

desi oon hamara apna
देसी ऊन हमारा अपना



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KHAMIR



KHAMIR is a craft organisation based in Kutch, Gujarat, works to preserve, and promote crafts practices. Khamir's philosophy finds itself on nurturing local resources- skills, raw materials, tools and artisan capacities to find solutions.

Kutch, Gujarat is one of the most arid regions of India. Scarce rainfall and saline landscapes have allowed for little agriculture on this land. As a result, natives of Kutch have taken to pastoralism over generations. These pastorals nurtured and developed special animal breeds. Special because these animal breeds are productive even in distressed conditions and have very light footprints on the earth. They are invaluable in arid regions as they continue to conserve complex ecosystems while maintaining social relations.

Kutchi artisans were an integral part of this abundant pastoral economy. Artisans worked with hair, hide and wool to create objects of great elegance. These craft and pastoral production systems co-exist and are co-dependent. It is hard for one to maintain its integrity without the other. These interlinked production systems have come under threat due to extensive industrialization.

Such production systems, if revived, can employ millions in rural India. They can also be at the forefront of shifts towards green-production.

Khamir collaborates with craft communities to rejuvenate such local economies. One such initiative is Desi wool project. Kutch with its large sheep and camel population had always had a ready supply of wool. Men and the women of herding families spun wool into yarn and handed it to weavers to make versatile handloom products. There are no buyers for wool with the consumers preferring synthetic fibre or the softer merino wool. Herders too have reacted by switching to meat-producing breeds. It is a cycle of neglect by markets, herders, and policymakers alike that threatens the loss of a treasure trove of genetic resource.

Khamir has been working with native shepherders, spinners, weavers, dyers, and felters to revive the wool economy. Khamir aims to develop decentralized wool processing systems while partnering with other NGOs and technical institutes on quality enhancement. Khamir hopes that the story of wool and well-designed woollen products will help sway consumer preferences and open them to accepting wool in their households and closets.





K H A M I R



+91 9099908043 | @khamircrafts | info@khamir.org
www.khamir.org

Khamir, Behind BMCB Social City, Lakhond-Kukma Crossroads,
Post Village Kukma, Taluka Bhuj, Kachchh, Gujarat 370105