

A Review :

## Eco-textile: path to sustainable environmental development

GARIMA UPADHYAY AND SANGITA DEODIYA

Received : April, 2011; Accepted : May, 2011

Upadhyay, Garima and Deodiya, Sangita (2011). Eco-textile: path to sustainable environmental development. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 6 (1) : 103-106.

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

**GARIMA UPADHYAY**

Department of Home  
Science, Vasant Kanya  
Mahavidyalaya, P.G.  
College, VARANASI (U.P.)  
INDIA  
[sharma.garima2008@gmail.com](mailto:sharma.garima2008@gmail.com)

**Key words :** Eco-textile, Production ecology, User ecology, Eco-friendly fibres

The textile industry is among the most essential consumer goods industry, however, the most polluting industry. The economic-problem in this industry occurs during some production processes and are carried forward to the finished products. Therefore, with respect to clothing textiles the phrase 'Ecology' can be classified into three groups: (1) production ecology; (2) user ecology, (3) disposal ecology. So, the materials can be considered 'environmentally friendly for a variety of reasons'. First and foremost is the renewability of the products. Renewable resources are items that can be replenished in a relatively short amount of time (an opposed to millennium). The second factor is the ecological footprint of the resource – how much land (usually measured in acres) it takes to bring one of the individuals to full growth and support it. The third thing to consider in determining the eco-friendliness of particular product is how many chemicals it requires to grow and process it to make it ready for market.

This paper represents a review of general strategies and work that has been carried out in textile manufacturing industry.

Known as 'the elephant in the room' the textile industry has a heavy impact on the environment as current practices are unsustainable, companies, environmentalists and consumer are looking at strategies for reducing the textile carbon footprint. Taking incremental steps in supply chain processes to make it happen, that is need to believe in environmental sustainability; and need to be aware about the social, economical and ecological benefits of environmentally sustainable products and development

processes. So, the care for the environment must influence the supply chain to use sustainable processes, run business operations in an environmentally friendly way, work to conserve energy and reduce waste. Exploring and implementing sustainable textile materials and products through sustainable design approach.

Since, the very idea of sustainable development revolves around the progress which is being taking place in the present, keeping in mind the future, somewhere. Since, eco-textiles are the need of hour and also are of the primary goals of millennium development goals in sustainable environmental development.

Growing cotton uses 22.5% of all insecticides used globally. Growing enough cotton for one t-shirt requires 257 gallons of water. Bleaching and then dyeing the resulting fabric creates toxins that flow into our ecosystem. The use of rayon for clothing is contributing to the rapid depletion of the world's forests. Petroleum based products are detrimental to the environment on many levels. The total area dedicated to cotton growing (30-35 million hectares) has not changed significantly since the 1950s but the output has nearly tripled during the same period. This increase in output is largely due to pesticides and fertilizers used in conventional cotton production.

Conventional cotton farming can also reduce soil fertility, lead to soil salinisation and cause pest resistance, water pollution and presents a risk to biodiversity (Blackburn, 2005). Another huge impact of conventional cotton farming has on the environment is its impact on the earth's water balance. 'Water consumption' –