

Chapter 02

A fibre is a thin thread made up of natural or artificial substances.

A fibre can be of two types basically a **natural fibre** and an **artificial fibre**.

The fibres we get from plant and animal sources are called natural fibres.

We get fibres from Plants such as cotton, jute and hemp etc. The natural fibres are cotton, jute and hemp etc and artificial fibres nylon, acrylic etc.

NATURAL FIBRES:-

Fibres obtained from plants and animals are known as natural fibres. The two types of natural fibres are **Plant fibre** and **Animal fibre**.

PLANT FIBRE:

You all know how a cotton look. Cotton is a soft spongy ball seen on a cotton plant. Cotton ball is the fruit like structure containing the cotton fibres and when the cotton fibres matures it bursts open. Have you visited any cotton fields before? If yes, then you see snow-white balls exposed everywhere in the field. These balls are collected and made into yarns. In the process we need to separate the seeds from the fluffy part. The seeds from the cotton ball can either be hand picked or separated using machines. So this method of

By now you understand that fibres are used to make yarn and yarn is used to make fabric which means fibres are naturally occurring threads. These filaments are need to be drawn into continuous filaments. So spinning is the process where the threads are converted into yarns.

These long filaments are the yarns are finally woven into fabrics. But how is this done? If u take a cotton thread between your palms and press it gently by rolling it this way. What we get is a long filament like structure called yarn. We

know that tons of threads are spun into yarn everyday. This is how spinning occurs. Since many years in India, traditional spinning equipment like CHARKHA were used to spin cotton. Due to the advancement in the field of technology now we have machines to spin the threads into yarns. Now the yarns which are long continuous threads are directly woven into pieces of fabrics that can be cut and stitched to make clothes.

So the fibres which are the threads are used to make long and continuous usable threads called yarns which in turn are woven into fabrics which are used to make stitched clothes for us.

Always cotton clothes keep you cool but will the cotton clothes keep you warmer. The answer is no because cotton is not a good insulator and so we need to wear woollen clothes. Woollen clothes not only preserves warmth but also offers better insulation allowing more air to remain within the fabric.

Where do we get wool from?

The answer is we get wool from animal fibre.

ANIMAL FIBER:-

Wool is a natural animal fibre derived from the fur of animals such as sheep, goat, rabbits and camel etc. Hair of these animals along with thin layer of skin are removed to get wool fibre. The process is called as shearing.

Wool is used for making warm clothes such as sweaters, caps, shawls, gloves and blankets etc.

WOOL PRODUCTION: - Processing of fibre from wool involves few steps. They are

Shearing, Scouring, Grading and Sorting, Dyeing and Drying, Making of yarn.

- 1)Shearing:-Process of removing fleece(hair) along with the thin layer of skin from the sheep body.
- 2)Scouring:-The sheared skin along with hairs is washed thoroughly to remove dirt is called Scouring.
- 3) Grading and Sorting :- The cleaned fibres are separated as per the texture, length and colour. The fine hairs are used to make clothes and small fluffy fibres to make burs on sweaters.
- 4) Dyeing and drying:-The natural fibres which are brown, white and black are dyed with other colours and dried using rollers.
- 5) Making of Yarn:-The coloured fibres are combed, straightened and rolled into yarn.

Animals that Yield Wool:-

- Wool commonly available in the market is sheep wool.
- Several breeds of sheep are found in different parts of our country.
- However, the fleece of sheep is not the only source of wool, there are other sources of wool also.

Other sources of wool are-

- Yak wool is common in Tibet and Ladakh.
- Angora wool is obtained from angora goats in hilly regions such as Jammu and Kashmir.
- The underfur of Kashmiri goat is soft and it is woven into fine shawls called pashmina shawls.
- The fur on the body of camels is used as wool.
- Llama and Alpaca found in South America are also yielding wool.

Some Indian breeds of sheep, which provide wool, are-

Lohi is a breed of sheep where we get good quality wool found in Rajasthan and Punjab.

Rampur Bushier is a breed of sheep where we get brown fleece found in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

Nail is a breed of sheep where we get carpet wool and found in Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab

Bakharwal is a breed of sheep where we get woollen shawls and found in

