

Role of Circularity in Textile Industry in Achieving UN SDGs



The textile industry, through circularity, aligns with UN SDGs like clean water, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, climate action, and biodiversity preservation. Embracing circular practices fosters ethical production and contributes to a sustainable future, requiring stakeholder collaboration and innovation for industry transformation.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a blueprint for peace and prosperity, addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice. Among the various sectors that play a crucial role in achieving these goals, the textile industry stands out due to its extensive global reach and significant environmental footprint. By adopting circularity principles, the textile industry can significantly contribute to the fulfilment of several SDGs.

Understanding the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The SDGs, established in 2015, consist of 17 interlinked goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all” by 2030. These goals encompass a broad range of social and economic development issues, aiming to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, tackle climate change, and preserve oceans and forests.

Circularity in the Textile Industry

Circularity in the textile industry involves creating a system where resources are not merely consumed but are reused, recycled, and maintained for as long as possible. This approach contrasts with the traditional linear model of 'take, make, dispose' and presents an opportunity to address environmental issues while also contributing to economic growth and social welfare.

Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals

If the textile sector becomes more circular in nature, it will go a long way in achieving the following sustainable development goals:

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Implementing Zero Liquid Discharge policies in textile value chains globally would ensure clean water and sanitation. Textile processing, particularly dyeing and chemical treatments, consume significant amounts of water. Here, Zero Liquid Discharge, which involves treating and recycling wastewater, can greatly reduce water pollution and scarcity issues.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Fully utilising recyclable materials and ensuring zero wastage in the textile industry aligns with SDG 8. This goal emphasises promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. By adopting sustainable practices and respecting workers' rights, the industry can create a responsible and ethical value chain.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Sustainable practices in textile manufacturing contribute to building sustainable cities and communities. By making production processes more efficient and environmentally friendly, and minimising waste, the textile industry can support the development of communities that are environmentally conscious and sustainable.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Efforts like the European Union's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the 'polluters pay' principle aim to make production processes more responsible. Raising awareness about the environmental impact of fast fashion and promoting sustainable alternatives can shift consumer behaviour towards more responsible consumption patterns.

The awareness programmes launched by different organisations and the government efforts to ensure that the consumers are more aware of the damage that their fast fashion demands are causing to the environment and educating the alternatives to discarding the clothes like donations or returning to the recycling posts, the availability of the greener alternatives of apparel and the certifications which ensure that the apparel is produced using environment friendly products, will ensure that the

..... consumers will eventually shift to the practices of buying sustainable products and will refrain from discarding the garment straightaway.

SDG 13: Climate Action

The textile industry's move towards circularity directly contributes to climate action. By reducing emissions and moving towards net-zero emissions, in line with the Paris Agreement's 2050 target, the industry can play a significant role in combating climate change.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

Implementing zero-discharge policies in textile production can protect marine life and maintain ecological balance underwater. This is particularly vital in regions that are key to the textile value chain. It will also contribute to the conservation of reefs and underwater ecosystems.

SDG 15: Life on Land

Promoting organic agricultural practices for natural fibres used in textiles can help preserve life on land. This approach not only maintains ecosystems but also reduces risks to terrestrial life forms.

Conclusion

The textile industry, by embracing circularity, can significantly contribute to the achievement of multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals. This shift not only benefits the environment but also promotes economic growth and social well-being. It is imperative for stakeholders across the textile value chain to collaborate and innovate to transform the industry, making it a leading example in the global pursuit of a sustainable future. The journey towards circularity in textiles is not just an environmental or economic necessity; it is a moral imperative in the quest to achieve the ambitious and crucial objectives outlined by the UN SDGs.



