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A study on practices and treatments used by pre-owned clothing companies for the hygiene and safety of garments

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Abstract

Hygiene and safety of garments are maintained by a pre-owned clothing industry in the market to enhance its market value and market share respectively. For this reason, this industry always tries to maintain more old garments to attract customers and consumers significantly. In case a clothing industry uses organic and eco-friendly materials in the maintenance sector, this firm can easily attract more customers, employees, and other stakeholders. Hence, the purpose of this paper is to examine the practices and treatments that are used by pre-owned clothing companies to maintain the hygiene and safety of garments. A qualitative approach has been used in the study and this is supported by secondary sources of information. Peer-reviewed journals and articles have been used to gather the required insights on the overall phenomenon. Safety guarding is an essential segment for the garment industry to produce more products in the market. Acid washes, anti-bacterial finish, and anti-pill finish are managed by an organization for providing better treatments within a workplace. Fabric softeners and conditioners are used by the garment industry to provide the best process for maintaining pre-owned clothes. Organic cotton, organic linen, and organic fabric are used by pre-owned clothing companies to enhance the market value and market share in this particular industry. Garment production framework plays an essential role to produce various kinds of modern products in the workplace. This industry has a responsibility to use this particular framework properly to attract more consumers and deliver the best quality. Hence, all the various aspects related to the phenomenon have been discussed in detail in this paper.

Keywords

Fabric softeners, Fabric conditioners, Pre-owned garment industry.

1. Introduction

The pre-owned clothing industry has a responsibility to maintain proper maintenance and treatment of second-hand clothes. The growing sustainable behaviour among consumers have led to clothing recycling where used clothes travel across the globe [1]. Every company has a responsibility to prevent hazardous products to reach the market. Sometimes clothing companies use inorganic and hazardous materials to provide better treatments of pre-owned clothes [2]. For this reason, customers can easily be affected by various skin conditions since these products are not safe to use as comfortably for every customer. Healthy and safety are considered to be the priority of a garment factory globally. The pre-owned clothing industry has to provide proper treatments and practices for old garments, by which customers can easily use those old garments properly [3]. Fabric conditions and fabric washes are mainly maintained by the pre-owned clothing industry to fulfill the demand of markets and customers properly.

Safety guarding plays an essential role for garment workers from dangers, risks, injuries, toxic agents, and unfavorable environments. The company management team of the garment industry has a responsibility to predict and understand the usage of dangerous products in the workspace [4]. Every company must take proper steps for preventing any problematic situation during working hours [5]. A product passes through a lot of hands before it reaches the final customer and this forms an important route for the transmission of various microbial infections. There are also instances of clients or customers trying on clothes to check for fit without considering any safety measures. There may occur the transfer of bodily fluids from one person to another as consumers engage in such activities before taking the final decisions [6]. The garment traders are also exposed to various chemicals that are used to prevent and control infestations on pre-owned clothing.

Clothing hygiene helps every customer and traders to maintain a hygienic and healthy lifestyle daily. Medical experts from across the world have raised concerned about the health risks that arise with the handling and management of pre-owned clothing across the globe [7]. Various kinds of infectious diseases are available such as respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, and other skin infections. In case a person maintains healthy habits daily, this individual can easily reduce the incidence of infectious diseases. In this study, the practices and measures used by the pre-owned garment companies to maintain the hygiene and safety of garments will be evaluated along with various other factors that have a direct influence on the same.

2. Objective

The main objectives of this study are

1. To understand treatments used by the garment industry in the global market for maintaining hygiene and safety of clothes.
2. To interpret the importance of a safe and hygienic workplace within a garment industry.
3. To identify the ethical production of clothing in the garment industry.
4. To evaluate challenges faced by the industry in the global market for maintaining safety and hygiene and strategies to mitigate those challenges from a workspace.

3. Methods

3.1 Qualitative approach

The researcher has used a qualitative approach to complete this study to gather the required insights and achieve the above-mentioned objectives. Non-numeric data are used by researchers to understand the work process and strategy of a garment industry in the global market. This particular strategy helps a researcher gain increased attention across disciplines. A qualitative research strategy can capture changing attitudes within a target group such as the attitudes of workers in the workplace, and purchasing behavior of customers in the market. Hence, a sufficient amount of information can be collected with the help of this approach and thus is a justified choice for the study.

