

**“ANALYSIS OF THE STATUS OF TEXTILE WASTE
MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKAN EXPORT APPAREL
INDUSTRY FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS.”**

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Thesis/~~Dissertation~~ submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master
Degree.

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis/~~dissertation~~ does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other University or Institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

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Date: 25.11.2024

The above candidate has carried out research for the ~~PhD/MPhil~~/Masters thesis/~~dissertation~~ under my supervision. I confirm that the declaration made above by the student is true and correct.

Name of Supervisor: Prof. (Mrs.) U. G. Samudrika Wijayapala

Signature of the Supervisor:

Date: 25.11.2024

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ABSTRACT

In the developing world, connected with growth of industries, waste generation has become an issue to address. Apparel industry is a key contributor to the economy in Sri Lanka and in some other Asian countries. The Apparel waste handling became environmental challenge due to increasing quantities with increased production. To maintain sustainability, Sri Lanka as well as other apparel manufacturing countries have taken different steps to manage textile waste in a sustainable manner. This study focused to assess the status of textile waste management by export-oriented apparel manufacturers in Sri Lanka. The management attitudes towards sustainable textile waste management strategies and present status of the industry were evaluated through factory visits, interviews, opinion surveys and literature reviews. It was revealed that most of the manufacturers have paid due attention and the factories inside industrial zones have achieved “Zero Landfill” status. Reuse and Recycle efforts are being made. There is a considerable incineration undertaken at “waste-to-energy” plants for unrecyclable textile wastes. Initiatives to use recycled fabric for production were noticed. The opinion survey results indicate that employees are aware of their responsibilities. However, continuous awareness on the rules, regulations, practices and issues is recommended. There is a requirement for Research and Development for innovations focusing on cost effective recycling of textile waste.

Key words: Sustainable, textile waste, waste management, apparel industry, recycle, Sustainable development goals.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
AI	Artificial Intelligence
BOI	Board of Investment
BPU	Brand Protection Unit
CEA	Central Environmental Authority
EDB	Export Development Board
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
EU	European Union
GRN	Goods Received Notes
IT	Information Technology
LKR	Lankan Rupees
MT	Metric Tons
M & S	Marks and Spencer
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
MRC	Material Recovery Center
NEA	National Environmental Act
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPA	Sustainability Performance Analyser
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations

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