



SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES – PART I

REF: TT/ MAY 2022/ WK 1

Introduction

Sustainability is the responsibility of human beings to proceed in a way that will allow the next generations to live comfortably in a friendly, clean, and healthy world. It is planned in such a way that society, its members and its economies are able to meet their needs while preserving biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Sustainability affects every level of organization, from the local neighborhood to the entire planet.

The important elements of sustainability are: social, economic and environmental sustainability. Out of the three, environmental sustainability is the most important one. This means that those habits are encouraged which will not have negative long-term impacts on the environment. Social sustainability means creating a balance of social equity of fairness. Those practices should be avoided that are exploitative in nature. Economic sustainability means creating products those are affordable to the people.

The introduction of fast fashion into the global market further adds to consumption of the natural resources and generates potential **environmental and occupational hazards**. The clothing industry has one of the highest impacts on the planet. High water usage, pollution from pesticides that are used to grow cotton and chemical treatments used in dyeing and preparation and the disposal of large amounts of unsold clothing are hazardous to the environment. Global competition in the garment industry creates poor working conditions for many laborers especially in developing nations. These countries aim to become a part of the world’s apparel market despite poor working conditions and low pay.

Environmental Hazards	Occupational Hazards
Environmental hazards are substances in the earth and its ecological system that may cause adverse consequences for humans.	Occupational hazard is any workplace condition that causes a risk to employee health.



The high impact on environment has pushed the textile industry to adopt the path of sustainability. Sustainable textiles are materials in which every input and output matters. The materials used, processes involved, quality of life led by laborers and the afterlife of the product are evaluated. The resources and materials used for sustainable textiles are obtained from renewable or recycled sources.

Sustainable textiles have grown in popularity because of the moral consciousness that many people feel, among others. The consumers are aware about the greenhouse emission, global warming and increasing carbon footprint, which is caused due to textile pollution. Hence, there has been an increase in the demand for sustainable textiles. A number of fashion and design companies have started shifting their sourcing base towards sustainable products.

The production process, from manufacturing fiber to finished garment poses great risk to the environment. Production and processing of sustainable textiles not only help to reduce the negative impacts to the environment, but also support workers to earn fair wages and ensure proper working conditions.

The textile industry needs to keep track of sustainability at every step of its production. Such as below

- Utilization of natural resources water and energy in production processes.
- Availability of raw materials which are sustainable in the long-run.
- Handling of chemicals in processes like dyeing and finishing.
- Disposal and treatment of waste material.
- Adherence to guidelines to eliminate health-risks of workers, as well as consumers.
- Animal cruelty norms in the procurement of wool, silk, fur, etc.

References:

1. <https://www.2bfuntex.eu/>
2. <https://www.study.com/>
3. <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/>
4. <https://ecowarriorprincess.net/>

.....To be continued.....

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Last week`s Answers: 1) VEGETATION 2) GROWING 3) WIDESPREAD 4) PRODUCTS

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arc@resil.com | www.resil.com.