



An Introduction To The Bodo Agor (Weaving Design)

Dr. Sibisan Narzary^{1*}, Prof. Indira Boro²

^{1*}Research Associate (ICSSR Project) Bodoland University sibisannarzary@gmail.com

²Project Director (ICSSR Project) Bodoland University indiraboro379@gmail.com

Citation: Dr. Sibisan Narzary et.al, (2024) An Introduction To The Bodo Agor (Weaving Design) ,Educational Administration: Theory and Practice, 30(1), 4115 - 4117

Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v30i1.7782

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

The Bodo people are living mainly in Assam from time immemorial. They are scattered in neighbouring states and countries like Bengal, Meghalaya, Nepal, Bangladesh etc. The weaving is the great significance of the Bodos. They make their needed clothes at home by collecting materials from nature. The Agor (weaving design) is the common weaving design of the Bodos. They make the Agor on clothes with their choice. Specially the Bodo women have lots of knowledge about the traditional textile and weaving methods. The main clothes of the Bodos are Dokhona, Jwmgra or (Jwmbaigra) for women and Gamsa for men, and Aronai, Sima, Ji ul are used for both male and female. They make clothes with the variety types of Agor (Design). But nowadays their traditional weaving system is reducing day by day and their Agor are also not highlighted.

So, this study will attempt to highlight the Agor of the Bodos. The analytical and descriptive methods has been applied in this study and the necessary data have been taken from primary and secondary sources.

Keywords: Clothes of the Bodos, Agor (Design), Category of Agor, and Types of Agor.

Introduction: The Bodo people live mainly in Assam from time immemorial. They are scattered in neighbouring states and countries like Bengal, Meghalaya, Nepal, Bangladesh etc. The weaving is the great significance of the Bodos. They make their needed clothes at home by collecting materials from nature. The Agor (weaving design) is the common weaving design of the Bodos. They make the Agor on clothes with their choice. Specially the Bodo women have lots of knowledge about the traditional textile and weaving methods. The main clothes of the Bodos are the Dokhona, Jwmgra or (Jwmbaigra) for women and Gamsa for men, and Aronai, Sima, Ji ul are used for both men and women. They make clothes with a variety type of Agor (Design) from time immemorial.

The Bodo women are very expert and knowledgeable in the making of clothes. Traditionally they collect all the needed materials from nature and make the clothes. The all kinds of needed clothes of the Bodos are made by the Bodo women. They weave clothes and create a variety of agors on the clothes that they love. The agors of the Bodos are also different types and different categories. The Bodos have a famous tales of the Asagi and Bwisagi tow sisters on the creating of Agors. When Asagi weaving at the Isansali¹ and Bwisagi watching flying births over the house and tells her sister Asagi then Asagi immediately create agor (flying birth) on the clothe.

Objectives of the Study: The following are the aims and objectives of this study-

1. To highlight traditional knowledge of Bodos relating to weave designing.
2. To analyze the Agor of the Bodos.
3. To highlight the Agor of the Bodos.
4. To focus on the category of the Bodo Agor.

Methodology: To lead a systematic study the Descriptive and Analysis methods have been applied in this study.

a Collection: The data have been taken from the primary and secondary sources. In case of primary sources, data and information have been collected from the Bodo women by using Questionnaire, Interview, Focus

¹ **Isansali:** A weaving place, where Bodo women weave the clothes.

group discussion and observation. On the other hand, as secondary sources, the data and information have been collected from various published and unpublished Books, Articles, Journals and Magazines.

The of Bodo Agor: The following Agors are some examples of the Bodo Agor.



Fig. no.- 1. Sal Bibar agor

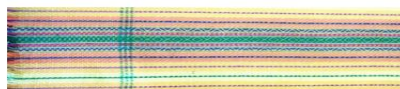


Fig. no.- 2. Farwo megon agor



Fig. no.- 3. Agor gubwi

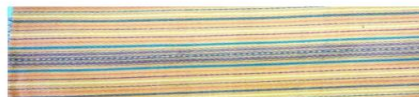


Fig. no.- 4. Gudam agor

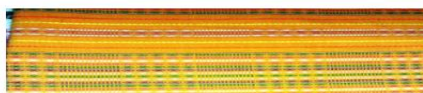


Fig. no.- 5. Sudam agor

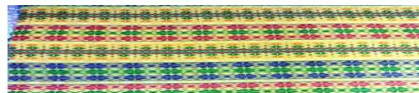


Fig. no.- 6. Bwigri Bibar agor



Fig. no.- 7. Mwswa hathai agor

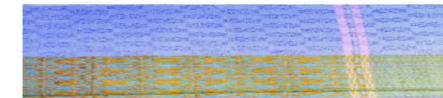


Fig. no.- 8. Gosob agor



**Fig. no.- 9. Jwrema or
Khangkhrikhola agor**



Fig. no.- 10. Hajw agor

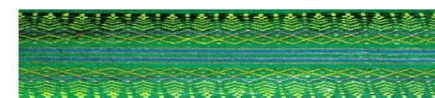


Fig. no.- 11. Dingkhiya agor



Fig. no.- 12. Laosong agor



Fig. no.- 13. Makhri agor



Fig. no.- 14. Khaseo bikha agor

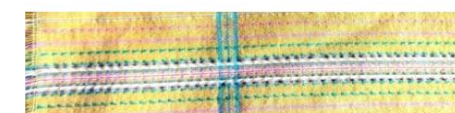


Fig. no.- 15. Laihagar agor



Fig. no.- 16. Kho agor

In addition to the above-mentioned Agors, many more agors can be found in Bodo society.

