

## Our Traditional dress, Our Life!

From January 2010, 10 students of Bishop's Senior school Mukono Uganda ( Birungi Charlotte, Denise Diana, Atim Proscovia, Akinyi Polet, Asimire Joshua, Etyang Emmanuel, Kityo Michael and Okema Morris) sponsored a collaborative investigation on the topic "Our Traditional dress Our Life!" . We wanted to bring into iEARN a component of exchanging experiences on traditional dress for each classroom in the group. The entry was guided by the following prompts:

- What country is your school located?
- What is the name of your community?
- What is the traditional dress in your area (one for males and one for females)?
- In what special occasions is this dress used and why?
- Is the kind of dress for all age groups or not and why?

The 10 students after a discussion took the Kanzu for men and Busuuti for ladies to represent the traditional dress in their area. Below follows a sample response from the Bishop's class.

### Location of school

Bishop's Senior School Mukono is located in Central Uganda close to the Capital Kampala,

### The community

We are found in Mukono which is part of Buganda. Buganda is the kingdom of the Baganda people, the largest of the traditional kingdoms in present-day Uganda. The 5.5 million Baganda (singular Muganda; often referred to simply by the root word and adjective, Ganda) make up the largest Ugandan ethnic group, representing approximately 16.9% of Uganda's population. The name Uganda, the Swahili term for Buganda, was adopted by British officials in 1894 when they established the Uganda Protectorate, centered in Buganda.

### Male and female garments ; description , occasion and age appropriateness

The image below shows a snap shot of men clad in Kanzu and women in Busuuti.



The kanzu is the traditional wear for men in our area. A kanzu is a white or cream colored robe worn by men in East African countries. In English, the robe is called a tunic. The kanzu is an ankle or floor length garment.

Originally, the garment was made from barkcloth. Today the kanzu is made from silk, cotton, poplin, or linen. Linen tunics are the most expensive. The traditional kanzu has maroon embroidery around the collar, abdomen, and sleeves. The embroidery is called the omulela.

The kanzu is worn at wedding ceremonies during the introduction, also known as the *Kwanjula*. During the Kwanjula the groom's family is required to appear dressed in kanzu and they must also present kanzu to the bride's family.

The kanzu is always worn with a suit jacket, blazer, or sport coat. It is customary, for Tribal chiefs to wear the kanzu with a black bisht. On informal occasions the kanzu is worn with a kofia, a small, round cap. However, the cap is never worn during formal events..

Traditional female attire is the Gomesi. A Gomesi , also called a Busuuti is a colorful floor length dress. It is the national costume for women in Uganda

The Gomesi is a floor length, brightly colored cloth dress with a square neckline and short, puffed sleeves. The dress is tied with a sash placed below the waist over the hips. The Gomesi has two buttons on the left side of the neckline. Most Gomesi are made of silk, cotton, or linen fabric, with silk being the most expensive. A kikooy or kanga is tied underneath the linen Gomesi to ensure that the fabric does not stick to the body. A well made Gomesi can require up to six metres of cloth.

The Gomesi is only worn on special occasions such as funerals, and weddings. The Gomesi is worn at wedding ceremonies during the introduction, also known as the *Kwanjula*. During the Kwanjula, all female members of the groom's family are required to appear dressed in Gomesi.

The Kanzu and Gomesi (Busuuti) are worn by all ages.

## **Our traditional dress, Our Life - Stirling Primary School South Africa**

Compiled: by Yurish - I am Indian male

### **1. What country is your school located in?**

East London, South Africa

### **2. What is the name of your community?**

Stirling

### **3. What is the traditional dress in your area? (Indian community)**

Females – sarees / chani choli's

Males – kurti sets / salwar suits

### **4. In what special occasions is this dress used and why?**

Any occasion celebrated by Hindus, example Diwali [the festival of lights]

To use this attire is a form of respect. Although not in India we respect the dress code.

### **5. Is the kind of dress for all age groups or not? why?**

Females – dress code differ when married because married females need to cover their heads while praying therefore the use of sarees, but this is not compulsory

Males dress the same in all age groups.

Yuri and brother wearing Kurti sets



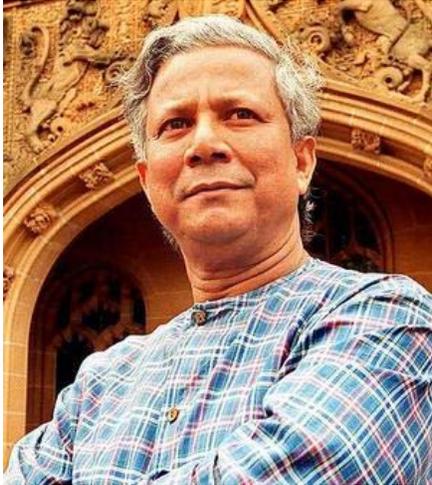
My Mother is wearing a saree



My brother is wearing a salwar.

