Green Technology in Textile Industries

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Abstract

Today consumers are becoming urgently need to protect the environment, promoting their goods eco-friendly-labels. Environmentally green are one of the used terms to characterize the no harm and policies on the environment. This paper reviewed the study of green technology in textile industries, which can be used as advanced approach for environment protection. The possible green methods, recently developed in textile production and its impact on the environment are discussed. It was discussed that green textile is strongly accompanied via respect of lifecycle materials, from raw material through the design, production and logistics up to disposal in order to point out important points and parameters for greening the industry. This work provides information related to recent research work on green technology and the available methods in textile industries. Accordingly, the green technology in textile industry can ensure environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Green technology; Eco-friendly process; Textile industries; Green textiles

Introduction

Global pollution and increased awareness are prompting consumers to seek healthier living choices. Today consumers are increasingly health conscious and actively support greener lifestyles. Eco-friendly or green production involves activities such as reducing and recycling. The green system field are devoted in a group of the strategies for energy production and the non-toxic clean products. This technology is able to induce innovation and change in daily life without affecting the green and sustainable environment. In this regard, it is hard to predict how the above technology can be controlled and surrounded.

When the green textile and apparel industry is considered, it is seen that there have not been enough studies conducted in this area. Moore and Ausley presented an example to increase productivity through greener production induced by cooperative stakeholder actions [1]. Wang et al. used fuzzy logic with the analytic hierarchy process to form a selection (decision-making) model for different green initiatives in the fashion industry [2]. Wu, et al. studied Taiwan's textile and apparel manufacturers and investigated the relationships between green supply chain management drivers organizational support, social capital and government involvement practices green purchasing, cooperation with customers, eco-design and investment recovery [3]. Zabaniotou and Andreou presented a paper concerning a feasibility study for energy recovery from cotton ginning waste with greenhouse gas emissions reduction in a textile plant located in Northern Greece [4]. Hashem et al. investigated a novel approach for upgrading both the wrinkle free and softness properties of cotton fabrics without adversely affecting their strength properties using eco-friendly finishing regimes [5]. Mirjalili, et al. studied the extraction of dyes from weld using Soxhlet apparatus [6]. Ren developed environmental performance indicators and identified the best achievable values for cotton woven products and wet processing [7]. Wrona investigated popular eco-labels used in different countries all over the world [8]. Koszewska evaluated the importance of socio and Eco certification and labelling for meeting buyers' expectations of textile and clothing products [9]. Atilgan investigated environmental regulations and their effects on the Turkish Textile Industry [10]. He also researched structures concerning eco-labels in EU countries that Turkey is aiming to integrate [11]. As a strategic solution, Eryuruk aimed to
evaluate a logistic center establishment as a competitive strategy to gain advantages like time, cost and customer satisfaction for Turkish clothing producers in Istanbul, Turkey [12-14].

In this context, environmentally green textile can affect positively the change of the environmental system of textile industry, which is directly in contact with environmental issues. With enhancement of the clothing industry with eco-green and sustainable products, the environmentally green and non-green industry can be differentiated.

Regarding to the interesting role of environment and working conditions of the textile industry, this work based on the recently published paper, and collected from textile today homepage [15].

This study aimed in the possible techniques that can be exploited to improve the overall environment and working conditions of the textile industry. In addition, according to the uses of green technology the young the non-green textile industry can be converted to more sustainable, respecting the ecofriendly environment. By the respect to the definition of green environment, the key role of greening parameters and analyzes of the textile industry and lifestyle are discussed.

**Methodology**

The green technology in industrial textile can be enhanced by improving the overall environmental and manipulation area of textile industries with some target to achieve an internationally recognized standard. This work discussed the green properties of textile industry: Green technology was studied in term of greener for textile during its production, utilization and recycling. In addition, this work attempted to discern the significances of green textiles industries in terms of both economic and environmental benefits by proposition of significant solution to find green industries with the low-cost measurement [16].

**Results and Discussion**

Through this study, the opportunities to convert textile industry into green textile industry in two phases have been created. By comparing to the cost of producing a garment of non-green textile industry and the green textile industry, it is expected that production costs are less for green textile. The cost of clothing for green textile industries is less due to the low production [16]. Therefore, a green technologies and economic circular are the most important methods for durable and green textile with the respect of environment.

**Recent progress on greening textile industry**

Making the factories environmentally friendly or eco-friendly is becoming more and more important worldwide as day by day the planet is turning out to be more vulnerable for its inhabitants. Every year unhealthy environment is killing millions of people worldwide. Environmental risks now contribute to more than 100 of the world’s most dangerous diseases and injuries and kill 12.6 million people a year nearly one in four or 23% of all deaths, according to a new World Health Organization study. In this situation eco-friendly industry is must and already green factory concept be prompted. Interestingly, some organization like U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) developed a certification process called Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) to evaluate environmental performance of a building and encourage market transformation towards sustainable design [17]. A total of 39 factories have been closed for posing an immediate danger to workers due to the unavailability of green features. Therefore, to convert non-green textile industry into a green textile industry, the following points should be filled [18].