Categorization of Agor: Bodo Agor means both a flower and a floral or other textile design. The designs usually noticed in the textiles of the Bodos may be categorized as follows-

(I) Animal, (ii) Floral, (iii) Natural objects and (IV) Man made objects.

(I) Animal, Animal: The animal-based motifs consist of bird, butterfly, tiger, etc. The Bodo women created lots of animals based agors on their clothes. These are:

1. **Bibarao dao banai agor:** Dao banai means a bird on a flower.
2. **Farwo megon agor:** This design is like the eyes of a pigeon.
3. **Farwo megon gider agor:** This design is bigger than the farwo megon design agor.
4. **Daorai mwkhreb agor:** Daorai mwkhreb design covers the whole dokhona. This design is like the eyes of a pea-hen.
5. **Dandrill agor:** Insect like flower design is termed as dandrill Agor.
6. **Indi begor agor:** The textile design is like the seed of eri silk worm.
7. **Bema agor:** Bema means spider. The design like Spider is bema Agor.
8. **Khaseo bikha agor:** The back of the tortoise is known as khaseo bikha and the design resembling this is khaseo bikha agor
9. **Daothu gwdwna agor:** The textile design is like the neck of a dove.
10. **Daorai agor:** Daorai is peacock. A design resembling a peacock is called daorai agor
11. **Sikhri agor:** Sikhri means butterfly and the floral design like butterfly is called as sikhri agor

12. **Mauji apha agor:** Mauji apha means at's paw. The motif looks like cat's paws design is call Maoji apha agor. Ect.

Along with these, there are lots of animals based agors finds in the agors of the Bodos.

(ii) Floral: The floral designs consist of different forms of leaves and flowers ranging from twelve-point star to flowers with eight petals. The given below agors are the designs containing floral motifs:

1. **Agor gubwi:** Original flower design of the Bodo dokhona.
2. **Gabsab agor:** This flower design is round like a football.
3. **Bwigri Bibar agor:** It is like a plum flower.
4. **Thaigir Bibar agor:** This design is like an acid fruit, delinia.
5. **Dalim Begor agor:** This textile design is like a seed of a pomegranate.
6. **Khambrenga agor:** Khambrenga agor is like a ridged carambola fruit.
7. **Thoblo agor:** Thoblo means lily. The textile design like lily is thoblo agor
8. **Fami agor:** Fami means lotus in Bodo. The design that resembles a lotus is known as fami agor.
9. **Lai agor:** Lai is a leafy vegetable and the design looks like the lai plant.
10. **Singri Biber agor:** Singri biber is wood sorrel. Its eight pointed projection looks like a wood sorrel.
11. **Bandhuram agor:** Bandhu means friend. Bandhuram Agor is combination of different motifs. The interpretation of motif is friendship. The motif is as a whole combination of different motifs. This agor is very famous in Bodo aronai.etc.

(iii) Natural objects: The natural objects or phenomena that decorate the textile are the hills, ferns etc. Hills and ferns are executed in the form of geometric designs. The given below are agors of the motifs from natural objects:

1. **Hajw agor:** Hajw means mountain. The design like Mountains is termed as hajw Agor.
2. **Dingkhia agor:** This design looks like a fern. The dingkhia design has a genuine zig-zag pattern.
3. **Sangkha agor:** Sangkha Agor is like the conch.
4. **Okhaphwr agor:** Okhaphwr means moon. The design like Moon is called as okhaphwr agor.
5. **San agor:** San means sun.the design like sun is call san agor.

(IV) Man made objects: Motifs incorporated from man-made objects are necklace, nose stud, etc. There are some variations in the names of the designs as people from different areas tend to give different names to the same design. The names of designs used in different types of dresses are as follows:

1. **Sorthea agor:** Sorthea means necklace. The motif looks like as necklace.
2. **Thakhamala agor:** The motif looks like a chain of coins.
3. **Jong agor:** Jong Agor motif looks like a spearhead. As it resembles like spear head, the people call it as jong Agor

Conclusion: It is a very serious threat to the Bodos that at present due to the influence of globalization different types of Bodo Agors are intermingled. Instead of original Bodo Agor ornamented with embroideries Dokhona and Jwmbaigra are available in the Markets. In this regard lots of traditional Bodo Agors have been going to be lost from the Bodo society. Because of the culture of weaving and rearing eri or silk-worm is in the decline. Now that's also a serious reason that the Bodo women buy their dresses in the market rather than weaving at home. Therefore, much work remains to be done in combination with modern technology to preserve and promote the varieties of traditional Bodo Agor, that are now extinct.

References:

1. Barua, Birinchi Kumar: 1986, A cultural History of Assam, Bina Library, Guwahati, Assam.
2. Endle, Rev. Sidney: 1990, The Kacharies: Low price Publication, Delhi.
3. Hazarika Rani Kakati and Kabita Boro: 2006 Textile Designs of the Boros of Northeast India: Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya and Pratibha Prakashan, Madhya Pradesh
4. Roy Shankar K: 2008 Textile Traditions of Northeast India: Pratibha Prakashan, New Delhi.