



## “Vagadiya Rabari Embroidery – The Jewel in Crown of Kachchh region”

**Keywords-** *Vagadiya Rabari, embroidery, motifs, stitch*

### Introduction

The embroidery becoming an essential element within the growing tradition of modern imaging. Vagadiya Rabari embroidery is one of the marked techniques of surface ornament tension of kachchh district of Gujrat state. Which is done by Vagadiya Rabari community women.

Rabari is one of the nomadic caste of kachchh district. In present three sub group of Rabari's dwell in kachchh. The three sub group are as: (1) Kachchhi Rabari (2) Dhebariya Rabari and (3) Vagadiya Rabari. The embroidery identifies the sub group of Rabari. Style of Rabari embroidery varies from sub group to sub group. Each one of them Vagadiya Rabari has different and distinct embroidery style. The tight, orderly, stitching and complex pattern of design and color revel the subtle sophistication of their imagination. Vagadiya Rabari's women sew their colorful dreams with the help of needle in barren kachchh.

A thousand dialect in stitches due to their nomadic life. Embroidery plays very important role of Vagadiya Rabari's nomadic culture.

### What is Vagadiya Rabari's Embroidery?

Square chain stitch, interlaced stitch, mirror work, buttonhole stitch, bound mirror stitch are used in Vagadiya Rabari embroidery.

### Motifs

Kubo(marker of pir's burial), more(peacock), ladu(sweet), mirchi(chili), kanta(thorns), vichhi(squrprion), kangari(border pattern) and dhamri(border) are used in Vagadiya Rabari embroidery. Generally their motifs are angular.

### Fabric

Cotton or silk like red, maroon, yellow, violet and pink colored fabric generally used in Vagadiya Rabari embroidery.

### Threads

Cotton and silk threads like White, Green, Yellow, Saffron and Red are used in Vagadiya Rabari embroidery.

Human civilization born, developed and destroyed as the time passes. Each and every civilization has interested in their heritage, how much progress mankind achieved compare to their ancestors.

Now the above discussion leads the researcher to conduct this study.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) To document the traditional Vagadiya Rabari embroidery's motifs and unique pieces of 50 years former for future generation.
- 2) To study the prevailing practices used for Vagadiya Rabari embroidery.

## METHODOLOGY

For the present study survey along with interview method was adopted. The two talukas and 6 villages selected for the survey. The three villages like Ambaliyara, Samkhiyali and Chobari of Bhachau taluka and other three villages like Vrajwani, Deshalpar and Godpar of Rapar taluka were selected. 60 ladies artisan with different age group were selected by purposive sampling method are mentioned below.

TABLE I

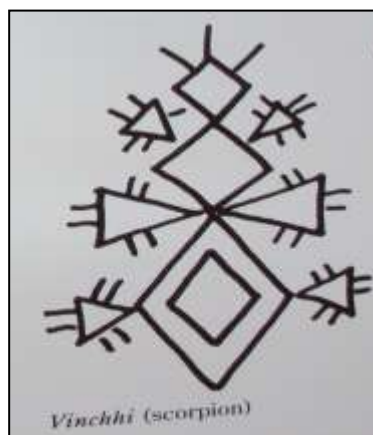
No	Taluka	Villages	Age group	
			Above 20 to 30 years	Above 50 to 60 years
1	Bhachau	1)Ambaliyara	5	5
		2)Samkhiyali	5	5
		3)Chobari	5	5
2	Rapar	1)Vrajwani	5	5
		2)Deshalapar	5	5
		3)Godpar	5	5

Data was collected using questionnaire and observation technique. Researcher also visited shrujan-bhujodi and kalaraksha – shumrasar. Researcher also visited Kutch museum, Bhartiya Sanskruti Darshan museum of Bhuj.