纺织行业循环性在实现联合国可持续发展目标中的作用

纺织行业通过循环性与联合国可持续发展目标保持一致，例如清洁水、可持续城市、负责任消费、气候行动和生物多样性保护。采用循环实践可促进道德生产并有助于实现可持续的未来，需要利益相关者的合作和创新来实现行业转型。联合国可持续发展目标 (SDG) 为和平与繁荣提供了蓝图，解决了贫困、不平等、气候变化、环境退化、和平与正义等全球挑战。在实现这些目标方面发挥关键作用的各个行业中，纺织行业因其广泛的全球影响力和巨大的环境足迹而脱颖而出。通过采用循环原则，纺织行业可以为实现多项可持续发展目标做出重大贡献。

了解联合国可持续发展目标

可持续发展目标于 2015 年制定，由 17 个相互关联的目标组成，旨在成为到 2030 年“为所有人实现更美好、更可持续的未来的蓝图”。这些目标涵盖广泛的社会和经济发展问题，旨在消除贫困、改善健康和教育、减少不平等、刺激经济增长、应对气候变化以及保护海洋和森林。

纺织行业的循环性

纺织行业的循环性涉及创建一个系统，在这个系统中，资源不仅被消耗，而且被重复使用、回收和尽可能长时间地维护。这种方法与传统的“获取、制造、处置”线性模型形成鲜明对比，为解决环境问题提供了机会，同时也促进了经济增长和社会福利。

对可持续发展目标的贡献

如果纺织行业在本质上变得更加循环，它将在实现以下可持续发展目标方面大有裨益：

可持续发展目标 6：清洁水和卫生设施

在全球纺织价值链中实施零液体排放政策将确保清洁水和卫生设施。纺织品加工，特别是染色和化学处理，消耗大量的水。在这里，涉及废水处理和回收的零液体排放可以大大减少水污染和稀缺问题。

可持续发展目标 8：体面工作和经济增长

充分利用可回收材料并确保纺织行业零浪费符合可持续发展目标 8。这一目标强调促进包容性和可持续的经济增长、充分和生产性就业以及人人享有体面工作。通过采用可持续的做法并尊重工人的权利，该行业可以创建负责任和道德的价值链。

可持续发展目标 11：可持续城市和社区

纺织制造业的可持续实践有助于建设可持续城市和社区。通过提高生产过程的效率和环保性，并最大限度地减少浪费，纺织行业可以支持具有环保意识和可持续性的社区的发展。

可持续发展目标 12：负责任的消费和生产

欧盟的生产者延伸责任 (EPR) 和“污染者付费”原则等努力旨在使生产过程更加负责任。提高对快时尚对环境的影响的认识并推广可持续替代品可以改变消费者行为，使其转向更负责任的消费模式。

不同组织发起的宣传活动和政府的努力确保消费者更加意识到快时尚需求对环境造成的破坏，并教育消费者丢弃衣服的替代方案，例如捐赠或送回回收站，提供更环保的服装替代品以及确保服装使用环保产品生产的认证，这将确保消费者最终转向购买可持续产品的做法，并避免直接丢弃服装。

可持续发展目标 13：气候行动

纺织行业向循环经济的转变直接促进了气候行动。通过减少排放并朝着净零排放迈进，符合《巴黎协定》的 2050 年目标，该行业可以在应对气候变化方面发挥重要作用。

可持续发展目标 14：水下生物

在纺织品生产中实施零排放政策可以保护海洋生物并维持水下生态平衡。这对于纺织价值链的关键地区尤为重要。它还将有助于保护珊瑚礁和水下生态系统。

可持续发展目标 15：陆地生物

推广纺织品中使用的天然纤维的有机农业实践有助于保护陆地生物。这种方法不仅可以维护生态系统，还可以降低陆地生物的风险。



结论

纺织行业通过采用循环性，可以为实现联合国多项可持续发展目标做出重大贡献。这种转变不仅有利于环境，而且促进经济增长和社会福祉。纺织价值链上的利益相关者必须合作和创新，以改变行业，使其成为全球追求可持续未来的典范。纺织品循环性的发展

不仅是环境或经济的需要；在实现联合国可持续发展目标所概述的雄心勃勃和关键目标的过程中，这也是道德的要求。