

Jurobbofi

Jurobbofi refers to *jorab* that is “socks” knitting. *Jurobs* are multicolored socks with intricate patterns, knitted from the toe-up. They are usually worn in such a way as to display rich decoration.

Jurobs are made of wool, silk, nylon or sometimes cotton. Other materials include acrylic and blends of wool and cotton. *Jurobs* can be knee-high, regular length, ankle-length, or made as slippers.

Jurobs are usually knitted with 5 double-

pointed needles. In Tajikistan *jurobs* are knitted as well combination of knitting and crochet techniques. In Tajikistan *jurobs* are specific to Badakhshan province and in common culture they are called Pamiri *jurobs*. The *jurobs* in Badakhshan are made by using crochet technique only, although needles are also used. The historical sources witness the presence of this craft in Pamir from 19th century. The needles for knitting are made from tree branches. *Jurobs* knitted with needles have specific pattern making techniques and for this purpose up to 5 or 6 needles are used. These days generally metallic needles are used.

The Pamiri *jurobs* have a very unique character and pattern. The manufacturing technique is a special kind of crochet. The socks are very common in local everyday life as well as popular among tourists.

In Pamir *jurobs* are made primarily from the sheep wool although wools from goat and yak are also used. Wool processing for preparing threads have also special place in traditional craft of the Pamir region and it is manually processed and dyed.



Jurobs are season specific and the thickness and layers of looms in weave and height of the *jurob* reflects the season when these *jorabs* can be worn.

Jurobs have multiple decorative patterns. Some *jurobs* are decorated only from the ankle high but some fully decorated. *Jurobs* are given name based on the pattern and decoration used in them. For example «azhdapajkar» (dragon body), «pari tovus» (peacock feather) and many alike names that reflect the design used in decoration of the *jurobs*. Among the existing decorative patterns used in *jurobs* the «dragon body» is most ancient reflecting the traditional old beliefs of the Arian people.

Jurobs are generally unisex, but some of them on the basis of the decorative patterns can be distinguished. The women *jurobs* would have more elaborated patterns and vivid bright colors whereas men *jurobs* would be much simpler in their decor. Similarly children *jurobs* are less decorated or *jurobs* made for a special occasion such as wedding or birthdays would have special ‘souvenir’ nature where tinsels are used to make them shine.

The continuity of this craft perhaps best can be explained by the fact that the raw material for this craft is plenty in mountainous regions and also there is a real market for it both among local population and also visitors.

