
Chapter – 3

Fibre to Fabric

- **Fibres:** Long, fine, continuous threads or filaments are obtained from plants and animals.
Two types of fibers: (i) **Animal fibres** (ii) **Plant fibres**
 - Animal fibres are obtained from two sources: **Silk** and **Wool**
 - **Silk** comes from silkworms and wool is obtained from sheep, goat and yak. Hence silk and wool are animal fibres.
 - The hairs of camel, llama and alpaca are also processed to yield wool.
 - In India, mostly sheep are reared for getting wool.
 - Sheep hair is sheared off from the body, scoured, sorted, dried, dyed, spun and woven to yield wool.
 - Silkworms are caterpillars of silk moth.
 - During their life cycle, the worms spin cocoons of silk fibres.
 - Silk fibres are made of a protein.
 - Silk fibres from cocoons are separated out and reeled into silk threads.
 - Weavers weave silk threads into silk cloth.
 - **Wool: Sources of Wool:** Wool is obtained from sheep, yak (Tibet and Ladakh), Angora goat, goat, camels, llama and Alpaca (South America)
 - **Obtaining wool fibre:** Shearing: Fleece of the sheep along with a thin layer of skin is removed from its body.
 - **Processing of Wool Fibre:**
 - (i) **Scouring:** Sheared hair is cleaned and washed in tanks to remove grease, dust and dirt.
 - (ii) **Sorting:** Cleaned hair is sent to a factory where hair of different textures are separated.
 - (iii) Hair is sent into a 'Carding' machine where the loose wool fibres are combed into a sheet and then twisted into a rope or silver.
 - (iv) This silver is twisted and stretched into a yarn.
 - (v) The yarn is wound to form balls of wool.
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