower yarn costs results in a cheaper fabric which allows for more range when selling the product to customers.

https://cdn.domestika.org/c_fit,dpr_1.0,f_auto,t_base_params,w_610/v1591182818/content-items/004/784/758/contemp-original.jpg?1591182818

Two-Ply Crewel Embroidery

Here, more durable two-ply woolen yarn is used. It is costlier of the two and is known to last for decades if properly taken care of. This yarn gives a more neat and **uncluttered** appearance in comparison.

How Crewel is made

The Crewel making process begins with the selection of a design- "Tree of Life", "Jacobean" and "Maple" are some of the commonly used designs by manufacturers in Kashmir. Custom designs whether traditional or modern are also made specific to customer's request.

Design: The designer initially make a rough sketch on a 56" wide (or different depending on the width of fabric to be printed) **translucent paper** long enough to accommodate at least one pattern repeat but wide enough to cover the entire fabric width. Once the process is finished, punch holes will be followed to design sketch, correcting any deviations using skill and experience to perfect for the next step.

Printing: Once the design is ready, the pattern sheet is placed on an already laid fabric and an ink soaked cloth (preferably woolen yarns as it soaks less ink) is wiped all over the design so that the ink seeps through the tiny pores in the design sheet to cast a nice and clean imprint on the fabric underneath.

The process is repeated by removing a pattern sheet and placing it just below the end of the earlier print to ensure design consistency. The designer continues this way until the entire bolt is printed. During this process while the designer will soak the cloth multiple times as and when the ink runs out. An average thirty-three yard bolt make soak up to 200 grams ink. Once the bolt is done printed is rolled back full width to avoid any ink from (not yet dried) from casting duplicate prints on the embroidery side.

Embroidery: The printed fabric will now makes its journey to the craftsmen where the design will slowly start coming to life. Over the next few weeks, we may see colorful greens, blues, oranges and reds cast their magic and give the fabric a rich, lively and vibrant feel.

Depending upon customer's request fabrics are also embroidered using just white, one or more shades of blue, red or other colors. Embroidery is the most time consuming process in the manufacture of crewel fabrics and a twenty yard bolt with a "Tree of Life" design could take between eight to ten weeks to complete excluding delays due to any personal issues of the craftsmen.

Washing: Once a fabric is embroidered it will be sent for washing to remove all traces of dirt and stains it may have accumulated during the embroidery work. The drying process can take upto a day and once done the fabric is steam-ironed in a rotary steam-iron (fabric goes in full width) that results in a nice creased free fabric ready to use.

Care: Crewel embroidery is a delicate art and needs to be cared properly. Over time the fabric may become dirty requiring it to be cleaned. Most crewel fabrics are suggested to be professionally dry cleaned to avoid dye bleeding from the embroidery yarns. White on white fabrics may be hand washed at home safely and spin dried in a washing machine. Ironing out the wrinkles however is something one should consider seriously. Overall it is best to leave the cleaning job to professionals although it may be costly the fabric will look as good as new after the wash.

Crewel form of embroidery can be done on cotton, wool, silk, velvet as well as other fabrics. This embroidery can be commonly seen on curtains, drapes and other **upholstery**, bedding, dress materials etc. Woolen or art silk thread is used for this particular embroidery. Mostly, the chain stitch is used for the crewel embroidery. Popular designs for this embroidery include flowers, blossoms, leaves, creepers etc.

<https://www.kashmirbox.com/collections/crewel-kashmir/products/pearl-white-flowered-embroidered-curtain>



Glossary:

Uncluttered: not having too many details or objects

Translucent paper: is a semitransparent paper for tracing drawings;

Upholstery: soft or padded textile covering

Learning Outcomes:

a)

b) Learners will be able to study types, uses, processes & patterns of Kashmiri embroidery.

c) Manage and reduces anxiety.

Material Required:

Silk thread

Cotton thread

Zari thread

Needles

Cloth

Embroidery frame

Q1. Define Crewel embroidery.

Q2. Explain the types of Crewel embroidery.

Q3. Discuss the methods used for crewel embroidery.

Pre-requisite Knowledge:

- The students should have previous knowledge about its History and Heritage.
- The study also includes gathering knowledge about embroidery.

Time duration: 2 hours

UNIT-3

The Sozni Embroidery

Sozni is one of the most exquisite form of needle point embroidery.

This needle work technique is used to adorn pashmina shawls to make the shawls to look interested like a tapestry by layering fine embroidery. It is practiced in Kashmir and has no parallels in the world. It was brought to Kashmir by reverend Saint and scholar Shah Hamada in the fourteenth century. The craft is one such that has withstood the test of time with its timeless beauty. It is usually practiced by the local craftsmen in a home based workshop called Karkhanas . In the local dialect the craft is also referred to as Sozni Kaem, Kani Sozni or Setchzinikaem.