3.2 Secondary data collection

Secondary data collection methods have been used in the research to gain relevant and accurate data on healthy and hygienic treatment for pre-owned clothing. Peer-reviewed journals, websites, and online articles are used by researcher to gain proper information related to pre-owned garment industry in the global market. Hence, articles and journals published in the past five years have only been used for the work. There further remains a scope to conduct a primary research on the topic involving interviews with managers of pre-owned garment factories on the treatment used by them.

3.3 Thematic analysis

Further, thematic analysis has been incorporated by the researcher to analyse the collected secondary information using the qualitative approach. The analysis technique involves identifying codes and patterns within the collected data to develop themes to gain the required insights. The technique makes it easy to analyse large amount of information in an easy manner.

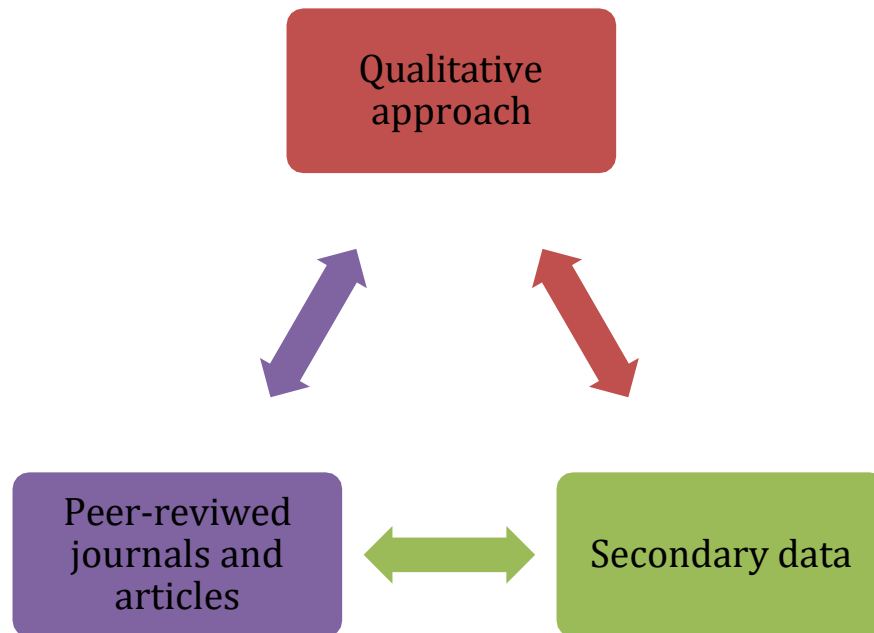


Figure 1: Materials and methods

4. Results

Theme 1: *Treatments used by garment industry in the market for maintaining hygiene and safety of clothes*

Fabric treatments and finishes are used by industry to enhance qualities and looks of garments successfully. For this reason, customers are easily attracted to this particular garment industry. There are several types of techniques and processes are available to maintain safety and hygiene of garments respectively. Those treatments and finishes may be aesthetic or functional or a mixture of both. For this reason, the textile industry can easily maintain safety and hygiene of clothes in the workplace. Pre-owned clothes need more protection for use further in a successive manner [8]. Fabric finish is used by pre-owned clothing companies to provide old garments in a new form. Different types of treatments and practices are used by pre-owned clothing companies to provide better products to their customers. Pre-owned clothing companies always try to stay on top of fashion's cyclical nature. These pre-owned clothes are an invaluable resource than turning to new fast fashion trends.

