

About AHCS

The Adarsh Hathkargha Cooperative Society (AHCS) was founded in 2004 by the villagers of Jhiri, Rajasthan, in order to provide alternative sources of income for the area's farmers. Many of the individuals involved in the establishment of AHCS are also members of Hum Kisan Sanghatan ("Our Farmers' Collective"). The sanghatan is an informal group of farmers dedicated to improving the lives of farming families by raising awareness about issues ranging from harmful debt cycles due to unfair money lenders, to domestic violence, to religious tolerance.

Several members of the community had wanted to establish a craft cooperative in the village for some time, but had lacked the capital to invest in such an initiative. In 2004 however, due to a chance encounter with a non-profit looking to unload two handlooms, the Jhiri community was able to acquire some of the start-up capital it needed for next to nothing. The basic materials needed to begin producing fabric were funded by a government initiative providing a grant for the purchase of cotton yarn, and by some small private donations. The first round of training was paid for by the community trainees themselves. Since 2004, AHCS has grown from two handlooms and ten members to owning 22 handlooms and employing 30 people. The journey has been long and expansion has been slow. However, a recent investment in additional looms and an increase in membership foreshadow a year of growth for AHCS. Most importantly, the cooperative has not lost sight of its original mission: to provide a livelihood that supplements income from farming, can equally employ men and women, has little impact on the environment, stems emigration to towns and cities for work, and provides the greatest benefit possible to the greatest number of people.

The cooperative has been involved in initiatives outside of Jhiri as well. In the past year, it initiated livelihoods training courses in sewing and embroidery. Although the trainees are not official members of the cooperative, AHCS is able to collaborate with them on any projects initiated from within the cooperative. This kind of collaboration with local individuals allows AHCS to employ locals for work, like stitching, that is currently not done within the cooperative.



Who we are: A handloom cooperative founded by community members of Jhiri village that believes in positive social change through handcrafts.

Our mission: To provide a livelihood that supplements income from farming, can employ both men and women equally, has little impact on the environment, stems emigration to towns and cities for work, and provides the greatest benefit possible to the greatest number of people.

By wearing our fabric, you are supporting a hardworking team committed to changing their community through initiatives within and outside of the cooperative, such as:

- A community theater group that seeks to raise awareness about issues like domestic violence, and the importance of utilizing hospitals to treat injuries
- A school for rural children, where creativity and curiosity are celebrated
- Art classes for handloom members, where ideas of color and shape are explored, and a sense of pride in occupation is encouraged



Cloth making process

How is it made?

The process of making handloom cloth is not a simple one. It is an art that takes time to master, and is always requiring practice, creativity, and patience. Here, we have listed out the various steps involved in making our cloth.