To make a Sozni embroidered shawl, a pashmina shawl is chosen first. Sozni can also be done on other types of fabric such as cotton and silk, but the embroidery appears best on Pashmina shawls. The thread is usually of silk or high quality cotton.

Sozni Embroidery Process :-

- 1. Capturing the design on a tracing paper-** The Naqash (Designer) makes the design on a tracing paper. The designs are created either by a senior embroidery kaarigar (craftsman) or by designers.
- 2. Capturing design trace into carved wooden blocks-** Once the trace is perfectly done, a wooden block is carved out to make blocks, which would be used to create imprints on the fabric



<https://heritagemoda.com/en-in/blogs/blogs/sozni-embroidery-from-kashmir-confluence-of-needle-thread-and-pashmina>

3. Filling the blocks with charcoal paste or chalk paste - The blocks are filled with either charcoal paste or chalk paste to impart black or white colour to the imprinted design.

4. And then the Embroidery work starts- Once the design is imprinted on the fabric, the embroiderer uses a fine needle and thread to make the embroidery. The thread is usually of silk or a high quality cotton. The main point to note here is that only the **artisan** who starts the embroidery finishes the embroidery, as embroidery making is just like handwriting and end result varies from person to person.

5. Finishing- Once the embroidery is done, the shawl goes through cleaning and final finishing process.

This form of embroidery is quite different from the aari embroidery. A needle is used in sozni embroidery. The Sozni embroidery can commonly be found on shawls, jackets, dress materials etc. The work that goes into this embroidery is very intricate.

Popular **motifs** for this embroidery are abstract geometric designs, **paisley** patterns. The Sozni embroidery is exclusive only to Kashmir and cannot be found anywhere else. The satin-stitch is used for making this type of embroidery.



artisan: a worker who practices a trade or handicraft :

motifs : A motif is a design which is used as a decoration or as part of an artistic pattern

paisley : a detailed pattern of curved shapes, printed especially on cloth

Question Answers:

Q1. What is Sozni embroidery?

Q2. What is the method used in Sozni embroidery?

Fill up:

1. Sozni work is used to adorn_____.
2. Sozni embroidery is practiced by the _____in home-based workshop called_____.
3. _____or_____thread is used in Sozni embroidery.

Unit-4

Tilla Embroidery

Tilla is a traditional craft of Kashmir which is used to adorn pherans and shawls but over the years, the embroidery is done on sarees, shalwar kameez, and other garments as well. It's is a type of embroidery work, involving the requirement of gold and silver metallic thread.

The thread of Tilla is altogether a new dimension, where malleable copper is used as an underwire and coated with silver or gold hues to achieve the desired thickness for the embroidery to be done.

It is done in needlepoint using gold and silver thread. Silver and gold embroidery: Locally called “tilla”, this type of embroidery work is found on ladies cloaks “Pherans”, shawls and salwar kameez. It is done in needlepoint using gold and silver thread.

The Process

Printing: The process of Tilla Dozi begins with the Naqash or the designer, who draws the design over the trace paper, and perforates this paper with the help of a specialized needle, the process known as “Trombun”. Meanwhile, his assistants prepare the white and blue inks, by mixing sand from the river of Jhelum with some kerosene. The trace paper is placed carefully on the cloth and a paper weight placed over it. It is then that a duster dipped in ink (blue for darkshaded cloth and white for light shaded ones) is passed. The result causes prints of chinar leaves, paisleys and different types of Kashmiri flowers to befall these pieces of plain cloth.

Embroidery: This imprinted cloth is then passed onto a Tilla artisan who uses two threads – one of staple and the other of Tilla and embroiders the plain canvas awaiting his strokes. The technique involves threading the Tilla over the fabric using a specialized needle and fastening this embellishment with a camouflaging cotton thread for a perfect and long lasting finesse. The thread of Tilla is altogether a new dimension, where malleable copper is used as an underwire and coated with silver or gold hues to achieve the desired thickness for the embroidery to be done.

The Tilla threads hence obtained are of varying types – the Angora, Hiran, Murga and Peacock. Of these, the most commonly used thread is of the Hiran for it does not age, its sheen remaining unaffected across the folds of time.

Finishing- Once embroidered, the apparel or accessories are sent for washing and ironing for the finished piece to reflect elegance. Special care is taken that a hot iron does not come in direct contact with the Tilla, lest its sheen gets damaged by the heat.



<https://www.facebook.com/kashtilla/photos/a.923932891111049/2011895048981489/>

Learners will be able to acquainted with the technicalities of Tilla embroidery.

malleable copper : that can be hit or pressed into shape easily without breaking or cracking

cloaks : a type of loose coat without sleeves that was more common in former times

perforates : to make a hole or holes in something

sheen : a soft smooth shiny quality

Q1. What is Tilla embroidery?

Q2. Explain the different processes used for tilla embroidery.