



GIAN KAUR VIDEO TRANSLATION

Dhurrie from 1940s Punjab

Gian Kaur: This is a *dhurrie*. We would put it in a bed then put pillows and a sheet on it so that it would not get dirty. Because you didn't want to get it dirty. If you did, the colours would run when it comes to washing it. But we never made it dirty. We'd always cover it. It was made by hand by my mother. She died when I was a young teenager. She had already made it for me, thinking that she would give it as part of my dowry. We were three sisters and each of us got one each...She used to make many things. The loose strings on the ends can also be designed. On this side they're longer than the other side. You can make knots in them to create a lace-like effect. Hold two together like this and tighten them like this...Making one of these was hard work. First we would have cotton. Then spin it on a *charkha*. Then cut it. Then make the threads. And then put them on a wooden frame to weave. It used to take a long time. The hand would have to pick some threads here, some there to weave it...This is probably from the 1940s. It used to take my mother about a week to make one. To make the designs artistic - putting white thread here, blue there - to make this diamond shaped design overall...We would dye the thread at home....My sisters had multi-coloured *dhurries* with different designs.