**Green fiber for eco-friendly textile**

Recent discoveries have shown that some of these fibrous plants are rich sources of not only phytoestrogens, but also promising natural medicine. Nowadays, more fashion and clothing brands are converting to green textiles and the argument goes each step in the production of a textile without employment of a pollutant. From agriculture to manufacturing or distribution, textiles can nevertheless minimize their environmental impact. Herein, the green technology is the first term that can be applied for real development of ecofriendly textile. The field of “green technology” encompasses a continuously evolving group of methods and materials, from techniques for generating energy to non-toxic cleaning products. It has been related to energy, green chemistry, green building and green nanotechnology [16]. The green fiber can be cultivated from various plants which offers high-quality products using the latest technology for textile industry (Figure 1).

**Table 1:** Estimated global tonnage of fibrous raw materials from agricultural crops [16].

| Crop   | Plant component | Availability 000 tonnes |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Cereals| Straw           | 218.5                   |
| Barley | Straw           | 50.8                    |
| Oats   | Straw           | 465.2                   |
| Rice   | Straw           | 41.9                    |
| Rye    | Straw           | 739.7                   |
| Wheat  | Straw           | 727.3                   |
| Corn   | Stalks          | 900                     |

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In this context, a potential solution can be obtained from the various parts of plants like woody core, bast, leaf, cane, straw from cereals, grass, and seed can be used in applications like building materials, particleboards, insulation boards, human food, and animal feed. They do not damage the ecosystem; they can grow in different climatic zones and they recycle the carbon dioxide for the atmosphere. These plants can allow a better agricultural balance and contributed to the growing demand from an expanding population for cellulosic pulp in the next millennium. For example, the estimated world-wide production of fibrous raw materials from agricultural crops is provided in Table 1. In addition, a possible source of straw can be employed as raw materials for applications like composites and energy crops.

**Greening the textile industries**

High amount of water is required for textile dyeing industries, which are a serious problem to the ground or natural water sources resulting in depletion of ground water level by 2,700 liters of water to produce one t-shirt (Figure 2). In the dyeing process, textile industries generate the huge toxic effluent containing colors, sodium sulphate, sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide and traces of other salts. After dyeing, washing of garments a huge quantity of polluted water was generated in the environment. After dyeing the wastewater contains higher solids in the range 4-5% whereas wash water contains only 0.5-1%. At the light of the above facts, a technology is essential to introduce which can process such wastewater and transform it into reusable water. Thus, the textile industries will get the advantage of using the same water in the dying process repeatedly, also, the salt used for dyeing can be reused or sold in the market. The green technology has been able to provide an environmentally friendly product through its production process as well as the greening of an industry [19].

**Figure 1:** Example of green natural fiber.

**Figure 2:** The environmental impact of textile.

| Bast Fibrous Plants*/ | Straw | 25.0*/ |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| Seed Grass           | Straw | 2     |
| Oil Flax             | Straw | 3     |
| Sorghum              | Stalks| 104.7 |
| Sugarcane\(^1\)      | Bagasse\(^1\)| 100.2 |

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Increases of textile recycling

The amount of textile products purchased has risen rapidly in the recent years (in the UK consumption has risen by 60% in the last 10 years, making it the country’s fastest growing household waste stream [Figure 3] [20]. The procurement of textile products which are completely or partly made up of recycled fibers is a useful way to effectively address this growing waste problem and the most direct way to limit the impacts described above by limiting the amount of virgin fibers used. In 2008 around 14m tones of textile waste were generated in Europe of which 5m tones were recovered. About 75% of this was reused, usually in non-European countries, or recycled, mainly as wipers and in industrial applications [21].

Figure 3: Textile recycling is a great way to greener and limit the environmental pollution.

Economic benefits

The following economic benefits if non-green industry is converted into green industry.

i. The renowned brands place high importance on the factory environment and working conditions.

ii. The western consumers also prefer buying products manufactured in factories sensitive to the environment. Increase productivity and create brand image.

iii. Though setting up a green factory, it can ensure 30 to 40 percent higher investment than a traditional one; it saves money in the long run for reducing the cost of utility services such as power and water:

iv. Adoption of eco-friendly or green technology initially requires big investments but such initiative could help increase the competitiveness. Buyers usually offer 10 to 15 percent higher prices for eco-friendly products [16-19].

v. The benefits should be very higher as compared to the product costs (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Illustration of textile costs to produce economic benefits.
**Challenge**

Despite the significant economic contribution of the textiles industries in Bangladesh, it has brought in a range of environmental problems mostly pollution of water resources of the country (Figure 5). The main challenge for the textile industry today is to modify production method, so they are eco-friendlier at a competitive price by using safer dyes and chemical and reducing cost of efficient treatment or using disposal system. Thus, its change to textile productions processes affect type and volume of effluent. The lack of a National Effluent Quality Standards and adequate up to date environmental rules and regulations and lack of lands and utility services through economic across [22-24].

![Image of Geometric shapes challenge](image)

**Figure 5: Geometric shapes challenge.**

**Conclusions**

The aim of this study was to analyze the current situation of textile industry to increase the awareness for making it greener. The competitive environment forces industries to redesign their existing structures is an obligation to be environmentally responsible in the textile industry. In this work, the current green technology was described, which was able to protect the environmental without affecting the textile industries.

As a result, the starting from the product design stage, raw material selection, to the processing and production decisions, transportation, retailing and waste management are the most factors to make textile and clothing production more environmentally friendly.

In addition, this work discussed the recent research work on green technology and the available methods in textile industries. Finally, it was concluded that green technology in textile industry can ensure the ecofriendly and sustainability characters of environment.

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**Conflict of Interest**

Author declare no conflict of interest.

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