1. Washing and dyeing of the thread



2. Spooling the thread onto drums



3. Wrapping the warp



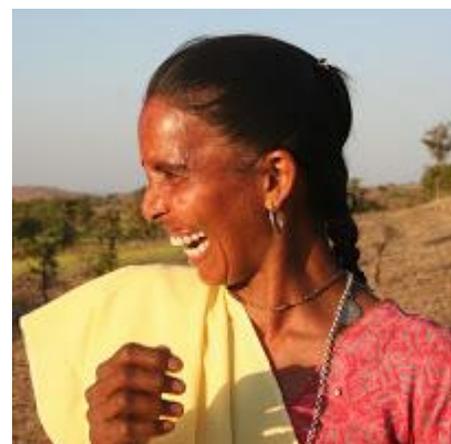
4. Preparing the loom



5. Spooling the weft



6. Weaving



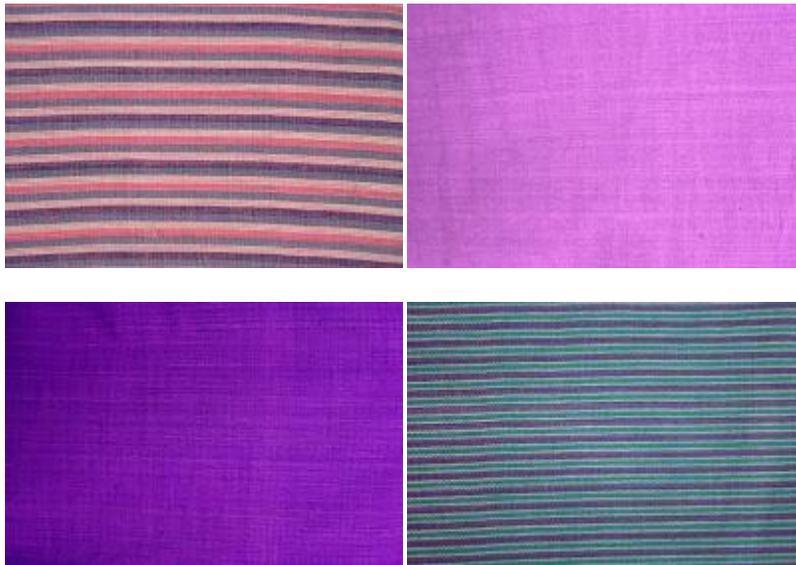
Cloth

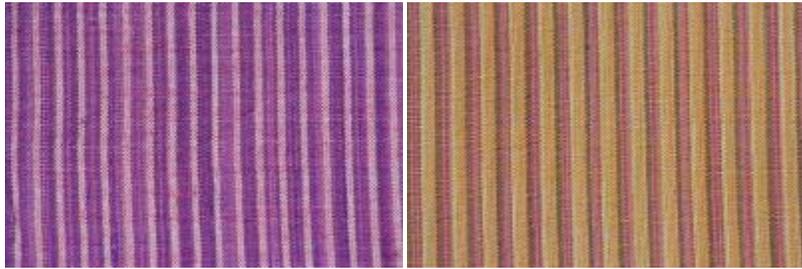


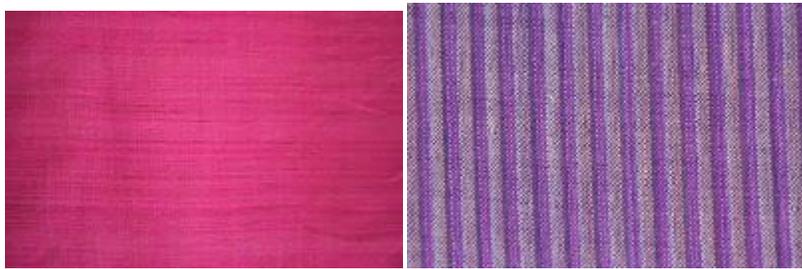
Our fabric is only of the finest quality, made from 100% cotton thread, and primarily VAT dyes to achieve superior, fast color that will not fade over time. Our cloth comes in a variety of colors and patterns; we are always experimenting with new color hues and combinations.

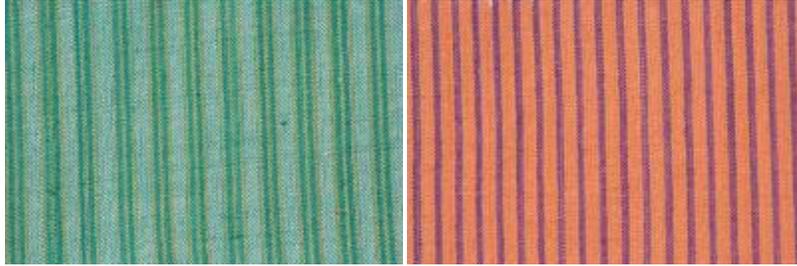
Some of our latest designs:

Past creations:









* Some of these items we have in our current stock; all can be reproduced upon request. [Contact](#) us with any inquiries.

Other products

Our Creations

In addition to our cloth, we carry a small stock of products designed especially with our fabrics in mind. These include shoulder bags, men's and ladies' kurtas, shawls, bedsheets, and more. Over the years we have formed partnerships with nearby groups and organizations in order to keep the production of our designs local. Please [contact](#) us with any inquiries about our line of handloom products.

Cushion Covers:





Contact



Adarsh Hathkargha Cooperative Society
c/o Hum Kisan Sangathan
Village Jhiri, Post Banskhedhi,
Via Manoharthana
Rajasthan- 326037
India

Phone: (+91) 09929 612931
09001583433

For questions or comments, please email AdarshCooperative@gmail.com.

For groups interested in bulk fabric orders, we provide samples of our fabrics upon request.