## Result and Discussion

Result reveal that –

### Motifs of Vagadiya Rabari's Embroidery



Motif 1) Kubo (marker of pir's burial)



Motif 2) Vinchhi (Scorpion)



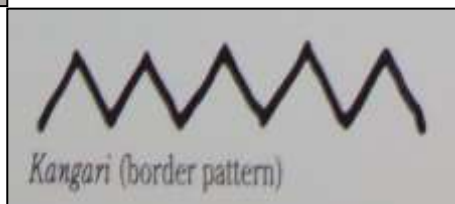
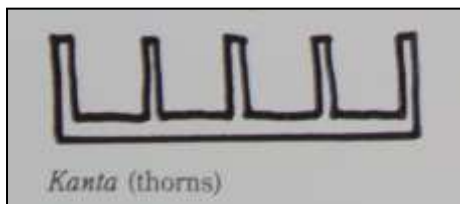
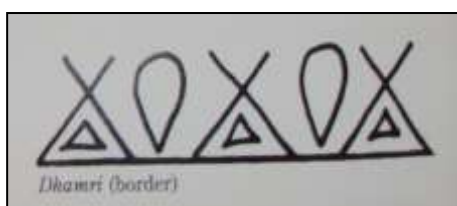
Motif 3) Mor (peacock)



Motif 4) Ladu (sweet)

Motif 5) Mirchi (chilli)

Motif 6) Ladu (sweet)



Motif 7) Kanta (thorns)

Motif 8) Dhamri (border)

Motif 9) Kangari (border pattern)

### UNIQUE PIECES OF VAGADIA RABARI'S EMBROIDERY



Garment 1) Ghaghro



Garment 2) Kapdu



Garment 3) Ludi



Garment 4) Zaldi



Garment 5) Vanzanu



Garment 6) Zaldi



Garment 7) Ludi



Batwa



Kothalo (dowryseck)

- Vagadiya Rabari used in their embroidery triangular mirrors and buttons, but abstain from the use of white makodiya. They used big size mirror extensively in their embroidery because they believe that mirror reflects the evil spirit.
- They mainly used bright gaudy colors like red, yellow, green, saffron in their embroidery work to bring some life to the dull desert land and make them forget their hardship.
- The cotton and silk with various textures was used for former fabric of embroidery. Presently they used smooth cotton, synthetic fabric such as nylon and polyester were also widely used for embroidery.
- In present they adorn the costume with glittering gaudy lace and machine embroidery instead of the hand embroidery. All the works of Vagadiya Rabari embroidery are money driven activity in the battle of this urbanization due to their survival.
- In present Vagadiya Rabari community settled down from nomadic life. That's why the embroidery of Vagadiya Rabari is found in modern era in high and posh locality for fashion.

## Conclusion

By doing Vagadiya Rabari embroidery's various garments and articles Vagadiya Rabari's women use their potent skill and time. By this Embroidery Vagadiya women make Batvas, Zuldi-Vanzna, Kanchliyo-Ghaghra, Torans, Chaklas, Caps, Kapdas, Bandis etc. By selling these articles through different institute like Shrujan, Kalaraksha, Garvi gurjari or by themselves in domestic market, Vagadiya Rabari women earn bread and butter and also help to cherished treasure of art.

This study will be also useful for fashion designer to create new fashion using Vagadiya Rabari embroidery in garment. It will also help the models, film stars, politicians to give themselves enhancing and eye catching look by wearing garment and Shoulder Shawl made of Vagadiya Rabari embroidery. It helps to the garment industry as they earn a lot of foreign exchange for the country by exporting Garments, Shawls and articles made from Vagadiya Rabari embroidery. It will enhance Indian economy too.

## Acknowledgment

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## Glossary

Vagadiya Rabari -- one of the pastoral community.

Kapdu – Women's upper garment.

Ghaghra -- Women's lower garment

Ludi -- Women's head covering clothes of Rabari community of kuchchh.

Batava – A small purse used by women.

Juladi – Children Kediyun.

Vanjanu – Children/male lower garment.

Kanchlio – An all embroidered kapdu.

Khaddar – Hand woven Cotton.

Bandi -- Upper garment of male person.

Makodiya – White small zig zag lace

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