

Indian Textile Industry: A study

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INTRODUCTION

When man made the big shift from a nomadic, food-seeking hunting society to a communal, surplus-storing civilization, textiles first appeared. With the aid of culture, this evolution could only be traced to the four major river basins that gave rise to civilization: the Nile Valley, the Tigris-Euphrates Plain, the Yangtze Valley, and the Indus Valley in northwestern India, where it first appeared approximately 2500 BC. The environment and the characteristics of the raw materials, which naturally varied from place to region, influenced the styles of primitive clothing.

However, it has been demonstrated via multiple citations that the history of the Indian textile industry goes back to the Indus Valley Civilization, maybe as early as the fifth century. The people of the culture wore hand-spun cotton garments with indigo-colored textiles.

Since historians began to record the Indian economy, agriculture has dominated the country's economy. According to their records, the textile industry has over the years been the second-largest sector to make a substantial contribution to the development of the country. Along the length and width of the nation, it has employed millions of people.

The Indian Textile Industry

Since its humble beginnings as handlooms in villages more than 5000 years ago, India's textile industry has seen tremendous changes that have led to the country's massive contemporary textile factories. From the time of the Cholas, Seljuks, and Safavids till the present, the Indian textile industry has advanced significantly. India has one of the world's oldest textile histories. The earliest cotton threads from India still in existence date to roughly 4000 BC, while colored textiles from the area have been discovered as far back as 2500 BC. The very term "India" was shorthand for "cotton" in ancient Greece and Babylon because India's textile industry was so essential to its identity outside.

When it came to weaving textiles, India's Indus Valley Civilization, which flourished between 2500 and 2000 BC, was based on the two cities of Mohenjo Daro and Harappa. Along with the miniature figurines and etched seals, several wool spindle whorls, anchors, cotton, and a few copper sewing needles were also discovered during the excavation of these civilizations. It was also discovered that there were several cotton seeds and remnants of woven fabric dating back to 5000 BC, suggesting that cotton farming and textile weaving were already well-developed at that time.

Early History of the Indian Textile Industry

The textile sector of the Indian economy is significant and reflects the diverse socioeconomic and cultural legacy of the nation. The pre-colonial period, the colonial period, and the post-Independence period can be used to roughly categorize the Growth of the Textile Industry in India

Before The Era of Colonialism, The Textile Industry of India was well-known around the world. India's cotton and China's silk were significant imports for western nations. The renowned explorer Vasco De Gama discovered a sea route that went across the Cape of Good Hope in the 15th century, considerably enhancing market access.

The production and trading of Indian textiles and fabrics increased during the middle Ages with the arrival of the East India Company. Using the raw materials that were readily available locally in each region, artisans created their own techniques for treating and embellishing the textiles. For instance, Tavernier noted that Barouche (Bharuch), with its expansive meadows dotted with lemon trees, was renowned for its use in the lime juice-based bleaching of textiles.

Due to the sheer variety of production methods and the generations-long skills of the Indian artisans, the products manufactured in India were far superior in quality and variety to the textiles produced in the British Empire during the Colonial Period, when a large variety of Indian Calico and other in Europe.

After the colonial era, however, things started to alter. The traditional hand-spun yarn and textiles faced fierce competition as more affordable clothing made of machine-spun yarn entered the marketplaces of Europe and India. This competition

was exacerbated by the adoption of chemical colors in the West. The English East India Company levied high import tariffs on Indian clothing in the British markets after the Industrial Revolution began in England, while it abolished all import duties on British goods in the Indian market. During the colonial era, the Indian textile industry rapidly declined as a result of the Indian textile mills' inability to compete against British machine-made goods.

The textile sector in India, like all other businesses under the colonial administration, experienced significant losses due to the single-minded goal of maximizing profits. Analyzing the situation with the Indian independence struggle, the boycott of British mill-made clothing, and the promotion of khadi is therefore quite significant. Swaraj, or the movement for self-rule, was led by Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the country.

Growth of the Indian Textile Industry Post-Independence

The incipient Indian textile industry was subjected to a variety of levies, tariffs, and import and export restrictions under the British Empire's rule in India. In the 1780s, Britain had already begun sending fabrics and yarns produced in mills to India. The growth of the domestic textile industry in India was badly impeded and destroyed by the flood of cheap fabrics and textiles from Britain. During British administration, this circumstance led to the textile crisis in India.

India became independent from British domination on August 15, 1947. The challenges of industrialization and modernization increased along with freedom. The All-India Handloom Board was established by the government in 1952 to promote hand weaving and other textile crafts, along with a campaign to boost factory output in order to clothe India's enormous population. When the National Institute of Design was founded in 1961, designers started to play a significant part in the modernization process.

The Indian government quickly took control of the issue and launched a number of programs and measures to resurrect the textile sector. The Indian textiles sector is currently well-established, has notable qualities, and has a bright future. The nation is the world's second-largest producer of textiles, immediately after China. The Indian textile industry is a vital component of the nation's total industrial sector and a significant economic driver. In terms of creating jobs, India's textile sector is the biggest in the world. It creates jobs for its own industry as well as expands opportunities for related industries.

Indian Textile Industry – Current Scenario

From fiber, yarn, and fabric to garments, India's textile and apparel sector has strengths along the whole value chain. The traditional handloom, handicrafts, wool, and silk items, as well as the organized textile industry in India, make up a large portion of the widely diversified Indian textile and apparel market. The organized textile sector in India encompasses spinning, weaving, processing, and garment production. It is distinguished by the use of capital-intensive technology for the mass production of textile items.

Cotton continues to dominate India's textile industry, making up about 3/4 of all the country's fiber consumption. India is presently acknowledged as the world's top producer of cotton and jute clothing. China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Vietnam are fierce competitors when it comes to selling textile items to the international market. Despite the fall of the industry in 2010-11, the Indian textile industry nevertheless manages to make a comeback. Since the textile sector includes independent craftsmen from rural areas as well as huge textile mills and upscale clothing boutiques, they are supported by government program like MGNREGA introduced in 2006. Numerous rural cooperatives and NGOs also support those engaged in small-scale operations in the textile industry.

Future of the Textile Industry in India

Within the year 2015, the Indian textile sector hopes to export goods valued \$40 to \$75 billion. This industry has received the most government support in the previous thirty years through a variety of programs. With the production of more diverse products, the garment sector is developing quickly. Additionally, as the textile industry grows throughout the world, more foreign currency is being earned.

The demand for goods in the Indian textile industry has increased as a result of an increase in disposable income, creating a huge demand in both domestic and international markets. Consequently, the rapid growth of the retail sector, government support, and investments bode well for India's textile industry's future.

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