

## **Elegance of Dabu Print- A Tale of Hand Block Print-Akola Chittorgarh**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Art is symbol of quality of artesian work. Which is reflect in eyes of admirer. This article is written for the appreciation of traditional art and also written for art preservation which is lost in last centuries and re-birth and revive by new generation of Chippa community. This art is Dabu print of Akola Chittorgadh. Dabu print found in many state in India like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. In Rajasthan Dabu print traditional industry located in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur and Chittorgadh. Akola town is well known for Chippa community. All community people worked together in town. They have treasure of traditional printing methods and printing material and dyes. Which is not available in market. So this study was covered the detail traditional method of Dabu hand block print their natural colors, printing paste and hand blocks and printing artesian those are experience hand.

**Keywords:** Hand block print, Technique of printing, Pre-printing, Post dyeing and Dabu print.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dabu print found in many state in India like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. In Rajasthan Dabu print traditional industry located in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur and Chittorgadh. Rajasthan is enriching with famous Mud resist printing. Dabu printing is gatha of Chippa community of Akola, Chittorgadh, Rajasthan. From centuries Chippa community of Akola give this service of society. Dabu print is muse on sustainability, green and eco fashion. Dabu printing is a conventional art and sophisticated process in a creative way of dyeing and printing by which dazzling printed fabrics of good aesthetic appeal (Fig. 1).

The look and appearance of these fabrics is exclusive for the vivid flower-patterned and thematic patterns in sharp and finely detailed prints of bright and well-chosen hues and designs that have left modern pundits dumbstruck. The main focus of Dabu printed fabrics is the use of natural colors and vegetable pastes which are



**Fig. 1 : All over Jaal of Floral and Paisley Combined Design of Mud Resist Hand Block Printing of Akola Chittorgadh**

green fashion, skin-friendly, sustainable, fast, and retain their brilliance for most of the lifetime of the fabric. Dabu printed sari undergo a precise process that involves a lot of not so easily available and costly natural dyes and vegetable pastes (Fig. 2 and 3).



**Fig. 2&3 : Cotton Stole of Geometrical Print and Floral Printed Silk Saree. Which is used in Two Way – as Printed Product or as a Post Dyeing Product**

### **Re- birth and Revive of printing industry:**

Sigma print Industry is well known Industry. Sigma Hand Print Industry is based on quality product. It is related to chipa community of Akola. Manju Devi Chipa is tradition artisan and his son Manish Kumar chipa has revival the industry in 2017. Industry was clogged in 1995. Hard work never fails. Manish Kumar chipa and his mother revive the industry and continuously work for sigma hand print Industry. It is based on Dabu hand print. The variety of resist printing done in sigma hand print industry.

### **Resist material for printing:**

Dabu print is developed by local mud and kalam. Mud is used as dye and kalam is used as color binder. Traditional printer of Akola has used traditional material for resist the print. The following resist materials are black mud from the nearby ponds. This is the main component that goes into produce the resist achieve in the Dabu process. Bidhan or Wheat powder obtained from the wheat eaten by wheat insects. This improves the adhesion quality of the print paste to the block and fabric. Gum Arabic that is essential to the print paste for adhesion to block and fabric. Lime water that averts the cracking of clay at the printed portion. It also get better adhesion of print to fabric.

### **Carved wooden block:**

Locally old carvers are there in Akola. Those were preparing Traditional block. It is used for resist printing

of lehanga and sari. The new developed block purchased from Jaipur and Ahemdabad (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 4 : Traditional Wood Carved Block of Traditional Chipa Community of Akola Chittorgadh Rajasthan**

### **Traditional artesian:**

They have four traditional craftsmen. His name is Pravesh Chand Kashyap, Karan Kashyap, Rajendra Singh Bhati and Kapil Kumar Chipa (Fig. 5 and 6).



**Fig. 5&6 : Traditional artesian of Dabu Print from Generations of Chipa Community**

### **Fabric materials:**

The hand printed Industry using different kind of fabrics Cotton, Silk, Linen blended cotton, Silk Chanderi, Tasser Silk and Jute etc.

### **Dyes:**

Dye is used by Kashih, Indigo, Vat, Direct alum and Ferrous –sulphate (Table 7)



**Fig. 7 : Dyeing of Pre-Printed Fabric, Saree and Stole**

### Conclusion:

Dabu print is heritage print of Rajasthan. Which is traditionally designed in different cities like Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Udaipur and Chittorgadh. Each and every Dabu print is different. Because of printing paste ,natural fixing agent,

dyes, traditional block and artesian

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