The pre-owned company management team of the garment industry has to use various kinds of organic and sustainable products to maintain safety and hygiene of pre-owned clothes. In case an industry uses sustainable raw materials to maintain quality and quantity of pre-owned clothes in the workplace. Sometimes garment industry may not be able to maintain safety and hygiene of clothes due to a lack of raw materials. Better quality fabric finishes are used by industry to maintain hygiene and safety for garment industry [9]. Acid wash, anti-bacterial finish, anti-pill finish, and anti-microbial fabrics finishes are needed for a garment industry globally. Pumice stones are used by pre-owned clothing industries to

maintain flexibility and softness of clothes. This particular stone is soaked in special chemicals (a bleach solution, not acid) to change the appearance of second-hand clothes in the market. Sometimes fabrics of second-hand clothes are effectively bad for skin of an individual.

The pre-owned clothing industry has a responsibility to provide proper treatment of old garments by which an individual can easily use those garments. Acid wash is dangerous to health of every customer in the global market [10]. In case a company uses organic washes for their fabric finishes, this industry can easily connect more customers to their company. Customers always try to grab better quality products from market to maintain a healthy lifestyle daily. Clothes not only cover bodies but also improve the personality of a person wearing them. Different types of germs and bacteria cause infection in human bodies. The mission of the pre-owned clothing industry is to ensure that the products do not have any health implications for the people wearing them [11]. For this reason, different types of good quality products with proper hygiene and safety measures are made by industry in the market and earn more profit.

Fabric softeners and conditioners are used by a pre-owned garment industry in market to enhance the quality and quantity of products successfully. Essential two phrases for garment industry are fabric softeners and fabric conditioners. These products are beneficial for a cloth to protect fibers, making them smell, look and feel fantastic time wearing new cloth. Every garment factory always tries to maintain hygiene and safety for their clothes which in turn leads to pre-owned garment industry trying to use fabric conditioners as softeners as one part of caring for clothes significantly [12]. Fabric conditioner helps the garment industry to maintain long-lasting clothes, retain their shape, provide softer clothes, and protect against colour fading of every cloth. Less friction is used by a garment industry for smooth fibers at time of washing different types of clothes. Less friction means less tear and wears on clothes. Fabric conditioner helps industry to maintain shape of every cloth. This is beneficial to maintain proper quality and quantity of any clothes properly.

Softer clothes and amazing softness are provided by a garment industry with help of this fabric conditioner and softener in the global market. Treatment process, chemical precipitation, membrane technology, and absorption are treated in garment industry [13]. Sometimes biological treatments are used by garment industry in the global market to enhance its productivity and profitability globally. Every customer always tries to maintain a healthy lifestyle daily. Biological treatments are beneficial to remove persistent color from wastewater due to low cost of clothes. Washing bleaching, dyeing, and coating are included in treatment of the pre-owned garment industry in the global market [14]. For this reason, this industry can easily enhance its brand value and brand equity of garment industry. Customers always try to grab better quality and quantity of products from market to maintain a healthy lifestyle in their daily life. The pre-owned clothing industry can easily maintain its fabric finishes and conditions respectively.

Theme 2: *Good practices within the garment industry for maintaining the safety and hygiene of products*

Every pre-owned clothing industry has to maintain good practices for its maintenance framework in the garment manufacturing sector. For this reason, various kinds of practices are implemented by the garment industry such as fabric lying technique, machine maintenance, materials handling in the garment protection line, and fabric storage. A good fabric lying technique helps the garment industry to produce high-quality and efficient garments for customers in the market [15]. Several simple steps are maintained by this particular industry to improve the quality of second-hand garments. Poor and incorrect fabric lying techniques can enhance the cost of products, slow down the rate of production, and inferior product quality respectively. Good practices of fabric lying techniques can improve quality of work process and strategy in the workplace [16]. This particular technique helps a garment industry to reduce waste and errors in the production framework in the manufacturing unit. Good practices of fabric lying techniques can enhance cutting accuracy among workers of this garment industry in the market, by which a company can easily increase its brand value and brand equity successfully.

