

# Higher Education for Sustainable Development with Reference to Apparel Industry

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**Abstract-** India's higher education system is the third largest in the world after the USA and China. In 1948 the government of India established the University Grants Commission, to monitor the growth and improvement of higher education. The department of higher education has set certain key objectives such as to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio(GER) to 30% by 2020. Higher education for sustainable development emphasizes participatory teaching approaches which are needed to address social injustice, wealth and wellbeing, environmental quality and the economic challenge that face our communities today. This article is an attempt to bank upon demographic dividend of the age group 15-24 years by integrating higher education with sustainable development of apparel industry. The study has used both primary and secondary data to address sustainability issues in higher education and apparel industry.

**Key words:** Sustainable development, Demographic Dividend, Apparel industry.

## INTRODUCTION

India's higher education system is the third largest in the world after the USA and China. China, Korea and Singapore are transforming from developing economies to developed economies as they have integrated education with research. Today India's demographic dividend can be transformed into reality if it is well managed by academia, industrialists and policy makers. With nearly 140 million people in the college-going age group, one among every four graduates in the world will be a product of the Indian higher education system. Learning to change for a better world' is the catch phrase quite often associated with the term education for sustainable development. The sustainable development of textiles and apparel sector for the sustainable development of our economy cannot be undermined. In the backdrop of withdrawal of Multi fibre arrangement (MFA) and agreement on textiles and clothing (ATC) higher education can play

a vital role in transforming the sector from labor based to knowledge based.

## HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

The first institution of higher learning was set up by the British East India Company at Calcutta madrasa in 1781 followed by Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1784. In India education is provided by public and private sector and is funded by central and state governments and local bodies. As a fundamental right free and compulsory education is provided in the age group 6-14 years ie upto 10<sup>th</sup> grade. In few states for instance in Karnataka, free education is provided to girl students in state run and BBMP run colleges to encourage female enrolment in higher education. Education system of India comes under the ministry of Human Resource Development(MHRD).

In 1948 the government of India established the University Grants Commission, to monitor the growth and progress of higher education. Every state has a Department of collegiate education to look into matters related to higher education. To develop state universities by central funding, Rashtriya Uchattar Shiksha Abhiyan(RUSA) is established. The key objectives of higher education are to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio to 30% by 2020, to expand institutional base, extensive inclusion of minorities, to achieve regional balance, to improve infrastructural facilities and to increase global participation.

## Need for the Study

There is increase in working age population, but adequate number of employment opportunities to match to growing working age population which is not created can be done by apparel sector. There is a big vacuum created between the Apparel industrial demand and academia. There is continuous scope for research and innovation to evolve eco friendly textile

raw-materials which is a key to achieve sustainable development. This paper is an attempt to fill this gap.

#### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kadolph (2010)-Clothing production is a multi-step procedure in the product life cycle. During these stages, the apparel product is subjected to various chemical treatments, many of them being highly toxic and non-degrading. Apparel Industry can do a lot in mitigating green house gas emissions (GHGE).

Martene Mader et al(2013) opines that, education for Sustainable Development is not simply adding new information for the already existing content. It is much more in scope and focuses on how we respond to sustainability imperatives by rethinking our methods, revising our courses, recasting our priorities and reorienting our communities of practice.

Maeen Md. Khairul Akter(2017)- in his article with reference to textiles and apparels industry in Bangladesh say that innovation helps the universities to develop state of art laboratories, research facilities and hike the most talented students, researchers and helps industry to develop cutting edge technologies, continuously to be more efficient and profitable. Most countries are building up their higher education systems because they see educated workers as a key to economic growth.

#### OBJECTIVES

- To examine sustainable issues in higher education and apparel industries
- To suggest measures to integrate higher education for Sustainable Development of apparel industry in Karnataka and bank upon demographic dividend.

#### METHODOLOGY

The study has used both primary and secondary data to study the objectives. The secondary data was collected from published unpublished documents reports, etc. The primary data was collected from apparel manufacturing firms and AEPC.

#### INTEGRATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF APPAREL INDUSTRY

India is the world' sixth largest garment exporting country in the world, exporting over \$17bn worth of products every year. Apparel Industry can do a lot in mitigating green house gas emissions (GHGE). The industry needs to be made sustainable by producing green garments through the application of Sustainable Supply Chain Management(SSCM), which focuses on ways to improve productivity and to eliminate waste so as to reduce cost and improve profitability of the manufacturers

India is expected to produce 20,000 Ph.D graduates each year by 2020.According to 2011 census around 8.15% or 68 million of Indians were graduates. Between1991-2013 the size of the working age population increased by 300 million, while the number of employed people increased by only 140 million. This implies limited capacity to generate employment which poses a serious challenge in the context of continuous increase in working population in India. Acknowledging this problem the government has encouraged the development of labour intensive manufacturing sector and skill development programs. Under the Make in India initiative of the government of India launched in 2014 for the sustainable development of the textiles and apparel industry are, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Scheme for integrated textile park(SITP), Integrated Processing Development Scheme(IPDS), Integrated Skill Development Scheme( ISDS) etc.Besides Karnataka government has launched the Nuthana Javali Neethi to make Indian textiles and apparel industry globally competitive. Besides Apparel and Textile Design Corporation (ATDC) has collaborated with rural development and Panchayat Raj and proposes to establish training centres in districts of Tumkur,Kolar, Hubli, Chikkabalapur etc. to provide training to rural masses.

#### SUGGESTIONS

- The government should encourage research and innovations in apparel sector to evolve methods- to recover, reduce, reuse and recycling of resources ,harness alternative energy sources, to develop less toxic and hazardous free chemicals and dyes, encouraging development of alternative source of energy, textile materials natural dyes and inventing resource saving, quality enhancing, cost saving technology, to provide alternatives to textile landfill disposal are the areas in which

higher education has to focus upon to achieve sustainable development.

- Research related to improving occupational hazards, improving labour turnover protection of workers against health hazards has to be encouraged.
- Industry institute interface between apparel industry, apparel training centres and colleges for under-graduation has to be initiated to develop skills and make our students easily employable and also to encourage them to pursue post-graduation and also doctoral course in the field of developing sustainable apparels.
- Syllabus has to be reformed to give practical orientation in apparel making, resource management, quality enhancement, entrepreneurship development, marketing of apparel at the undergraduate general degree course level.

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#### CONCLUSION

Education is an important instrument for promoting sustainable economic development. Sustainability issues has to be focussed upon at the college level. It is the right time for India to bank upon its demographic dividend. There is great demand for Indian green Apparels in the domestic as well as in overseas market. By integrating Higher education for sustainable development of apparel industry, sustainable economic development can be achieved, Gross Enrolment Ratio can be improved,

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