

SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES – PART XI

REF: TT/ JULY 2022/ WK 2

Upcycling

Upcycling is a design-based circular fashion approach, where pre- or post-consumer textile waste material is used to create new textile products. The process where waste products are converted into new materials of better quality and a higher environmental value is upcycling i.e. remaking of textile materials to something new of greater value. Upcycling is a substitute for producing new things to meet the increasing demands being a greener way of recycling. Moreover, by making use of already existing materials the consumption of new raw materials for new products is reduced which can result in a reduction of energy usage, air pollution, water pollution and CO₂ emissions hence making it an incremental step towards achieving zero waste. It is an environmentally friendly and sustainable practice. Upcycling is a growing trend among fashion designers, helping to save resources and keep lots of textile waste out of the landfill. It is a way for reusing efficiently the leftover materials such as upholstery scraps or vintage textiles and to give new life to worn-out jeans and tattered T-shirts. Apart from apparel and non-apparel articles, designers also create jewelry, bags etc.

Upcycling involves creative ways of using old products and materials by using pre-consumer or post-consumer waste or a combination of the two.

Pre-consumer waste is produced while products are manufactured. Like

- The pieces of fabric leftover after cutting out a pattern.
- Textile sample swatches from the production process.
- Cut-and-sew waste generated during garment manufacturing.
- End-of-rolls which are factory surplus textiles that have been left over from garment manufacturing.
- Sampling yardage is waste leftover from textile sample manufacturing.
- Clothing samples that are part-finished or finished clothing samples from the design and production of clothing.
- Damaged textiles that are unused textiles that have been damaged for example with color or print defects, rendering them unusable.
- Deadstock or discarded garments
- Thread, fabric, buttons, etc left at fashion and production house.



Post-consumer waste results from a household article or a garment that is not required any more and has to be discarded.

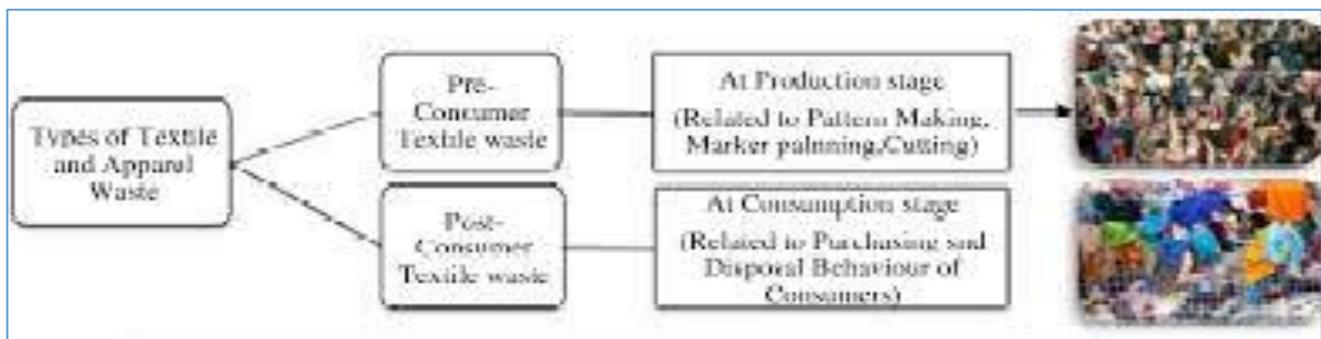
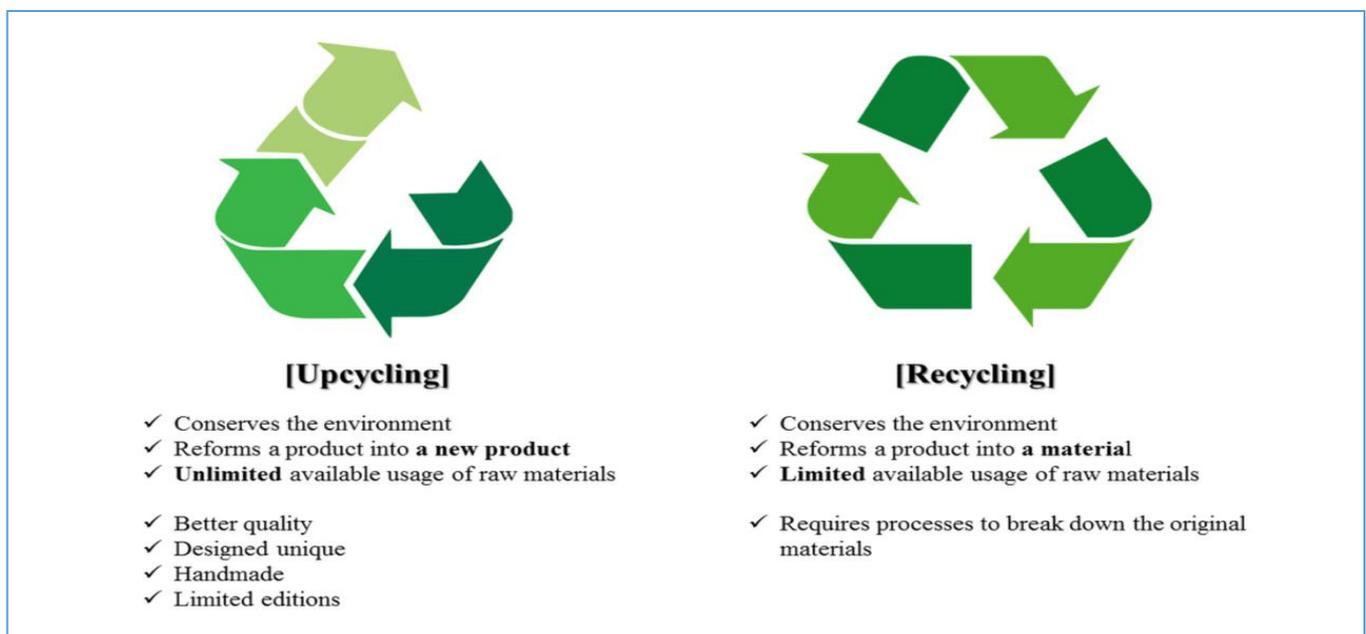


Fig 1.1 Pre-consumer and Post-consumer waste

Ref: semanticscholar.org

Upcycling process - The first step is sorting from the waste materials available through different sources. The textile waste is separated manually depending on the fabric, fibers, and the quality or condition. Re-sorting is done for grading the materials and to make sure sorting is done color wise. This is necessary to know whether further dyeing and coloring is required or not. And then different apparel and non-apparel articles are created.

Difference between recycling and upcycling



Ref: linkedin.com



References:

1. <https://www.triplepundit.com/>
2. <https://www.the-sustainable-fashion-collective.com/>
3. <https://textilevaluechain.in/>
4. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/>
5. <https://therunningrepublic.com/>

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

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Last week`s Answers: 1) CHEMICALS 2) SUBSTANCES 3) PRODUCTION 4) LIMITS

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