

**DEVELOPING AN ASSESSMENT TOOL TO ANALYZE RISK OF
COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE OPERATIONS OF APPAREL
MANUFACTURING ORGANIZATIONS IN SRI LANKA**

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Declaration Of the Candidate & Supervisor

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Abstract

Apparel industry is one of the key employment providers in the country, which has been greatly affected due to global economic recession caused by COVID-19. Resulting in having a major impact on the economy and its people. During 2020 when the spread of COVID - 19 was at peak, apparel organizations must either completely shut down or operate at less capacity as a result, annual turnover has been dropped by 21%.

This study develops a comprehensive risk assessment tool tailored for the Sri Lankan apparel industry to evaluate COVID-19 safety risk. Further it is used to assess the impact caused by COVID-19 on the operations of the apparel industry. This tool integrates COVID-19 severity and probability factors identified through literature and expert surveys, to provide a holistic approach for risk assessment. Eight severity and five probability factors are established to define COVID-19 risk domain.

Developed tool was applied to analyze COVID-19 safety risk in six apparel organizations. Results are further analyzed to identify how it affected the continuous operations of the organization through COVID-19 related absenteeism. Results showed a strong positive correlation between the safety risk and continuous operations.

The tool developed would be helpful to detect early signs of COVID-19 safety risk and take preventive actions based on the identified lapses. Hence this research provides a robust approach contributing to both pandemic preparedness and operational continuity in high-risk apparel manufacturing environment.

Key Words Covid-19, Apparel industry, Risk assessment tool, Sri Lanka

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List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
WHO	World health organization

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