



## A Comparative Study of Kurdish, Turkish, and Turkmen Women's Scarves in the North of Khorasan in the Current Century

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### Abstract

One of the cultural symbols of any ethnic group is their clothing, of which the headcover is the most prominent one. Women's headcover is a significant component of identity and culture and a social phenomenon; it is also an influential factor in the lifestyle of Iranian people in different ethnicities. The design, pattern, and material of the headcover characterize the geographical region and ethnicity. North Khorasan region has a special cultural diversity due to its broad expanse and the settlement of various Kurdish, Turkish and Turkmen ethnic groups. This diversity has affected and manifested in the clothing of men and women of the region. The women's clothing and its style in Iran consists of related sets that include all the behaviors, roles, and duties of a woman and her lifestyle. The style of clothing reveals the culture, traditions, values, beliefs and symbols of a society. The development of cultural traditions, values and identities, and religious beliefs in the style of women's clothing are in line with its stable form in the lifestyle of Islamic Iran. Due to the lack of sufficient information in the written works of the past centuries, the emphasis of this research is on the previous century in terms of time, and since it was not possible to deal with all parts of clothing in one article, the present article aims to study, compare and examine the commonalities and differences of Kurdish, Turkish and Turkmen women's headcover, which has its own elegance in each ethnicity and culture and is called by special and local names in the language of each ethnic group. Research method: The research method is descriptive-analytical using library data collection. In addition to the use of published books, when necessary, the researcher has participated in their ceremonies and observed and interviewed knowledgeable people in the field of clothing and the elderly. Trips were made to Mashhad, Jargalan, Aliabad, Gifan and Jajarm for interviews, observation and examination of samples of Kurdish, Turkish and Turkmen people's clothes. These trips helped a lot in identifying the form, design and color of ethnic headcovers. **Primary question:** What were the changes in the design, color, material and purpose of headcover of the people in North Khorasan, and what are the factors and reasons for



these changes? **Secondary question:** What were the designs and decorations of people's headcover in North Khorasan and what were the differences between the ethnicities' headcovers? The main hypothesis: Women's headcover is one of the most decorative parts of North Khorasan people's clothing, which has a variety of designs and patterns. A coherent study of the art of clothing in North Khorasan among the Kurds, Turks, Tats, and Turkmens and identifying the differences and similarities in the art of clothing among these ethnic groups has not been taken into consideration yet. The purpose of investigating the headcovers of North Khorasan ethnic groups in this research is to find out how the design, color and pattern of their headcovers have been affected by factors such as the geographical conditions of each region, the religious customs and social issues of their location. The result of reviewing books, studies and oral interviews, and visiting anthropological museums reveals the diversity and special beauty of women's headcover of North Khorasan. The women's headcovers in North Khorasan ethnic groups have specific local names. All three ethnic groups usually use shawls and skullcap with embroidered designs and vivid colors, such as yellow, green, blue, purple, and especially red. The variety of colors and also the cheerfulness are much more visible in happy events such as weddings and other annual celebrations. Some headcovers such as "diklijak" (tabarlik) are widely used by Turkmens or "lichak" is used by a clan of Kurds. Silk and cotton are mostly used in the headcovers of all three ethnic groups and it varies according to the season. The checkered design is of interest in all of them (especially for Turkish women). Some headcovers among different ethnic groups indicate the age of the woman wearing that headcover and whether she is single or married, which is one of the cultural elegance of these ethnic groups. For example, it seems that "tabarlik", "toupi", and "kourte" specifically used by Turkmens after marriage, but the design and color may be different among them. In recent years, due to the greater communication between ethnic groups and cultural exchange, more similarity can be seen in ethnic headcovers, which is very important, and the difference between the headcovers is more in terms of the style of decoration, the patterns and their names. Geometric and arabesque motifs, flowers and plants are also used in women's scarves and skullcaps of North Khorasan. In general, studying the art of clothing, especially women's headcovers among the residents of North Khorasan, indicates that the art, and in particular the art of dressmaking, has been of great importance among the residents of this region and affected their social life. By examining the clothing of North Khorasan, we can present a coherent image of the clothing art of this region and discover and identify the evolution of clothing in terms of designs and motifs in this historical course.

**Keywords:** Women's Headcover, North Khorasan, Kurds, Turks, Turkmens.

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