## Our Traditional Dress, Our Way of Life! Bangladesh

**Dress:** Bangladeshi people have unique dress preferences. Bangladeshi men wear panjabi on religious and cultural occasions, lungi as casual wear and shirt-pant on formal occasions. Sari is the main dress of Bangladeshi women. Sari weaving is a traditional art in Bangladesh. Salwar kameez is also very popular especially among the younger ladies. Western dresses of women are becoming increasingly popular in the cities.



*Nobel Peace Prize winner* Muhammad Yunus wearing Fotua Panjabi

## Lifestyle in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is located in the north-eastern part of South Asia. The majestic Himalayas stand some distance to the north, while in the south lies the Bay of Bengal. To the west is the West Bengal border and in the east lie the hilly and forested regions of Tripura, Mizoram (India) and Myanmar. These picturesque geographical boundaries frame a low-lying plain of about 1,47,570 square kilometers crisscrossed by innumerable rivers and streams. Mighty rivers are the Padma (Ganges), the Brahmaputra (Jamuna) & the Meghna and the Karnafuli.

Bangladesh offers many tourist attractions, including archaeological sites, historical mosques and monuments, longest natural beach in the world, picturesque landscape, hill forests and wildlife, rolling tea gardens and tribes. Tourists find the rich flora and fauna and colorful tribal life very enchanting. Each part of the country offers distinctly different topography, flavors and food. It is home to the Royal Bengal Tigers, freshwater pink dolphins, historical temples made of red earth.

Some of the better known tourist attractions are: Srimangal, where miles of tea gardens are located, Mainamati, Mahasthangarh, Paharpur for archaeology, Rangamati, Kaptai and Cox's Bazar for sightseeing, and the Sundarbans for wild life and the greatest Mangrove forest of the world, and Foy's Lake for scenic beauty.

## **Our traditional dress, our Life. Palestine**

### **Introduction**

Palestine is famous with its ancient beauty that extends deeply in our earth. The Palestinian costume forms a great part of this beauty.

Palestinian costumes are the traditional clothing worn by Palestinians. Foreign travelers to Palestine in the 19th and early 20th centuries often commented on the rich variety of the costumes worn, particularly by the village women. Many of the handcrafted garments were richly embroidered and the creation and maintenance of these items played a significant role in the lives of the region's women.

### **Basic dress**

Traditionally, the Palestinian costume for women is centered around the thob (Arabic: ثوب, "dress"), a loose-fitting robe, the cut varying by region. A square chest panel on the thob, known as the qabbeh, is often decorated. A highly decorated qabbeh could function as a family heirloom, handed down from mother to daughter for use on several different dresses. Embroidery on the lower back panel of the thob used in some regions, is known as the shinyar. In Bethlehem, brocade on the back hem panel of the thob is known as the diyal. Pants or trousers known as libas or shirwal were commonly worn under the thob. The men's shirwal was typically black, white or blue cotton.

Both men and women also donned jackets, known as jubbeh, over their everyday dress. If embroidered, the jubbeh was known as the jillayeh. A short embroidered jacket known as the taqsireh, deriving its name from the Arabic verb "to shorten", was worn by the women of Bethlehem on festive occasions. The gold couching of the taqsireh often matched the thob. European influence on local fashions resulted in the addition of pockets sometime in the 1930s.



The Ramallah Woman Palestine

## **Our traditional dress, our Life! South Africa**

## South African women in Umbaco



I'm of British decent and so, this is more or less, the traditional way that we dress.

It's a mix of classic, old-school with a bit of modern, (since most of us refused to wear those other things – you should have seen them!).

- We normally have a straight dress, that has a classical or elegant effect
- Most of the time we have a hat, (we couldn't find mine for the picture), but it's not necessarily those big brimmed ones that they have in those English movies.
- Sometimes the dress is tied with a sash, or the sash could be worn around the hair
- Some pumps would finish off the look



Even though I live in South Africa I have decided to do my British decent rather, because South Africa doesn't have one particular traditional outfit, since it has so many different cultures and religions. The only time we get dressed up like this is if we're visiting a relative or if there's a special celebration of some sort. Most of the ladies all wear something similar and it's normally just the colours that vary. Mostly we are just in our everyday, casual clothes.

By Carey Slater

Conclusion,

Getting the above publication together was no mean feat. Our class at Bishops would like to appreciate the help of our circle members from Kenya, and South Africa who responded to our topic. We would like to thank in a special way, Yurish and Yola from Stirling primary school, Carey Slater and Glorious Triumph Olowu who submitted responses to our topic. Finally we are grateful to the teachers who have helped to guide the process of this collaboration to the end.

Compiled by Birungi Charlotte and Etyang Emmanuel

iEARN Bishop's SS - Mukono Uganda