



Chapter 22

Patola

Moksha and Nirmal live in a *Salavivada* of Patan. Their home is always filled with bundles of bright-coloured silk threads. Their mother Kokilaben and father Ashokbhai and everyone in the family are weavers. The weaving that they do is very beautiful and special.

From many centuries, *Salavi* families are living in the *Salavivada*. The special weaving work done by them is known as '*Patola*'. Nowadays here, '*Patola House*' has established to inform Indian people and people from all over the world about their special weaving work. The craftsmen who made '*Rani-ki-Vav*' in Patan, they also had used this design of '*Patola*' in their stone work. The poets of Gujarat have also discussed about this craft in their folksongs, like,

'Chhelaji re ... mari haru Patan thi Patola Mongha lavajo.'

Moksha and Nirmal's parents learnt this art from their parents. Now Moksha and Nirmal also help their parents after coming back from school and learning this art.



For the teacher : Inform children that most of the traditional arts are learnt at home only.

Like, '*Patola*' different kind of weaving can be learnt. Discuss about other traditional occupations like carpet weaving, making toys, making perfume etc.

Patola



Process of making *Patolas* of Patan

From thread to cloth

The threads which are used to weave *Patola* is made from mulberry silk, which is white. Father brings these silk threads from outside. The threads are opened and made into a grid (laid out in a criss-cross manner). After that design is made on that. Designed thread is tied thereafter. Which is called '*Bandhani* work'. The part which has to be dyed is kept open and according to measurement it is dyed and tied up again. This work is hard and time consuming. When grid is designed and finished dyeing; after that it is put up on the handloom for weaving. Hence, after the hardwork of four to six months, beautiful and colourful '*Patola*' is prepared.

The Grid is fast coloured, so there is no chance of washing out the colour of *Patola*. Durability and colour of *Patola* remain the same for many years. That is why it is a saying in Gujarati that,

"Padi patole Bhat, Fate Pan fite nahi"

Handicraft is in Danger

In the preparation of *Patola*, care and patience are required for the skill of weaving, designing and dyeing. It is a hard work of many days. Mulberry silk and colours are very costly, so '*Patola*' are sold at very high cost. Earlier there were 700 families connected with this handicraft but now only three families are trying to keep this handicraft alive. Many people have left this occupation.

Patola handicraft is not only the pride of Patan, but it is the dignity and pride of Gujarat and India.

Patola is precious and unique identity of ancient heritage and Indian culture. It is going to be vanished. For that we have to give good price of *Patola* and help the '*Kasabis*'. Otherwise, this precious art will be vanished.



Discuss :

Will Moksha and Nirmal be able to teach their children this beautiful art ?

Write in your notebook :

- Have you ever seen anybody weave something on a loom ? What were they weaving and where ?
- The threads of a saree are dyed. Do you know of any other thing that is dyed ?
- Do you know any other work which many people living in one place do ? Do they make some things ?
- Get information about the process of making the thing.
- Do men and women do different kinds of work to make this thing ?
- Do children also contribute in making this thing ?



Find out and Write :

- Talk to a blacksmith, a carpenter and a potter about the nature of their work.

- Where did they learn to do their work ?



For the teacher : In many traditional occupations, different kind of tools and skills are used. Emphasis that the entire family participates in making one thing, and that everybody has different responsibilities and duties.



- What else did they need to learn to be able to do this work ?

- Have they taught this work to anybody in their family or to anyone else ?

- The table given below has a list of different kinds of work that people do. Do you know people who do such work ? Write their names in the first column. In the next column write from whom have they learnt their work ? Write it.

Kind of work	Name of people you know who do this work	From where did they learn this work
Cloth weaving	Moksha and Nirmal's parents	From their elders
Cooking		
Cycle repairing		
Driving bus		
Sewing and embroidery		
Singing		
Making shoes		
Making kites		
Farming		
Cutting hair		



For the teacher : Many places in India are famous for making special things like '*Patola* of Patan'. These things have become famous by the name of the place where they are made, like-Kullu shawls, Madhubani paintings, Assam silk, Kashmiri embroidery, *Kutchhi Bharatkam*, *Bandhani* of Jetpur, Pottery of Thangadh, etc. Do you know any more examples ? Discuss it in the class.