



Documentation and Preservation of the Parsi Topi (Vaatko): A Study in Cultural Continuity and Craft Sustainability

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Abstract: The Textile Art Museum, within the Department of Clothing and Textiles at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, serves as an institutional museum dedicated to education and public engagement. Limited funding presents challenges in safeguarding delicate and culturally significant textile artefacts. This chapter presents a case study on the documentation of the Parsi Topi (Vaatko), emphasising its role in preserving both the tangible and intangible heritage of the Parsi community. In textile conservation, documentation involves the systematic recording of material composition, construction technique, and historical context; it ensures accurate identification, supports research, and facilitates preventive conservation measures. As the foundational step in conservation, documentation provides detailed information on an artefact's condition, deterioration factors, and storage requirements, and high-resolution photography, technical analysis, and comprehensive documentation sheets are prepared prior to treatment. The study highlights how thorough documentation, combined with preventive measures and proper storage, contributes to the sustainable preservation of textile heritage for future generations.

Keywords: Parsi Topi, preventive conservation, textile documentation, museum practice, Vaatko.

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