The quality of second-hand garments depends upon quality of the fabric used in the manufacturing sector of the pre-owned garment industry. The good condition must be managed by a garment industry in the market to keep its fabric in a proper place [17]. For this reason, the condition of fabric can be consistent in appearance for good practices of fabric storage. Every company has a responsibility to use a bin card system for maintaining stock balance. The fabric should be stored and identified by width, roll, batch, lot, color, and style. Good practices of fabric storage can prevent the loss of costly materials in manufacturing units to earn more profit [18]. The garment industry can maintain a stock of different types of fabrics in the workplace, by which an organisation can use costly and eco-friendly fabrics during working hours to provide better quality pre-owned garments in a new way.

Theme 3: *The ethical production of clothing in a garment industry*

All aspects of textiles production are managed with help of ethical textiles encompass. Safe and sustainable production and farming practices of pre-owned garments are managed by this particular industry in the market to enhance its market value and market share significantly [19]. The environment and animal welfare should be maintained by industry in the market to attract more customers, employees, and other stakeholders successfully. In recent days, customers always try to grab better quality and quantity of garments to prevent skin diseases and irritations significantly. The pre-owned garment industry always tries to provide better quality second-hand garments in the market [20]. Ethical fashion is totally based on sustainability, in case a company maintains its sustainability and ethical practices, this firm can easily enhance brand value and brand equity respectively. Every garment industry has a responsibility to maintain environmentally friendly

practices throughout its production and make a sustainable product in the market [21]. For this reason, customers are easily attracted by this firm to get environmentally friendly and sustainable products.

Pre-owned companies have a responsibility to maintain total maintenance time successfully to provide second-hand garments in another way. For this reason, this particular industry can easily enhance its market value and market share respectively. Processing time, temporary storage time, transportation time, and inspection time are included in the total maintenance time of the pre-owned clothing industry [22]. Sometimes toxic chemicals are used by this industry to remove various kinds of marks on a garment. Hence those garments are not beneficial for customers to wear daily. Various kinds of skin irritations and rashes are enhanced due to the usage of toxic chemicals in the workplace. Traditional dry cleaning processes use tons of harmful chemicals which are bad for health and the planet [23]. Pre-owned clothing industries always try to use dry cleaners to maintain the conditions of pre-owned clothes successfully.

$$\text{Processing time} + \text{Transportation time} + \text{Temporary storage time} + \\ \text{Inspection time} = \text{Total Production Time.}$$

Figure 2: Primary factors of the pre-owned garment industry

Anti-shrinkage treatment is used by this particular industry, by which the tendency to shrink in the size of the fabric is reduced. Sponging, machine shrinking, steaming, resin applications and cold water shrinking are included in this anti-shrinkage treatment. These processes are effectively beneficial for pre-owned clothing companies to maintain the size and shape of all garments properly. The anti-static finish helps a company to provide a soft drape in a fabric condition of a second-hand garment [24]. Soft second-hand garments are beneficial for the pre-owned garment industry in the market to enhance its performance and profitability successfully. This particular industry always tries to maintain its work process successfully to attract more customers, employees, and other stakeholders respectively. Sometimes old garments are effectively bad for customers, pre-owned clothing companies provide several types of treatments and practices on those old clothes by which everyone can easily use old garments successfully.

Sustainable and eco-friendly fabrics are used by the garment industry in the manufacturing sector to provide better quality and quantity of products to their customers and consumers. Organic cotton, organic linen, recycled fabrics, organic hemp, lyocell, and only are used by the garment industry in the market to protect

second-hand products in the workplace [25]. Organic linen and organic cotton are effectively useful for each customer to maintain a healthy lifestyle daily. Recycled fabrics are used by a pre-owned garment industry to enhance its rate of production and profitability successfully [26]. Every business activity aims to expand its business activity in different marketplaces, and ethical and sustainable manufacturing practices play an indispensable role to focus on specific aspects of this particular industry. Specializing in standards and certifications of an industry is managed with the help of ethical and sustainable practices.



Figure 3: Sustainable raw materials of the garment industry

5. Discussion

A maintenance system indicates a framework by which a clothing industry can maintain its preservation activities in a workspace. This particular framework helps a company to transform inputs into predicted and desired outputs. Various kinds of attributes are used by the garment industry in the market such as various kinds of machines, tools, and human labor to provide second-hand garments in another way. For the pre-owned clothing industry, preservation processes, material handling, and usage of equipment are managed with help of a garment maintenance framework. A combination of production processes and materials handling is included in a pre-owned clothing preservation system. The layout of machines, total number of operators, and utilization of all machines are included in the production system of a garment industry in the market. Treatments of the garment industry can manage a production line during the manufacturing of a garment.

