

Livelihoods (contd.)

A key dimension of these efforts is also the conservation of **local skills**, which are linked uniquely to a culture and a place, involving the use of local materials such as natural dyes, printing patterns and the cloth itself.

Khamir is a space for these ideas to come together. It markets rain-fed and organically grown cotton in Kachchh as 'Kala' (see exhibit 5).



Obtaining indigo from natural dyes.



Khamir's shop in Bhuj.



Couple Narsimha and Manemma, preparing yarn to make telia rumal, a textile indigenous to Telangana.



Left: Dyed warp yarn waiting to be strung on the loom.

Middle & Right: Chitki sarees woven with naturally dyed yarn.

An initiative similar in spirit is **Dastkar Andhra** in the eastern state of Telengana, enabling artisans to pursue the creative use of their hands and minds, in their own homes and in their own time.