

Costumes of Gaddi Tribal Women and Changes through Three Generations

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The *Gaddis* reside in the cold regions of Himachal Pradesh. To meet their requirements of woollen clothing in the very cold region, they took sheep - goat rearing as their vocation to get sufficient quantity of wool, meat and milk. As their herds became sufficiently large the *Gaddis* adopted migratory nature, coming down towards plain areas during severe winter. Consequently, the *Gaddi* community acquired the material and design of their costumes depending upon the needs of their terrain and migratory life style. *Gaddi* females normally wore cotton made dress, which was also made of woollen material to be used under winter conditions. They wore ankle length specially designed gown called *Luanchari*, *Dora* and *Churidar pyjama*. A sleeveless vest was also worn under it. *Chadru* was the head dress of the *Gaddi* women. The majority of the grandmother generation females still wore their traditional costume. But now due to the change in the occupation of *Gaddis*, decline in migratory nature, education of children and influence of the other dresses which are comfortable to work at, the women of mother and daughter generation have adopted *Salwar*, *Kammez* and *Dupatta* as their dress. They used their traditional costumes on functions and festive occasions only.