Four essential factors are helpful for a garment industry to frame a system properly. Those primary factors are "transportation time", "temporary storage time", "processing time", and "inspection time". All these parameters are helpful to identify total maintenance time within a garment industry. Every garment industry always tries to meet two basic objectives such as to be cost-effective and to meet

the proper specifications of the final product. Various kinds of acid washes are needed for the garment industry to provide proper treatments to its pre-owned garments. Hence garment industry mainly uses fabric conditioners to maintain hygiene and safety for clothes. Organic linen, organic cotton, and recycled fabrics are used by the garment industry in the market. Proper chemical programs are maintained by this particular industry in the market to enhance its market value and market share respectively. Harmful acids and toxic chemicals are used by a pre-owned clothing company to provide second-hand garments in another way.

Pre-owned clothing companies play an essential role to enhance their performance in the market. This company always tries to maintain its profitability and productivity successively to provide better quality garments to their customers properly. Right working circumstances play an essential role to maintain proper working processes and strategies in the workplace. For this reason, this industry can easily provide better quality old garments to customers, by which the demand of customers and markets are fulfilled easily. Organic cotton, linen, and fabric are used by this pre-owned clothing industry in a market to manage proper maintenance processes. Anti-bacterial finish, anti-microbial and acid washes are used by the pre-owned clothing industry in the market. Hence acid wash is effectively hazardous to a customer's health condition. Several types of skin diseases and irritations are enhanced after using those old garments. Sometimes cotton and fabrics are not properly on those garments, pre-owned clothing companies are responsible to maintain the quality and quantity of old garments significantly.

6. Conclusion

Safety policies are essential for every industry in the market to enhance its productivity and profitability respectively. In this study, the hygiene and safety of garments for the clothing industry are mentioned. Sometimes clothing industry tries to use various kinds of harmful and inorganic products to make various kinds of garments in manufacturing units. Hence the cost of products is lower than other materials available in the market. Every company aims to expand its business activity in a different marketplace. For this reason, the company management team should maintain safety policies in the workplace to motivate their employees by that these individuals can provide better performance. For this reason, the productivity and profitability of this particular industry are enhanced due to more engagement of employees.

Safety guarding is used by the garment industry in the market to attract more employees to the workspace. This particular guarding framework helps a company to save its employees from injuries, risks, toxic agents, and unfavorable environments. The garment production framework helps a company to enhance productivity in manufacturing units. This framework helps a company to lower labor costs and higher productivity. For this reason, skilled employees and specialized machines are needed to maintain this particular framework. Every garment

industry has a responsibility to maintain specialized and automatic processes within a workplace. The breakdown of machines creates a negative impact on the productivity of the garment industry in the market. For this reason, every company has to maintain all machines daily to gather the best performance.

7. Recommendation

The pre-owned clothing industry always tries to provide better quality second-hand clothes to their customers, and these individuals are easily attracted by this particular industry. This garment industry has a responsibility to enhance its market value and market share respectively in the market. The garment production framework should manage by every industry to produce better quality and quantity of garments at the time of working. Organic and eco-friendly products should be used by an organization in the market to enhance its corporate social responsibilities. For this reason, customers are easily attracted by this company, by which this garment industry can easily earn high profits from the market. Modern machines and organic raw materials should be used by this particular industry in manufacturing units to produce various kinds of garments. Usage of toxic and chemical products should be used by pre-owned garment industries in the market to enhance their revenue and market share.

Organic materials should be used by this pre-owned clothing industry to provide better treatments for old garments. Hazardous products should not be used by the pre-owned clothing industry in the global market to prevent various kinds of skin diseases and irritations successfully. Every pre-owned clothing industry must provide old garments in a better way. For this reason, everyone can easily use those garments without skin diseases and irritations.

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