

Braiding

Braiding called *muibofi* is an ancient tradition among Tajik people attested by the archeological finds and murals of ancient time. The braiding skill was perhaps in high demand as the aesthetics of the braided hair was important in decoration. It was and is possible for women to braid ones' own hair or there were people hairdressers who would do this.

In the families girl's hair is braided by other women in the household such as mothers, sisters or aunts. According to the style preferred by the girl the hair braids can be of different styles either very fine braids or two big. In addition hair braids are distinguished by the occasion that is if for the wedding or events or regular.

Hair braids will include also all sorts of the

accessory that would be attached to them. The style is defined by the where the braids begins that is whether from the forehead or at the back of the head. The thickness of the hair and the occasion also dictates the style in which the hair must be braided.

Although the traditional hair braiding takes place in the homes the procedure is similar to that of hairdresser salons. The women wash their hair nicely before the braiding and towel dried. To nourish the hair or make it softer oil is applied. For braiding the hairdresser uses two or three different combs, first for brushing it then for dividing it that a much finer comb to divide the hair into an exact amount to make same size braids.





The hair accessories are also traditional elements that made by the women and have great regional diversity. The most common is called *jamolak* (hair extension) usually made from white, red and black cotton threads. This is braided with the hair for both decoration and also the *jamolaks* have beads and other decorative items attached to them which will keep the hair braids at the back and won't let them fall forward.

Hair braids are distinguished also by age and role of the women that is if it is bride, young

teenage girl or little girl.

According to the local traditional beliefs women wash their hair on Mondays and Fridays. Young women can wash their hair up to four times in a week. When braiding hair they take care not to let the hair fall on the ground or taken away by the wind as it is thought to be a bad fortune. The women spread a big head scarf and sits in the middle and braids her hair and the hair fallen during the process is collected and kept in safe place, sometimes are buried.