

## **KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Name of the Element: Shushut:** The craftsmanship involved in the weaving of a traditional headdress worn by the Kalasha women

**Brief Description:** Shushut is a traditionally decorated headdress for women, without which they cannot come out in the open. Shushut is made with a ring which acts as a base, to which a 15 inch long tail is attached to which hangs down the back. Shushit, as a symbol of family, pride and dignity, is given to a girl along with traditional woolen dress “Gau” at the age of four, before the Chelmjoshi festival.

Shushut is decorated with beads, buttons, cowries and stones set in rows and columns to create design. Due to high literacy rate amongst the girls in Bumburet Valley, Shushit here is different from Birir Valley that is still based on traditional design with simple head ring and fringe. The shushit in Bumburet incorporates contemporary design.

If a woman is seen wearing a shawl and without a shushit that indicates that she is menstruating and heading to Bashali to pass the impure phase.

Much like the art of Pati-making, Shushut-making is also practiced by most of the Kalasha women, and the knowledge is transferred from one generation to the next.